



# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

## Friedenskirche Church of Peace



No: 2021.07e

Newsletter October 2021



### Being cautious in our optimism ...

Huge advancements have been achieved worldwide in dealing with the Covid virus pandemic. However the few basic simple fundamental safety precautions remain effective. On 30.09.2021 the President of the RSA announced an easing of Covid restrictions from adjusted level 2 to adjusted level 1. Letting our guard down now is not the thing to do. It is predicted that a 4th wave is hit the country towards the end of the year. The RSA government has ramped up its vaccination programme. It has announced that all over 18's can register to be vaccinated at any vaccination health care facility with or without medical aid. Vaccination is free to everyone living in South Africa without waiting for an sms to confirm date or site. The new *Vooma Vaccination Weekend* initiative has started to assist those who are

working and struggle to get to vaccination sites in the week. The aim is to boost the vaccination goal of 70% by December 2021. If this is achieved, it is estimated that 20'000 lives can be saved if this target is achieved. Even one life lost is one too many.

Although we can allow ourselves to be more optimistic than before, now is not the time to throw caution to the wind. We are reminded that even when you have been vaccinated, the wearing of masks, frequent washing and sanitising of hands, social distancing, following regulations and Covid safety protocols still apply. Probably now more than ever at adjusted Level 1. The present reduced infection rate may give some of our exhausted front-line workers a chance at some rest.

Let us remain in hope that we can soon embrace one another once again as we so long to do.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:13

*Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

Reinhard Walle  
Committee Chairman

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

## Pastor's Heart



*Jesus Christ says:·*

**Heaven and earth will pass away; but  
my words will not pass away.**

Mark 13:31

Dear reader.

Criticism towards the bible is apparently growing ever greater. Many people think that the Bible "hardly speaks to our times and modern people". I keep hearing from people, who say the Bible is so difficult to read. Nowadays here are several attempts to rewrite the Bible and to package God's Word in such a way that it can be read again by people.

There is the beautiful story that is said to have happened back in the war in the Pacific ocean.

Late at night, the night watch on a US Navy warship reported: "Caution! A light is heading straight for us in front of us. "

The radio operator reacted immediately and relayed a message by radio to the approaching light: "Unknown ship, you are on a collision course. Change your direction of travel by 10 degrees to starboard. "

The answer came back: "No! You have to change the direction of travel!"

The warship immediately replied back with this message: "We are a warship of the United States Navy, you are to change your course by 10 degrees starboard."

And again the short and concise answer came back: "NO"!

Finally the admiral was woken up and the situation described to him. He delivered the following message: "We are a warship on official maneuver. I hereby order you to change your direction of travel immediately, this is Admiral Peacock of the US Navy. "

Shortly afterwards the response came: "No! Here is seaman Smith, I am the night watch at lighthouse X. "

How often do we not feel like these guys on the warship that we are of the opinion that we do not need to steer our direction or our life at all onto a new course. We rather think, that a lot has to change around us. But, dear readers, one thing is clear and has been for centuries. The clear and bright light of God's Word to us never changes, no matter how often we humans think that we have to wrap the Bible into a "more modern garment" so that it can be read by the people again.

The Bible is and remains, for us, like a steadfast light on our way, which wants to point the way for our lives.

With these thoughts, I wish to encourage you to read your bible again. No matter which translation. The core message remains the same.

Kind regards to you all.  
Andreas Wernecke

# The Festival of the Reformation

On 31<sup>st</sup> October we will be celebrating Reformation day. Hence let us briefly look at Martin Luther was eight years old when Christopher Columbus set sail from Europe and landed in the Western Hemisphere. Luther was a young monk and priest when Michaelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A few years later, he was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures, “captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans.”

In these days Luther was tormented by the demand for righteousness before God. “I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God.” Then, in the midst of that struggle with God, the message of the Scriptures became clear, like a long-shut door opening wide. When he realized that a “merciful God justifies us by faith ... I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.”

