



LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH
Friedenskirche Church of Peace



Nr: 2023.07 e

Newsletter July 2023

Jesus Christ said:
Love your enemies
and **pray** for those
who persecute you,
so that you may be
children of your
Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:44-45

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

Watchword July 2023

**Jesus Christ said:
Love your enemies and pray
for those who persecute you,
so that you may be children
of your Father in heaven**

Matthew 5:44-45



Dear Congregation,
In the Gospel of Matthew chapter 5, near the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says: "*Your Father in heaven makes his sun rise on the evil and the good, and lets it rain on the just and the unjust.*" (Matthew 5:45) When I look at the sentence in context, I realize that this is about the call to love one's enemies.

To put it bluntly: What about such love of enemies, can we do it? Perhaps our first thought is: "I don't have any enemies, so I don't need to think about this". The answer may be correct, but that doesn't solve the problem. Just by not calling anyone my enemy, I can't escape Jesus' words. It applies to all those who are unsympathetic toward me, to those that annoy me, to all those with whom I would prefer not to have anything to do. I am to show love for enemies to those who, like me, are

Christians and belong to the church. But also, to all those who are far from the faith. Can we love all these people? Too often I can't, and sometimes I even wonder if what God is asking for here is right. Is it really just that the Father should let His sun rise on the evil and the good, and let it rain on the just and the unjust? Wouldn't it be fairer, wouldn't it be much better for everyone, if he discerned, if he sorted out the unrighteous and the wicked? How much suffering would be spared to others if God loved only the righteous, the good, but not the others. There just simply are not any easy answers to these difficult questions.

But whoever thinks this way forgets that the one who acts in this way is the Father. It is not easy for earthly fathers to break off their relationship with their children. It is even harder for earthly mothers - and it hardly

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matters what their children have done, or what guilt they have brought upon themselves. Letting go is not easy, breaking off the relationship is even more difficult. This has to do with the cross of love. There is an inner connection that usually hinders us from simply letting go or breaking it off. Blood is thicker than water. I believe that God is much more a Father than our earthly fathers, and that God is more of a mother than all our earthly mothers.

This certainly has something to do with hope. Even earthly fathers and mothers always have hope that their children will still find the good, the right way from their point of view. And this also has to do with love. I believe our Heavenly Father loves all of His children with infinite love. He loves those who love him, but He also loves those who are indifferent about faith, and about God.

Yes, God loves His enemies too. He loves those of his children who declare themselves his enemies. That is why the apostle Paul can also say in his letter to the Romans that Jesus reconciled us to God while we were still enemies (Romans 5:10). Paul takes man's enmity against God very seriously.

But he also knows that this is precisely why God sent his Son Jesus Christ into this world. If this is so, perhaps God's patience will

become more understandable. Then His waiting and hope will become understandable. But above all, his actions.

God is and remains patient, and even more, here in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presents this patience to the disciples as an example. Nevertheless, there is probably no simple answer to the question of how peace can be restored, neither in the personal nor in the global sphere.

For today, it may suffice that we go into everyday life with the longing for a life according to the nature of God, because *"God is love, and they who abide in love abide in God, and God in them"* (1 John 4:16).

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Pastor Anja

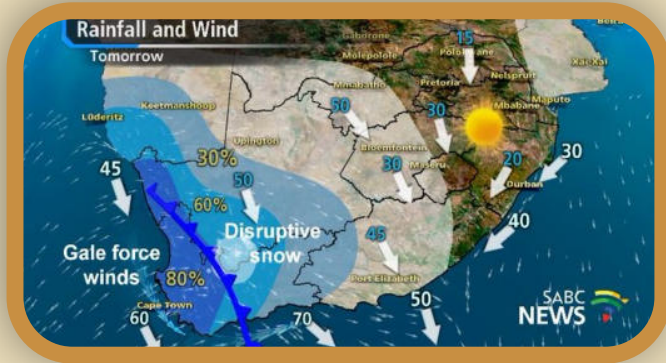


The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

There is no law against such things.

Galater 5:22-23

Give thanks for rain but be wary of the 'flu'



RSA Weather Forecast 09.06.2023
 I spread out my hands to you in prayer. I'm thirsty for you, just as dry ground is thirsty for rain.
 Psalm 143:6

have been steadily increasing since week 15 (10 April 2023)

The 2023 influenza season started in week 17 (27 April 2023) when the influenza detection rate (3-week moving average) breached the seasonal threshold and remained on low activity for two consecutive weeks in the pneumonia surveillance programme (see figure below). The Influenza A (H3N2), A(H1N1)pdm09, and influenza B are common seasonal influenza strains in humans."

Dear friends,

We have long been praying for rain.

Our prayers have been answered and we thank God. In the Eastern Cape our dams are starting to fill. This is great, things are looking good - so many of us thought. Cold fronts accompanied the much needed rain.

