

# St. Thomas Congregation

Evangelical Church (Lutheran Confession)

## Newsletter 5 (2008)

September & October



***For God loves a cheerful giver.”  
(2 Cor.9:9b)***

## IMPORTANT DATES

7 September Thanksgiving / Harvest Festival  
13 September St. Thomas Garden Day (pages 9)  
21 September St. Thomas Bowling Day (page 9)

### ***Read also:***

New Member Profile (the Johnston Family) (pages 6-7)  
The Courtyard roof and the Wall of Remembrance (pages 8-9)  
Bazaar (pages 9-10)  
Bible Study programme (page 11)  
Our finances (pages 11-12)

### **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

### Giving and/or Thanksgiving

Have you ever felt you need to make a (thank)offering out of a sense of duty... because you are *supposed* too? And if you don't give "enough" you feel guilty, as if you have done something wrong?!

Church and Giving - synonymous terms. Every Sunday a (thank)offering!!!

Sometimes I find myself thinking: "What did *God* have in mind?"

Jesus said: *"Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues, and on the streets, to be honoured by men. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you"* (Mt.6:1-4).

"I tithe." It is a good feeling. I am doing what God commands. But sometimes it is difficult. Do you know that feeling? My budget is tight! Overspend last month! A TITHE, that is 10%!!!

But the REWARD! God promised a reward! It is like gambling! I give, I give, I give.... the reward will come one day.

St Paul writes: *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion"* (2 Cor.9:7).

Compulsion is wrong! In fact, God does not want my money (or anything else) I give reluctantly!!

So what does God want?

The Scriptures remind us that God wants my HEART!

If the heart is not in it, everything is an empty ritual, either an honour seeking act *before* men, or just a lustful gleam for a personal reward.



Money is paper. God wants my heart! God hates it, he can't stand it, when I put on a show or become reward seeker.

***"For God loves a cheerful giver"*** (2 Cor.9:9b).

Cheerfulness is a "natural" expression. It is something that comes from the heart - a heart of "thanks".

Thanks for what?

"Clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children..." Yes, but not exclusively.

"... who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silvers, but with His holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death" (Luther's Explanation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Article).

***Thanksgiving*** comes from the ***heart***.

It seeks no reward, no honour

It is an expression of **TRUST**: My God and Saviour loves and cares for me. Everything I have comes from Him.

Giving is not an obligation. It is a GIFT! It is a CONFESSION: God has won my heart over. I am His!

Belonging to Him, who owns heaven and earth, *is* my reward.

Yours in Christ  
Dieter Reinstorf

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

### It is in the valleys I grow

Sometimes life seems hard to bear, full of sorrow, trouble and woe  
it's then I have to remember that it's in the valleys I grow.

If I always stayed on the mountaintop and never experienced pain,  
I would never appreciate God's love and would be living in vain.

I have so much to learn and my growth is very slow,  
sometimes I need the mountain tops, but it's in the valleys I grow.

I do not always understand why things happen as they do,  
but I am very sure of one thing. My Lord will see me through.

My little valleys are nothing when I picture Christ on the cross.  
He went through the valley of death; His victory was Satan's lost.

Forgive me Lord for complaining when I'm feeling so very low.  
Just give me a gentle reminder that it's in the valleys I grow.

Continue to strengthen me, Lord and use my life each day  
to share your love with others and help them find their way.

Thank you for valleys, Lord for this one thing I know  
the mountain tops are glorious but it is in valleys I grow.

Sent in by Günther Meier

#### Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### Double Baptism at St Thomas

Sunday, 20 July, was indeed a very special day at St Thomas. The Johnston Family (see new member profile below) joined our congregation and their two twin daughters, Aimee and Mari, were baptised in the name of the triune God in a festive service. For this occasion family members and friends, some even as far as from Johannesburg, came to church to share this special moment with the family. For the first time (on a Sunday morning) additional chairs had to be fetched to provide seating for all. Heartwarming was the Christian fellowship, epitomised by the greater Johnston family.

### New Member Profile

We welcome the Johnston family to St Thomas:  
Shawn,  
Christy, Errin,  
Aimee and  
Mari.

