

Zuhause/@Home



**Gemeindebrief /
Newsletter
Kreuzgemeinde
Nelspruit**

**December 2014 /
January 2015**

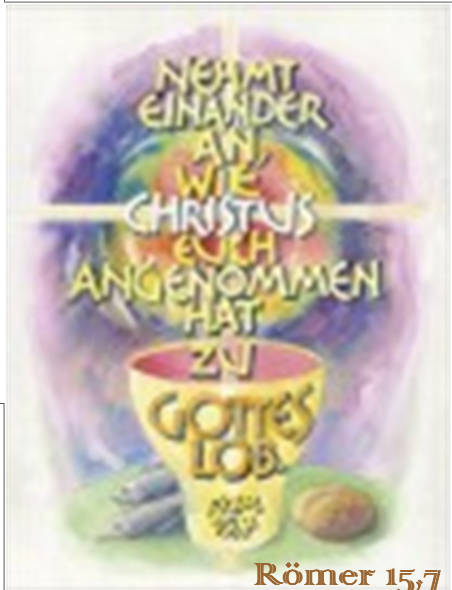
Accept one another, just as
Christ accepted you, in
order to bring praise to God.
Romans 15,7

Mit der Jahreslosung für 2015
wünschen wir allen Lesern ein
gesegnetes neues Jahr

With the watchword for 2015 we
wish all our readers a blessed new
year

Ons wens al ons lesers 'n geseënde
nuwe jaar met die leuse van 2015

AanVaar mekaar , soos
Christus julle ook aanVaar
het, tot eer van God.
Romeine 15,7



Jahreslosung 2015: (Römer 15,7)

Nehmt einander an wie Christus euch angenommen hat zu Gottes Lob.

Gott hat Ja gesagt. Er hat Ja gesagt zur Menschlichkeit und zu uns Menschen, indem er sich selbst ganz einließ auf das Leben hier auf Erden: Durch die Geburt Jesu, des Knaben aus Nazareth, der gut 30 Jahre später der Christus genannt wurde, zu deutsch: der Gesalbte Gottes.

Und seitdem sind wir Menschen aufgerufen, dass auch wir selbst zu uns Ja sagen und ganz menschlich denken, fühlen und handeln. So kann der **Friede der Heiligen Nacht sich ausbreiten . . . mit unserem menschlichen Denken, Fühlen und Handeln: Uns selbst gegenüber und natürlich auch gegenüber anderen.**

Phil Bosmans (1922-2012) schrieb darum:

„Du musst Frieden machen mit deiner Arbeit,
mit den Menschen, die um dich sind,
mit ihren Fehlern und Mängeln.
Du musst Frieden machen
mit den Grenzen deines Kontos,
mit deinem Gesicht,
das du dir nicht ausgesucht hast,
deiner Begabung und deinen Lebensumständen,
auch wenn beim Nachbarn alles viel besser ist.
Versöhne dich mit dem Leben.
Du steckst in deiner Haut.
In einer anderen Haut kannst du nicht mehr geboren
werden.“



Wie geht das: Frieden machen mit meiner Begabung und meinen Lebensumständen ... mit den Fehlern und Mängeln anderer Menschen ...? Ich komme auf den Anfang zurück: Es geht, indem ich Ja sage. Zu mir selbst und den anderen Menschen. So wie Gott zu jedem Menschen Ja gesagt hat.

Dieses Ja ist ein Ja zu mir als Person, zum anderen als Person. Es ist nicht automatisch ein Ja zu dem, was ich tue oder was andere tun. Denn da gibt es auch Denkweisen und Handlungen, mit denen ich mir selbst oder anderen nichts Gutes tue. Oder andere verhalten sich so, dass sie jemandem oder mir schaden.

Deshalb bedeutet das Ja zu mir und meinen Begabungen und Lebensumständen nicht, dass ich so bleibe, wie ich bin und mich nicht weiter entwickle. Im Gegenteil: Ich suche nach Weiterentwicklung in meinem Denken, Fühlen und Handeln. Die amerikanische Psychologin Jean Houston schrieb: „Development involves giving up a smaller story in order to wake up to a larger story.“ Frei übersetzt: Entwicklung beinhaltet, dass ich eine kleinere, engere Geschichte (Sichtweise, Verständnis) aufgebe, um aufzuwachen zu einem größeren, umfassenderen Verständnis.

Der Knabe Jesus, erzogen in seiner jüdischen Tradition, ist mit den Jahren aufgewacht zu einem viel umfassenderen Verständnis, als seine Erziehung es gestattete. Als erwachsener Mann, als der Christus, hat er viele Sätze gesagt, die seine Tradition öffneten und weiteten. Seine „larger story“ betraf z.B. den Sabbat. Er hielt nicht kategorisch an den Sabbatvorschriften fest, sondern orientierte sich immer daran, was einem menschlich achtsamen Verhalten diene. Damit hat er gestärkt, was dem Wohl des Menschen und dem Frieden unter Menschen eine Chance gab. Der Friede ist immer bedroht von Menschen mit einer „small story“, einer engen Sichtweise. Die Jugendlichen und jungen Männer, die aus Deutschland aufgebrochen sind, um sich am Krieg für den „Islamischen Staat“ zu beteiligen, sind gefangen in einer ganz engen „story“.

