



LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

Friedenskirche Church of Peace



No: 2021.06 e

Newsletter September 2021



Another milestone ...

Vaccination registration of the 18's plus was announced last month.

The Covid 19 vaccination programme in South Africa started with frontline healthcare workers. Following on a while later were the senior citizens group. In August this year, the country has already moved to opening vaccination registration for the over 18's group with over half a million registering on the first day. This is good news. However at the time of writing this article in the latter part of August 2021 Government statistics indicated that just under 21% of the adult South African population has been vaccinated. Clearly there is some way to go. In the meantime there have been many who have helped others to get registered over the months, often by those who have, as yet, not been able to register for their own vaccination. I can recall

when, not too long ago the world grappled with the initial spread of the pandemic that was further accelerated by global and international travel. There was a time when Covid 19 news featured reports on "hopefully they will develop a tested vaccine soon." Until that time, we had to place our hopes in the world's scientific community with their God gifted talents to develop such a vaccine.

In February 2021 South Africa started its vaccine roll-out. Unfortunately there are still those who are sceptical and fearful. These fears can sometimes be fuelled by unfounded adverse comments or rumour mongering.

Protecting ourselves, our loved ones, our acquaintances and the public at large from the consequences of the Covid virus is something we should seriously engage in. Wear your mask, sanitise and social distance — even if you have been vaccinated.

Ephesians 4:2:

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Reinhard Walle
Committee Chairman

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

Pastor Anja

My dear Congregation

I hope my words find you well and in good health.

Hereby I want to share with you that I have been ill for some time because of suffering a severe burn-out.

My treatment team have advised me that I need to take a longer absence of leave from work in order to allow myself some time to recover. Consequently I have received a medical certificate where my doctor has booked me off for 6 months. It was not an easy decision to make, but a necessary one.

I will be traveling to Germany to stay with family during this period.

Please be assured that as a Congregation you will be taken care of in terms of Divine Services and in times of crisis and emergencies. Retired pastors will be approached to help out during this time and your needs will be attended to.

Please let the church committee know if you are in need of any assistance.

I can only but hope for your understanding and pray God's protection and gracious providence over you. God bless and keep us all with the abundance of His grace and fill us with His peace.

Until we meet again.

Yours sincerely
Pastor Anja

Pastor Anja

Dear Pastor Anja,

On behalf of the Congregation and Church committee, I would like to wish you well during your time of recovery. Although we normally would say, we wish you a "speedy recovery" we realise that speedy is not what is called for here.

We are pleased that you are able to spend the months of the prescribed recovery time with your family.

Thank you that you have so faithfully served our Friedenskirche - Church of Peace congregation over the years, preaching the Gospel giving comfort, hope, joy, confidence and inspiration to so many of us - young and old. Your passion and concern for giving good spiritual guidance, also to the young - the little people in our midst means a lot in their and our life's journey.

We pray for good recovery and healing over time. The church committee and Congregation wish for you a good rest and we are looking forward to that time when we can see you again and are once again in our midst.

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The Lord look on you with favour and give you, His peace. Amen.

Warm wishes from us all.

Your Church Congregation,
committee and friends.

Reinhard Walle



Do not repay evil with evil ...

A couple of years ago we had a tragic incident of road rage that happened here in our suburb in Johannesburg. One driver skipped a stop street and the other driver, who had right of way, had to do everything to avoid a collision. They both stopped and a heated argument ensued. The unfortunate result was that the one driver shot the other one in full sight of his young daughters, killing him. These horrific occurrences of road rage seem to be on the increase here in Gauteng.

Many of us have experienced situations where we also get angry at other road users who think they own the road and have no respect for the traffic laws in our country. Yes, and sometimes we do feel we need to take the law into our hands, because there is hardly any law enforcement. Is that correct?

What does the bible say?



Do not repay evil with evil or abuse with abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.
1 Peter 3:9

Easier said than done! How can that work? In the Bible we have someone who has shown us how. Joseph was the 11th son of 12 sons of Jacob. His brothers were simply jealous of him,

because they thought their father Jacob preferred Joseph. So they decided to take revenge. They threw Joseph into a pit and then sold him to traders to become a slave.

Many years later, the day arrived on which Joseph could eventually take revenge on them. The brothers would have never assumed, that one day their little brother, whom they had sold into slavery in Egypt, would one day be a famous and powerful man. The road to fame did not come easy. He had to do a lot of work, and he endured some suffering, of which prison must have been the worst. But eventually he got to the top, enjoying a position of power and respect in Egypt. He had helped Egypt's people and economy to survive during a horrible drought. People around Egypt were starving because of a great famine. Joseph's brothers and many other people came from far, bringing silver coins to buy food from Egypt. When Joseph recognized his brothers, the opportunity for revenge was there. Joseph now had the opportunity which many people dream of, wanting to get their revenge. However, instead of revenge, Joseph does the unusual. He abandons all ideas of revenge against his brothers. More than that, he even consoles them.

