



**LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH**  
Friedenskirche Church of Peace



No: 2022.08e

Newsletter August 2022



THEN SHALL THE TREES  
OF THE FOREST  
**SING** FOR JOY  
BEFORE THE LORD  
FOR HE COMES,  
TO **JUDGE** THE  
EARTH. 1Chronicles 16:33

Watchword August 2022  
(Refer to page 4-5)

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

## From the Pastor's Heart

### Why is Christian faith so important to me?

We human beings are not puppets that God, as the "Great Mastermind", lets dance on invisible strings. For love does not exercise violence.

But man is exposed to fears, worries, aggressions, doubts, discouragement and egoism from birth. On the one hand they come from within him, on the other hand they are brought to him from outside, after which he "dances" as if on invisible strings. Man wants to be good, but he rarely succeeds in doing good.

He is already loved by God before his birth, but after his birth he begins to doubt this love. That is why he also doubts God's commandments, which are actually meant to protect him. "Should God have said....." it says in the story of the Fall of Man on the first page of the Bible.

Man responds to God's love not with trust but with doubt. He directs his trust and love primarily to himself. Therefore, he listens to himself first and also obeys himself first.

Yes, man thinks he can gain happiness and life the fullness through his own efforts. He sets up his own standards, as pubescent children like to do towards their parents.

He thinks he can create his own salvation and thus also suppresses the thought that he can die in this hour.

However, God does not want man to suffocate with his own doubts, fears and worries, with his egoism and attempts to redeem himself and win his salvation. God wants to overcome this original sin.

God holds fast to his love that calls for trust. His love suffers in man. The sign of this love is Jesus Christ. In him, God dies for the sake of love for man. Because God loves man, he takes this lower path of suffering and not that of a radiant ruler who imposes his will by force and power.

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God reveals the victory of love over doubt and fear, worry and hopelessness, over egoism and all attempts at self-redemption.

But even the resurrection remains doubtful, just as love can only give signs and not proofs.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are completely redeemed from fear and doubt, worry and hopelessness, from egoism and all attempts at self-redemption.



**Whoever does not love  
does not know God, for God is love.  
1 John 4:8**



## From the Pastor's Heart



**Those who abide in love, abide in God,  
and God abides in them.**  
1 John 4:16

At the same time, we remain totally sinners, i.e. full of doubt, fear, worry, hopelessness and egoism, i.e. unbelief.

Before God's law (his commandments) we remain sinners altogether and yet at the same time we are redeemed altogether, pardoned, saved, - because we are loved.

To be loved in spite of everything, to be given gifts, that is what gives meaning to life. That is the Gospel, the message of joy.

It gives us courage against fear and doubt, against worry and hopelessness, against egoism and all attempts at self-redemption.

It allows us to see our fellow human beings as brothers and sisters who are equally loved and yet remain sinners.

This allows us to condemn injustice without condemning people.

This allows us to begin anew every day, as new-borns.

This allows us to have hope and carry it forward.

This encourages us to try to pass on love we have received.

It encourages us to rejoice and to give thanks.

That is why the Christian message is so important to me.

Pastor em. Andreas Wernecke



**Faith comforts,  
where love weeps.**

Paul Verlaine (1844 - 1896)

**I hope, therefore I have faith.  
I have faith, therefore I love.  
I love, therefore I hope.**

Stefan Fleischer (\*1938)

## Watchword August 2022

Two aspects make us sit up and take notice:

### Rejoicing trees - because God comes to judge.

Rejoicing people, that would make sense to us. But rejoicing trees? Rejoicing people in Ukraine and Russia, in the war zones of our earth. In marriages and neighbourhoods. Everywhere where a judgement is needed. One that says what's exactly right. Who is wrong and who is right. Provided that this is clearly possible - which is not always the case. Many legally unclear situations have two sides. And that is precisely why it is important to have a law as a basis for judgement and a judge who knows how to weigh up the law and the situation and relate them to each other.



**Then shall the trees  
of the forest sing for joy**

...  
1. Chronicles 16,33

The fact that the trees wait for God and finally rejoice with relief in view of his approaching judgement - that is

very unexpected. For David, to whom this passage is attributed as a song of thanksgiving, this is by no means the only connection between earth and heaven. He also mentions: "Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it." David speaks as a poet. And for poets, there are few limits to language.

Let all the trees in the forest rejoice. At least in Germany, their rejoicing would be quite meagre with a scrawny little voice. According to the Forest Condition Survey 2020, only 21% of the tree crowns are healthy. Considering that one third of Germany's area is covered by forest (and this is a very high density in European comparison), the result is alarming. The prolonged drought from 2018 to 2020 has damaged many trees; especially the older forests, which are more than 60 years old, have been affected.

