



**LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH**  
Friedenskirche Church of Peace



No: 2022.09e

Newsletter September 2022



TO FEAR THE  
LORD IS THE  
BEGINNING OF  
WISDOM

**Sirach 1,14**

**Watchword September 2022  
(refer to page 8-9)**

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



**The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
Psalm 103.8**

## My dear Congregation

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I sincerely hope that my words find each and every one of you well.

This time I am simply writing to say thank you. A period of long-leave is coming to an end for me, a time for which I am very grateful. It has given me time to reflect and to allow for the necessary treatment to improve my state of health. It has taught me a good portion of patience, that some things just take longer than others and won't be rushed. I am now very much looking forward to my return and being back in your midst again. I will be resuming with my duties on 1 September 2022.

Now to get to the thankyou's. I sincerely thank all of you for continuing the work of being a community of believers faithfully and also for your patience in my absence, allowing me the time to rest and recover. I am always and again deeply moved by your compassion and generosity. Thank you so much for all that you do. You make this great congregation what it is! But above all it is your prayers that I value most highly and that I needed the most. Thank you! Please know that you are in my prayers too!

My special and heartfelt thanks goes out to Reinhard Walle and the church committee and all who supported them in their work. My

deep gratitude also goes out to Pastor em. Andreas Wernecke who was willing to stand in and lead Divine Services, as well as to Henry Newman and Colin Lentz. My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you for your faithful service. Rivka Rath also deserves a special mention here as she was faithfully looking after the manse together with my 3 little dogs, and also continued with the Friday night take-out as well as assisting where she could around the church and the Divine Service. It truly warmed my heart to hear of all the goings on at the house and the church. I thank you all sincerely! This is what being church is all about and I am looking forward to being church together with all of you again.

These continue to be trying times for all of us and it will likely continue to be difficult. We do not necessarily always know where we are going, but we know the One we follow is faithful. We do not know what is coming next, but we know that the One who is sovereign over all loves us immensely. He has given his only Son for us – how will he not with him graciously give us all good things? For he promises us that he is working all things out for the good of his people. Let us therefore continue to walk forward with faith in God and love for one another.

Yours sincerely,  
Pastor Anja

## Welcome back

Dear Pastor Anja,  
I am sure I speak for your whole congregation in sincerely welcoming your return to Port Elizabeth and back in our midst. A particular word of welcome also to your aunt Ms Anna Spiske who has travelled with you to Port Elizabeth. We are glad to see her again.

When you boarded the aircraft to leave for Germany last year, the road into the future was one that I think we all followed in prayer and faith. "May the feet of God walk with you, and His hand hold you tight" are the first two lines of one of our beautiful hymns that reflected what was foremost in many a thought. It is clear that His hand has watched over you and our Church of Peace congregation and held our hand tight.

On behalf of the our congregation, I would particularly like to thank Pastor Andreas Wernecke for his interest, enthusiasm, support and guidance in all aspects in the life our Church of Peace congregation. Pastor Andreas' regular Sunday journeys from Kenton-on-Sea to PE and back again after the service is much appreciated.

I feel I need to also thank Brian, Henry, Colin, Geoff and all congregation members who have so willingly been prepared to assist with Services and other times when help was needed, throughout the time you were recuperating. Also to Jeff Brukmann for his piano accompaniment when Brian was unavailable.

Pastor Anja, your return flight to Port Elizabeth on 23 August 2022 has been eagerly anticipated by us all for some time now. Your arrival on the day was a joyful occasion and it was

good to welcome you back home. We are thankful to our Lord for prayers answered.

Since your arrival back home you may have noticed some improvements and changes in and around the Church and Manse. Auke Brand and the maintenance team have been busy. Vegetation has been cut back to let the sun in. Flowers have been planted and pavers installed with the kind support of Nerina Reiff and Horst van Biljon.

The Children's Church / Youth Room has been refurbished and is now bright, colourful and child-friendly.

The committee would like to thank Rivka Rath for so capably looking after the Manse and pets during Pastor Anja's time in Germany.

To all committee and congregation members who have assisted in so many ways to ensure divine Services are regularly held and the doors kept open, and the Sanctuary kept tidy, your input and help is appreciated.

Covid restrictions in RSA have been lifted and the Sanctuary looks a lot more like it used to. There remains respect for those who still prefer to wear a mask and practice social distancing. We remain cautiously optimistic that the worst is over.

Reinhard Walle  
Committee Chairman a.i.

Dear Anja,  
Welcome to your home church, the Peace Church in Port Elizabeth/Gqeberha. We all rejoice and thank our heavenly Father for your recovery and your return. This is not a matter of course, but God's grace. I thank,



**A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance**

**Proverbs 15,13**

at this point, the church committee, for the trust and all the support they have given me. I have enjoyed my ministry here very much, especially in the difficult Corona times. I wish you, the church council and the con-

gregation good cooperation, God's richest blessings and God's guidance for the path the Lord has set you on.

Best wishes  
Andreas Wernecke

## From the Pastor's Heart

### Dear readers of the newsletter

On the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity (24.7.) the theme of baptism was the focus of our service, under the weekly watchword: "*Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name; you are mine!*" The word fits so rightly into our world with all that we hear and experience. Some years ago, during my years of service in Germany, I was at an EKD training conference. The theme was - Quo Vadis Ecclesia / Church, where is your path going - ? As conference participants we made an excursion to Weimar and Buchenwald. It was a harrowing experience to stand on this huge concentration camp site and think about all the inhuman things that really took place there. "Fear not says God, I have redeemed you ... "

Not long after that we had home leave and came to South Africa. As a family we visited Robben Island. Saw

the prison and heard from the leaders there how Nelson Mandela and other freedom fighters were imprisoned and abused for almost 27 years. A former fellow prisoner told us about the inhumanity. It hurts to see how we humans treat each other in this world. With the terrible things that are happening in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and other brutal "theatres" of our world - there is nothing more that comes to mind than to say: Man, what are you doing to yourself? "Fear not, says God, I have redeemed you..."