Both Christy and Shawn were born in Cape Town and grew up in Elsie's River and Lotus River respectively.

As a child Christy, with her parents Rita and Ernst Banda, attended the Lutheran Church in Elsie's Rivers, where she was both baptised and confirmed. Shawn was baptised at St Andrews and attended St Augustines Anglican church in Lotus River. Shawn's mother, Fadwa has passed away, but his father, John, is still in Cape



Town and also attended the baptism service. Both Christy and Shawn were schooled in Cape Town. After school Christy completed a secretarial diploma in 1993 and started working for various companies, like Telkom, BOE, Gobodo, Ernst & Young. She is currently working at Old Mutual. Shawn obtained a National Diploma in Horticulture, a Certificate in Environmental Dispute Resolution and Mediation, as well as a B.Tech Environmental Management degree from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. After working for various businesses, Shawn now runs his own consulting practice: Sustainable FuturesZA.

Christy was actually introduced to Shawn by her ex-boyfriend in December 1999, who initially showed little interest. But women have their ways!! They moved from Kenilworth to Bothasig in April 2000. Their son, Errin, attends Wolraad Woltemade Primary school in Bothasig. He also joined the confirmation class of Pastor Reinstorf in April this year (2008). The two daughters, Aimee and Mari, attend Klein Panorama Creche.

Having moved to Bothasig the Johnston family started looking for a Lutheran Church nearby, and discovered St. Thomas in Edgemead. They started attending services and decided to make St Thomas their spiritual home.

Both still strive to fulfill various goals. Shawn is currently busy with a Masters Degree in Integrated Water Resources, which he hopes to complete by 2010, to be followed by a PhD. Christy, being the wife and mother, hopes to find a more suitable home for their family needs (Women have their ways, Shawn!!).

Honesty, trust, and respect amongst friends, family and others is important to both. People should be treated with dignity, no matter who they are or where they come from. Shawn's hobby is collecting and repairing vintage valve radios. Friendship and family is important to both of them. Living in Cape Town is great. They enjoy the "outdoors".

Christy writes: "I feel that we are truly blessed to be part of St Thomas congregation. I never in my wildest dreams imagined that my kids would love going to church the way they do. It's such an inspiration to me." Shawn writes: "We are excited to be part of the St. Thomas congregation and ensuring our children are brought up with discipline, love, respect for others and to grow as a family with faith in God."

As the pastor of this congregation, I feel blessed that God has led you to us. You have been a blessing to St Thomas. I praise God for that.

## The Courtyard Roof is up

The general consensus is that the courtyard roof is GREAT! A great improvement has also been the removal of the pillars, providing the congregation with a huge open-area space, almost the size of a church hall. The area has already been well used. At a recent memorial service during which the ladies prepared eats, tea and coffee for the visitors (on a cold and windy day), the effect of the now closed double door leading into the courtyard could be well noticed: No wind, no table cloths being blown away, etc. Thanks again to David Skibbe who oversaw the building project.



Gate leading out of the court yard, with David Skibbe's Units in the background

## The Wall of Remembrance

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A special thanks to all St Thomas members who have paid their pledges to the Wall of Remembrance. All pledges should have been paid by the End of August 2008. If for whatever reason you have not managed to pay your pledge, please talk to the treasurer, Günther Meier, for alternate arrangement to be made.

The builders are still waiting for the plans to be approved.

## CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### St Thomas Garden Day

There has long been talk about planting more trees at church. To this we are planing a "Garden Day" at St. Thomas on **Saturday 13 September**, starting at 8am. Come and join as we make an effort to improve our church surroundings.

### St Thomas Bowling Day

Weather permitting it should be a great day of fun and fellowship.



Please join us at the Edgemead bowling club on **Sunday 21 September** immediately after church for a "bring-and-braai" and some "serious" bowling. You can come in casual cloths, but remember to wear some "flat" shows (no heels).

### Bazaar - 1 November 2008

The 2008 Bazaar is just around the corner, and with the current dip the economy is taking we're all feeling the squeeze financially. As this is our only 'big' fundraising effort every year, putting a little aside every month for the big day may be an idea.

