

Pastor Anja Spiske	33 Luke Avenue, (Manse) pastor@lutheran-pe.org	Springfield 6070 041-367 1986 H
a.i. Reinhard Walle (Chairman)	4 May Way chairman@lutheran-pe.org	Sunridge Park 6045 063 685 0263
a.i. Henry Newman (Members) (Trasurer)	81 Villiers Road, membership@lutheran-pe.org treasurer@lutheran-pe.org	Walmer 6070 078 703 7003
① Auke Brand (Maintenance)	52 Bernard Road warden1@lutheran-pe.org	Lovemore Heights 6025 041-367 5287 082 824 7345
① Carol Buschhold	25 St Louis, Nerina Ave warden4@lutheran-pe.org	Kamma Park 6070 071 6376 372
① Elizabeth Köpke	9 Woodville Road No E-Mail	Mill Park 6025 071 572 0433
② Rivka Rath	33 Luke Avenue warden5@lutheran-pe.org	Springfield 6070 066 110 7124
② vacant	warden2@lutheran-pe.org	
② vacant	warden3@lutheran-pe.org	
② vacant	warden6@lutheran-pe.org	

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

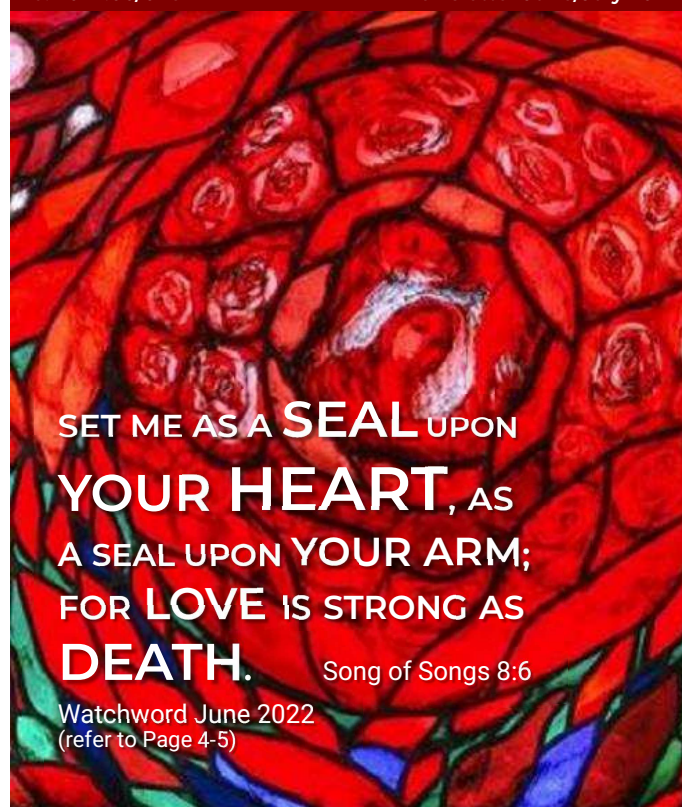
The congregation's Levy is paid to the Cape Church each month. The recommended contribution per family is **R 680** per month, however, all contributions, small or large help to our commitment. Please make your payments to the church by means of a deposit into the church's bank account or via electronic fund transfer (EFT) and provide **your details under the reference section**

Table of Contents Newsletter June/July 2022

Birthdays June 2022	12	Pastor's Heart	2-3
Birthdays July 2022	18	Pastor's Annual Report	9+25
Church Committee 2022	32	Pentecost 2022	6-8
COVID Thoughts, Info	10-11	Prayer Cards June & July	19+20
Divine Services	13-17	To Smile: Growing Old !?	21
Kid's Page	28-29	Trinity Sunday 2022	22-25
Luther's Blessings	17,8	Watchword June 2022	1,4-5
Maintenance & Repairs	30-31	Watchword July 2022	26-27

No: 2022.06/07e

Newsletter June/July 2022



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

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear reader!

Caring for God's creation is the believer's service to God and His creation. Paul leaves us with a wonderful passage concerning love. Just read 1 Corinthians 13, which ends in verse 13 with these words: *"And the Greatest of These is Love"*. On Sunday 8th of May the world celebrated Mother's Day. On Sunday 19th June we celebrate Father's day, in South Africa. In Germany it was on Ascension day. These are days when we celebrate God's gift of love and loving relationships. While some of us have mothers and Fathers who have not been nurturing or supportive, most of us have experienced the presence of people that love us. We know what it is like to be loved and to love. Love is central to the human experience. The topic of the majority of songs is that of love. Love makes us sing. A significant part of the publishing industry is based on love; love in romance novels and love in "how to" books. Our main conversations may be about the weather, politics etc., but love is



And the Greatest of These is Love
1 Corinthians 13:13

never far away from our thoughts. 1 Corinthians 13 is called "The Love Chapter" by many. It is Paul's ode to love. In this chapter, Paul celebrates the essential and the eternal nature of love. Without love in the equation, the result is always zero.

- Great works without love amount to nothing. - Faith without love is cold and heartless. Good examples of this are the Phariseism of Jesus' day and the fundamentalism of today.
- Hope without love is distant and removed. In the late 1800's the Russellites had great hope that Jesus would return at a specific time. They sold all of their possessions and went to a mountain to await Christ's coming. They separated themselves from everyone else demonstrating a hope without love. Love always will be.
- When we see Jesus face to face, we will no longer need faith. We will have knowledge. Faith will pass away.
- Eventually our hope will be fulfilled. We will no longer need to hope, but love will still need to be part of our lives.

Faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love. Paul writes an inspiring, yet challenging, description of love in this chapter. When we read these qualities of love we both rejoice at how people have demonstrated these qualities to us, and how we have failed to share them with others.

From the Pastor's Heart



Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
1 Corinthians 13:4-5

A film clip from the movie, "Dead Man Walking" demonstrates these qualities of love. A nun befriends a convicted murderer and rapist named Matthew Poncetlet. Judged and condemned, Matthew has no one to love him except this nun. In a sense, we are all dead men walking, looking for the face of love. Paul reminds us of the importance of love in our lives. God is love. God loves us and will never stop loving us. Love is the central characteristic of the kingdom of God and thus of Christians. God invites us to participate in the kingdom of God by being overwhelmed with God's love for us and by sharing that love with others. When looking at the Gospel according to St. John, chapter 13, verses 1st Jesus left a practical example of what love is, by washing the feet of his disciples. To do this He went on his knees, a gesture of serving them, saying "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you!"

Pastor Andreas Wernecke

In a time characterised by selfishness, group egoism and an ever-increasing gap between rich and poor, the admonishing words of the Apostle Paul, written more than two thousand years ago to the church at Ephesus, are more relevant than ever: *Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* (Eph 5:2).

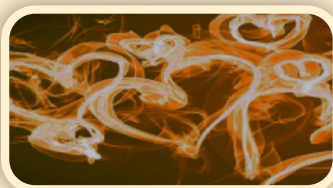
In love I may live,
Because you gave yourself for me
In the bitter death of the cross.
Thy pains, thy sorrows
Have borne my guilt,
Give thanks, my Lord and God.
In love I can live,
If thou hast given me strength,
Lord, make me ready
To look away from myself
To follow your example
That frees me from selfishness.
But there is more I would like to learn:
My neighbour, even the distant one,
To rejoice in the happiness of others
And to forgive my enemy,
As you forgive me.
Nor will I forget those
Who sat in darkness,
Sad, full of fear and anguish.
Help me turn my thoughts
On the old and the sick,
Often handicapped and alone.
And this too I still have to practise:
And I still have to practise this too:
To respect and love the one,
Who is a stranger to me and is not
Believed as I do and does not
Who lives according to the same traditions
and does not
And who does not speak my language.
In love I will remain,
I will devote myself to my Lord,
I in him and he in me.
Choose him as my model,
So as not to miss the mark.
Open my heart to this!
G. O. Bunner (on Eph 5,2)

Good morning, you beautiful one

To be greeted like this at the beginning of a day has been a while for some. To greet myself in the mirror in this affectionate way has been even longer. The longer it takes, the more the scrutinising look at the mirrored counterpart becomes a serious matter. The chin, the width of the nose, every new wrinkle is meticulously measured. It becomes even more serious with a careless turn to the side, which reveals the view of other parts of the body. The unfavourable light in the bathroom is quickly extinguished and the mirror-on-a-wall question is once again banished to where it belongs: the land of fairy tales. Many a visit to the bathroom ends in a shake of the head: Gosh, how different is the image I carry around all day from the one presented to me in the mirror.

And at such a moment it happens. You are still brushing your teeth when a pleasant voice full of charm from outside sings a melody with romantic poetry into your ears and heart. And it sounds like this: "You my little bell, you my little silk, you my little sunshine, you my love". The most beautiful love verses and flatteries clothe the bathroom and one's own soul in an instant: "You my plush earpiece, my heart's little ornament, you my darling." These caresses are meant seriously and therefore do not fail to have an effect: I have to smile. And after such a minute-long bath in fragrant

compliments, I even notice a change when I look in the mirror again: In love verses that someone sings to me with all their heart, I too become more beautiful to myself, no, I become beautiful to myself.

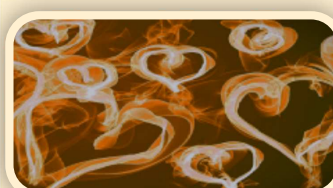


Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm; ...

Song of Songs 8,6

"You my dear darling, oh you flattering kitten, you my love." But if, like a songwriter, you don't have a guitar and thoughts for such love poetry at hand, you may like to help yourself to the great love song of the Old Testament. The most beautiful love verses from ancient times are gathered there in the Song of Songs. A man and a woman speak and sing their love to each other in wonderful images, and it sounds like this: The hair on your head is like purple; a king is caught in your locks. Your temples are behind your veil like a slice of pomegranate. Your neck is like a tower of ivory ...

Over the course of eight chapters, two speak to each other of their love in dreamlike images. And thus become beautiful in love for themselves and each other.



...
for love is strong as death .

Song of Songs 8,6

If you are looking for a few verses to surprise the sweetheart or the beloved at home once again with a love charm, you will find them here. However, this would hardly have been enough to find its way into our bibles as a love letter over thousands of years. But the love of the two is interwoven with quite different sounds. In the timeless, gentle music of the gardens in the evening and in the wind of the cedars that surround the lovers, there is also the love song of creation that God once intoned over the world and to which we can still listen today. The joy in his creation, which can be traced here by

two lovers in the beautiful gardens, finds its vanishing point in God's love for his people.

And when a beautiful woman says to her beau: "Place me like a seal on your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death" - then God's beautiful message to man is always interwoven with it: I have loved you ever and ever. The seal of the love of two is nothing less than the love of God for his children of men. And a love as irresistible as death brings to mind not only enchanted gardens, but also the Garden of Golgotha and Christ's hands on the cross, opened wide there as if to embrace.

