



**LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH**  
Friedenskirche Church of Peace



No: 2022.12 e

Newsletter December 2022

**The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion together,  
and a little child shall lead them.**

**Isaiah 11:6  
Watchword December 2022  
(Refer to page 2-3)**



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

## Watchword December 2022

*"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down  
with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion  
and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them."  
Isaiah 11:6*

"What a picture! Wolf and lamb live together, the panther lies peacefully next to the young goat. Cow and bear swear a friendship covenant, calf and lion graze together – because the lion eats straw like the cattle! A utopian idyll of peace. In this utopian idyll of peace, what was stated in Isaiah 9:19 no longer applies: *"They slice meat on the right but are still hungry, and they devour on the left but are not satisfied. Everyone ate their neighbour."*

The law of evolution has also been abolished: eating and being eaten no longer applies. Not with the animals. Not between animals and humans. Not between man and man. For me, this points to the salvation of the entire creation, that is, man and animal – and that makes me very happy. God has everything and everyone in mind when it comes to His all-encompassing plan of salvation in Jesus Christ.

This is a very good reason to celebrate these Christmas holidays properly. For even in the face of the war and destruction we perceive in our world right now, none of this escapes God's gaze, everything he will

include in his plan of salvation. He truly brings salvation. Finally, he will also mend the rift that runs through creation and reconcile all enmity. In fact, he has already done so through the birth, death, and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, all who believe in him become a part of this promised new creation. With the coming of Christ, a radical shift in the way of the world is expected: chaos will turn to harmony, fear to laughter, death to life. Then why can't we see it yet? We don't, at least not yet in full. Although it is already a reality since Christ's death and resurrection, it is so only in part.

We will see this reality realize fully when He comes again and makes everything new. In the meantime, we who are new creatures in Christ and live in this hope, we joyfully participate in the work of the kingdom that we anticipate, seeking reconciliation in Jesus' name by pursuing justice, peace, creation care, and life-promoting goodness.

The birth of the Saviour and the salvation he brings can only be illuminated from Easter. Because of Easter we know that death has been overcome. All tears will be wiped away and suffering, hardship and screaming will come to an end. Because Jesus became the Christ, out of this hope, we as Christians have hope. We hope for a time and

world after this time and world. But we also hope right in the middle of this time and world. In the midst of darkness, there is a radical hope that everything can be completely different. Certainly, in God's future. But even here and now the light can be experienced in the middle of the dark experiences that we make again and again.

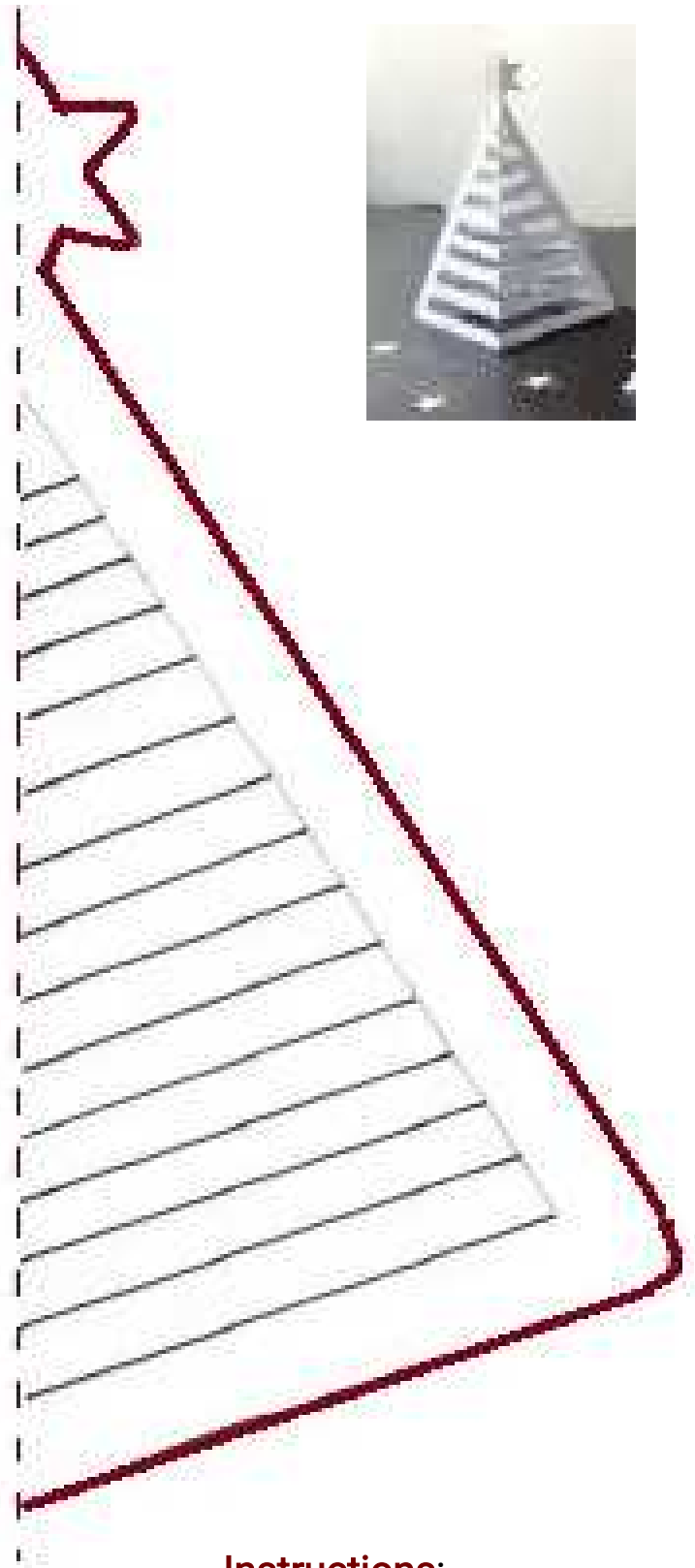
Yes, all this makes me happy despite all the dark experiences we have. But that does not mean ignoring the misery, the suffering, the grief, and the tears. They belong right in the middle of the Christmas story. If we can sense and trace this, then the star of Bethlehem shines all the brighter in the middle of the darkness of our world.