What Luther discovered is the freedom of Christians trusting God’s mercy in Christ. As he later wrote, “Faith is God’s work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. This faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake

their lives on it a thousand times.”

This discovery set Luther’s life on a new course —both his own life and his public service as a preacher and teacher. When a church-endorsed “sales team” came to the Wittenberg area in October, 1517, Luther was concerned that the promotion and sale of indulgences undermined the promise of God’s unreserved mercy in Jesus and the faith that trusts that promise. His *95 Theses* or *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* became the first of a life-long stream of books, sermons, letters, essays, even hymns in which he expressed his confidence in this life-giving promise from God, the Gospel, and its liberating implications for all of life in church and society. One of these Hymns is: “A mighty fortress is our God...”



Martin Luther (1483-1546)



# Watchword October 2021

## That conversation does not break off!



*And let us consider how to  
provoke one another to love  
and good deeds,.*

Hebrew 10:24

### Perceiving one another

Looking out for each other and caring for each other has - thank God - now become easier again. The monthly verse for October encourages us to do this.

The context of the saying from the Letter to the Hebrews picks up an image of the Old Testament worship service, where it was impossible for the ordinary believer to enter the Sanctum ("Holy of Holies"). No one but the high priest was allowed to enter this place in the temple where God was present in a special way.

At the time of writing the letter to the Hebrews, the temple was already in ruins. But the writer takes the temple as an image for the new way to the relationship with God, the way through Jesus Christ. No longer any need for a high priest, now the sanc-

tum is love. Whoever has love in his heart, as it is revealed in Jesus, may approach God.

### How does love manifest itself?

Love lives from paying attention to each other and earning each other's respect, especially in the Christian community. We humans are designed for community, so we are relational beings. Even though some may live alone, we can pray for each other, be there for each other "with heart, mouth and hands" and thus be in a living community.

In this community, we may sometimes have intense and passionate discussions and conflicts, but that is not bad and is part of it. Sometimes, however, it happens that everyone is only caught up in their own arguments, in their own sensitivities, hurts and grievances. What others say is no longer recognized. Frustrated, some then terminate the conversation or even leave the community.

When this happens, we have not been carefully enough.

### Paying Attention

The author of the letter has concrete suggestions for this "paying attention to one another". We are to motivate each other, to treat each other, with love and to do kind things. We should mercifully encourage each other to live our daily lives in a positive way.

Sometimes this even means turning a blind eye, so that the other person does not feel constricted because of

## Watchword October 2021

all the attention - but feels the spirit of freedom that is described in the Bible.

That is why the writer of the letter asks (in verse 25, which follows the October verse) not to leave the community. So that the conversation does not break off and love always has a new chance. I really want to belong to such a community!

### We are included

"Let us consider how to provoke one another to love " This is a call in the "we" form. In the original, it applies to the "Hebrews" to whom the letter was written, and today it applies to us - we are included!

So I also see donors as such; a large community, in which each one spurs the other on to love and good works. I am grateful for this community!

Ute Winker

CBM staff member

Source reference: CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission Christian Blind Mission e.V.



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

## Tithing Sunday

Tithing has its roots in the Biblical narrative of Abraham presenting a tenth of the war spoils to Melchizedek, the king of Salem. In the Old Testament, Jews brought 10% of their harvest to a storehouse as a welfare plan for the needy or in case of famine.

In Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42 Jesus referred to tithing as something that should not be neglected... *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness."*

What does the Bible say about tithing today? Leviticus 27:30 says, "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord: it is holy to the Lord." These gifts were a reminder that everything belonged to God and a portion was given back to God to thank him for what they had received.

Where do you give tithes? The right thing to do and the right place where tithe should be paid is no other place than the local church. The payment should be made at the local church because that is where the spiritual benefits are being derived.