If such strong thoughts do not immediately come to mind while brushing one's teeth, one might open the window and simply rejoice in God's love song in his creation, then look once more into the mirror and listen attentively from outside: Good morning, beautiful one!

Pastor Jochen Lenz
www.herder.de

Grace

Grace comes into the soul, as the morning sun into the world; first a dawning; then a light; and at last the sun in his full and excellent brightness.
By Thomas Adams

Pentecost Whitsunday 5 June 2022



The feast of **Pentecost** is the third great Christian feast (along with **Christmas** and **Easter**) on which the **coming of the Holy Spirit** - announced by Jesus Christ - is celebrated. The feast is the solemn conclusion of the Easter season. And also called the **Birthday Festival** of the Christian Churches.

Pentecost and congregation belong together! We celebrate this day in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, because God has called his congregation, therefore we want to sing together, listen to God's word and ask for the closeness and attention of Jesus - through the Holy Spirit.

Every year we celebrate Christmas! Every year we celebrate Easter! Every year we celebrate Pentecost. These great feasts shape the course of a year: the sermon text (Romans 8:1-11) now deals with all three feasts.

At Christmas, Paul writes: "God sent his own Son into a sinful world in the form of a sinful man. Jesus Christ did not remain in his holy world of heaven, but in Bethlehem he came into a sinful world! He too is subjected to human temptations and self-interest. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by the devil when he wanted to offer him power, greatness and glory. Jesus was tempted again in the Garden of Gethsemane by his fear of death. Angels of God had to comfort him. Jesus had understanding for the adulteress: "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone!" This is not a blind man talking about colour, but one who knows about the power of selfishness from his own experience. God sent his Son into a sinful world in the form of sinful man. This is the Christmas message of the Apostle Paul.

At Easter, Paul writes: "God raised Jesus from the dead, and if his Spirit dwells in you, God, who raised Christ from the dead, will also give life to

your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. Easter and Pentecost are actually two sides of the same coin for Paul. Easter and Pentecost are both celebrations of life. Easter is the victory of life over death, Pentecost is the victory of the Spirit over selfishness. The roots of evil are all too often in people themselves. We often wonder why people cause so much suffering to other fellow human beings. The root of suffering and death is the evil within us. At Pentecost, evil is disempowered: God's Spirit wants to dwell in us. God's Spirit creates new life! We are meant to live!

We celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost is the bridge to what happened then and what is happening today: God is alive today, Christ is still working today through his Spirit. The Gospel is not just a past event, it is a living present. The Spirit of God creates life and peace today! God's history of salvation, which began in the stable of Bethlehem and was completed on the cross of Golgotha, now continues with us in our present and in our future.

But do we need Pentecost? Do we need a Spirit of God to rule our lives? History teaches that everything that keeps people away from God leads them closer to death. The results of human selfishness are ruthlessness, envy, quarrelling and a lack of trust in each other and in God. We do not want to lament now about how bad things are in this world.

We do not want to complain about scenes of violence on television or in



Not by might,
nor by power,
but by my spirit,
says the Lord of hosts.
Zechariah 4,6

newspaper reports. Everybody should clean his own house. If we want a better world with better conditions, we have to start with ourselves. Or rather, we have to open ourselves anew to the living Spirit of God every day.

The fruits of the Spirit are therefore love, joy, peace, kindness, patience and goodness: they are vital for people to live together. We need love, kindness, patience and goodness in our dealings with one another. Only love can overcome hatred. Only with kindness and patience do we win a fellow human being over. Only with kindness do we achieve justice. Only with peace does our life have value. Where God is, there is life! That is why we need Pentecost! It is a celebration of life!

Pastor Andreas Wernecke

The prayer at the end of the day

In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross and say:..

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer.

Dear Members and dear friends.

I praise and thank God for a wonderful congregation, who gather in the Church of Peace. He has sustained us and worked many blessings through you dear congregation so that we were able to continue our calling as Christians during a difficult time over the last two years.



Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God
Romans 15, 7

God speaks to us through the Apostle Paul, saying the following: **Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.** Rom 15, 7 Where do we feel at home? Generally people answer: There, where I can be myself. Where I don't have to bend myself or pretend, so that others will accept me. Where I, with my idiosyncrasies, my strengths and weaknesses am accepted as I am. Where I need not fear to be rejected or excluded, if I don't function as people would expect me to.

Places where that is the case, do they come to your mind? Is it in your marriage, your family, your place of work? Is it with friends? By the way

these are the ones you can choose.

But Paul has something else in mind, when at the end of his letter he writes to the Roman Christians: **Accept one another, ...** he addresses a mix of Christians – Christians who come from different backgrounds and have different roots, Gentiles and Jews who converted to Christianity. It seems that the Christians with Jewish background are in the minority. Now in that congregation were different opinions of how one ought to live as Christians. And that led to certain insecurities and tensions, where one group would give the other a bad conscience, because they had different Christian lifestyle. This obviously led to tension, where one group despises the other one. In the mind of the one group they thought they were superior and strong, whilst the others were seen as weak in faith and as inferior. And this situation might cause the congregation to tear apart.

It is so long ago, that Paul wrote this appeal, and yet it sounds rather familiar, doesn't it. Strife and breakaways are part of the political agenda since those days, aren't they. Paul writes to the Christians in Rome telling them, that churches and congregations should be places of harmony, of peace and hope, where all are concerned to build each other up and strengthen each other in faith.

Is this all a religious wishful thinking? Today we place Paul's wish and appeal into words, like tolerance,

Continued on page25...

