




LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH
Friedenskirche Church of Peace



Nr: 2023.06 e

Newsletter June 2023



May **God** give you
of the dew of
heaven, and of the
fatness of the
earth, and **plenty**
of **grain** and **wine**.

Genesis 27:28

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

Watchword June 2023

**May God give you of
the dew of heaven,
and of the fatness of
the earth, and plenty
of grain and wine.**

Genesis 27:28



What a beautiful blessing from a good old time. From a time when people lived with nature, not against it. From a time when flour and wine were still a Godsend and did not lie in bags and bottles on the supermarket shelf.

How I would like to be able to enjoy such a blessing today. How I would like to taste the dew of heaven and the fat of the earth in my meal, without any artificial fertilizers, pesticides or preservatives. How I would like to eat food without asking whether it has been produced sustainably and organically and fairly enough. How I would love to enjoy my wine as a luxury without thinking about the sacrifices of high alcohol consumption in our culture.

May God give you abundance of the dew of heaven and of the fat of the earth and grain and wine.

This is how an elderly father once

blessed his eldest son. Back then, in the good old days, he passed on not only his worldly possessions, but also his faith to his heir. The belief in a very special God who had chosen this particular family. A God whose blessing meant choosiness, happiness and wealth, and many descendants. A God who wanted to make this family a great people. A God who would bless these people and make them a blessing for the earth.

How I would like to pass on my faith in God to the next generation today. How I would like to share my joy in these old words and stories in which God can be found. How I would like to pass on a blessing that comes from very ancient times and still unfolds its power today.

Old Isaac, seeing his end coming, fortified himself with delicious game that his son Esau had hunted and

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prepared for him. And he wholeheartedly bestowed this blessing on the elder, which promised him happiness and wealth. A blessing that made him part of God's good plan for this world. A blessing from a good old time when everything was fine ...

... what? No, nothing was fine at all! The meat Isaac ate was not game, but goat! The son he blessed was not Esau, but the younger brother Jacob, in disguise. Lies and deceit and rage. Jacob had to flee in order to avoid his angry brother. That same evening, he found himself all alone in the desert.

There he fell asleep and there he dreamed his great desert night's dream: of a heaven that was open, of a ladder that led to earth, of a God who promised him the blessing.

This biblical narrative shows us that God's revelation, his grace and favour, does not come in a sterile, pure, holy space. God involves human beings in all their limitations in the proclamation of His ways. It is only in retrospect that we see how God's ways with us are gradually making their mark in the tangle of human relationships and even in dysfunctional relationships. God can use the most messed up situation and make something good come out of it. God providentially uses all kinds of human actions – good, bad and mixed – to carry out his promised purposes.

Yes, eventually Jacob did get the dew of heaven and the fat of the earth, also grain and wine in abundance, but until then it was a long way - through ups and downs and through a long, adventurous and blessed life.

May God give you the abundance of the dew of heaven and the fat of the earth and grain and wine - and guide you through your very own, adventurous and blessed life! God bless you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Anja



Trinity icon by Andrei Rublyov, ca. 1422

The icon of the Trinity (by Andrei Rublyov) is considered one of the high points of Russian painting and was created around 1422. The masterpiece of icon painting is at the same

time a theology in colour. The depiction of the Trinity by Rublyov was described as dogmatically exemplary and binding by a Moscow synod in 1551.

The Icon of the Holy Trinity

The motif of Abraham's hospitality is the most important representation of the Trinity in the Orthodox Church, in precisely the form given to it by Andrei Rublev, which was authoritative for later painters.

Rublev painted the icon of the Trinity for the Trinity Church in the Sergij Monastery, probably in 1422 or a short time later. Like every icon, this icon is not painted in the central perspective familiar to the Western viewer's eye, but in top view. While the central perspective focuses on the subjective point of view of the artist, the icon, in contrast, wants to express the world view of theocentrism. The iconography of the icon of the Trinity has a history of development that is closely related to the overall understanding of the biblical story from Genesis 18. For in the writings of the Church Fathers, three can be discerned which were then also reflected in the iconography of the icon of the Trinity.

1) In the angelological interpretation, the three visitors of Abraham are understood as angels (greek angeloi = messengers) through whom God acts. This interpretation already appears in the New Testament itself, where it says in Hebrews 13:2, probably with reference to Abraham's hospitality: "Do not forget to be hospitable, for by so doing some have harboured angels without their knowledge."

2) In the Christological interpretation, the pre-existent Christ appears to

Abraham in the company of two angels, since although there are three men involved, Abraham addresses only one of them directly as "Lord".

3) The Trinitarian interpretation, which was the last to develop in time, sees in the three visitors to Abraham a revelation of the triune God, whereby it must be noted that according to orthodox understanding God did not show himself directly.

According to the narrative, Andrey Rublev's icon of the Trinity shows the three visitors of Abraham sitting in a semicircle around a low, rectangular table, with only the gold-coloured chairs or thrones of the two outer visitors, arranged in mirror image, visible.

The visitors are identified as angels by their bright halos and golden wings - here the angelological interpretation has had an effect.

They show great similarity among themselves and differ mainly in the colouring of their upper and lower



**Be faithful until death,
and I will give you the crown of life.**
Revelation 2:10

robes, in their line of vision and hand position. All the angels also hold a long, thin pilgrim's or messenger's rod in red in their respective left hands.

Their faces are youthful and beautiful; none of them can be described as younger or older. In terms of the Trinity, this means that they represent the timeless today of the divine presence. They are at the same time androgynous beings, i.e. they unite in themselves the grace of both sexes, since humans, i.e. man and woman together, was created in the image of God. Although their lips are closed, they appear to be engaged in conversation with each other, so that this depiction can be interpreted as a 'silent conversation'.

Rublev has uncompromisingly restricted himself to the essentials in his icon and in the course of this has unceremoniously omitted the hosts Abraham and Sarah, although they had not been missing from any depiction so far.



**It is to peace
that God has called you. .**
1 Corinthians 7:15

The table contains an opening for a relic on the front and is thus marked as an altar. On the light-coloured surface of the table, the head of a calf, which Abraham prepared according to the biblical story, can be seen in a golden bowl or chalice.

This chalice in particular gives rise to interpretation. First of all, it can be seen as a "reminder of the hospitality of Abraham". Through the further development of the depiction from an image of Abraham's hospitality to a symbol of the Trinity, however, further levels of interpretation have been added to this chalice: however, it probably makes sense to simply let the different levels of interpretation stand unconnected next to each other and to understand them in perspective: From the perspective that the biblical narrative from Genesis is depicted on the icon, the cup is a "reminder of Abraham's hospitality"; from the perspective that the Trinity is depicted on the icon, on the other hand, the cup can be "reference to Christ's incarnation and redemptive sacrifice".