After all, they are shocked to see him in that position. "Fear not!" he says to them, for he is under God. And Joseph knows, God loves all people. He also knows that through revenge peace will never come about. With that, Joseph did, what Jesus suggested to his disciples and what the writer of this letter tells to the congregation:

Do not repay evil with evil.

... repay with a blessing

Jesus was often accused of being too lenient with this advice to always give in. – maintaining, because of this leniency – someone who murders will continue to do so, a criminal will continue to do crime. Fact is, Jesus always called the evil by its name and resisted it firmly: those “policemen” who captured him, he certainly challenged them and their authority by which they acted. When he was before the council, he was slapped by one of the servants of the council.

What did Jesus do? He didn't offer him the other cheek, he questioned their authority. He even allowed his disciples to have swords, so that when they were on their way they would not be without protection. However, he did reject answering force with force, because he knew force against force will not help people to get out of the vicious cycle of evil. It is all about understanding. It must become clear with the attitude of repaying evil with evil one certainly goes against God's will. Once one understands that, then change can take place, and one can become a blessing to others.

I wish you all to stay healthy.

God bless you all!

Pastor Andreas Wernecke

Our Congregation

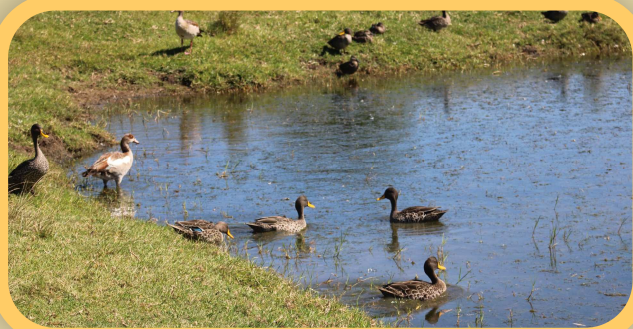
You have set my feet in a broad place

I understand this verse from Psalm 31 - especially in our Peace Church congregation - in a figurative sense: through the grace and preservation of the triune God, we experience the greatness and vastness of life that God himself has in mind for us. Our congregation exists and lives in a very real way, dimensionally, ethnically, age-wise in a very wide space. And through the COVID regulations, this spaciousness is amplified when we are not allowed to come together for worship on Sunday.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in 1938: »It is not a matter of course for the Christian to be allowed to live among Christians ... It is God's grace that a congregation may visibly gather around God's Word and Sacrament in this world. Not all Christians share in this grace ... The bodily presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength for the believer ... Therefore, whoever is allowed to live a common Christian life with other Christians up to the present time, praises God's grace from the bottom of his heart, thanks God on his knees and recognises: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are still allowed to live in the fellowship of Christian brothers (sisters) today.«

So, I am happy to be a member of the Peace Church congregation, to light a candle on Sunday at 9:30 and to worship at home, but also to feel connected to others who read/hear the same words, sing the same songs at the same time.

Henry Newman



You have set my feet in a broad place
Psalm 39:8 b

Our Congregation

Memories of 60 years in the congregation of the Lutheran Church, Springfield

My earliest memories of the Lutheran *Friedenskirche* congregation go back to 1962 when my late sister, Sylvia Walle, and I were confirmed. The pastor at the time was Pastor em. Peschel, who gave us confirmation classes at his home (in Cape Road, if I remember correctly!). We were a group of about 4 or 5 confirmands, and on the day of our confirmation I remember sitting at the front of the church in Rink Street, the girls all wearing white dresses with a wreath of flowers in our hair.

Sometime later I recall that my mother, Ilse Walle, who was organist at the church, took ill on a Sunday morning. I “was told” that I had to play at the Service that morning in her place. I was very nervous, but in those days, you did not disobey your parents (much as I would have liked to!) – and that was how I started playing at Services – on the harmonium, which still stands at the back of the church today.

During the time that Pastor Peschel was pastor in our church, he and Fritz Bischoff, a member of the congregation, were involved in a serious accident on their way home from Grahamstown. Both men were badly injured, and Pastor Peschel held Services during the subsequent Sundays seated in an ornate wooden chair – which is still in the church today (at the front, on the right-hand side, behind the pulpit).

