No: 2022.05e Newsletter May 2022

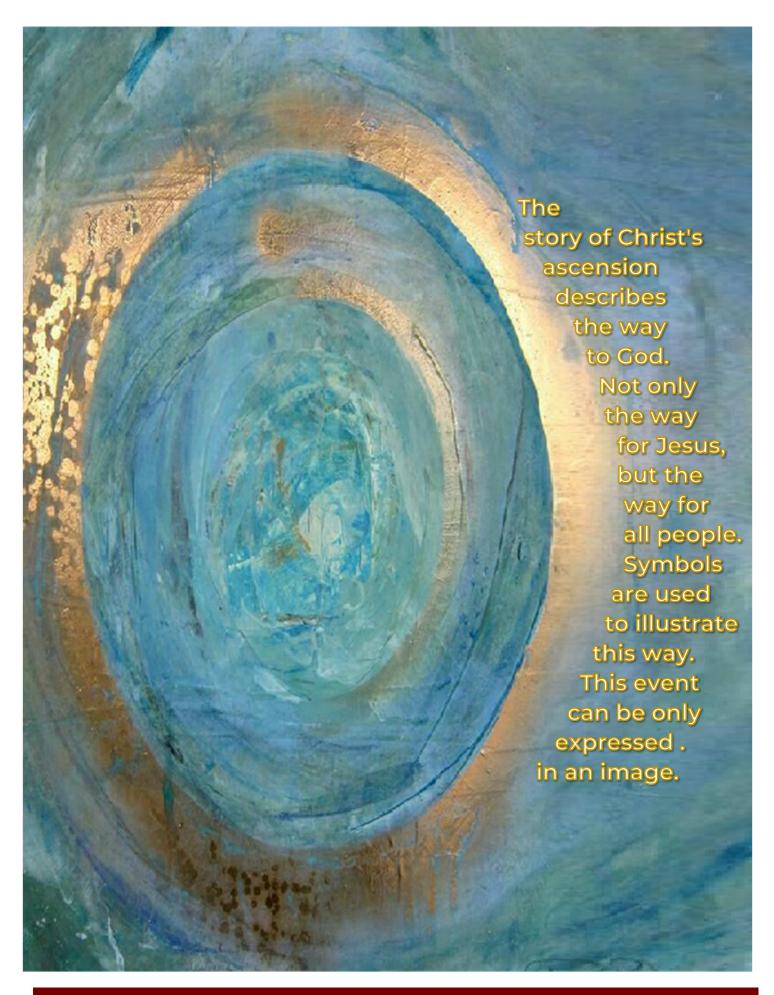
I PRAY THAT ALL MAY GO WELL WITH YOU MAY BE IN GOOD HEALTH, JUST AS IT IS WELL WITH YOUR SOUL.

Watchword May 202

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

3 John 1:1

Ascension Day



Ascension Day

Jesus said to his disciples: ... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit ... When he had said this, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While ... they were gazing up, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? (Acts 1:7-11 in excerpts)

Dear readers of the newsletter!

So there they stood, the disciples and followers of Jesus, staring at the sky. What was going to happen to them? With them? With the community of those who had recognised in Jesus the Messiah who had been killed on the cross?

They had had to go through a deep valley of sorrow and yet they had had such high hopes after Easter. They had experienced Jesus. Completely new. That death could not hold him. The love of God, no, can never be destroyed. Jesus had appeared to them. Risen. In a transient form, but powerful and pointing the way. A commission: Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations ... And now they stare into heaven, as before into the dark cave of the tomb. And have to learn again that he is not to be found there either.

Why do you seek the living among the dead? These are the words from the tomb at Easter. Don't stare back into the past, don't hold on to Jesus in sadness and sentimentality, just as he was. According to the motto: In the

past, when he was still with us, everything was better. But rather: Experience him anew in all vitality.

And now, after 40 days, another farewell, with the words: Why do you stand there staring at the sky? Don't put your hands in your lap and just look at heaven, don't wait passively until (once) final salvation comes from there. But live your life now, as witnesses of Jesus, who live his love in everyday life, in the present, so that the spark of his love jumps over.