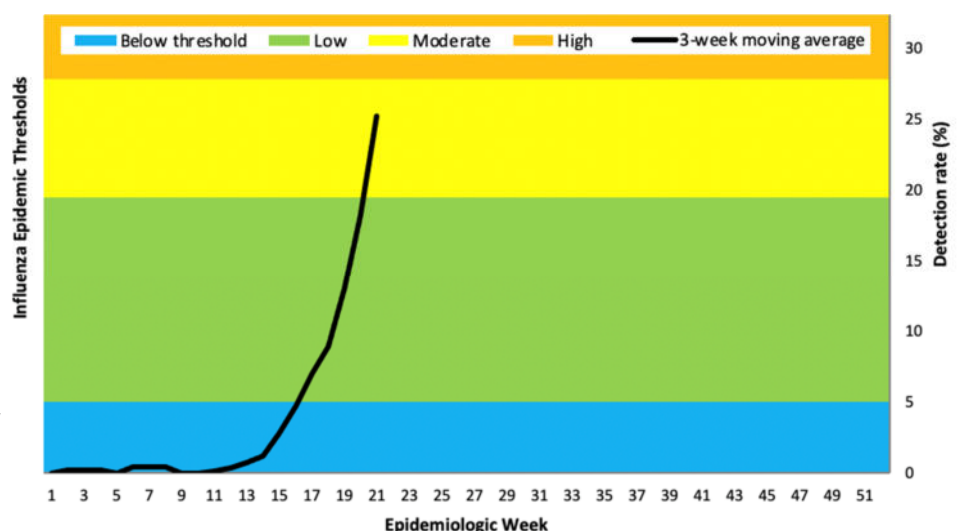
Severe weather warnings were issued on 13 June 2023 for the Garden Route and Eastern Cape.

We have just come out of 2 years of fighting the Covid global pandemic. Many of us have received our covid-19 vaccinations and booster shots.

Now the traditional 'flu season is upon us and seems to have caught many unawares.

The South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has advised of *"an increase in flu cases across the country (5 June 2023). Cases of "flu*

Although Covid -19 seems to have been brought under control, there is a nasty 'flu strain that is going around. It does not seem to last long but appears to linger if one is not careful during the present extreme weather conditions. Very cold, and rainy days and nights interspersed with warm sunny days. We enjoy the warmer weather and forget to wrap up warmly as evening approaches. Standing say around a braai fire in short sleeves in the cold evening looks like a recipe to allow this 'flu to catch hold.



Give thanks for rain but be wary of the 'flu'

The sudden increase in 'flu cases is shown by the NICD Influenza Epidemic Threshold graph that was published in June 2023.

Could it also be that during the Covid-19 epidemic, as we all wore masks, kept our distance from each other, regularly washed and sanitised our hands and surfaces we came into contact with, the chance of infection even for 'flu was kept in check?

Now that we move and interact with one another much more freely than at the time of Covid-19, 'flu infections are more easily transmitted from one person to another. Cold weather exposure not helping our immune system to fight off the infection.

Remember the Covid protocols we had to follow when having visitors to our home, going shopping - even going to Church had its Covid protocol restrictions. We are no longer required to wear masks and spray our hands with sanitiser when entering a supermarket or public place.

While we are relieved that Covid is behind us, the present 'flu strain is having an easy time, through droplet transmission, of its viral infection.

It appears that as one starts getting one's voice back and feeling a bit better, medication is reduced or stopped, and staying warm seems not so important, in some cases the 'flu comes right back for a second round.



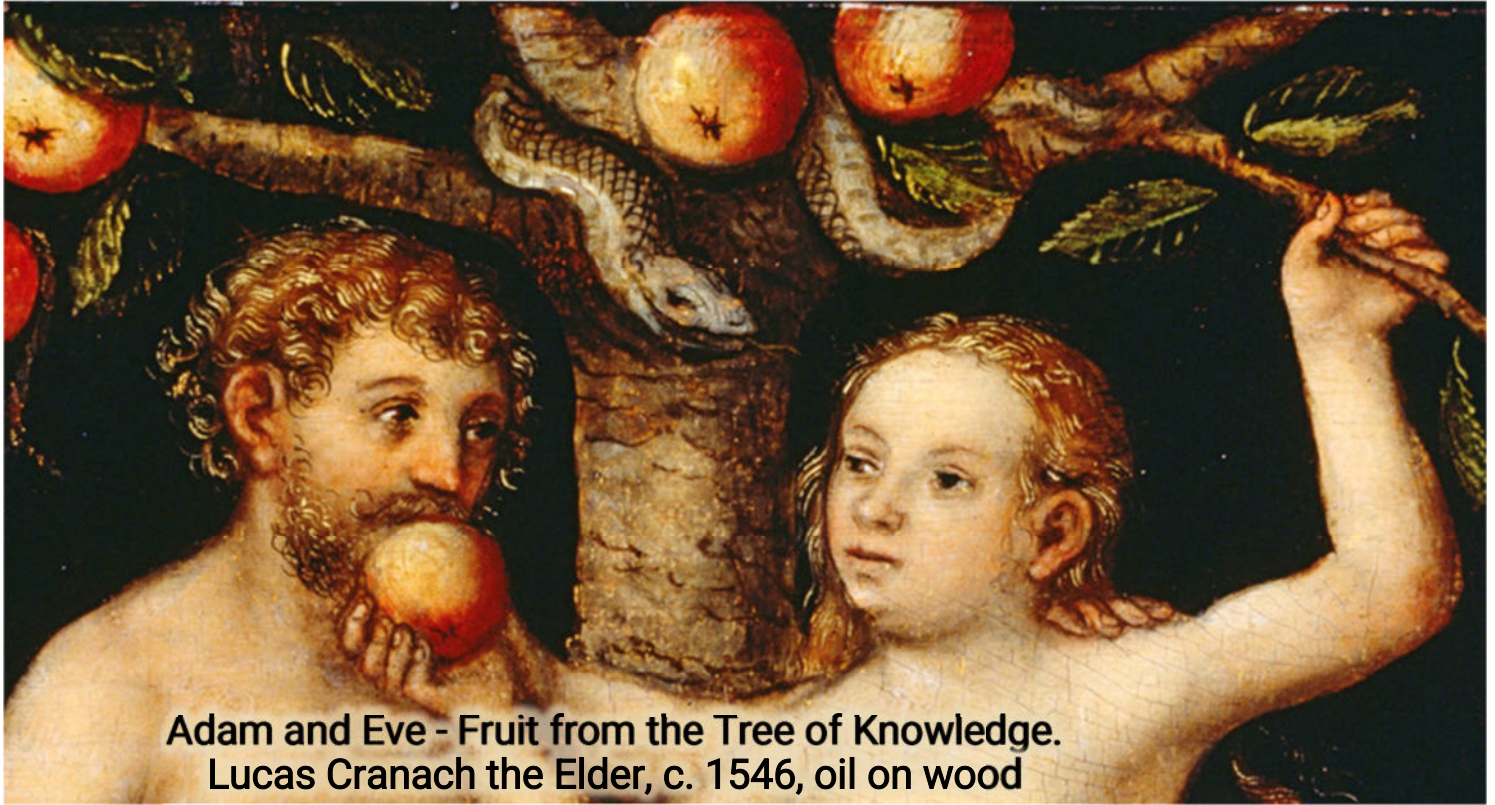
I give thanks to you, O Lord my God,
with my whole heart, and I will glorify
your name for ever.
Psalm 86:12

