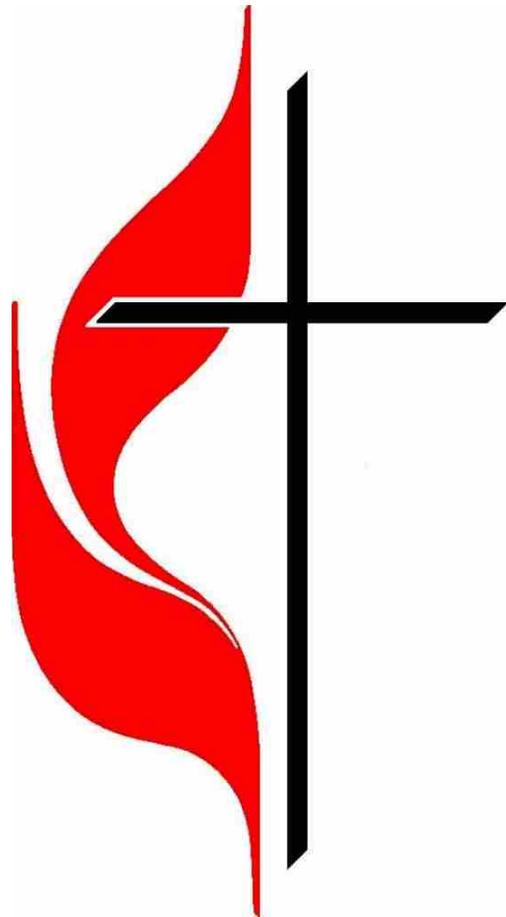


St. Thomas Congregation

Evangelical Church (Lutheran Confession)

Newsletter 1 (2009)

January & February



Watchword 2009

**What is impossible
with men is
possible with God!
(Luke 18:27)**

IMPORTANT DATES

18 January	Proposals and nominations for Church Councillors to be handed in to one of the church council member
25 January	General Meeting of the Ladies Guild
27 January	First Bible Study
1 February	Annual General Meeting of the Congregation

Read also:

When I say I am a Christian (pages 4-5)
The Van der Walt's - New Member Profile (page 7)
Upcoming meetings of the congregation (pages 10-11)
A letter from Fred Drewes (page 9)
Duty Roster (pages 15)

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

Watchword 2009:

“What is impossible with men *is* possible with God” (Luke 18:27)

If you have just returned from your Christmas holidays, welcome back in Cape Town, wishing you all a happy and blessed 2009.

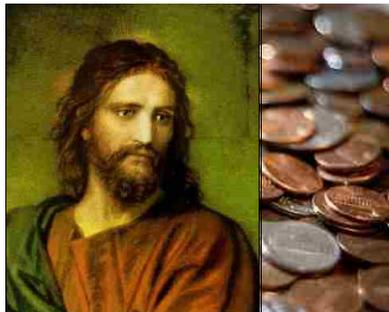
The watchword for this year is encouraging. So often we make our New Year’s resolutions only to be disappointed by our failures. Man is, of course, not incapable of achieving marvellous feats. The Proteas Cricket team, for example, set out to beat the Aussies, never defeated in a Test Match series at home for 16 years. However with focus, guts, determination, hard work, combined with exquisite sporting skills, they managed the “impossible”.

The area of life where man (including the greats) stumble is, however, in their relationship with God. Luke 18 reports on a very rich (and successful) young man (ruler) who approaches Jesus inquiring about internal life. The question reveals a degree of uncertainty. His relationship with God seems to be the one area of life where he as yet had not reached total success and inner confidence. Hats off, however. He addresses a question eluded by most: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

When Jesus refers to the law, he answers confidently that all “these I have kept since being a boy”. Yes, depending on your focus and

discipline “laws” can be kept. The cricketers, aiming to become world champions, adhered rigorously to their “code of conduct”: No drinking and partying after midnight (there are always some exceptions!), daily fitness and skills training, PR lessons ... etc. Likewise not swearing, not lying, being faithful, not using the name of God in vain *is* possible. But the one thing incapable of change, is the human “heart”. As by some unseen force it is drawn away from God. Inevitably we humans tends to puts our trust on the created instead of the creator.