The encounter with Jesus after Easter had been encouraging and liberating, but still somewhat restrained. They still need the experience of his presence to get on their feet, to speak and act in his place. Will they be able to do it without his presence? Will they be able to step out themselves, away from Jerusalem, into the world, so that the light of the world will not be extinguished in the tomb, but will dispel the darkness outside the tomb?

It will take some time before the disciples have really overcome their



Why do you stand looking up towards heaven Acts 1:11

Ascension Day

grief. The mourning for Jesus, for the love of God that they had met in Jesus and was now missing. Until the disciples have understood that they can neither expect the re-encounter with God's love in the past (in the grave) nor in an uncertain future (from heaven), but that the place of encounter with God's love is everyday life, the immediate present.

'Why do you look for the living among the dead, why do you stare at the sky ...? It will take some time before they understand what Jesus once told them: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Ascension is the turning point where everything is decided. It takes a few more days until this new feeling of the disciples breaks through, bursts out of the "womb", the new community becomes reality and Pentecost becomes the "birthday" of the Church.

Jesus goes home to the "Father", to God. Ascension Day - a special kind of Father's Day. And we, his other children, are henceforth left to our own devices. Like children who begin to walk by themselves, no longer at the hand of the father, the mother. From now on we walk the path alone but strengthened by the Spirit of God and guided by the eyes of the Father, who likes to see us follow the path of Jesus Christ. Who now sits at the Father's side, at His right hand. Who has exemplified and brought God's

love to us. Through whom we remain in contact with God, the Father of us all.

Seen in this light, every day could become Father's Day. Not only Ascension Day. Also today for us, over 2000 years later. On every day we can discover the love of the Father and also pass it on. Without freezing backwards in the face of supposedly better times or passively waiting for God's future. For we carry this future within us.

It is up to us "Christians" whether the people we meet experience something of the Father's love, of the reality of the Kingdom of God, which is not of this world, but is in our midst. With God's help, encouraged and strengthened by his Spirit, every day becomes a Father's Day.

Pastor i.r. Andreas Wernecke



... Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven ... Acts 1:11

Thoughts on the topic of "progress"

Who or what is advancing the history of humanity?

"The Men make history" was once said many years ago. Where did that lead? How often do you see their history ending in blood and tears.

"The working class is the vanguard of progress", others said. Some understood this to mean that they had to oppress all those who were not part of their class.

That progress was based on war against this people or occupation of that country is an age-old assertion. Many advanced civilisations have been destroyed in the process.

Today we talk more about progress through technology and science; and hardly anyone likes to renounce what has been achieved through it. Nevertheless, we are afraid of what this "progress" is destroying in the world. Just think of the jobs.

Others see all progress as dependent on the "free play of forces" - on an economic and social order in which everyone can use their forces without hindrance. This order has brought prosperity to many - but the weak are not included in it; they remain on the margins.

The week's verse wants to give us a hint: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6)

Progress is where the Spirit of God blows. At Pentecost, humanity took a great step forward. For the Spirit of



Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

Zechariah 4,6

God does not separate peoples from one another, but builds bridges, lets people speak the same language.

He does not make some people the masters of others, but overcomes slavery.

He does not seek knowledge at any price, but seeks to recognise man as the image of God.

He does not set "spirit" against "nature", but takes nature into his protection. He does not rely on the strong, but protects the weak.

Prayer:

God, Holy Spirit, we often confuse you with our spirit; we already think we are seized by you when we are only "spiritual" or "enthusiastic".

You yourself must take hold of my life so that it "progresses": Towards the fellow human being, in love and humility, in truth and joy, and thus towards you, who with the Father and the Son bring us forward into eternity. Amen.

LWF Easter Message 2022



Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in He-"Rabbouni!" (which brew. means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. (John 20: 15-18)

Dear sisters and brothers, resurrection stories have always fascinated me. When I read them, I see them as a perfect mix of sensations, reactions

and human actions in the face of the divine, and year after year this takes on a new meaning for me and challenges me to read these stories from new points of view. These stories are so deep that they can only be understood through faith. This is because they not only describe situations that go beyond human rationality but, in fact, give us a glimpse of a small part of divinity.

