



Evangelisch-
Lutherische
Peter Paul
Gemeinde

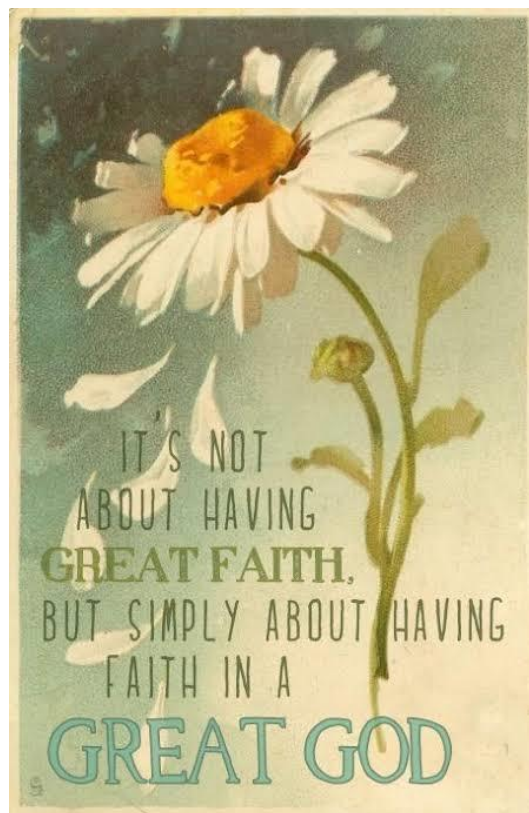
CONTACT

~ Hermannsburg ~

Evangelical
Lutheran Peter-
Paul Congregation

Gemeindebrief / Newsletter No. 157

February – March 2020



Watchword - February 2020

„You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings“ 1 Corinthians 7, 23

Throughout 1 Corinthians, Paul points again and again to the blood of Jesus Christ as the price that was paid for us. Some people fear being *owned* by God, as though they will be restricted. However, the greatest danger is not losing *freedom* to God but becoming a physical slave to another person, to the ways of men, the ways of the world, or our own flesh. That is the kind of slavery that will bind a person for eternity. The modern equivalent of “let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called” is “bloom where you are planted.” We are never fully satisfied with anything on earth. We always want something different.

There is a simple old fable that describes this beautifully:

An ancient king walked into his garden one day to find almost everything withered and dying. After speaking to an oak near the gate, the king learned that the oak was troubled because he was not tall and beautiful like the pine. The pine overheard their conversation and added that he, too, was upset, for he could not bear delicious fruit like the pear tree. The pear tree heard his name and began to complain that he did not have the odor of the spruce. And so it went throughout the entire garden. Near the very edge of the garden grew a small daisy. As the king approached, he noticed her bright little face, full of life. “Well, little flower,” said the monarch, “I’m glad to find that there is at least one happy face in my garden.” “Oh king,” the flower said, “I know I’m small, and few even notice me, but I realized that if you planted me here, you must have had a good reason. So, your majesty, I’ve determined to be the best flower I can be!”

Our King has planted a garden. Not one of us is greater than the next. He wants us to come to a place where we trust that He has created us the way He has, and He has us in the place He desires. When we do that, we can be free of the consuming disappointments and unhappiness that comes with discontentment. To be content in Christ is a marvelous blessing.

Monatsspruch - März 2020

Jesus Christus sprach: "Wachet!"
Markus 13, 37

„Hinterher ist man immer klüger“. Das sagen wir manchmal, wenn wir etwas falsch gemacht haben, jedenfalls, wenn wir es nach dieser Erfahrung anders machen würden. Und ein anderes Sprichwort sagt sogar: „Aus Schaden wird man klug“. Tatsache scheint zu sein, dass wir selber Erfahrungen brauchen, die wir am eigenen Leib erleben. Die Erfahrungen der Eltern, der Erwachsenen oder von Freunden reichen nicht aus. Manches weiß ich im Kopf. Aber bevor ich nicht ein Erlebnis dazu habe, ein Gefühl, das ich selber spüre, kann ich es nicht