**What is impossible for mortals
is possible for God.**
Luke 18:27



**Then the Lord God will wipe away
the tears from all faces**
Isaiah 25:8

In the background, the indication of a landscape has been preserved: Above the left angel is a building, between the middle and right angels a tree can be seen, and above the right angel a mountain looms.

These three elements also establish a connection to the biblical narrative on a first level:

The building points to Abraham's tent, the tree to the grove under which the hosting took place, and the mountain to the surrounding landscape. On a second level,

a symbolic interpretation is attached to each of these elements: then - to name just one possibility - the building stands as a symbol for the church, the tree for the tree of life in the garden of paradise and the mountain for the place of Jesus' crucifixion, for the hill of Golgotha

Around the geometric centre of the picture one can "strike an arc of a circle in which the three angels are enclosed". The geometric figure of the circle, however, is an ancient symbol for infinity and perfection.

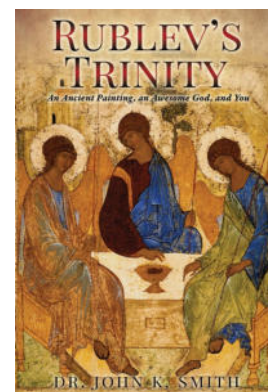
All in all, there are six different possible associations between the three angels representing the Trinity.

If one takes the colouring of the vestments, the following assignment could be made:

While in the case of the Holy Spirit the blue of the Godhead has receded, in his case the Pentecostal red dominates. With the Son, on the other hand, green as the colour of the earthly comes to the fore as a sign of his incarnation. This could also be the reason why the figure on the right appears to be a little distant from the other two: Christ "has departed from Father and Spirit into the solitude of earthly life, into the abandonment of Gethsemane and Golgotha.

The symbolic ambiguity of Rublev's icon may even be deliberate. It would then be understood as an indication that the immanent Trinity ultimately remains withdrawn from our knowledge and remains a mystery.

Dr John K Smith
Rublev's Trinity:
An Ancient Painting,
an Awesome God,
and You
2020



Food for the Brain: Worship as a celebration

How the church can rediscover worship as a celebration

Why should the church leave the party to the football clubs? This is the question posed by liturgy expert Jochen Arnold, who makes some suggestions for lively church services.



Church service with event character: Every year before the DFB Cup final, fans of both teams come together in Berlin's Memorial Church

According to Jochen Arnold, professor of theology and liturgy expert, church services in future need to be even more willing to engage with people and their lives. In addition, it is necessary to rediscover the church service as a celebration, the director of the Michaelis Monastery in Hildesheim told the Protestant Press Service (epd) after a congress at the Protestant training centre. "That means that we don't just leave the party to the football and shooting festival, but let it be experienced: The party is actually taking place with us." At the congress "Quo vadis, Divine

Service?" about 130 representatives from church and science from Germany, Austria and Switzerland met.

Statistics show that there is a loss of importance of the church service, especially on Sunday mornings. At the same time, it was clear that church services were very diverse and were also popular in different forms and shapes. This is shown by services with an event character, such as Christmas Eve, Easter or Thanksgiving, as well as the formats that were created digitally, outdoors or in the living room during the Corona period. "The worship heart of the church continues to beat."

No patent remedy for church services

When looking at the low attendance figures, it is not a matter of staring like a rabbit at a snake in fear, emphasised Arnold, who is also chairman of the Liturgical Conference of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). "We want to dare a new departure and open ourselves to move towards the people and their questions and needs." The idea of an inclusive church is important in this context. It is important to welcome people of diverse cultures and piety, languages and inclinations with an open culture of welcome so that they feel at home in the spiritual offer.

Congregation Life

Gisela Schmidt †



On 29 May 2023, our congregation member Gisela Schmidt passed away peacefully at the age of 88. After her hip fracture, she never got back on her feet and was bedridden, but very well cared for.

When her husband died in 2006, she courageously joined her daughter and son in Port Elizabeth without speaking a word of English. She regularly came to all the German services and events, and also attended the English services, especially family services for the sake of fellowship. Gisela was always friendly.

Memorial service on Wednesday, 7th June 2023 at 11:00, Church of Peace.



If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:8



**Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**
Psalm 100:2

There is no patent remedy for the worship of the future, Arnold emphasised. A variety of formats must stand for a welcoming church in the 21st century. Church leaders need to clearly encourage that the Sunday morning service at 10 a.m. remains important, but becomes an option among other forms. Also, the church could much more often include a proper meal in the communion service, instead of a "communion-to-go" or a short church café afterwards. This is the only way to create festive joy.

Charlotte Morgenthal
Protestant Press Service (epd)

Looking beyond the horizon: Cologne Cathedral



The "Dicke Pitter" ("Fat Peter") in Cologne Cathedral only sounds on special occasions

On 15 days a year, its deep chime rings out from a height of 53 metres over Cologne's city centre. The St Peter's bell, the largest bell in Cologne Cathedral and popularly known as the "Dicke Pitter" - or "Fat Peter" - is normally only rung on high holidays such as Christmas, Easter and Ascension Day. Or on special occasions: 78 years ago, for example, it announced the end of the Second World War to the people of Cologne. When a pope or archbishop dies, it rings for half an hour. Now it is celebrating its 100th birthday.

24 tons of bronze

On 5 May 1923, the bell was cast in a bell foundry in Apolda, Thuringia. Not an easy undertaking, recounts architect Jörg Sperner, who works at the Cologne Cathedral Construction Works. For the "Fat Peter" with its diameter of 3.22 metres, 24 tonnes of bronze were melted. The bronze had to be heated to a good 1,000 degrees Celsius throughout, because no flaws were allowed to appear. They would have influenced the sound and stability later.

However, the bell dedicated to the patron saint of Cologne Cathedral, Saint Peter, had a long way to go before it could be heard for the first time in the south tower: a good 370 kilometres separated Apolda from Cologne, and the "Fat Peter" travelled it by train. At the end of November 1924, Archbishop Joseph Schulte consecrated the bell in front of the main portal. 20,000 people gave it their escort. Then it was hoisted by hand into the belfry - the operation took 13 days, and floor by floor the "Fat Peter" rose higher above the city. The bell now hangs at the very top of Cologne Cathedral. Just in time for Christmas, St Peter's bell had reached its final home in the tower, but its ringing was still a long time coming. On Christmas Eve, after a few strokes, the rope of the electric ringing machine broke. Adjusting it correctly must have been a challenge, explains Sperner: "It took years until the two electric motors were synchronised and the "Fat Peter" could be used regularly.