The bark beetle has also proliferated en masse. A tree is mute - but the cheers of the forest would be all the brighter the more it is clear that we need trees to transform climate change. That leaves rustle, rush, whisper, that branches rattle, crack and creak is common knowledge. Biologists are investigating the fact that trees also bang. They have discovered that the water supply through straw-like paths (called xylem) inside the tree causes sounds. This is because when the flow of water is interrupted by dryness, bubbles form inside these

## Watchword August 2022

waterways, just like a straw. These can then cause a popping sound that can be measured in the ultrasonic range. So the cheering should not be a popping, but a relieved breathing of the trees. That they have enough water. And some particularly sensitive people tell of being able to hear trees. How they speak to each other. Without language in the actual sense, but via signals in the "**wood wide web**".



...  
before the Lord, for he  
comes to judge the earth.  
1. Chronicles 16,33

David is about global thinking. Not a single tree should rejoice, but all the trees in the forest. And the sea and everything in it. And the field and all that is in it. In other words, the whole of creation. Oak, beech, spruce, pine, larch in the forests as well as plankton, shrimps, mussels, jellyfish, seaweed, starfish and hundreds of kinds of fish in the sea. And in the fields: Wheat, rye, oats, millet, carrots, potatoes, leeks as well as melons and pumpkins, not to mention ants, mice,

spiders to woodlice and centipedes. Everything is everything. What would it sound like if we had ears to hear it?

A many-voiced choir, even more powerful than the eight-part chants of Brahms or even a twenty-four-part psalm motet by Josquin des Prez ...

David is a poet and condenses his hope into a comprehensive language. Everything is everything. Then there are #no winners and no losers. And of course these images stand for us humans! Biblical language is the language of hope. It invites us to overcome entrenched thought patterns. And to hope in God that he will come to judge. The forests would breathe a sigh of relief. And then we would too. For without forests we cannot survive in the long term.

Jörg Schmid  
[www.herder.de](http://www.herder.de)

# Rejoice

The original word in Greek, translated with Rejoice literally means **to be favourably disposed to God's grace**" and is very similar to the words translated to "grace" and "joy." This puts a whole new meaning on the word rejoice.



## 24 August - St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Dear readers of the parish newsletter  
In loose succession we would like to introduce to you personalities, whose we commemorate in the church year. Who was the Apostle Bartholomew?

Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles (Mark 3:18) and is venerated as a saint and martyr in the Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Biblical scholarship sees Nathanael and Bartholomew as the same person. Jesus Christ calls him a "man without falsehood" (John 1:47). Some traditions also see him as the bridegroom of the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11). Only after he was called an apostle was he called Bartholomew (Matthew 10:3). According to tradition, he preached in Persia, possibly also in India, where he is said to have left a Hebrew copy of the Gospel of Matthew. In part, he is also credited with spreading the gospel in Egypt and Armenia.

He was martyred around 71 AD, probably in the city of Albanopolis in Albania. According to tradition, his death was brought about by having his skin flayed off.

Around 580, the relics of St. Bartholomew came to the island of Lipari in Italy and from there to Benevento in 838 during a Saracen invasion.

Emperor Otto II is said to have brought them to Rome in 983, where they were embedded in the altar in San Bartolomeo all'Isola on the Tiber Island. In 1238, St. Bartholomew became the main patron of Frankfurt Cathedral, where the saint's brain shell had already been brought under Emperor Frederick Barbarossa.

Furthermore, relics of St Bartholomew can be found in several places, for example in the monastery of Andechs in Bavaria.

In Michelangelo's Last Judgement in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, the face on the skin worn by Bartholomew is considered to be the artist's self-portrait.

Bartholomew was summoned one day to King Polymios of Armenia, probably meaning the king of the region then called Albania, who had ruled as a vassal of the Roman Empire since 65 BC and who probably resided in what was then Albanopolis - probably today's Baku. When Bartholomew cured the king's possessed daughter and visited him through locked doors, the king converted to



**How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who  
announces peace, who brings good  
news, who announces salvation.  
Isaiah 52:7**

## 24 August - St. Bartholomew, Apostle



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

Christianity, and with him the entire royal family.

The feast of St Bartholomew in our liturgy is 24 August. In German-speaking countries there are a few country sayings for the day:

- ❖ "How Barthel behaves, the whole autumn is ordered."
- ❖ "If the storks stay over Bartholomae, a winter will come that will not hurt."
- ❖ Thunderstorms around Bartholomae, bringing hail and snow.
- ❖ Rain on St. Bartholomew's Day / hurts the vines bitterly.

St. Bartholomew's Day marks the end of the fish spawning season and the reopening of the fishing season, which was celebrated with fish dinners, processions and fish parades; the fisherman who had the most successful catch became king.

This was also the time when the first

preparations for Christmas began: geese and carp were selected to be fattened for the feast.

Bartholomew is also popular as the patron saint of wine; his day of remembrance was a lottery day for the winegrowers. Innkeepers could lose their right to serve wine if they did not have cider made from apples and pears on this day, as this served as a thirst quencher on hot late summer days in Europe.