The NICD recommends that "*Ideally, the 'flu vaccine should be administered before the influenza season (March to April). However, even if the season has already started, it is never too late to get vaccinated, especially for individuals who have high risk of severe influenza illness or complications. To prevent contracting or spreading the influenza virus, the following measures are recommended: avoid close contact with sick individuals, stay home when sick, cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, regularly clean hands, avoid touching the mouth, eyes, and nose, and clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces.*"

These are protocols we are familiar with and help reduce the chance of infection. Keep safe, well and warm this winter.

Reinhard Walle
Committee Chairman a.i

Fruits in the Bible



Adam and Eve - Fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.
Lucas Cranach the Elder, c. 1546, oil on wood

Fruit of Paradise

Probably the best-known fruit in the Bible is the fruit of the tree of knowledge: *'Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.'* He forbade people to eat of the fruit of this tree. One day a serpent told Eve, *'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'* This aroused Eve's curiosity. She took of the fruit and ate, and gave it also to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of them both were opened. However, they did not become particularly clever as a result. First they realised they were naked. They quickly

grabbed fig leaves to cover themselves and tried to hide from God in the bushes. But it was no use. God immediately noticed what was going on and expelled them from paradise. By the way, the fateful fruit was not an apple, as is often assumed today. The story merely speaks of a fruit.

Love garden fruit

In the Song of Songs, fruits become poetic images with which two lovers describe each other. It is full of comparisons that stimulate the erotic fantasies of the readers. *'Like an apple tree among the wild trees, so is my friend among the younglings. Under his shade I desire to sit, and his fruit is sweet to my palate,'* the woman poems. And her friend replies: *'Your*

Fruits in the Bible

cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil. You are stately as a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters. I say I will climb the palm tree and lay hold of its branches. O may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, and the scent of your breath like apples'

When the vine withers

Fruits like figs, dates and grapes were important foods. What would happen once these fruits failed could be vividly imagined by everyone at that time: The earth would become a barren vale of tears. The prophet Joel therefore also admonished his fellow human beings to remain vigilant and God-fearing. For if a time should come when *'the vine withers, the fig tree droops. Pomegranate, palm, and apple - all the trees of the field are dried up; surely, joy withers away among the people.'*

Under the vine and fig tree

Fruits did not only bring joy to those in love. The prophet Zechariah speaks of a time when God will remove the burden of sin from people and emphasises: *'On that day you shall invite each other to come under your vine and fig tree.'* Anyone who could afford to sit convivially with his neighbours under fig trees could consider himself rich and fortunate. For these trees yield delicious fruit twice a year.

Cursed fruit

Although Jesus actually spoke out against cursing, he also cursed occasionally. A rather strange tradition tells of one of his curses hitting a fig tree. And that only because it did not bear fruit when Jesus wanted to eat some. When he was hungry, he saw a fig tree and *"went and found nothing thereon but leaves, and said unto it, Now grow thou no more fruit upon thee. And the fig tree withered immediately."*

Fruits of life

Together with the Tree of Knowledge, the Tree of Life once stood in the middle of Paradise. In order to prevent people from also eating from its fruit, God blocked their way back to the Garden of Eden. In the heavenly Jerusalem, however, they will be able to eat of its fruit, there will even be not just one, but many trees of life full of fruit, promises the last book of the Bible. There will flow a *'river of living water', 'clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God.'* The trees that grow there bear fruit in every month. The addition sounds like a retraction of Jesus' cursing of the fig tree: *'There will be nothing more cursed.'*

Beyond the end of one's nose: Moravian Church

The Moravian Church of the Brethren is getting a female bishop for its European-Continental Province for the first time. The synod of the free church elected the 59-year-old pastor **Rhoïnde Doth** from Utrecht in the Netherlands as its **first female bishop** in the region on Saturday in Herrnhut in Saxony, the Evangelical Brethren Unity announced. This means that in future there will be five people in the office of bishop in the church province, including a woman for the first time.