Friede kann nur werden, wenn zweierlei passiert.

Erstens: „Um ein bisschen glücklich zu sein, ein bisschen Freude auf Erden zu haben, musst du dich mit dem Leben versöhnen, mit deinem eigenen Leben, wie es ist.“ (Phil Bosmans)

Zweitens: Aus dieser Versöhnung entwickle die Weisheit und Energie, zu einer „larger story“ aufzuwachen, in der menschliches Denken, Fühlen und Handeln ganz oben steht. Wie beim Gesalbten Gottes, dem Christus

Bernd Skowron, Kreuzkirche – Lüneburg-Bockelsberg



Watchword for December:

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. ... Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. Isaiah 35:1,6-7

Right about now, you may be wondering how you'll get everything done for Christmas.

We all struggle with Christmas because we don't always have the resources we need to do Christmas right.

We may have a dozen rolls of wrapping paper and enough Christmas lights for an inter-stellar beacon. But do we have the resources to deal with a mother who still corrects how we set the table? Do we have the resources to deal with a father who has been missing for so many years? Do we have the resources to handle children who run and scream and don't give us a chance to shower before 2 pm, let alone give us peace on earth?

Probably not – because to handle these Christmas situations and to really celebrate Christmas right, we need spiritual resources. Spiritual resources we won't find in our hearts.

Those resources aren't in our hearts because, spiritually speaking, our hearts are deserts of burning sand. They are empty and lifeless.

We still have hope. Isaiah promised that the Lord would bring rivers of life winding between the spiritual sand dunes of our heart. These rivers of life flood us with God's forgiveness, uncompromising compassion, loving patience, and healing peace.

Where do all these spiritual resources come from? From the baby we're about to welcome in one week. That child in a wooden feed box is God's Son. He came to earth on a mission to rain God's love and peace down on us. Thirty three years after he was born, he suffered for our sins on the cross. His sacrifice opened the floodgates of God's love for us. He gives us all the peace, love, joy, and hope we can hold – and then some!

So if you want to be ready for the rush of Christmas, tap into baby Jesus.

Drink up the rich promises God made through this child:

- Your Father in heaven loves you.
- Your Father in heaven accepts you.
- Your Father in heaven has taken away all your guilt.
- Your Father in heaven has prepared a home for you next to him.

You'll be surprised how well you can deal with Christmas when rivers of life are drenching your heart.

Prayer:

Lord, fill my dusty heart with the river of your life. Remind me why Jesus came to earth. Then my Christmas can be full of joy. Amen.

Today's Devotion is brought to you by WELS and www.WhatAboutJesus.com

So lank as die aarde bly bestaan, sal saaityd en oestyd nie ophou nie, ook nie koue en hitte, somer en winter, dag en nag nie. Genesis 8,22

Ek is nie 'n wetenskaplike nie, dus moet ek glo wat die omgewingskundiges vir my vertel van wat op die planeet gebeur. Ek verstaan ook nie heeltemaal wat globale verwarming is of miskien nie mag wees nie, dus is ek afhanklik van hulle om my die waarheid te laat weet. Indien hulle 'n politiese agenda of 'n ekologiese filosofie het om te bemark, ten spyte van wat die feite mag wees, sal ek nie weet nie, want ek is nie 'n kundige op hulle gebied nie. Dit is alles 'n kwessie van vertroue en geloof, welwillendheid en wyse gevolgtrekkings.

Ek is 'n teoloog en 'n bybelkenner, dus wanner ek in Genesis lees dat God sê alles sal reg wees op hierdie planeet so lank as die aarde bly bestaan, dan vertrou ek dat Sy beloftes waar is. My lewe lank het ek nooit gehoor dat God sy Woord verbreek nie, dus kan ek geredelik aanvaar dat duisende jare terug, toe Hy gesê het die landboukundige en weerkundige siklusse op die aarde sou aanhou, so lank was die aarde bestaan, dan sal dit altyd die geval wees. Ek stel egter ook vas dat hierdie siklusse net sal aanhou so lank as wat die aarde op sigself onderhou sal word. Indien ons die planeet vernietig deur die omgewing te misbruik, dan sal hierdie siklusse, waarvan alle lewe op aarde afhanklik is, absoluut geruineer word. Met ander woorde, ons hoef nie bekommerd te wees dat God die wêreld tot 'n einde sal bring nie – ons is heeltemaal instaat om hierdie tragedie oor onself te bring.

Vraag vir persoonlike oorweging

Hoe kan ek God getrou dien om die aarde te versorg en die omgewing te bewaar? - - -

Gebed: *Here Jesus, U is die Koning van die hele Skepping en ons kan*

*U die beste dien, deurdat ons ander en die wêreld waarin ons leef te versorg.
Help ons om ons geloof te herwin deur dit met ander te deel en ook saam
met ander Christene vindingryk ons aarde te waardeer en te henu. Ons bid
dit om U Naam se ontwil. Amen.*

John Stuart is the pastor of Erin Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. Vry vertaal.

