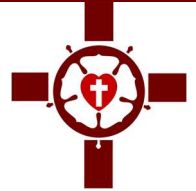


LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH
Friedenskirche Church of Peace



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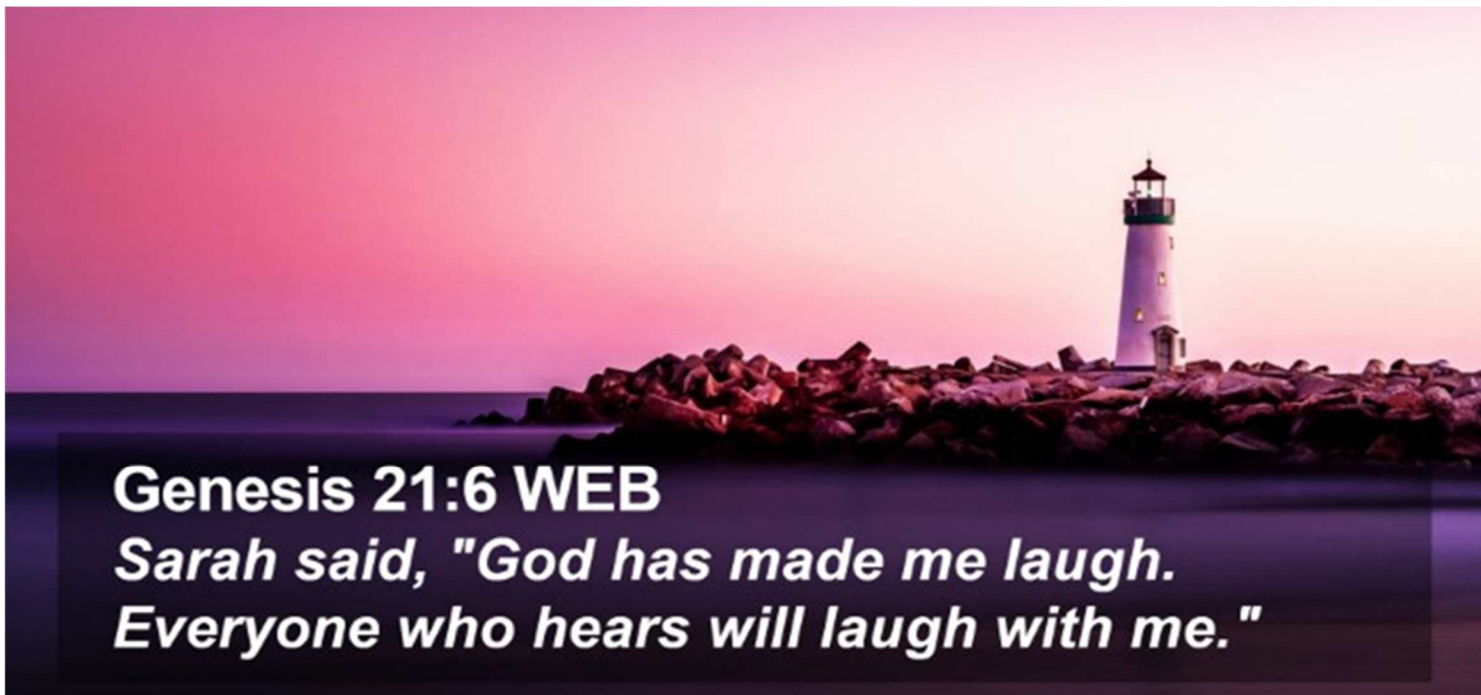
Newsletter February 2023

Sarah said,

God has
brought me
laughter!

Genesis 21:6

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



Genesis 21:6 WEB

*Sarah said, "God has made me laugh.
Everyone who hears will laugh with me."*

The One Who Laughs Last...

Isaac. Translated into English it means: He laughs. But who is actually laughing here? This particular laughter has a story and it revolves around the birth of Isaac, Abraham and Sarah's son. Hadn't Abraham and Sarah laughed in disbelief when God promised to give them a descendant in old age (Genesis 17:17; 18:12)?

Almost ashamed, Sarah realizes that God is not resentful. **His promise is also valid in view of their scepticism.** Now she asks herself: Will the others laugh, will they laugh at her, because a 90-year-old breastfeeding woman seems quite funny?

The name says it all: "Yitzhak", "He laughs" is a reminder that God not only reliably stands by his promises, but also meets us again and again with a conciliatory portion of humour, as if he knew: The One Who laughs last...

But the laughing Isaac grows up with his stepbrother Ishmael. You could call it a patchwork family. When Sarah sees how the son of Hagar – she does not even want to pronounce his name – annoys her little Isaac, she persuades Abraham to send the maid with her son into the desert.

She probably also fears that Ishmael could dispute her son's inheritance. Abraham does what Sarah asks and delivers the two to death in the wilderness. In doing so, he is acting against God's promise of blessing to Ishmael (Genesis 17:20).

Aren't we always idiosyncratic with God's promises of blessing? Sometimes we are incredulous and skeptical whether this blessing really applies to us, and find it difficult to get involved with it. Then again, we want to claim the blessing all to ourselves.

As if my blessing were diminished by the fact that another, even if he is my friend, also receives blessing.