With this in mind, I wish you all a very blessed and merry Christmas.

Your Pastor Anja



**Search out and seek the wisdom,  
and she will become known to you;  
and when you get hold of her,  
do not let her go.**  
Ecclesiasticus 12:6



### Instructions:

Fold the paper along the dotted line and cut along the brown line. Then cut from the folded edge along the grey lines and alternately fold a strip forwards or backwards.



# Advent Season 2022

**"Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he!"**

Zechariah 9:9

How good that you allow yourself a short time to reflect on this word of the prophet Zechariah. Yes, it wants your full attention, because it announces something world - moving with the word: "Lo" - "SEE!" We do a lot of seeing in this Advent season. At first only one candle burns on the Advent wreath. The light does not yet shine so brightly. Unfortunately, it is somewhat displaced by the many other lights that shine right now in the pre-Christmas season. That is why this Advent light is hardly seen and hardly recognised any more.

The many other lights rather want to draw attention to themselves, so that we recognise what we need in order to have purpose and joy in life. No wonder that children look into the illuminated shop windows with great wish-filled eyes and are enchanted and charmed by the many different things.

"Behold!" So the prophet Zechariah calls out to us on the 1st of Advent. There is also another light burning, a light of hope for a world that has become hopeless for many.

Your salvation, dear human being, your hope, does not rest in the accumulation of many superfluous possessions.

There shall be no joy in this for you. For the joy that the strong lights promise you is temporary. In contrast, Zechariah says: *"You, daughter of Zion, you believing Christian, you seeking the meaning of life, rejoice greatly, ... Behold your King comes to you, a righteous one and a helper..."* The choice is yours.

By which light will you be persuaded? By the many strong lights of the business world? Or by the dim light hanging in our churches and homes, pointing to the King who is not born in royalty but lies in a stable and in a manger. Of him the heavenly hosts sing - *"Unto you is born the Saviour"* Zechariah says he is a helper, and he is just.

Truly, this unassuming child born in the stable part of a house is the true answer to our questions about the meaning and purpose of life. The beauty is that this prophet's word is still valid for us today. It wants to draw our attention to the fact that Jesus will one day come again to bring into fulfilment what he promised and once initiated with his birth, the Kingdom of God. Therefore rejoice greatly, ... Behold your King is coming to you, he is a righteous one and a helper.

Yours sincerely in Christ  
Pastor em. Andreas Wernecke

# Christmas Greetings



**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.**  
John 8:12

Dear Congregation and friends,

Christmas is very often associated with the giving and receiving of gifts to ones loved ones and friends.

This got me thinking of the subject of gifts. I came across a thought while browsing the internet. Not so much on the tangible beautifully wrapped presents that we are familiar with, but more on the gifts from God. I thought it worth quoting:

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."

That means that God gives all of us gifts, or talents if you will, that God knows each of us is capable of receiving. If we are then capable of receiving as God intends, then surely we should use these gifts and talents and not leave them "unopened

and unexplored" in a mantle of uncertainty with the thought that, "the gift is not really meant for me." We should remain confident in the knowledge that God is always with us and only wants the best for each of us.

A wise person in our congregation once said to me: "God did not create us just to leave us." He is the great constant in our lives.

Although I believe the Covid 19 virus is still around and has not magically disappeared, the precautions that have been taken to date have kept it in check. During the Covid epidemic and the time after when we were starting to get back to a bit more normality, many have used their known gifts and also discovered some unexplored talents.

This was especially borne out in the time our Pastor Anja was away. My sincere thanks and gratitude go to the congregation and committee members for the support and assistance given.

Furthermore our sincere thanks go to Pastor Andreas Wernecke who cared for, guided and supported our congregation's needs during the time Pastor Anja was away recuperating in Germany.

Pastor Andreas, you have endeared yourself to our congregation and are a good friend who has been, and remains much appreciated.