"Let Every Day Be Christmas"

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, not to be put away
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

Peace on Earth, good will to men,
kind thoughts and words of cheer,
are things we should use often
and not just once a year.

Remember too the Christ-child, grew up to be a man;
to hide him in a cradle, is not our dear Lord's plan.
So keep the Christmas spirit, share it with others far and near,
from week to week and month to month, throughout the entire year!

*written December 17th 1976 by Norman Wesley Brooks U.S. Design Engineer
(1923–2002)*



Wann fängt Weihnachten an?

von Rolf Krenzer (1936 - 2007)

Wenn der Schwache dem Starken
die Schwäche vergibt,
wenn der Starke die Kräfte des Schwachen liebt,
wenn der Habewas mit dem Habenichts teilt,
wenn der Laute bei dem Stummen verweilt
und begreift, was der Stumme ihm sagen will,
wenn das Leise laut wird und das Laute still,
wenn das Bedeutungsvolle bedeutungslos,
das scheinbar Unwichtige wichtig und groß,
wenn mitten im Dunkeln ein winziges Licht
Geborgenheit und helles Leben verspricht,
dann, ja dann,
fängt Weihnachten an!





Wir stellen uns vor— Introducing ourselves

Ehrhard Garz 1933 – 2014

Ehrhard was born on the 13 March 1933 in Lichtenburg, West Transvaal to Friedrich and Dora Garz. He was the 6th of 7 children. His father Friedrich Garz was a missionary in Bethal. In 1934 his father was transferred to Harburg as pastor taking over from Jo-

hann Rohwer. Before they settled in Harburg the family spent a few months in Glückstadt with the Schirge family, Auguste Schirge was Dora's sister.

Ehrhard started school in Harburg at the age of 5. When Ehrhard was in Class 7 he contracted rheumatic fever. Doctor Strauß ordered bed rest for one year and half year rehabilitation. The headmaster of Harburg School; Piet Kay gave the young Ehrhard private lessons in the afternoon. Luckily the headmaster's house was next to the minister's house. Vater Garz also gave his son confirmation lessons at his bedside. He was allowed to be seated during his confirmation. Ehrhard was not allowed to play any contact sport during his high school years in Wartburg.

At the University of Pietermaritzburg he met Hildegard Trautmann, who was to become his wife. They both studied a BA in Education.

Ehrhard's teaching career began as an Afrikaans and Geography teacher at Rossborough High in Durban. Needless to say, his scholars achieved excellent Geography marks. He went on to teach in Glencoe and then in Wartburg where he also was the hostel master and he drove the bus as well as managing his normal teaching load. Hildegard and Ehrhard were then both posted to Gingingdlovu Primary School. They were married on the 9 of July 1960 by Vater Garz in Lilienthal. Ehrhard became acting head at Gingingdlovu till the end of the year. DHS in Durban was his next post where he taught Afrikaans and Geography once again. During this time Annemarie was born in 1961 and Reiner was born in 1963.

In 1965 Ehrhard received his first post as headmaster at the Mtunzini Primary School. He was the youngest headmaster in Natal at the time. He then became Headmaster of Kwambonambi Primary school followed by head of Melmoth Primary school. Horst-Dieter and Gunther were born at the Kwa-Magwaza Anglican Mission hospital, near Melmoth in 1966 and 1968 respectively.

Ehrhard was appointed as Biblical studies lecturer at the Edgewood College of Education in Pinetown in 1972. Here he became a respected, popular and

well loved mentor to his many students. His career reached a full circle when he accepted the headmastership of Stellawood Primary School in 1981 after he had recovered from heart failure. He was returning back to his first love and that was the rewarding journey with children – teaching. For Ehrhard this school, with it's hard of hearing unit, was a very challenging, satisfying and enjoyable time of his career. He went to great lengths to find out the background of every hard of hearing child in order to provide the best support emotionally and educationally.

“There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.” --*Elizabeth Wharton*

In this way he gave support and guidance to the teachers working with these special children and every other child in his school.

Ehrhard Garz's leadership and experience shaped the relationship that he had with his staff. The camaraderie between headmaster and his teachers was exceptional and all aspects of the school were approached with a great sense of humour and singular purpose. It was of great importance to Ehrhard that the Christian ethos was upheld in his school. In this regard he had the full support of his teachers. This verse from the Bible aptly describes it:

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” --*Bible, Proverbs 22:6*

Ehrhard was passionate about improving the grounds of Stellawood. He found great enjoyment teaching the boys woodwork. The woodwork classroom was his favourite! His role of father and grandfather was never separate from his role of teacher. He often had to babysit his first baby granddaughter and his office was turned into a nursery with many eager “nannies” to help!

Ehrhard Garz retired at the end of 1992, 3 months earlier due to ill health after 11 very happy years at Stellawood. This description of the last 11 years was typical of his whole teaching career. He had an ongoing passion of being a lay preacher from a very young age at his various postings as a teacher and finally in the New Germany Lutheran Church during this time. From 2001 he and his wife Hildegard led a quiet life on a pecan nut farm and nursery outside Nelspruit in the Lowveld enjoying working in his garden and pottering around in his workshop. Ehrhard was a respected, humble, generous, cheerful and witty man, his dry sense of humour enticing a laugh and a smile out of most people.