For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

Looking beyond the horizon: Cologne Cathedral

World record for the bell

With its low C tone, it is now the lowest free-swinging bell in the world. From its place, it looks out over Cologne's city centre to the surrounding countryside. Some people say they can even hear the "Fat Peter" as far as Bergisch Gladbach, 15 kilometres away, says Sperner. But that is probably more a feeling of inner solidarity. The architect estimates that the sound of the bells can be heard about one kilometre away in good weather conditions.

Such a powerful sound is not without side effects. St Peter's bell, decorated with many inscriptions, hangs with seven of its smaller siblings in a kind of iron scaffolding. This protects the cathedral from the vibrations, which are nevertheless clearly felt in the bell tower.

Only the push of a button is necessary

While the rather short life of the predecessor of the Rhenish heavyweight, the Emperor's Bell, was mainly marked by breakdowns, the streak of bad luck of the St. Peter's Bell has so far been limited. But even it is not without its difficulties. In the 1950s, there was a crack, but it was successfully welded. Then, on Epiphany Day 2011, the clapper broke and fell onto the maintenance level of the belfry. This was at least a less dramatic crash than that of the sound generator of the imperial bell, which raced through to the ground floor. No one was injured.



The St Peter's bell was condemned to silence for almost the whole of 2011 until it was fitted with a new clapper - and at just under 600 kilograms, 200 kilograms lighter. Six years later, it came to a standstill again. The clapper was not sitting properly and needed a new suspension. The work took over one and a half years - a time that shows how complex repairs to a bell of this size are.

But some things have also become easier in the past 100 years. The Emperor's Bell - three tonnes heavier than its successor - was set swinging by 28 men. Half an hour before the bell rang, they had to hang on to the ropes with all their strength. Today, the sexton presses a button on the ground floor - and it takes only a few seconds for the "Fat Peter" to start moving and swing leisurely. For five minutes, its sound echoes alone over the cathedral plateau during the solemn ringing. Only then do its brothers and sisters join in the chord.

Annika Schmitz (KNA)

News from the Bishop's office

Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

The thirteenth Assembly of the LWF will take place from 13 -19.9.2023 in Krakow, Poland. The theme is: *One Body, One Spirit, one Hope*. We will be represented by Bishop G Filter (church leader), Rev Ronell Bezuidenhout (female theologian) and Henry Malong (male youth).

The Africa pre-assembly took place from 8-13.5.2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect, debate and identify important needs and opportunities for the Lutheran Church on our continent. It became clear that although we are one body, which follows the same doctrine and has the same foundation, that we have different challenges and opportunities. Statistics show that the church on our continent is growing. Various churches now send missionaries to Europe and Asia.

The topic: *One Body, one Spirit, one Hope*, is important to reflect on, as the church is in need of unity, reconciled unity (not uniformity), renewal and guidance by the Holy Spirit (misleading theologies bring much confusion and result in abuse of believers) and one hope, which we have in and through Jesus Christ.

I invite you to make use of the study guide which is available on our webpage and on the LWF webpage. It is a good resource to work with or discuss in small groups.

More information on the work of the LWF and on the Assembly can be obtained on <https://lwf.org/> and <https://2023.lwfassembly.org/>.

Connecting Lutherans

The Lutheran Church in South Africa is not one body and there are at least 10 Lutheran Churches. As a step towards (re-)connecting Lutherans the bishops of ELCSA, NELCSA and Cape Church have met from 26-28.4.2023 in Bonearo Park. ELCSA consists of 8 dioceses (7 bishops and 1 vacant).

We used the opportunity to get to know each other, and the different structures, needs and challenges. Understanding each other's structure and situations better will guide us on the way forward.

We have committed to meet as a Bishop's Conference twice a year. The next meeting will be on 23.8.2023.



**The light of the righteous rejoices,
but the lamp of the wicked goes out.**
Proverbs 13:9

Synod 2023

The 1st session of the XVI Synod will take place from 12-14.10.2023 at St Crucis Lutheran Church, East London.

The topic will be: "God sees!" - also focusing on the intergenerational diversity within our congregations / church with a focus on the youth.

News from the Bishop's office



**He reveals deep and hidden things
and light dwells with him.**
Daniel 2:22

A reminder that delegates must be elected for 4 years. Proposals for change or amendments to Church Laws must reach the church office by 10th July 2023 (3 months) and Motions need to reach the church office by 11th August 2023 (2 months). office@elcsacape.co.za

The CCE pre-synod meeting will take place on 2 September 2023 and the CCW pre-synod meeting on 9 September 2023.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hannover

The ELCSA (Cape Church) church and the NELCSA have been approached regarding a commission instituted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hannover. The commission is investigating possible sexual misconduct and abuse of power by the late pastor Klaus Vollmer. Due to the fact that pastor Vollmer was also active in South Africa, anyone who was involved with Pastor Klaus Vollmer and would like to approach the commis-

sion of the church of Hannover is invited to do so at the email address: kommission-hannover@posteo.de

Congregations

Wynberg and St Martini. A new pastor's post is created to serve the project through which we endeavour to reach young families. The process to find a pastor is ongoing. Let us carry this in our prayers.

St Martini congregation will become vacant in July 2023. The process of filling the post is ongoing. May we find a suitable candidate soon.

Friedenskirche, Stellenbosch, will be vacant from June 2023. The post has been advertised in UELCSA. We trust that a suitable candidate will be found.

Studying Theology

On the Cape Church YouTube channel

<https://youtu.be/2sl-wK24cUY>

you will find a video with an explanation on studying theology in the Lutheran Church.

Our webpage

For information on Church life look at our webpage

<https://www.lutherancape.org.za/>

5 June Commemoration Day of Augsburg Confession



**He uncovers the deeps
out of darkness and
brings deep darkness to light.**
Job 12:22

The Confessio Augustana (CA, the Augsburg Confession) is a **fundamental confession of faith** by the Lutheran imperial estates. The CA was presented by the Lutheran Reformation to Emperor Charles V at the Imperial Diet of Augsburg in 1530.

The reason for writing it was the invitation to the Imperial Diet of Augsburg in 1530, in which Emperor Charles V called on the imperial estates of old and new faith to state their positions. The new believers in the Wittenberg Reformation presented their position in the CA on 25 June 1530 by Elector John of Saxony and other newbelieving imperial states as their confession.