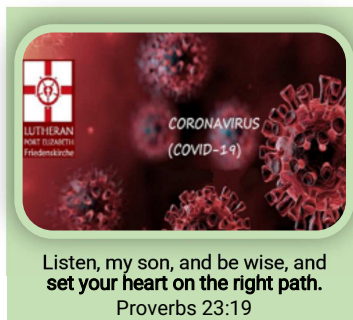
COVID –Thoughts

Distractions, Statistics, World Events

The world is presently distracted from the so easily transmissible threat of the Covid Pandemic. Monkey Pox and Measles outbreaks have been in the news recently and of concern, but their transmissibility varies vastly from Covid. The war in Ukraine and resultant energy and food crises that seem to be starting to affect the world are in the daily news headlines. Add to that the on-going very real threat of world wide climate change. There is much to distract us from Covid that used to be front page news. The reality seems to be that Covid is still amongst us and probably will be for some time to come. Given, the newly developed vaccines have played a huge positive role in reducing the number of cases requiring ICU hospital beds. Nevertheless we should not lose sight that since the 2020 outbreak of Covid, cases in South Africa have been in the order of over 3.9M infections and 101K deaths.

With the global crises and issues distractions, and the hype around Covid being overshadowed by world events, it would be only human to feel that Covid *"is just about gone"* and a thing of the past. Commendable though in many places in South Africa, is the noticeable continued wearing of masks in public, and sanitising of hands when entering shops etc.

The fifth wave appears to be passing, and by comparison to previous waves also appears to have been less intense. We have the solutions to reduce Covid infection. We should not



Listen, my son, and be wise, and set your heart on the right path.
Proverbs 23:19

lose sight of these or take them for granted. Vaccines were first thought to be the saving grace to Covid infection - and they have proven effective. However it has shown that the vaccine and initial booster shot is not enough in the longer term. To ensure the continued efficacy of the vaccine, regular interval booster shots appear to be necessary.

So among all the worldly distractions, there is still Covid with its various subvariants including Omicron. The fifth wave is passing and we seem to be in a good position at the moment. I am convinced that the use of the vaccine and boosters, as well as continued hand sanitising, masks, social distancing awareness has been the right thing to do, and has contributed much to the fifth wave being less intense than its predecessors. Let us not lose sight of Covid during all the global distractions.

Reinhard Walle
Committee Chairman a.i.

COVID – Information

Dear members, dear friends

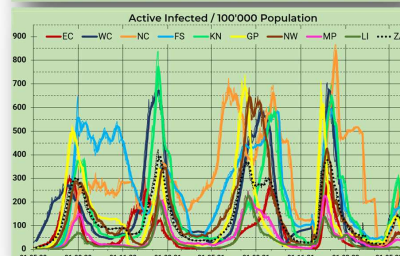
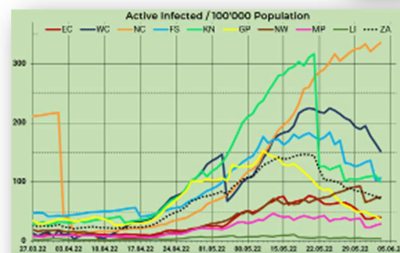
Under the present COVID-level regulations we are able to offer **live services at our Church of Peace**, but for those who cannot come, we publish handouts so that you can celebrate the service also at home.

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

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

The following regulations apply:

- ❖ Max. 45 persons per service
- ❖ 3 persons per pew (1-1-1) or for couples (2- -1), larger families from the same household can sit together in one pew
- ❖ Every second pew remains free
- ❖ Foyer and Mezzanine have additional chairs 1.5 m apart
- ❖ The Organ will play and you can sing the hymns. The lyrics will be projected (no hymn books).
- ❖ Communion is received individually (disposable cups)
- ❖ No gatherings before/after service in the Foyer.



Opposite is an overview of the number of people actively infected with the Corona virus every day for the last few weeks (27.03.2022 till 3.06.2022), as well as since the beginning of the pandemic (1 May 2020 to 3 June 2022).

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

Data source: sacoronavirus.co.za

Birthdays June



01-Jun
 David | Breitfeld
02-Jun
 Werner | Krieg
05-Jun
 Karla | Lentz
 Maya | Breitfeld
07-Jun
 Elizabeth | Köpke
09-Jun
 Kai | Burgdorf-Fourie
12-Jun
 Nicolas | Sternberg
13-Jun
 Sheldine | Septoe
18-Jun
 Jordan | Mächtle
19-Jun
 Barbara | Rath

21-Jun
 Anthea | Daniels
 Dominique | Thomas
 Isa | Brand
 Janine | Wright
 Kyle | Angloher
 Lynn | Cairncross

29-Jun
 Pastor | Anja Spiske

30-Jun
 Otto | Bülbring

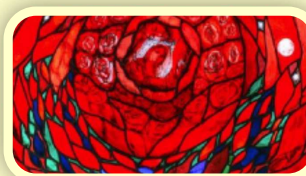


12

LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH June/July 2022

Divine Services June 2022

5 June 2022 09:30 (D)
Pentecost

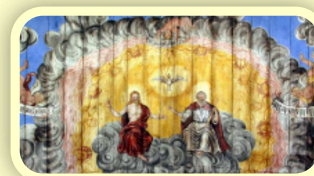


Watchword (Zechariah 4:6b):
"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

I experience so often, that I do not understand others: in foreign countries, talking to specialist or when me and the others are not talking about the same subject. The opposite of this happens on Pentecost. The disciples, who were just still discouraged, overcame a great force like a "storm". Moved by the Holy Spirit, they speak of Jesus Christ, and the miracle happens: everyone can understand them in his own language. Many are baptized: the church is born. Pentecostal spirit invites us to think in their own language. The Pentecostal spirit keeps Jesus alive among us. It is a spirit that unites and does not separate humans, who frees and does not separate, a spirit that opens our eyes for injustice and opens our mouths for the truth.