Hildegard has moved to an old-age home in New Hanover, KZN, where she is very happy and amongst friends. She sends her regards. We wish her God's richest blessings.



Wir stellen uns vor—Peter Knoop

We introduce ourselves

Peter was born in 1930 in Eppendorf, Hamburg. During the years of the II World War he was in a work camp as 9 year old. Amongst others they had to collect Colorado beetles with (in) water and not in tins with poison, from potato fields to 'save' the crop.

When he was 20 years old, he came to South Africa by ship. Until today Peter knows what it means to use both hands and to work hard. The first 9

months in South Africa he worked near Malelane where he was paid by mealie meal and two bullets to hunt for his meat. With the help of a Policeman, he got another job, working for a farmer, Roux. He had to move around a lot and after he got married in Germany in 1953, his wife moved around with him, even if it meant to sleep in a tent. In White River he got a job offer from Oskar Röttcher and worked for him for 16 years. Later he could buy 16 ha of land from him which they tilled for many years. While he was still with Röttcher, his wife Eleanor opened a vegetable shop/ general dealer. This became a successful business in White River for 35 years. Before they bought their first bakkie, Peter had a white horse and built his own scotscar for transporting building materials to build their house. Soon they could no longer supply enough vegetables and he had to replenish his supplies by buying at the market, first in Nelspruit, then in Pretoria. He did this first with an Isuzu bakkie, then he made these long trips with a lorry. They also delivered vegetables to the Kruger Park, schools and Themba Hospital. After they closed the shop, they still worked on their farm for 12 years, mainly planting flowers and sweet potatoes.

Peter was at the commando for 20 years, 18 of them the Chief Storeman in Nelspruit. Peter remembers the Missionary Eberhardt who came from Lydenburg to hold Lutheran services (in German) in Nelspruit. In later years, long before we had a church building in Nelspruit, the ministers Schaerff and Kauffenstein held the services. The Knoops hosted them very often. They came from Middelburg or Johannesburg for an occasional service or circuit day.

In 2003, on their golden civil wedding anniversary, Peter and Eleanor were

Many regards on your Birthday Wir gratulieren zum Geburtstag!

Januar 2015

Runde-Zahl Geburtstage /

Round birthdays: ☺

3rd Henry van Aswegen
 7. Harry Brandt
 7. Ruan Paul
 10. Rainer Schütz
 10^e Waldo de Villiers
 13. Gerhart Scheel
 31. Annemarie Höne
 31. Hans Esser ☺
 31 Karl-Heinz Keck



***Ich will euch ein neues
 Herz und einen neuen Geist
 in euch geben und will das
 steinerne Herz aus eurem
 Fleisch wegnehmen und
 euch ein fleischernes Herz
 geben.*** Hes.36,26

***I will give you a new heart
 and put a new spirit in you; I
 will remove from you your
 heart of stone and give you a
 heart of flesh.*** Ezechiel 36,26

***Ek sal julle 'n nuwe hart en
 'n nuwe gees gee, Ek sal die
 kliphart uit julle liggaam
 uithaal en julle 'n hart van
 vleis gee.*** Esegieël 36,26

Projector Roster

04	Cecilia	
11	Rainer	Rainer
18	Derek	Verona
25	Herta	

***Happy
 New Year!***

Tea Roster / Teedienst

Please let Herta or Senta know when you will make tea
Don't just drink it, even men can contribute by buying a cake

First and Fourth Sundays only one Serve at 10:00
Second and Third Sundays each an Early Service at 08:30
and a German Service at 10:00

<u>Deutsch</u> 2. Sonntag 10:00 3. Sonntag 10:00	<u>Afrikaans</u> 2e Sondag 08:30 4e Sondag 10:00	<u>Deutsch</u> 2. Sonntag 10:00 3. Sonntag 10:00
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December

- 7th Dec 2nd Sunday in Advent**
10:00 English Service / Holy Communion
Text: Luk.21,25-33
- 14^e Des. 3^e Sondag in Advent**
08:30 Afrikaanse Diens
10:00 Deutscher Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl
Text: Matt.11,2-6(7-10)
- 21. Dez. 4. Sonntag im Advent**
08:30 English Service
10:00 Deutscher Gottesdienst m.Abendmahl
Text: Luk.1,(30-45) 46-55 (56)
- 24 Dez. Heiligabend / Oukersaand / Christmas Eve**
18:00 Text: Mt.1,(1-17) 18-21 (22-25)
- 25th Dec. Weihnachten / Kersfees / Christmas**
10:00 Service
Text: Luk.2,(1-14) 15-20
- 31. Dez Altjahrsabend**
18:00 Text: Luk.12,35-40

Küster / Duty: W. Müller

***Great little One! whose all-embracing birth
Lifts Earth to Heaven, stoops Heaven to Earth.
—Richard Crashaw***

Pflichtskollekten

- 07 Altersheime der Kirche
14 Missionsfonds der Kirche –
Allgemein
21 Gemeinde
24 Gemeinde
25 Gemeinde
31 Gemeinde

Allocated Collections

- Old Age Homes Of the Church
Missionfund of the Church—
General
Congregation
Congregation
Congregation
Congregation

***Many regards on your Birthday
Wir gratulieren zum Geburtstag!***

Runde-Zahl Geburtstage /

Round birthdays: ☺

1^e Johlene de Villiers
18. Helmut Eckelmann
21st Lerato Mashile
21. Christa Schütz
30.