# Christmas Greetings

The year 2020 started the novel concept of the Marketless Market as the restrictions on social movement and interaction that we so much took for granted had to be implemented. Furthermore, curfews of varying intensity were a part of daily life.

This year 2022, was the first relative normalisation of our annual Christmas Market. Many of those who had run the various stalls so capably over past years indicated that it was maybe time to step down and let others take over.

To all who have helped with our Easter and Christmas Markets over the past years, a sincere and heartfelt thank-you. The result of the recent Christmas Market indicate that our Markets are still in good and capable hands.

Our maintenance team has been slowly and steadily handling the various refurbishment and upkeep projects to our church buildings and assets. At present, the manse is undergoing a painting facelift starting from the chimney down. It is painstaking work needing sections of fascia and gutters to be replaced.

Our hall hirers project donations for the use of our facilities continue to bring in much needed funds.

It has been said that we are a small congregation and have had many obstacles to overcome throughout the

years. I am convinced that God has a purpose for us. In the year of our Lord of 2002 we celebrated our 101 anniversary as a congregation in Port Elizabeth on Pentecost Sunday the 19 May 2002. Now, 20 years on our doors are still open and we proclaim God's Word to all with whom we are in contact.

Covid has forced us to use new technology much to our advantage. As I am writing this I am in WhatsApp contact with our Treasurer a.i. who is in Europe at present. Technology ensures that creditors and the Cape Church are paid without any delay. This despite that our Treasurer is not presently in RSA.

It now remains for your Committee and I to wish you and your loved ones a blessed and restful season of Advent into Christmas and a Christ-filled 2023 new year.

Reinhard Walle  
Committee Chairman a.i



**Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord  
has risen upon you.**  
Isaiah 60:1

## 27<sup>th</sup> December: Day of St. John, Apostle / Evangelist

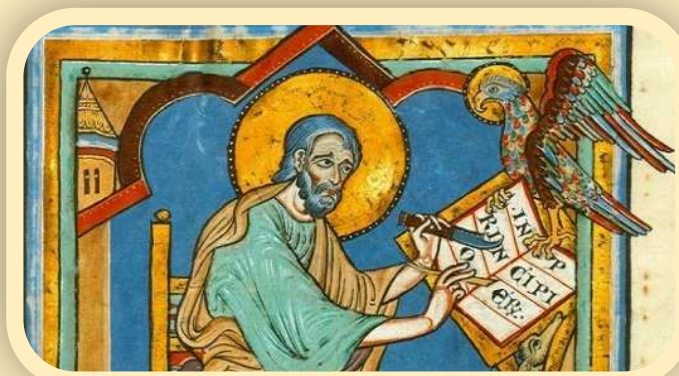
The Apostle John is said to have worked as a missionary in Asia Minor after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Due to a persecution of Christians, he fled to Ephesus with Mary, the mother of the Lord. Under Emperor Domitian, John is said to have been banished to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the "Revelation of John". Later he was able to return to Ephesus and died there at a ripe old age. While the saint was strongly venerated in the East, but also in Italy, he had a hard time in Germany for a long time. This could be due to the fact that he did not die a martyr's death - unlike all the other apostles and almost all the saints of the first Christian centuries.

As a substitute, numerous legends were formed around St. John: For example, he was once supposed to be poisoned by a pagan priest. John made the sign of the cross over the poisoned cup and miraculously sur-

vived. From this, the tradition of St. John's wine has developed: In many parishes, wine is consecrated on 27 December, St John's Day, and in some places it is drunk together after the service.

Around 180 AD, the theologian Irenaeus of Lyon developed his thesis that John was the author of the Gospel of John, the "beloved disciple" of Jesus mentioned there, and the apostle John who appears in the three synoptic Gospels. At the same time, he wrote the Epistles of John and the Revelation of John.

This might be too much of an honour; modern biblical scholarship is convinced that John the evangelist and John the apostle are two different men. Also, the linguistic style of John's Gospel does not match the choice of words in Revelation - so presumably we are dealing with two different authors here.

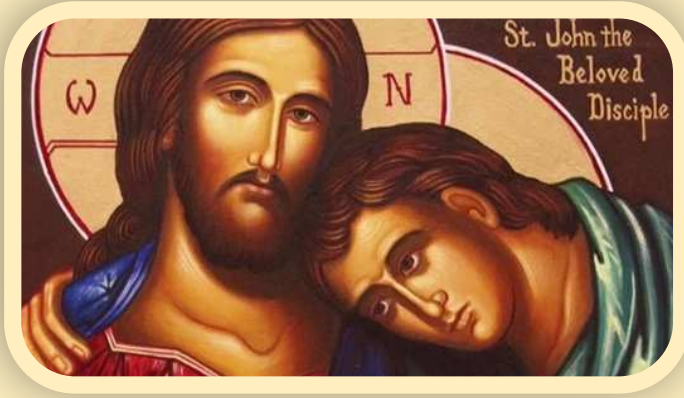


Watchword of the Festive Day:  
**Go into all the world and proclaim  
the good news to the whole creation.**  
Mark 16:15 b

The Gospel of John is addressed to a congregation that probably consists mainly of former Gentiles. In the text there is a great distance to Judaism, again and again the evangelist explains certain Jewish customs - he would hardly have to do that with a Jewish readership. In addition, he distances the Christian community particularly strongly from the Pharisees and scribes; this speaks for conflicts of the Christian community with Jewish groups.