The bishops of the Moravian Church are elected for life. They do not have a leading function, but a pastoral and international connecting function.

With the election on Saturday, the worldwide number of bishops of the free church rises to 59, according to a spokesman. The **Moravian Church**, also called **Brüder-Unität**, or *Unitas Fratrum* in Latin; or *Herrnhuter Brüdergemeinde* in German) belongs to about 1.25 million people worldwide, the majority in Tanzania, about 22,800 in Europe and 98,000 in South Africa.

It is an international church dating back to the Bohemian Reformation and Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, who was influenced by Pietism. The founding year is considered to be 1457 (Georg von Podiebrad's transfer of the Kunwald estate to the Petr Chelčický brothers) on the one hand, and 1727 (Zinzendorf's drafting of the statutes for the religious refu-

ges in the Herrnhut settlement) on the other.

The preacher and theologian Petr Chelčický was a follower of Jan Hus. With the *Confessio Bohemica* in 1575, a comparison of the Brethren with the Lutherans, the Reformed and the Calixtines was achieved.

There are congregations and circles of friends in many countries that have grown out of the very active missionary work of the Moravian Church of the Herrnhut Brethren and its daughter settlements over the past centuries.

Since 1731, the Evangelical Church of the Brethren has annually published the *Watchwords*, each with a Bible verse from the Old and New Testaments for daily devotion. In the meantime, The *Watchwords* have been translated into more than 50 languages and are in use on all continents with an annual circulation of around 1.75 million. We also send out the *Watchwords* every day via our church WhatsApp.



A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.
Proverbs 25:11

Fruits



The fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.
Ephesians 5:9

Good fruit wants to ripen

If the Holy Spirit rules our lives, rottenness has no chance. The Holy Spirit makes other fruit grow in our lives: *"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

(Galatians 5:22) And again Paul mentions what follows from this: "Is this so with you? Then no law can demand anything of you!" Perfect! With this fruit of the Spirit we are ripe for heaven!

Spiritual fruit has to ripen just like natural fruit: first they are small and green, then they become more and more ripe until they become sweet fruit. We go through this process of growing and maturing and our character changes as our spiritual fruit ripens.

Congregation Life

Herta Breidendach †
09.06.1943 21.06.2023



Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road
To sweet eternity.

We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
All were meant to learn some things,
But never meant to stay ...

Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the LORD.



If we live, we live to the Lord, and
if we die, we die to the Lord; so then,
whether we live or whether we die,
we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:8

LWF Assembly Poland, 13-19 September 2023



The Assembly theme, One Body, One Spirit, One Hope, reminds us that in a fragmented world, we are called to unity in the one body of Christ. The theme is drawn from Ephesians 4:4 (NRSV): "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling."

The visual identity is an integral element of the Assembly. The logo we have selected is a bold expression of our connectedness as one body in Christ, led by the Holy Spirit and called to share the transformative hope and love of God with the world.

The visual elements, representing the theme of the Thirteenth Assembly – One Body, One Spirit, One Hope – come together to uplift, inspire and challenge us as we gather in Kraków, Poland and throughout the world in 2023.

The Assembly logo draws inspiration from the local context and cultural heritage of Poland. One of the most popular forms of traditional artwork in the region is paper cut designs, known as wycinanki. These intricate pieces usually include shapes of people and nature portrayed together using bright colors. The people, dove

and tree in the Assembly logo unite to form a modern representation of this art form. The color palette consists of two colors from the LWF visual identity alongside three unique to the Assembly: poppy red, Baltic Sea blue and amber yellow. These colors celebrate the natural beauty and artistic heritage of Poland and its people.

Regional pre-Assemblies are integral to LWF Assemblies. As gatherings of Lutheran representatives by region, regional pre-Assemblies are practical tools to prepare delegates for the Assembly, to enhance understanding of issues and concerns of member churches and to nominate candidates for the Council. In addition, they help delegates address critical issues and ensure constructive dialogue.

Pre-Assemblies play an important role in ensuring substantive and enlightened discussions during the Assembly and ultimately in helping the Assembly achieve its objectives. By knowing the rules of procedure, delegates gain confidence to propose



Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it. Genesis 1:11

LWF Assembly Poland, 13-19 September 2023

motions and amendments, argue, and debate resolutions and issues. Through a contextual approach to the Assembly themes and issues, delegates can see unifying elements in order to arrive at a global analysis and vision.

In addition to helping prepare an Assembly to address critical, controversial and potentially divisive issues, pre-Assemblies ensure constructive dialogue on these matters. Regional pre-Assemblies are tasked with nominating candidates to the Council, thus determining the quality and effectiveness of the next LWF Council. Pre-Assemblies contribute to the shared outcomes of the Assembly, these being:

- an increased sense of belonging
- far-reaching outcomes beyond the delegates and beyond the Assembly itself
- a strengthened Lutheran identity and ecumenical commitment
- increased visibility and awareness of diaconal work
- more concrete and measurable

outcomes for our advocacy and work on peace and justice

- a joyful and transformative Assembly
- a clear mandate with regards to the strategic framework

All share a common program. In the lead-up to Kraków, each will aim to harvest the fruits of regional, youth and women's work from Windhoek to Kraków; offer contextual reflections on Assembly themes; orient delegates on the agenda, program and procedure; discuss the jarmark/marketplace and consider contributing to it; provide times of worship; produce a slate of nominees for the next LWF Council; inform delegates of any constitutional changes; and offer information on the visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau former German Nazi concentration and extermination camp.

