



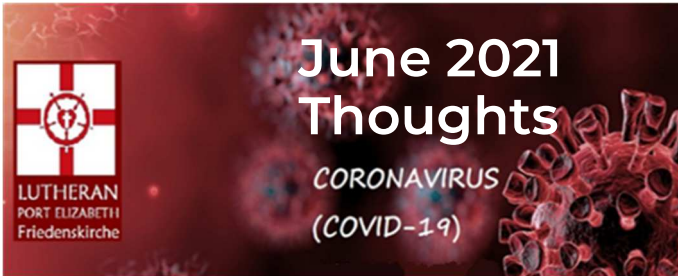
# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

## Friedenskirche Church of Peace



No: 2021.03 e

Newsletter June 2021



### Times of adversity ...

Much has happened since the first reporting to the WHO in December 2019 of what was later to be known as Covid 19. Since then, response to the seriousness and severity of the pandemic has been widely different throughout the world. Reactions varied from responsible and scientific to irresponsible, the absurd and even laughable. After a while, out of all of these confusing points of view and advice, the term, "Listen to the science" was born. Facts that were researched, emerged and provided a clearer understanding of what humanity was up against. There were reports in the media of those who sadly exploited the vulnerable and the needy. On the other hand, many laudable acts of kindness, generosity, compassion and support were also borne in response to the fears and needs caused by the pandemic.

One of the human behavioural norms that allows the virus to flourish, is that of our need to touch and be close to each other. From the time we were infants, a parent or sibling's comforting touch and affection has

been part of our growth into adulthood. To keep a "social distance" from one another is alien to our nature.

Nevertheless, even in these times of necessary restrictive behaviour, it is noticeable how many go the extra mile to help others. The frontline medical professionals who continue to be of invaluable help and support to so many of us at some time or another. Supermarket and other delivery services have sprung up where little or none existed before. Buying on-line has overtaken the previous ways of purchasing. Delivery is efficient and normally direct to one's home or office. Friends and family members help and support one another especially in times when self-isolation can lead to boredom and loneliness through messaging and phone calls.

It seems then, that adversity can, and often does bring out the best in us. Friendliness, courtesy, consideration and kindness from family, friends and even strangers, so often taken for granted, take on a whole new meaning in these difficult times that may be with us for a while yet.

***A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*** Proverbs 17:17

Reinhard Walle  
Committee Chairman

**Christ and His Church invite you!**  
**Christus und Seine Kirche laden Dich ein!**

**Dear members, dear friends**

Under the present COVID-level regulations we are able to offer **live services** at our Church of Peace, but for those who cannot come, we **publish handouts** so that you can celebrate the service also at home. If possible, we will also send out a **voice message** with the spoken sermon after the service. These are available at our WhatsApp-Group:



**Lutheran Congregation**

Please send a message to  
Pastor Anja if interested

**072 734 9995**

### **The following regulations apply:**

- ♦ Max. 45 persons per service
- ♦ Bring your face mask with you and wear it the whole time. Sanitizing when entering the church and fill in the COVID Protocol Register.
- ♦ 3 persons per pew (1-1-1) or for couples (2- -1), larger families from the same household can sit together in one pew
- ♦ every second pew remains free
- ♦ in the foyer and on the mezzanine there are additional chairs 1.5m apart
- ♦ The Organ will play and you can sing the hymns. The lyrics will be projected as we are not allowed to use hymn books.
- ♦ Communion is received individually (disposable cups)
- ♦ No gatherings before or after the service

### **The importance of having the Church as a meeting place**

***"The people of Israel camped there in front of the mountain" (Exodus 19:2).***

It is simple. God wants us to be at a specific location to meet with us. If God wants to do something special, He always does it in very exact locations. God wants His people at a specific spot to speak to them and do good things for them. God could have spoken the 10 commandments to the Israelites at any of their camps along the way in the wilderness. But He brings them to this specific location, to **this mountain**. He does not just choose some random place. He is the kind of God who grounds His gifts in specific places. And that is something that we see over and over throughout the Scriptures. Here it is at mount Sinai where God meets with His people. Way earlier it was in the garden of Eden; then it was going to be the tabernacle, then the temple and finally it would be the church.