It is from this context that the expression Knowing where Barthel gets his cider from (Wissen, wo der Barthel den Most holt) is for a particularly clever person; it originated in the picaresque novel *Simplicius Simplicissimus* by Hans Jakob Christoffel von Grimmelshausen, where it is told of a certain Barthel who always knew how and where best to get hold of cider.

Bartholomew's Night refers to the massacre of 2000 French Protestants on the night of 24 August 1572, when, after the three religious wars, the Huguenots in France were dealt a final blow at the behest of Catherine de Medici.

His writings have not been preserved, but there was once a Gospel under his name, which Pope Gelasius counted among the Apocrypha. A statement by Dionysius Areopagita: leads some theologians to assume that St. Bartholomew also wrote scriptures or letters.

# COVID –Thoughts

## COVID-19 safety protocols still valid?

At present there seem to be varying opinions on how Covid-19 protocols should be applied—if at all. The RSA government has relaxed all the stringent safety protocols that were once so much part of our daily lives. The Omicron B5 variant is still posing the latest threat in the world.

However, with thousands of vaccinations and follow-up booster shots already administered, the perception appears to be that we no longer have to concern ourselves with the once so stringent safety precautions we had to endure.

Looking up the latest RSA stats, things would appear to be more under control. “Googling” the W.H.O. worldwide website, the Covid-19 and its variants are looking to still be very much alive and well although subdued by the vaccinations and booster drive. There are some who have held the view that vaccinations and the virus are a hoax and have not been vaccinated at all. Others have held the view that the threat of serious illness or possible death is now over, as safety protocols in RSA have been lifted. Then there is the third group of individuals who are adopting a more cautious approach.

They choose to still wear masks, sanitise and practice social distancing when in public. Sometimes these are medical staff, the more elderly and individuals who have had family, friends or themselves combatted the Covid-19 virus. You may



remember those who had to be nursed in ICU's, often fighting for their life. In many cases the fight was sadly lost to the virus.

In today's hard financial times, there are many who feel they just cannot afford to become infected by the virus, possibly being the family's only breadwinner. To be quarantined, laid off work or losing their ability to be gainfully employed could be catastrophic for their family. It would seem then, that respect for another's point of view is the right and sensible thing to do. Those who prefer to protect themselves by preferring to continue wearing a mask, sanitising and practicing social distancing should not be criticised for their point of view. A healthy respect for all who have differing personal views whether or not to continue adhere to Covid-19 safety protocols, is constructive, wise and conducive to good positive relations with others.

Reinhard Walle  
Committee Chairman a.i.



# COVID – Information

Dear members, dear friends

As of June 25, 2022, the COVID restrictions have been lifted again. For those who cannot come to church, we publish handouts so that you can celebrate the service also at home. These are available at our WhatsApp-Group:

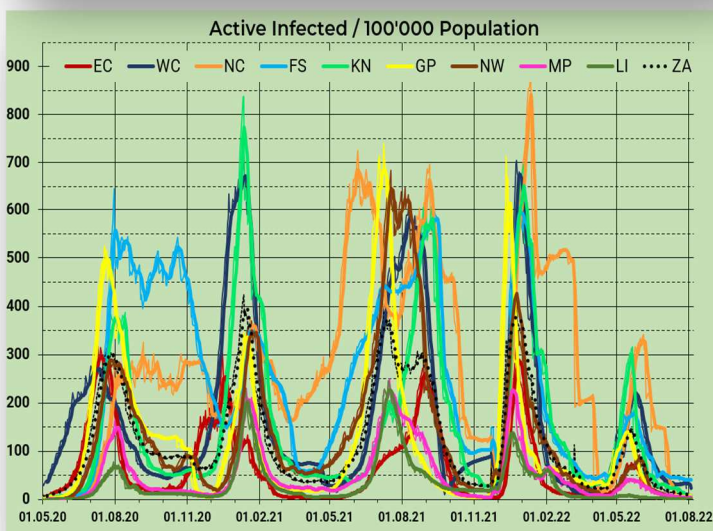
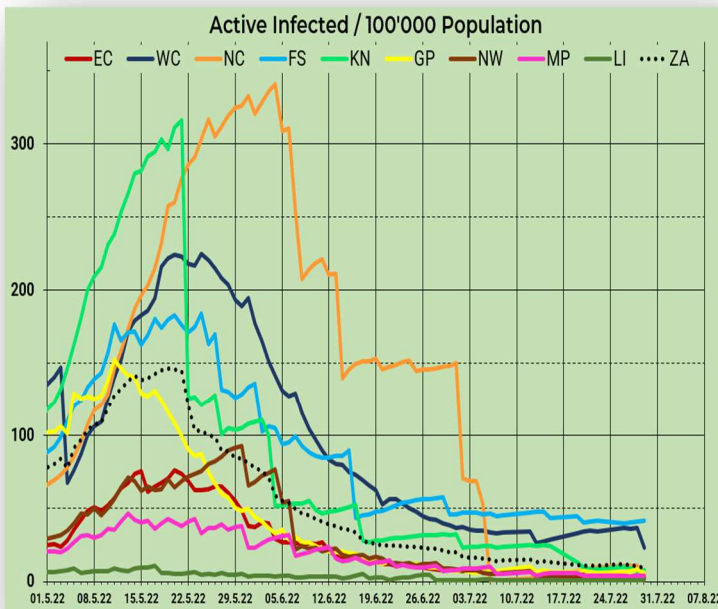


**Lutheran Congregation**  
If interested, send sms to Henry Newman  
078 703 7003

## Underneath our recommendations:

- ❖ 3 persons per pew (1-1-1) or for couples (2- -1), larger families from the same household can sit together in one pew
- ❖ 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)
- ❖ Gatherings before/after service outside the buildings.