And then recently, the people, young and old, who were poisoned and shot in cold blood! "Fear not!" that's a joke! Isn't it?

Why doesn't God prevent all these atrocities? Why does God allow it? So many people ask. Yes, why doesn't God put an end to everything, so that once and for all there is an end to it all. These are fatalistic thoughts of a world that does not know what the meaning of our human life is.

Let us look into the Bible to see why God does not intervene and put an end to everything. The Old Testament tells of one time when God said: (Genesis 6:5-7) "The Lord saw that the people were full of wickedness... they had only one thing in mind; planning evil, doing evil. The Lord was grieved and wished he had never created the people." - "I will destroy mankind again and with them the animals!"



**Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name,  
you are mine.  
Isaiah 43:1**

## From the Pastor's Heart



**Never again shall there be  
a flood to destroy the earth.  
Genesis 9:11**

And God sent the flood and put an end to his creation and evil. And God put all his hope in the man Noah and his descendants, that with them a new beginning would happen, without the evil and wickedness that destroys the world and humanity.

When the flood was over, God made a covenant with Noah and mankind and sent a rainbow as a sign, and that is why I like to wear the stole with the rainbow colours as a reminder of God's covenant with Noah: God said: The rainbow shall be a sign of this promise - "Never again will I destroy by a flood of water the earth and all that lives on it ... the promise remains for all time; the rainbow is the sign of remembrance." (Genesis 9:7-17)

God's love for us humans is so great that he made further covenants with humans; e.g. with Abraham, - To you I will give land, give many descendants and said to him - "Abraham, you and your descendants shall be a blessing to the whole world!" God's people - that's us too - we are to be a blessing

to this world! With this, God says to us - you Christians, you are actively involved in the blessing that God gives to people. What blessing you receive from God, do not keep for yourselves, but pass it on.

And how we pass on the blessing is shown to us by the next covenant that God made with his people at Sinai. There he gave them the double commandment of love - "You shall love God, and your neighbour as yourself" in the form of the 10 Commandments. They describe to us how we are to fill the time God gives us here on this earth and thereby bring blessing: by not killing, not breaking marriage, not spreading false stuff about others behind their backs; not looking enviously at others and using violence to gain our rights. Every time we see the rainbow, we are to recognise and be reminded - God gives each of us the time here on this earth to be instruments of justice, love and peace.

And finally, he has made a new covenant with us: in Jesus Christ, he repeats his love for us, so to speak, and expresses his will through Jesus: he does not want our death, he does not want us to be stuck in evil - to remain and be lost - that is why Jesus died on the cross, that is why he rose from the grave, so that we can always get courage and new strength to fight against the evil, dishonesty and wickedness of this earth. We are professing Christians!?

## From the Pastor's Heart

That is why Paul says: whoever confesses him (God) and is baptised, *"is no longer a sojourner and a stranger, but a fellow citizen of the saints and a member of God's household"*. He cannot live here in this world as if God did not exist, he looks to the Word and allows himself to be guided by the living Word, Jesus Christ, to work in this world for peace, justice and human love of neighbour and God. And with this, the meaning of life is indicated to all of us, young and old. As long as we are on this earth, let us work together and build the Kingdom of God. God gives us time, a blessing, to lead people to Christ and to his covenant, which sets us free from evil, to a life that pleases God, and serves us for good, above all for peace and a more just coexistence. To this end, God give us all his Spirit!

A heartfelt greeting!  
Pastor em. Andreas Wernecke



**If you love me,  
you will keep my commandments.**  
Johannes 14,15

## Watchword Sept 22



**To fear the LORD,  
is the beginning of wisdom.**  
Sirach 1,14

The parish widow's house is like a small museum. They bought it cheaply after the war. An old half-timbered building with small rooms and a front door that has a handle on the outside.

Through a vestibule you enter the narrow hallway. To the left is a passageway with a dining table and behind it the kitchen, which is far too small. Johannes always retreats here to do the dishes before he takes his lunch break. They don't have a dishwasher. They have never had one. It makes no sense to them. Maybe there is more going on in Johannes when he does the dishes that cannot be seen and piled back on the shelf. If you go to the right from the hallway, there is the "good room". This is where we sit for lunch or coffee. At a very long table with many of the large family. In the confines of this room, we fill it with storytelling, laughter and silence.

## Watchword September 2022

Before and after meals, we often sit in the library. At least when it is cold outside. There is an organ in the library. Johannes was not only a teacher, but also an organist and choir director. For decades he performed large, demanding works with the choir of his parish, right across the street in the monastery church. He probably knows every church organ in the wider district personally because he has played them all himself.

His wife's name is Brünnhilde. Yes, seriously, that is her first name. She has also been a teacher. She taught for many years and probably knows all the grandparents, parents and children in the village. Brünnhilde is talented. She can probably do any kind of handicraft and has her own kiln for pottery. You can see that in the interior of the house.

While the large-format picture books and scores in the master's room tell of him, the walls tell of what she finds beautiful. The two of them own 240 religious ikons. 120 of wood and 120 of silver. You go from room to room and move through an impressive world of images. For me, strange and familiar at the same time. For they are depictions of Moses, Elijah, Christ and other biblical scenes. Inscribed in Greek or Cyrillic. It takes me a while to realise that the man sitting in front of the cave is Elijah by the small stream Krit. You can tell by the raven Elijah is looking at. He has bread in his beak. He brings it to Elijah.