Yes, of course, God is everywhere; He is in all places at all times – **but**, He is not in all places at all times **in the same way**. The entire atmosphere contains water; there is water in the air we breathe, there is water everywhere. But, If I want to

## From the Pastor's Heart

drink water, **I have to find a well.** Yes, God is everywhere, - but if you want to drink of God then you have to go where He is to be found specifically for that purpose. God has located Himself in Word and Sacrament and we find these in the His church.

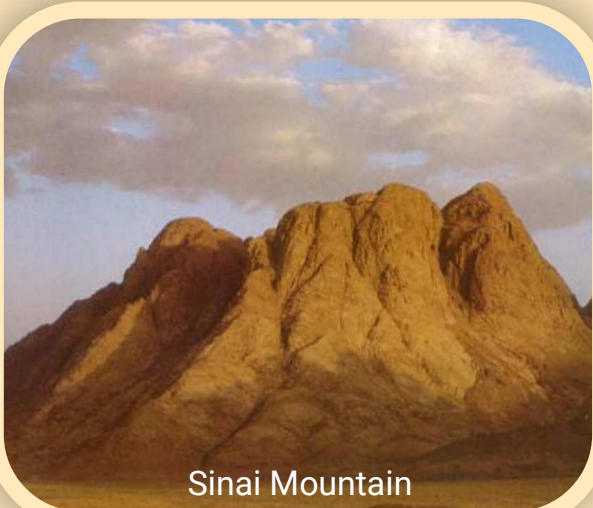
Many people say that God is in all things and He is everywhere so I do not really need a specific thing or a specific place in order to have an encounter with God. But God, throughout the Scriptures, shows us that He comes to us in very specific places. The tabernacle, the temple and the church were not built because God needed a place – you and I need a place for us to encounter God, - a place where God has promised to meet

with us. The reason for God to dwell amongst His people in this way was so that they can have access to Him. And so God has placed Himself in very specific things and places that there He might do good things for us.

This is the **for-you-ness** of the gospel. Yes, God is everywhere, but He is only in specific places and things, “for you”, that is, He is in the baptismal water – **for you**, He is in bread and wine – for you, and He is in the proclaimed Word – for you. We tend to think that we are closer to God when we are all by ourselves on a mountain top, and maybe we do feel that, but that does not necessarily mean that we are. It is better to take God by His Word: Go down the mountain to the valley, be amongst all the other sinners, and I, God, will have a Word and Meal there for you.

It does matter whether we have a church to go to or not, and it does matter whether we go to church or not, because that is the place where God has promised to be there for you. I hope we can re-discover the importance of having a church in these troubling times and be encouraged to return.

Yours sincerely,  
*Pastor Anja*



Sinai Mountain

***The people of Israel camped there  
in front of the mountain.***

Exodus 19:2

The pandemic still has us firmly in its grip. When will it finally end? - We don't know, we probably need a lot more patience. Maybe it will help if we don't forget how good we still have it despite everything. We have food and a roof over our heads and the prospect of vaccinations soon. Materially, most of us - unlike so many people in the world - lack nothing. Yes, we lack community; the carefree interaction with each other; the freedom to go where you want and meet who you want...

**Freedom** - let me take a great leap in history with this keyword. To the year 1521, the 18<sup>th</sup> of April: 500 years ago Martin Luther stood as an accused before the Emperor and the Church at the Diet of Worms. He had had a sleepless night (if the Luther film of 2003 is to be believed), then he was tormented with agony and fear of death during the night. He had to expect death if he was not prepared to recant his theses and his writings. I think the film impressively conveys that it was a matter of life and death and how difficult the decision must have been for Luther.

