



LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

Friedenskirche Church of Peace



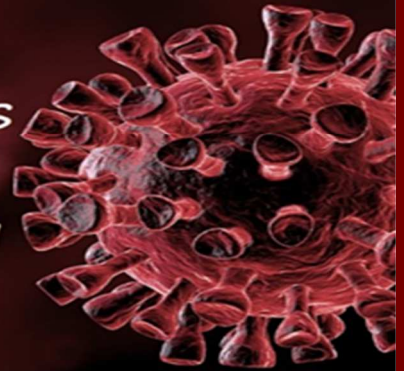
No: 2020.7 e

Newsletter September 2020



September 2020

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFORMATION



Every day there is media reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although it is wise to remain vigilant and aware, we can also experience information overload. This can lead to increased anxiety and confusion.

There are some in the world who feel that it is their right to decide whether or not to conform to the effective protection protocols against COVID-19. Wearing a mask, social distancing and regularly sanitising and washing hands with soap are protocols that have proven their worth in bringing down rates of infection.

In South Africa the Lockdown Level has been reduced to Level 2. There is the saying, "Just because you can, does not mean you should" The virus is as infective under Level 2 as it is under any other Level.

It seems that a tested, safe and ef-

fective vaccine is still some time away. It is our responsible behaviour that helps keep the infection rate at reduced levels.

It is noticeable how courtesy and consideration for others has come to the fore in these difficult times. People taking time to say to strangers: "please", "thank-you", "after you" and "enjoy your day" are some of the positive comebacks that have changed in part that what used to be the daily grind.

Home schooling too has allowed and encouraged more time with family.

My grace is all you need (2 Cor 12:9) is a reminder that God has a plan and He is always in control.

Warm greetings,
Reinhard Walle

Chairman of the Church Committee

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

From the Pastor's Heart

So, what comes up next?

As hard as it was to enter into this lockdown, it now seems almost as hard to contemplate emerging from it. In fact, we don't know when things are going to get better, but we are told that when they do, they won't be the same. I know we are not going back to the way things were no matter how much we miss it. But what will the new normal look like and feel like? Everyone agrees that a certain degree of social distancing - a term I increasingly want to distance myself from - will continue for the foreseeable future. We will wash our hands and wipe down our surfaces and wear masks and avoid crowds. We will continue to fear the virus. But does that mean we will fear each other?

How do we love our neighbors when the measures we must follow to protect ourselves are conditioning us to fear them? I worry that I may not be able to approach people the way I would like to, even when the lockdown lifts. I mean, will we ever hug again? Hold hands in prayer? What will our Divine Services look like going into the future?

Can we find more creative ways to connect and care for one another? Maybe this is also a great opportunity to see if we can find new ways of connecting with one another - or just simply that we connect with one another more than we used to. We don't have all the answers. But we can pray

for them. And to lower our feelings of anxiety maybe it can also help us to say that it's okay that we don't know all the answer

Faith, I'm constantly learning, is trusting that the unknown and the unknowable is held by the One who knows, who understands and helps us to remember the one thing we can know - that a loving God is leading all of us even when we don't know and the path is unclear. **And**, we have witnessed the Lord's provision during this lockdown. I think it's very significant that up to date not one of our members have contracted the virus - as far as we know. That is providence! And we look to him amid whatever tomorrow brings. We may not know the future, but we trust Him who does.

And we are reminded of this in John 10:14 where Jesus said: *I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.*

What is more important than to know Jesus is to be known by him. To be known by him is to be held secure by the grip of His Grace and not by the grip of fear.

Prayer:

Lord, be near us and keep us steadfast in the knowledge that you know us and everyone and everything we care about. Help us to know and care about one another. Lead us when we don't know. Help us not to fear, but to trust in You. Our future is in good hands, your Hands. Amen.

From the Pastor's Heart

Keeping our kids

Growing up going to Sunday School, then on to confirmation class and then going to Divine Services regularly on a Sunday was part of “normal” life for me. Things have changed a lot since then. The simple fact of the matter is that parents are the most formative influence on the life of any child, and if they are not going to be involved in passing on the faith, it's more likely that their faith will be “passed by.”

Though I believe parents need to take a more **formal** role in the religious formation of their children, there's something else I believe is even more important in our time: Christian parents themselves need to be rooted in their faith so that they can regularly make use of **informal** opportunities to talk to their children about crucial topics such as who God is and the difference between things like truth and opinion. We need to be able to contrast the Christian worldview with an opposing perspective that we watch in a film or listen to in the lyrics of a song. I believe we should ask our kids provocative “catechetical” questions such as, “What do you think was the basic message of that commercial we just watched, and how do you think it was trying to persuade you?”, along with an occasional, “What Bible passages come to mind when you think of this issue?”