Brünnhilde sees something like that immediately. She reads in the ikons, where I can only puzzle or marvel.

In summer we sit outside on the little terrace. The garden is a splendour. They also know a lot about plants. I once asked Johannes how that actually works. All my flowers would always die. And he just said briefly: "You have to be stingy with the water and see what the plant needs." Since then, I've managed it to some extent.

When a twist of fate nudged us in a direction we didn't want, Brünnhilde said, "Who knows what it's good for." That it would actually be good for something I didn't understand until three years later. She seemed to have grasped it immediately.

You can't explain love of God and wisdom. You can only have it exemplified and told about.

And when I think of the two together, wisdom and loving God, I remember these two. The ikon with Elijah now hangs in my room. The parish widow's house is still there, but the owners have changed. My memories are still vivid, but they themselves died a few years ago.

They were not better, wiser or more devout people. But they had arrived at the destination of their lives. And generous with words and stories, with wisdom and kindness.

Andreas Zachmann  
[www.herder.de](http://www.herder.de)

# COVID –Thoughts

## The time that was and a time that is ...

It was not really that long ago when the first report of the outbreak of Covid-19 in Wuhan, China was received on December 30, 2019. Most people in the world reacted firstly by saying something like: Wuhan? Never heard of the place. If it is in China, it's nowhere near where I live, and does not really affect me.

How wrong we all were. So fast was the spread through our modern global society that the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a worldwide pandemic on 11 March 2020 - just over 2 months after the first report from Wuhan. However many still tried to play it down as "not so serious." Millions though, lost their lives while the world scrambled to find answers. No vaccines were available. Many hospital's ICU wards and staff were becoming overwhelmed. Routine surgeries were postponed.

During May 2021 of the crisis, due to the sudden additional demand for medical oxygen for example in eastern India, there was an inability of the distribution network to ramp up to meet the ten-fold surge in demand. Sadly reports of a black market for oxygen followed. Reports showed family members desperately trying to obtain oxygen for Covid infected loved ones. Many countries embarked on total lockdown, curfews and restrictions on group activities including church services. Here technology was of help and on-line church services provided a solution to the dilemma.



Positively tested persons were, at that time, required to self-quarantine at home for 14 days and monitor themselves for symptoms.

Today, in 2022, things have changed. Vaccines, including the recommended booster shots are freely available. Most imposed essential safety restrictions have been lifted. Remember the travel restrictions? Restrictions on socialising and gatherings?

However we should not forget how quickly things got globally out of hand. Thanks to the many dedicated scientists, virologists and medical professionals, we have come to a new normal. We should never let our guard down though.

The virus is still around, waiting to infect and take advantage of those who think it won't happen to them. We remain thankful to all our dedicated, hardworking medical staff who have been in the forefront of this fight against Covid.

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.

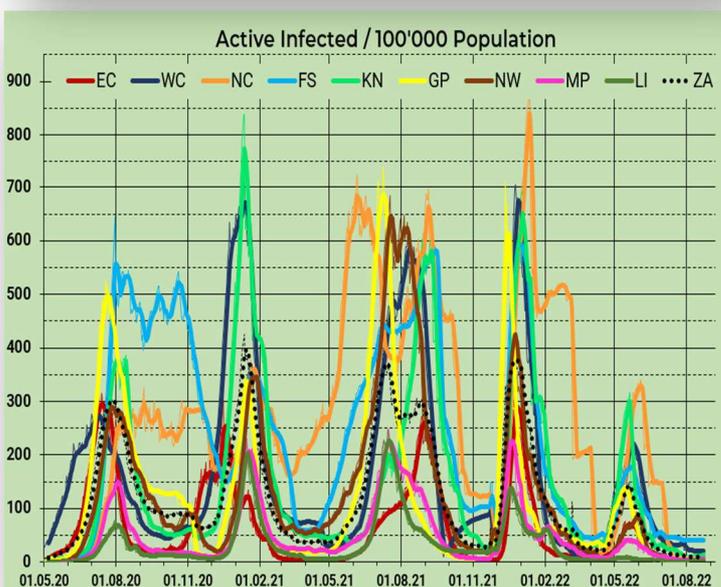
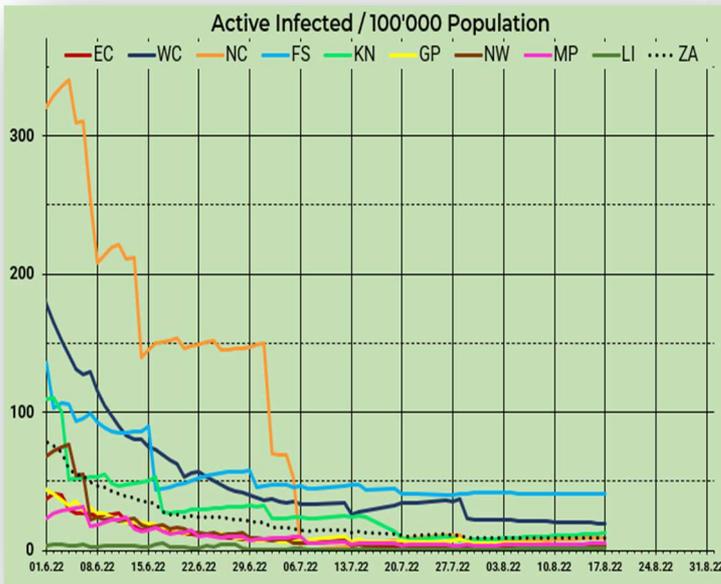
These are available at our WhatsApp-Group: **Lutheran Congregation**  
If interested, send sms to Henry Newman  
**078 703 7003**



## The following 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)

You may wear a **face mask**, **sanitize your hands** and keep **social distancing**



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 22).