500 years ago, there was no question of democracy; Luther had to fear for life and limb. And certainly he suffered great fears. But Martin Luther conquered fear. He was probably strengthened by this sentence from the Bible: "We must obey God rather than men. (2021: monthly watchword for June). Thus he said before the



**We must obey God rather than any human authority (NRSV).**

**We must obey God rather than men (ASV, ESV)**

Acts 5:29

Diet: *"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason ... I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."*

Have you ever been in a situation where someone commands you to do something that you do not want to do because of conscience? How do you bring freedom and corona together?

The event in Worms was an essential milestone for democratisation in the world, it was the invitation and encouragement to judge for oneself, to make up one's own mind and to follow one's convictions. After Worms, Luther also and precisely for this purpose, translated the Bible into German at Wartburg Castle and the



## Watchword June 2021

Reformation has introduced schools for all children (including girls) so that they:

- learn to write and read
- form their own opinions
- to commit themselves to their own conscience,
- to obey God more than men.

These are all Reformation ideals with which the world took its first steps into the modern age. These are ideals that are directed at mature people and trust us to take our lives into our own hands; they are principles that trust us to take responsibility for ourselves and our world as Christians following Jesus. God must be obeyed more than people - we should put into practice what Christ has exemplified for us: Love for all people, for the weak, the fallen, the marginalised; respect the dignity of all people. This makes us free, we are not bound to earthly machinations, but in listening to God we hear what we are commanded to do. From the highest place - unchallengeable - not to be topped by anything or anyone.

We have a hard time with "obey". We associate the word with the idea of "being subservient", "subordinating to someone, a person or authority", "submitting", "cowering". We dislike this. We feel restricted in our freedom and fight back.

However, the word "obey" takes on a positive sound when we consider that it comes from the word "hear" or "listen". We know that a real "listening

to each other" is the basis of every good relationship.

Such listening is characterised by attentiveness, by trust in each other and thus by the certainty that the other person is thinking of me and wants what is good for me. The right "listening to each other" then often leads us to say that we belong to each other, that we belong to that person and then also do what we have heard in listening to each other. Orchestral musicians are an example of this. The better they listen to each other, the better the sound and harmony of the orchestra. This also makes the community grow and contributes to a climate full of trust in each other.

If God is in covenant with me, there is nothing more to fear. Martin Luther must have been or become certain of this covenant in Worms. In the covenant with God, his fear disappears and he finds the strength not to recant.

And what about us? Where do we stand and whom do we obey the most? I cannot and will not answer this question for you. But I would be happy if you would continue to think about it.

Henry Newman

**We must obey God rather than men!**  
What do you say to this? Write your thoughts to:

[newsletter@lutheran-pe.org](mailto:newsletter@lutheran-pe.org)

# Our Congregation

## 2021— We celebrate 50 years of our Church building in Springfield !

Our Congregation was founded on 16 May 1901.

In 1905 it was decided to buy a place to build a church, a parish hall and a rectory.

The lack of funds forced the congregation to be comfortable with building the hall for the time being, which was to be used as a church.

On 15 December 1907, the hall was opened and the building on Rink Street adjacent to the property was purchased as the rectory. The funds for the construction of the hall and the purchase of the house were raised through collections, bazaars and the like. In addition, there was rich support from the local church authorities and associations. Nevertheless, the community had to make great sacrifices and also take on a considerable debt burden. It then numbered a little over two hundred members (1912-1913).

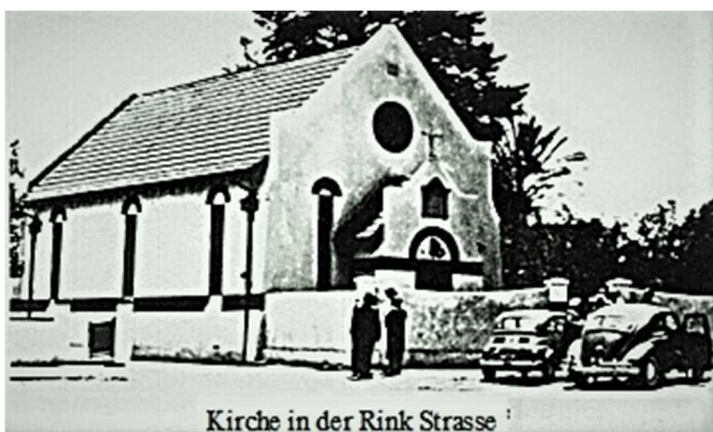


No other foundation stone can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." *1 Cor 3 v11*

Nevertheless in the late 1960's a decision was made to re-locate to the present site in Springfield.