Chris-

tel Oehmen



*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and
peace there will be no end. Isaiah 9,6.7*

*Der Vater hat uns errettet
von der Macht der Finstern-
is und hat uns versetzt in das
Reich seines lieben Sohnes.
Kol.1,13*

*Hy het ons uit die mag van
die duisternis weggeruk en
ons onder die heerskappy
gestel van sy Seun wat Hy
liefhet.
Kol.1,13*

*The Father has rescued us
from the dominion of dark-
ness and brought us into the
kingdom of the Son he loves,
in whom we have redemp-
tion, the forgiveness of sins.
Colossians 1,13*



Projector Roster

07	Celia	
14	Rainer	Rainer
21	Celia	Derek
24	Herta	
25	Herta	
31	Derek	

Tea Roster / Teedienst

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<u>English</u> 1st Sunday 10:00 3rd Sunday 08:30	<u>Afrikaans</u> 2e Sondag 08:30 4e Sondag 10:00	<u>Deutsch</u> 2. Sonntag 10:00 3. Sonntag 10:00
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January 2015

4th Jan 2nd Sunday after Christmas

10:00 English Service / Holy Communion

Text: Luk. 2,41–52

11^e Jan 1^e Sondag na Epifaan

08:30 Afrikaanse Diens

10:00 Deutscher Gottesdienst

Text: Matt. 3, 13–17

18. Jan 2. Sonntag nach Epiphanias

08:30 English Service

10:00 Deutscher Gottesdienst

Text: Joh. 2, 1–11

25^e Jan Laaste Sondag na Epifaan

10:00 Afrikaanse Diens met Nagmaal

Teks: Matt. 17, 1–9

1st Feb. Septuagesimae

10:00 English Service / Holy Communion

Text: Matt. 20, 1–16a

Küster / Duty: R. Wortmann

*He who has not Christmas in his heart
will never find it under a tree. - Roy L. Smith*

Allocated Collections / Pflichtskollekten

04	Gemeinde	Congregation
11	Missionsfornds Allgemein	Mission fund—General
18	heologische Ausbildung	Theological education
25	Gemeinde	Congregation
01-02	Jugendarbeit	Youth work

married in church. They were married for 53 wonderful years when his wife suddenly died on 20.11.2006. Two years later Peter moved to his daughter, Heike and son-in-law, who live in Secunda. There he is as busy as ever. He has a greenhouse and supplies them and others with fresh vegetables; he's a handyman and a chauffeur for many elderly ladies. We are thankful to see Peter in our congregation once a month. 15 years ago he was diagnosed with cancer for the first time; has had to undergo big operations – heart, lung and back. He prefers to keep with his doctors here in Nelspruit for check-ups and treatments. Peter's son Gernot with family live on his farm outside White River. His daughter Barbara, with family live in Wolfsburg, Germany. After having been involved in a horrible motorcar accident in January 2014, his granddaughter Kimberley stayed in a specialised hospital unit in Hamburg for months. Although the congregations and friends prayed for her all the time, she passed away on . in spite of all his adverse circumstances, Peter stayed faithful, optimistic, happy and an inspiration for all around him. Thank you Peter!



BISCHOF'S
Dec 14 POST Jan 15



Kinder - sie sind in dieser Jahreszeit besonders wichtig. Nicht nur wegen der Schulferien, auf die sie sich freuen. Für viele wächst die Aufregung auf den ersten Schultag, die Angst vor dem Schulwechsel, die Unsicherheit vor dem ersten Besuch des Kindergartens.

An Weihnachten verleihen Kinder dem Fest einen besonderen Charakter - ihre Vorfreude, die strahlenden Augen, und das aufgeregte Hüpfen vor der Bescherung. Ja, Kinder sind ein großer Schatz!

Dann ist da Christus, das Kind in der Krippe. So hat Gott sich zu uns auf den Weg gemacht. Er hat sich als

wehrloses Kind den Menschen anvertraut.

Jedes kleine Kind ist ebenso wehrlos an andere ausgeliefert.

Wie gehen wir als Erwachsene um mit den Kindern, die uns anvertraut sind? Bringen wir sie zum Kind in der Krippe? Helfen wir ihnen, Christus als Herrn kennen zu lernen? Sind wir ihnen ein Vorbild? Oder überlassen wir sie ihrem eigenen Schicksal?

Vor kurzem hatte ich die Gelegenheit, mit einer Miniatur Dampflok zu fahren. Mein Enkelsohn wollte erst gar nicht mit aufsteigen. Doch dann nahm ich ihn in den Arm, und er fuhr mit. Als ich ihn nach einer Runde wieder absteigen lassen wollte, kam nur ein Wort: Mehr! Hinter uns saßen eine ganze Gruppe von Kindern auf dem kleinen Wagon - und fuhr mit, Runde nach Runde! Egal, wer die Lokomotive betrieb - sie blieben sitzen, fuhr mit.