In the end, God may have smiled again – when, at the desperate cry of the doomed boy, he led his mother to the life-saving water well. What a blessing that God does not allow himself to be fooled when it comes to blessings and sticks to what he promises.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Anja

Prayer:
*Come Lord, bless us,
that we may not part,
but everywhere,
we may confess You.
We are never alone,
we are always yours,
laughing or weeping,
we will be blessed.*
(Dieter Trautwein)

Good bye Udo and Gabi Weder

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Udo and Gabi Weder who were with us for the last time in the German service on 5 February 2023. They are going to Namibia where Udo and Gabi will help Udo's brother to run his farm. The farm is about 2.5 hours away from Windhoek. We wish them God's blessings, strength and support in their new home. We will miss you. This saying from Genesis will accompany you on your journey:

The Lord, before whom I walk, will send his angel with you and make your way successful.

God says:
*Know that I am
with you and will
keep you wherever
you go, and*

will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.. (Genesis 24:40 & 28:15)

Last Farewell

Anthony Thomas

* 31 July 1956

† 22 January 2023

We have the grievous duty to inform you that our congregation member Anthony has passed away at the age of 66. A funeral service was held at Peace Church on 28 January 2023.

We remember a wonderful person (obituary see page 21)



Invitation AGM 19 March 2023

Our AGM (Annual General Meeting) will take place on Sunday, 19th March 2023 at 10:15 after the Divine Service. on the Fourth Sunday in Lent - Laetare.

The minutes of the previous AGM (held on 13 March 2022) as well the Financial Report for the Calendar year 2022 will be available in the Foyer of the Church from Sunday 26th February 2023.

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Minuting Secretary
3. Attendance
4. Approval Minutes Last AGM
5. Annual Reports
Pastor / Chairman / Treasurer
6. Budget for the Year 2023
7. Elections
 - 7.1 Church Committee
 - 7.2 Delegates
8. Events 2023
9. General
10. Meeting Close

Members eligible to vote at the AGM are 18 years and older, who have paid their 2022 contributions and any new members.

At each AGM, half of the churchwardens are elected for a term of 2 years. The year before last, the following churchwardens were elected for the term of office 2021-2023:

Auke Brand
Carol Buschhold
Elizabeth Koepke

These church wardens have indicated that they are available for re-election. One more churchwarden still needs to be elected for the period 2023-2025.

Last year the following church warden was elected for the term of office 2022-2024:

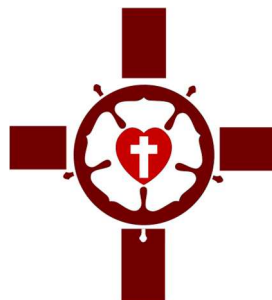
Rivka Rath

Three more churchwardens need to be elected for this period, as no additional candidates could be nominated last year - neither at the AGM nor at the Special General Meeting (SGM).

The Offices of chairperson and treasurer were taken over ad interim by

Reinhard Walle and
Henry Newman

If you are interested to serve our congregation as a church warden please contact the Election Officer, Geoff Andrews (Cell No 083 287 4199).



Invitation AGM 19 March 2023



Lutheran Church Springfield - Friedenskirche - Port Elizabeth
Church Committee Nomination Form AGM 19 March 2023
Kirchenvorstand - Vorschlags Formular GV 19. März 2023

Nominations, including self-nominations, must be submitted (on this Nomination Form) to the Chairman of the Church Committee in writing. Nominations are also accepted verbally until the start of voting at the AGM. A nomination will only be valid if the candidate declares in writing or verbally at the meeting, that the candidate is willing to take office if elected.

Wahlvorschläge, einschließlich Selbstnennungen, müssen dem Vorsitzenden des Kirchenvorstands schriftlich (mit diesem Vorschlagsformular) vorgelegt werden. Wahlvorschläge werden auch mündlich bis zum Beginn der Abstimmung an der Gemeindeversammlung entgegengenommen. Eine Nominierung ist nur gültig, wenn der Kandidat/die Kandidatin im Vorfeld schriftlich oder an der Gemeindeversammlung mündlich erklärt, dass er/sie bereit ist, das Amt zu übernehmen, wenn er/sie gewählt wird.

Proposer's details Information Antragsteller

Name _____
Adresse _____
Cell phone _____ Email _____

I propose the following person or myself as a member of the church committee
Ich schlage die folgende Person oder mich selbst als Kirchenvorsteher vor:

Candidate's details Information Kandidat(in):

Name _____
Adresse _____
Cell phone _____ Email _____

Signature of the Candidate
Unterschrift des Kandidaten: _____

Prayer and the help and grace of God



..... pray for us, so that the Lord may send us rain to fill our cisterns.

Judith 8:31

Dear Congregation and friends,
So far in the NMBM area, we have had a bit of a rough start to the new year with continued electricity and water shortages. The ever changing stages of loadshedding affects us all adversely at home, work and on the road. Many are starting to look toward solar technology by using the free and abundant South African sunshine as a means of reducing the impact loadshedding has on households, businesses and schools. However the initial cost of a solar installation can be heavy on the pocket. Incentives to install roof solar panels and methods of selling energy back into the grid are being reported on in the media. As opposed to water, electricity storage has in the past been a stumbling block. Better and more efficient battery materials and design is starting to change this.

Little rain has fallen in our catchment areas. At the time of writing this, the combined useable water levels of the five dams supplying the NMBM area has dropped to 8.25 %.

The NMBM website highlights several drought augmentation projects that are in progress. New wellfields have been established at Coegakop, Bushy Park, St Georges Park and Moregrove.

Once completed they should provide some relief from our water crisis.

Further detailed NMBM information updates can be found at:

www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za

God regularly sends clouds to our sky so let us keep praying to Him for rain.

We recall the rough start we had was at the start of 2020. Thankfully Covid -19 and its variants seem to still be kept in reasonable check although apathy and lack of consideration for one's neighbour could result in Covid showing itself again in one form or another.