This year we celebrate another special time in our Friedenskirche history. Our Church building was erected at its present site 50 years ago. On 9 May 1971 the foundation stone was laid at the new Church building site at 29 Martin Rd Springfield.





## Birthdays June

01 June	David Breitfeld
02 June	Werner Krieg
05 June	Karla Lentz Maya Breitfeld
07 June	Elizabeth Köpke
09 June	Kai Burgdorf-Fourie
12 June	Nicolas Sternberg
13 June	Sheldine Septoe
18 June	Jordan Mächtle
19 June	Barbara Rath
21 June	Anthea Daniels Dominique Thomas Isa Brand Janine Wright Kyle Angloher Lynn Cairncross
29 June	Pastor Anja Spiske
30 June	Otto Bülbring

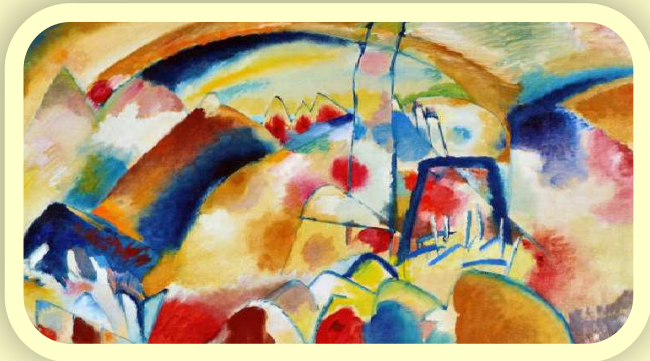


# Sundays June 2021

6 June 2021

09:30 (D)

1<sup>st</sup> after Trinity



## Watchword (Luke 10:16a):

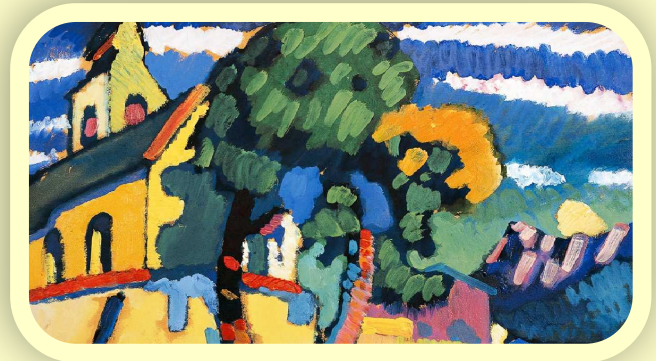
*Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me.*

The exuberant dance, the song that frees the mourners' tears, the whistling in the dark and the aria that penetrates deep into the heart - music leaves no one unmoved. Protestant piety would not be possible without it. The Sunday Cantate (O Sing!) revolves around music and singing: the unburdened thanksgiving of those rescued, the mighty praises of God's works and the courageous singing that bursts prison walls - they all unite into a many-voiced praise of God. No area of human life should be excluded from this praise, no one is unsuited for music. The more our life becomes a song, the more this song will change us into more loving and thankful

13 June 2021

09:30 (E)

2<sup>nd</sup> after Trinity



## Watchword (Matthew 11:28):

*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest*

"I'm sorry, no time" - a rejection, quickly and carelessly said, sometimes regretted later. Who does not know that? When God invites you to the feast of life, he gives abundantly and unconditionally. Also, His invitation includes everyone: wealthy and poor, near and far, believers and doubters. Happy are those who don't make excuses. The second Sunday after Trinity encourages us not to reject God's invitation, but to let ourselves be invited to His table - into a mixed community in which no one has to prove him- or herself. Instead, there's a vibe of mutual attentiveness and appreciation, and there's an openness for "outsiders" and acceptance of the weak.

