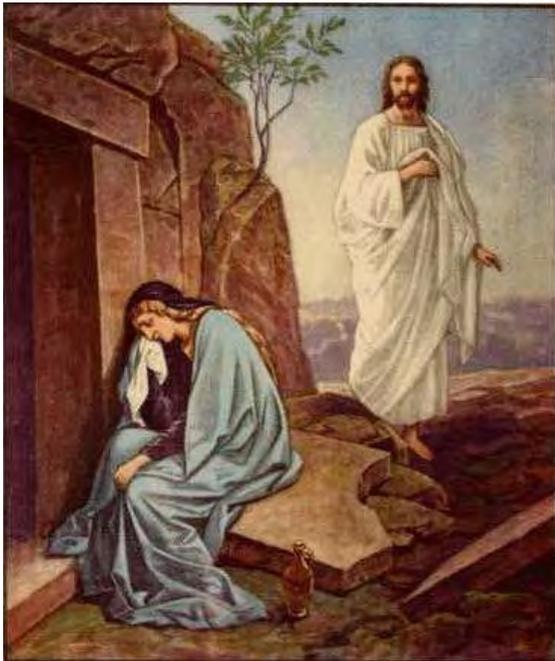


# St. Thomas Congregation

Evangelical Church (Lutheran Confession)

## Newsletter 2 (2008)

March & April



### Watch Word - March 2008

**“Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.”**

**(John 16:22)**

## IMPORTANT DATES

9 March	Argus Sunday. Evening Service at 6.00 (see page 8)
16 March	Special meeting of the congregation (see page 6)
23 March	Easter Service
12 April	Working Day at Church (see page 10)

### Read also:

A great gift from great people (see page 5)

Wall of Remembrance receives the go ahead (see page 6)

Congregational Care Groups (see page 7)

Community Ascension Day Service (see page 10)

Financial Report (see page 10-12)

**Duty Roster** (See last page)

### PURPOSE STATEMENT SAINT THOMAS CONGREGATION

- To promote fellowship in a friendly environment, where
- God's love in Christ is proclaimed (proclamation)
  - love for one another is exercised (care)
  - loving others is practised (outreach)

**Loved by God. Loving others.**

## FROM THE PASTOR

The picture on the title page of this Newsletter shows Mary Magdalene crying at the tomb of Jesus. She grieves his death. The death of Jesus meant that she had lost somebody very dear to her - a friend, a Saviour.

Apart from Jesus, Mary Magdalene didn't have many friends. She was deemed to be demon possessed, having no less than "seven" demons (Lk 8:2). Being demon possessed was usually part of an accusation levelled at people whose behaviour was deviant from acceptable social norms, eg, a child that publicly resisted parent authority, a woman leaving behind family responsibilities, a prostitute engaging in illicit sexual conduct, or even a person unable to speak (born dumb). Accusations of demon possession resulted in a person, like Mary Magdalene, being totally ostracised and marginalised both by her fellow village dwellers and *family*. Worst of all was, however, being barred from public worship as all those deemed to be "unclean" were prohibited from entering the holy temple and making atonement for their sins.

In Jesus, Mary had met her Saviour. Her demons were driven out and she became part of Jesus' "surrogate family." In this family she experienced love, compassion, forgiveness, acceptance. The death of Jesus on "Good Friday" shattered her world. She was one of the few that had followed him to the cross. She observed closely where they put his body after he died (Mk.15:47). According to the Gospel of John she was the first disciple that arrived at the tomb on Easter morning, while it was still dark (Jh.20:1). In the picture we see her crying at the empty tomb - alone (as before), all hope of a life filled with love and joy swallowed up (as it seems) by the emptiness of the tomb.

But hadn't Jesus said to his disciples: **"Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy"** (Jh.16:22). Overcome by her grief, Mary didn't even notice that the risen Lord was in fact standing right behind her. She was facing the empty tomb, which in fact should have reminded her of the words spoken by Jesus. When Jesus did speak to her, he did not scold her for her lack of faith. He just called her name, "Mary". She recognised the voice that had driven the demons out, the voice that had reminded her how loved she was by God.