Kinder, kleine Kinder, lassen sich leiten, vertrauen sich Erwachsenen an. Wenn wir sie nicht leiten, werden sie anderen folgen. Wenn wir sie schlecht leiten, werden sie uns dennoch folgen.

„Jesus rief die Kinder zu sich und sprach: Lasset die Kinder zu mir kommen und

wehret ihnen nicht, denn solchen gehört das Reich Gottes." (Lk 18,16)
 Wir als Erwachsene, Eltern, Großeltern, Paten dürfen und sollen unsere Kinder in den Arm nehmen, sie zu Christus hinführen, ihnen helfen, als Christ zu leben. Möge es uns geschenkt sein, dass sie dann auch sagen: "Mehr!"
 Ich wünsche allen ein gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest und ein gutes 2015.
 Mit herzlichem Gruß
 (Gez.) Horst Mueller

Nachrichten aus der Kirche

Personal

Zwar wurden diese Dinge schon erwähnt, aber anbei eine kurze Zusammenfassung dessen, was in den nächsten zwei Monaten an Wechsel anstehen.

Pastor Dirk Köstlin zieht von Vryheid nach Bethanien, Pastor Manfred Müller-Nedebock von Bethanien nach Hillcrest, auch zieht Pastor Reiner Focke von Harburg nach Trinity Zululand und Pastor Rolf Schmidt von Trinity Zululand nach Harburg und Pastor Rene Risch von St Peters Pretoria nach Hermannsburg and die Schule und Gemeinde.

Pastor Burgert Brand zieht von Hermannsburg nach Namibia als Pastor in Windhoek und Bischof der ELKIN DELK

Wir wünschen den Familien die nötige Kraft für den Umzug, und den Gemeinden und Pastoren Gottes Segen in der Zeit des Wandels.

An dieser Stelle möchte ich Pastor Brand herzlich danken für seinen langjährigen Dienst in der ELKSA (NT) Er kam zu uns aus Namibia als erster Pastor der neu gegründeten Gemeinde in Midrand und leitete die erste Aufbauphase. In der Zeit wurde er auch Dekan für das Zentraldekanat. Als nächstes kam der Wechsel nach Hermannsburg. Dort wurde seine Frau Ute später auch Rektorin der Schule.

Seit 2009 war er der Stellvertreter des Bischofs und wieder Mitglied der Kirchenleitung.

Wir danken der Familie für die vielen Jahre des Einsatzes und der Mitarbeit. Jetzt, bei der Rückkehr nach Namibia, sind die Kinder unabhängig, und das Ehepaar reist "allein" zurück.

Möge der Herr die neue Lebensphase und den Dienst als Kirchenleiter segnen, und auch die Zusammenarbeit zwischen den Kirchen.

eQuip Tagung: "eQuip for discipleship" . Sie findet vom 2 bis 7 Januar in Hermannsburg statt. Mehr information ist bei www.elcsant.org.za zu finden. Möge die Tagung für viele ein Segen sein!

Kap-NT Gespräche: Zum Zeitpunkt der Fertigstellung dieser Post war das Task Team dabei, das nächste Treffen vorzubereiten. Bitte begleiten Sie diese Gespräche weiterhin in der Fürbitte.

Theologiestudenten. In 2015 wird eine kleine Gruppe Studenten das 5. Jahr absolvieren und sich auf das erste Theologische Examen vorzubereiten. Mehr Information folgt nach Anfang des Kurses im Januar.



Year after year is going by,
 some made us sad, some feeling high,
 this year was not the very badest,
 no big success, but not the sadest,
 the new one gives, Lord, signs of hope,
 don't let us stumble, when we lope.

Mit Gott ins Neue Jahr

Neujahrsgedicht zu Psalm 108,5

Herr, Du hast mich getragen,
an guten und an schlechten Tagen.
Ich blick zurück aufs alte Jahr,
denk drüber nach, was alles war.
Ich schritt sehr oft auf krummen Wegen,
mein Fuß glitt aus auf glatten Stegen.
Ganz lange ging's durchs tiefe Tal,
ich schrie zu Dir aus tiefster Qual!

Du neigtest huldvoll Dich zu mir:
„Mein liebes Kind, ich helfe dir!“
So fand ich dann in Deinen Armen,
Gnade, Liebe und Erbarmen!
Ich bitte Dich fürs Neue Jahr;
lass Dein Wort leuchten hell und klar.
Ich will in Deiner Gnade leben,
von neuem nach dem Guten streben!

Autor: Johannes Kandel, 2010

A Christmas candle
is a lovely thing;
It makes
no noise at all,
But softly
gives itself away.
- Eva Logue

When we were children
we were grateful to
those who filled our
stockings at Christmas
time. Why are we not
grateful to God for
filling our stockings
with legs?
- G.K. Chesterton



Gute Vorsätze fürs neue Jahr:

Nicht rauchen, wenig trinken, wenig essen sogar,
die halten nicht lange und sind schnell
vergessen. Sonst müsste man sich ja selber er-

Der Mensch glaubt an das Glück mit Schwein,
woher kommt das, was soll das sein?