Despite that it is not mandatory in RSA to wear a mask, the early preventative measures can still be a good basic habit to adhere to, and effective in reducing possible spread of the airborne virus. We have come to realise that the basic good hygiene habits that have been mentioned many times in the past are still worth remembering as they are so easy to do. Washing and disinfecting hands, social distancing, avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands and sneezing in the crook of your elbow.

Imagine how difficult it would be if the use of a Hazmat suit would be the only effective measure. Thank goodness this is not the case.

Prayer and the help and grace of God

In 1918 the 'flu pandemic was also on a massive scale and something that the world and South Africa had to cope with, and sadly many succumbed. Over time, vaccines were developed and became effective against the influenza virus. During my early years I recall 'flu shots were the norm and given once a year. We did not question these although by not having the 'flu shot, one risked the possibility of "coming down" with the 'flu. This was more an inconvenience of not feeling well for a short while and waiting it out to recover. Covid on the other hand is a virus to take very seriously in the present day and age.

Covid vaccines are now deemed effective and with regular booster shots, have kept many safe. It would appear then that regular booster shots are presently the order of the day, until maybe an annual injection of a vaccine will be enough to avoid being infected or reduce the severity of an infection from severe to mild.

God provides us with scientists with the skills to develop vaccines so let us pray to Him to guide them and healthcare providers.

The world has become increasingly more aware of the alarming negative effect on climate the activities mankind has, and is, having on our beautiful blue planet. All over the globe there are reports of unseasonal and extreme weather including tornados, cyclones, floods, droughts and melting ice caps. Abnormally hot and cold

weather are also reported.

There is a real drive to reduce greenhouse gasses, our dependence on fossil fuels and plastics that are choking our oceans and harming the environment. Excessive de-forestation has also had a negative effect on climate and the fine eco balance of nature.

In 1996, in response to a California mandate that required automakers to have zero-emissions vehicles ready for market by 1998, GM rolled out the EV1 experimental electric car, the first mass-produced electric vehicle of the modern era. (circa 1100 made)

Representing the aviation industry, the Velis Electro became the first type certified electric aircraft on 10 June 2020. These initiatives and many others have heralded in a new era of *better caring for our earthly home that our heavenly Father provided.*

Reinhard Walle
Committee Chairman a.i



Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

24th February: The Apostle Matthias

The Jewish scribe **Matthias** (died around 63, probably in Jerusalem) was a disciple of Jesus. Matthias was chosen by lot (Acts 1:15-26).

He replaced Judas, who had taken his own life out of despair over the betrayal he had committed against Jesus. After the death of Judas Iscariot, he was added to the remaining eleven apostles of Jesus. He is therefore considered to be the twelfth apostle, a rank that is, however, iconographical also attributed to Paul of Tarsus (see January newsletter).

No other references to the apostle are found in the New Testament. The name means "**gift of God**".

He had followed Jesus since his baptism by John the Baptist and was a witness to Jesus' ascension. Jesus sent out 70 people to preach the Gos-

pel. No list of names exists, but it is assumed that Matthias was among them.

The early Christian tradition is not unanimous on the question of whether the original number of twelve, significant in terms of religious history (the twelve tribes of Israel), is restored by him or by Paul. The latter's figure is, unlike in the case of Matthias, connected with a direct history of calling, but he did not belong to Jesus' followers. This vacillation explains why Matthias is sometimes called the thirteenth apostle.

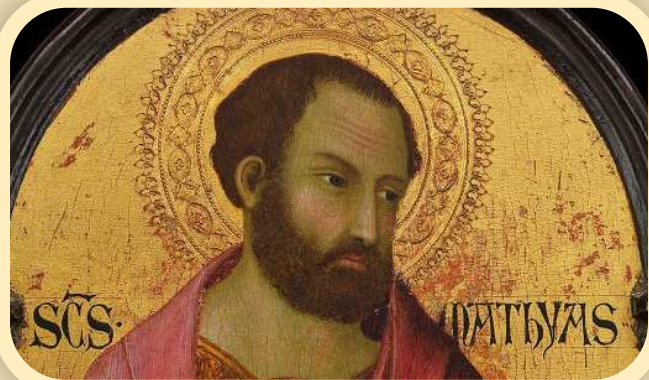
There are differing accounts of the circumstances of Matthias' death. In the "Legende aurea", Jacobus de Voragine reports that he died in peace and that his body was brought from Judea to Rome. According to other tradition, he suffered martyrdom in Jerusalem when he was stoned or beheaded.

Clement of Alexandria mentions Matthias in his reflections on the apostleship:

"Not that they were chosen as apostles on account of excellent qualities of their nature, for Judas also was chosen along with them. But they were able to become apostles be-

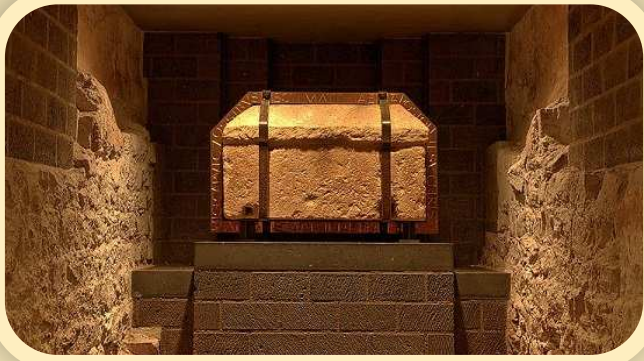
Legenda aurea:

Collection of originally 182 tracts on the church feasts and especially life stories of saints and legends of saints, written in Latin in 1264.