Dear congregation, dear friends

The editors would like to encourage you to participate in the design of the newsletter. We would appreciate it if you would design the pictures on this page. You can use your own photos, graphics, painted pictures or whatever comes to your mind. If possible, the picture should have a reference to Sunday (e.g. depict the watchword).

## Sermon

Jonah 1:1-2:1(2-9)10

## Sermon

1 Corinthians 14:1-12(23-25)



# Sundays June 2021

20 June 2021

9:30 (E)

3<sup>rd</sup> after Trinity

27 June 2021 09:30 (E, Family)

4<sup>th</sup> after Trinity



## Watchword (Luke 19:10):

*The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.*

Sometimes I want to turn back the time: My hurtful word, my wrong decision, my carelessness. "If I could undo it!" It is so painful if I failed. What is often not possible with people, with God it is possible - that is the message of the Third Sunday after Trinity. God does not want people to get lost. He lets them go their way and make their mistakes: the sheep, who gets lost, the tax collector Zacchaeus, who squeezed money out of the people, and the son, who can no longer bear it at home. But like the good father, God does not let them fall. He waits, goes out, celebrates a feast for the son he has found again.

## Watchword (Galatians 6:2):

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.*

Likeable or unlikeable? Within seconds we take a decision. Moral judgment also occurs extremely quickly. We "usually" know very well what is reprehensible, and we express our contempt loudly or subtly. Beware of such judgment, warns the fourth Sunday after Trinity. For there is no one who is without error and who does not constantly need generosity and forgiveness. It is only God who can judge. Therefore, Jesus encourages forgiveness: whoever lives with the awareness that God is merciful to him, can try to live in reconciliation with his fellowmen, like Joseph, who, a long time ago, forgave his brothers the injustice which they had done to him.

Henry Newman has chosen the images for June 2021. His thoughts: In the Trinity season we deal with the tasks of congregational life. So I looked for pictures of churches in Wassily Kandinsky's (1896-1944) work, which best suited the watchword.

## Sermon

Luke 15:1-10

## Sermon

Genesis 50:15-21

# Prayercards June

1. Jun: Andreas Seifert
2. Jun: Audrey Letsholonyane
3. Jun: Christian K. Bürger
4. Jun: Christian Seifert
5. Jun: Clinton Sternberg
6. Jun: David Thompson

16. Jun: Liesel Harmse
17. Jun: Linda Jachens
18. Jun: Nicolas Sternberg
19. Jun: Nicole Wright
20. Jun: Olga Thomas
21. Jun: Pastor Anja Spiske

OUR FATHER WHO  
ART IN HEAVEN  
**HALLOWED**  
BE THY NAME

THY KINGDOM COME THY WILL BE DONE  
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN  
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD  
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESSPASSES  
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESSPASS

7. Jun: Dieter Lokotsch
8. Jun: Doreen Stocklose
9. Jun: Gemma Bürger
10. Jun: Genia Lokotsch
11. Jun: Geoff Andrews
12. Jun: Gisela Schmidt
13. Jun: Holly Eichhoff
14. Jun: Kurt Eichhoff
15. Jun: Leah Septoe

AGAINST US AND  
LEAD US NOT INTO  
TEMPTATION BUT  
DELIVER US FROM EVIL  
FOR THINE IS THE  
KINGDOM AND THE POWER  
AND THE GLORY FOREVER  
AND EVER **AMEN**

22. Jun: Patrick Septoe
23. Jun: Penny Jelliman
24. Jun: Rea Letsholonyane
25. Jun: Reinhard Walle
26. Jun: Rosi Seifert
27. Jun: Sandile Coko
28. Jun: Sharon Bürger
29. Jun: Sicilia Welcome
30. Jun: Sophie Sternberg

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all people.

1. Timothy 2:1

# Congregation Notices and Reminders

## Reminder-processing Bank cheques:



As of 31 December 2020, all banks in RSA no longer process cheques. Monthly contributions or other payments to the Friedenskirche should preferably be done by EFT or cash deposit.