Sermon
 Romans 8:1-2(3-9)10-11

12 June 22 09:30 (E)
Trinity Sunday



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."

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the one God in three persons – for many so difficult to understand. Three in one - how is that supposed to work? On the Sunday of Trinity, Christians celebrate the Feast of the Trinity of God - a theological idea that is difficult and yet tells a lot about the nature of God. God is more comprehensive than a person can comprehend. But He is involved in a story with us humans and reveals himself to us more and more: as a father. As father, God chooses his people, as a son he takes care of the fate of all humans, finally he dwells in every single person: as enthusiasm, as comforter and as power of love. God is pure relationship - to the world and in himself. Nobody is excluded from his presence. God cannot and will not be only for himself. An expression of this is the Trinity.

Sermon
 Romans 11:(32)33-36

June/July 2022

LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

13

Divine Services June 2022

19 June 2022 9:30 (E)
1st 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. In the jungle of almost unlimited offers of meaning one can easily get lost: which promises of salvation lead astray? Which of the ways offered to me really lead to life, which 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 also hearing aids: the words and works of Jesus, the testimony of Moses and the prophets, a confession that clings to CHRIST alone. All have one way: the way of love, which turns fearless and generous to the other.

Sermon
 Luke 16:19-31

26 June 2022 09:30 (E Fam)
2nd 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, no time" - a rejection, quickly and carelessly said, sometimes regretted later. Who does not know that? When God invites you to the feast of life, he gives abundantly and unconditionally. Also, His invitation includes everyone: wealthy and poor, near and far, believers and doubters. Happy are those who don't make excuses. The second Sunday after Trinity encourages us not to reject God's invitation, but to let ourselves be invited to His table - into a mixed community in which no one has to prove him- or herself. Instead, there's a vibe of mutual attentiveness and appreciation, and there's an openness for "outsiders" and acceptance of the weak.

Sermon
 Jonah 3:1-10

14

LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH June/July 2022

Divine Services July 2022

3 July 2022 09:30 (D)
3rd after Trinity



Watchword (Luke 19:10):
"The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Sometimes I want to turn back the time: My hurtful word, my wrong decision, my carelessness. "If I could undo it!" It is so painful if I failed. What is often not possible with people, with God it is possible - that is the message of the Third Sunday after Trinity. God does not want people to get lost. He lets them go their way and make their mistakes: the sheep, who gets lost, the customs officer Zacchaeus, who squeezed money out of the people, and the son, who can no longer bear it at home. But like the good father, God does not let them fall he waits, goes out, celebrates a feast for the son he has found again.

Sermon
 Ezekiel 18:1-4.21-24.30-32

10 July 22 09:30 (E)
4th 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? Within seconds we take a decision. Moral judgment also occurs extremely quickly. We "usually" know very well what is reprehensible, and we express our contempt loudly or subtly. Beware of such judgment, warns the fourth Sunday after Trinity. For there is no one who is without error and who does not constantly need generosity and forgiveness. It is only God who can judge. Therefore, Jesus encourages forgiveness: whoever lives with the awareness that God is merciful to him, can try to live in reconciliation with his fellowmen, like Joseph, who, a long time ago, forgave his brothers the injustice which they had done to him.

Sermon
 John 8:3-11

June/July 2022

LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

15

Divine Services July 2022

17 July 2022 9:30 (E)
5th after Trinity



Watchword (Ephesians 2:8):
"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."
"Come and see!" This invitation of Jesus is the same for us today as it was for the disciples 2000 years ago. The fifth Sunday after Trinity tells of people who were called to serve God. The nomad Abraham, who left on the Word of God, and the fishermen who left their nets behind, Paul, who became the apostle through the message of the Risen One - they were all ready to give up the old and to go new ways with God. Even if it seems unreasonable. This was risky because often they had to endure incomprehension and mockery of their location and the contradiction of their own families. But they were allowed to see that the overflowing nets are only the beginning of innumerable wonderful experiences. Those who follow Jesus discover more and more deeply where God is present and active on earth.

Sermon
Genesis 12:1-4a

24 July 2022 09:30 (E)
6th after Trinity



Watchword (Isaiah 43:1):
"Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."
Most of us were too small that we cannot remember it today. And yet a foundation was laid for our whole life. The sixth Sunday after Trinity is marked "baptism" and reminds us of the mission of Jesus to baptize people and the gift that stands at the beginning of life as a Christian: Jesus' life, His dying and His resurrection was for me. Before God my life is pure and good. "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee: I have called you by your name, you are mine" is His message for me. Therefore, we will remember our baptism also on this Sunday.

Sermon
Romans 6:3-8(9-11)

16

LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH June/July 2022

Divine Services July

31. July 2022 9:30 (E + Fam)
7th after Trinity



Watchword (Ephesians 2:19):
So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.

I have so much - and yet sometimes I am completely empty. I get full every day, and yet I have a tremendous thirst for more. I long for something that I cannot describe. That God satisfies physical and spiritual hunger - the readings of the 7th Sunday after Trinity tell of this, and this Sunday illuminates the Lord's Supper from different perspectives. Eating and drinking, sitting together and celebrating belong to the Christian faith. Jesus took the natural needs of people seriously, fed thousands with five loaves of bread and two fish and sat at table with all kinds of people. In the Lord's Supper, Christians continue this harmonious table fellowship from the beginning, anticipating the time when the hunger for true life will be satisfied.