We still recommend wearing **face masks**, offer **hand disinfection** and ask to keep **social distance**.



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 22.07.2022), as well as since the beginning of the pandemic (1 May 2020 to 22 July 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](http://sacoronavirus.co.za)

# News from the Bishop's office

## Opportunities of being church despite of and during the Covid- Pandemic

Two years of pandemic was not a time of waiting until things get better, so that we can continue being church as we were used to. Church is and continues to be alive and developing despite the pandemic....

We have tried new ways and reimagined being church in a new and different way. And yet the longing remains for many to find their way back to the "good old days". Of course, we do not have to lose the essentials and good of the past, but rather built on them.

In our search for being church in the here-and-now, we remember that from the very beginning the church was not only built according to the model of the local church as we know it. In the New Testament we find the house churches, wandering preachers, the development of new spaces, as Paul did with his sermon on the Areopagus.

We are reminded that the forms of being church change. What is important, however, is not only that we do something new or even different, but that the Word of God calls us to gather to hear his good news, to celebrate his meal and to serve each other in love here and now.

It would be wonderful if we encourage each other by getting into conversation and sharing the what, how and where we experience and live church in new expressions.

The Spirit of God works among us. Let's celebrate this together.

## Our ministries and Training

Course 3 of the "Preacher Training" will take place in September. The date will be announced soon. The topic is *The Bible – What is it trying to tell us?* More information can be obtained from Pastor Frank Schütte.

[frank.schutte81@gmail.com](mailto:frank.schutte81@gmail.com)

## UELCSA

Prof. Dr. Klaus Nürnberger has passed away on 27.6.2022 at the age of 89 years. Many of our pastors have been trained by him. He has played a major role in the development of theological education in the country and continent. We thank God for this service!

## Studying Theology

Ms Chundré Filippus, a member of the Philippi congregation, has been accepted by UELCSA as a student of theology. She has enrolled for 2023 at the Stellenbosch University. May the Lord bless her as she is equipped for ministry in His church.

## Youtube

On the Cape Church YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/2sl-wK24cUY> you will find a video with an explanation on studying theology in the Lutheran Church.

For information on Church life look at our webpage

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



# Prayer Cards August 2022

1 Aug Rea Letsholonyane

2 Aug Anthea Bürger

3 Aug Helma Weber

4 Aug Gisela Schmidt

5 Aug Olga Thomas

6 Aug Melissa Fillis

7 Aug Erica Tessendorf

8 Aug Theodore Goliath

17 Aug Leona Breitfeld

18 Aug Arnold Tessendorf

19 Aug Eva Rudolph

20 Aug Christel Schädler

21 Aug Renée Sternberg

22 Aug Katelyn van Wyk

23 Aug Deanna Deutschmann

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

9 Aug Greyson Meyer

10 Aug Karla Arends

11 Aug Hagen Krieg

12 Aug Hildegarde Kivedo

13 Aug Mandy Septoe

14 Aug Florence Arends

15 Aug Jarrid Angloher

16 Aug Chris Bürger

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**

24 Aug Roshni  
Groenmeyer

25 Aug Sophie Sternberg

26 Aug Joshua Harmse

27 Aug Antoinette Bosman

28 Aug Precious Mulioh

29 Aug Phil van Rensburg

30 Aug Alie Coetzer

31 Aug Thomas Jachens

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

1. Timothy 2:1

# Divine Services August 2022

7 August 2022 9:30 (D)

8. Sunday after Trinity

14 August 2022 9:30 (E)

9. Sunday after Trinity



**Watchword (Ephesians 5:8b.9):**

*Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.*

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.

**Watchword (Luke 12:48):**

*From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.*

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**

Mark 12:41-44

**Sermon**

Matthew 25:14-30



# Divine Services August 2022

21 August 2022 9:30 (E)

10. Sunday after Trinity



**Watchword (Psalm 33,:2):**

*Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.*

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**

Lamentations 5:1-22

28 August 22 09:30 (E + Fam)

11. Sunday after Trinity



**Watchword (1 Peter 5:5b)**

*God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

"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. 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 grateful.

