

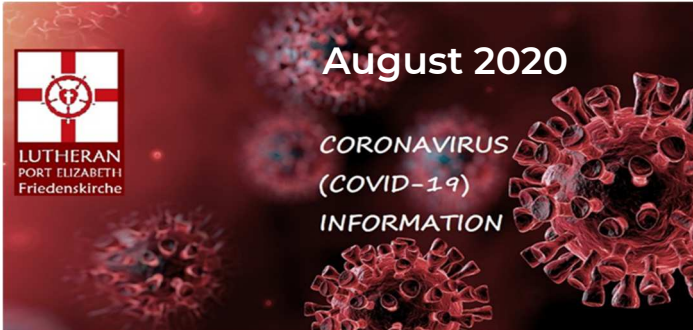


# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH Friedenskirche Church of Peace



No: 2020.6e

Newsletter August 2020



It is amazing how the current circumstances in which we find ourselves have affected our church life and our dealings with one another in daily life in a way that we could not have imagined at the end of 2019. There are the difficulties to deal with in our everyday living and the government restrictions placed on communities to reduce the spread of the virus. Despite the ever present potential for infection, there are also positive aspects to be found as we deal with this pandemic. The Watchword this month from Psalm 139:14 gives us the reminder *that we are to praise our creator "for you are fearfully and wonderfully made."* As at the end of July 2020, it was noted in the media that in South Africa of the 493,000 Covid-19 cases reported, 326,000 have recovered. That our bodies are able to recover from

such a virus is a testimony to how wonderfully our Creator has made us. By observing and abiding by simple changes to our behaviour, the infection spread can continue to be dramatically reduced. Before the pandemic, mankind seemed to be in a headlong rush to learn, earn, achieve and race through the days, weeks and years often forgetting the needs of the vulnerable. The converse seems now to be true. With the restrictions on movement and air travel things have slowed down to some degree. We are in the same "Covid boat," and respecting, taking notice of and showing concern for others is evident. By maintaining social distance, wearing a mask, sanitising and washing hands etc respect for others is clearly demonstrated by most.

Before Covid, a visit to say a supermarket or store was often marked by a rather impersonal interaction with others. Mostly all in a rush to meet some deadline or time schedule.

**Continued on page 2**

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

## ... Frontpage

By contrast now, customers are mostly met at the door by an attendant who greets, sanitises their hands and trolley and ensures the masks are worn. In the store most people are aware of their responsibility to others by wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

Then there was a 100 year old British World War II veteran Capt. Tom Moore who, when the pandemic struck, set a goal of raising £1,000 for UK National Health Service workers. Due to Covid restrictions he was to achieve his distance goal by walking laps in his garden.

This took place in the weeks leading up to his 100th birthday in April 2020. He raised more than £32 million, way beyond his original goal.

Closer to home, our projects team has successfully forwarded a proposal for funding of the Covid-19 "Winter Warmers" assistance project for the needy children of Wabamkela Creche.

Although we are living in hard times, this pandemic is also bringing out the best in us.

Warm greetings  
Reinhard Walle  
Chairman of the Church Committee

## From the Pastor's Heart

On the gift to be able to pass on the  
grace we have received

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 / 2 Cor. 8, 1-9

Dear congregation, dear readers  
I talk very, very reluctantly about finances. But our congregation has now fallen into such great financial distress that I should say one or the other word about it. I am concerned about the survival of this congregation and her future. We need to all be serious about seeing the Church and the Congregation as *our* Church and *our* Congregation and working together for her good. It is not self-evident that we have a church and a pastor. Both the preservation of the church and the post of the pastor must be financed and supported by us, the congregation. Unfortunately, there is no way of getting around that. The time has come for us to say that the future of our congregation and the post of the pastor of this congregation are at stake, and that we must all fight together to keep both.

That is why I would like to look at two short passages from Scripture with you, that have to do with this topic and hope it can help us to put the situation of our congregation and our giving into perspective.

The first text is in the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 16: 1-4.