**New Date**  
**1 November 2008**  
**9.30am**

Please remember that any **donations** no matter how big or small are welcomed. We are currently accepting any donations you may have

for the **white elephant, tombola and face-painting stalls** e.g. inexpensive toys, toiletries (powder, novelty soaps, bath salts, etc.), stationery (rulers, novelty pens, pencils, erasers, etc.), old make up (for face painting), face paints, and anything else that we could sell in the white elephant stall. These donations can be given to anyone of the bazaar committee members (Wesley, Marja or Erika). Any non-perishable items for **Granny's Kitchen** may also be given to one of the committee members.

It is not usually an easy task for people to ask others to assist, so it would be nice if this year the stall convenors were approached by **volunteers** rather than them having to ask for volunteers, so if you're burning to help then please do come forward, we promise no-one will be turned away!

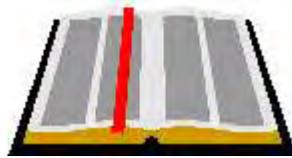
Please volunteer your help to the convenors

Sharing the responsibility of any task ensures success, so let's make our motto for this year's bazaar: 'Many hands makes a successful bazaar!'

Stalls	Convener(s)	Stalls	Convener(s)
Advertising	Margrit Niebuhr	White Elephant	Erica Laspé
Books	Gitta Schreiber	Tea Garden	Leanne Swiegers
Boerewors-Rolls	David Skibbe	Drinks	Shane Swiegers
Granny's Kitchen	Marja Wybrow	Arts and Crafts	Denise Kontisidis
Jumping Castle	Shane Swiegers	Tombola	Ulrike Reinstorf
Kebabs	Quinton Aubrey	Games/Painting	Youth
Music	Pastor	Raffle	Heindry Peyper

Your Bazaar Committee

## BIBLE STUDY



Come and join us for our Bible studies, every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the parsonage. Everybody is most welcome. It is an enriching experiencing of studying God's Word together and sharing with one another.

### September

- 3 "The Lump" (DVD Series and Discussion)
- 10 Luke 12:13-21 Rich fool faces regret (Values of Integrity)
- 17 Luke 16:1-15 Parable of the Shrewd Manager (Integrity and Authority)

### October

- 8 "Sunday" (DVD Series and Discussion)
- 15 1 Peter 1:13-2:3 Be holy, because I am holy (Spiritual Life)
- 22 2 Corinthians 6:3-13 Holy under Pressure (Vocational Life)
- 29 James 1:1-18 The Fruit of Suffering

## FINANCES

We are already past the halfway mark of our financial year and before we realise it, the year is gone and over. Let us have a look and see what has happened with the finances of our congregation during the seven month period until the end of July 2008.

### Income shortfall

So far this year we have spent much more than our income. We have spent in total R168 771 whilst our total income amounted to R114 950 - a shortfall of approximately **R54 000**. In order to cover this shortfall we had to reduce our money market account balance substantially.

### Expenses

The main reason for this shortfall is that we as a congregation have

undertaken a few building activities. In total we have spent R66 377 on replacing and enlarging the roof structure in the courtyard, plastering and making the courtyard wall higher, fitting a new yard gate and replacing the old gate into the courtyard with a solid door and closed the holes to prevent the wind blowing into the courtyard. These expenses were all paid in July. The other expenses were the normal running expenses like insurance, electricity, garden services etc. Major expenses outstanding are the Wall of Remembrance (R37 000) and payments to Synod (R62 145).

### Income

By far the biggest item on the income side is our own contributions. So far this year our contributions amounted to R85 950, only R1 578 short of the budgeted figure. A major boost to our contributions and a humbling experience was a special contribution during June from one of our members of R16 000 (earmarked for the roof). For this special contribution as well as all the contributions we have received so far, we are most grateful and may God bless all who have contributed so faithfully.