In keeping with tradition, we will again celebrate Thanksgiving and Tithing Sunday together in a family service on **24 October at 9:30 am.**

## God's blessing is all important



Photo: Rolf Blenn

Ihr sät viel und bringt wenig ein;  
ihr esst und werdet doch nicht satt;  
ihr trinkt und bleibt doch durstig;  
ihr kleidet euch,  
und keinem wird warm;  
und wer Geld verdient,  
der legt's in einen löchrigen Beutel.

Haggai 1,64

## Are material things more important than spiritual?

The prophet Haggai worked in a turbulent time. The Jewish people had returned to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity. But the most important places of worship had been destroyed. In addition, there was a catastrophic economic situation: a long period of drought and the reintegration of the returnees caused great difficulties. The people were therefore more concerned with themselves and their problems than with the rebuilding of the Temple. Yet this temple was understood to be the place of God's presence with his people. This led to a conflict between the supporters of an early rebuilding and its opponents.

The prophet Haggai comments on this conflict: The people - he writes - say that the time for the rebuilding of the temple has not yet come. But these same people lived "in paneled houses". While the house of God stood in ruins on the Temple Mount, they had enough time and money to build their own houses.

## Material things alone do not make you rich

That is why Haggai holds up a mirror to the people. He speaks of five everyday things - sowing, eating, drinking, dressing and earning money - and contrasts these activities with the results. Although the people have worked hard, the yield is not as desired. Haggai reports a meagre harvest, hunger and thirst, scanty clothing and financial lack. What had happened?

Apparently, the pursuit of material things did not automatically lead to prosperity and contentment. One might have known: When the temple, which is still in ruins here, was being built, Psalm 127 was written. This can be overwritten with: All depends on God's blessing. In their alienation from God, the people had obviously forgotten this. The ruins of the temple were an eloquent sign of this.

## What are we building on?

How are we doing today? Are we prioritising better? Sometimes it seems to me that we are caught in the same cycle. We follow elaborate plans and work hard to move forward, only to realise, for example through corona and these things are not in our hands. Our lives will also not succeed without God's blessing. So we should let ourselves ask where God has his place in our lives.

## Sharing blessings

Let us dare, for example, to share God's blessings and give of our income, as many donors to CBM do. When we give priority to the spiritual, we make God's blessing strong in our lives.

Daniel Magirius  
CBM staff member

*Source reference:* CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission Christian Blind Mission e.V.

## Note from the editor:

Due to lack of space, last month's reflection on the monthly watchword was not published. Only the verse itself was available. We were asked why no reflection was published on this particular verse. We listen to our readers and so Daniel Magirius' reflection is published belatedly after all.



**christoffel blindenmission**  
**gemeinsam mehr erreichen**

The CBM (Christoffel Blind Mission) is a worldwide aid organisation for visually impaired, blind, deaf and physically disabled people in developing countries.

Every month, a member of staff about the monthly watchword.

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Who of our members, or of our friends would like to send us your thoughts of the next monthly watchwords? We would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please send your thoughts to:  
[newsletter@lutheran-pe.org](mailto:newsletter@lutheran-pe.org)

## November 2021:

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. (2 Thessalonians 3:5)

## December 2021:

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord. (Zechariah 2:10)



## COVID Regulations

**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. These are available at our WhatsApp-Group:



**Lutheran Congregation**

If interested, please  
send a message to  
Henry Newman  
**078 703 7003**

### **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

## Sundays October 2021

**03 October 2021 09:30 (D)**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**



**Watchword (1 John 4:21):**

*"The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also."*

The one is not possible without the other: You can be passionate for God, but without love for other people there is emptiness. The other way around is also true: You can do a lot for others, but without the love of God there is no foundation. To love God and your neighbour as yourself - this highest commandment is the central message of the 18th Sunday after Trinity. The Ten Commandments also point the way to the love of God and your neighbour. When Christian communities are open to people of all kinds of backgrounds and life situations, when they work together in a harmonious and friendly manner, encourage each other to believe and to work for peace, they project some of that love.