If you really want to push the envelope, you can even begin asking your

kids (if they're old enough) tough questions they're likely to get later on in life, such as, “How do you know this is true, since there are a lot of people who have a set of beliefs different from yours?” Or, “Why should I trust the Bible?” In doing so, you'll be preparing your kids to articulate answers that may be useful, not only as they interact with others, but also for doubts that may arise in their own hearts sometime down the road. You'll also be communicating to them that your faith is serious and that it speaks to everything in life. Finally, you'll be doing it all in a way that's relevant, since you'll be addressing issues that come up naturally throughout the course of everyday life. But remember: in order to do any of this well, **you** need to *“always be ready to give an answer to the one who asks, to give a reason for the hope that is in you”* (1 Pet. 3:15).

It is my prayer that we find creative ways to meet and engage with one another, adults and children alike, to talk about what we believe and why we believe it. Should you have any ideas, do not hesitate to let me know.

Warm regards ,
Pastor Anja



Birthdays September

01 Sep Henry Newman

02 Sep Brunhilde Koch

02 Sep Carol Buschold

04 Sep Branson Bosman

04 Sep Olga Breitfeld

06 Sep Wolfgang Paetzold

08 Sep Natasha Meyer

08 Sep Ophelia van Rensburg

12 Sep Sydney Rudolph

17 Sep Linzi Thompson

19. Sep Craig Bürger

21 Sep Nicole Wright

22 Sep Nerina Reiff

23 Sep Anthea Bürger

25 Sep Melissa Fillis

26 Sep Esther Siegmund-Heineke

28 Sep Lorinda Koch

29 Sep Christine Paetzold

30 Sep Brenda Lentz

30 Sep Warrick Bürger



*Happy
Birthday*

Watchword for September 2020

2 Corinthians 5:19

In Christ GOD was reconciling the world to himself.



The vulnerability of man, as well as the hurtful nature of man was well known by God in the time of Paul as well as today. In our social behaviour we can see how the Corona virus has endangered us humans and put us at risk. We distance ourselves from each other in order to protect each other. And rightly so. But God's reconciliation foresees that we come closer to one other, a closeness that is based on his love for us. And this really does become visible in many a situation of our present everyday lives. People help each other instinctively; they help materially, emotionally and spiritually.

But we humans are also hurtful. We inflict suffering on one other through impatience, rash words, even violence, the theft of essential items and money. We help each other, but we also become guilty in our thoughts and actions towards one another.

How can the essence of man, his human nature, be reconciled with the demands of the Law of the Old

Covenant? It does not. It cannot. It is only through the Law of Love of the New Covenant that man can be reconciled with God and himself.

God was in Christ when Christ was on earth, to reconcile the world with Himself, so that mankind would not be blamed for their transgressions. Through Jesus' death on the cross, God in His grace, bridged the gulf that sin had created between Himself and man. Only God's action through Christ's death and resurrection has brought about reconciliation. God's 'Yes', his unconditional acceptance of us, is clear and unambiguous and can and should be told by us to everyone we meet.

God was in Christ, reconciling the world with Himself, not demanding retribution from the people for their transgressions, and He has laid down in us and for us the Word of reconciliation.

Jutta Rohwer



Divine Services - September 2020

6 September 2020 09:30 (D)
13 Sunday after Trinity

13 September 2020 09:30 (E)
14 Sunday after Trinity



Sermon Text : Acts 6:1-7

All people live out of God's love and we all also know that love enriches our lives. And yet, living out this love is not a given, because we also know about selfishness and coldness of heart. In fact, we would not be capable of love if it were not for God's love revealed to us in Jesus Christ. And so, it is our prayer and our hope today that we may be freed from this and that our hearts may be filled by God and His grace and generosity; that it may enable us to share with others that which we have received from God.