You may be grieving as well. Numerous problems that outweigh your strength could be draining you of all "joy". Could it be that you are facing the wrong way? Mary didn't realise that Jesus was standing right behind her. Are you realising it? On ascending to heaven, Jesus gave us a promise: **"And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age"** (Mt.28:20).

And "yes", we will also see him again. At that time he will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain (Rev.21:4). Indeed, no one will take our joy away. Knowing this, trusting the words of Jesus, fills us with joy *now* already, despite the grief or the pain that we may (still) be experiencing in this world

Easter is a time of joy: The one who died on the cross for our sins, who reconciled us with God, is alive! Every day is Easter.

Wising you eyes that see, ears that hear, and a heart full of joy.

Dieter Reinstorf

## EASTER QUOTES

"Men point to the sad incidents of human life on earth, and they ask "Where is the love of God?" God points to that Cross as the unreserved manifestation of love so inconceivably infinite as to answer every challenge and silence all doubt for ever. And that Cross is not merely the public proof of what God has accomplished; it is the earnest of all that He has promised." (Sir Robert Anderson)

"The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in." (Peter Marshall)

"Christianity begins where religion ends...with the resurrection" (Herbert Booth Smith)

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (Jesus Christ - John 11:25, 26)

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### A great gift from great people

It is always very special when Graham and Frankie Lear arrive from the UK at Saint Thomas for their annual "summer holidays". They radiate positiveness rooted in an attitude of gratitude towards a God who answers prayers and showers us with his love in Jesus Christ. It is a love that transcends earthly hardship and so often forms part of our everyday life.



Always seeking to do good, Graham and Frankie

noticed that the vacuum cleaner of the congregation was "out of order", yet again. They offered to donate one to the congregation and surprised the pastor with a top quality (AEG), semi-industrial vacuum cleaner that should serve the congregation for many years to come. Thank you!

### Building of 10 Units has commenced

If you have been to church you could not but have noticed that David Skibbe has commenced with the building of ten duplex units, of which one unit (closest to Bains Way -see photo) will be registered in the name of the church. The units will, hopefully, be completed by Spring so that the congregation will be able to obtain rent for its own unit before the end of the year. In view of the rent to be received, the congregation has decided that it would no longer apply for the annual "financial support"



(amounting to R24,000) it has received from Synod in past years.

We wish David well as he oversees this "massive" building project.

### Wall of Remembrance

Good news! The building of the Wall of Remembrance has received the "green light". The target of selling at least 10 units at a nominal price of R1,500 each has been reached. Over and above the selling of the units some members have pledged a "donation". Members who have made a pledge, have time until the end of August 2008 to either transfer the money (in installments) into the St. Thomas Wall of Remembrance Fund (see back page of the newsletter), or to make a cash payment to the treasurer of the congregation, Günther Meier. In making transfers please provide your name, so that your name can be recorded for future purposes.

### Special Meeting of the Congregation - Sunday 16 March

Although the congregation resolved at its AGM that the present entrance to the inner courtyard of the church should receive an additional solid door, no agreement was reached regarding

- (a) a new and extended roof in the inner courtyard of the church,
- (b) the gate towards the East side of the church, and
- (c) extending and/or strengthening the wall of the inner courtyard.

For this purpose a special meeting of the congregation is being called for Sunday 16 March, immediately after the service. The congregation will be presented with proper quotes and more detailed information on all building projects (see the notice board of the church).

### Marja Wybrow coopted onto the Church Council

For one year Annzell Runds represented the ladies of St Thomas on the Church Council, but due to health reasons decided to step down. The ladies have elected Marja Wybrow (see photo on next page) to fill this position. We give thanks to Annzell for her input and look forward to



working together with Marja. Marja will convey decisions taken by the Church Council to the ladies and will share all ideas and needs of the ladies with the church council.

The other members on the church council are Günther Meier, David Skibbe and Heindry Peyper. Shane Swiegers decided to step down. At its last meeting the church council decided not to fill his position immediately, but to continue with the present members. Nominations for a new church council member will be received in time for the next AGM of the congregation.

### Church Council “Care Groups”

As in the past the congregation has been divided into “Care Groups”, with each Church Elder taking responsibility for one care group. Apart from showing special care to the members in his group, the care group list also serves as a communication chain for such times when urgent information needs to be passed on to all members of St. Thomas.