**Sermon**

2 Samuel 12:1-10.13-15a

# Birthdays August 2022

2-Aug  
Renée | Sternberg

6-Aug  
Colin | Lentz  
Edelgard | Krieg

9-Aug  
Kirsty | Fillis

10-Aug  
Callum | Bosman

11-Aug  
Gerry | West

13-Aug  
Sharon | Walle

21-Aug  
Jarrid | Angloher

24-Aug  
Mandy | Septoe  
Uwe | Stodtmeister

25-Aug  
Gabi | Weder

26-Aug  
Gisela | Mahlert

28-Aug  
Stefan | Koch

30-Aug  
Chris | Bürger

31-Aug  
Dieter | Lokotsch  
Tony | Thomas





## Kids Page - Daniel in the Lion's Den

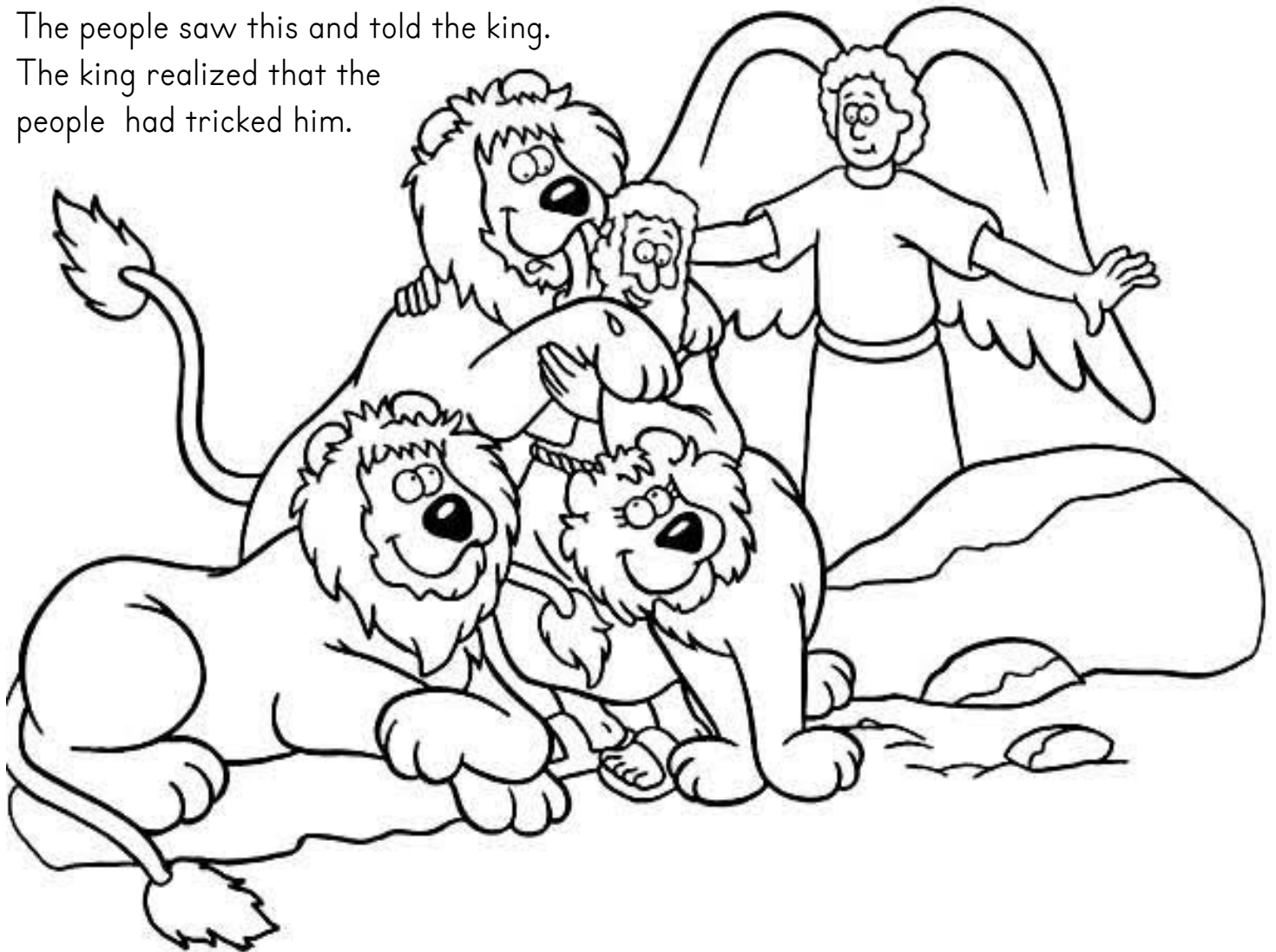
Daniel with all the Israelite's had been taken captive and were living in a strange land. King Darius knew that Daniel was a good man and like him. He gave Daniel an extremely high position in his land. This made the people very jealous, and they tried to find fault with Daniel, but he always did what was right. Then they asked the king to have a statue made of himself. They also asked him to say that anyone who did not worship the statue will be put in the lion's den.

As Daniel had no church, he prayed in his bedroom. He left his window open because he loved God and had all his faith in him.

The people saw this and told the king.

The king realized that the people had tricked him.