Sermon
John 6:1-15

June/July 2022

LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

17

Luther's Morning Blessing

The prayer for the beginning
of the day

In the morning when you get up,
make the sign of the holy cross
and say:

In the name of the Father and of
the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat
the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If
you choose, you may also say this
little prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ,
Your dear Son,
that You have kept me this night
from all harm and danger;
and I pray that You would
keep me this day also
from sin and every evil,
that all my doings and life
may please You.

For into Your hands I commend
myself, my body and soul,
and all things.

Let Your holy angel be with me,
that the evil foe
may have no power over me.
Amen.

Then go joyfully to your work,
singing a hymn, like that of the Ten
Commandments, or whatever your
devotion may suggest.

Prayercards July 2022

01-Jul
Linda | Jachens
06-Jul
Christel | Schädler
10-Jul
Kadean | Daniels
Phil | van Rensburg
12-Jul
Eva | Rudolph
16-Jul
Hans | Schaberg
18-Jul
Elisabeth | Wagner
29-Jul
Desmond | Fillis
Doreen | Stocklose
31-Jul
Tony | Thomas

1 Jul Antoinette Bosman	17 Jul Justin Köpke
2 Jul Auke Brand	18 Jul Jutta Rohwer
3 Jul Blake Wright	19 Jul Karla Lentz
4 Jul Branson Bosman	20 Jul Linda Jachens
5 Jul Brenda Lentz	21 Jul Lorinda Koch
6 Jul Callum Bosman	22 Jul Michael Koch
7 Jul Christel Schädler	23 Jul Nicholas Jachens
8 Jul Colin Lentz	24 Jul Owen Kivedo
9 Jul Dale Thompson	25 Jul Reinhard Walle
10 Jul Doreen Stocklose	26 Jul Roswell Kivedo
11 Jul Elizabeth Köpke	27 Jul Sharon Tessoroff
12 Jul Hans Schaberg	28 Jul Sigi Sauer
13 Jul Hildegard Kivedo	29 Jul Stefan Koch
14 Jul Holly Eichhoff	30 Jul William Bürger
15 Jul Horst van Biljon	31 Jul Winfried Tessoroff
16 Jul Joy Cairncross	

OUR FATHER WHO
ART IN HEAVEN
HALLOWED
BE THY NAME

THY KINGDOM COME THY WILL BE DONE
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESSPASSES
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESSPASS

AGAINST US AND
LEAD US NOT INTO
TEMPTATION BUT
DELIVER US FROM EVIL
FOR THINE IS THE
KINGDOM AND THE POWER
AND THE GLORY FOREVER
AND EVER AMEN

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

18

LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH June/July 2022

June/July 2022

LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

19

1 Jun Andreas Seifert	16 Jun Linda Jachens
2 Jun Audrey Letsholonyane	17 Jun Nicolas Sternberg
3 Jun Christian K. Bürger	18 Jun Nicole Wright
4 Jun Christian Seifert	19 Jun Olga Thomas
5 Jun Clinton Sternberg	20 Jun Patrick Septoe
6 Jun David Thompson	21 Jun Penny Jelliman
7 Jun Dieter Lokotsch	22 Jun Rea Letsholonyane
8 Jun Doreen Stocklose	23 Jun Reinhard Walle
<p>OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN HALLOWED BE THY NAME</p> <p>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 TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESSPASS</p> <p>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</p>	
9 Jun Gemma Bürger	24 Jun Rosemarie Mittermaier
10 Jun Genia Lokotsch	25 Jun Rosi Seifert
11 Jun Geoff Andrews	26 Jun Sandile Coko
12 Jun Gerry West	27 Jun Sharon Bürger
13 Jun Holly Eichhoff	28 Jun Sicilia Welcome
14 Jun Leah Septoe	29 Jun Sophie Sternberg
15 Jun Liesel Harmse	30 Jun Wolfgang Paetzold

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

Now everything is further away than it used to be.
It's twice as far to the corner,
and I realise that now they have added a hill.
I have given up running for the bus;
It leaves earlier than normal.
It seems to me that the stairs are steeper,
than in the old days.
And, have you noticed,
that the print in the paper has shrunk?!

There's no point
in asking someone to read something out.
Everyone speaks so softly;
I can hardly hear them.
The fabrics in the clothes have also become tighter,
especially around the waist and hips;
and it's almost impossible to bend down,
to put on my shoes.
Even people have changed.
They are much younger than they used to be,
On the other hand, people my age
look so much older than I do.
The other day I met an old classmate;
she had aged so much,
that she didn't recognise me anymore!
I couldn't help thinking of the poor old dear,
when I was combing my hair this morning;
and as I did so,
I saw my own reflection.
DARN IT !!!
Now they don't even make
mirrors as good as they used to!

Trinity Sunday

12. Juni 2022



Trinity means the state of **being three**. Christians celebrate the Trinity, meaning that God shows himself to people in three ways: As the **Father**, who created the world; as the **Son**, that is, Jesus Christ, who came to earth as a man; and as the **Holy Spirit**, who makes people feel the nearness of God.

Trinity was first celebrated in some Christian monasteries about 1000 years ago. Since 1334 AD it has been part of the Christian festive calendar.