We opened our Church of Peace doors again on Sunday, 30 August 2020



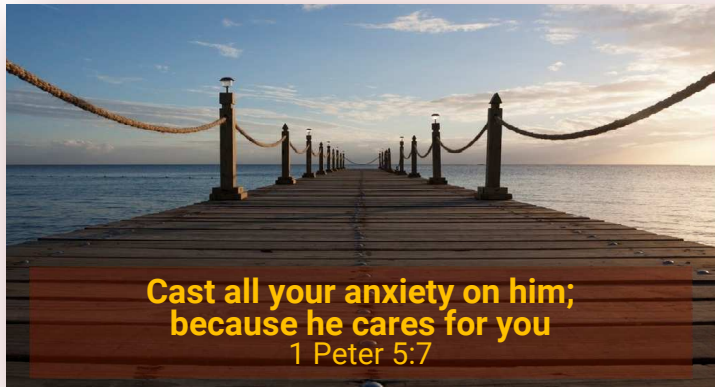
Sermon Text : Luke 19:1-10

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

COVID-19 safety protocols are in place. Please note the following guide information: Wearing of masks and hand sanitizing is mandatory. In the foyer, contactless temperature will be taken. The contact tracing register and questionnaire must be filled in. Maintain social distancing of 1.5m. Follow seating and movement guides and notices in the Sanctuary. Toilet facilities - wash hands with liquid soap and dry with individual paper towels. Dispose of all used tissues and other items in special bins provided throughout. No social group gathering before or after the service. No tea or coffee will be served. Stay home if you are unwell.

Divine Services - September 2020

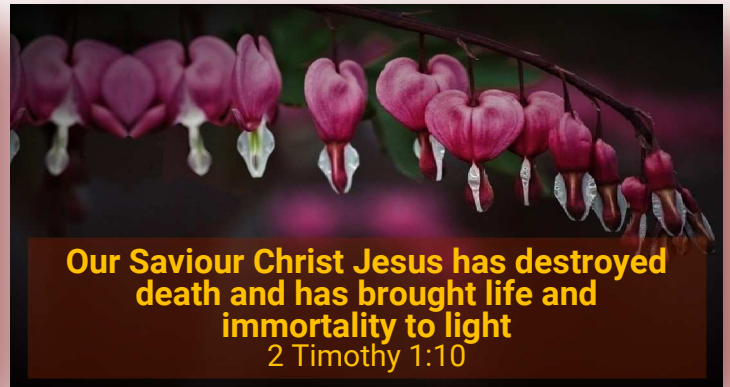
20 September 2020 09:30 (E)
15 Sunday after Trinity



Sermon Text : Genesis 2:4b-9+15

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

27 Sept. 2020 09:30 Family
16 Sunday after Trinity



Sermon Text : Luke 18:9-14

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

Prayer Cards September

1 Sep Arnold Tessendorf

2 Sep Astrid Jens-Rosendahl

3 Sep Brighid Sonnenberger

4 Sep Brian Arends

5 Sep Brian Trumpp

6 Sep Charl Nysschens

OUR FATHER WHO
ART IN HEAVEN
HALLOWED
BE THY NAME

16 Sep Gavin Groenmeyer

17 Sep Horst van Biljon

18 Sep Katy van Wyk

19 Sep Kelvin Daniels

20 Sep Kerilee Thompson

21 Sep Leonard Fourie

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

7 Sep Dale Thompson

8 Sep David Breitfeld

9 Sep Declan Thompson

10 Sep Edelgard Krieg

11 Sep Erica Tessendorf

12 Sep Esther Siegmund-Heineke

13 Sep Felicity van Rensburg

14 Sep Florence Arends

15 Sep Gabi Weder

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**

22 Sep Liane Botha

23 Sep Natasha Meyer

24 Sep Nerina Reiff

25 Sep Olga Breitfeld

26 Sep Péter Heineke

27 Sep Ursula Angloher

28 Sep Wayne Böttcher

29 Sep William Bürger

30 Sep Winfried Tessendorf

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

1. Timothy 2:1

Money Wall



Dear Congregation

We have tried to come up with a fun way of raising money and involving the congregation at the same time. We have come up with the idea of the Money Wall.

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Pick an envelope from the wall labelled 1 to 100. The envelope you choose is the amount of money you should put in the envelope.
2. Fill in your details on the form inside the envelope.
3. Seal it and drop your envelope in the collection box.

4. At the end of the month we hope to have all the envelopes filled and will then draw a envelope number and the person will win R500.

Please feel free to take as many as you would like to increase your chance of winning.

The Money Wall is situated next to our organ in the **Church of Peace**

Your contributions big or small will go along way in assisting our church.

Ryan and Natasha Meyer

From the Bishop's Desk

Covid-19 Pandemic.

Dear Sisters and Brothers, who would have thought in March this year that we would still find ourselves right in the middle of the pandemic cause by the Covid-19 virus. It is great to hear through regular virtual meetings with the pastors what is happening in the congregations.

The times are tough, a lack of normal and a the desire to understand what the new normal possibly looks like does not make it easy, but it enables us to remain focussed on our calling to be church here and now.

In the process we discover that there are many opportunities to be church with the people in different ways than what we were used to.

The virtual platform enables us to reach more people, and yet we realize that we struggle to build trust relationships which are core in being the Body of Christ. After all we have been created as relational beings that have a need to express emotions and much more. For that we need one another. Have we maybe taken the pre-Covid-19 times for granted that we have become superficial in our reaching out to one another and in our sharing of life with each other?