The CA sought imperial acceptance for the changes in church life that had been made in the territories of the signatories. Throughout, therefore, an attempt is made to present one's own doctrine and practice in accordance with the Latin-Western Church tradition; one had only corrected some

more recent undesirable developments. On the other hand, Melancthon as author sharply distances himself from other Reformation movements (Anabaptists, Ulrich Zwingli).

The actual goal of winning the Emperor over to changes in church life in some German territories was not achieved with the CA. But it became the doctrinal basis of the Protestant defensive alliance led by Hesse and Electoral Saxony. In this function it was very successful:

The Reformation theology of Wittenberg dominated Protestantism in the Holy Roman Empire through the CA; Zwingli's influence was limited to Switzerland.

The confessors of the CA were assured tolerance in the 1555 Peace of Augsburg. Some European churches of Lutheran tradition bear the name affix "A.B." meaning "Augsburg Confession".



**But the path of the righteous is like the
light of dawn, which shines brighter
and brighter until full day. .**
Proverbs 4:18

Birthdays June 2023

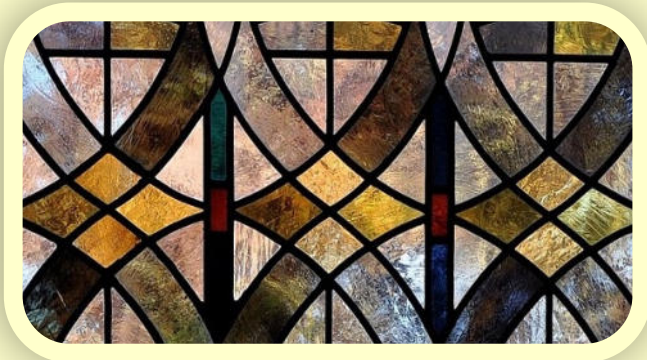
01 June
David | Breitfeld
02 June
Werner | Krieg
05 June
Karla | Lentz
Maya | Breitfeld
07 June
Elizabeth | Köpke
09 June
Kai | Burgdorf-Fourie
12 June
Nicolas | Sternberg
13 June
Sheldine | Septoe
14 June
Lawrence | Mugonya

18 June
Jordan | Mächtle
19 June
Barbara | Rath
21 June
Anthea | Daniels
Dominique | Thomas
Isa | Brand
Janine | Wright
Kyle | Angloher
Lynn | Cairncross
29 June
Pastor Anja | Spiske



Divine Services June 2023

4 June 2023 09:30 (D)
Trinity



Watchword (2 Corinthians 13:13)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

On Trinity Sunday, Christians celebrate the feast of the Trinity of God - a theological idea that is difficult and yet says much about the nature of God. God is more comprehensive than a human being can comprehend. But he engages in a story with people and reveals more and more of himself to them over time: as Father, God chooses a people for himself; as Son, he comes to all people for salvation. Finally, God takes up residence in each individual: as enthusiasm, as comforter and as power of love. God is pure relationship. No one is excluded from his presence. God cannot and does not want to be for himself. One expression of this is his Trinity.

11 June 2023 9:30 (E)
1st Sunday after Trinity



Watchword (Luke 10:16a)

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

Some preach health or success, others wealth or beauty. It is easy to get lost in the jungle of almost unlimited offers of meaning. Which promises of salvation are misleading? Which of the paths offered to me really lead to life, are from God? The 1st Sunday after Trinity encourages us to remain attentive to the voice of God among the many voices around us. There are listening aids for this: the words and works of Jesus, the testimony of Moses and the prophets, a confession that holds fast to God alone and asks for God's will. Whoever follows this attentively - and does not flee from difficulties like Jonah - walks the path of love that fearlessly and generously turns to the other.

Sermon
Isaiah 6:1-8(9-13)

Sermon
1 John 4:(13-16a)16b-21

Divine Services June 2023

18 June 2023 9:30 (E)
2nd Sunday after Trinity



Watchword (Matthew 11:28):

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

"I'm sorry, I don't have time" - a rejection, said quickly and carelessly, sometimes regretted later. Who has not experienced this? When God invites us to the celebration of life, we should not miss it. Then his invitation is extended to all: Wealthy and poor, near and far, believers and doubters. There is no one who is excluded. All who long, all who sometimes find their burdens heavy, are welcome. Blessed is he who accepts the invitation! The 2nd Sunday after Trinity encourages us not to refuse God's invitation, but to allow ourselves to be called to his table in a colourful, growing community in which there is a climate of mutual respect and appreciation, openness to outsiders and tolerance for the weaker. Christianity is not an exclusive club - thank God!

Sermon

Luke 14,(15)16-24

25 June 2023 09:30 (E + Fam)
3rd Sunday after Trinity



Watchword (Luke 19:10)

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

Sometimes I stand there and want to turn back time: My hurtful word, my wrong decision, my carelessness ... "If only it could be undone!" It is painful when this is not possible. What is often no longer possible with people, it is possible with God - that is the message of today's Sunday. God does not want people to be lost. He lets them seek their ways and make their mistakes: the sheep that goes astray, the son who can no longer stand it at home, ... But like the good father, God does not let them fall: he waits, goes to meet them, celebrates a feast for the son who has been found again. And he spares the city whose downfall he has decided, because it repents of its deeds. The prophets' warning sounds urgent: "Dare to turn back! You can go back if you only want to."

Sermon

Luke 15:1-3.11b-32

Divine Services July 2023

**2 July 2023 9:30 (D)`
4th Sunday after Trinity**



Watchword (Galatians 6:2)

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

Likeable or unlikeable? The decision is made within a few seconds. Moral judgement is also very fast. We usually "know" very well what is reprehensible and make our contempt known loudly or subtly. "Beware of such judgements!" warns the 4th Sunday after Trinity. For there is no one who is without fault, who is not always in need of generosity and forbearance. It is only God who can judge. That is why Jesus encourages forgiveness: Those who live from the awareness that God is merciful towards them can try to live reconciled - like Joseph, who forgives his brothers after a long time for the wrong they have done to him, and David, who spares Saul who wants to kill him. "Do not let evil overcome you, but overcome evil with good," says Paul.

Sermon

1 Peter 3,8-17

Events

COFFEE WITH GOD.



Tuesday mornings at 10H30
Everyone is welcome.
Look out for announcements
via WhatsApp-Group
and at the Divine Services.