This passage taken from the Gospel of John is especially challenging because it invites us to see, feel, and read the story from a woman's perspective. It is true that it is John who tells it, but the narrated events were lived and experienced by Mary, a woman who had accompanied and followed Jesus, who had witnessed his miracles and learned with him. She had been a disciple of Jesus and in that very moment she was sitting by the tomb weeping.

She cried because he who had given them hope for a different reality, one where everyone was worthy of respect, had died. Perhaps her crying was also from the disappointment of realizing that in the end it was all over. In this passage, Mary presents a completely human picture, a person who is in mourning following a death, an event that is irreversible and unchangeable. Her pain and sadness are

LWF Easter Message 2022

so deep that they do not allow her to notice her surroundings or to see that Jesus is there with her and is ALIVE. He calls her by her name and that is when she recognizes him, touches him and, although John does not mention it explicitly, this probably makes her happier than words can describe.

Mary did not realize it at the time, but she, being a woman in a societal context that was hostile to women, was the first witness to the most meaningful event ever to take place, the very one on which the Christian faith is based: the resurrection of Jesus.

I sometimes think about the expression on Mary's face as she recognized the voice of Jesus. I can't help but try to imagine her teary eyes opening more and more in surprise and looking at Jesus. I shudder to imagine the deluge of mixed feelings that must

have come over her. Was she scared? How would we have reacted?

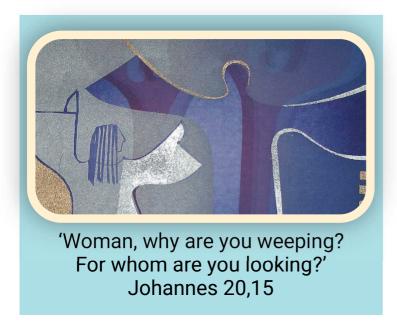
The resurrection of Jesus was an incomparable, unique and unrepeatable event that transformed the life of Mary that day, and later transformed countless other lives over the course of history, including our own. I think that Jesus came to teach humans how to be more humane with each other and, as time goes by, I become ever more convinced of this.

That is why we must be vigilant today and always, because, like Mary, the Risen One also calls us and challenges us to open our eyes and recognize him in our surroundings and in our neighbours. Let us not be afraid, because the Risen One is by our side and is driving us to fight for a full and dignified life for all people.

Let us then profess with words and actions that Jesus, our Lord and saviour, has risen. Yes, he has truly risen. Amen.

Karla Steilmann Franco

Reverent from the Evangelical Church of the River Plate in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay; an LWF Council member.



Martin Luther - Ascension Day



In 1534 Luther preached on Ascension Day. Luther speaks about the history and the fruit of the ascension. This history states what happened, how Christ was taken up and hidden by a cloud. If this is preached only as history, Luther says, it does not benefit us. Yet it is preached for our sake, leading Luther to focus more on the fruit of the ascension.

As he preaches the fruit and use of the ascension for us, Luther proclaims that Christ has taken captivity captive. Luther is drawing here on Ephesians 4:8, and its citation of Psalm 68:18. The Greek here literally says, "you took captivity captive."

Luther preaches that this means Christ has made captive all those things that held us captive. Sin, death, devil, etc. no longer hold us captive. Christ has bound them in captivity on high. Since Christ has captured our captors, we are now free from the things that would hold us captive before God: sin, death, hell, and the devil.

A key fruit of this for us is that we are free from sin. Luther says that we can now taunt sin. If sin threatens to terrify us, we can say to sin: "You are my servant, I am your lord. Have you not heard the canticle 'You have ascended' [referring to Ephesians 4:8]."