Er glaubt auch an den Schornsteinfeger,
berührt man ihn wird's Glück schon reger.
Wer ein Glücksklee findet mit vier Blätter,
für den wird die Zukunft schon viel netter.
Findest Du einen Pfennig gar,
dann hast Du Glück das ganze Jahr.
Findest Du aber nur einen Cent,
hast du das Glück total verpennt.



BISHOP'S

Dec 14 **POST** Jan15



Children - During this time of the year children are very much the focus: School Holidays start. In January for many it will be the first day of kindergarten, pre-school or school. And, of course, there is Christmas. Hardly any body is more excited about Christmas than young children. Their bright, shining eyes, the faces showing their expectation, are a joy to watch.

Finally, there is the celebration of the birth of Christ - Child in a manger. God chooses the way of a child for his own appearing on earth. He becomes vulnerable in the hands of human beings.

Indeed, every child is vulnerable, in the hands of other human beings.

What do we adults do with our children? Do we lead them to the Christ child, and from there to the Lord and Saviour? Are we an example to them? Or do we just leave them on their own. Too often we teach them reading, writing, values - but in matters of faith many think they must find their own way.

Recently I had the opportunity to take my grandchild on a miniature steam train ride. At first he was hesitant, wanted to get off. But when I held him, and we did the first round, his response was: More! Behind us, on the miniature "passenger coach", a whole bunch of children were enjoying the ride. Round after round they would continue - no matter who the driver was.

"Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" Luke 18,16.

It is our task as parents, grandparents and guardians to hold our children and introduce them to Christ, so that they can experience the joy of belonging to this Lord.

At the same time we must realise that these little children will follow and learn from adult role players - no matter who the driver is, no matter where we are taking them.

For that reason we must take great care to lead them, not only to literacy and numeracy, but on a way to life!

May we hear them saying "More", when we tell them about Christ!

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a good start for 2015

(Signed) Bishop Horst Müller

News from the Church

Personnel

Although all of these issues have been reported on previously as new pastors were elected, I would like to mention all the moves that are happening during December/January.

Pastor Dirk Köstlin is relocating from Vryheid to Bethany, Pastor Manfred Müller-Nedebock from Bethany to Hillcrest and Pastor Reiner Focke from Harburg to Trinity Zululand with Pastor Rolf Schmidt from Trinity Zululand to Harburg and Pastor Rene

Risch from St Peters Pretoria to Hermannsburg congregation and school pastor.

Pastor Burgert Brand relocates from Hermannsburg to Namibia as Pastor in Windhoek and Bishop of the ELCIN GELC.

We wish all these families strength for the move. May God also guide and bless the congregations in the time of change.

At this stage I would like to thank Pastor Brand for his many years of service in ELCSA (NT). He came to us from Namibia to pastor the newly established Midrand congregation, and pioneered the first phase of development. During this time he also served as Dean of the Central Circuit, till his re-location to Hermannsburg as School and Congregation pastor.

During this time his wife Ute was appointed as principal of the school.

Since 2009 Pastor Brand was also the deputy to the bishop and served in Church Council again.

We thank the family for their many years of involvement and dedication. By now the children have become independent, and the couple returns to Namibia "alone". May God bless the new phase as bishop, and continue to bless the co-operation between the Churches.

eEquip retreat "eEquip for discipleship" takes place from 2 to 7 January in Hermannsburg. More information is available at www.elcsant.org.za . May it be a blessing to all participants.

Cape-NT discussions. At the time of writing this the task team was preparing for its next meeting. Please keep this process in your prayers!

Students of Theology. We are in the fortunate position that a small group of students will be doing their 5th year of training, leading to the first theological examination. More information will be given after the course has started in January.

Jede Stelle der Schrift ist von
unendlicher Einsicht; darum was
du erkennst, mache nicht
hochmütig geltend, bestreite
nicht dem anderen seine Einsicht
und wehre ihn nicht ab! Denn es
sind Zeugnisse, und jener sieht
vielleicht, was du nicht siehst -
So ist immer voranzuschreiten
in der Erkenntnis der
Heiligen Schrift.
- *Martin Luther*

I have always thought of Christmas
time, when it has come round, as a
good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable
time; the only time I know of, in the
long calendar of the year, when men
and women seem by one consent to
open their shut-up hearts freely, and to
think of people below them as if they
really were fellow passengers to the
grave, and not another race of crea-
tures bound on other journeys. -
Charles Dickens

Why do we celebrate Christmas on December 25?

The Bible does not give the specific date of Jesus' birth. The gospels were not intended to be a biography, but rather were written that we might believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God, and that, believing, we would have eternal life.

If you consult secular encyclopedias concerning this question, they all say something to the effect that, "it is likely" or "it is theorized" that Christians adopted a Roman pagan holiday...

This theory can be traced back to two scholars: Paul Ernst Jablonski (a German Protestant) and Dom Jean Hardouin (a Catholic monk). Their theories (which were based on faulty logic and conclusions) were repeated and are now widely accepted by people who don't even bother doing any research on the subject. I researched this in depth over a period of several weeks because a Jehovah's Witness asked me to do so. Wherever possible I consulted the original writings, and in the couple of instances where I couldn't locate a copy of the original writings, I did find writings of other early historians who quoted the originals as authority.