Watchword Matthias day (Isaiah 52:7):
How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.

24th February: The Apostle Matthias



**Sarcophagus of Apostle St. Matthias
Basilica St. Matthias, Trier, Germany**

cause they were chosen by Him who foreknew even the last questions. Matthias, accordingly, who was not chosen together with them, showed himself worthy to become an apostle, is substitute for Judas."

Henceforth, Matthias was also called the "Apostle of Faithfulness" because he took the place of Judas, who had not remained faithful to Jesus.

According to legend, the bones of the Apostle Matthias were found in Palestine more than 250 years after his death by order of the Empress Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine I, and transferred to Trier by the Bishop of Trier, Agritius. In 1127, human remains found in the Benedictine Abbey of St. Matthias in Trier were believed to be the relics of the Apostle Matthias, which had been lost for centuries. They have been venerated by pilgrims in the abbey church ever since. Especially in the Middle Ages, the cult of Matthias was very

much alive. A brotherhood book with 4670 entries from the middle of the 12th century to the beginning of the 13th century bears witness to the number of pilgrims. Pilgrims from the Rhineland in particular travel to Trier during the pilgrimage season. Many set out on foot. These pilgrimages are carried out by St. Matthias brotherhoods.

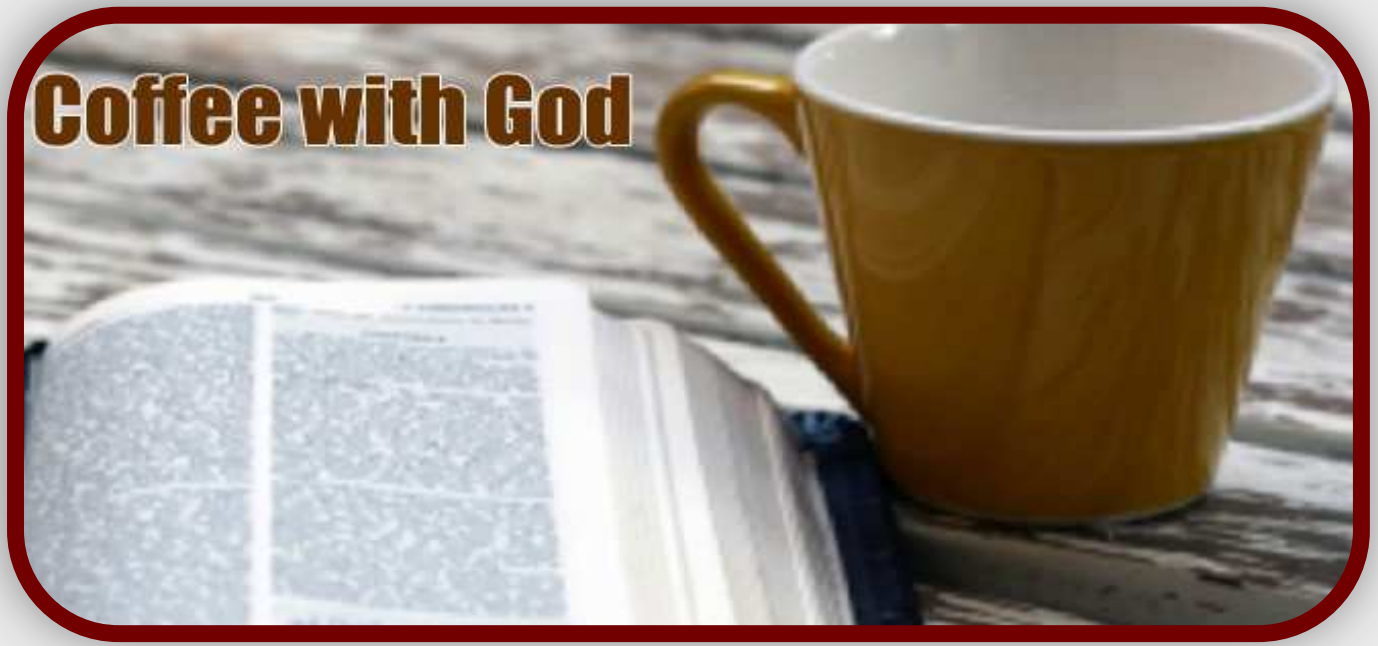
Iconography:

The attribute of the apostle in traditional iconography is the book (for his apostleship) and/or the axe or halberd (for his martyrdom). In the host of apostles he is only seen in scenes of the biblical story after the Ascension of Christ, namely at Pentecost and the Death of Mary. In groups of apostles, he is usually replaced by Paul, who is considered the twelfth apostle here. More rarely, both Paul and Matthias are depicted, bringing the number of apostles to thirteen



**Apostle Matthias with halberd
Alexandre Boudan (1600-1671)**

Noticeboard



In the New Year we have started with a Home Group again called **COFFEE WITH GOD.**

It is held on **Tuesday mornings at 10H30.** Everyone is welcome. Look out for announcements in Church and on the WhatsApp Group for further details and dates.