Timeframe: Regional Pre-Assemblies: Europe

21-24 March 2023, Oxford, UK

North-, Latin America, Caribbean

17-21 April 2023, Bogota, Colombia

Africa

8-13 May 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

Asia

14-19 June 2023 Kuala Lumpur, MY

Global Youth, Women and Men Pre-Assemblies:

Youth

8-11 September 2023 Poland

Women

8-11 September 2023 Poland

Men

11-12 September 2023 Poland



Through the middle of the street and on either side of the river is the tree of life, producing its fruit each month

Revelation 22:2

Fruits

Beautiful Inside and Out

The fruit of a tree is always there for others. No tree eats its own fruit. There are many beautiful fruits and if you open them or cut them, the worm is inside. Sometimes our behaviour is like that. The fruit may look beautiful and Christian, but inside it is rotten: kindly look to the right and left, but once someone needs help, you sneak away.

We have to make sure that our fruit is as beautiful on the inside as it is on the outside, that it tastes as good as it looks. Are we different on Sundays than we are during the week? How do we behave behind closed doors where no one sees us?

God is not impressed. To the Israelites, God says in Isaiah 29:13,

"Because these people draw near with their mouths and honour me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me." Let us see to it that the Spirit produces good fruit in our hearts that tastes as good as it looks.



For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. .
Ephesians 5:9

Functions

COFFEE WITH GOD.



Saturday mornings
at 10H30

Everyone is welcome.
Look out for announcements
via WhatsApp-Group

Events 2023

26 August 2023
Ladies High Tea

30 September 2023
Café Bingo

4 November 2023
Christmas Market

18-19 November 2023
Ladies Retreat
(TBC)

Birthdays July 2023

01-Jul

Linda | Jachens

06-Jul

Christel | Schädler

10-Jul

Kadean | Daniels
Phil van | Rensburg

12-Jul

Eva | Rudolph

16-Jul

Hans | Schaberg

18-Jul

Elisabeth | Wagner

29-Jul

Desmond | Fillis
Doreen | Stocklose

Happy
Birthday

Divine Services July 2023

2 July 2023 9:30 (D)
4th Sunday after Trinity

9 July 2023 9:30 (E)
5th Sunday after Trinity



Watchword (Galatians 6:2)

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

Watchword (Ephesians 2:8)

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Likeable or unlikeable? The decision is made within a few seconds. Moral judgement is also very fast. We usually "know" very well what is reprehensible and make our contempt known loudly or subtly. "Beware of such judgements!" warns the 4th Sunday after Trinity. For there is no one who is without fault, who is not always in need of generosity and forbearance. It is only God who can judge. That is why Jesus encourages forgiveness: Those who live from the awareness that God is merciful towards them can try to live reconciled - like Joseph, who forgives his brothers after a long time for the wrong they have done to him, and David, who spares Saul who wants to kill him. "Do not let evil overcome you, but overcome evil with good," says Paul.

"Come and see!" This invitation of Jesus applies to us today as it did to the disciples 2000 years ago. The 5th Sunday after Trinity tells of people who let themselves be called into God's service. The nomad Abraham, who goes out on God's word, and the fishermen who leave their nets behind, Paul, who becomes an apostle through the message of the Risen One - they are all quite ordinary people. But they are ready to give up the old and go new ways with God. Even if it seems unreasonable. That is risky, because they often have to endure incomprehension and mockery from their surroundings and the opposition of their own families. But they are allowed to see: The overflowing nets are only the beginning of countless wonderful experiences. Those who follow Jesus discover ever more deeply where God dwells on earth.

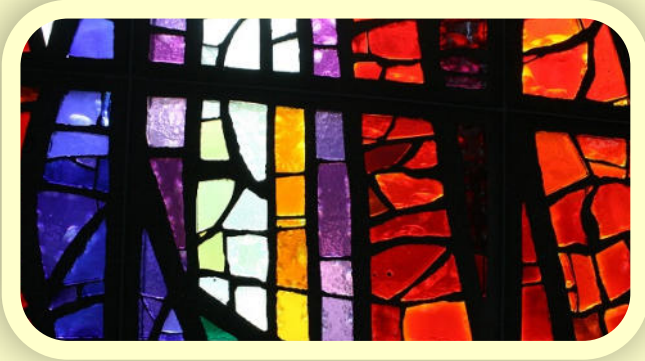
Sermon
1 Peter 3:8-17

Sermon
John 1:35-51

Divine Services July 2023

16 July 2023 9:30 (E)
6th Sunday after Trinity

23. July 2023 09:30 (E)
7th Sunday after Trinity



Watchword (Isaiah 43:1):

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

Watchword (Ephesians 2:19)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.

Most of them were so small that they can no longer remember their baptism today. And yet at that time a foundation was laid for the whole of their lives. The 6th Sunday after Trinity is all about baptism. It reminds us of Jesus' command to baptise people and of the gift that stands at the beginning of life as a Christian: Jesus' life, death and resurrection are for me, my life is pure and good before God. Above my life is the promise: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine!" Many congregations baptise on this Sunday or celebrate a baptismal memorial.