(Bank details on last page)

## Friedenskirche Postal Address:



Kindly note that the church PO Box service has been discontinued.

All standard mail to the church or Pastor should be addressed to

**33 Luke Avenue,  
Springfield Walmer 6065**

## Friday Takeout



Support this regular Fundraiser  
Various specials of :

Burgers,  
Rotis,  
Curry & Rice,  
filled and regular Cinnamon  
Sugar Pancakes,  
Chocolate Cinnamon Buns, etc.

**Check out the week's specials on offer on the Congregational WhatsApp.** Place your order with Rivka at the phone number given. Pay and collect at the Church's Takeout Kitchen between 17:00 and 18:00.

Health bread and bretzels can be also ordered in advance from Rivka.

## Money Wall



Thank you very much to all, who supported us via filling the envelopes with money. We are so happy, that we got R 4'294.00 in total. The lucky winner will be drawn at the family service on  
**27 June 21.**



## The Armour of God

Ephesians 6:11

### Helmet of Salvation

God's salvation protects us from being separated from God forever. All we must do is accept God's gift. Salvation is FREE. All we must do is receive it from Jesus and believe in him.

Ephesians 6:17

### Breastplate of Righteousness

God wants us to put on the breastplate of righteousness to protect our hearts. Then we are right with God and heart is clean so we can forgive others and know we are forgiven by God.

Ephesians 6:14

### The Belt of Truth

We have the belt of truth. Truth is like a belt that holds everything together. Jesus said that "He is the truth". When we have Jesus and God's word in our lives, we have the belt of truth.

Ephesians 6:14

### Sword of the Spirit

God's word is powerful. The Bible says that our sword is the "sword of the Spirit" that is the word of God which is the Bible. The Bible helps us to undertint what is rights and what is wrong. It also tells us how much God love us.

Ephesians 6:17

### Shield of Faith

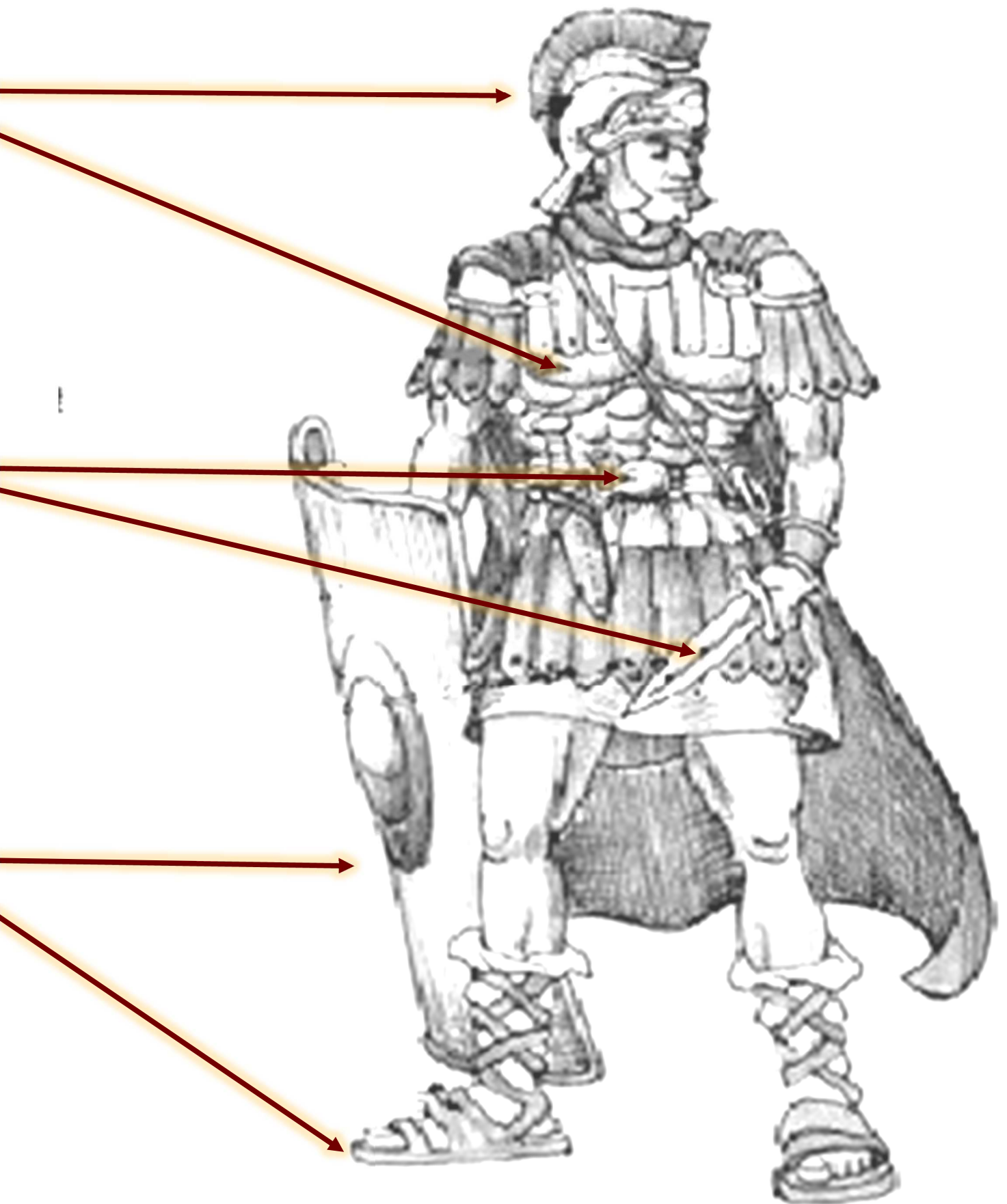
We cannot see our shield. The Bible however tells us to take up the shield of faith to protect our belief in God. We trust and have faith that God will protect us every day and pour his everlasting love on us.