Event Dates

19 March 2023	Annual General Meeting (AGM)
01 April 2023	Easter Market
14 May 2023	Mother`s Day Coffee after Service
27 May 2023	Bingo Caf�
18 June 2023	Father`s Day Coffee after Service
26 August 2023	Ladies High Tea
30 September 2023	Bingo Caf�
04 November 2023	Christmas Market
18-19 November 2023	Ladies Retreat

Birthdays February 2023

04 Feb

Jan | Heineke

04 Feb

Karla | Arends

06 Feb

Rene | Koch

07 Feb

Kurt | Eichhoff

10 Feb

Gisela | Schmidt

Molly | Trumpp

11 Feb

David | Thompson

13 Feb

Joan | Cairncross

17 Feb

Brian | Arends

25 Feb

Candice | Burger

28 Feb

Gemma | Bürger

Joan | Burgdorf

Happy
Birthday

Divine Services February 2023

5 February 2023 09:30 (D)
Septuagesima

12 February 2023 9:30 (E)
Sexagesimae



Watchword (Daniel 9,18)

We present our supplication before you, not on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercies.

Is God just? That those who act well do not always have it good, was already painfully experienced by the people of Ecclesiastes' time. "God's justice is goodness", counters the Sunday of Septuagesima. The vineyard owner who pays equal wages to all, even to the last labourer; Jesus who sits at table with a tax collector of all people; God who is not impressed by strength and wealth, but opposes them with justice and his righteousness. Jesus calls those who are infected by this justice to follow him. They try, like Paul, not to insist on their own rights, but to always do justice to others according to their needs. They know that this is not possible by their own strength, but that God always gives the "willing and doing".

Sermon
Matthew 9:9-13

Watchword (Hebrew 3:15)

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.

"What I don't hear, that wasn't said." Children are excellent at this: ears closed, tuned out. But listening is often difficult for us too. How much more difficult when it comes to God's word. And then it hits us again suddenly, abruptly, right in the heart. The Word of God and its effect are at the centre of Sexagesimae Sunday. Sometimes it is sharp, painful and divisive like a sword, then again it seems to have no effect, but settles down and grows in silence. God scatters the message of his love generously. Even if we let it wither: it is for us. It is up to us to take it seriously. But one thing is certain: the good news does not remain without effect. Like Lydia, who, inspired by God's word, became the first Christian in Europe.

Sermon
Isaiah 55:(6-7).8-12

Divine Services February 2023

19 February 2023 9:30 (E)
Estomihi

22 February 2023 18:00 (E)
Ash Wednesday



Watchword (Luke 18:31)

See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.

It is natural in life that we time and again make our way on a different path than the one we knew before. If we only look back we may miss what is happening right now or what may lay ahead for us. On this Sunday Estomihi we make our way to Jerusalem, the way of the Passion of Christ. For us to go without fear we ask God to speak His Word of hope and encouragement into our lives. With God's Word may the unknown not frighten us too much, and may we know that whether we experience joy or pain it is not in vain and that it carries a deeper meaning for our lives. May God encourage and strengthen us through the Holy Spirit.

Watchword (Luke 18:31)

See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished .

A cross of ashes on the forehead - this is rarely experienced among Protestants. And yet, even in Lutheran churches, Ash Wednesday initiates the Lent season, a time of contemplation and reflection on the suffering of Jesus Christ. In the Church of Peace, a service is held on this day to prepare for the Passion and Lenten season.

Sermon
Corinthians 13:1-13

Sermon
Matthew 6:16-21

26 February 2023 09:30 (E, Fam)

Invocavit

5 March 2023 9:30 (D)

Reminiscere

**Watchword (1 John 3:8 b)**

The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

It is not gentle and it is not exciting and it is not much fun. Even if the advertising tells us otherwise: Temptation is a serious thing. Those who are tempted often have their integrity at stake. Can I be honest even if it puts me at a disadvantage? Can I remain true to myself? Sunday Invokavit is about temptation. From the temptation of the serpent - "You will be like God" - to Job, who holds on to God even in the face of adversity and illness, and Judas, who does not resist, to Jesus, who himself is tempted. The confession to him and the look into the Holy Scriptures help to stand firm in temptation and to serve God properly: Feeding the hungry, clothing the poor.

Sermon
Job 2:1-13

Watchword (Romans 5,8)

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Sometimes all talking and explaining is of no use, no example and no sermon. All effort is in vain. The children have a mind of their own. You want to shake them, but they only become more stubborn. It is difficult not to lose patience. This is how God is with his people, as Reminiscence Sunday shows. They are like the hedged vineyard that produces only sour grapes, and like the vine dressers who, in the absence of the gracious owner, take possession of the vineyard and kill his son. We often despise God's will, think we believe, and yet act heartlessly and coldly. Shouldn't God lose patience? In the stories of the people of Israel in the desert, it almost seems that way. But God punishes and yet has mercy again. In Jesus, God's patience is shown completely: He comes to the sinners and suffers for them - as hope for all the world.

Sermon
Mark 12:1-12

Prayer Cards February 2023

1 Feb Deanna Deutschmann

2 Feb Alie Coetzer

3 Feb Joan Burgdorf

4 Feb Leon Human

5 Feb Pastor Anja Spiske

6 Feb Lucas Letsholonyane

7 Feb Linzi Thompson

8 Feb Leonard Fourie

15 Feb Gabi Weder

16 Feb Tony Thomas

17 Feb Anthea Bürger

18 Feb Auke Brand

19 Feb Luke Human

20 Feb Geoff Andrews

21 Feb Justin Köpke

22 Feb Kai Burgdorf-
Fourie

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 Feb Leonard
Rosendahl

10 Feb Lynn Cairncross

11 Feb Benjamin Burger

12 Feb Wayne Böttcher

13 Feb Ryan Meyer

14 Feb Esther Siegmund-Heineke

25 Feb Aria Noël
Thompson

26 Feb Willie Lokotsch

27 Feb Patrick Septoe

28 Feb Robin Arends

27 Feb Katy van Wyk

28 Feb Christel Schädler

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

1. Timothy 2:1

Noticeboard - Looking back



How long the Christmas tree stay in church?