## From the Pastor's Heart

### The Collection for the Lord's People

<sup>1</sup> Now *about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.* <sup>2</sup> *On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.* <sup>3</sup> *Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.* <sup>4</sup> *If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.*

Here Paul mentions the collection almost casually. From the way he puts it, it is hard to recognize how important this collection is for his mission work. He suggests that the collection proves whether Christians care about the good of the church in Jerusalem or whether it leaves them cold as soon as it costs them something. In fact, Paul still has to fight with angelic tongues for the sign of solidarity among the people in Corinth, who seem to have been not so free with their giving. For us, it is also about nothing less than the mission and ministry of our church here on the ground, not only for our parishioners, but also for the community around us. This is an extremely important task that we have as Christians and, since we are in the world, this mission needs also to be financed.

The second text is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter of Paul to the Corinthians 8: 1-15.

### A Call to Generous Giving

<sup>1</sup> Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. <sup>4</sup> They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. <sup>6</sup> So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. <sup>7</sup> Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us - I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. <sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches. <sup>9</sup> You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich. <sup>10</sup> Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. <sup>11</sup> Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the

## From the Pastor's Heart

*beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have. <sup>12</sup> Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. <sup>13</sup> Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. <sup>14</sup> Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. <sup>15</sup> As the Scriptures say, "Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough."*

Here Paul reminds the congregations that mutual support is part of its nature from the beginning and that it is about not only paying attention to one's own interests, but also paying attention to the joys and sufferings of others. Even the apostle Paul humbled himself in taking courage and asking his brothers and sisters in faith for financial support for the church and for himself. But he stresses also that it should always be a voluntary gift.

**The most important thing, also for us, is that the gift of giving presents itself as grace from God.** Because for Paul, a generous gift shows that the giver knows that his/her life is carried and blessed by God. That's why

he presents the Macedonian congregation as an example. They were themselves poor but acted exemplary to the Corinthians, because they were willing to support others voluntarily despite their own hardships. This example can also help us to think again about how good God has been to us and how richly He has blessed us, before we decide on how much to give.

I sincerely hope you understand our concern in the right sense and see that we have nothing else in mind but the good of our congregation – yours and mine - and its call.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for all the support and faithfulness you have shown recently and over all the years and may God continue to bless and keep us in His grace.

With heartfelt thanks and best wishes,

Your Pastor Anja

Prayer:

Faithful God! Let us, as Christians, see one another, stand up for and support one another: through the power of prayer, but also through the grace, to be able to pass on some of the abundance that you have given us. Amen.

# Money and possessions in the Bible

Jesus addressed this topic more often than any other. Why is so much written in the Bible about money and possessions? On the one hand because money and possessions play an important role in our lives, on the other hand because we obviously cannot really deal with them. It is good to know that we should look first at God's wisdom, not at conventional knowledge, to find principles that guide our decisions



*The rich rules over the poor and the borrower is the slave of the lender.*  
Proverbs 22:7

*Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool devours it.*  
Proverbs 21:20

*The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want.*  
Proverbs 21:5

*Divide your means seven ways, or even eight, for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth.*  
Ecclesiastes 11:2

*Do not wear yourself out to get rich; be wise enough to desist*  
Proverbs 23:4

## Dealing with property

The Bible gives some tips on how to deal with finances:

*Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want. A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.*  
Proverbs 11:24-25

*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full.*  
Proverbs 19:17

*A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.*  
Proverbs 10:4

*Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.*  
Mark 12:17

*Those who walk righteously and speak uprightly, who despise the gain of oppression, who wave away a bribe instead of accepting it, who stop their ears from hearing of bloodshed and shut their eyes from looking on evil, they will live on the heights; their refuge will be the fortresses of rocks; their food will be supplied, their water assured.*  
Isaiah 33:15-16

# Special Appeal



We would like to express our thanks for all the generous support that those have already given, even though times are tough. It is deeply appreciated! This generosity is helping to keep the "church doors open".

Unfortunately, our congregation was already struggling financially before Corona. We are truly facing a grim financial outlook for the year.

All planned fundraisers had to be cancelled - most notably the Easter Market and the Christmas Market, which combined had historically brought in R 80 000 to R 100 000. We are also not receiving any rental income from hall hirers.

We are in discussions with the Church Council of the Cape Church, but as you can imagine - all congregations that form part of the Cape Church are facing similar challenges.