He had no option but to have Daniel thrown into the den of lions. The king hardly slept that night. He really hoped that Daniels God would save him. God sent an angel to close the mounts of the lions. Early that morning the king ran to the lion's den and was so happy to see Daniel. He then made a new law that everyone had to worship Daniels God. Daniel did not have a church or a Sunday school to go to. God has blessed us with that. We can come and worship God in our Church and Sunday School. That is an incredibly special blessing.



## Food for thought: Digital church?!



**Rash words are like sword thrusts,  
but the tongue of the wise brings  
healing. .  
Proverbs 12:18**

Church and Internet must complement each other. Pastor Christoph Martsch-Grunau (Delmenhorst/DE) is convinced of this. He wants to help churches take the leap into the digital realm.

His desk is crowded with two monitors, a professional microphone, a keyboard and lots of cables. Voice recordings flicker across the screens in bright colours as graphic displays that Christoph Martsch-Grunau is about to combine into a podcast. The 33-year-old is an Lutheran theologian and calls himself "electro-pastor." His mission: "I want to bring the church and the digital world together."

Martsch-Grunau is at home in the digital world. "If I hadn't become a pastor, I probably would have studied computer science," says the father of two. Since the beginning of the year, he has been working in Delmenhorst's Holy-Spirit-Congregation. At the same time, he is the first pastor in the newly created "digital pastorate" of his church district of Delmenhorst - unique in the church of Oldenburg.

### Ten years too late

During the Corona period in particular, it became clear that the vast majority of congregations had not yet arrived in the digital age. Many pastors, she says, have tried to use video or audio recordings to burn their services one-to-one onto a DVD for their members or post them on YouTube. "Great initiatives, but often not very mature," Martsch-Grunau says. "In fact, we're 10 years too late."

The "electro-pastor" advises congregations on how things could be done differently: In doing so, he says, he doesn't want to pit the usual church services against digital ones: "Rather, we should take advantage of the many possibilities. The important question is, who do I want to reach with what content?" Teenagers and young people are more likely to be on Instagram or YouTube, he said. Adults are often interested in podcasts, he said. An event on Zoom invites everyone in front of their devices to participate directly - a church service on YouTube, on the other hand, can only be commented on with chats or emojis. "The method has to be based on the goal, not the other way around."

The Internet can digitally enrich the usual church services, explains the electric pastor. Just recently, he added the bride's sister from Guatemala to the wedding via the Internet for a wedding ceremony. "This way, the sister could accompany the celebration live over thousands of kilometers and deliver her blessings."

Another idea, he said, was to connect three church congregations via the Internet for a joint service, for example.

## Food for thought: Digital church?!

"From one church comes the sermon, from the other the music and from the third the prayers. In the end, it doesn't matter which church I'm sitting in or whether I'm following the celebration in my living room on a tablet computer."

### "Who believes that?"

He himself can be found on the Internet on [www.elektropastor.de](http://www.elektropastor.de), his website, and social media such as Twitter, Instagram and @elektropastor as the like. On popular streaming services, his sermons, along with a song and a prayer, can be accessed as 9- to 13-minute podcasts. New is his podcast series titled "Who Believes That?". In it, ordinary congregation members share their personal faith stories in a casual chat.

In light of the massive loss of members in churches, Martsch-Grunau believes that going digital is essential. "The church has to go where the people are. And 20- to 40-year-olds in particular are on the Internet." The congregations are no longer the central social networks of a village or neighbourhood, he said. "If we want to get to people who have nothing to do with the church - for whatever reason - we have to go that way." (epd)

This article appeared in Evangelische Zeitung (North Church/Germany) on July 21, 2022.

What do you think? We look forward to any comments!

[newsletter@lutheran-pe.org](mailto:newsletter@lutheran-pe.org)

### Communicating faith through radio and podcasts

Learn how to create entertaining, informative and engaging radio programs and podcasts for the church. Director Neng'ida Johhanes-Lairumbe will talk about the social, religious and ecumenical impact of a Lutheran radio broadcast in the Tanzania context. Johhanes-Lairumbe will also share the history of Upendo Radio and what training a communicator needs to manage a radio station. Podcasters Rebecca Treimer and Christina Kwade will present how the youth-led podcast team of 10 created the GNC podcast "With Body and Soul," „Mit Leib und Seele" a program about Lutheran Identity, with absolutely no experience in podcasting. They will share what they learned along the way. LWF Communication Officer Philippa Hitchen will talk about the history of Vatican Radio, the different styles of radio programming and how to present compelling live-on-air interviews.

**Register Meeting (Zoom) via**  
<https://lutheranworld-org.zoom.us/j/81234567890>



**Let everyone be quick to listen,  
slow to speak, slow to anger .**  
James 1:19



## 1 Jesus Christ the Master Bridge Builder

Dear CCE Delegates and Pastors. Do we build fences, or do we build bridges? We know that in life it is easier to build a fence than it is to build a bridge. The themes for this years CCE AGM is: **“Building Bridges Here and Now!”**

Looking at Jesus we realize that Jesus is the master Bridge builder. Jesus came to be a vertical bridge between us. Jesus reconciled us with God. Jesus is the bridge that we use to cross to God. Jesus restored our relationship with God! Jesus also build horizontal bridges between us and other people. Jesus built bridges across those things that divide us from one another.