Ephesians 6:16

### Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

God wants us to wear the sandals of peace. We have God's gospel of peace with us wherever we go because Jesus goes with us. He never leaves us. The gospel is the "good news" that we want to tell everyone about Jesus and what he did for us.

Ephesians 6:15



## LWF - Advocating for Climate Justice

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is committed to advocating for Climate Justice, and equipping member churches to care for creation. The LWF sustains this work by promoting a faithful, ecological sense of being human, and a creation-oriented spirituality that shapes the way we worship and live out our Lutheran tradition for the well-being of all creation.

The word “**ecothology**” describes an ecological way to read the Word and understand our experiences in the world. Ecotheology maintains a focus on the integral relationship between the Earth and her natural systems, the diversity and wellbeing of all living species, and the sustainability of our economic, social, political and ecological relationships. The goal of ecotheological reflection is to deepen our identity as human beings who are called to cultivate and safeguard creation (Genesis 2:15), and discern the spiritual and ethical ways to promote

just, right relationships throughout the web of life.

The LWF 12th Assembly passed a Resolution on the Commercialization and Commodification of Creation which encourages member churches to become more theologically grounded in their teaching on human dignity, our identity as creatures, our relationship to the land and the value of creation. Rooted in the LWF’s commitment to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the resolution also affirmed that the loss of biodiversity threatens the delicate balance of the earth system as seriously as climate change.

“The web of life comes from God, and we are called to safeguard its integrity,” explains Rev. Dr Chad Rimmer, LWF Program Executive for Lutheran Theology and Practice. Loss of biodiversity causes many social, economic and political injustices that lead to wide scale humanitarian crises, he adds. “The poor and marginalized who depend most immediately on the health of eco-systems are often affected most severely by the collapse of the natural systems that sustain life and society.”

Biodiversity matters because each of God’s creatures has value in itself, and because maintaining diversity in mutuality is the key to sustaining healthy ecosystems and societies. This is God’s wisdom woven into the web of life. The goal of eco-theology is to apply these lenses to the way we read the Bible, practice our faith and express the liberating grace for all creation that is the heart of our Lutheran tradition.