This is one component of being free from sin, the freedom from fear before God. Another component is the freedom to turn away from sin. Luther preaches both components:

"If you believe in Christ, then the text says that you believe that he sits above, and that he has taken captive my captivity, that is, my sin. In what way? It should not terrify me before God.... I believe in him who is above. who has captured sin. Therefore I know no other sin than sin that is captive, that is now condemned before God and in the end will be beheaded. ... You [sin] wish to lead me into despair and sadness, presumption, and idolatry. But you no longer have power. You have been taken captive. Your tyranny and dominion are ended. Nor should ... I do evil things, be proud, hateful, or jealous, but I tread these underfoot and am patient, etc."

Free in Christ, we can mock sin and stand against its temptations because Christ has led sin into captivity by his ascension.

Birthdays May 2022



Divine Services May 2022

1 May 22 9:30 (D) Misericordias Domini



Watchword (John 10:11.27-28): Christ says: "I am the good shepherd. My sheep hear my voice. I

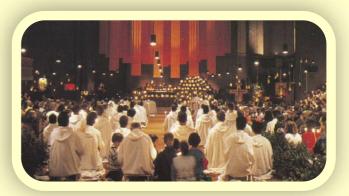
know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will

never perish."

Sometimes I wish that there's someone who cares for me, who shows me the right way and guides me through dangers unharmed, one who quenches my thirst for life and tries to find me when I get lost. Jesus as the "Good Shepherd" stands at the centre on this second Sunday after Easter. The New Testament confesses Christ as the good shepherd, who does not give up the lost and who leaves his life for those entrusted to him. Every single one counts. However, the biblical texts also warn against bad shepherds, who only think about their own well-being, run away from danger and do not strengthen the weak. It is important to stick to the good shepherd and to look after others like he did.

> Sermon John 21:15-19

8 May 09:30 (E) Jubilate



Watchword (2 Corinthians 5:17): "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has

become new!"

Jubilate - Rejoice! How easy it is to become joyful if you think of how nature awakens with a colourful sea of flowers? This growing becomes a wonderful symbol of resurrection in the Easter season. Creation and new are topics of the Sunday Jubilate. It tells of the good creation in the beginning, but also of its transient nature. Christians too are subject to the transience of life. And yet they already have an idea of a new life. Because Jesus is risen. For those who believe in him, death has lost its finality. It's possible to be new, even here and today. If you hold on to this hope, your strength grows. For as the vine gives strength to its branches. Christians too have their hold in Christ and can be called to life and be renewed again and again.

Sermon
1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Divine Services May 2022

15 May 2022 9:30 (E) Cantate



Watchword (Psalm 98:1): "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things."

The exuberant dance, the song that mourners' tears, the frees the whistling in the dark and the aria that penetrates deep into the heart leaves no one unmoved. Protestant piety would not be possible without it. The Sunday Cantate (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 people.

22 May 2022 09:30 (E) Rogate



Watchword (Psalm 66:20): "Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me."

How do I get in touch with God? Will he hear what I say to him? Many adults find it difficult to pray. Others experience it as liberating, to pour out their hearts or to seek silence in God. The Sunday Rogate (Pray!) encourages prayer. Jesus has also repeatedly called us Versatile forms of prayer are already found in the Bible: the tempestuous and unyielding prayer, which urges God like a friend, the prayers for others and the thanks. promises that those who ask in His name will not fall on deaf ears with God. And he teaches his disciples the prayer which encompasses all other prayers the Our Father. There need not be many words. This is enough. It leads to a listening God. Not our will but God's will shall be done

Sermon Exodus 32:1-6.15-20

Sermon 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Divine Services May 2022

29 May 22 9:30 (E Fam) Exaudi



Watchword (John 12:32):

Christ says: "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Sometimes it's hard to say goodbye: It's even harder if I don't know if we'll meet again. This Sunday is marked by Jesus' farewell to his disciples. Jesus has not been visible to them since his ascension to heaven. There are tough days ahead. But Jesus does not leave them alone. He will be close to them in other ways: in their hearts, as a never-ending source of strength. In a new spirit, they will recognize Jesus. This is no substitute for his presence, but it is a steadfast consolation. Even today, this Spirit lives in and among us: where God's will is asked, where love shapes our actions, it becomes palpable. But even where we feel close to despair or think we are in up to our necks; the comforting and guiding Spirit of Christ is close to us and brings our concerns before God. And sometimes God shows up.