## The present situation

Fixed costs per month	R 48 633
Average income p.m.	R 41 066
Shortfall p.m.	R 7'567
Repay loan p.m.	R 3'500

We must also still plan for our historic debt because of monthly shortfalls in Stewardship contributions since February 2018 to June 2020 in the region of R 193 400.

We would like to appeal to all congregants, but only those that are financially able to, to continue regularly supporting us financially. Any additional support that could help narrow the current monthly shortfall gap will be appreciated.

Please feel free to contact our Treasurer, Gerhard, at [treasurer@lutheran-pe.org](mailto:treasurer@lutheran-pe.org) should you have any financial queries.

Sincerely,  
The Church Committee

## Watchword for August 2020

### Psalm 139:14

## I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made

The writer of this psalm understands his life as a gift. He does not owe it to himself, but is a wonderful work of the Creator, wonderful as all the other works of God. This special view of oneself is not self-evident for many people.

Our mind is aware of the correctness of this statement, but in our soul, there are often enough dissenting voices. In the course of our lives we must and should spell out this statement over and over again and discover every time something new for ourselves every time.

For me, my own great desire for certainty in this uncertain, confusing Corona time is resonating now. In a world that seems ever more threatening behind a picture book facade. Children like to sing in the dark forest to show that they are not afraid, because their own voice gives them the feeling that they are not alone. I have a similar feeling now, when I think about this verse.

That God has created the world wonderfully, I want to believe that. But faith is not knowledge, I learned that in my youth. My intellect recognizes this, but my soul wants to give thanks and praise. My soul, that is me completely, with skin and hair, with spirit and feeling.

Yes, God is the creator and Lord of this earth, not I. And what God has created - including us - is wonderful and opens up all possibilities for us.

But I must be careful: not everything that is possible is also good; not everything that is feasible is also responsible.

Henry Newman



# Sundays August 2020

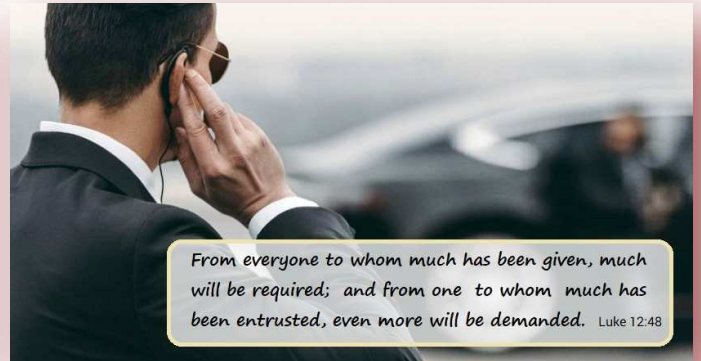
## 2 August 2020 EIGHT Sunday after Trinity



The watchword from Ephesians reminds us of who and what we are in Christ: Children of Light. Christ's Promise and Call through His words, "you are the light of the world" lets us recognize that it is not our doing but through faith in Him who is the Light of the world that our lives can shine for others around us. We are part of the Light through the Love of God in Jesus Christ and when we live out this love through our lives then we carry a light into this dark world.

Sermon text : John 9:1-7

## 9 August 2020 Ninth Sunday after Trinity



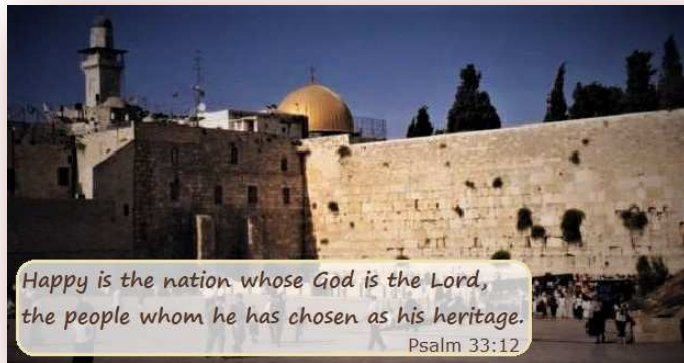
At first glance these texts might be interpreted to mean that we must work very hard to be Jesus' disciples, making sure that we have in our own strength the ability to persevere in following Him. Anyone who has tried to live a godly life knows how impossible this is and know that this message would not be gospel – "good news" – but defeat. Sure, there is a cost to being a disciple of Jesus. However, it is not one of effort, but of reorientation of our values toward the greatest worth of being called into God's kingdom and warmly accepted into God's family, all by sheer grace. For Jesus himself bore the greatest cost, the ultimate cost, in our place...