### Wall of Remembrance

In the previous newsletter as well as at church, a request was made on members who pledged funds for the wall of remembrance to pay their contributions, if possible, despite the fact that members have until the end of August to pay. This would help our cash flow. Again the reaction was positive. The balance in the special savings account especially opened for this purpose, stands at approximately R23 000. Also, thank you for these contributions and we ask again those members who have pledged monies for this purpose to please pay, even if it is only a portion, as soon as possible.

### Conclusion

When we started this financial year we knew it would be a challenging year, primarily due to the expenses incurred in the various building activities that we have undertaken. So far it has gone exceptionally well. Our cash flow is taking a bit of strain at the moment but we are positive and trust that the same positive attitude will prevail as during the first seven months of the year. Giving is a special and most wonderful gift from God.

Günther Meier

## SYNODICAL NEWS

### Synodical Convention

The Synodical Convention was held from 12-13 August just outside of Paulpietersburg. The Convention was attended both by Pastor Reinstorf and Günther Meier as the official delegate from St Thomas Congregation. Some of the important motions that carried were:

- In future congregations of the FELSISA, based on their own constitution, will be able to elect and install women on the church council.
- From 1210 the Synodical Convention will be chaired in English (and no longer in German). Furthermore, correspondence addressed to all congregations of the FELSISA will (as a rule) in future be in English.
- Although no formal decision was taken, the Synodical Convention expressed its support for the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria. Steps are to be taken towards greater involvement and a theological training that is more context orientated (South African pastors being trained in South Africa for South African congregations of all languages).

With these and other decisions taken, Synod has clearly shown a commitment towards all language groups in South Africa. The FELSISA is no longer to be regarded as a "German Church", but a truly South African Lutheran Church eager to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to "all". St Thomas and other congregations in the FELSISA will hopefully respond positively and work more committed than ever to bring the Gospel of God's unconditional grace to others.

### Birthdays

Wishing you a happy and a blessed birthday!

6 September Robert Stirling / Eckard Köhne  
7 September Jason Dini

23 September Dalene Potgieter  
2 October Gitta Schreiber  
6 October Storm Marriott-Watson  
15 October Zenka Deetlefs  
20 October Jenny Rewitzky  
22 October Mike Sandmann / Faith Dini  
25 October Deon Deetlefs  
28 October Carl Runds  
6 November Reinhold Küsel



Laughter is good



God, I read the bible. What does beget mean? Nobody will tell me. Love Alison

Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Joyce

Dear God, is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house? Anita

Dear God, I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. Nancy

Dear God, did you mean for giraffes to look like that or was it an accident? Norma

Dear God, maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they each had their own rooms. It works out OK with me and my brother. Larry



## DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

### September

01 Jeremiah 3,19-4,4  
 02 Jeremiah 5,9-21  
 03 Psalms 94  
 04 Jeremiah 7,1-15  
 05 Jeremiah 7,21-28  
 06 Jeremiah 9,22-23  
 07 Jeremiah 14,1-16  
 08 Jeremiah 15,10.15-21  
 09 Jeremiah 18,1-12  
 10 Psalms 147  
 11 Jeremiah 19,1-13  
 12 Jeremiah 20,7-18  
 13 Jeremiah 21,1-14  
 14 Jeremiah 23,1-8  
 15 Jeremiah 25,1-14  
 16 Jeremiah 25,15-31  
 17 Psalms 129  
 18 Jeremiah 26,1-19  
 19 Jeremiah 28,1-17  
 20 Jeremiah 29,1-14  
 21 Jeremiah 30,1-3;31,1-14  
 22 Jeremiah 31,18-20.31-37  
 23 Jeremiah 38,1-32  
 24 Psalms 146  
 25 Jeremiah 37,1-21  
 26 Jeremiah 38,1-13  
 27 Jeremiah 38,14-28  
 28 Jeremiah 39,1-14  
 29 Jeremiah 40,7-18  
 30 Jeremiah 41,1-18