> Sermon Romans 8,26-30

The bishop's greatest sin

A young nun claimed that she had met Jesus in a vision. Her bishop, who slightly doubted the whole thing, wanted to investigate the truth. So he asked the nun, if she ever met the Lord Jesus in a vision again, to ask him what the bishop's greatest sin was before he came into office.

A few months later, the nun and the bishop met again and he asked her: "Have you met Christ again in a vision? She replied, "Yes!" she had seen him again. "And," he inquired cautiously, "what was Christ's answer to the question about my chief sin?"

"Christ said " and the nun paused for breath, "He said He could not remember. He had forgotten vour sin."

Dear readers, we not only have a God who forgives us, but who also forgets. Read the 43rd chapter of the prophet Isaiah, addressed to the people of Israel, but also to all who believe in the triune God. And there it says, among other things, in the 25th verse: "But I wipe away your sins because of who I am. And so, I will forget the wrongs you have done. " (Quote from Contemporary English Version).

Get involved with God's word, get involved with a living fellowship with him and his church. It is worth it! Because it can change your life and mine. And that is what our society needs

Andreas Wernecke



I will forget the wrongs you have done

Prayercards May 2022

1 May Ayesha van Wyk	16 May Kirsty Fillis
2 May Branson Bosman	17 May Lorinda Koch
3 May Brenda Lentz	18 May Michelle Harmse
4 May Brunhilde Koch	19 May Nicole Wright
5 May Chad Deutschmann	20 May Owen Kivedo
6 May Christine Paetzold OUR FATHER WHO	21 May Penny Jelliman
7 May Colin Lentz ART IN HEAVEN	22 May Reinhard Mahlert
8 May Derek Thompson	23 May Rivka Rath
THY KINGDOM COME THY WILL ON EARTH AS IT IS IN GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DA AND FORGIVE US OUR TRE AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO	TRESSPASS
9 May Elise Schaberg LEAD US NOT INTO	24 May Robin Arends
10 May Elizabeth Köpke TEMPTATION BUT	25 May Roshni Groenmeye
11 May Gisela Mahlert FOR THINE IS THE	26 May Roswell Kivedo
12 May Gisela Ruppelt AND THE GLORY FOREVER AND THE GLORY FOREVER	127 May Sharon Burger
13 May Hildegard Dreier	28 May Sharon Kukard
14 May Janine Wright	29 May Steven Harmse
15 May Kai Burgdorf-Fourie	30 May Susanne Zifreund

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

1. Timothy 2:1

31 May Uwe Stodtmeister

Easter Market

The Easter Market was held on the 9th of April 2022. It was the first market to be held since lockdown in 2020. And the first Market to be held in the hall with the new floor. What a good event!

There were 8 stalls in all consisting of (in alphabetic order):

- Biscuit Stall
- Cake Stall
- Coffee Stall
- Craft Stall
- Food Stall
- Raffle Stall
- Take Away Stall
- White Elephant Stall

The congregation were very generous with their time and supplying goods to sell. There was a good spirit and a good time was had by all. To date the market has brought in about

R15 000.00.

A big thank – you to all who worked so hard.











Father's on Deck

No Christian is immune from the storms of life. The transforming power of the Grace of God does not come with the guarantee that we will be free from difficulty and trial. Yet we are assured of God's abiding presence and mighty power.

One night an unexpected storm swept over a passenger ship sailing from New York to England, tossing the ship violently and awakening everyone on board, including the captain's 8-year-old daughter. "What's the matter?" the frightened child cried. After her mother explained about the storm, she asked: "Is Father on deck?" Assured that he was, the little girl snuggled back to sleep. Although the winds still blew and the waves still rolled, she had peace because her father was at the helm.

Although the squalls of life strike us, we are assured of our Father's presence. He controls our lives and upholds us with His right hand. We may not dodge the storm, and the winds may still blow, but the master of wind and wave is on board. If we trust Him, He will either calm the waves or quiet our hearts.