As people of faith, we are called to live in right relationship with creation and not exhaust it.

*LWF Assembly Resolution on Climate Change*



## Female Bishop in ELCSA-ND

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has congratulated Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa - Northern Diocese (ELCSA-ND) Bishop Naledzani Josephine Sikhwari as she took office last week, offering encouragement to “trust in God who is with you in the journey of the ministry in your diocese and beyond.”

“The gifts you bring, as the first woman in this position, give witness to the Gospel, enrich the church and inspire women and girls to answer to the call they received in their Baptism,” wrote LWF-Regional Secretary for Africa Rev. Dr. Elieshi Mungure and LWF Program Executive for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment Rev. Dr. Marcia Blasi on behalf of the LWF leadership. “To build Gender Justice in the church and society is our shared commitment,” Blasi and Mungure wrote.

“The LWF is aware of your leadership capacities within the ELCSA and in the ecumenical settings, hence the wealth of experience, knowledge and relationships that you bring will enrich the entire church in fulfilling its mission of just and inclusive leadership.”

The greeting was presented at the consecration ceremony by Rev. Elitha Moyo, a member of the LWF Council. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe Presiding Bishop Kenneth Sibanda joined local



**Bishop  
Naledzani Josephine Sikhwari**  
To build Gender Justice in the  
church and society is our  
shared commitment

bishops of ELCSA in the consecration service. ELCSA Interim Presiding Bishop AM Mnisi presided and church leaders and guests from South Africa and other countries participated.

Bishop Naledzani Josephine Sikhwari of Polokwane, SA is a graduate of the University of Venda and worked as a teacher from 1989-1991. In 1997, Sikhwari completed her theological studies at the University of Kwazulu Natal – Pietermaritzburg and was ordained the same year and soon after served the Carluhe and Kgapanne Parishes. In 2006, she became the first woman to hold office of Dean in the Northern Diocesan Synod where she served two terms. Sikhwari was consecrated bishop of the ELCSA-ND on 23 May 2021.



## Church Committee 2021

<b>Pastor Anja Spiske</b>	33 Luke Avenue, (Manse) pastor@lutheran-pe.org	Springfield 6070 041-367 1986 H 072 734 9995
<b>Reinhard Walle</b> (Chairman)	4 May Way chairman@lutheran-pe.org	Sunridge Park 6045 063 685 0263
<b>Henry Newman</b> (Membership) (Treasurer a.i.)	81 Villiers Road, membership@lutheran-pe.org treasurer@lutheran-pe.org	Walmer 6070 078 703 7003
<b>Auke Brand</b> (Maintenance)	52 Bernard Road warden1@lutheran-pe.org	Lovemore Heights 6025 041-367 5287 082 824 7345
<b>Carol Buschhold</b>	25 St Louis, Nerina Ave warden4@lutheran-pe.org	Kamma Park 6070 071 6376 372
<b>Elizabeth Köpke</b>	9 Woodville Road No E-Mail	Mill Park 6025 071 572 0433
<b>Ryan Meyer</b>	warden3@lutheran-pe.org	073 230 2513

### Bank Details:

**First National Bank,**

**Branch Code: 211217**

**Account: 534 200 32476**

**Walmer Branch**

**Lutheran Church**

The congregation's Levy is paid to the Cape Church each month. The recommended contribution per family is R 550 per month, however, all contributions, small or large help to our commitment. Please make your payments to the church by means of a deposit into the church's bank account or via electronic fund transfer (EFT) and provide **your details under the reference section**

## Table of Contents

## Newsletter June 2021

<b>Covid-19 Thoughts</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Divine Services June 2021</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>Covid-19 Regulation</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Prayer Cards June 2021</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>From Pastor's Heart</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>Congregational Notes</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Missional Work</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>Kids Page</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Our Congregation</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>LWF Climate Justice</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Birthday June 2021</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Female Bishop ELCSA-ND</b>	<b>15</b>
		<b>Church Committee</b>	<b>16</b>