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](https://sacoronavirus.co.za)

## Church of Peace - Noticeboard

01 Oct 2022 14:00



This is a fun family event with prizes to be won. Cash prizes too. Bring children, mothers and fathers, uncles and aunts, grandma and grandpa. All are invited and welcome.

Coffee, tea, juice, cakes and biscuits will be served during the break.

BINGO voucher: R 40 per person

05 Nov 2022 09:30



There will be a Christmas Market 2022  
More info in due course.

11 Dec 2022 10:30



In the spirit of Christmas, our Christmas come-to-gather with carols, coffee and cake is on the 3rd Sunday of Advent,

11 December 2022

immediately after the service



Our vacuum cleaner, through wear and tear, has come for a replacement. The cost will be approximately R 1'100. If you are able, please consider donating (any amount - large or small is appreciated) toward the replacement cost.

*At church:* Envelope marked **BT Vacuum Replace**, or by *EFT Reference* **BT Vacuum**

# Birthdays September 2022

1. Sep  
Henry | Newman

2 Sep  
Brunhilde | Koch  
Carol | Buschhold

4 Sep  
Branson | Bosman  
Olga | Breinfeld

6 Sep  
Wolfgang | Paetzold

8 Sep  
Ophelia | Coko

12 Sep  
Sydney | Rudolph

17 Sep  
Linzi | Thompson

19 Sep  
Craig | Bürger

21 Sep  
Nicole | Wright

22 Sep  
Nerina | Reiff

23 Sep  
Anthea | Bürger

25 Sep  
Melissa | Fillis

26 Sep  
Esther | Siegmund-  
Heineke

28 Sep  
Lorinda | Koch

29 Sep  
Christine | Paetzold

30 Sep  
Brenda | Lentz  
Warrick | Bürger

# Divine Services September 2022

4 September 2022 9:30 (D)

12<sup>th</sup> after Trinity



**Watchword (Isaiah 42:3):**

*A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.*

Sometimes I fall silent before the suffering of other people. Sometimes I stand paralysed before the challenges facing our world. Sometimes I close my eyes to the images that flood in on me every day via the television and my ears to the laments of the desperate. Sometimes I close my heart...

The 12th Sunday after Trinity speaks of Jesus, who opens people's eyes and ears, of the vision of a world without suffering and disease, of the end of all injustice. But it goes even further: it tells of people who, inspired by Jesus' example, themselves bring others out of their numbness. People are touched by Jesus in many ways and spread his praise - and build God's kingdom according to their strength.

**Sermon**  
Acts 9:1-20

11 September 2022 9:30 (E)

13<sup>th</sup> after Trinity



**Watchword (Matthew 25:40 b):**

*Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*

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

**Sermon**  
Luke 10:25-37

# Divine Services September 2022

18 September 2022 9:30 (E)

14<sup>th</sup> after Trinity



**Watchword (Psalm 103,:2):**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits.*

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

**Sermon**  
Isaiah 5:1-6

25 Sep 22 18:30 (E + Fam)

15<sup>th</sup> after Trinity



**Watchword (1 Peter 5:7)**

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

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

**Sermon**  
Galatians 5:25-6:10

# Prayer Cards September 2022

1 Sep Charl Nysschens

16 Sep Katy van Wyk

2 Sep Nerina Reiff

17 Sep Arnold Tessendorf

3 Sep Astrid Jens-Rosendahl

18 Sep Leo Burgdorf-Fourie

4 Sep Gisela Schmidt

19 Sep Isa Brand

5 Sep Felicity van Rensburg

20 Sep Rene Koch

6 Sep Erica Tessendorf

OUR FATHER WHO  
ART IN HEAVEN  
**HALLOWED**  
BE THY NAME

21 Sep Roshni Bosman

7 Sep David Breitfeld

22 Sep Eva Rieboldt

8 Sep Natasha Meyer

23 Sep Werner Krieg

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 Sep William 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 Sep Edelgard Krieg

10 Sep Willie Lokotsch

25 Sep Declan Thompson

11 Sep Ulla Angloher

26 Sep Ulrich Koch

12 Sep Winfried

27 Sep Erwin Gehring

Tessendorf

28 Sep Brian Arends

13 Sep Olga Breitfeld

29 Sep Sydney Rudolph

14 Sep Brian Trumpp

30 Sep Brian Arends

15 Sep Otto Bülbring

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

1. Timothy 2:1

# Liturgical Calendar

Which feast day is next Sunday? What is the week's verse and what sermon text awaits me? When is the next high festival day? The Liturgical Calendar of the Lutheran Churches offers a comprehensive overview of all relevant celebration days of the Lutheran church year. For all this days, reading texts, weekly hymns to listen to, psalms, sermon texts and the Gospel readings are available.

The basic element of the calendar is Sunday, which is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. The year distinguishes the Christmas festival cycle, Easter festival cycle and Trinity season.

However, Christian churches have historically celebrated other feasts that commemorate events in the life of Jesus or significant figures in the history of the church.

The purpose of the liturgical calendar is to guide commemorations as part of the daily worship of the Lutheran Church. Adherence to the calendar involves some variation, as each Lutheran church creates its own calendar and each congregation must decide independently how many persons to commemorate in a given year and how many feasts and minor festivals to celebrate publicly, especially if they do not fall on a Sunday.