# 27<sup>th</sup> December: Day of St. John, Apostle / Evangelist



**One of his disciples  
- the one whom Jesus loved -  
was reclining next to him.  
John 13:23**

In the Gospel of John, an unnamed disciple is always referred to as "the one whom Jesus loved". Therefore, in Christian tradition, this disciple has been called the favourite disciple. According to the closing words of the Gospel, this is the evangelist. However, the Gospel - as well as the rest of the New Testament literature - refrains from a clear identification of this person with one of the apostles. Therefore, an identity of the evangelist with the apostle is disputed.

In Christian art, John is usually distinguished from the other evangelists and apostles by his beardlessness and youthful appearance. In contrast, an ancient Russian icon shows him as an old man with a bald head and a full beard, dictating the introduction to the Gospel of John to his companion Prochorus: "In the beginning was the Word".

If John is to be symbolised as an evangelist, the eagle is assigned to him. Single representations of the saint in early book illumination bring the full-page author images preceding the texts. In other figurative cycles, especially since the 14th century, he is accompanied by a chalice with a snake emerging from it. This goes back to a traditional saintly legend: the high priest in the temple of Artemis in Ephesus gave John the choice of either sacrificing to the pagan gods or drinking from a poisoned chalice. John crossed the chalice, from which the poison in the form of a snake immediately escaped without harming the saint.

John is part of the apostolic retinue, here too always beardless. He is singled out at the Transfiguration, in the Garden of Gethsemane and at the washing of the feet. He also has a place of honour at Christ's side during the Last Supper.



**This is the disciple who is testifying to  
these things and has written them, and  
we know that his testimony is true.  
John 21:24**

## To think about



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

She has been taking the bus to the cemetery for five years. She buys a few cut flowers at the garden centre next door. From there, it's a five-minute walk with the walker to her husband's grave. And now this. From one day to the next, the bus route changes. Suddenly she has to change buses. Instead of three stops, there are eleven. She is seriously irritated.

No one has warned her. They have simply changed the plans. Again she feels that desperate feeling inside her of not wanting to go anymore. All she has left after 56 years of marriage is the grave. And now she can't even get there sensibly by bus.

"Heaven and earth will pass away." These words can become real for our personal lives faster than we think. With each person, a whole world passes away, they say. His world. Their world. And sometimes that of the relatives as well.

### Do not open wounds

When church congregations invite people on the last Sunday of the church year to remember those who have died in services, it is not about opening up old wounds or fighting against forgetting. It is about completing this sentence. Christ says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

What it means exactly, what comes after death and does not pass away, is difficult to put into words. Jesus spoke in images: of the fig tree or of the householder who goes away and comes again, which is why it is good to remain alert to what lies ahead.

I myself like to light a candle these days in memory of the dead in my family and pray for them: for my cousin, my father, my grandparents, my sister who died shortly after birth. I let the grief come to me. And at the same time, hope grows in the silence and in the cone of light of the candle.

Dr Christoph Meyns  
Regional Bishop  
Church in Braunschweig.

## Noticeboard - We are thankful



A warm thank you to all who donated food on our **Harvest Thanksgiving** Day on October 2nd. All gifts were received thankfully at the crèsh for Walmer township children run at the Anglican Church by Juliette Watt.



**Bingo** could be played again and brought a lot of fun to all participants especially those who won one or even several of the attractive prizes.

Thank you very much to all contributions concerning organisation and financing. We enjoyed the refreshments and cake. Thank you to all those who helped make the fun(d)raiser the success it was.

## Noticeboard - Next Event

### Advent Celebration

11 Dec 2022 10:30



In the spirit of Christmas, our Christmas get together with carols, coffee and cake is on the 3rd Sunday of Advent,

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

immediately after the service

# Birthdays December 2022

08 Dec

Greyson | Meyer  
Jutta | Rohwer

09 Dec

Antoinette | Bosman

10 Dec

Blake | Wright

12 Dec

Leo | Burgdorf-Fourie

13 Dec

Katelyn | van Wyk  
Margrit | Burgdorf-Fourie

14 Dec

Grace | Erasmus

19 Dec

Hildegarde | Kivedo

24 Dec

Derek | Thompson

26 Dec

Darren | Lentz

28 Dec

Katy | van Wyk

30 Dec

Gerhard | Fröhlich



Happy  
*Birthday*

# Divine Services Nov/Dec 2022

27 Nov 2022 9:30 (E+Fam)

First Sunday in Advent



**Watchword (Zechariah 9:9b):**

Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he.