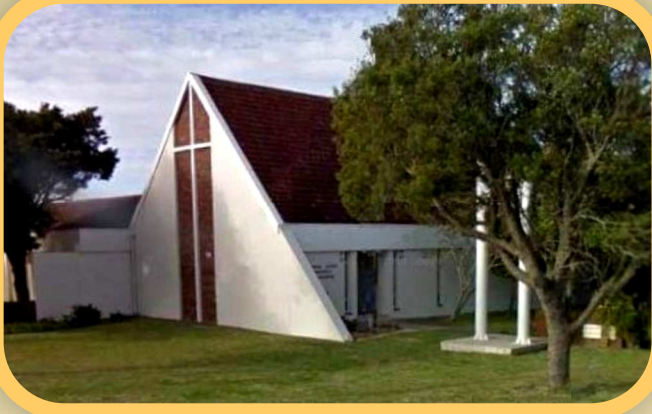
During my days as a student at UPE, the church in Rink Street was sold

and the new building in Springfield had not yet been completed. The congregation rented a room in the then building of the Red Cross (Parliament Street??) and Services were held there on a Sunday for many months. During that time, my sister and I were part of a youth group which used to meet at the home of Ursel Lätsch in Central. We discussed all kinds of topics, not only church-related matters, and had wonderful get-togethers, held parties, and went on excursions. Now and then we would meet at the home of Pastor em Cyrus in Amsterdam Hoek. Some of the members of the youth group that I remember were Wolfgang Ihle, Gisela Gesper (sister of Annemarie Plüddemann), Otto Müller, Roland Bucher, Monika Höhne, Dorle Meyer (later Kussing), Hans Rohwer, Mathias Schmidt, Heinz Schünemann.

The move to Springfield was a great occasion, led, if I remember correctly, by Pastor Werner Plautz. The building was designed and overseen by Viktor Schrader, architect, and member of our congregation. The foundation stone at the entrance to our church, bears the words that are central to our faith, viz. that the cornerstone, the foundation of our faith, is Jesus Christ.

The church at the corner of Martin Road and Luke Avenue in Springfield has seen many pastors and their families over the years: Pastor Werner Plautz and his wife Margaret, Pastor Hans-Werner von Falkenhausen and his wife Lotte, Pastor Harald Plüddemann and his wife Lotte (?), Pastor Jochen Schönfeld and his wife Christa, Pastor Klaus-

Our Congregation



*No other foundation stone can
anyone lay than that which is laid,
which is Jesus Christ*
1 Corinthians 3:11

Peter Edinger and his wife Elke, Pastor Felix Meylahn and his wife Barbara and our current, dearly loved pastor, Anja Spiske, who completed her practical training under the auspices of Felix Meylahn. To all these pastors, their wives, and families, we owe a great debt of thanks.

The congregation was very varied over the years and consisted of many personality types, from the staunch German to the South African English-speaker, from the traditional and conservative members to the modern, 21st century orientated members. In the early days, only German was spoken. After some (often heated) debate, a few Services were held in English. During the apartheid years ours was a strictly white congregation. With the passing of the years and changed attitudes and increased tolerance, non-white members joined us and now and then Afrikaans was spoken. These days there are white, brown, and black church members, (please excuse the categorisation!) and all play their part in making ours

a truly cosmopolitan congregation. We have learned that we are all children of God and that we can learn a great deal from one another. For this I am truly thankful!

Hans and I experienced several wonderful years in the Springfield congregation. Hans served on the Church Committee for many years, under most of the above-mentioned pastors. Our two children, Michael, and Erich were both baptised in the *Friedenskirche*, and it was for many years our spiritual home. Now that we have relocated to our retirement home in The Craggs near Plettenberg Bay, we have come to miss the church, the congregation and Pastor Spiske tremendously. It had become such a regular habit to attend church on Sunday mornings that now, that it is no longer possible, we realise acutely what we had. It is sometimes relaxing on a Sunday morning to know that we don't have to get into the car and drive to church – but we miss it! We are very glad of the Services we can participate in via the German TV channel ZDF, alternately an Evangelical and Catholic Service, and we really enjoy the organ and choir music. At the same time, we are extremely happy to receive the WhatsApp Services from Pastor Spiske regularly every week. Thank-you so much to all who are involved in this so very much appreciated service. And thank-you to the congregation of the Springfield Lutheran Church for being there and continuing to keep the church going! We miss you!