- Jesus built bridges between enemies. Jesus prayed for and forgave those who crucified him.
- Jesus built bridges between men and woman. Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman which was unheard of in his time.
- Jesus built bridges between people of different cultures and ethnicities. Jesus went to the non-Jews to share the good news of God’s love with them.
- Jesus built bridges across multi-generational lines. Jesus made time for the children and the elderly. All have a place in Jesus’ heart.
- Jesus built bridges between people in powerful positions and the most vulnerable. Jesus focused his



**Those who guard their way  
preserve their lives .**

Proverbs 16:17

attention on the vulnerable in society which were overlooked. Jesus listened to their needs.

- Jesus even built bridges between the religious elite and the “sinners.” Jesus showed that no-one is excluded from his love and grace not even the notorious tax-collector. We as children of God are called to be bridge builders here and now. We to have the calling to build bridges over those things that divide us as Paul reminds us 1 Corinthians 5:18-19. *All of this is a gift from our Creator God, who has pursued us and brought us into a restored and healthy relationship with Him through the Anointed. And He has given us the same mission, the ministry of reconciliation, to bring others back to Him. It is central to our good news that God was in the Anointed making things right between Himself and the world. This means He does not hold their sins against them. But it also means He charges us to proclaim the message that heals and restores our broken relationships with God and each other. (The Voice Translation)*

# Chairman's report Circuit Conference East 07 May

## 2 Building Bridges within our Congregations

In our own congregations do we build fences or bridges? A fence is built where we fail to reach out in reconciliation due to past hurts! A fence is built where we are just focused on our own needs, wants and consumption! A fence is built where we fail to listen. A fence isolates and divides.

We know all too well that building bridges is hard work, it is costly and difficult. It requires us to get moving and to get our hands working. It's easy to look at the chaos of the world today and despair. But things were just as divided in the ancient world and there were many fences too. Yet Jesus got to work by building bridges. Let us get to work in our congregations by building bridges to one another.

- Let us build bridges here and now, by listening to one another and allowing others to share their stories how their lives have been changed due to the Epidemic. Let us hear how families are struggling to cope and find ways to assist, affirm and to be there.
- Let us build bridges here and now, across multi-generational lines by learning from young and old and take one another's needs seriously. We are after all a family and in a family there is give and take.
- Let us build bridges with people of different ethnicities and cultures here and now, by listening to their

stories in order that we may learn from them.

- Let us build bridges here and now to those who have hurt us through reconciliation. Only reconciliation can set us free to live in the here and now and no longer in the past.
- Let us build bridges of acceptance by accepting people just as they are because we are accepted by God just as we are.

Each of us has an indispensable role in building bridges. Our gifts, our stories, our cultures, our skills, our talents, and our sensitivities were all intentionally-given to us by God to serve in His Congregation.



One bungler destroys much good. .  
Ecclesiastes 9:18

## 3 Building bridges to each other as the CCE and Cape Church.

As congregations we form part of the larger body of Christ. We need each other and cannot remain isolated from each other. We need each other so that we can share our resources so that we may be church with and for the people. Therefore, it is of vital importance to build bridge to each one so that we can strengthen each other and be there for



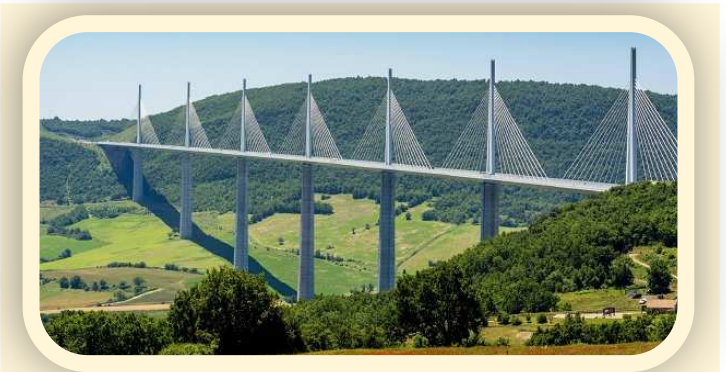
**Bad company ruins good morals.**  
1 Corinthians 15:33

each other. This happens in this forum of the CCE.

The **Family Day Service** that will take place on the 14th of May at 09h30 the theme is **Building Bridges!** The aim of the CCE Family Day is to build bridges to one another, to get to know one another, to have fellowship and have fun.