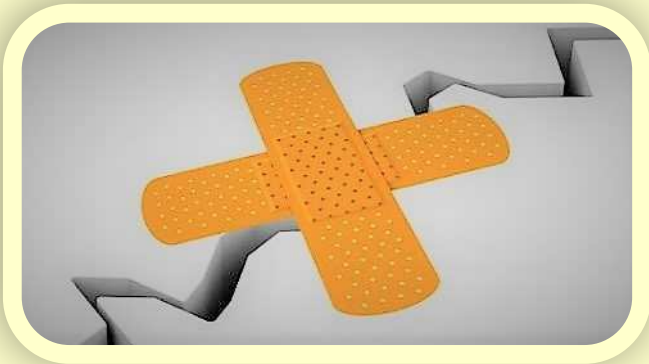
Sharon Tessendorf has chosen

**Sermon**  
**Mark 10:17-27**



# Sundays October 2021

10 October 2021 09:30 (E)  
19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity



**Watchword (Jeremiah 17:14):**  
*"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be  
healed; save me, and I shall  
be saved."*

It is considered proven that Christians are healthier than other people. They have less mental stress, and a better handling of difficulties. An emotional stress will make you sick. Our organism reacts very sensitively to our inner needs. The 19th Sunday after Trinity creates a connection between mental relief and physical healing. It is God's ever new care that makes people healthy. Jesus forgives the sins to a paralytic before he heals him. Thus, Christian communities should pray for the sick and forgive sins. "Do you want to get well?" This seemingly absurd question hits home. Isn't it easier to stay in the old? Am I ready to be touched by God - that I change my life and become a new person?

17 October 2021 09:30 (E)  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity



**Watchword (Micah 6:8):**  
*"He has told you, O mortal, what is  
good; and what does the Lord  
require of you but to do justice, and  
to love kindness, and to walk humbly  
with your God?"*

What is right? What is wrong? In a world where I often see only shades of grey, I would like to have: exact moral principles and behavioural standards, so that I can line up with them. The 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity meets this need: "It has told you, o mortal, what is good," you can find out what real life can look like. There is the Bible, which teaches a worthy and respectful way of dealing with one another, and institutions such as marriage, which are good to live together as two people. Above all orders, however, is the well-being of the human being. If rules are applied slavishly and used to humiliate people, then they do the opposite, then they no longer enhance to the Christian spirit of love and freedom.

sen the images for October 2021

**Sermon**  
Isaiah 38:9-20

**Sermon**  
Ephesians 2:4-10

# Sundays October 2021

**26 October 2021 09:30 (E+D)**  
**Harvest Thanksgiving & Tithing**



## **Watchword (Psalm 145:15):**

*"The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season."*

What do I have to be thankful for? What was allowed to grow and mature in my life this past year? Thanksgiving is an opportunity to reflect.

The giant pumpkin and the full ears, the honeycomb and the bread – in the richly decorated harvest altar, the abundance of nature and fruits of labour are quite evident. But we reap more: food and clothing, every growth and prosperity in partnership and family, big and small successes in our profession – there is so much to be thankful for. The Thanksgiving festival gives room for gratitude and turns it to God. Those who give thanks see nothing as a matter of course and know how to share the gifts they have received from God. Anxiety about our livelihood and excessive worry forms a great part of our lives. We need to hear that we have a generous God who cares about our lives and wants to free us from our anxieties and help us to see beyond our own needs towards responsible sharing. Thanksgiving is a reminder of that what is really important in life, we can only but receive.

## **Sermon**

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

**31 October 2021 (E+D, Fam)**  
**Reformation Day**



## **Watchword (1 Corinthians 3:11)**

*"No one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ."*

Where do I come from? Where are my roots? On the day of the Reformation (31 October), Lutheran Christians reflect on their origins: at the same time, they celebrate the confession and birthday of the Protestant church. This day is reminiscent of the story of the stubborn monk, who nails his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Castle Church in a waving robe, causing a stir throughout Europe. Martin Luther was not a saint, but a man who deeply influenced the Church with his steadfastness, his ardent questions about God, and his courageous commitment to his faith. After his example, many Christians worked on the renewal of the church and still do today. Therefore, the Reformation Day also asks about current grievances and about the Church, which has to reform itself again and again.