#### Group 1: Günther Meier

Crouch, Ian/Elke//Matthew  
Halm, Fred/Minni  
Küsel, Reinhold/(Richarda)  
Lear, Graham/Frankie  
Laspé, Bob/Lee  
Rewitzky, Dennis/Jenny  
Rewitzky, Ingrid  
Schreiber, Hans/Gitta

#### Group 3: Heindry Peyper

Karshagen, Wesley/Jackie//children  
Kontsidis, Denise  
Laspé, Erica  
Marriott-Watson, Shane/Erika//children  
Potgieter, Anton/Dalene//Caleb  
Swiegers, Shane/Leanne/Lauren  
Willis, Anita  
Willis, Nora

#### Group 2: David Skibbe

Aubrey, Quinton/Mandy//Sheldon  
Deetlefs, Deon/Margrit//Zenka  
Dini, Jason/Faith  
Louw, Vivian  
Runds, Carl/Annel//Brigitte  
Ravenscroft, Brian  
Sandann, Mike/Carol  
Stirling, Robert  
Wybrow, Marja

Loved by God.  
Loving Others.

### Wishing Mike Sandmann well after a back operation



On Wednesday, 20 February, Mike Sandmann had a intricate and extremely painful back operation. He is recovering in Milnerton Medi Clinic (hoping to return home on Friday, 29 February). Despite contracting pneumonia after the operation, Mike is recovering well. Our prayers go out to him as we trust God and pray for his healing hand upon Mike. No Golf for a few weeks, but hope to see you up and running soon!

### Pastor and Family on Holiday

From immediately after Easter, Monday 24 March until Saturday, 5 April, Pastor Reinstorf and family will be on holiday. They will be visiting his parents game farm in Hoedspruit, this time together with the family of Maggi's brother and their friends. Pastor Reinstorf will return in time to do the service on Sunday 6 April, so that there will be only “one” Reading Service during his absence. During 2007 Pastor Reinstorf was on official holiday for only 10 days.

## CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### ARGUS SUNDAY - 9 March

Due to the Argus Cycle Race, in which a number of St. Thomas members will be participating (including the pastor and his son, Peter), there will be no morning service on 9 March. Instead a service (with youth participation) will be held at 6pm. Please come and join us and bring your visitors along.



Service  
at 6pm

## Living as reconciled children of God

Since the end of January pastor Reinstorf has presented a weekly course on “reconciliation” at St Thomas (every Wednesday evening at 7pm). The course focusses on how we as Christians (can) react to conflict. The aim of the course is not only to promote reconciliation as an “event”, but as a LIFESTYLE, rooted in God’s gracious forgiveness of our sins in and through Jesus Christ.

In mid-February pastor Reinstorf presented the course at a Bible Camp of “FELSISA Golden Ladies,” held just outside Paulpietersburg in KZN. The course provided many participants with a “break-through” experience and the joy that is ours through forgiveness and personal reconciliation. The camp (see photo) was attended by more than 60 ladies.



Even if you haven’t attended the talks at St Thomas so far, do join us for the final two talks, *Gently restore*, and *Go and Be Reconciled* on Wednesday 5 and 10 March. After the Easter holidays pastor Reinstorf will be presenting the course to the youth.

## Maundy Thursday - A Service of Reconciliation

When Jesus instituted Holy Communion he was making his unmerited forgiveness and grace *tangibly* available to God’s people. Since that day every service of Holy Communion is a “Service of Reconciliation”, not only between God and his people, but also amongst God’s people. In view of the recently presented course “Living as reconciled children of God”, this years Maundy Thursday Service is to highlight the “act” of reconciliation. Come and join us for a service to be remembered, remember for God’s everlasting and unsurpassing grace.

## St Thomas Working Day and Braai - 12 April

A number of smaller renovations need our attention: (a) Some fascia boards need to be repainted, (b) some of the cornicing in the church need to be sealed, (c) an eave needs to be replaced, (d) a tile on the roof needs to be replaced, and (f) holes under the roof need to be blocked to prevent the birds entering. Instead of getting a contractor, we invite members of the congregation to join us for the day:

14.00 Working Day at Church

17.00 “Bring and Braai” at a venue to be announced

If you can’t help with the renovations, come to the Braai nevertheless. Everybody is welcome.