As a symbol for Christ, our light and life, the Christmas tree in church stayed quite a long time even when Christmas time passed. Actually there is a reason for it.

The Christmas circle opens the church year in order to prepare for easter. Christmas time starts with advent and in catholic church it comes to an end with the Sunday after the 6th of January. Most of the time the Christmas tree will be removed by then.

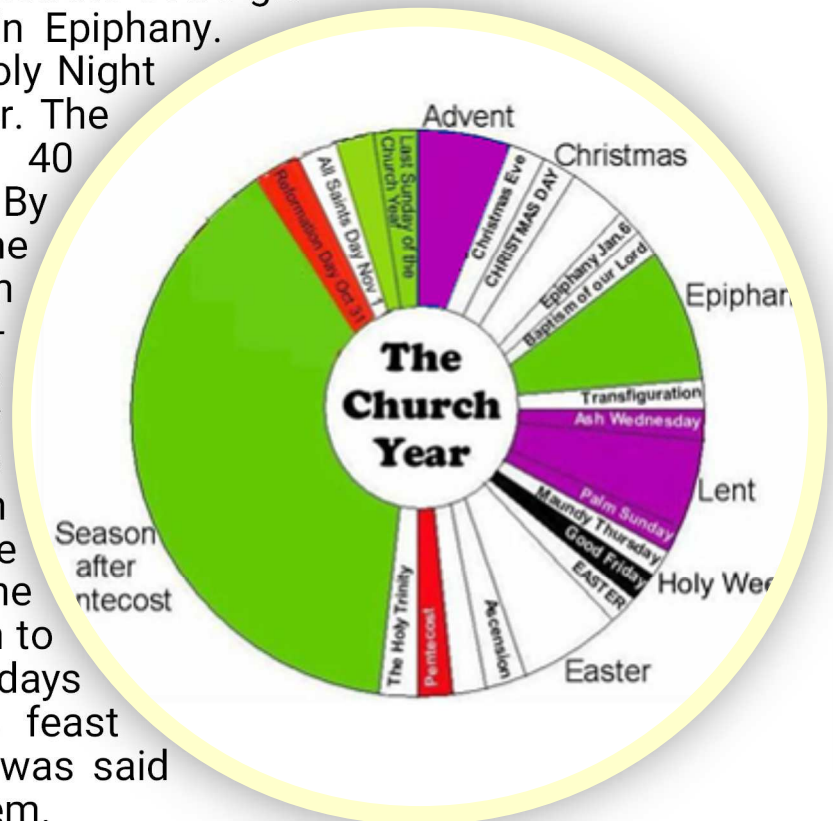
But in the evangelical church the time of Epiphany still belongs to the Christmas circle. Only with the Sunday Septuagesimae it comes to an end while the time for preparing lent will start. Septuagesimae means seventy, 70 days to go to the Sunday following Easter.

The Christmas tree should demonstrate God's glory even the following Sundays in Epiphany.

The light that appeared in the Holy Night will connect to the light of easter. The Christmas tree might stay for 40 days after the 24th of December. By than it is the 2nd of February, the date on which the catholic church celebrates the feast „Presentation of the Lord“. According to Jewish law a new-born boy would be presented in the temple of Jerusalem after 40 days. When Jesus arrives in the temple he was recognized by Simeon as the Saviour and „a light for revelation to the Gentiles“ (Lk 2,32). In early days Christians would celebrate this feast with candlelight processions. It was said to be Jesus' first entry in Jerusalem.

The candles for this feast were blessed on that day as well as all other candles that would be used during the church year. That is why the feast got its name Candlemass. By that date with all the illumination it is the last chance to remove the Christmas tree.

www.evkircheerlenbach.de



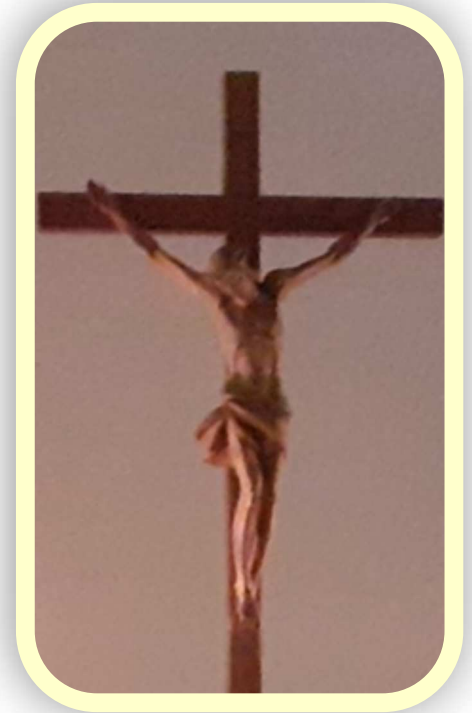
Noticeboard - Looking back

The cross during the church year

In the coming time of lent we concentrate on the cross though it is the centre of our Christian life always. With his death on the cross Jesus took the sins of the world upon him in order to redeem us. Jesus, Son of God, true God, was born as true Man into this world. That is celebrated on Christmas.

With Christmas Jesus is celebrated as God in human form. Epiphany celebrates Jesus as Son of God who will reveal with his death on the cross.