This calendar is divided into

- Sundays and feast days of the church year
- Other festivals and commemorative days (the following is an excerpt)
- Themes
- Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

## Special Days of Remembrance

- 2.1. Calling Apostle Paul
- 24.2. Apostle Matthias
- 25.4. Evangelist Mark
- 3.5. Apostles Philip & James<sup>the Younger</sup>
- 24.6. Birth of John the Baptist
- 29.6. Apostles Peter and Paul
- 3.7. Apostle Thomas (also 21.12.)
- 22.7. Mary Magdalene
- 25.7. Apostle James<sup>the Elder</sup>
- 24.8. Apostle Bartholomew
- 21.9. Apostle and Evangelist Matthew
- 29.9. Archangel Michael
- 18.10. Evangelist Luke
- 28.10. Apostle Simon and Judas
- 11.11. St. Martin's Day
- 30.11. Apostle Andrew
- 6.12. St. Nicholas Day
- 26.12. Archmartyr Stephen
- 27.12. Apostle and Evangelist John

In the last newsletter we began with Bartholomew to bring you a little closer to these people. We continue the series, on the next page of this newsletter. You will read about the Archangel Michael.

## 29<sup>th</sup> September - Day of the Archangel Michael

Michael (in English "Who is like God?") is, according to the Hebrew Bible, an archangel (together with Gabriel and Rafael, a particularly prominent group among the angels) and occurs in the traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Unlike in Christianity, the angel Michael is never given "attributes of divinity" in Judaism.

In the Book of Daniel (Dan 10,13 ff.) Michael fights with the "prince of the Persian Empire", after which Daniel receives his vision. In it, Michael again appears as the defender of God's people (Dan 12:1). In the Revelation of John, Michael appears in an eschatological context as the conqueror of Satan, whom he brings down to earth (Rev 12:7-9). The archangel became the patron saint of East Francia (later Germany) after the victorious Hungarian battle on the Lechfeld in 955.

The authors of Jewish interpretations of the Bible (midrash texts) often see Michael in biblical angelic figures

whose names are not specified:

- in the cherub who prevents people from returning to paradise (Gen 3:24).
- in one of the angels who went to Sodom (Gen 19:1 ff) to save Lot
- in the angel who saved Isaac from sacrificial death (Gen 22:11 ff)
- in the angel with whom Jacob fought (Gen 32:25 ff)
- in the angel who stood in the way of Balaam's donkey (Num 22:22),
- in the "prince over the army of the Lord" (Jos 5,13-15)
- in the angel who destroyed the army of the Assyrian king Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:35)
- the angel who rescued the three young men from Nebuchadnezzar's furnace (Dan 3:20).

In art, Michael is the angel most often depicted as the one who has become the strongest angel. He is often depicted in knight's armour, fighting down the dragon - which bears the marks of the devil.

In many regions, St Michael's Day was also associated with the end of the harvest. For example, the "Michaelmas goose" was eaten at the harvest feasts on the Lower Rhine.

Why is he commemorated on 29 September? On the one hand, because in 813 at the Council in Mainz, Louis the Pious, who had just been crowned Emperor by his father Charlemagne, established this day as Michaelmas. On the other hand, however, because it was actually a pre-Christian festivity



Watchword of the day:  
The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear him,  
and delivers them.  
Psalm 34:8

# 29<sup>th</sup> September - Day of the Archangel Michael



**Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!  
Psalm 148:2**

day, the feast of the god Wotan, which could now be reinterpreted in Christian terms as the day of the angels, God's messengers. The autumnal equinox on 29 September, the beginning of the dark days until Candlemas in February, marked the end of the rural harvest season. This was celebrated as a day off from work with dancing and games and later with thanksgiving services. To this day, there are areas where harvest thanksgiving is celebrated on this day.

Michael - "Who is like God?" In German archangel history, this question has hardly been asked. Who is like God? With this question, Michael could be the patron saint of all those who run the risk of overestimating themselves, of demanding too much of themselves and others. With his name, he could protect us from overstepping our boundaries with ourselves or with others. He could intervene with his question when arrogance and deceitfulness become mis-

fortune for others.

Who is like God? The Bible gives only one answer: Jesus Christ. No angel, no messenger. But the message itself: True man and true God. Very close to the people, very close to God. With the one great message: God is love. And he who abides in love abides in God and God in him. (1. John 4,16) Singing and talking about it, acting on it, can give meaning to our lives. And it can happen that unexpectedly people become angels to each other. For "angels do not have to be men with wings", as Rudolf Otto Wiemer once poetised. People like you and me, who are there where one is alone. Who are there where one is desperate. Who are there where a child is afraid and cries. Who are there where others turn away indifferently and do not protest when injustice happens. They are all messengers of God, are angels who, like Michael - archangel or not - fight for good and for justice. Not with the sword, but like Je-



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

...sus with love of God and love of man.

## Food for thought: Longing for heaven

Many religions know about ascents to heaven. A new development is the aspiration of some super-rich people to go into space. How we imagine outer space has been shaped not least by literature and science fiction films like "Star Trek". But where does this fascination with the heavens and outer space come from?

Journeys to distant galaxies, including futuristic technologies, have been described in science fiction literature for more than 100 years, and some of these ideas are very "clairvoyant", as the astronomer and astrophysicist Franz Kerschbaum says. For example, about locomotion on earth and telecommunications. For the religious scholar Theresia Heimerl, this genre also expresses a reverence for outer space.

Kerschbaum sees the search for oneself and for the whence and whither as the main driving force behind the longing for the heavens or the interest in the heavens. These questions have preoccupied mankind from the very beginning, as archaeological finds prove.