Events 2023

18 June 2023
Father's Day Coffee
after Divine Service

26 August 2023
Ladies High Tea

30 September 2023
Café Bingo

4 November 2023
Christmas Market

18-19 November 2023
Ladies Retreat
(TBC)

Prayer Cards May 2023

1 Jun Gerry West

2 Jun Penny Jelliman

3 Jun Sophie Sternberg

4 Jun Nicole Wright

5 Jun Sicilia Welcome

6 Jun Isa Brand

16 Jun Hans Schaberg

17 Jun Joan Cairncross

18 Jun Rudi Harmse

19 Jun Blake Wright

20 Jun Sandile Coko

21 Jun Leah Septoe



7 Jun Gisela Mahlert

8 Jun Gemma Bürger

9 Jun Molatelo Rapetsoa

10 Jun Charlotte Andrews

11 Jun Renée Sternberg

12 Jun Dominique Thomas

13 Jun Frank Dreier

14 Jun Desmond Fillis

15 Jun Florence Arends

22 Jun Hildegard Dreier

23 Jun Michelle Harmse

24 Jun Sharon Bürger

25 Jun Leonard Fourie

26 Jun Werner Krieg

27 Jun Gerhard Fröhlich

28 Jun Kyle Angloher

29 Jun Leonard Rosendahl

30 Jun Zanele Thupana

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

CCE - Annual Meeting 6 May 2023

Chairman's report Circuit Conference East (CCE) for the 56 Ordinary Meeting of On Saturday 06 May 2023 At St. Pauls Stutterheim

1. Depressing Despair!

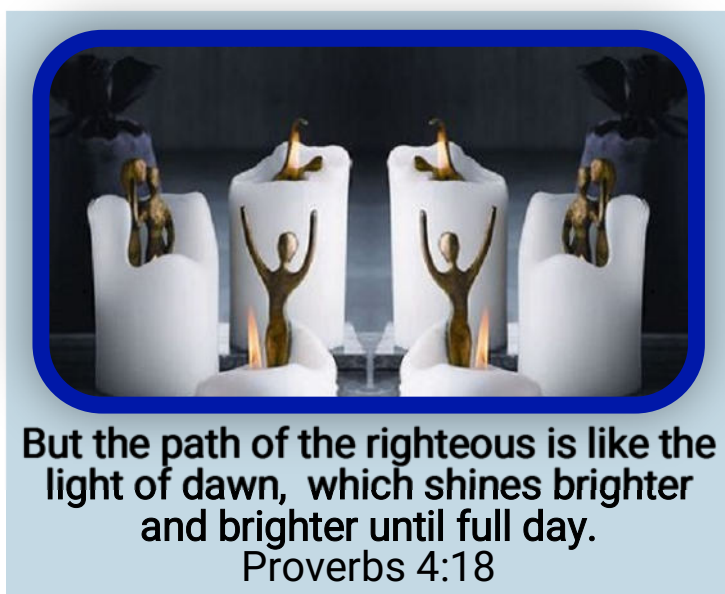
Dear delegates of the CCE, dear members of the CCE Presiding Committee, dear Pastors, dear Bishop Filter. When I look around me, and when I listen closely to the people around me all I hear and see is the despair. In a recent study conducted by "The South African Depression and Anxiety Group" that was released this week, it was found that over 96% of people had a sense of helplessness and hopelessness for the future of the country.

- ❖ There is Political despair. Seeing how our elected leaders are only serving their own interest. This in turn leads to a government that no longer serves the people who elected them.
- ❖ There is the despair of Loading-shedding. Load Shedding is putting financial strain on many businesses that have to close. It also puts strain on the emotional wellbeing of people and well as strain on relationships.
- ❖ There is economical despair caused by the high inflation and high interest rates. Many households no longer can make ends meet. Many pensions are no longer sufficient.
- ❖ The high level of violence is filling us with despair. GBV is sky high!

We have gotten so used to murder. We no longer surprised when someone steals a traffic light and walks past one.

- ❖ The despair of loneliness. More people feel isolated since the pandemic. Many elderly people feel forgotten in our retirement homes!

The list of despair is endless. No one see and seem to hear the plight and the despair! It seems like no one sees their daily struggle! What gives us hope in this hopeless despair?



2. God who sees us!

Here I must say that I am very thankful for the watchword this year! It reminds me that in this despair that we see and hear we still have hope! We may hear that "You're the God who sees me!" Gen 16:13.

These words are spoken by Hagar, the servant of Abram and Sarah. She had to flee from Sarah because she treated her with contempt. It's her own fault as she thought that she was better than Sarah. She after all was preg-

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nant with Abram's child. She ran into the middle of the hot and dry desert. She falls onto her knees in despair next to a spring of water! No one sees her despair! No one takes notice of the burden that she must carry! In her desert experience, God sends a messenger to her!

A messenger who listens to her, assures her of God's faithfulness and shares with her God's promise! Hagar responds by saying "You're the God who sees me!" God's name is El-Roi! God gives her life a new perspective.

The "You" with which Hagar addressed God reminds us that God is close to us! The wonderful assurance that God gifts to us through this passage is that God sees our despair! God takes notice of us in our despair! God is familiar with the despair of our country! That then means that we have the wonderful assurance that we are not alone in our despair because God who sees is with us!



The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.
Psalm 119:30

3. God who strengthens us!

Hagar experiences how God refreshes her life with his life-giving water from the well! Here at the well God strengthens her by taking care of her in her moment of despair.

That is a wonderful reminder to each one of us, God takes care of us! That is why God continually invites us to draw close to Him! In God we find rest! In the presence of God, we experience His care! God through his care strengthens us again! God reminds us of his promise that He will provide for us even in those moments when just despair seems to remain.

4. God who sends us back!

The story of Hagar does not end here. No. God sends her back to Abraham and Sarah! Strengthened and experiencing the presence of God, Hagar goes back to her employers with a new perspective. Hagar returns knowing that God is in control.

God gives our lives a new perspective through his mercy, faithfulness, and care! The new perspective that we are seen by God and strengthen through God care! The new perspective that we are given that God sends us back into our daily life to be his hands and feet there where God has placed us! We are to make a difference there where God has placed us!

I believe that as seen Children of God we are called to lift our hands and voices to share God's love and wonderful assurance around us that we have experienced so personally.

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God's love for us leads us into action as we allow God's love to flow through us!

That means using our voices to speak out against the despair in our country as children of God. We are to use our voices in love and say:

Enough is Enough!

- ❖ We are to voice our concerns about the negative impact of Load Shedding on a society as a whole!
- ❖ We are to lift our voice and speak out against economic hardship!
- ❖ We are to use our voice to speak out against the senseless violence!
- ❖ We are to use our voice to point to the will of God. The will of God is to love God, our neighbour and ourselves. Living according to the will of God brings about change! In that we live according to the will of God we realize that God's Kingdom is present here and now already!