When politicians are on a state visit, they often enjoy being adored by the crowd: children wave flags, the streets are adorned with flowers. The First Advent encourages you to prepare for an arrival whose importance cannot be estimated high enough.

Jesus too was greeted once with great rejoicing when he entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. People beckoned with palm branches and put clothes on the street – as for a king. "Lift up your heads, O gates!" (Ps 24) is also said in Advent. It is the time of inner preparation for this particular King: powerful, but not to fear, a ruler who brings justice and peace. He seeks entry into me. Who waits for him, hopes for peace and a more just world. To greet him means to open your heart wide for God and the people next to me.

**Sermon**  
Luke 1:5-25

4 December 2022 9:30 (D)

Second Sunday in Advent



**Watchword (Luke 21:28):**

*Stand up and raise your heads,  
because your redemption  
is drawing near.*

"Head down and carry on" or "keep smiling, everything will be fine again" we say - a small consolation. We are often speechless when it comes to the suffering of others and also our own. The Good News applies most to the dejected and depressed, the rejected and the disadvantaged. Hold on; God sees the affliction and hears the lamentation. Those who wait for salvation do not hope in vain. Heads that are bowed down are encouraged today to look up, because there is more to life than what we see. Better yet, there is Someone, who is on His way to us, a Saviour, who is drawing near.

**Sermon**  
Luke 1:26-38

# Divine Services December 2022

11 December 2022 9:30 (E+Fam)

Third Sunday in Advent

18 December 2022 09:30 €

Fourth Sunday in Advent



**Watchword (Isaiah 40:3.10):**

*Prepare the way of the Lord; see, the Lord God comes with might..*

**Watchword (Philippians 4:4.5b)**

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. The Lord is near.*

Sometimes I search for God, but the path seems blocked. I cannot move on, standing in my own way. Move the stones out of the way! the third Advent encourages us. The focus is on John the Baptist, who prepares the way for Jesus with his call to repentance.

Where Jesus comes, the world becomes brighter and lighter: dried out things begin to blossom, closed eyes open, lame limbs move. Nothing, neither valleys of sadness nor mountains of overconfidence, can hinder his coming. To pave the way for him is to stay awake and to get moving: to comfort the sad and to encourage those who have given up a long time ago.

Joy can be nice. Insignificant people begin to shine when they are looking forward to something: young mothers, who, like Mary, expect a child, lovers who are looking forward to their loved ones.

The fourth Advent speaks of most radical and changing joy. The Lord is near! The message cannot be kept to yourself. Like Sarah, who is promised a son at her age, and Mary, who praises God, who raises the low, and brought down the powerful from their thrones, we too can be infected with the joy of the divine yes to us - and thereby become kinder and more beautiful.

**Sermon**

Luke 1:39-56

**Sermon**

Lukas 1:57-80

# Divine Services December 2022

16:00 (E+Fam)

24 December 2022

18:00 (D)

Christmas Eve



## Watchword of the Day (Luke 2:10b.11)

Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

After the hustle and bustle of the preceding days, it is pleasant to return to the church on Christmas Eve, to regain our senses with candlelight and music and to hear the message of the Holy Night. Because of Jesus' birth, light breaks into the middle of the night - it does not take much to experience this on Christmas Eve. We hear the old promises of a King of Peace, who find their fulfilment in Jesus, the descendant of King David. He is Immanuel, God-with-us. The night of his birth recalls the deep mystery of God: in this poor little child, in Jesus Christ, he shows himself. Here and nowhere else is God's truth hidden.

Sermon  
Luke 2:1-20

Sermon  
Luke 2:1-20

# Services December 2022

25 December 2022

9:30 (E)

Christmas Day

31 December 2022

18:00 (E)

News Years Eve



**Watchword of the Day (John 1:14 a):**

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.*

For me, friends are people, I do not have to hide from, who like me, even when I say something stupid, and who do not look down on me when I make a mistake. Friends do like me the way I am. In Jesus God looks at us in a friendly way, he meets us at eye level, this is the theme of Christmas Day. The shepherds, who set out on the word of the angel, find out first: In the small, helpless child there is a God they need not hide away in shame from. They must not and need not lift themselves up to this God in order to reach Him, because He comes down to them. Yes, even more: in this child God makes them and all people His sons and daughters, heirs to his promise. And Christmas is only the beginning. Those who, like the shepherds, make their way to the manger, will return in a different way: moved and touched by the great love of God.

**Sermon**

Colossians 2:3(4-5)6-10

**Watchword of the Day (Ps 31:16 a):**

*My times are in your hands.*

Another year is over. Standing at the threshold of a new year makes us increasingly aware of how time flies. It's the time for stopping for a moment and look back. What succeeded this year? I can be thankful for many things, straighten out some things, put some worries away, and carry on other things.