## Community Ascension Day Service - 1 May

As in the past St Thomas is invited to join the other Christian Churches in our area for a joined “Ascension Day Service”. The service will commence at 7pm, at the Dutch Reformed Church in Monte Vista (Cnr D’Almeida Avenue and Buitendag Street)

## FINANCES

Looking back over our financial year we can only praise the Lord that He made it possible that we as a congregation were able to meet our financial targets. Heartily thanks for all the contributions we received, from our own members as well as members from sister congregations. May the Lord bless those that contributed as well as the use of these funds.

**Thanks for a  
blessed 2007**

## Financial Results for the year ending 31/12/2007

Although, at one stage it seemed unlikely that we would be able to

balance our books, we ended our financial year with a small surplus. Put in another way we were able to meet all our financial commitments and had some money left to put in our savings account.

The positive outcome was primarily the result of the increase experienced in our income. Compared to the previous financial year the total income rose by about 11%. The rise in income was made possible by an increase in our own contributions by approximately 9%, as well as donations received from members of Synod. Support that we received from Synod as well as payments made by organizations utilizing our church facilities also contributed towards the rise in income.

The other reason why we met our target is because the expenses did not increase as anticipated. None of the expenses exceeded the budgeted figure and the normal running expenses like municipal costs, electricity, telephone etc. declined compared to the previous year. No extraordinary expenses were incurred during the year.

Before we get too complacent, lets remember that our own offerings amounted to less than 50% of our total income. So we still rely heavily on other sources of income to balance our books.

### **Budget 2008**

From a financial point of view the year 2008 will be completely different to the previous year. It is expected that our expenses will rise considerably compared to last year. The reason for this is the possibility of spending a substantial amount on building activities around the church. At the annual general meeting the proposal was accepted that the building of the Wall of Remembrance should go ahead if at least 10 spots in the in the wall have been sold by the end of February. The roof structure in the courtyard must also be replaced. The plastering/changes to the wall in the courtyard as well as the fitting of a double door and gate in the courtyard will all be discussed at a meeting of the congregation. If these building expenses are approved by the congregation, it will add approximately R80 000 to our expenses, with a budget for 2008 close to R260,000.

It is anticipated that some costs will be incurred regarding our Building Unit during the last quarter of the year. The rent income we expect to receive should however more than offset these costs. The normal running costs of the congregation are expected to show the normal inflationary increases.

All in all, 2008 looks like a challenging but exciting year. If we want to balance our books our contributions will have to *rise considerably*. I am sure that the same positive attitude we experienced during the past years will prevail during 2008. Let us remember; God loves a cheerful giver.

**Rising costs  
due to envisaged  
building projects**

Günther Meier

## **SYNODICAL NEWS**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Theological Examination for Vicar Michael Ahlers**

Since the beginning of December 2007, Michael Ahlers, the son of president Peter and Renate Ahlers, has been involved in an extended examination, called the 2<sup>nd</sup> Theological Examination. For this examination, he has to prepare (a) a sermon, (b) a children's Bible lesson, and (c) a short thesis, followed by a series of oral exams, to be held in Pretoria on Monday, 10 March. The provisional date for his ordination, to be held in Kirchdorf (Wartburg), is Sunday 6 April 2008. Arrangements for a call to serve as a pastor within one of the vacant FELSISA congregations will be made immediately after his examination.

### **Pastor Karl Böhmer leaves for the USA**

After receiving and accepting a call to serve a congregation in our sister church, the Missouri Synod, pastor Karl Böhmer and his wife, Brigitte, will be leaving for the USA on 1 April 2008. We wish them well as they continue to serve the Lord.

### **Vacancies to be filled**

Once Vicar Michael Ahlers has completed his exams, he will be available to fill one of the vacancies in the FELSISA. Presently vacant are Kempton Park (a congregation which due to its small size is served by one of the pastors from Pretoria), Vryheid/Newcastle, and from April 2008 Pietermaritzburg congregation. We continue to pray that God will provide

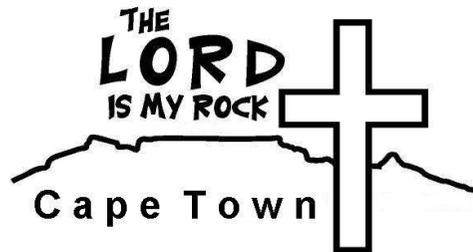
the FELSISA with pastors to fill all its vacancies in the near future.

