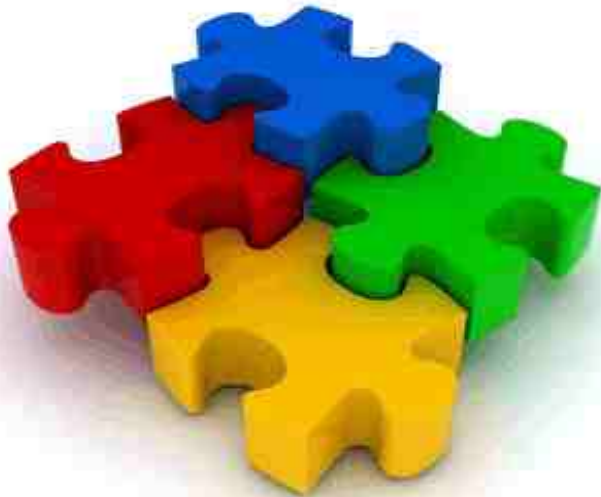


St. Thomas Congregation

Evangelical Church (Lutheran Confession)

Newsletter 4 (2009)

July & August



**“The body is a unit, though it is made of many parts;
and though all its parts are many, they form one body.
So it is with Christ” (1 Cor.12:12)**



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Important Dates

- 16 August Mission Festival with Rev. Andrew Siebörger (see page 8)
- 6 September Thanksgiving / Harvest Festival

Looking ahead

- 25 October Confirmation
- 31 October St Thomas Bazaar

PURPOSE STATEMENT SAINT THOMAS CONGREGATION

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

Loved by God. Loving others.



FROM THE PASTOR

In the first half of the “church year” our focus was on the life of Jesus Christ, his birth, his ministry, his death, his resurrection, his ascension, and finally the coming of his Spirit on the day of Pentecost. On that day the Church of Jesus Christ was born, which in turn is our focus during the second half of the church year. From Pentecost until the Sunday of Fulfilment (end of November) we reflect on various topics relating to the church.

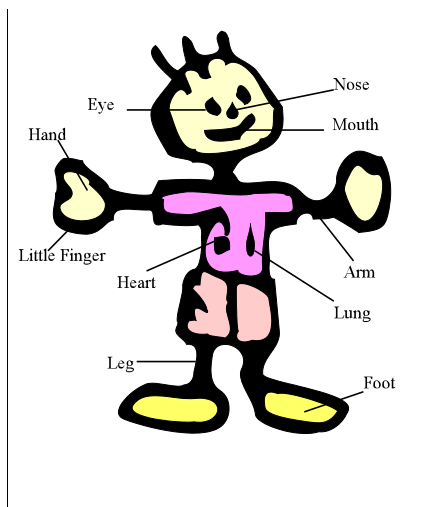
Church Membership

During our church council meetings we have been reflecting on what Church “Membership” means. The word “membership” is a biblical term. It has its roots in the well-known analogy of the “body and *its members*” used by the apostle Paul to describe the Church of Christ (see 1 Cor.12:12-31 and Rom.12:4-8). Just as the human body has many members (ears, eyes, arms, legs, etc) so also the church has many members (John, Maria, Linda, James) with each member having an important function to fulfill. The functions of the various members differ. Some are obvious (as those of the pastor or the organist), others are more hidden (as those of the praying person, faithfully committing and uplifting others to God in prayer). From God’s perspective, however, all members are equally important and in

fact *essential* for the well-being of the body. Just imagine a human body without an arm, or without an arm *and* a leg!! It would be struggling. Likewise the church of Christ. It struggles when its member do not fulfil their God-given role. Conversely, however, it blossoms when each member participates positively, searching to make a difference - all to the glory of God.

There is no doubt: You, being gifted by God, are an IMPORTANT, indeed ESSENTIAL member of the church. You should never say: “I have no role to play.” On the contrary, your church needs you, whether you are young or old.

Based on the analogy used by Paul, church membership is synonymous to INVOLVEMENT. Being a member of a church means: I



am involved and contribute to the well-being of the body of Christ.