**Sermon**

Romans 8:31 b-39



# Prayer Cards December 2022

1 Dec Leonard Fourie

2 Dec Hans Rohwer

3 Dec Henry Newman

4 Dec Charlotte Andrews

5 Dec Rudi Harmse

6 Dec Theodore Goliath

7 Dec Debra Dreier

8 Dec Dieter Lokotsch

17 Dec Michelle Harmse

18 Dec Margrit Burgdorf-  
Fourie

19 Dec Anne Tessendorf

20 Dec Florence Arends

21 Dec Roshni Bosman

22 Dec Eva Rieboldt

23 Dec Morney Visagie

24 Dec Sharon Walle

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**

9 Dec Steven Harmse

10 Dec Chad Human

11 Dec Ruth Rohrmoser

12 Dec Chris Bürger

13 Dec Leona Breitfeld

14 Dec Anthea Daniels

15 Dec Kyle Angloher

16 Dec Sharon Tessendorf

25 Dec Sandile Coko

26 Dec Pastor Anja Spiske

27 Dec Lucas  
Letsholonyane

28 Dec Lima Coko

29 Dec Linzi Thompson

30 Dec Leonard  
Rosendahl

31 Dec Horst van Biljon

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

1. Timothy 2:1

# News from the Bishop's office

## Further reflection on 'being church here and now'

(with reference to the News from Bishop's office Newsletter October 2022, Page 8-9)

In being a church that is relevant and serves the people it is important to remember that:

a. *•we are the church of Jesus Christ (and not a mere institution called church.)* We are the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). A body has many members, each with its own purpose and function. The members rely on each other and need the function of the other. If one member is not functional, then the rest struggle to do the work.

To use the hand and fingers as example. i.e. If my thumb and index finger are missing, then the function of the hand is very limited.

The same happens when and if congregational members are not active and serving, then the local church struggles, even as an institution. If only a few are involved, then it becomes challenging to keep the system going and functional. A functional institution gives a framework in which we can work and live as church.

I encourage you to use your gift so that church is, through the congregation, a visible Body of Christ here and now. In 1 Peter 4:10ff we are encouraged to do exactly that. When we use our gifts to serve, then the institution makes sense.

b. *Church does not only take place in the church building or in the traditional structures of a congregation.*

We have many impressive church buildings. The architecture of these buildings are an expression of where we come from and to whom we belong: Jesus Christ. They were erected at a great cost by previous generations. Many of these buildings are located in prime locations. They were and are a place from where the community was served well. But reality is that the community around us has changed. The people bring different life experiences and expectations with them. The question is how can we be church with and for them. New members bring with them new ideas and different gifts. Are we prepared to host the stranger and being hosted by the stranger? Are we ready and willing to welcome new people into membership, expecting that it may bring change with it?

Is it necessary to make changes to the way we celebrate the Sunday services as a congregation, as cultures have changed and music styles have changed? How can we



**We are the Body of Christ**  
1 Corinthians 12

## News from the Bishop's office

encourage the next generation to lead and take ownership?

- c. *The unreached are reached with the gospel. (We are called to not just take care of the members, but to go out and share the Gospel.)* "Go, and make disciples" (Matthew 28), is our calling. For us to fulfil this calling we need to be equipped through teaching and empowered by going and gaining experience through doing.

It is my observation that many members have little knowledge of the Bible and even more members lack courage to share their faith. Have we been pastor centred for too long? Did we rely too much on the paid professionals to do it for us?

Can you recall when last new members joined your congregation? Were they allowed to use their gifts for the good of the Body of Christ?

*Reflection on points d,e,f to follow in the next letter*

- d. We serve in the context of where we are. (We find that our buildings are no longer centrally located for us as they were previously. The social dynamics and environment has changed.)
- e. Laity are to be equipped for ministry. (How long will full-time ministry continue as we know it?)
- f. Lived spirituality is important. It gives us strength for service and invites people in the body of Christ. How do you see the opportunities and challenges? What other aspects are to be included?



**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ... and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.**

Matthew 28:19-20

Get in touch with sisters and brothers in your congregation and community and share with them what you believe God is up to.

Help us be a serving and relevant church for God's glory.

### **VELKD and EKD Synods**

I was privileged to attend the Synods of the **VELKD** (United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany) and **EKD** from 4-9.11.2022 in Magdeburg, Germany. The main topic for both synods was on the church's response and responsibility on matter of climate change. Theological reflection and scientific research was shared. Green energy was a focus of discussion. And, how buildings can be used in energy saving ways. The members committed to not drive faster than 100 kmph on the autobahn in order to lower omission gas.

Many discussion were around the role of the church post-Covid pandemic. The tense situation around the war in neighbouring Ukraine also played the role.

# News from the Bishop's office



Welcome one another, therefore,  
just as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.  
Romans 15:7

## EKD Partnership Consultation

Before the Synods (2-4.11.2022) the EKD had invited us and the Southern American Partner churches for a consultation. Church leaders from the GELC (Namibia), NELCSA, Cape Church, Brazil, Argentina, Chilli, Paraguay, Uruguay. These churches were founded by German settlers, so there are many commonalties. It was a wonderful time to engage, learn and built South-South relationships and seek ways of co-operation between these churches. Decisions taken:

- i. in 2023 three (3) youth from Southern Africa will attend a youth camp in Brazil. This is regarded as a step to bring the young people in conversation about their experiences and expectations of church. A virtual platform does exist since 2020 and has proven to be a fruitful

platform.