There are few passages in the Bible that we can refer to the Trinity of God, especially there is no biblical doctrine of the Trinity. But there are statements, stories and experiences that gave rise to the doctrine of the Trinity in the early church. God shows himself in different ways. He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is Creator, Redeemer and Comforter. God is three and at the same time one. God is always in relationship. He is love. He is mystery. We can never decipher his nature, but he turns to us in many ways.

"In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" we hear in every service. It is a so-called Trinitarian formula; it expresses that Christians confess the one God who makes himself known in three ways, namely as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Creed, which we say in every service, also has a Trinitarian form; in its three parts we confess God as Father, as his Son Jesus Christ and as Holy Spirit. In interreligious dialogue, especially with Jews and Muslims, Christians are often asked: do you actually believe in three Gods? And if not, how is the talk of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to be understood?

Trinity Sunday (Latin "Trinitatis") takes special note of the fact that Christians do not confess three gods, but the triune God. Words from the 3rd chapter

of the Gospel of John are read as the Gospel.

Nicodemus, a Pharisee and "chief of the Jews" comes to Jesus. And he acknowledges, even confesses, that Jesus has to do with the one God, the God of Israel. He acknowledges, indeed confesses, that Jesus is a teacher sent by God. Speaking with the sermon text, "*Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.*"

As an aside, a verse like this underlines that the image that many people have of Pharisees as opponents or even enemies of Jesus is largely a mirage. Here in the Gospel, we hear that one of them, Nicodemus, a religious authority in the land at that, comes to Jesus and says, even on behalf of others, "*we know that you are a teacher who has come from God*". This recognition, this confession is much. It is more than many people today say of Jesus, when they reduce him to a good man who lived a long time ago and otherwise has no or little significance for their lives and plays no role in their thoughts and actions. Nicodemus acknowledges, confesses Jesus as a teacher who works in the name of God.

The Gospel expresses: this confession is already much and yet too little. One must think even bigger of Jesus. He is more than "just" a teacher. In him, the God of Israel opens a new chapter of history with his people, indeed with the whole world. In Jesus,

God himself visits his world and thus underlines his love, his affection for us. Beneficent, healing, saving even from death, God in Jesus is fully present as a human being among human beings. If one wants to know who God is, how he relates to us, one must henceforth think about Jesus, include him. Jesus is much, much more than a good man, he is also much more than a religious teacher, he is God's Son, in whom the kingdom of God is already fully present and circling. He is the promise of God's unconditional and eternal love made man for us. It is the highest, greatest, best thing that can be promised to human beings: God loves us unconditionally and eternally; in Jesus, his Son, this finds its clearest expression.

However, no human being is born with any religion or any worldview at all. When we are born, we are like a blank slate. Parents and many other caregivers impart convictions and values to us during our lives and thus help shape our path through life; they influence our development into what we become and are. What fundamentally shapes us? What counts for us? What is of central importance? What is the linchpin of our lives?

No human being is born a Christian. Not every person becomes a Christian during his or her life. But it often happens that people are touched,

filled, and moved by God's story of love and salvation, which he continues, underlines, and confirms in Jesus. Again and again, it happens that people's hearts are captured by this story of love and salvation; it triggers joy, great joy, and henceforth one's own life is shaped in a salutary way by God, by God in Jesus.

The fact that a light dawns on us in view of the story that God is writing in Jesus, that we are moved by this story, happens through the Holy Spirit. We cannot make the faith in God, in God in Jesus ourselves, it is given to us by God the Holy Spirit. When this happens, it is a new birth. A person is "born again", however old he may be after years. Henceforth his life begins anew; he sees it in a new light; he sees it under the sign: I am a person unconditionally and eternally loved by God. That is the best message! What other faith, what another worldview



The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
2 Corinthians 13:13

could offer something even greater, even more precious?

In the Hebrew and Greek languages, the word for "spirit" also means "wind", "breath of air". The air itself is invisible and yet there and vital. We recognise the invisible air by its effect, when it makes leaves rustle, branches move, clouds move, a sailboat get going. We also cannot see God in himself, not yet, but his effect is recognisable in that he is creatively active through his spirit, creating heaven and earth and faith in us. Through his Spirit, God sets us in motion to live and radiate our dignity as God's people, as unconditionally and eternally loved by him, in word and deed.

God the Father creates being and life, he underlines in his Son Jesus that the world and we in it are unconditionally and eternally loved, and he makes himself known to us through his Spirit, conquers and moves our hearts so that we may live as his children. Thus, we believe in the triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Why should we be content to be
copies, where God has placed us
in the world as originals?
Billy Graham

Continuation from page 9

acceptance, unity in diversity. This is often asked for, yet seldom applied. It is easier said than done, isn't it. Acceptance means foremost, that God concretely intervenes in the life of people: God changes people and God draws people to Himself, offering them a secure place.

This is strongly expressed in the book of Psalms. Where we read: **He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters...**says the psalm writer (Psalm 18:16)

That is Paul's line of argument: how can you reject and despise people within your own congregation and exclude them, when God in fact accepted them? Who do you think you are: And then he complements/ concludes his appeal with the words: Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you. Christ is God's unconditional YES towards you, His children, and it is He who binds you together!

No common idea or common job, no teaching of the church create unity, only Christ himself can achieve that.

What is there for us to say or do?