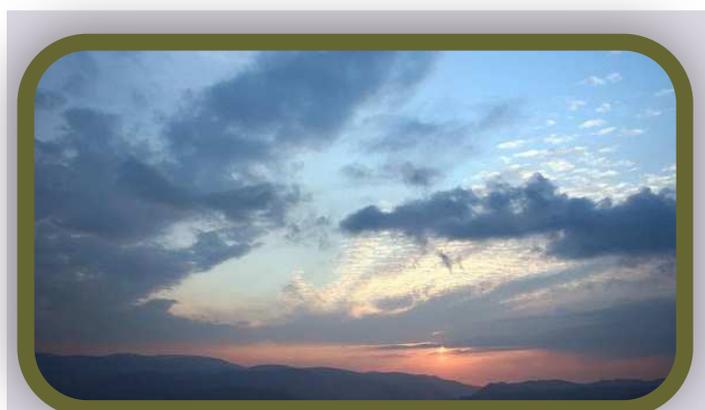
### Longing by looking up

While English distinguishes between heaven and sky, the German language knows only one term: blue sky (earth's atmosphere), starry sky (outer space) and even the whole universe are called heaven. "But heaven

also has the connotation of where we might go if we've been good - as opposed to hell," says the astronomer. It is precisely this ambiguity that is appealing.

If you observe the starry sky for a longer time, you find reliability, clarity and predictability. Especially in a world of upheaval and uncertainty, the sky brought order and structure to the "chaos" on earth. For example, he said, the Egyptians knew that "when they saw Sirius in the sky again for the first time, the Nile floods would soon come".

He himself was more of a human being than an astronomer when looking at the starry sky and had a "great longing for the heavens". With the twinkling stars, the clouds and colours that are already visible to the naked eye, the sky has a strong aesthetic component. Looking up, says Kerschbaum, has something "sublime" about it.



Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And there is nothing on earth  
that I desire other than you.  
Psalm 73:25

# Food for thought: Longing for heaven

## Heaven as a concept

Religions also try to provide answers to human experiences when looking at the sky. Virtually all religious traditions would conceptualise heaven as a place of the supernatural, the transcendent, deities, a deity or higher beings, says religious scholar Theresia Heimerl. All these concepts were or are inaccessible and until the advent of natural science many celestial phenomena were inexplicable. Religions held the sovereignty of interpretation.

In the Christian tradition in particular, heaven is closely associated with ideas of the afterlife and understood as a "better place in contrast to this world", says the religious scholar. An example of this are celestial journeys attributed to special religious persons - such as the Assumption of Mary, which is commemorated in Christian tradition on 15 August.

## "God's plan" in the stars

The significance of the stars for life on earth was recognised and interpreted as early as in the history of mankind. Archaeological finds provide information about precise astronomical knowledge - for example, among the Anasazi culture in the south-west of the USA. In the period between 400 and 1,300 AD, a calendrical temple was built there with niches that were only illuminated by sunlight on the longest day of the year.



For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter  
under heaven.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

In the 16th/17th century, Johannes Kepler used scientific methods to search for "God's plan" in the stars. Natural science asks for order in chaos and for regularities, but today this does not necessarily have to be connected with the question of God, says Kerschbaum. Despite all scientific knowledge, it is still possible to ask why a regularity is one way and not another.

Kerschbaum cites lightning as an example. In the past, lightning was seen as a direct punishment from God. Today, the physical connections of this phenomenon have been clarified, but scientists can still ask whether there is a meaning behind it.

## Unimaginable dimensions

The infinite dimensions of space are another factor of longing for Kerschbaum, and scientific findings make it possible to begin to grasp what one

## Food for thought: Longing for heaven

might intuitively grasp when looking up at the night sky: The moon, for example, is just under 400,000 kilometres away from the earth. But that is still close, says the astronomer.

You can still imagine this distance, he says, because "a well-driven car drives about 400,000 kilometres". The sun is already 150 million kilometres away, and that's where the imagination stops.

### Holidays in space

The fact that super-rich private individuals like Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson recently flew into space can probably also be interpreted as a kind of longing for heaven. Kerschbaum sees this as "literally a completely remote experience" with a bad environmental balance, but also simply as a distant holiday destination. These currently possible, isolated short trips ("hops") are too short, however, to get a real overview or a feeling for the dimensions.

Sooner or later there will also be somewhat longer stays on the moon or Mars, Kerschbaum estimates - but also rather as a "minority programme" with a limited holiday feeling (in a suit in a silo-like protective building). "Everything that is feasible will be done - whether it's good or bad."

### No "Planet B"

According to Kerschbaum, awareness of the size of space and the as-

sociated smallness of the Earth puts some things into perspective. The Earth is a "little blue dot" and instead of taking us so seriously, people should be "happy that we landed here". Because, according to the astronomer, the surrounding area is "completely hostile to life", "there's nothing where we could feel comfortable".

Information originates from:

**Franz Kerschbaum**

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**Institute for Astrophysics**  
at the University of Vienna  
astro.univie.ac.at

**Theresia Heimerl**

Roman Catholic theologian and professor of religious studies at the University of Graz.  
**Institute for Religious Studies**  
at the University of Graz  
religionswissenschaft.uni-graz.at



Heaven and earth will pass away,  
but my words  
will not pass away.  
Matthew 24:35

# Church of Peace - Noticeboard

28 August 2022 09:30–12:00



As the Church of Peace congregation, we want to officially and warmly welcome our pastor Anja Spiske back to us. This will take place during the Divine Service. Afterwards we want to be together with Pastor Anja with coffee/tea and cake/snacks to celebrate her return and health. We are looking forward to many participants.

This “just for the ladies” themed event was held once again after a long break due to the Covid restrictions on 20 August 2022. The ladies joined for a “ParTea” with some superb baked treats to savour with a favourite cup of tea or coffee while chatting with friends and acquaintances.