The first mention of the celebration of Jesus' birth on Dec. 25th was between 171-183 AD during the reign of Commodus. Theophilus of Antioch wrote that because the Gauls celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25th regardless of the day of the week it fell on, they should celebrate Pascha similarly on March 25th.

After Commodus, six other Emperors ruled Rome before Elagabalus came into power at 14 years of age. In 222 AD he replaced Jupiter with a new god, "Deus Sol Invictus." He was then assassinated on 3-11-22; and all of his religious edicts were reversed.

Under the next Emperor (Severus Alexander), one of his ambassadors, Sextus Julius Africanus, calculated Dec. 25th as Jesus' birthday (221 AD, "Chronographia"). Also during this time, Hippolytus wrote that Jesus was born at Bethlehem eight days before the kalends of January (Dec. 25th) in his commentary on Daniel (225 AD).

Seven other Emperors reigned between Alexander and Aurelian, but Aurelian resurrected the worship of Deus Sol Invictus by dedicating a temple to this sun god in 274 AD. The temple might have been dedicated on 12-25-274, but I was not able to confirm that date through any older historical writings. Aurelian was assassinated in 275.

Then there were five more Emperors between Aurelian and Diocletian. During the reign of Diocletian (284-305), Baronius wrote that persecution raged under him and that the tyrant, finding multitudes of Christians (young and old), met together to celebrate Christ's nativity, had the church door barred and set fire to it.

There were two more Emperors between Diocletian and Constantine, who ruled from 324-337. During the early part of Constantine's reign is the earliest

recorded reference to the festival of Sol Invictus being celebrated on December 25th.

Then there were three more Emperors between Constantine and Theodosius I, who ruled from 378-395. During his rule, Chrysostom preached a sermon at Antioch, saying that some held the feast of December 25th to have been held in the West, from Thrace as far as Cadiz, from the beginning (of Christianity in Rome).

As you can see from these dates, it is IMPOSSIBLE that the celebration of Christmas on Dec. 25th was based on the pagan festival celebrating the dedication of the temple of the "Unconquered Sun." More than likely, it was the other way around--the pagans chose December 25th as the day on which to dedicate this temple in order to try and detract from Christianity, which was spreading throughout Rome while Roman tradition, with its worship of pagan gods, was crumbling.

Another pagan festival that some try to associate with Christmas is the Roman "Saturnalia." This festival was originally celebrated on Dec. 17th, but was later extended through the 23rd due to its popularity. It was an agricultural festival in honor of Saturn, and bore no resemblance to the celebration of Christmas. Some claim that the gift-giving associated with the Saturnalia is where Christmas gift-giving originated; however, gift-giving was a common aspect of many different festivals. For instance, see Esther 9 concerning the gift-giving during Purim (v. 22). In our gift-giving at Christmas, we are celebrating the most incredible gift ever given--that of our Savior!

Found at Yahoo Answers

THE GREEN CORNER

So what are you going to do with all the Christmas gift wrappings???

RECYCLE !!!

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.

Teacher: "Really? How do you know?"

"You know -Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

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<u>Congregational Council:</u> Werner Müller 083 750 5204 Chairman Dieter Lammerding 082 8719364 Councillor Hester Louw 083 657 7982 Councillor Siegfried Wolff 073 303 3445 Vice chairman Rudolf Wortmann 082 774 6656 Councillor <u>Treasurer</u> Rainer Schütz 082 772 274	Children's ministry: Amrei Wolff 072 447 6409 Women's Ministry/ Handy Hearts: Herta Wolff 083 977 4884 Brass Band/Music: Dieter Lilje 013 741 4393 Choir: Roly Schormann 013 745 7892 Spiritual Matters: Roly Schormann 013 745 7892 Fundraising: Hester Louw 083 657 7982 Newsletter: Herta Wolff 083 977 4884	
Regular Meetings: Sunday School – takes place every Sunday during the service Church Council Meeting – 1 st Sunday, after the Service in the hall Sunday School preparation – Monday or Tuesday of last week of month Afrikaanse Bybelstudie – Dinsdae 17:00 in die pastorie Prayer Meeting – Wednesdays at 07:00 in church. Bible Study – Wednesdays at 17:00 in churchhall Choir – Thursdays 16:30 Brass Band/Music group – Thursdays 18:00 Handy Hearts – Wed. 28 th January 2015 14:30 at the manse Lay Preachers – Meet according to arrangement.		
Finances / Finanzen: There is a difference between regular contributions and collections on Sundays. The contributions are the means to make our budget meet. Collections are for specific purposes in the Lutheran Church. The under-mentioned details may be used for direct deposits into the church's account. God loves a cheerful giver.		
Please indicate on the deposit slip from whom and for what purpose the deposit is, eg. 'Church Music'; or 'Monthly contribution', etc. and your name: U. Adam.		<u>Banking details</u> for the congregation are: Name, account holder: Evangelical Lutheran Church; Standard Bank, Nelspruit Current acc.: 030272416 Bank code: 052852