## **Sermon**

**Galatians 5:1-6**

# Prayercards October 2021

1 Oct Anthea Daniels

2 Oct Aria Noël Thompson

3 Oct Benjamin Burger

4 Oct Chad Human

5 Oct Charmaine Human

6 Oct Christian Seifert

7 Oct Dale Thompson

8 Oct Declan Thompson

17 Oct Kelvin Daniels

18 Oct Kyle Angloher

19 Oct Leonard Fourie

20 Oct Leonard Rosendahl

21 Oct Liane Botha

22 Oct Lima Coko

23 Luke Human

24 Oct Melita Bagshaw

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 Oct Desmond Fillis

10 Oct Dittmar Eichhoff

11 Oct Elisabeth Wagner

12 Oct Elise Schaberg

13 Oct Gavin Groenmeyer

14 Oct Greyson Meyer

15 Oct Igor Lokotsch

16 Oct Kadean Daniels

25 Oct Mercia Fillis

26 Oct Merle Cairncross

27 Oct Péter Heineke

28 Oct Precious Mulioh

29 Oct Rivka Rath

30 Oct Sheldine Septoe

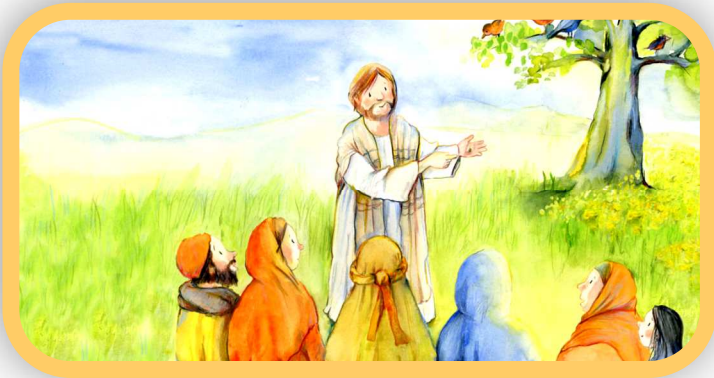
31 Oct Ursula Eichhoff

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

## Parable of the Sower



Jesus told his friends about God again and again. But they did not always understand him. That is why Jesus often spoke in parables. He compared God to a situation that his friends knew.



‘A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.’ As he said this, he called out, ‘Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’