beherzigen. Manchmal macht mir das Angst. Sind 70 Jahre Frieden zu wenig Schaden für unsere Klugheit? Nach dem zweiten Weltkrieg waren sich viele einig: Nie wieder Krieg, nie wieder deutsche Waffen. Wir werden wachsam sein und aufpassen, dass so etwas nie wieder passiert. Passen wir auf? Wachen wir genug? Wir wissen viel über Kriege, über Waffen, das sollte uns Wachen helfen. Wir können doch nicht auf noch mehr Schaden warten! Wachtet! Sagt Jesus. Lebt so, dass ich euch jederzeit überraschen kann, dass Gottes Reich sich Bahn bricht. Ja, hinterher ist man klüger. Aber ich bin doch der festen Ansicht: Nicht nur Schaden macht klug, sondern auch gute Erfahrungen können mich das Leben lehren. Gute Erfahrungen können mich lehren, dass Vertrauen lohnt, dass Anstrengung hilft oder gar nötig ist, ein Ziel zu erreichen. Dass ich mehr kann, als ich geglaubt habe. Dass ich selber mit meinen Gaben nötig bin, damit Gemeinschaft gelingt. Dass Glaube und Hoffnung sich Bahn brechen können, wenn wir Gottes Geist Raum geben, wenn wir Lieder singen und Worte hören und sprechen, die stärken, ermutigen und zum Guten reizen. Wachtet! Wachen ist gemeinsam leichter als allein. Stärkt euch gegenseitig, rüttelt euch auf, wendet Schaden ab und werdet klug durch Erfahrungen, die froh machen, wo Glaube Wurzeln schlägt, wo Leben wächst und blüht. Gebet Wacht, so lang ihr lebt! Schlafen können wir noch genug. Wir sind manchmal mutlos: Wecke uns auf, Gott! Wir sind manchmal kraftlos. Wecke uns auf, Gott! Wir sind manchmal gleichgültig. Wecke uns auf, Gott! Fülle unser Herz und unsere Hände mit deiner Liebe. Mache uns weise und stark. Amen.



Bishop's Post
February March
2020

Jesus asked: “... are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Mark 14, 37f

Although the year has just begun, we are already swiftly on our way to Lent and Easter. 26 February sees the official start of Lent, a time of reflection, of considering where we are, and where we as Christians and as Church are going.

This year the ongoing readings are from the gospel of Mark. (I invite you to download the Bible reading plan from www.nelcsa.net and join many others on this reading-journey!)

Jesus knows that a most difficult time lies before him, a time that will cost him his dignity, his strength and ultimately his life. To prepare for this he wants to spend time in prayer - alone, and yet not alone. He invites some of his closest friends, disciples to wake near him in prayer. A simple request - not too difficult to fulfill. And yet, they fall asleep. Luke, the physician, in recounting this event, gives a medical explanation: Jesus found them asleep, “exhausted from sorrow” (Lk 22,45). Mark's explanation is more theological: The flesh is weak.

I actually like Luke's explanation - not because it is an excuse, but because it shows us how many, many people react to impending crisis - closing the eyes, sleeping, hoping that, when they wake up, everything will be ok. Some people react to anxiety and fear by sleeping much more than usual.

“Wake and pray” is the challenge given by Jesus. Not just “Wake” - then it would be “wake and worry”, leading us to total exhaustion. Rather: Wake and pray. Jesus, in praying, discusses the situation with his Father, laying before him the whole scary situation. This discussion with the Father gives him the strength to say: Get up, let us go and face the challenge.

South Africa is facing countless challenges. Many of these are getting worse because of those in charge don't want to see and hope that the things will get right by themselves.

As I am writing, load shedding is causing havoc again. Political leaders are fuelling distrust, dividing the people with populist slogans of prejudice and hatred.

How shall I react? Close my eyes, hope to fall asleep, and when I wake up, things will be better?

This is where Lent comes in: I am inviting you to make this a special time of prayer, where you will put before the Lord all the challenges that we are facing. Take the time to pray more than you are doing normally. We are invited to fast, that is, to give up something. Suggestion: Give up TV - and spend at least some of that time in prayer for our country, our leaders, our church, your family, yourself - that the Father will guide us through the challenges.

I pray, that, just like Jesus, this time of praying will give you the strength to say: And now, let us get up and face the issues and deal with them!

So - between 26 February and Easter (12 April) spend more time than usual in prayer. And after Easter? Rise. Let us go and face the challenges!

Yours in Christ

Horst Müller



News from the Church

1. We are very happy that there is another student commencing her studies of theology this year. **Rutendo Gora** is a member of our congregation in Pietermaritzburg, and she will be joining the students of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa who are already in Stellenbosch. We wish her God's blessing for her studies!

2. The seventh **eEquip** ended successfully in Hermannsburg, KZN. Again it was a wonderful opportunity of sharing, learning and resting, getting ready for 2020. The theme "2020 Vision - Go with Purpose" was covered over three days, looking at Old and New Testament and Church History examples of people who went with purpose - or failed to realise their purpose.