Friends, as baptized Christians: We know we are **liberated** by God's grace! We are a **changed** people! We wish to stay **true to God's word** (Scripture)! We wish to **grow in the relationship: Toward God and in fellowship with all people.** And Paul gives very practical advice for us how to go about it: He says: **"Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God!"**

Yours in Christ's service
Pastor Andreas Wernecke



Watchword July 2022

"As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God." This is how the 42nd Psalm begins. "Longing for water" - maybe an old-fashioned term, but many of us will immediately remember a situation in which we were once really thirsty, feeling weak and parched. To "long for" something: to want and crave for, something that is absolutely necessary for life; this is how the word could be paraphrased. On a strenuous hike in the summer heat, it is cool water - nothing else that you crave: a sip of fresh water and the spirits of life awaken again. Strengthened and refreshed, you can continue on your way. This longing for refreshment and new courage to face life also applies to the psalmist in relation to God.

"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." You expect help and comfort from God in a situation that seems hopeless to you: you feel misunderstood and threatened, sad and depressed. Your faith in the one living God is questioned by others and he himself is probably also plagued by doubts. "Where is your God now?" "Has God forgotten us?" "Has God forgotten me?" We have probably asked this on many a sleepless night, when worries and fears do not allow us to rest, or even in the face of natural disasters, such as we had to experience in our region last year. "Where are you, God?" in the face of floods and destruction, death and despair? How

quickly doubts arise and the certainty of faith becomes fragile. Not everyone can then trust that we are not alone even in the greatest hardships. But the psalmist holds on to exactly that. We may ask God for help, even cry out for help, that he gives us strength to go on living. We don't have to make everything up with ourselves. My soul thirsts and yearns for God's presence. I realise that I need God, and then I can also experience that God - as the psalmist says - is a "rock" on whom I can rely, that he is the "living" God, not an idol or a figment of my imagination. And of course this is not only true in extreme situations.

God's Spirit, who refreshes and strengthens our soul, we need this thirst quencher every day. Jesus speaks of himself as this living water that God makes available to everyone for free, if we want it and long for it.

There is a longing
in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts
for love we only find
in you, our God.
That you, God,
may quench the longing,
the thirst we pray.
For wisdom, for courage, for comfort,
hear our prayer
In weakness, in fear, be near,
hear our prayer, O God
Mary Anne Quigley (1992)



King David died and his son Solomon became the new King of Israel. He prayed and asked God for wisdom to rule the people. God made him the wisest king who ever lived.

"Because you did not ask for riches, or anything for yourself," God said, "I will also make you a very rich man." And God blessed King Solomon.



When people argued and each thought the other person was wrong, they would tell King Solomon and he always had an answer that was right, fair and wise.

King Solomon was a man of peace and did not fight wars like his father, King David. King David wanted to build a temple for God, but God wanted his temple built by a King of peace.



King Solomon used the gold and silver his father had stored up, from cities he had captured, to build a beautiful big temple in Jerusalem.

People from far away countries heard how rich and wise King Solomon was and came to see the beautiful temple at Jerusalem. With them came many pretty girls.



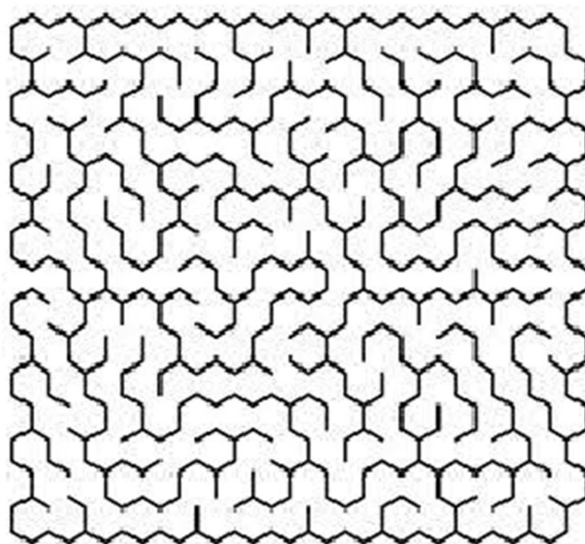
Then King Solomon stopped listening to God. He married many of the beautiful girls, but they prayed to idols and did not know the one true God. Soon King Solomon forgot about God too.

King Solomon was the wisest king who ever lived. His wisdom came from God. His proverbs, or wise words, are in the Bible.

Colour the page and find the best way from Start to Stop.

START

FINISH



Repairs and Maintenance

**The Coral Tree Project:**

The large Coral tree at the driveway to the Manse has died off. Branches have broken off in high winds and fallen to the ground – fortunately with no damage to property. The tree unfortunately did not belong to the NMBM and the maintenance team set about arranging to have the tree felled and removed. Not an easy task. After cutting down all the large dead branches, due to the size and sheer weight, the huge main trunk of the tree was cut up into several pieces that had to be loaded by crane onto the contractor's truck for disposal.

Thanks to all who so generously contributed to the unexpected **R 3'300 cost** of this project.



Repairs and Maintenance

**The Manse Geyser Project:**

The Manse pressure geyser was found corroded and leaking. Replacement was necessary before a catastrophic failure would result in ceiling or other damage. The geyser was replaced on 01.06.2022.

A successful claim was initiated with the church's insurance company. We had to pay an excess of **R 1'000**



After we have fully repaid our loan at the beginning of the year, we can begin urgently needed repairs to the church, hall and manse this year. However, we are dependent on your **donations**. As reference please note: **"BT Maintenance"**.

**Damaged WC Project:**

The badly cracked and leaking WC unit in the hall gents restroom was beyond repair and the entire was to be replaced on 01.06.2022.

A successful claim was initiated with the church's insurance company. We had to pay an excess of **R 500**