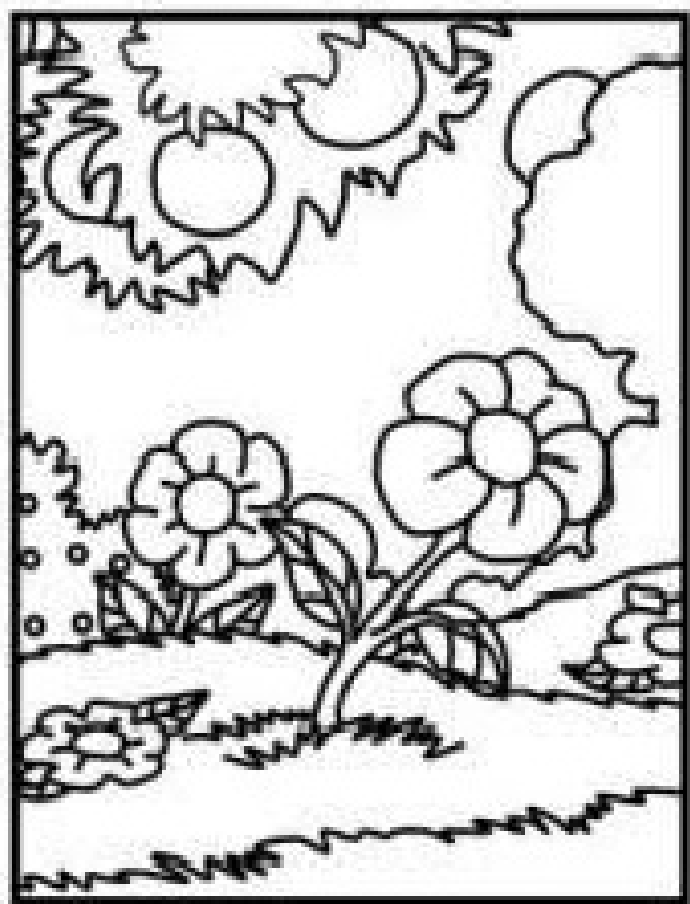
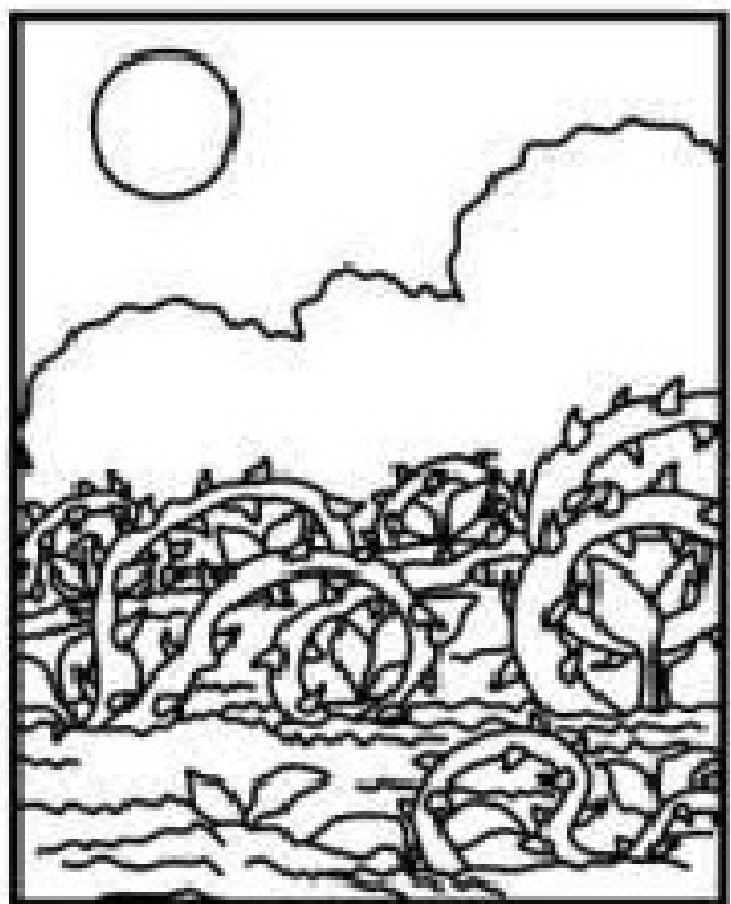
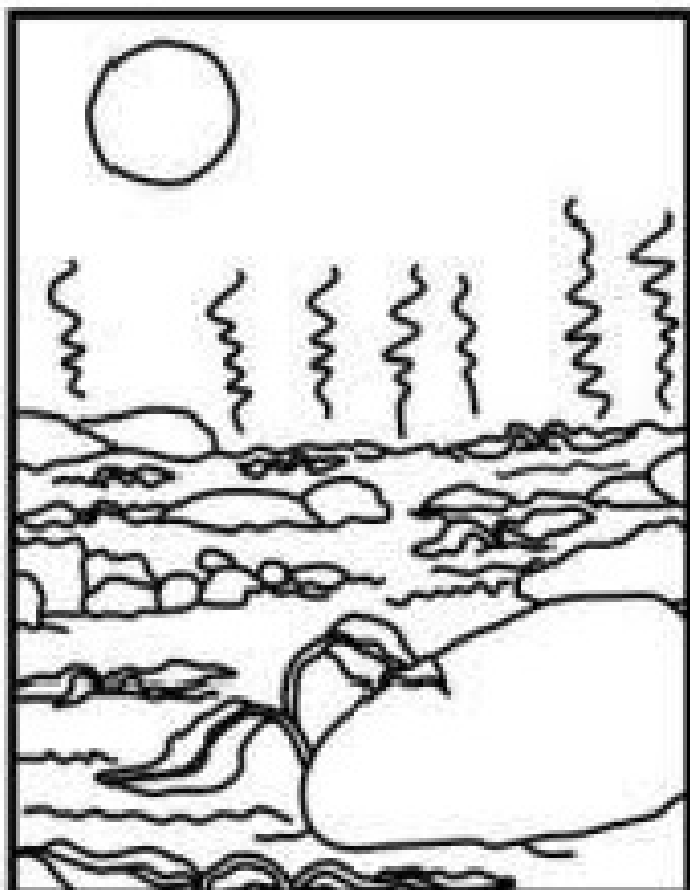
In the parable Jesus is the sower and he sows His seeds wherever he goes. The sower is generous and scatters His seed everywhere no matter what soil it lands on. That is true with God. God generously gives us everything we need. God also calls us to help him sow His seed.