Sermon text : Jeremiah 1:4-10

# Sundays August 2020

16 August 2020

Tenth Sunday after Trinity



Commemoration of the  
destruction Jerusalem

Israel - a country torn by conflict. A terrible history that separates and unites especially Germany and Israel. Israel - origin of Christianity, despised and idealized, admired and persecuted. All these facets play a role on "Israel Sunday". Since the 16th century, it has commemorated the day of the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple. Admittedly, it has been commemorated in very different ways throughout its history: While in the past the superiority of Christianity was demonstrated, today the mourning for the injustice done to the Jews and today's good relations between Jewry and Christianity are in the foreground. Even if we do not know what God's plan with the two religions is, Israel remains God's chosen people.

Sermon text : Romans 9,1-5

23 August 2020

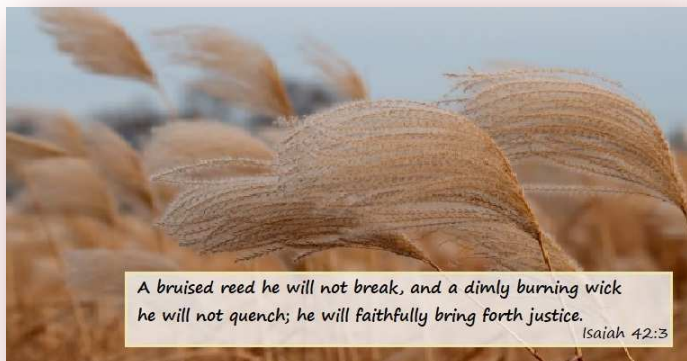
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity



""My house, my car, my boat" - even if I do not pile it on too thick, I like to show something: a safe workplace, an intact partnership or well-behaved children. But such "achievements" do not count before God. There is nothing I can boast of before him, shows the 11th Sunday after Trinity, neither with my success, nor with my faith. He turns to those who know that they have nothing to show before God, and rely entirely upon him, to them he is turning. Jesus is invited by tax collectors and anointed by a prostitute. They can appreciate his affection and answer with love. We cannot earn God's love, only receive it gratefully.

Sermon text : Luke 18:9-14

### 30 August 2020 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity



Sometimes I am silent when I hear about the suffering of other people. Sometimes I stand paralyzed by the challenges of our world. Sometimes I close my eyes so that I will not see the images that are published by the TV stations every day and sometimes I close my ears to the lamentations of desperate fellow citizens. Sometimes I close my heart. The 12th Sunday after Trinity speaks of Jesus, who opens the eyes and the ears of people, to the vision of a world without suffering and disease, to the end of all injustice. But he goes further: he tells of people who, inspired by the example of Jesus, even bring others out of their paralysis. People are touched in a variety of ways by Jesus and they spread adoration and praise - and build up the Kingdom of God with their faith.

Sermon text : 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Due to the international Corona virus pandemic and the national lockdown we are not able to celebrate the Divine Services in our Church of Peace. Even though the lockdown regulations have been relaxed, the Corona pandemic seems to get out of hand in Port Elizabeth, which does not bring much hope for the short term.

But we will stay in touch and continue to celebrate our services. We have to learn that a church in this special time is not dependent on physically meeting together on Sundays.

**Every Sunday at 09:30 am**  
we will "come together" by celebrating at the same time the Divine Service at home. You will get beforehand all information for printing out at your home. This will be distributed via our WhatsApp group (E-Mail, Internet etc.). There will be also a voice message of Pastor Anja via WhatsApp..

**Every Evening at 09:00 pm**  
We will light a candle, speak the Our Father and pray for each other.

Invitation for the Sunday Services are also published on our facebook page. They include all readings and the sermon text.