That means we are called to use our

hands and gifts that God has given to us to make a difference there where we live. Actions speak louder than words.

- ❖ By treating my own family, my friends, my colleague's, my fellow congregation member and other people with dignity and respect.
- ❖ Through reaching out to those who are suffering by sharing God's blessings that I have received with those in hardship! This can be through assisting a charity!
- ❖ Through being honest and doing my work to the glory of God my Father.
- ❖ Through reaching out to those who are alone in the retirement home who can no longer partake in the activities of the congregation.
- ❖ Through providing a safe space where people can share their joys, struggles and sorrows with one another. There are so many people yearning for someone to just to listen to their anxieties and concerns.

5. Developments in the CCE

CCE Music Subsidy.

The CCE is assisting members who would like to be musically trained to play during the Sunday Service through the CCE Music Subsidy. Currently there are 2 beneficiaries of this grant from the St Crucis Congregation. There are certain terms and conditions that need to be met to qualify for this grant.



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:5

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CCE Archives.

Mrs Susan Hagens is currently working in the archives responding to the request for personal information. I have unfortunately have not been able to draw up guidelines. There are many requests for information mainly for the purpose of obtaining an ancestral German passport. The issue with these types of the requests is, that the German Authorities are looking for ID or Passport numbers which were never recorded. There is a report that has been submitted by Mrs Susan Hagens. I thank her for all the work she does in the archives.

Synod 2023.

The 1st session of the XVI Synod will take place from 12-14.10.2023 at St Crucis Lutheran Church, East London. The topic will be: "God sees!" - but also focusing on the intergenerational diversity within our congregations / church with a focus on the youth. Due to the limited availability of flights from Cape Town to East London a decision was taken to start on Thursday evening (12.10.23) at 18:00 with the opening Service, and end the synod proceedings on Saturday (14.10.23) at 21:00.

St Luke's Project.

The feeding scheme portion of St Luke's that was started during lockdown period of the pandemic will come to an end June/ July this year. We will focus more ad hoc - when we have a delivery of clothes or school materials for them. The area has grown with more houses being built.



6. Concluding remarks.

I would like to thank you as the Presiding Committee for all your Support and dedicated Service. Thank you, Bettina du Buson, for your diligent work with the finances. Thank you, LeAnne Hempel for the on- time communication and concise minutes. Thank you, Stuart Krause, for all your support. So after serving for 8 years on the CCE Presiding Committee I will not be Standing for re-election. I have really enjoyed serving on the CCE Presiding Committee and I thank you for all your support as my term comes to an end. Above all praise, glory and thanks to our Heavenly Father for blessing the congregations and His church.

Pastor HP von Fintel
Chairperson of the CCE
Presiding Committee.

Note of the publisher:

Our Church of Peace Congregation is a member of the CCE. At the AGM we were represented by Pastor Anja Spiske, Chairman a.i. Reinhard Walle and Church Warden Carol Buschold.

Noticeboard - Congregation Life

Coffee or tea after the Divine Service



A hearty thank you for all!!!

...is always welcome and is warming up not only the stomachs but also our hearts for each other in the congregation.

But without any preparation it would not be possible. Fortunately, there are always people who are willing to take responsibility like Rivka and Antoinette on this Sunday together with Antoinette's sisters Mercia and Hildegard who are busy in the kitchen. Our warden Elizabeth is the one who is organizing who will help at what time.

Peonies

In Europe Peonies blossom in May and June and will be on many altars at Pentecost Sunday. Like roses they vary in colour and size but they don't have any relations. The Latin name (Paeonia) is similar to the English name and derives from Paeon who was the healer of the Greek Gods. Several healing effects were connected to Peonies in former times. Peonies are cultivated as garden plants since the early middle ages. As a symbol of beauty and perfection they appeared on many paintings.



Noticeboard - A look back at Divine Services

In this retrospect only three of the seven Sundays between Easter and Pentecost are mentioned. These are the Sundays which names speak to us directly and want us to act.

As the resurrected Christ is with us,

we have every reason to rejoice and sing in order to praise and thank our God. That is how we could experience God's presence as well as with prayers.



Three weeks after Easter we celebrate the Sunday „Jubilate!": Rejoice! It emphasises the new creation which we as Christians see in the resurrection of Christ. The watchword gives us strength through God's love: *„Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* (2Cor5,17)

"Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things!!" (Ps.98,1a)
Praising God with music and singing we could experience God healing our wounds, giving us comfort, confidence and hope. Saul found his way back to life with David who played for him the harp (1Sam16,14-23).



The Sunday "Rogate" (Pray) encourages us to find a way to God by praying. Despite all difficult situations we shouldn't stop calling for God. So did the blind beggar and Jesus heard him (Mark10,46-52).

Noticeboard - A look back at Divine Services

Ascension

Similar to Good Friday on Ascension Day it looks like the disciples would lose Jesus again. But now they can trust Jesus to be with His father. Therefore, they can praise God and have confidence despite any doubts.

God will be there, always, like he has promised: *"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."* (Joh12, 32)



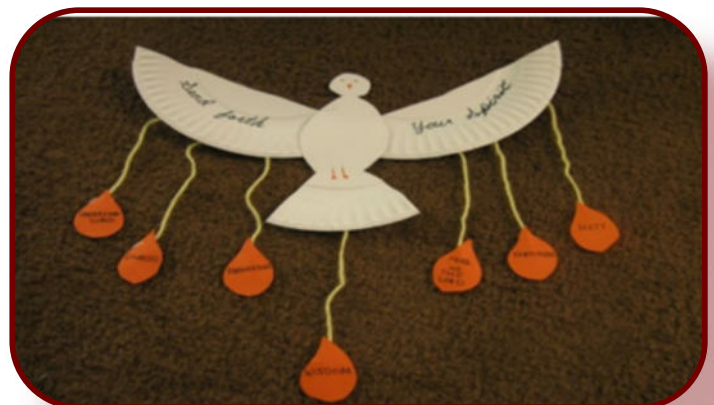
Pentecost

7 candles were lighted during Service on the baptismal font. That was done in order to remember the Holy Spirit which was given to us by being baptized. The Holy Spirit can help us to make decisions for life in love, communion, righteousness and truth.

7 fruits of the Holy Spirit can support us: love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, faithfulness and self-control.

The number seven is a symbol of the perfection of God's plans and doing, starting with 7 days of creation and also a symbol of the fulfilment of promises.