### What is seed?

Jesus tells us that the seed is God’s word. It is the truth about Jesus – the Good News – the Gospel. There are different ways to share the good news. We can invite a friend to church or share bible stories. We can also sing and write about it.

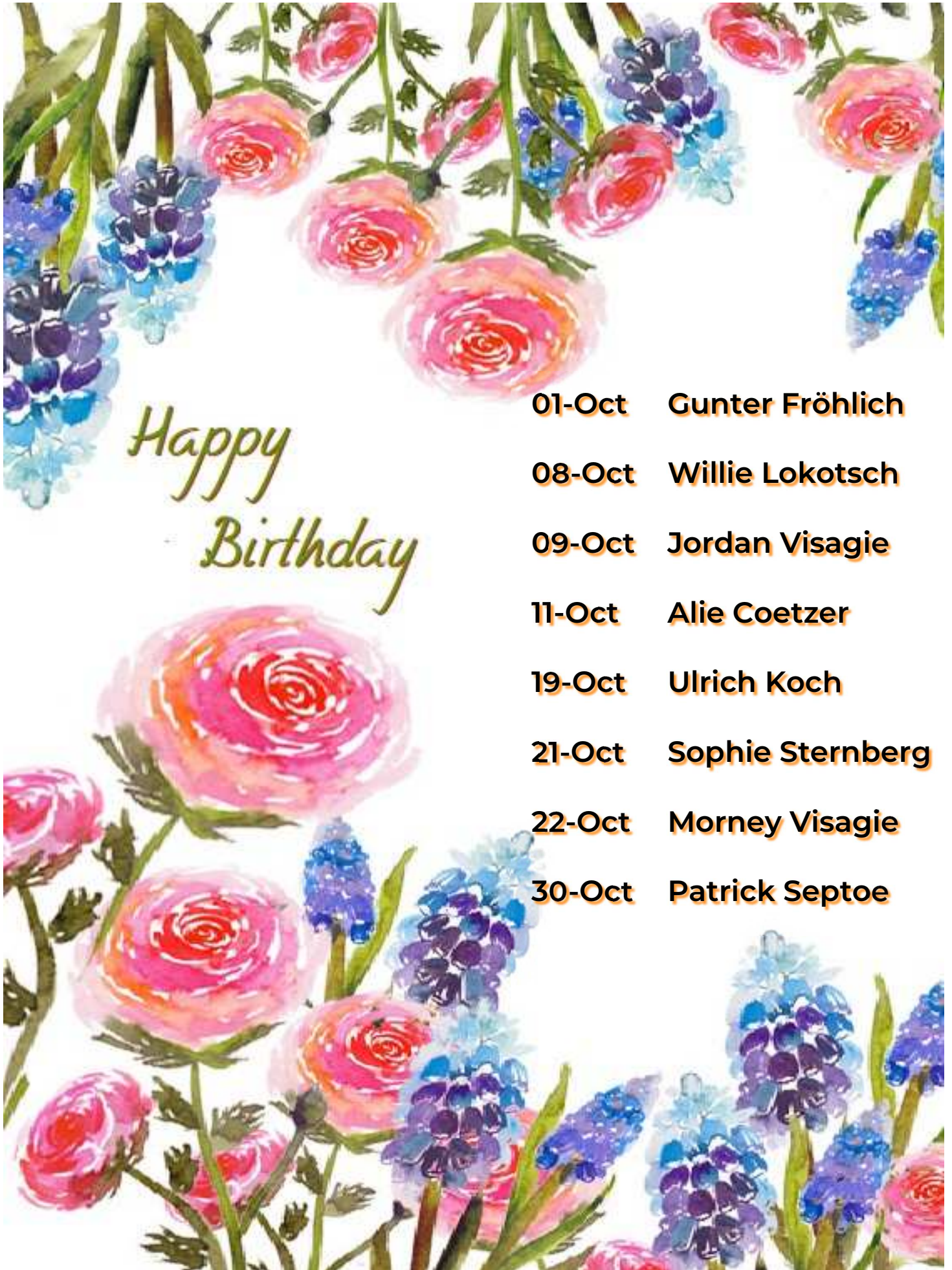
### What is the soil that we are scattering on?