## Kid's Page: Disciples

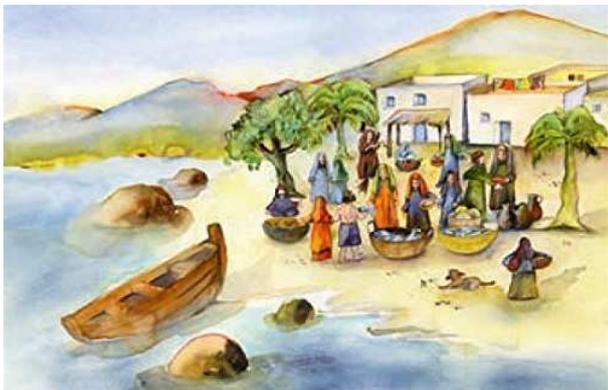
Jesus was about to start His ministry. He had already started preaching to the people. It was time to choose His Disciples. Hey! What is a "disciple" anyway? Disciples are at once "learners" and "helpers", Some of His Disciples were Fishermen.

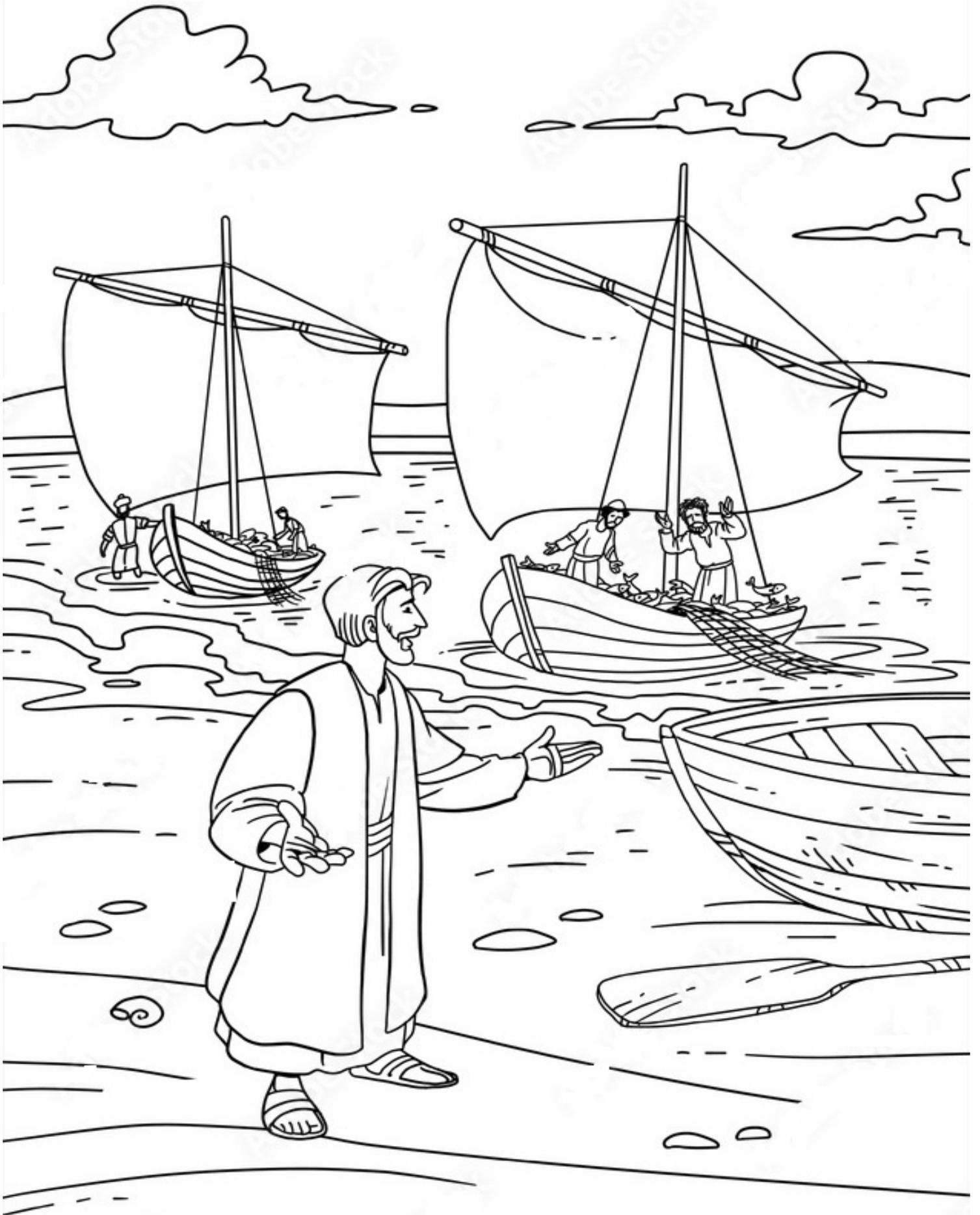
There is a great story in the Bible about how Jesus picked His first disciples. They were fishermen and they worked every day by a big lake in their boats. One of them was named Simon, who had a brother named Andrew. Also, there were two brothers named James and John. One day Jesus was teaching the crowds of people down by the lake. There were so many people that they almost crowded Him into the water. So, Jesus hopped in Simon's boat and asked him to push back from the edge of the land a little. From

there it was easier for Jesus to talk to the crowds. Jesus finished his preaching and then started talking to Simon and his brother.

Jesus told the fishermen "Come, follow me". Jesus was picking them as His first disciples. Jesus told them He would make them fishers of men. He did not mean that they would try and catch men like fish, but that they would be like Jesus, telling people all around how God loves us and cares for us. Jesus chose His disciples to be His helpers and also to learn all the things He was to teach them about God the father. What an exciting thing to be chosen by Jesus to follow Him! The men left their nets and followed Jesus!