## Birthdays August



2 Aug Renée Sternberg

6 Aug Colin Lentz

6 Aug Edelgard Krieg

9 Aug Kirsty Fillis

10 Aug Callum Bosman

11 Aug Gerry West

13 Aug Sharon Walle

21 Aug Jarrod Angloher

24 Aug Mandy Septoe

24 Aug Uwe Stodtmeister

25 Aug Gabi Weder

26 Aug Gisela Mahlert

28 Aug Stefan Koch

30 Aug Chris Bürger

31 Aug Dieter Lokotsch

Happy Birthday

# Prayer Cards August

1 Aug: Aiden Groenmeyer

2 Aug: Anne Tessendorf

3 Aug: Anthony Thomas

4 Aug: Aria Noël Thompson

5 Aug: Arowa Coko

6 Aug: Benjamin Burger

7 Aug: Chad Human

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

8 Aug: Charmaine Human

9 Aug: Dominique Thomas

10 Aug: Erica Tessendorf

11 Aug: Gabi Weder

12 Aug: Igor Lokotsch

13 Aug: Jan Heineke

14 Aug: Jarrid Angloher

15 Aug: Karla Arends

16 Aug: Katelyn van Wyk

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**

17 Aug: Leon Human

18 Aug: Linzi Thompson

19 Aug: Luke Human

20 Aug: Maya Breitfeld

21 Aug: Molatelo Rapetsoa

22 Aug: Nerina Reiff

23 Aug: Ophelia Coko

24 Aug: Ophelia van Rensburg

25 Aug: Pastor Anja Spiske

26 Aug: Precious Mulioh

27 Aug: Rene Koch

28 Aug: Roshni Groenmeyer

29 Aug: Ryan Meyer

30 Aug: Theodore Goliath

31 Aug: Willie Lokotsch

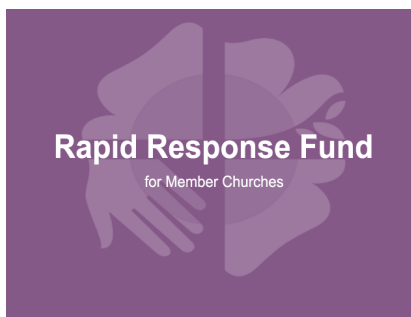
Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all people.

1. Timothy 2:1

## LWF Funds “Winter Warmers”

Over the past couple of months the Lock-down has not put a stop to the church committee, in fact the church committee has been so busy that a sub-committee has been created for fundraising, media and ecumenical works. Wait what?! What does this all mean?

I have been working closely with the church committee in creating a crowdfunding platform where we can ask the global community for funds to help us fix our church building and assist us financially with our stewardship arrears. Not only have we started the crowdfunding campaign but we have applied for two ecumenical funding projects one of which is currently going in for review with the Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Germany and one which has been approved by the LWF, Lutheran World Federation based in Switzerland.



What does this ecumenical funding mean for Our church? Well we have applied for approximately EUR 5,000.00 from each organisation to assist our congregation with financial relief.

The LWF had funding available for the sole purpose of COVID-19 which they called it the rapid relief fund of which church bodies such as ours could put together a proposal with their application by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June for any project that we see fit or already operating. It was decided that we would apply for the full EUR 5,000.00 to fund a clothing scheme which would last for four months from July 2020 to assist the children of the Wabamkela feeding scheme. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of July we received confirmation that our special project called “Church of Peace – Winter Warmers” was approved for the full amount.



We have partnered with local stores in Port Elizabeth where we will clothe approximately 40 children and send a staple food item home with them (rice or maize meal in quantities of 10 kgs). They will also receive hand sanitizer and washable face masks.

As the project progresses we'll be able to share more with you and share some of the happy smiles of the children receiving their clothing items.

Media and Fundraising  
Ryan Meyer

# Church of Peace – Crowdfunding°

°**Crowdfunding:** a form of funding by a crowd of Internet users. Donation or participation is encouraged through personal homepages, professional websites and special platforms.