We are like different types of soil. First there is the path where the birds snatched the seed. Some of us hear the word but it is snatched away, and we do not take it into our hearts. Some of us stop being excited about Jesus, and the words of God dry up in our hearts. The seed that fell amongst thorns were choked. Some people get worried by other things, so that the word of God cannot take root in their hearts. Lastly there is the good soil. When our hearts have good soil, God’s word will grow in our hearts.





## Birthdays October





# Financial Notices

Extract: Book-keeping

Jan-Sep Jan-Sep  
Actual 21 Budget 21

<b>Income</b>	<b>292'788</b>	<b>327'660</b>	<b>-34'872</b>
Contributions	180'290	187'500	-7'210
Collections	22'300	27'023	-4'723
Donation	23'367	21'000	2'367
Events	22'112	30'375	-8'263
Rental Income	41'058	60'143	-19'085
Other Income	3'661	1'620	2'041

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>305'674</b>	<b>324'390</b>	<b>-18'716</b>
60% Post	201'260	226'800	-25'540
outstanding payment	-25'540		-
<b>Maintenance</b>			-
Building Maintenance	11'542	6'750	4'792
Maintenance Help	10'850	5'400	5'450
Music Instruments	947	1'425	-478
Cleaning Costs	7'195	10'395	-3'200
<b>Admin Costs</b>			-
Insurances	15'929	15'930	-1
Water and Electricity	17'382	12'750	4'632
Security Costs	6'650	6'750	-100
Telephone	7'705	7'200	505
Bank Charges	2'953	2'400	553
Licences	2'700	2'430	270
Newsletter	0	600	-600
Travel Costs	1'600	3'000	-1'400
<b>Other Costs</b>		0	-
Depreciation	10'837	10'800	37
Manse Help	7'200	7'200	-
Sundry	2'059	1'800	259
Audit fees	0	2'760	-2'760



## Church Committee 2021

<b>Pastor Anja Spiske</b>	33 Luke Avenue, (Manse) pastor@lutheran-pe.org	Springfield 6070 041-367 1986 H
<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 September 2021

<b>Covid-19 Thoughts</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Sundays October 2021</b>	<b>8-10</b>
<b>Pastor's Thoughts</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Prayer Cards October</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Festival of Reformation</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Kids Page</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Watchword October</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>Geburtstage October</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Tithing Sunday</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Financial Notices</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Watchword September 2021</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>Church Committee</b>	<b>16</b>