- ii. The bishops of the Southern American churches will be invited to our synod in 2023 and we to theirs in 2024.
- iii. Closer co-operation on theological training is sought.
- iv. The main topic of our meeting was on equipping the laity. Here we want to explore ways of co-operation.

## UELCSA

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.

## Webpage

For information on Church life look at our webpage

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



# Noticeboard: Christmas Market 2022



## Thank you to all,

who took part in organising and supporting the Christmas market of our Lutheran Church of Peace! How vivid our congregation is!

We enjoyed a lovely time together and are thankful for a great success.

The pictures are showing many of our joyful helpers but still there are quite a lot missing who supported at the stations and moved tables and chairs. A special thank you to our chairman Reinhard Walle and his family and also to Branson Bosman and his helpers for serving refreshments..



# Noticeboard: Christmas Market 2022

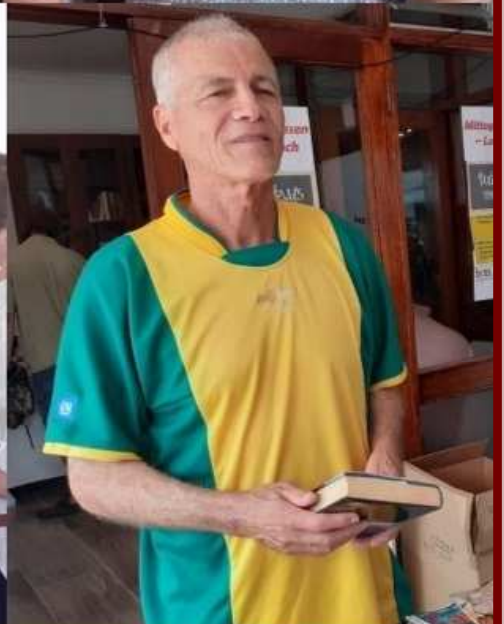


**Thank you**

# Noticeboard: Christmas Market 2022



**Thank you**



## Jesus chooses His disciples

### Some of His Disciples were Fishermen

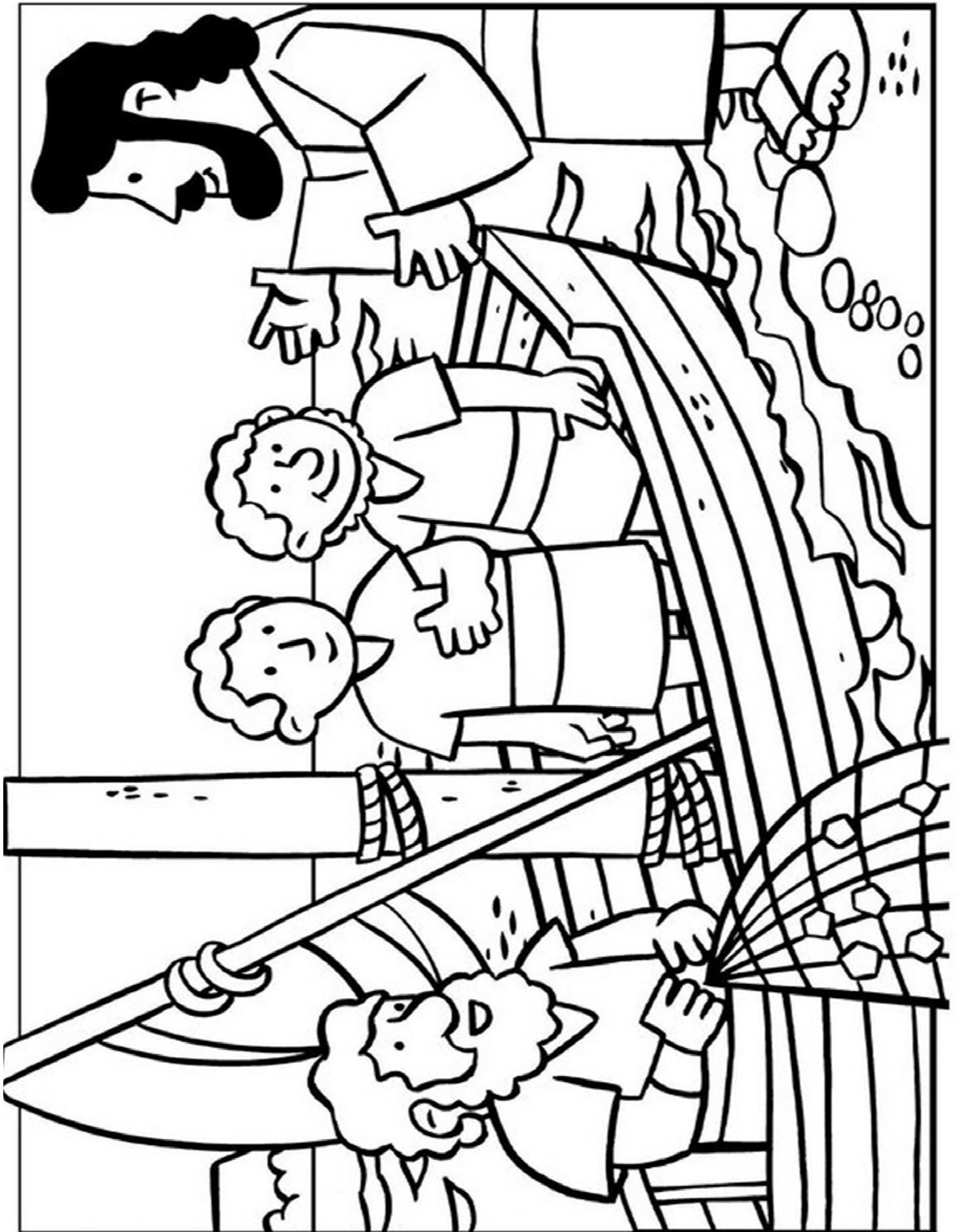
There is a great story in the Bible about how Jesus picked His first disciples. They were fishermen and they worked every day by a big lake in their boats. One of them was named Simon, who had a brother named Andrew. Also, there were two brothers named James and John. One day Jesus was teaching the crowds 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.