I have so much - and yet I am sometimes completely empty. I am filled every day, yet I have a tremendous thirst for more. I long for something I cannot describe ... That God satisfies physical and spiritual hunger is told by the readings of the 7th Sunday after Trinity, which illuminates the Lord's Supper from different perspectives. Eating and drinking, celebrating and sharing as well as great hospitality are part of the Christian faith. Jesus took people's natural needs seriously, fed thousands with five loaves and two fish and sat at table with a wide variety of people. In the Lord's Supper, Christians from the beginning continue this united table fellowship and anticipate the time when the hunger for true life will be satisfied.

Sermon
Isaiah 43:1-7

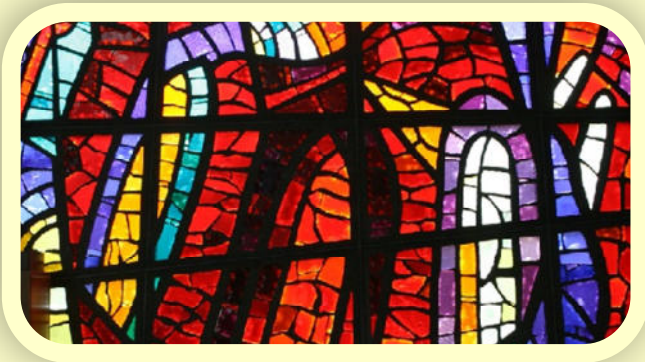
Sermon
Acts 2:41-47

Divine Services July 2023

August 2023

30 July 2023 9:30 (E + Fam)
8th Sunday after Trinity

6 August 2023 9:30 (D)
9th Sunday after Trinity



Watchword (Ephesians 5:8b.9)

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

Watchword (Luke 12:48)

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

What I do or do not do, what I say and plan is not indifferent. Whoever is infected by faith in Jesus knows: I am responsible. My life can change something.

Like a stone that falls into the water or like a spark that jumps over, the good news of Jesus Christ sets people in motion. Thus, the 8th Sunday after Trinity speaks of the effects of faith: As light of the world and salt of the earth, Christians will not go unnoticed in the world and will often enough find fault with it. As dwellers of God's Spirit, they will be careful and prudent with their bodies. As richly endowed people, they will share their possessions - even if it is only a little. Touched by God's light, they themselves will shine like church windows.

What guarantees do I have? What can I count on? Often my life is opaque to me. Then I don't want to risk anything, just live along... But the 9th Sunday after Trinity is unsettling. Whoever gets involved with God must be prepared for surprises - like Paul, whose values are turned upside down by the encounter with Jesus, like Jeremiah, who thinks he is too young and is nevertheless called to be a prophet, and the man who comes across a treasure and spontaneously sells all his possessions for it. Only those who take a risk, who are totally committed to the venture with Jesus Christ, who place their gifts at the disposal of God and people, will ultimately be rich. What a paradox: Only those who do not rely on worldly securities will have their house of life built on solid, secure ground.

Sermon
Matthew 5:13-16

Sermon
Matthew 13:44-46

Prayer Cards July 2023

1 Jul Lorinda Koch

2 Jul Owen Kivedo

3 Jul Elizabeth Köpke

4 Jul Colin Lentz

5 Jul Branson Bosman

6 Jul Reinhard Walle

7 Jul Linda Jachens

17 Jul Lima Coko

18 Jul Dale Thompson

19 Jul Olga Thomas

20 Jul Brenda Lentz

21 Jul Genia Lokotsch

22 Jul Eva Rieboldt

23 Jul Rosi Seifert

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 TRESPASSES
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**

8 Jul Doreen Stocklose

9 Jul Jutta Rohwer

10 Jul Sharon Tessendorf

11 Jul Holly Eichhoff

12 Jul Antoinette Bosman

13 Jul Nicolas Sternberg

14 Jul Clinton Sternberg

15 Jul Alison Manasse

16 Jul Joy Cairncross

24 Jul Penny Jelliman

25 Jul Chad Deutschmann

26 Jul Michael Koch

27 Jul Karla Lentz

28 Jul Roswell Kivedo

29 Jul Ayesha van Wyk

30 Jul Audrey
Letsholonyane

31 Jul Liane Botha

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

1. Timothy 2:1

German Protestant Church Congress 2023

„Jetzt ist die Zeit“ (Markus1,15)
,The time is fulfilled ' (Mark 1:15)



Nuremberg was a great host for the German Protestant Church Congress „**Kirchentag**“ in June 2023, as previously 1979.

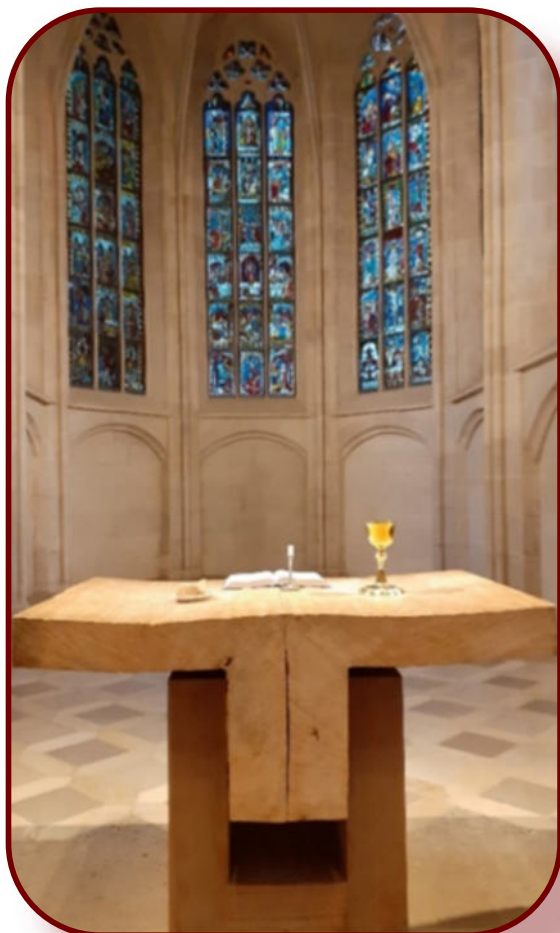
The centre of the city dates back to the Middle Ages and includes a huge fortress and several impressive churches. The artist Birgit Osten expressed it in a very colourful way. A small exhibition of her artworks was presented in the biggest church of Nuremberg which is the gothic St. Lawrence Church build between the 13th and 15th century.