Hans & Jutta Rohwer

COVID Information

COVID-19

Online Resource & News Portal
SACoronavirus.co.za



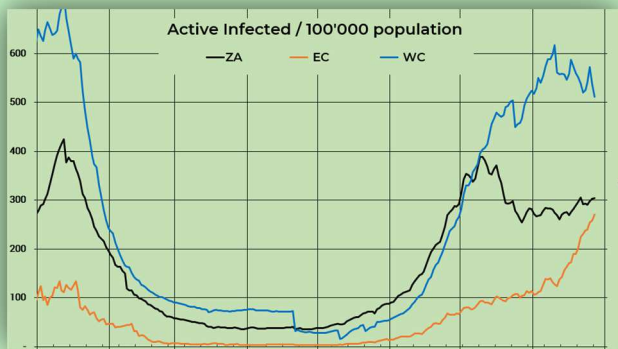
health
Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The cabinet had decided to define the lockdown at adjusted level 3. This means that services with a maximum of 50 people could be held again. In our assessment, however, this is not advisable under the currently published case numbers. We are always in discussion with experts to find the optimal solution for our congregation. According to the current state of knowledge, we are considering offering services in the Friedenskirche again from September. We will keep you informed via WhatsApp.

Lutheran Congregation



Period: 1 May 2020 till 29 Aug 2021
South Afrika (ZA), Eastern Cape (EC) and Western Cape (WC):

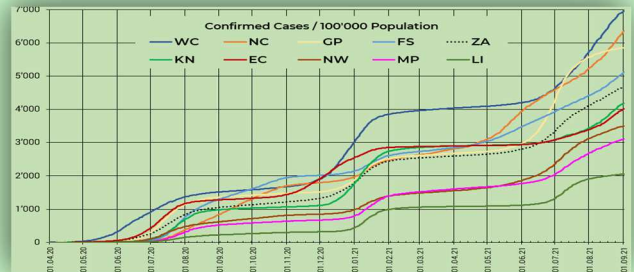


Active infected per 100'000 population

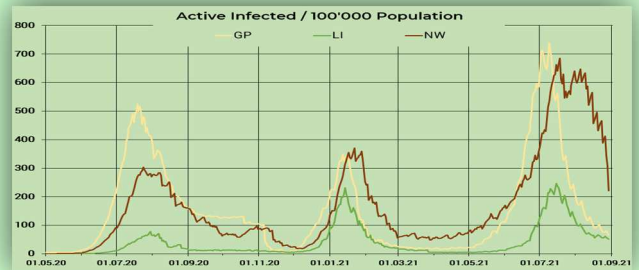


New infected per 100'000 population
(daily and 7-day average)

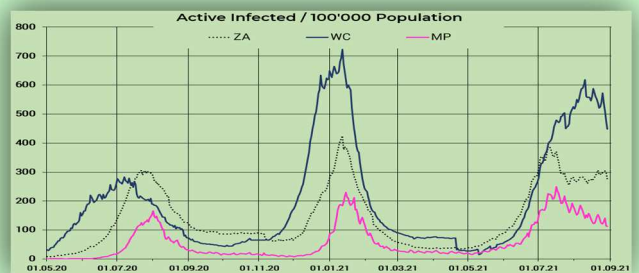
The current corona situation is completely different in the individual provinces. The number of registered infected people varies between 2% of the population in Limpopo, 4% in the Eastern Cape and 7% in the Western Cape.



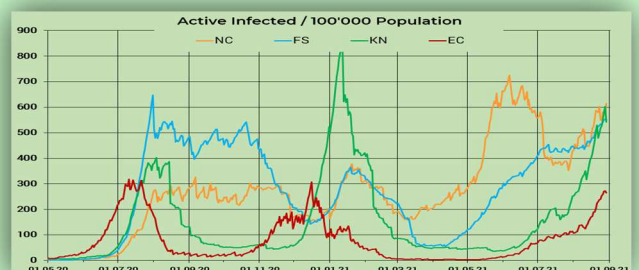
However, three trends can be seen: Gauteng (GP), Limpopo (LI) and North West (NW) have almost certainly passed the maximum of the 3rd wave and are moving towards stability.



The Western Cape (WC) and Mpumalanga (MP) have most likely passed the maximum but still have a high number of infected people.



Northern Cape (NC), Free State (FS), Kwazulu-Natal (KN) and Eastern Cape (EC) continue to show increasing numbers of actively infected people.