The pandemic is not only affecting us due to the virus but at present it seems to be even more the escalating corruption and the many social ills that manifest themselves. Greed, entitlement, disrespecting the others rights. Life has become cheap as

many lives are taken across all sectors, from all groups and social standing. Weekly we hear of murders on farms, at places of work and in the privacy of the home. People's lives are violated in their safe spaces. Poverty and hunger has grown to worrisome proportions. Unemployment grows daily and sustainability of business across the board is threatened – the list goes on.

We have written a letter to President Ramaphosa in this regard. You can find it on the churches webpage:

www.lutherancape.org.za

Dear sisters and brothers many things have changed, and there seems to be a lack of normal. But we have a constant: the Lord our Saviour is with us. Yes, He will be with us as we seek to find and understand what the 'new normal' is about. Things around us may seem to fall apart, but He is our rock and our foundation.

I invite you to reflect on and dwell daily in God's word as we try to grasp what is happening. Let us discern with the focus on Mark 4:35-41 where Jesus was with his disciples who found themselves in a deep crisis and a situation of uncertainty. They cried out to him and he stilled the storm. **He is Lord! He is with us.**



From the Bishop's Desk

News regarding Pastors and congregations

Dear sisters and brothers, it is with sadness that the news reached us that **Pastor em. Jürgen Peters**, who served the congregations of Bellville and Southern Cape in the 1970's has passed away on 21.8.2020, in Dortmund, Germany. May the Lord comfort his family and friends who are mourning his death. The Lord has risen. He is risen indeed.

Pastor Schalk Treurnicht was inducted during the service on 16.8.2020, at the Church of the Cross, Bellville. The service was attended by a few as per Lockdown regulations and was shared on Face Book live.

We wish Schalk and the congregation God's richest blessing for their journey as they live and serve as the Body of Christ

Pastor Martha Weich has resigned from her position as pastor from the Inland Parish as from 31.7.2020. We thank her for her dedicated service in the parish during these challenging times. We wish her God's richest blessing for the future.

Due to the resignation of Pastor Martha Weich the **Inland Parish is vacant**. The way forward will be discussed in due course. May the Lord guide us in wisdom as we seek His guidance in this regard.

Due to the Lockdown restrictions **Pastor Oziel de Oliveira** and his wife Cheryl have not been able to return to Brazil. But as soon as it is possible they will fly back home.

We thank them for their dedicated service at St Crucis and the many blessings they have shared.

Open church in Philippi

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Philippi reopened its doors on June 7 after the previous weeks of strict lockdown. On Sunday morning the church members are welcomed by a church elder: "Nice that you have come. I am glad that we can be together here again." The temperature will be measured, hands will be disinfected and everyone will be asked to sign in the lists that have been laid out.

The pews are marked in such a way that the prescribed social distance can be easily maintained. No books are used in the church. Everything can be read through the projector.

In our church, we again celebrate services **together** every Sunday **in** our church. We pray in the confession of faith: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints...". We don't want to confess this fellowship only with our lips or imagine it virtually, but experience it in a very real way - in word and sacrament.

Before and **after** each service, the church and all other rooms used are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.



Church Committee 2020

Rev Anja Spiske	33 Luke Avenue, (Manse) P.O. Box 5039 pastor@lutheran-pe.org	Springfield Walmer 6065 041-367 1986 H 072 734 9995
Reinhard Walle (Chairman)	4 May Way chairman@lutheran-pe.org	Sunridge Park 6045 063 685 0263
Gerhard Fröhlich (Treasurer)	63 Boundary Rd, treasurer@lutheran-pe.org	Morningside 6025 041-360 3317 H
Henry Newman (Membership)	81 Villiers Road, membership@lutheran-pe.org	Walmer 6070 041-581 3907 H 078 703 7003
Auke Brand	52 Bernard Road warden1@lutheran-pe.org	Lovemore Heights 6025 041-367 5287 082 824 7345
Carol Buschhold	25 St Louis, Nerina Ave warden4@lutheran-pe.org	Kamma Park 6070 071 6376 372
Elizabeth Köpke	33 Walker Gardens Montrose Street No E-Mail	Sherwood 6025 071 572 0433
Ryan Meyer	5 Seine Str warden3@lutheran-pe.org	Woodlands 6070 073 230 2513

Bank Details:

First National Bank

Branch Code: 211217

Account: 534 200 32476

Walmer Branch

Lutheran Church

The congregation's Stewardship is paid to the Cape Church each month. The recommended contribution per family is R 500 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). **Reference section: your name and the usage for**

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