He told them  
"Come, follow me"

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 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!!







## Think about

### Christmas Poem

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

*Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)*

## Financials



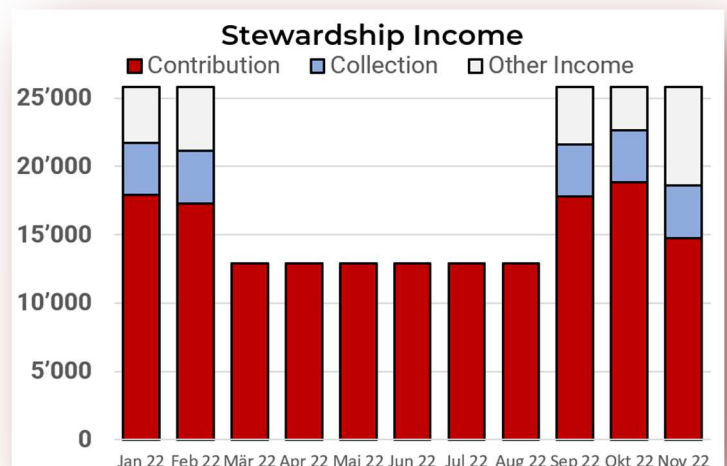
With the eyes of your heart  
enlightened, you may know what is the  
hope to which he has called you.  
Ephesians 1:18

Dear members,  
First of all, thank you very much for all the contributions and collections, as well as your donations. Even for the wonderful result of the Christmas market.

Unfortunately the church contributions in November were lower than expected and therefore cover only 57% of the stewardship, together with the collections we reach 70%.

Thanks to our reserves we were able to transfer our contribution to the Cape Church in full on 22 Nov 22.

Edmund Henry Newman  
Treasurer a.i.



# Extract from Book-keeping 1.1. - 23.11.2022

	11 months	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		<b>426'089</b>	<b>443'958</b>
<i>Contribution for Stewardship</i>		<b>202'714</b>	<b>283'965</b>
<i>Collection</i>		<b>45'537</b>	<b>32'083</b>
<i>Revenue Church Centre</i>		<b>51'422</b>	<b>61'417</b>
<i>Fundraising</i>		<b>75'407</b>	<b>33'000</b>
Easter Market	21'280	2'000	*
Christmas Market	45'997	20'000	*
Money Wall	5'650	8'250	
Others	2'480	2'750	
<i>Other Income</i>	<b>39'462</b>	<b>33'493</b>	
Donations	12'798	11'000	
Interest	2'970	4'478	
<b>Belltower</b>	<b>11'547</b>		
<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>356'886</b>	<b>431'331</b>
<i>ELCSA Stewardship</i>		<b>206'520</b>	<b>283'965</b>
<i>Running Cost</i>		<b>96'516</b>	<b>91'907</b>
Insurance	22'382	20'600	*
Water & Elect	23'540	21'267	
Depreciation	13'292	18'177	
Telephone	10'125	9'900	
Cleaning	12'446	10'083	
Security	8'050	7'847	
Bank Charges	3'071	4'033	
Software License	3'610	-	
<i>Maintenance</i>	<b>30'596</b>	<b>24'750</b>	
Material	12'546	11'000	
Wages	9'100	13'750	
Garden	8'950	-	
<i>Other Expenses</i>	<b>23'254</b>	<b>30'708</b>	
Manse Help	18'680	8'800	
Travel	2'768	8'800	
Substitute Pastor	1'200	11'000	
Audit	-	2'108	
Newsletter	206	-	
Sundry	400	-	
<i>Allocation Insurance Fund</i>	<b>21'725</b>		
<i>Allocation Stewardship Fund</i>	<b>49'195</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
<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) (Treasurer)	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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