Our Church of Peace Congregation breaks new grounds

Read an interview between two churchwardens: Ryan Meyer (RM) and Henry Newman (HN)

HN: Ryan, our congregation is new to crowdfunding on the Internet, can you please explain to our church members what crowdfunding means?

RM: It is a form of funding a project or cause by raising money from a large number of people who would each contribute a small amount typically via the internet across many countries.

HN: Are there different types of crowdfunding?

RM: Yes, there are generally you have crowdfunding campaigns for the needy, churches, the sickly and also school trips.

HN: Do you know examples of successful projects?

RM: There are many examples that can be found on the crowdfunding site, these again are only successful if we all work as a team to make it

work by asking our friends and family where ever they may be to help by donating and sharing the Facebook and WhatsApp post.

HN: What is the advantage for us?

RM: This is a way to alleviate the financial burden from the congregation, but this can only work if the congregation helps by sharing and explicitly asking their friends to donate to our campaign.

HN: What do we expect from our members?

RM: The main thing is to share the Facebook or WhatsApp post to their friends and family and ask them to each donate no matter the size as every bit helps.

HN: Does this also work for relatives or friends in other countries like Europe, Australia etc.?

RM: Yes, indeed this does work in other countries. It's really simple all they have to do is follow the instructions on the link when entering

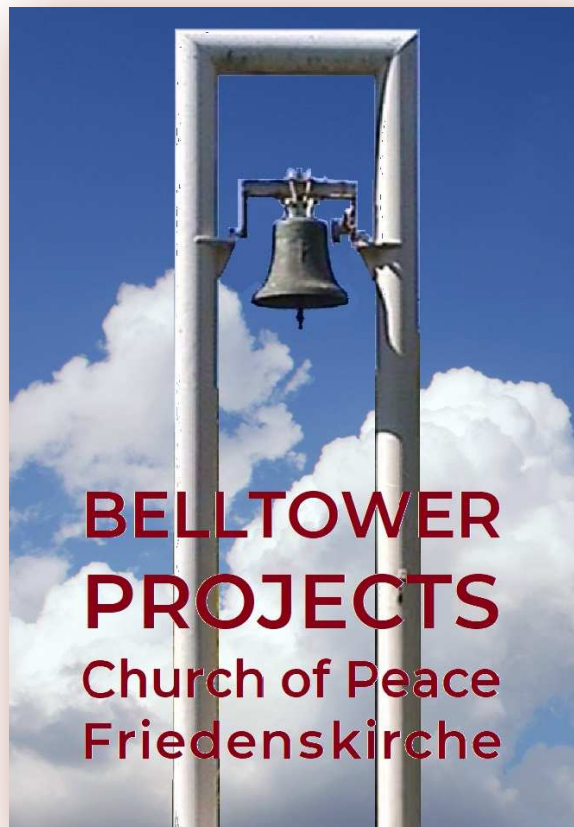
# Church of Peace – Crowdfunding

their amount that they wish to donate. This is an international platform which is globally recognised.

HN: That's great. Can our members make their own donations?

RM: It would be great if each member who has internet could donate to the campaign this way everyone who sees the campaign can see that people are donating and that we really do need the funds.

Those whom may not have access to the internet can donate by the envelope system and letting Pastor Anja know that it is for the Bell Tower project. Donation collected "offline" will also be recorded.



HN: For which purposes will we use the donated money?

RM: The current aim is meet our running target of R250 000.00, Yes I know this is a substantial amount however, this will be used mainly for the fixing the building from all the rainwater damage and the hall floor in order for us to rent the hall out to more people. The idea is to have the hall floor completed and walls painted so that we can invite play schools over to use the hall for their graduation ceremonies etc.

The remaining money will also be then allocated to our maintenance fund to create a warm and inviting look in order to welcome new member to the church.

There after we would then like to have our medium term loan paid up and have the church standing on its own feet.

HN: If anyone has any questions, who can they turn to?

RM: They are by all means welcome to contact me either via email: [Warden3@lutheran-pe.org](mailto:Warden3@lutheran-pe.org) or via my mobile +27 (0) 73 230 2513 where I would be able to walk them through the steps or answer any other related questions they may need.

Thank you very much Ryan for your comments.



## Church Committee 2020

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