Now, in honour to the „Kirchentag“, the St. Lawrence Church was put in different colours by a light show which was connected to acoustic signals as well. The show emphasised the gigantic building with its valuable artworks once again.

In the St. Lawrence Church a special Divine Service took place at the „Kirchentag“ in 1979. In that Service the Holy Communion was placed as a central element, opening it to a communal experience. That was copied at every „Kirchentag“ in the following years. Each of the churches taking part in the „Kirchentag“ would offer a Holy Communion like

German Protestant Church Congress 2023

this. In Nuremberg one among many other churches was the small reformed St. Martha's Church with a very simple altar, presenting bread and wine without any decoration.



That Holy Communion is one of the „holy moments“ at every „Kirchentag“ as well as the times for prayer in the churches and the sea of lights which arises from thousands of candles which are distributed during the Evening Devotional on the main market place.

Together with the brass choirs from all over Germany which play in Divine Services, bible studies or just on a place in the city, all participants and the whole city is fulfilled with that special feeling which is connected to „Kirchentag“.



German Protestant Church Congress 2023



In Nuremberg current topics have been crisis concerning the climate, the war in Ukraine and refugees.

During the 5 days of „Kirchentag“ it is very crowded not only in the city but also at the fair-ground. Here are big halls which can host thousands of people in order to present bible studies or music events. Significant for the „Kirchentag“ are discussions about current social and political topics. Important and interesting experts are invited including politicians, even the German Federal Chancellor.



Another topic which was discussed at the „Kirchentag“, was the fight against discrimination. Reasons to discriminate persons are their origin or their sexual orientation.

Nuremberg was a special place for a discussion like that because it once was chosen by the Nazis for their party congresses. Their inhuman ideology was celebrated in impactful mass events and demonstrated in a powerful manner.

In 1935 laws were passed named „Nuremberg Laws“ which excluded people from society because of reasons which were ideologically defined. Those people were prosecuted and finally killed.



German Protestant Church Congress 2023

A bible study on the former ground of the Nazi assemblies paused in order to remember the outrageous events.

The fitting bible text was about Josef and his brothers (Genesis 50, 15-21). Will ever reconciliation be possible?



The sermon at the Closing Service of the „Kirchentag“ was held by Pastor Quinton Ceasar who leads a congregation in Northern Germany, originating from South Africa.

He agreed to the claims of the „Kirchentag“ within Jesus' words as „Now is the time“ (Mark 1,15). The world's crisis should be faced resolutely in order to effect changes. Unequivocally he insisted on the end of any discrimination. The „Kirchentag“ always should provide such positive impetus.



Anna Spiske attended the “Kirchentag” and prepared this report.

Noticeboard - Looking back to Divine Services

Holy Trinity - 4th June 2023

The Divine Service started with lighting three candles showing symbols like we also encounter in works of art.

Symbol for Jesus Christus formed by the first two letters of the Greek word **Χριστός**: *Christós* for Christ.



Symbol for God, "Eye of God" which is aware of everything. It is enclosed by a triangle which symbolizes the divine number three and therefore the Holy Trinity.



Symbol for the Holy Spirit. The spirit of God appeared in form of a dove when Jesus was baptized.



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

On Holy Trinity Sunday the watchword for the week is the same verse from the bible we hear every-time before a sermon starts. With this confession of the Trinity Christians are recognized. In Trinity the once distant God has come near, the ineffable one wants to be called by his name, the fire of his presence kindles enthusiasm in us. It is the Trinity which makes a christian congregation to a place of peace, love, grace and communion of the living God.



Noticeboard - Looking back to Divine Services

11.06.2023 (1st Sunday after Trinity)



Just after Trinity we learn more about the love of God. We all know that feeling of love. In love God can be experienced most deeply. The certainty of being loved by God allows us to love our neighbour. „*And this commandment we have from him, that whoever loves God should also love his brother and sister*“. (1 John 3:23) Christians are recognizable in their deeds towards their neighbours. That is to think about in all types of conflict.

18.06.2023 (2nd Sunday after Trinity)



God invites all of us to take a seat at his table of love and grace. „*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest*.“ (Matthew 11:28)

At God's table all are seen and honoured in their brokenness and will be revived with His Holy Supper.

25.06.2023 (3rd Sunday after Trinity)



Also this Sunday we are assured of God's love and compassion towards all who think about being lost. The parable of the Prodigal Son teaches us very clearly. „*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost*.“ (Lk 19,10) How blessed we are with the Good News! Let us accept them!