Children's Church Youth-room Makeover



A something to ponder

Camping Chair 💺

Cooler box

Gazebos

More info contact Pastor HP 0840646228

Patrick O'Malley was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place.

Looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up strong drink!"

Miraculously a parking place appeared.

Patrick looked up again and said, "Never mind... I found one!"

Kid's Page: Jesus really loves you



Jesus loves me this 1 Know. for the **Bible** tellis me so. Littile ones to Mim belong; they are weak but Me is strong.

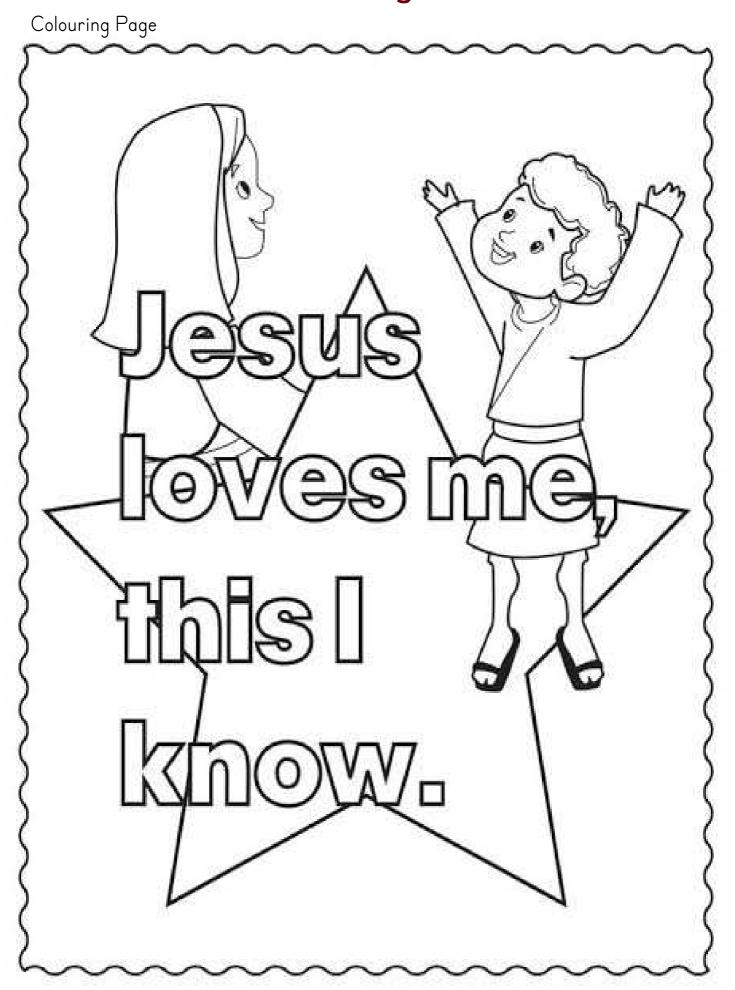
When Jesus was on earth he loved and cared for everyone. He especially cared for the little children who he would always bless. Even when the disciples tried to keep them away from Jesus because they thought they would bother him he would still call them to bless them.

Jesus did many miracles. He made a blind man see and a deaf man hear. Jesus also healed a man who could not walk. He healed so many people because he loved everyone. Even when people did not believe in God He would still heal them.

Jesus felt very sorry for people. Once when he had been preaching on the side of a mountain all day there was no food. Only a few fish and a few small loaves of bread that a young boy had brought. Jesus took the food and gave thanks to God. Jesus then started to share the food. The food became enough to feed thousands of people and no one went hungry.

The way in which Jesus showed how much he loves us all was when He died for our sins on the cross. God raised him up from the dead so that when we love Jesus we can go to heaven one day and be with Him.

Kid's Page

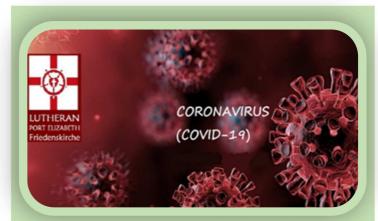


COVID -Thoughts

Rights and Rules and Covid...