In January 2008, **Andreas Albers**, the son of Pastor Matthias and Christ Albers commenced his study of theology, by enrolling in a BA-Degree (ancient languages) at the University of Pretoria. Including Andreas, the FELSISA has ten students in training. In 2010 the next student will commence his vicarage.

## SAINT THOMAS YOUTH

From 29 February to 1 March the youth will be at a "camp" in Kleinmond, preparing amongst other for the Argus Sunday Service.

A special welcome to all the new members from up-country: Bianca Böhmer, Heinrich Eggert, Raymond Schulz, and Bianca Voigts. We sincerely hope that you will find a spiritual home in Saint Thomas and enjoy youth in Cape Town.



### Birthdays

Wishing you a happy and a blessed birthday!

1 March	Caleb Potgieter
8 March	Martin Skibbe
11 March	Shane Swiegers / Sheldon Willems
13 March	Erica Laspé
16 March	Anton Potgieter
17 March	Teneal Karshagen
20 March	Quinton Aubrey
21 March	Brigitte Runds
30 March	Juanita Peyper
1 April	Wesley Karshagen



12 April	Brian Ravenscroft / Margrit Deetlefs
16 April	Shane Marriott-Watson
27 April	Mandy Aubrey
29 April	Antje Eggert

Laughter is good 

### Sharing - everything!!

The old man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink. He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them .

As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering. Obviously they were thinking, "That poor old couple - all they can afford is one meal for the two of them." As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine - they were used to sharing everything.

People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink. Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said "No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything."

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked "What is it you are waiting for?"

She answered "THE TEETH."



## DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

### March 2008

01 Exodus 20,1-21  
 02 Exodus 24,1-18  
 03 Exodus 32,1-14  
 04 Exodus 32,15-35  
 05 Psalms 31  
 06 Exodus 33,1-23  
 07 Exodus 34,1-10.29-35  
 08 Mark 11,1-11  
 09 Mark 11,12-19  
 10 Mark 11,20-25  
 11 Mark 11,27-33  
 12 Psalms 91  
 13 Mark 12,1-12  
 14 Mark 12,13-17  
 15 Mark 12,18-27  
 16 Mark 12,28-34  
 17 Mark 12,35-37a  
 18 Mark 12,37b-44  
 19 Psalms 123  
 20 Mark 14,1-11  
 21 Mark 14,12-16  
 22 Mark 14,17-25  
 23 John 14,1-7  
 24 John 14,8-14  
 25 John 14,16-25  
 26 Psalms 127  
 27 John 14,27-31  
 28 John 15,1-8  
 29 John 15,9-17  
 30 John 15,18-21  
 31 John 15,22-16,4a

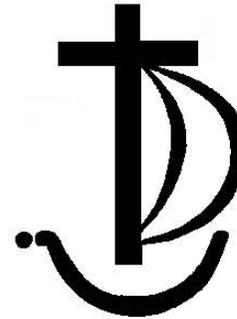
### April

01 John 16,4b-15  
 02 Psalms 132

03 John 16,16-24  
 04 John 16,25-28  
 05 John 16,29-33  
 06 John 17,1-5  
 07 John 17,6-8  
 08 John 17,9-13  
 09 Psalms 102  
 10 John 17,14-19  
 11 John 17,20-23  
 12 John 17,24-26  
 13 Mark 14,26-31  
 14 Mark 14,32-42  
 15 Mark 14,43-52  
 16 Psalms 88  
 17 Mark 14,53-65  
 18 Mark 14,66-72  
 19 Mark 15,1-15  
 20 Mark 16,16-23  
 21 Mark 15,24-41  
 22 Mark 15,42-47  
 23 Mark 16,1-8  
 24 Mark 16,9-20  
 25 1 Peter 1,1-12  
 26 1 Peter 1,13-16  
 27 1 Peter 1,17-21  
 28 1 Peter 1,22-2,3  
 29 1 Peter 2,4-10  
 30 Psalms 122