The rich young man in Luke’s Gospel is no exception. Exceptionally gifted and focussed his heart is drawn away from God by the very thing that marks his success on earth: His wealth. His wealth, albeit unnoticeable to the rich man, squeezes itself in between his heart and God.



To this “idol” Jesus draws his attention, when he says to him: “You still lack one thing: “Sell everything you have and give to the poor”.

The rest of the story shows how “impossible” it is to let go of our idols. For some it is their riches/wealth, for others their arrogance, their vanity, their sensitivity, their unforgiving heart, their constant fear and lack of trust.

What is the “impossible” in your life?

Reflecting on this question is imperative. As the dismayed question of Jesus disciples highlight (“Who can then be saved?”), obtaining an answer to the “possible” in the light of the “impossible” is the divide between death and eternal life.

Letting go of *everything* and following Jesus, is “not” possible. But what is impossible with men “is” possible with God.

If you know God, don’t ever say again: “It is impossible”. Everything is possible through him who loves us, Jesus Christ.

New Years resolutions mean nothing, they are empty, if in achieving them we trust ourselves. Christians learn to “let go”, they learn “to follow”, they learn to “trust”. They radiate confidence, not in themselves but Him and was born in Bethlehem and who became one of us.

Earlier on I wished you a happy and blessed New Year. By that I mean: A year of trusting God and loving him above all else.

Yours in Him whom everything is possible.

Dieter Reinstorf

“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess”
- Martin Luther

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

When I say... "I am a Christian"

When I say... 'I am a Christian'
I'm not shouting 'I'm clean livin'.
I'm whispering 'I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven.'

When I say— 'I am a Christian'
I don't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble
and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... 'I am a Christian'
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say... 'I am a Christian'
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say... 'I am a Christian'
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are far too visible
But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say... 'I am a Christian'
I still feel the sting of pain,

I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

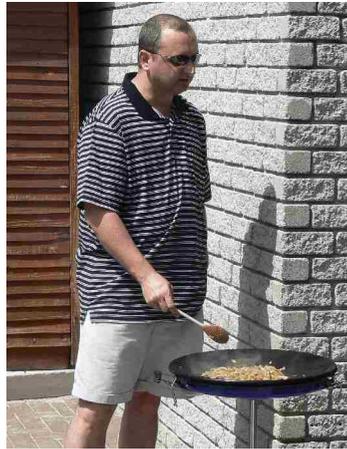
When I say... 'I am a Christian'
I'm not holier than thou,
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace,
somehow!

Sent in by
Leonna Laspé

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Saint Thomas Bazaar

The annual Saint Thomas mini-Bazaar took place on Saturday 1 November. As always it was a sociable and most relaxing day, on which almost all Saint Thomas members (and others) gathered, worked together, chatted, laughed, engaged with visitors, enjoyed a delicious lunch, cleaned the facilities - both for their own enjoyment and the glory of God. A special thanks to all, especially the Bazaar committee members: Wesley Karshagen, Marja Wybrow and Erica Laspé.



Baptism and New Members

We welcome Rhod, Tracey and Erin van der Walt to Saint Thomas. The family officially joined our congregation on 16 November 2008. It was a special day on which family and friends came and joined in the celebrations. For weeks pastor

Reinstorf had regularly visited the Van der Walts and given them informal instructions on the Lutheran faith and what it means to be a member of a congregation. The highlight on Sunday, 16 November, was the baptism of Erin. Through



baptism she was joined to the body of Christ and became an official member of his Church. Rhod and Tracey marked their entry in Saint Thomas by the celebration of Communion. May they grow in their faith and contribute to the "friendliness" and "care" of all those who have opened their hearts to God's love.