Birthdays September



01 Sep Henry Newman

02 Sep Brunhilde Koch
Carol Buschhold

04 Sep Branson Bosman
Olga Breitfeld

06 Sep Wolfgang Paetzold

08 Sep Ophelia van Rensburg

12. Sep Sydney Rudolph

17 Sep Linzi Thompson

19 Sep Craig Bürger

21 Sep Nicole Wright

22 Sep Nerina Reiff

23 Sep Anthea Bürger

25 Sep Melissa Fillis

26 Sep Esther Siegmund-Heineke

28 Sep Lorinda Koch

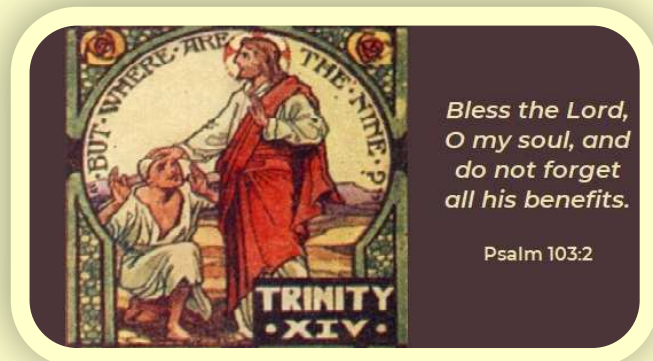
29 Sep Christine Paetzold

30 Sep Brenda Lentz
Warrick Bürger



Sundays September 2021

5 September 2021 (D)
14 Sunday after Trinity

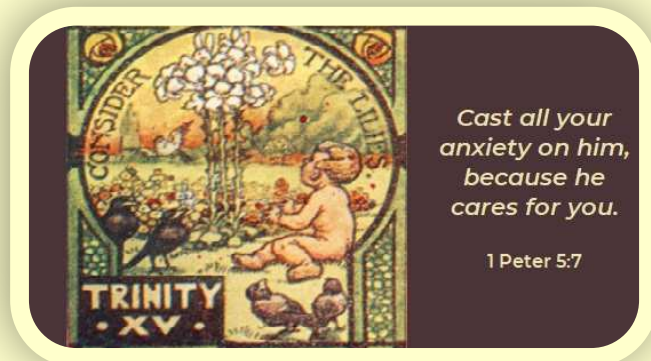


Watchword (Psalm 103:2):

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits."

It happens again and again: When I am feeling bad, I usually forget all the good things, I have already been blessed with in my life. When things get better, I assume that it's only natural and obvious that things are good. The 14th Sunday after Trinity gives a helping hand and opens our eyes to recognize where and from whom all the blessings come from, which were given to me: "Praise the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all His benefits". When we are grateful, we are not only happier, but also live in God's spirit. The Spirit allows us to pray like a child to God and humbly receive all good things from Him, it also awakens our memories of all the good deeds of God and opens the mouth of the healed to praise God.

12 September 2021 (E)
15 Sunday after Trinity



Watchword (1 Peter 5:7):

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you."

Often, I get the feeling that everything is getting too much for me. A big load of worries seems to press down on me: my future, my children, upcoming decisions. And then the many questions that keep me awake at night: Will I arrive well? How do I manage the enormous workload? What do I say? What to wear? But after some time, many of these things turn out to be trivial. "Do not worry so much" - this word of Jesus stands over the 15th Sunday after Trinity. The God, who has richly blessed His people through His creation, will continue to care for them, even by others. In that confidence, we could practice in giving up some of that heavy load of our worries for a life that is based on trusting in God more.

Mercia & Desmond Fillis have chosen the images for September 2021

Sermon

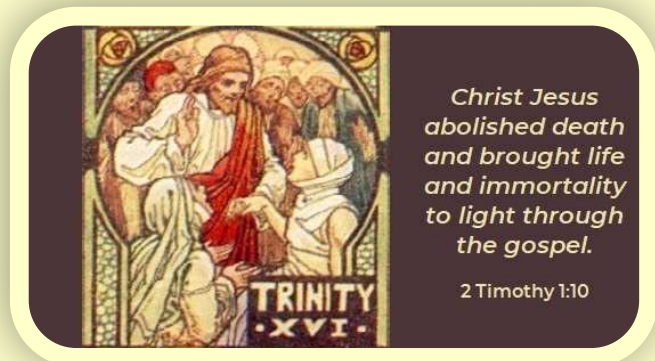
1. Tessalonians 5:14-24

Sermon

Luke 17:5-6

Sundays September 2021

19 September 2021 (E)
16 Sunday after Trinity



Watchword (2 Timothy 1:10 b):

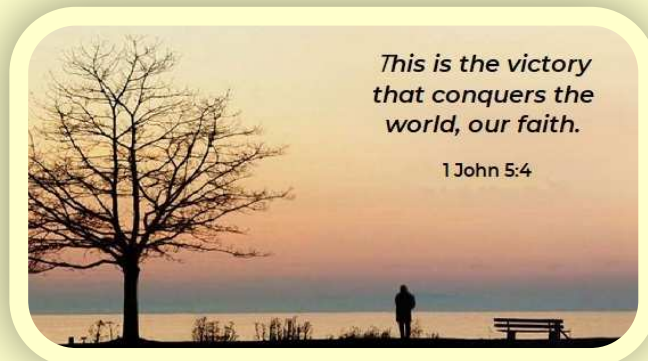
"Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