### May 2008

01 1 Peter 2,11-17  
 02 1 Peter 2,18-25  
 03 1 Peter 3,1-7  
 04 1 Peter 3,8-12



## EVANGELICAL CHURCH (LUTHERAN CONFESSION) SAINT THOMAS CONGREGATION

### **Church**

27 Settlers Drive, Edgemean

### **Parsonage:**

10 Van Gogh Street  
 Panorama 7500

✉ Street Address or  
 P.O. Box 12255  
 N1-City 7463

### **Divine Service**

Every Sunday at 10.00am

- Sunday School
- Holy Communion

### **Sunday School**

Maggi Reinstorf 021- 9303734

### **Women's Guild Convenor**

Leanne Swiegers 021-9390486  
 021-5953192 (w)

### **Treasurer**

Günther Meier 021- 9760313

### **Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Dieter Reinstorf

☎ 021-9303734  
 083-4409498

### **Church Council**

Günther Meier 021-9760313  
 Heindry Peyper 021-4243949  
 David Skibbe 021- 5581701  
 Marja Wybrow 021-5571328

### **Banking Details**

ABSA (Parow 502 110)  
 Account Name: St Thomas  
 Acc Number: 404 1515 600

### **Wall of Remembrance**

#### **Banking Details**

Std Bank (Tyger Manor 050-410)  
 Account Name: Evangelical Church  
 Lutheran Confession.  
 Acc Number: 076356302

**Website: [www.stthomas.za.net](http://www.stthomas.za.net)**

# SUNDAY SERVICES AND DUTY ROSTER

**Service Times:** Every Sunday at 10.00 (with Holy Communion) / (U) = Usher. Evening Service highlighted

DATE	SUNDAY	CHURCH ELDER	READER	SUNDAY SCHOOL	ALTAR DUTY	FLOWERS	TEA DUTY
2 March	Laetare	H. Peyper A. Runds (U)	S. Swiegers 2 Cor.1:3-7	Maggi Reinstorf	Ulrike Reinstorf	M.Deetlefs	M. Deetlefs M. Aubrey
9 March	ARGUS Sunday NB. Service at <b>6pm</b>	Service with youth participation. Come and support our youth and the Argus cyclists who will be visiting Cape Town and our congregation. No Communion.					
16 March	Palm Sunday	D. Skibbe H. Peyper (U)	F. Meyer	Antje Eggers	M. Halm	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen Faith Dini
20 March	Maundy Thursday NB: Service at 7pm	G. Meier	Pastor	---	Ulrike Reinstorf	---	---
21 March	Good Friday	D. Skibbe S. Swiegers (U)	D. Skibbe	Martina Reinstorf	No Communion	A. Runds	A. Runds Martina Reinstorf
23 March	EASTER	H. Peyper D. Skibbe (U)	C. Melck	Ulrike Reinstorf	G. Schreiber	M. Wybrow	M. Wybrow Maggi Reinstorf
30 March	Quasimodogeniti	H. Peyper G. Meier (U)	H. Peyper	---	No Communion	J. Peyper	J. Peyper
6 April	Misericordias Domini	G. Meier S. Swiegers (U)	S. Swiegers	---	L. Swiegers	Faith Dini	Faith Dini Lauren Swiegers
13 April	Jubilate	H. Peyper D. Skibbe (U)	F. Meyer	Maggi Reinstorf	A. Willis	M. Aubrey	M. Aubrey Antje Eggers
20 April	Cantate	G. Meier S. Swiegers (U)	E. Köhne	Antje Eggers	M. Halm	M. Deetlefs	M. Deetlefs L. Swiegers
27 April	Rogate	D. Skibbe H. Peyper (U)	D. Skibbe	Martina Reinstorf	G. Schreiber	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen Martina Reinstorf
1 May	Ascension Day	Community Service at 7pm (Monte Vista Dutch Reformed Church: Cnr D'Almeida Ave and Buitendag Street)					
4 May	Exaudi	G. Meier A. Runds (U)	H. Peyper	Ulrike Reinstorf	M. Wybrow	Faith Dini	Faith Dini Maggi Reinstorf