3. **Pastor Peter Molchin** has resigned from his post at the **Evangelical Lutheran Church on the Eastrand (Germiston, Brakpan, Heidelberg)**. He did this in view of the lack of finances in the congregations, resulting in them falling behind in raising the funds for cost of Pastor.

He has opted to go on early retirement.

We thank him for his work in the parish. It will be difficult to continue to build on the turnaround, which started under his tenure.

I am often asked: How can you as church allow this to happen? Many people do not realise that NELCSA does not have the reserves to carry congregations that do not make ends meet over extended periods. The only funds available for this are those given under Solidarity. The fund works as follows: Each and every congregation gets billed less than the actual costs. The shortfall is then covered by solidarity. The idea is that those congregations that can make ends meet firstly cover the shortfall, and then, above that, contribute more to assist other congregations that cannot even cover that shortfall. Yet, because people


don't understand the system, many congregations contribute less than the shortfall. They are therefore supported by the few congregations that do give more, even though they could afford to support others. For that reason we encourage all congregations to make a concerted effort to contribute generously to solidarity, trying to at least contribute as much as they receive. Remember, solidarity will only work, when you contribute more than you receive!

5. The oldest church building in NELCSA still in use is celebrating its **150th Jubilee**. On 16 February we are celebrating the one and a half centuries that people could meet in the **Peter-Paul Church in Hermannsburg**, celebrate, receive strength, comfort and direction. Our Lord is not restricted to a church building - but it is wonderful when a building has served for such a long time!

Peter Paul Congregation
HERMANNSBURG

150 JUBILEE CHURCH BUILDING DEDICATION

10H00 ON THE CEMETERY
10H30 SERVICE IN THE CHURCH
12H00 LUNCH



16 FEB - 2020 - 10H00
Contact us: 083 259 1660 - hmb.congregation@gom.co.za



Freud & Leid

♥ We wish Kevin Williams a speedy recovery after his building accident and subsequent operation. Our thoughts and prayers are with you





Well done!
Congratulations!
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2019

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An exciting start to the new year, saw the delivery of our first new vehicle, which will be used by our estate manager, Siggie Prigge. We are eagerly anticipating the arrival of new buses in the coming weeks.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HERZLICHEN
GLÜCKWUNSCH

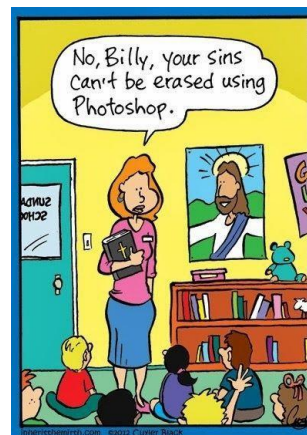
FEBRUARY

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 03 February 1967 | Stella Klingenberg |
| 06 February 1975 | Claudia Risch |
| 08 February 1958 | Elma Redinger |
| 11 February 1958 | Rita Reibeling |
| 12 February 1963 | Romy Prigge |
| 13 February 2006 | Julian Königkrämer |
| 16 February 1971 | Paul du Preez |
| 26 February 1981 | Selwin Redinger |
| 28 February 1983 | Olive Surendorff |

MARCH

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 02 March 1958 | Stella Cockburn |
| 02 March 1958 | Erwin Köhne |
| 04 March 1991 | Arnold Jacobs |
| 04 March 2002 | Tatjana Witthöft |
| 06 March 2007 | Matthew du Preez |
| 10 March 1959 | Siggie Prigge |
| 11 March 2001 | Kirsten Rabe |
| 11 March 2016 | Jake van Dyk |
| 17 March 1958 | Aletta Kassier |
| 17 March 1993 | Olaf Sinn |
| 17 March 1996 | Reinhard Köhne |
| 17 March 2000 | Anastasia Witthöft |
| 17 March 2000 | Eugen Witthöft |
| 20 March 1987 | Conrad Kassier |
| 20 March 1988 | Edmund Griesse |
| 22 March 1952 | Match Kassier |
| 24 March 1937 | Nettie Hohls |
| 27 March 1984 | Peter Surendorff |
| 30 March 1964 | Marina Griesse |
| 31 March 1968 | Lothar Witthöft |

Alles Gute!



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The Evangelical Lutheran Peter Paul Congregation is a
member of the **Northeastern Evangelical Lutheran
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