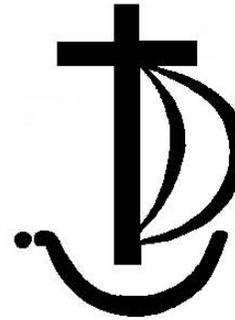
### Oktober

01 Psalms 65  
 02 Jeremiah 42,1-22

03 Jeremiah 43,1-13  
 04 Jeremiah 44,1-14  
 05 Jeremiah 45,1-6  
 06 Lamentations 1,1-11.17-22  
 07 Lamentations 3,1-33  
 08 Psalms 135  
 09 Lamentations 3,34-44.55-59  
 10 Lamentations 5,1-5.18-22  
 11 2 Corinthians 1,1-7  
 12 2 Corinthians 1,8-11  
 13 2 Corinthians 1,12-24  
 14 2 Corinthians 2,1-11  
 15 Psalms 42  
 16 2 Corinthians 2,12-17  
 17 2 Corinthians 3,1-11  
 18 2 Corinthians 3,12-18  
 19 2 Corinthians 4,1-6  
 20 2 Corinthians 4,7-12  
 21 2 Corinthians 4,13-18  
 22 Psalms 119,25-32  
 23 2 Corinthians 5,1-10  
 24 2 Corinthians 5,11-15  
 25 2 Corinthians 5,16-21  
 26 2 Corinthians 6,1-10  
 27 2 Corinthians 6,11-7,1  
 28 2 Corinthians 7,2-16  
 29 Psalms 119,33-40  
 30 2 Corinthians 8,1-5  
 31 2 Corinthians 8,6-15

### November

01 2 Corinthians 8,16-24  
 02 2 Corinthians 9,1-5



## 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
7 September	Thanksgiving Harvest / Festival	G. Meier D. Skibbe (U)	C. Melck 2 Cor.9:6-15	Ulrike Reinstorf Martina Reinstorf	G. Schreiber	M. Deetlefs	M. Deetlefs J. Karshagen
14 September	18th Sunday after Pentecost	H. Peyper S. Swiegers (U)	F. Meyer Rom.10:9-18	Taryn Roseveare Maggi Reinstorf	L. Swiegers	C. Johnston	C. Johnston Lauren Swiegers
21 September	19th Sunday after Pentecost	D. Skibbe A. Runds (U)	R. Schulz Rom.14:17-19	Antje Eggers Martina Reinstorf	J. Peyper	E. Crouch	E. Crouch M. Wybrow
28 September	20th Sunday after Pentecost	G. Meier H. Peyper (U)	H. Peyper Eph.4:22-32	Ulrike Reinstorf Maggi Reinstorf	M. Halm	M. Aubrey	M. Aubrey Maggi Reinstorf
5 October	21st Sunday after Pentecost	D. Skibbe S. Swiegers (U)	D. Skibbe 1 Thess.4:1-8	Taryn Roseveare Antje Eggers	A. Willis	Faith Dini	Faith Dini Antje Eggers
12 October	22nd Sunday after Pentecost	H. Peyper G. Meier (U)	E. Köhne Eph.6:10-17	Ulrike Reinstorf Martina Reinstorf	M. Skibbe	L. Swiegers	L. Swiegers M. Deetlefs
19 October	23rd Sunday after Pentecost	G. Meier D. Skibbe (U)	C. Melck Phil.1:3-11	Antje Eggers Maggi Reinstorf	M. Wybrow	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen C. Johnston
26 October	24th Sunday after Pentecost	H. Peyper A. Runds (U)	F. Meyer Phil.3:17-21	Taryn Roseveare Martina Reinstorf	G. Schreiber	J. Peyper	J. Peyper Faith Dini
2 November	Reformation Festival	D. Skibbe S. Swiegers	S. Swiegers Col.1:9-14	Ulrike Reinstorf Maggi Reinstorf	L. Swiegers	M. Deetlefs	M. Deetlefs M. Reinstorf

### Flower Duty

The person on duty is requested to make a (very simple) flower arrangement to be placed either on or next to the altar (the flowers are to be taken home afterwards)

### Altar Duty

The person on duty is requested to fill the communion vessels and wafer plate and place them on the altar (and wash the vessels after the service).

### Tea Duty

The person on duty is requested prepare the cups and saucers before the service, serve coffee and tea after the service (provide milk), and wash the dishes