Looking to the cross and the passion of Jesus we have a look back again to Christmas



Looking back to divine services during the christmas cycle



Waiting had come to an end on Christmas eve: the huge Christmas tree was illuminated and the candle of Christ could be enlightened in the Advent wreath



The scene of nativity was set up. For the first time it was beautifully painted this year. A very hearty thank you to the artist Rivka Rath.

Two angels took place in front of the altar and more of them formed a choir in the foyer. Thank you to Carol and Penny for this wonderful contribution to Christmas in the Church of Peace.



Noticeboard - Looking back

In the divine services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we were told the Good News in several very impressive examples.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd
He is fully God and fully able to protect and guide



"The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world."

In Family Service on Christmas Eve we learnt a lot about candy cane, the well-known sweet in Christmas time. But nearly none is conscious about the story it tells about Jesus with its shape like a „J“ and the other way round like a shepherd's crook



Red and white colour indicate the blood and the holiness of Jesus. Enjoy your next candy cane with a lot of cognition about Jesus and – don't forget to share for that is how we have a chance to experience the love of God.



Cosy and peaceful as the scene in the living room that is how Christmas can be - can't it?

The reality shows us the other side of Christmas: violence in families, poverty, bitterness and disappointment, conflicts and war. And exactly into this miserable world God sends his Son in order to let us experience his love.

The most important word in the Christmas story is „**unto you**“. „...For unto you is born this day...a Saviour...“ (Lk 2:11). Because God means each of us personally that is why we can return from the manger changed like the shepherds: with Jesus in our heart and praising the Lord with songs



Noticeboard - Looking back



The painting „Persistence of Time“ of Salvador Dali showed us in the divine services on New year’s eve and New Year how time is stealing our life though it cannot pass God who will keep and embrace us in everything that happens, in each experience and each feeling. For it is said: „...nothing can separate us from the love of God...“ (Romans 8:38)



At Epiphany the divine radiance of the Advent Wreath and the Christmas Tree has lit the pastor and hopefully the congregation with joy. The radiance will lead us to the cross and the prepared holy communion in which God’s work of salvation in Christ is revealed.



At Epiphany the divine radiance of the Advent Wreath and the Christmas Tree has lit the pastor and hopefully the congregation with joy. The radiance will lead us to the cross and the prepared holy communion in which God’s work of salvation in Christ is revealed.



In Epiphany Jesus will be known as Son of God on earth. That happens by the encounter of the wise men, the baptism of Jesus and the miracle of Cana where Jesus changed water into wine.

The situation to be without wine is to understand as a symbol for being without God comparable to an empty glass. Jesus will change despair and death into life.



Noticeboard - Looking back

On the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany we heard of God's boundless love, which does not ask about origin or status and is for all humanity. As Paul assures us, the Gospel offers salvation to every single person who believes. *For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is a power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, but equally to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written: He that is justified by faith shall live.* (Rom 1:16-17)

This passage of the Epistle to the Romans is regarded by every one of our leading theologians, three of whom are pictured, through their own experience of faith, as a central biblical passage and a door-opener for understanding the whole Gospel.



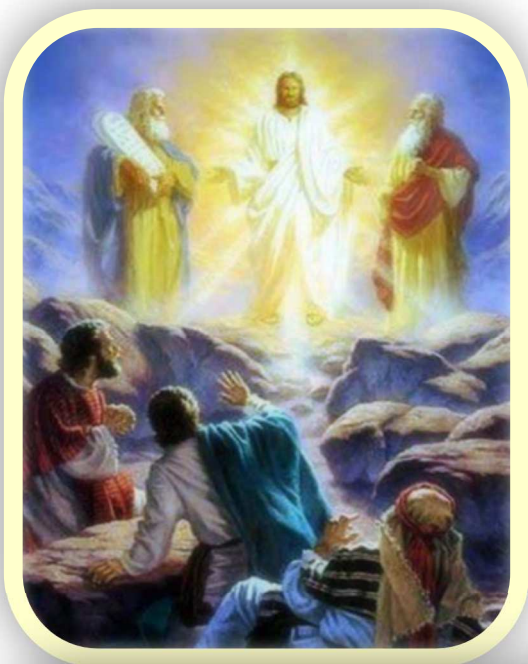
Augustine
of Hippo
354 - 430



Martin Luther
1483 -1546

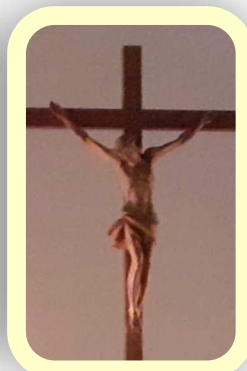


John Wesley
1703 - 1791



The glorious Epiphany season ends with the story of the transfiguration of Jesus, where three chosen disciples experience Jesus in a vision of light as the Son of God. This moment of transfiguration is in complete contrast to the crucifixion and yet the two are mutually dependent. The God in Christ full of grace, love and truth is found on the cross and through him our very lives can be transformed into faith and forgiveness.

With people of peace who open themselves to the love of God, true peace can come.



We are introduced to God's love in the Christmas circle, how unshakeable it is, boundless, liberating, life-saving for every single person.

Obituary



Anthony Thomas
1956 - 2023

A funeral service was held at the Church of Peace on Saturday 28 January 2023 to accompany our member Anthony Thomas to his final resting place.

The church was filled up with family, friends and members of the congregation.

Pastor Anja led the service. Just a week ago she blessed the very sick Anthony in hospital.

The bible word was taken from the Letter to the Romans: *If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.*

The funeral oration was held by Anthony's sister and everyone got a close idea of Anthony's eventful life which was filled with a lot of love in his family.