Synod Feedback: We as CCE congregations, are part of the greater Church – the Cape Church. Here too is all about building bridges by supporting, helping, caring and listening to one another as sister congregations. The Synod took place in Philippi from the 29-31 October 2021. The theme **“Life, Faith, Hope. – Here! Now! Getting from disorientation to re-orientation”** was very relevant, as we all struggled on various levels during the pandemic. A reflection on the book of Psalms by Pastor Felix Meylahn equipped us to use these prayers from the Bible as a wonderful resource to live life fully during these uncertain times. Mrs

Hanna Kotze, a social worker from Port Elizabeth, shared tools to deal with trauma - not only in our own life, but also that we can journey with others who face situations of trauma. It was an elective synod. Pastor Gilbert Filter was re-elected as bishop/chairman of Church Council and Pastor Hans-Peter von Fintel was elected as Deputy chairman of Church Council for 4 years. Pastor Claudia Nolte-Schamm was elected as ordained member of Church Council for 2 years.



**A gift opens doors;  
it gives access to the great.**  
Proverbs 18:16

## **4 Building Bridges into the World we live**

Isaac Newton once said, “We build too many walls and not enough bridges.” I am convinced that what we need in today’s chaotic political, social, and racial climate are more bridges. It is time for the us as the church to build bridges here and now there where God has placed us.

When building bridge we are opening ourselves to new people, places, and ideas. Yes it’s risky. Safety is not guaranteed. Yet God invites us to



# Chairman's report Circuit Conference East 07 May

discover what God gifts us with through these new bridges that we build to others. Let us build bridges of trust to others, that people may know that we are trustworthy. Let us build bridges of listening to others, people are lonely and need a listening ear to hear their stories, concerns and joy. Let us build bridges to the local community around us by being open to their stories. Let us build bridges of reconciliation by sharing the message that heals and restores our broken relationships with God and each other

## 5 Concluding remarks.

Thank you to the Presiding Committee for all your support and dedicated service. Above all praise, glory and thanks to our Heavenly Father for blessing the congregations and His church. May be bridge builders and not fence builders!

Pastor HP von Fintel  
Chairperson of the  
CCE Presiding Committee



Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as Jesus is righteous. .  
1 John 3:7

## Questions for group discussion:

The church needs to take the lead as bridge builders here and now!

- A. Jesus bridge building started with reconciliation. Where is reconciliation needed in your own congregation? Within your own family?
- B. What are the fences in your own life and in the congregation that hinder bridge building?
- C. What were the bridges that were damaged in your congregation due to the Pandemic?
- D. Identify and name the bridges that were built in your own life and congregation during the Pandemic? (Think outside the box)
- E. How can we build bridges across multi-generational lines?
- F. How can we build bridges between people of different cultures who do not come from the settler background?
- G. Identify and name bridges that need to be built, in your congregation, the CCE and the Cape Church. What could your role be in helping build the bridge?

# Church of Peace—Notice Board

20 Aug 2022 10:00



## Venue:

Springfield Lutheran Church Hall  
Cnr Luke Ave and Martin Rd  
Springfield.

This “just for the ladies” themed event is to be held once again after a long break due to the Covid restrictions.

You are invited to join us for a “ParTea” with some superb baked treats to savour with your favourite cup of tea or coffee while chatting with friends and acquaintances.

For place reservations for this annual event at R75 kindly make contact with ladies hosting their tables or through the organisers:

Carol Buschhold (0716376372)  
and  
Elizabeth Köpke (0715720433).

01 Oct 2022 14:00



## Venue:

Springfield Lutheran Church Hall  
Cnr Luke Ave and Martin Rd  
Springfield.

This is a family FUN-event with prizes to be won. Also cash prize.

Bring the children, Moms and Dads, Uncles and Aunts, Grandma and Grandpa. All are invited and welcome.

Coffee, Tea, Juice, cake and cookies will be served during the break.

BINGO starter pack: R 40 pp

Donation Voucher includes coffee / tea and cake, and your first BINGO game card!

Additional game cards at R5 each

Starter Pack Vouchers  
and  
game cards  
available at the door.

# Church of Peace - Notice Board

05 Nov 2022 09:30



## Venue:

Springfield Lutheran Church Hall  
Cnr Luke Ave and Martin Rd  
Springfield.

11 Dec 2022 10:30



## Venue:

Springfield Lutheran Church Hall  
Cnr Luke Ave and Martin Rd  
Springfield.

In the spirit of Christmas, our Carols Coffee and Cake celebration is planned for the 3rd Advent Sunday the

11<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Immediately after the service

## Vacuum Cleaner Replacement



After many years, our vacuum cleaner, through wear and tear, is no longer able to perform adequately. The time has come for a replacement. A reasonably priced unit has been identified. The cost will be approximately R1100. If you are able, please consider donating (any amount - large or small is appreciated) toward the replacement cost. Donations can be handed in at the church in an envelope marked **BT Vacuum Replace**, or by EFT (refer to last page for Banking details )

Reference BT Vacuum





## Church Committee: ① 2021-2023 / ② 2022-2024

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

**Bank Details**  
Walmer Branch

**First National Bank, :**  
Branch Code: 211217

**Lutheran Church Springfield**  
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**

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