"Lazarus, come out": In no other story does he, who is "the resurrection and the life" approach the death as aggressively as in the gospel of this Sunday about the resurrection of Lazarus. The verse from the epistle fits in with this: Jesus "abolished death and brought life and immortality". The innocent death of a child, a natural disaster that extinguishes thousands of lives, a genocide that takes your breath away - there are plenty of reasons to doubt that life is stronger than death. The 16th Sunday after Trinity opposes the most vulnerable and important thing of the Christian faith: We may suffer death here and now - death loses its power through Christ. This happened already in Jesus' lifetime, when he called people from death to life. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, death is finally defeated. Out of the hope that death does not have the last word, Christians could live more courageously and long-sightedly in love. To adhere to this and to trust that God's goodness is more powerful than death is what encourages us this Sunday.

Sermon

Lamentations 3:22-26.31-32

26 September 2021 (E, Fam)
17 Sunday after Trinity



Watchword (1 John 5:4 c)

"This is the victory that conquers the world, our faith."

Faith? This question reminds me of my grandmother, saying the evening blessing every day, or of a friend, who hoped that God would heal his mother. I also think of many men and women who went the extra mile, trusting in the power of God, starting aid projects, participating in resistance action, or giving others courage. Faith is not abstract. Faith must be lived. Thus the 17th Sunday after Trinity tells stories about faith: An "unbeliever" persists in her 'confrontation' with Jesus and his apparent rejection turns to acceptance. A father asks for help for his sick son. A blind man regains his sight and is confronted with questions of his faith. Examples of how faith can change people. And if trust does not seem to work for us? A father calls to Jesus, pleading: "I believe, help my unbelief!". And the sermon text tells us: 'I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Sermon

Ephesians 2:4-10

Prayercards September 2021

1 Sep Arnold Tessendorf

2 Sep Astrid Jens-Rosendahl

3 Sep Brian Arends

4 Sep Brian Trumpp

5 Sep Charl Nysschens

6 Sep Craig Bürger

7 Sep David Breitfeld

8 Sep Declan Thompson

17 Sep Horst van Biljon

18 Sep Katy van Wyk

19 Sep Kelvin Daniels

20 Sep Kerilee
Thompson

21 Sep Leo Burgdorf-
Fourie

22 Sep Liane Botha

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

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**

9 Sep Edelgard Krieg

10 Sep Erica Tessendorf

11 Sep Esther Siegmund-
Heineke

12 Sep Felicity
van Rensburg

13 Sep Florence Arends

14 Sep Gabi Weder

15 Sep Gavin Groenmeyer

16 Sep Gisela Schmidt

23 Sep Natasha Meyer

24 Sep Nerina Reiff

25 Sep Olga Breitfeld

26 Sep Péter Heineke

27 Sep Ulla Angloher

28 Sep Wayne Böttcher

29 Sep William Bürger

30 Sep Winfried
Tessendorf

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayer,
intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all people.
1. Timothy 2:1

For your Children / Grandchildren

Joseph

This is the story about a young man named Joseph. His father's name is Jacob, and they lived in Canaan from where his grandfather was from.

Joseph was seventeen (old enough to drive a car these days), and he had eleven brothers; and only had one brother younger than him. Can you imagine having eleven brothers to play with, or fight with?

Because Joseph was one of the youngest sons, his father spent more time with him, and he became very special to him. So, Jacob had a special robe made for Joseph. It was very beautiful and had every colour you could imagine in it.

All of Joseph's older brothers saw this and they got very jealous. They got so jealous they couldn't even say a kind word to him.

One day Joseph had a dream, and he went to go tell his brothers. He said, "Guess what?"



Last night I had a strange dream. We were tying up bunches of grain out in the field when suddenly my bunch stood up, while all of yours gathered around and bowed to me." The brothers looked at each other in disgust, but Joseph continued. "Then I had another dream that the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me."

The brothers said. "Do you think that you are better than all of us? Do you think that we would ever bow down to you?" This made the brothers dislike Joseph even more.

When he told his father about his dreams he said, "Those are strange dreams." But he thought carefully

about what Joseph had told him.

A few days later Joseph's father asked him to check on his brothers. They were in the fields quite a distance away. So, Joseph went to find them.

When the brothers saw Joseph in the distance, they made a plan to kill him. But when Reuben, Joseph's oldest brother heard this he said, "Let's not kill him, just throw him in a well out here in the field." He said this because he was secretly planning to come back and rescue Joseph when the other brothers had left.