The world seems divided in the present day approach to the Covid virus and its mutations. Countries vary their approach to wearing masks and other PPE, sanitising and social distancing. Clearly the Covid threats in countries also differ. Nevertheless it would seem that the virus is not going to fully disappear any time soon. There is presently reported controversy in the United States as to the mandatory wearing of masks on public transport including regional air travel. A US District Judge recently ruled that it is no longer mandatory to wear masks. The judge reportedly called mandate unlawful. The Covid virus is not concerned about legalities. continues to do what it does best and that is to infect, mutate and multiply.

The science has shown that responsible mask wearing, hand sanitising and social distancing supported by vaccination is providing some of the most effective protection against the spread infection and mutation "tactics" of the virus. It was not that long ago that the world was racing to find solutions to ward off the pandemic where many sadly lost their lives. We were asking science for answers as to what to do, with the development of a vaccine seemingly far off. South Africa is presently in the active infections "dip" after the fourth wave. The past has shown that this is the time for caution. The Omicron sub -variant of the virus arrived in South Africa at the end of December 2021. The variant is more rapidly transmissi-



Listen, my son, and be wise, and set your heart on the right path.

Proverbs 23:19

ble than its predecessors but the need for ICU hospitalisation seems less. It is only human to think the extreme danger has now passed. "Just because the spider, scorpion or snake is not seen, does not mean it is not there." Are we not naturally cautious around these and other known dangers in the wild?

By contrast to the countries reducing social distancing, mandatory masks etc when in public places, Chinese business leaders warned the present ongoing lockdown in Shanghai and some of China's largest cities could disrupt the country's economy, as the central government doubled down on China's "Zero-Covid" strategy.

With all the varying world opinions of what to do it is surely each of our responsibility to protect ourselves and others by getting the "jab" and booster, wearing our mask, sanitising and keep social distance in public.

Reinhard Walle Committee Chairman a.i.

COVID – Information

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.

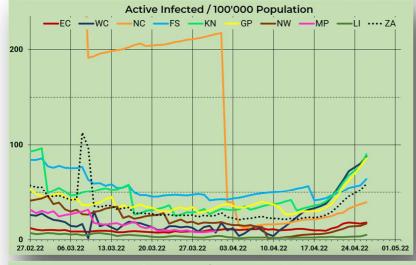


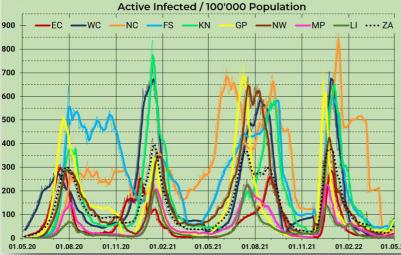
These are available at our WhatsApp-Group: Lutheran Congregation If interested, send sms to Henry Newman 078 703 7003

Bring and wear your face mask the whole time. Sanitize and sign the Register when entering the church

The following regulations apply:

- Max. 45 persons per service
- ❖ 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
- Foyer and Mezzanine have additional chairs 1.5 m apart
- The Organ will play and you can sing the hymns. The lyrics will be projected (no hymn books).
- Communion is received individually (disposable cups)
- No gatherings before/after service in the Foyer





Opposite is an overview of the number of people actively infected with the Corona virus every day for the last few weeks (27.02.2022 till 26.04.2022), as well as since the beginning of the pandemic (1 May 2020 to 26 April 22).

Eastern Cape (EC red) and the adjacent provinces Western Cape (WC dark blue), Northern Cape (NC orange), Free State (FS light blue), KwaZulu Natal (KN neon green), and for comparison Gauteng (GP yellow) and total South Africa (ZA black dotted). For a better comparison between the provinces the numbers are scaled to cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

Data source: <u>sacoronavirus.co.za</u>



Church Committee:

① 2021-2023 / ② 2022-2024

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First National Bank, : Lutheran Church Springfield Account: 534 200 32476 **Bank Details** Walmer Branch Branch Code: 211217

The congregation's Levy is paid to the Cape Church each month. The recommended contribution per family is R 680 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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