In the Church of Peace Anthony was committed to several responsibilities. As a qualified chef he was in charge of organising, cooking and serving lunch at Christmas as well as Easter Market. We appreciated very much his

friendly calmness and his excellent meals.

A few years ago he initiated planting a garden in front of the church together with Auke Brand. As we see it even today the concept for the garden was very well worked out with very beautiful elements of garden design. Now the garden is a good place to remember Anthony.

Just before Christmas Anthony was busy to cut the grass on the whole area of the church as well as at the manse.



We are very thankful for Anthony's engagement and will miss him terribly.

His family we wish God's abundant consolation and blessing.

Kid's Page

Jesus as a Boy

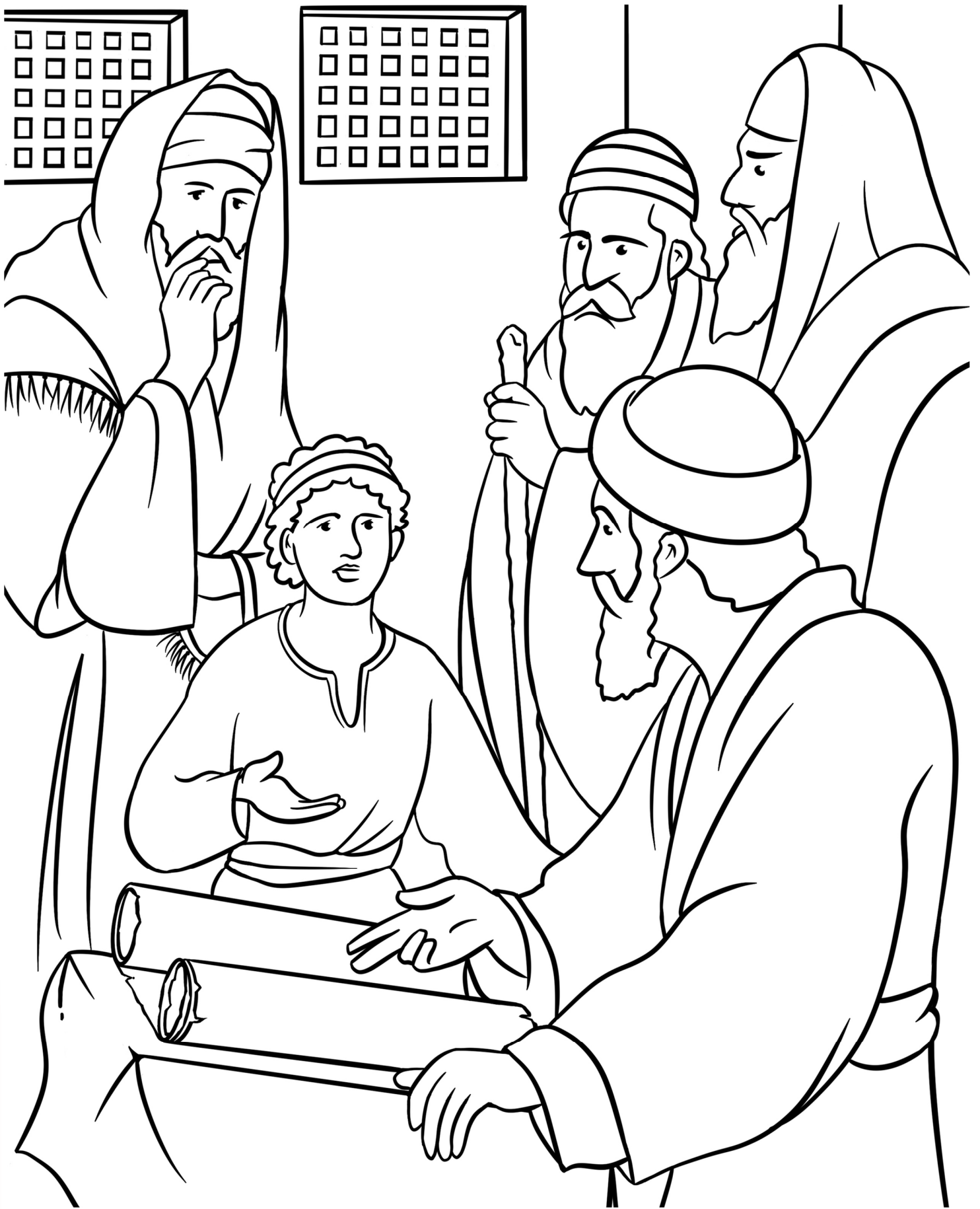
Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. When Jesus was 12 years old, they went to the feast as they always did. When the feast days were over, they went home. The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Joseph and Mary travelled for a whole day. They thought that Jesus was with them in the group. Then they began to look for him among their family and friends, but they did not find him. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him there. After three days they found him. Jesus was sitting in the Temple with the religious teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and wise answers. When Jesus' parents saw him, they were amazed. His mother said to him, "Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about you. We have been looking for you." Jesus asked, "Why did you have to look for me? You should have known that I must be where my Father's work is!" But they did not understand the meaning of what he said.

Jesus went with them to Nazareth and obeyed them. His mother was still thinking about all that had happened. Jesus continued to learn more and more and to grow physically. People liked him, and he pleased God.



Colouring Page



After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Luke 2:46



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

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② vacant	warden6@lutheran-pe.org	

Bank Details :

First National Bank,

Branch Code: 211217

Account: 534 200 32476

Walmer Branch

Lutheran Church

The congregation's Levy is paid to the Cape Church each month. The recommended contribution per family is **R 720** 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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