Seven times seven (49) days are passing after Easter. On the 50.th day we celebrate Pentecost („Pentecost": Greek for 50th)



Noticeboard - Financials

Roof repair

Dear congregation, unfortunately the roof above the vestry and the meeting room is **badly damaged** and needs to be renovated. The costs incurred were not foreseen in our 2023 budget. The repair is urgently needed to maintain the structure of our church centre.

We are now asking for your help in funding it. Any donation - large or small - is most welcome. Please quote "roof" as the reference.

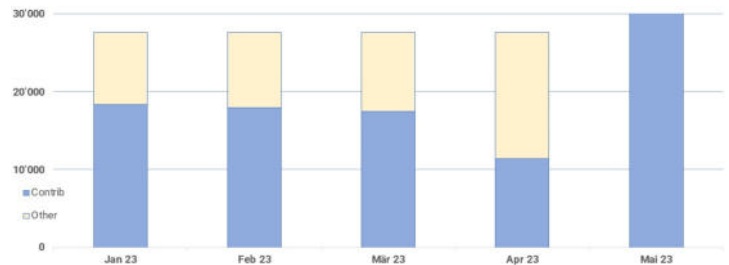
Henry Newman
Treasurer a.i.

Stewardship Cape Church

As a member of the Cape Church, we have to pay a monthly stewardship to the Cape Church. This stewardship is used to pay the pastor's salary and the necessary additional costs (including insurance and social security contributions). The amount of the stewardship is decided at the synod and is the same for all congregations (based on a 100% parish position).

Your monthly or annual church contributions are used to pay the stewardship. Unfortunately, we have not received enough church contributions in recent months. In order to pay for the stewardship in full, we had to revert to other budgetary means (e.g. collections).

When was the last time you increased your church contribution? We need a total of about R 4,500 p.m. more church contributions.



Payments to the church

In addition to the previous payment option of cash at the service or EFT via bank, we now also offer you the option of using your credit or debit card. After the service you can contact Reinhard Walle or Henry Newman and pay by card reader. But you can also pay directly with your card from home via the link below:

<https://pay.yoco.com/lutheran-church-springfield>



Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father
in heaven. Matthew 5:16

LUCSA Book Project 2023

Heroines of the South - Pioneers of Transformation in the Church

Easter greetings from the Communion Office with the watchword for today from Jeremiah 33:10-11 *"There shall once more be heard the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, 'Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!'"*

At the recent regional Gender Justice and Women's Consultation 2023 held 13-17 March 2023 participants together with the communion office launched a book project. The background to this is the fact that not many stories of women and their work towards the growth, development and transformation of the church exist in written form. The objective of this book project is thus to focus on women in the LUCSA region who had played a pivotal role in the life of the church. Each member church is therefore requested to identify 3 women from your own church and write a two-to-three-page story about them and their work.

For better coordination of this task the communion office has requested the representatives of the member churches that attended the consultation 2023 to coordinate the project on behalf of each church. We therefore kindly ask that member churches who could not send a delegate to the consultation to kindly forward a contact name to the LUCSA office to communicate with.

We attach for your information our short concept note with the planned timelines and kindly ask your office to assist and support our women with this project. Please direct any questions for information and clarity to Rev. Denver Grauman, christianeducation@lucsa.org alternatively WhatsApp 078 421 7954.

Kind regards
Rev. Lilana .A. Kasper
Executive Director LUCSA



Editor's note

Kindly send your nominations to Pastor Anja Spiske or Mrs Diana Krause by 30 May 2023.

Anja Spiske
(pastor@lutheran-pe.org)

'Diana Krause
(krause.diana1@gmail.com)



Without eyes there is no light;
without knowledge there is no wisdom.
Ecclesiasticus 3:25

German Protestant Church Congress 2023

German Protestant
Church Congress 2023
In Nuremberg

Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag



Every 2 years the protestant Christians in Germany gather at the “Kirchentag” in one of the big cities. For five days they will celebrate a feast of faith starting on Wednesday evening until Sunday morning. The Congress is guided by a bible text: in 2023 it is written in Mt.1,15:

Now is the time. / Jetzt ist die Zeit

The “Kirchentag” 2023 takes place in Nuremberg, a city with centuries of history in southern Germany on June 7th to 11th.

These 5 days are structured with opening and closing divine services, bible studies in the morning and a special Holy Communion on Thursday.

Each of these events will get an own bible text to work with, e.g., the bible study on Saturday will work with Luke 17, 20-25 (The days are coming).

100,000 participants will ask for a lot of speakers presenting all the studies. You can choose between theological speakers or those who are well-known in public life.

In the afternoons you can take part in discussions about current topics or visit one of the many music performances.

“Kirchentag” always offer the opportunity for many encounters and experiences. It shows to everybody how active God’s Spirit is working.