So, when Joseph came to them, they took off his beautiful



robe and they threw him in an empty well. A little while later a group of people came by that were wanting to sell some things in Egypt. One of the brothers spoke up, "Why don't we sell him to these people, this way we never have to see him again, and we don't have to kill him." So the other brothers sold him to the people who were going to Egypt.

Unfortunately, Reuben had been working and hadn't seen what happened. When he returned to the well, he noticed that Joseph was gone. He had been sold to an important man named Potiphar, an assistant to the Pharaoh of Egypt.

The rest of the brothers took Joseph's beautiful robe and dipped it in animal blood and took it back to their father. When the father saw this, he cried, "Some animal has killed my son." And he cried for many days, so much that nobody could comfort him.

Now Joseph had started out as a

For your Children / Grandchildren

slave, but the Lord was with Joseph, and He helped him do everything right. So, Potiphar made him his helper, and put him in charge of everything that he owned.

The problem came when Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph to her husband, so Potiphar had Joseph put in jail.

The Lord was still with Joseph in jail, and the warden put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. He never worried because the Lord was with Joseph and helped him do everything right.

After Joseph had been in jail for some time a cupbearer and baker to Pharaoh had been sent there. One night each of them had a dream. They told their dreams to Joseph, and he told the cupbearer that he would soon be let out of jail. "Please tell Pharaoh about me and ask him to get me out of here." Joseph said.

When the cupbearer was freed, he forgot about what Joseph did. So, Joseph stayed in jail for two more years. Until one day the Pharaoh had a dream, and nobody could explain it to him. The cupbearer then remembered what Joseph had done for him, and Joseph was brought to Pharaoh.

"Can you understand dreams?" Pharaoh asked. "I can't, but God helps me." Joseph replied. After Pharaoh had told him his dream Joseph explained, "God is warning you. There will be seven years when nothing will grow and there won't be any food for anyone."

"What can I do?" Pharaoh asked. "God has shown you what to do. There will be seven years before the bad years that will be very good. So good that there will be extra food for everyone. So, you should save a little

bit of each year's harvest, that way you will have enough to get you through the bad years." Joseph said. Pharaoh believed all that Joseph told him and put him in charge of all the land of Egypt.

People came from all countries to buy grain from Joseph, because the whole world was in need of food. Some of those people were Joseph's brothers. When his brothers came, Joseph recognized them, but they did not know who he was. (It had been over 10 years since they had seen him).



The brothers all bowed to him because he was an important person. Just as he dreamed, they would at the beginning.

After a few meetings with his brothers, he could not keep it in any longer and Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father alive?" But his brothers couldn't answer him because they were afraid. Then Joseph said, "Come here. I am your brother, the one you sold! Do not worry, and do not be angry at yourselves for selling me, because God has put me here to save people from starving."

So, his father, his brothers, and their families came to live in Egypt with Joseph, and they had all the food they needed.



Season of Creation 2021 ...

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is an invitation to engage in prayer, symbolic acts, and campaigns to give thanks for creation and renew our human vocation to care for it. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common role as caretakers of God's creation. We see that our wellbeing is interwoven with its wellbeing. We rejoice in this opportunity to care for our common home, and our sisters and brothers of every species who share it.

Christian communities have been coming together since 2003 to pray, act, and advocate for their common home. However, as the climate emergency and ecological crisis persist at dangerous levels, more purposeful and unified prayers and actions are needed.

This year, the theme for the season is „**A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God.**“

“Oikos is a Greek word for the Earth community,” explains Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer. He is the Chair of the Ecumenical Season of Creation Steering Committee and LWF Program Executive for Lutheran Theology and Practice. “It is an invitation to be united in the human vocation to reshape just and sustainable political, social and economic systems that respect the life-giving ecological limits of the Earth.”



The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
Genesis 2:15

In Genesis God set a dome over the Earth. The word "dome" is where we get words such as 'domicile' and 'domestic' — in other words, God puts us all, that is — all people, all life — under the same domed roof — we are all in the house, the oikos of God. God gave humans the ministry to take care and cultivate this oikos of God. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others have called the oikos of God "the Beloved Community," a community in which all of life are equally members, though each has a different role. The oikos is a home for all but it is now in danger because of greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation. The whole creation is still crying out. Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution the geography where we recognize God's creative power has continued to shrink. Today only scraps of the human consciousness recognize God acting to restore and heal the Earth.

... A Home for All?

We have forgotten that we live in the household of God, the oikos, the Beloved Community. Our fundamental interconnectedness has been at best forgotten, at worst deliberately denied. It is our hope and prayer that we can become again this beloved community of intentional discipleship. We hope to move beyond the programmatic and didactic aspects of life to the prophetic and spiritual life to the action and way of life, which is shaped by Jesus.