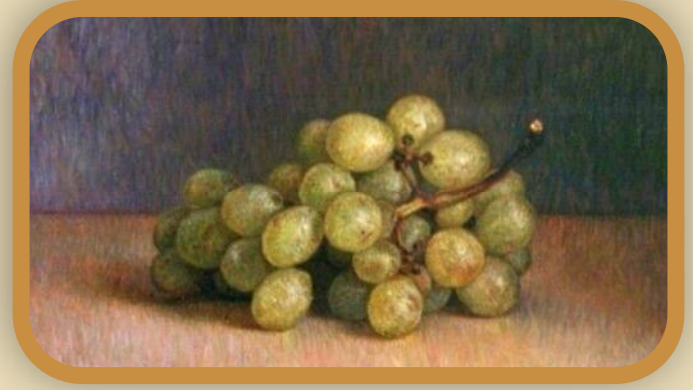
VELKD celebrates 75th anniversary

Keeping the Lutheran awakening alive.

75 years ago, on 8 July 1948, the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (VELKD) was founded in Eisenach/DE. The seven regional churches of the VELKD, with over eight million members, cultivate the core Lutheran ideas of the Reformation with special care within the EKD.

The central concerns of the VELKD are the contemporary interpretation and communication of Christian confessions, the responsive design of church services and ecumenical dialogue. The seven Lutheran regional churches united in it - Hanover, Bavaria, North Germany, Brunswick, Saxony, Central Germany and Schaumburg-Lippe - bind themselves in their constitution to Martin Luther's catechisms and the Augsburg Confession of 1530.

On behalf of the German Catholic Bishops' Conference, Bishop Gerhard Feige of Magdeburg thanked the VELKD for decades of intensive theological dialogue: "For us, the VELKD is an institutional voice of the Lutheran tradition in Germany. In the past, we have discussed fundamental ecclesiological and ethical issues with each other. This distinguishes our relations in Germany and is furthermore important for the international relations between the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation. With fraternal interest and best wishes for



**I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them
bear much fruit
John 15:5**

blessings, we will accompany the further path of the VELKD and remain in intensive contact with each other."

The Chairperson of the EKD Council, Annette Kurschus, congratulated the jubilee: "We are grateful to the VELKD for its committed work in ecumenism, its loving attention to liturgical forms and its diligence in answering fundamental theological questions. In the many-voiced concert of Protestantism in Germany, the Lutheran timbre is unmistakable. The Council of the EKD wishes the VELKD God's blessing."

The Presiding Bishop of the VELKD, Bishop Ralf Meister, describes the current challenges of the Federation of Churches: "The questions of the present are: How can we, under the conditions of isolation and polarisation in our society, offer a fellowship of churches as something unifying, reliable, which gives support to life? How can we pass on the message of

justification by faith in a comforting way to people who are under pressure to perform at work or face pressure to find attention in the social media

In an article for the German Pastors' Journal published on the occasion of the anniversary, Regional Bishop of Gera/DE Friederike Spengler writes: "It is a particular strength of the VELKD that it questions (supposed) majority opinions. It listens to objections and integrates them without declaring what it has achieved to be a closed truth that could not be judged differently at other times. This is a competence that should not be underestimated and that must be preserved in times of the 'unification of the world'." More than 30 theologians from Germany and abroad have sent their congratulations to the VELKD in the form of short videos which can be viewed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1S9Lfs3abQ>

and compiled into a film. A chronicle of the prehistory and history of the VELKD with pictures can be found at

<https://kirchencloud.ekd.de/index.php/s/TiVLalvDjdU1dYA>

Hanover, 22 June 2023
Press Office of the VELKD
Dr. Frank Hofmann

This article was translated from German by EH Newman using deepl

Apples

It was an apple that fell on the brilliant head of the physicist Isaac Newton and thus provided the impetus for him to discover why balls always land on the ground and do not get stuck in the sky.

The apple stands for healthy food par excellence, is a symbol of original sin, a popular still life motif, a love oracle and a symbol of hope.

In Christian tradition, the apple stands for temptation par excellence. Yet the Bible passage about the end of innocence does not mention an apple at all. So it may well be that it was not an apple that was Eve's undoing. It could very well be that the forbidden fruits mentioned were grapes, figs or even grain.

The Latin word malum with a long "a" translates as apple, with a short "a" it stands for the bad and evil. Thus, the apple has found its way into the Christian tradition as a symbol of temptation



**Guard me as the apple of the eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings**
Psalm 17:8

Kid's Page: Samson



1 An angel told Manoah and his wife that they would have a baby boy. He must never cut his hair to show that he was promised to God and would be strong and save his people from their enemies.



2 They called their son Samson. One day when he was older, he was walking along, minding his own business, when a wild lion attacked him. He was so strong he picked it up and killed it.



3 His enemies wanted to know what made Samson strong, so that they could get rid of him. They sent a beautiful woman, called Delilah, to find out and Samson fell in love with her.



4 While he slept, Delilah cut off Samson's hair and so his promise to God was broken. He had been tricked by a beautiful woman. Now his enemies could catch him easily.



5 They put him in prison to work like a slave. They hurt him and he went blind. He was very sorry he had broken his promise to God. Soon his hair began to grow.



6 Blind Samson prayed and asked God to give him strength one more time. He put his hands on the two stone pillars and the temple of idols fell down and all his people's enemies died.

Colouring - Page





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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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