The 40 Days after Christ's Resurrection

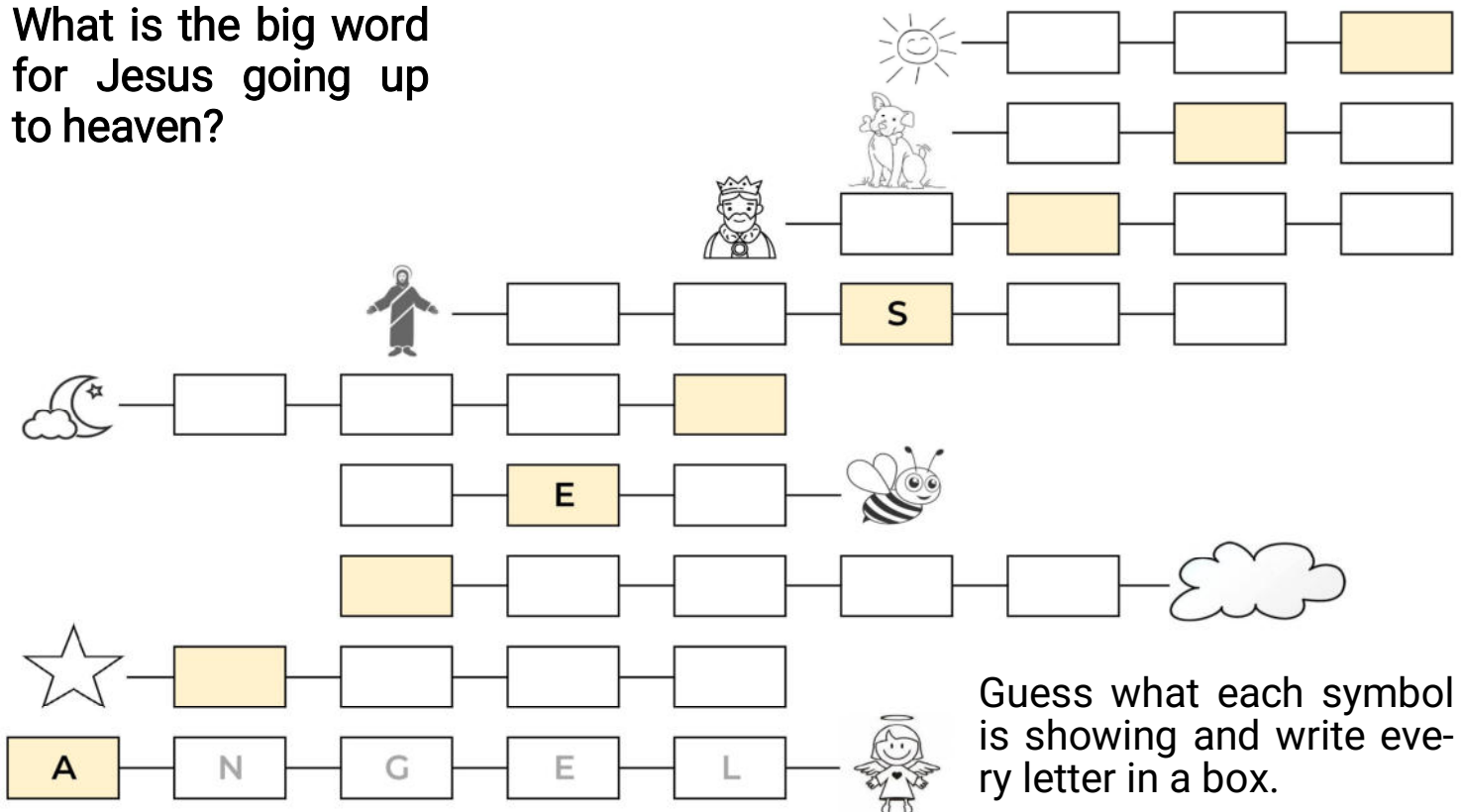
On the first Easter Sunday Mary Magdalene saw the stone that was in front of the tomb had been rolled away from the entrance. She saw Jesus and spoke with him. Later that day he appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus. Jesus also returned to his disciples a few times. Jesus encouraged them to tell the people, that he has rescued them from death, and how they could follow him. He told them again that they must wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit

to come and guide them in their work. – After he had finished talking to them, He blessed them. Then He ascended into heaven. Now Jesus is in heaven with His Father. He prays for us and has a place ready for us to live with Him.

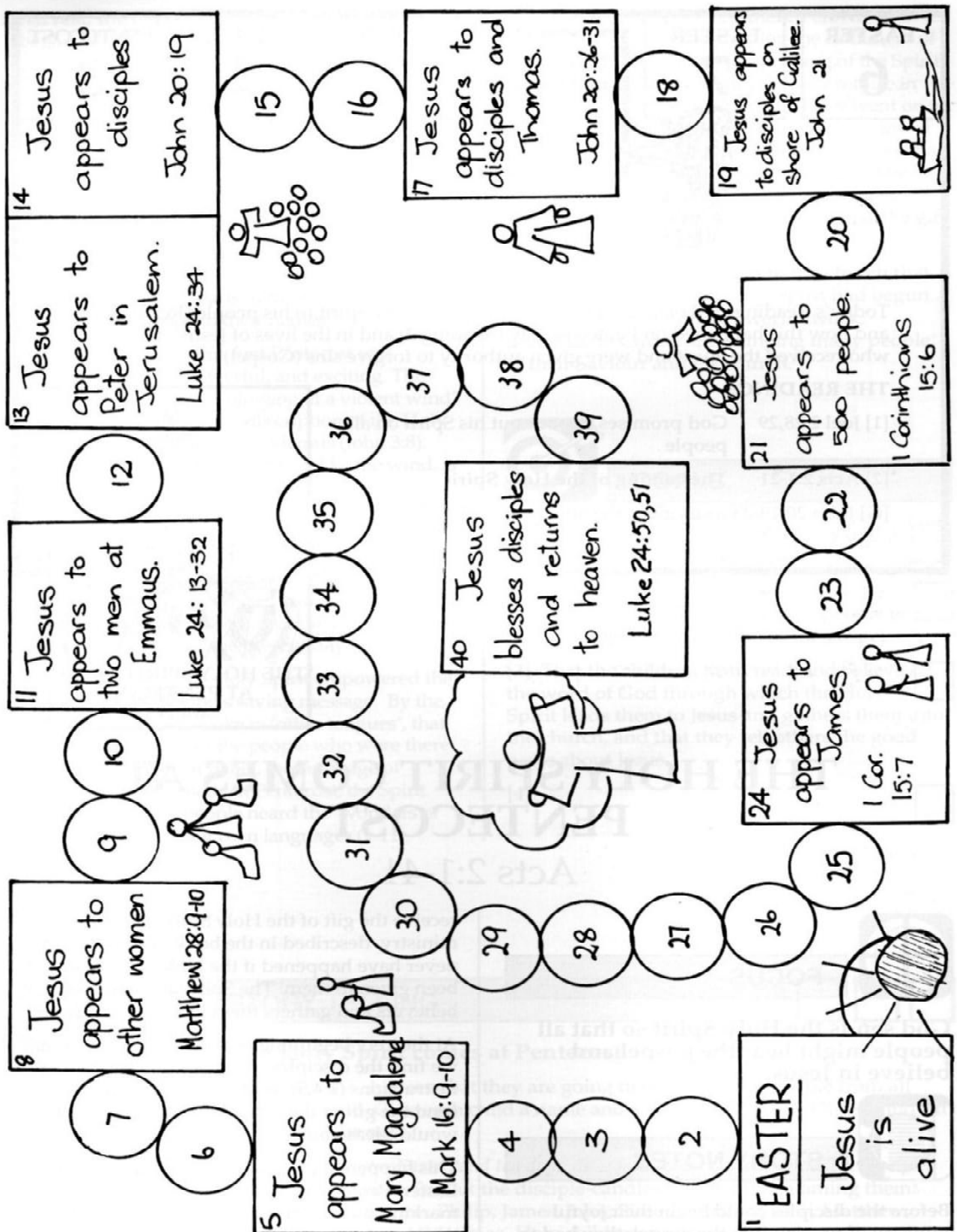
Prayer:

God: thank you for including us in your family. Teach us how to share your love with others so they can know what it means to be a part of our church family. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

What is the big word
for Jesus going up
to heaven?



Guess what each symbol
is showing and write every
letter in a box.





Church Committee: ① 2023-2025 / ② 2022-2024

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② vacant	warden3@lutheran-pe.org	

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 720** 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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