Let us pray and thank God that each of us is invited to follow Jesus!





# Financials

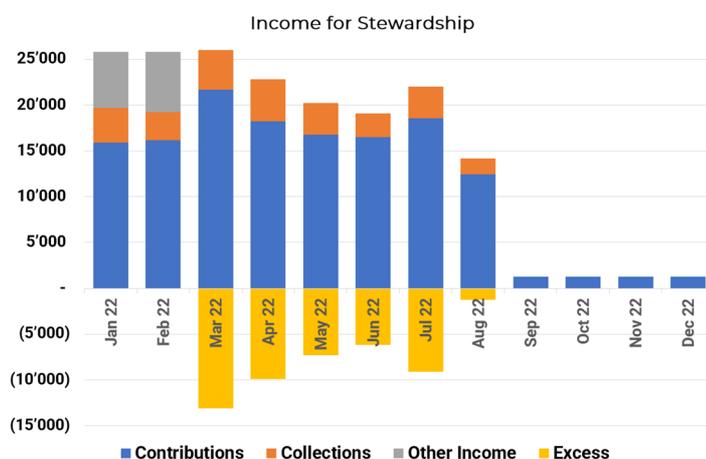
## A preliminary remark

Dear congregation,  
We have an obligation to the Cape Church to pay our stewardship - collectively agreed by Synod - on a monthly basis. We have fulfilled this in full in 2021. So far this year we have also been able to meet our obligation every month. We benefited from only having to pay half of our stewardship - due to Pastor Anja's absence. We are so pleased that Pastor Anja will resume her ministry in September and we are very happy about this. However, this also means for our finances that we have to pay the full stewardship for the 60% position again.

## Our financial situation

As I explained at the Annual General Meeting, it is very important for a balanced financial situation that the main expenses (in our case the stewardship payment) are covered by regular income (church contributions). One of

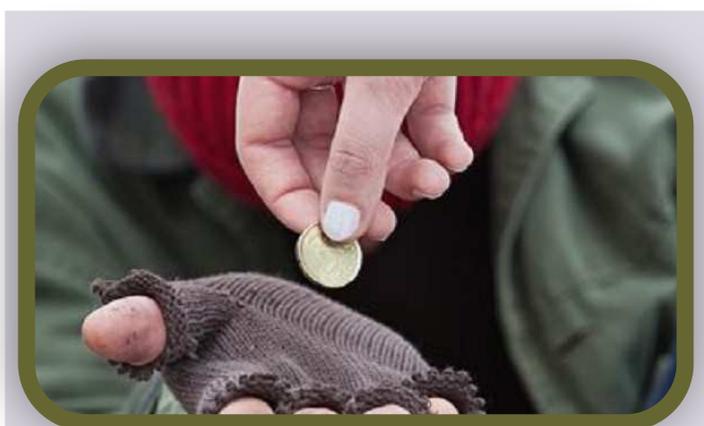
the things I recommended was that in 2022 we only use church contributions and collections for this payment and no longer use the income from Easter and Christmas markets. However, this means that our members will have to pay a little more in church contributions (approx. 20%). The graph below now shows the monthly contributions received for 2022:



In order to meet our monthly stewardship payment of R 25'815 by the end of the year (without resorting to other sources of income), we are dependent on increased church contributions coming in. Please support us within your means.

Thank you.

Edmund Henry Newman  
Treasurer a.i.



Do not let your eye begrudge the gift when you make it.  
Tobit 4:7

# Extract from Book-keeping 1.1.—20.8.2022

	Actual	<i>Budget</i> <i>8 months</i>
<b>Income</b>	<b>257'515</b>	<b>319'347</b>
<i>Contribution for Stewardship</i>	<b>142'144</b>	<b>206'520</b>
<i>Revenue Church Centre</i>	<b>38'022</b>	<b>44'667</b>
<i>Fundraising</i>	<b>27'390</b>	<b>34'667</b>
Easter Market	21'980	1'333
Christmas Market	0	13'333
Money Wall	4'910	6'000
		12'000
Others	500	2'000
<i>Other Income</i>	<b>39'462</b>	<b>33'493</b>
Collections	27'064	23'333
Donations	9'785	8'000
Interest	2'613	2'160
<b>Belltower</b>	<b>10'497</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>241'037</b>	<b>312'027</b>
<i>ELCSA Stewardship</i>	<b>129'075</b>	<b>206'520</b>
- unpaid	0	0
<i>Running Cost</i>	<b>70'156</b>	<b>62'040</b>
Insurance	22'382	13'733
Water & Elect	15'741	15'467
Depreciation	9'677	9'667
Telephone	7'286	7'200
Cleaning	6'882	7'333
Security	5'800	5'707
Bank Charges	2'388	2'933
<i>Maintenance</i>	<b>13'346</b>	<b>19'467</b>
<i>Other Expenses</i>	<b>12'660</b>	<b>24'000</b>
Manse Help	9'860	6'400
Travel	1'600	6'400
Substitute	1'200	8'000
Audit	0	1'533
Newsletter	0	0
Sundry		1'667
<i>Allocation Insurance Fund</i>	<b>15'800</b>	



## 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
a.i.	<b>Reinhard Walle</b> (Chairman)	4 May Way chairman@lutheran-pe.org	Sunridge Park 6045 063 685 0263
a.i.	<b>Henry Newman</b> (Members) (Trasurer)	81 Villiers Road, membership@lutheran-pe.org treasurer@lutheran-pe.org	Walmer 6070 078 703 7003 041 581 3907
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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