(See New Member Profile below)

New Member Profile

Rhod and Tracey have always been Capetownians. Rhod grew up in Panorama, Tracey in Edgemoed. They matriculated in Fairbairn High and Edgemoed High respectively. Rhod's parents, Willie and Daphne, live in Sunningdale (Table view). Apart from Rhod they have two other children, Michelle and Willie, who both live in Cape Town. Tracey's parents, Charles and Janet (Myrna Skibbe's sister) live in Century City. Tracey's has one brother, Sean, who works and lives in London.

After matriculating in 1997 Tracey studied *Food Service Management* at Cape Technikon Hotel School for 3 years. After qualifying she worked for 6 months on the Ocean Princess Cruise Liner, where she travelled mostly around the Caribbean and Alaska. On returning home after this adventure Tracey worked for *Melissa's* food shop for about four years, managing the Newlands and then the Tygervally branches.

Rhod is (amongst other) an electrical engineer. He first studied at the Cape Technikon for 3 years. After graduating he enrolled at UCT where he obtained a BSc degree. During his studies at UCT he worked part time for the City of Cape Town. In 1999 Rhod travelled to the UK, working as an engineer. On his return he completed a BCom at UCT through the accountant's conversion course, which he followed up with a

Honours Degree in Accounting the following year. He did his 3 year articles at Deloitte's Cape Town office.

Rhod and Tracey met through mutual friends in 2005 and got married at Joostenberg in June 2006. Soon after they got married, Rhod was transferred to the Deloitte Office in Brisbane, Australia, where they stayed for 6 months. After returning to South Africa, Rhod quit his job as a manager of Deloitte's and moved into commerce, working for *Cape Finance Corporation*, where he is still employed.

On returning from Australia Tracey discovered that she was pregnant after which Rhod and Tracey bought a home in Edgemoed. Erin was born on 28 February 2008. Tracey now stays at home, caring for their child, which (as all mothers know) is more than a full-time job. Tracey still enjoys cooking. Rhod in turn enjoys reading and gardening. They hope to have another child and are totally happy living here in Cape Town. They get good support from their families whom they value highly.

Rhod and Tracy were both brought up in the Methodist Church, but were introduced to Saint Thomas by David and Myrna Skibbe.

We welcome you and sincerely hope that Saint Thomas will become a special place to you as you are to us.

Advent Celebrations - 30 November

It has become a tradition in Saint Thomas congregation that the 1st of Advent is celebrated informally, sitting around tables, with a light dinner, and a Nativity Play by the children. This celebration took place on 30 November 2008 and was attended by more than 60 people. The evening

was most festive, a preparation for the Advent Season with its focus on Christmas, the coming of Christ. A hearty thanks is extended to all, in particular the ladies of the congregation, who prepared the meal and washed the dishes until late in the evening.



Bob Laspé celebrates his 70th Birthday

For those who joined Saint Thomas in the recent past, Bob and Lee Laspé are not very well-known. Since having a stroke more than seven years ago Lee has remained at home, lovingly being cared for by her husband, Bob. Bob, a previous church council member of Saint Thomas, celebrated his 70th birthday on 6 December 2008. Pastor Reinstorf, Magi and a few friends joined the celebrations in their home. We wish them both well and God's blessings.



Wall of Remembrance (almost) completed

The “new” Wall of Remembrance has been build. Early in January the granite plaques will be fitted. The wall consists of 54 units. All members who donated R1500 have secured a unit for themselves. Not included in the costs is the personal engraving of the granite stone. The Church Council is still to make a formal proposal on a subsequent “unit-prize”. A decision also needs to be made on whether the units should be made available to people outside of the congregation, family members and friends, and the purchasing prize of such units.

Members of the congregation who would like to make

arrangements for the placing of an urn, should please contact the pastor or one of the church council members.



Letter from Fred Drewes

Dear Pastor Dieter Reinstorf and Friends at St Thomas

I will be retiring (once again - like Pastor Schroeder once said "ek het afgetree , maar soms tree ek weer op ") and will be going home to Kempton Park (no more flying up and down to Johannesburg every second weekend !!)

Herewith a short note to say good bye but not farewell !