May we be the champions to renew life, the servant leaders of all life in the Beloved Community, the oikos of God. For centuries, humans have ordered our lives and economies according to the logic of markets rather than the limits of the Earth. This false logic exploits the oikos of God, and makes creation a means to economic or political ends. The current exploitation of land, plants, animals and minerals for profit results in the loss of habitats that are homes for millions of species, including humans whose homes are at risk due to climate conflict, loss and damage.

Reason tells us that in this Anthropocene Age, ecological and social disintegration and exclusion cause the current climate crisis and accelerate ecological instability.

Wisdom equips us to find the answers, and pathways to build green economies of life and just political systems that would sustain life for the planet and people. Faith gives us trust that God's Spirit is constantly renewing the face of the Earth.

Within this horizon of hope, our baptismal call frees us to return to our human vocation to till and keep God's garden. In Christ, God calls us to participate in renewing the whole inhabited Earth, safeguarding a place for every creature, and reform just relationships among all creation.

During this liturgical Season of Creation, the ecumenical Christian family calls every household and society to repent and reshape our political, social and economic systems towards just, sustainable economies of life, which respect the life-giving ecological limits of our common home. We hope that this Season of Creation renews our ecumenical unity, in our baptismal call to care and sustain an ecological turning that will ensure all creatures can find their home to flourish, and participate in renewing the oikos of God. It is an invitation to engage in prayer, symbolic acts, and campaigns to give thanks for creation and renew our human vocation to care for it.

Please visit SeasonofCreation.org to access all the materials.



Financial Notices

Dear members, dear friends

The financial status of our congregation is causing me great headaches: again we have not been able to pay our bills in full. We are dependent on your contributions, donations etc.. Yet the year started so well. At the Annual General Meeting, I asked you - if possible - to contribute 10% more than in 2020, so that we are able to build up minimal reserves.

Unfortunately, at the end of August we only received R 151,000 in church contributions, R 167,000 would have been necessary and at the same time last year we had already received R 165,300. Thus the church contributions are 10% below budget (and also lower than last year). Had I perhaps expressed myself in a misleading way?

Thanks to higher donations, we were able to make up the deficit somewhat; however, we are now R 18'300 in arrears to the Cape Church.

Watchword September 2021



You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes.

Haggai 1:6

During the period 1 January to 27 August we had a R 40,000 shortfall in income and were able to reduce expenditure by R 15,000, leaving a deficit of about R 25,000.

For the next four months, we wanted to ask for more donations, to repay the medium-term loan. The loan should be repaid by the end of the year. The remaining debt is R 40'735, of which we have already received R 7'980. So by the end of the year we still need 32'800.

We are still in the precarious COVID pandemic. In the Eastern Cape, the number of actively infected people is increasing (see page 8) and the situation is not expected to calm down until the end of September. We therefore ask that donations, collections and church contributions continue to be sent by electronic bank transfer. But I am also happy to come to the church if cash payment is desired.

And a very pleasant announcement: The Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony has extended its support for the needy. So we can give food vouchers to the 20 families for another 6 months. We are so happy about this decision.

In the next newsletter we will report more about our Outreach projects.

I am happy about every comment, every suggestion and also about every "contribution" (Can it be a little bit more).

Henry Newman
Treasurer a.i.

Financial Notices

Extract Book-keeping

Jan-Aug Jan-Aug

Actual 21 Budget 21

Income	251'262	291'253	-39'991
Contributions	150'590	166'667	-16'077
Collections	17'750	24'020	-6'270
Donations	23'307	18'667	4'640
Events	21'541	27'000	-5'459
Rental Income	34'608	53'460	-18'852
Other Income	3'466	1'440	2'026

Expenditure	273'151	288'987	-15'836
60% Post	183'260	201'600	-18'340
outstanding payment	-18'340		-
Maintenance			-
Building Maintenance	10'678	6'000	4'678
Maintenance Help	9'100	4'800	4'300
Music Instruments	947	1'267	-320
Cleaning Costs	5'215	9'240	-4'025
Admin Costs			-
Insurances	14'159	14'160	-1
Water and Electricity	13'466	11'333	2'133
Security Costs	5'970	6'000	-30
Telephone	6'801	6'400	401
Bank Charges	2'839	2'400	439
Licences	2'160	2'160	-
Newsletter	0	600	-600
Travel Costs	1'600	2'667	-1'067
Other Costs		0	-
Depreciation	9'632	9'600	32
Manse Help	6'400	6'400	-
Sundry	924	1'600	-676
Audit fees	0	2'760	-2'760



Church Committee 2021

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

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