I enjoyed attending the services at St

Thomas very much for the last 6 years and 8 months ,with a break between September 2004 and April 2005. I wish to thank everyone for the friendliness and fantastic spirit and attitude at St Thomas, with this friendly atmosphere and vibe, I am sure the good Lord will pour his richest blessings on the Congregation and its members. I wish you well.

Best regards

Friedel Drewes (Fred)



CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

General Meeting of the Ladies Guild - 25 January

A meeting of the ladies guild is being called for Sunday, 25 January, immediately after the Church Service. An agenda of the meeting will be handed out soon. In the mean time please note:

- Election of a chairlady (and other committee members) . After serving as chairlady for 2 years, Leanne Swiegers will be stepping down. If you would like to nominate a lady for this position, please inform Leanne.
- Various voluntary tasks performed in the past need to be confirmed, such as the planing of quarterly meetings, setting up the duty roster (altar, flower and tea duty), Luther’s Loot, caring of the plants in the church, supplying the necessary kitchen items, making of the advent wreath, etc.

Please diarise this date and make an effort to be at the meeting and help us build our congregation to the glory of God and the benefit of all who come to worship at Saint Thomas.

Annual General Meeting of the Congregation - 1 February

The AGM of the congregation is to take place on Sunday 1 February 2009, immediately after the church service. The AGM is the decision making body of the congregation and is attended by all members who have reached the age of 18. Attendance is important as it provides you the importunity to share your ideas and help shape the congregation as an entity that reflects the body of Christ. During the meeting the pastor and treasurer will submit reports. The budget of 2009 needs to be proved. Proposals need to be discussed and elections need to take place. Please note the following dates:

18 January	All Proposals and Nominations for church councillor to be handed in to one of the church council members
19 January	Meeting of the Church Council
25 January	Proposals and Agenda on Notice Board at church
1 February	AGM

Nomination of Church Council Members

The term of office for a church council member in Saint Thomas is four (4) years. The term of office of David Skibbe and Heindry Peyper has expired. Both have served on the council with distinction over a lengthy period and have decided not to make themselves available for reelection.

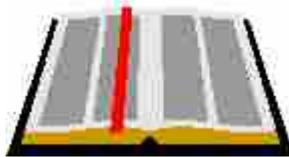
We thank them both for their dedicated service. When in January 2008 Shane Swiegers stepped down, Marja Wybrow was coopted onto the Church Council. She will stand for election in 2009. Günther Meier is still in office until 2011. Nomination forms are available at church.

Installation of new Church Council Members

The installation service for the church councils members to be elected on 1 February is

provisionally being scheduled for Sunday, 8 February.

BIBLE STUDY



New Day of the Week.

Please note that Bible will be held in 2009 not in Wednesday evenings, but every Tuesday evening, with the exception of school holidays.

Our first Bible study will be held on **Tuesday 27 January** at 7pm in the parsonage. During the first Bible study topic and themes for the next Bible studies will be decided on.

Birthdays

Wishing you a happy and a blessed birthday!

January

21 Denise Kontsidis
30 Myrna Skibbe



February

7 Hans Schreiber
16 Louie Eggers
19 Lee Laspé / Jackie Karshagen
28 Erin Van der Walt

Laughter is good



Sunday school

The children were lined up in the school cafeteria for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The head teacher made a note, and posted on the apple tray:

"Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



Our very own Barack Obama: "The time for change has come!" Photo taken during confirmation class. Is this the face of the new president of South Africa, or the future pastor of Saint Thomas congregation? Nobody is too small, or too insignificant to dream. Dream big!!!

Errin Johnston!



DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

January 2009

11 Luke 4,38-44
 12 Psalm 72
 13 Luke 5,1-11
 14 Luke 5,12-16
 15 Luke 5,17-26
 16 Luke 5,27-32
 17 Luke 5,33-39
 18 Luke 6,1-11
 19 Psalm 40
 20 Luke 6,12-16
 21 Luke 6,17-26
 22 Luke 6,27-36
 23 Luke 6,37-42
 24 Luke 6,43-49
 25 Luke 7,1-10
 26 Psalm 18,1-20
 27 Luke 7,11-17
 28 Luke 7,18-23
 29 Luke 7,24-35
 30 Luke 7,36-8,3
 31 Luke 8,4-15

February

01 Luke 8,16-21
 02 Psalm 18,21-51
 03 Luke 8,22-25
 04 Luke 8,26-39
 05 Luke 8,40-56
 06 Luke 9,1-9
 07 Luke 9,10-17
 08 Luke 9,18-27
 09 Psalm 16
 10 Luke 9,28-36
 11 Luke 9,37-45
 12 Luke 9,46-50
 13 Luke 9,51-56
 14 Mark 9,57-62
 15 Luke 10,1-16

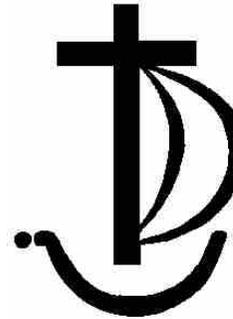
16 Psalm 63
 17 Luke 10,17-20
 18 Luke 10,21-24
 19 Luke 10,25-37
 20 Luke 10,38-42
 21 Luke 11,1-13
 22 Luke 11,14-28
 23 Psalm 10
 24 Psalm 11,29-36
 25 Luke 11,37-44
 26 Luke 11,45-54
 27 Luke 18,31-43
 28 Luke 19,1-10

March 2009

01 Luke 19,11-27
 02 Psalm 34
 03 Luke 19,28-40
 04 Luke 19,41-48
 05 Luke 20,1-8
 06 Luke 20,9-19
 07 Luke 20,20-26
 08 Luke 20,27-40

“Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his (fellow) believers are?”

Martin Luther



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

SUNDAY SERVICES AND DUTY ROSTER

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

DATE	SUNDAY	CHURCH ELDER	READER	SUNDAY SCHOOL	ALTAR DUTY	FLOWERS	TEA DUTY
11 January	1 st after Epiphany	D. Skibbe S. Swiegers (U)	E. Köhne Rom.12:1-8	Ulrike Reinstorf Martina Reinstorf	G. Schreiber	L. Swiegers	L. Swiegers M. Deetlefs
18 January	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	H. Peyper G. Meier (U)	C. Melck Rom.12:4-16	Taryn Roserveare Maggi Reinstorf	M. Halm	Faith Wybrow	Faith Wybrow D. Kontsidis
25 January	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	G. Meier H. Peyper (U)	D. Skibbe Rom.1:14-27	Martina Reinstorf	A. Willis	M. Aubrey	M. Aubrey E. Crouch
1 February	Last Sunday after Epiphany (AGM)	D. Skibbe S. Swiegers (U)	S. Swiegers 2 Cor.6:6-10	Ulrike Reinstorf	M. Skibbe	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen Lauren Swiegers
8 February	Septuagesimae	G. Meier D. Skibbe (U)	H. Peyper 1 Cor.9:24-27	Taryn Roseveare	M. Wybrow	M. Deetlefs	M. Deetlefs Martina Reinstorf
15 February	Sexagesimae	H. Peyper + 1 G. Meier (U)	E. Köhne Heb.4:12-13	Maggi Reinstorf	J. Peyper	D. Kontsidis	D. Kontsidis A. Eggers
22 February	Estomihi	D. Skibbe + 2 A. Runds	C. Melck 1 Cor.13:1-7	Antje Eggers	L. Swiegers	E. Crouch	E. Crouch Faith Wybrow
1 March	Invocavit	G. Meier S. Swiegers (U)	D. Skibbe Heb.4:14-16	Ulrike Reinstorf	G. Schreiber	M. Reinstorf	M. Reinstorf M. Aubrey
8 March	Reminiscere	H. Peyper + 1 G. Meier (U)	S. Swiegers Rom.5:1-11	Martina Reinstorf	M. Halm	C. Johnston	C. Johnston J. Peyper

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, switch on the urn, serve coffee and tea after the service (provide milk), and wash the dishes

NB: If a person on duty is unable to fulfil his/her duty, please make alternate arrangements.