Participation as Blessing

Being involved or participating in the church is everything but a burden. In fact, it is a blessing in disguise. It forms part of God’s “grand design”. Paul writing to the Ephesians says (quoting Jesus): ***“It is more blessed to give than to receive”*** (Acts 20:35; cf Luke 6:38). In other words, in “giving”, in “playing a role” I am blessed. Invariably in God’s Kingdom roles are reversed: Those who give, receive, and those intend only on receiving, hardly get at all.

A Guide to Membership

As a church council we have realised that we have not really given you, a member of St Thomas, enough opportunity to identify your gift(s) and to provide you with opportunities of giving. In fact, most gifts are only discovered in the process of *doing* something.

We intend to correct our failures of the past and have prepared a “*A Guide to Membership in Saint Thomas Congregation*” in which we encourage all new members to commit themselves to a ministry or ministries (depending on how many gifts they have and how God leads them). For example: Would you like to read in church? Would you like to help in Sunday school? Would you like to help in the garden? Would you like to join a

Bible Study or Prayer Group? etc, etc. Involvement does not need to be “big” or “major” (gifts are different). Regular church attendance and a friendly smile to other members or visitors is already great. But as noted: *Membership* means, I am *involved*. As I am baptised into Christ’s body, I am gifted and given a function to fulfil to help spread the Gospel and build the Kingdom of God.

In the second half of this year, commencing after the school holidays, we hope to approach all members of St Thomas with the list of ministries, which presently feature in our “Guide to Membership”. If we overlooked certain gifts or ministries which could/would contribute to the well-being of our congregation, you are welcome to make additions. Nobody will be obligated to fill in the form. It is solely up to you. But it is intended as an “encouragement” based on our congregations slogan: LOVED BY GOD. LOVING OTHERS.

Conclusion

I praise God for all his blessings in the last six months, and pray for his continued blessing in the second half of this year. It is great to belong to St Thomas and I sincerely believe, God has many more blessings in store for us as we reach out to others in love and care.

Yours in Christ.

Dieter Reinstorf

A PRAYER FOR YOU

PRAY THIS EVEN IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT!
IT WILL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE.



Dear Lord,
I thank You for this day.
I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning.

You listen to my heart. Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak. Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those that are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those that will delete this without sharing it with others. I pray for those that don't believe.

I thank you that I believe. I believe that God changes people and God changes things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers, and for each and every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes, that they are out of debt and all their needs are met. I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God.

Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees it.

Amen.

Sent in by Margrit Deetlefs

I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me.

Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to you.

I ask now for Your forgiveness. Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You. Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things that are of you. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. And it is the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray,

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

The Social at Church - A Great Success

"That was great!"
"We don't do it enough!"
"A most enjoyable evening!"
"I haven't laughed as much in months!"

These were some of the comments after our "social at church" on Friday, 22 May. The food was great, the fellowship most enjoyable. People that hardly knew one another, chatted for the first time. Everybody received a sticker with a biblical name and had to search for his/her partner ... and discover a "secret". It was fun, but not

as much fun as the games played by young and old. The dancing was for the more rhythmical congregation members - there weren't too many (or were they just shy?).

We will do it again. If you didn't join us, you missed out. Come along the next time!



Pastor on holiday

Pastor Reinstorf will be absent from the congregation from 25 June to 16 July. He will be attending the synodical

youth and brass band festivals in Lüneburg (northern KZN) on 27&28 June, and thereafter the family will be

on holiday at the game farm in Hoedspruit, returning late on 16 July. In cases of emergency, please contact one of the church council members, or

Reading Services

During the absence of pastor Reinstorf "Reading Services" will be held on the following three Sundays:

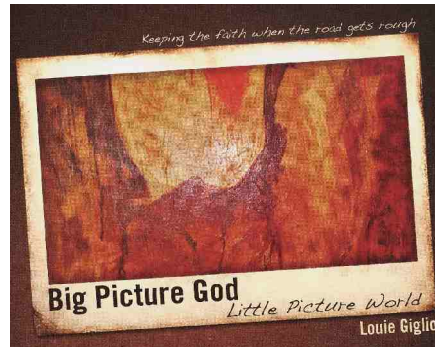
28 June - Normal Reading Service (Heindry Peyper);

5 & 12 July - Reading service with a difference (David Skibbe). On these two Sundays, the "reading sermon" will be replaced by an exciting two part DVD series by Louie Giglio (the author/presenter of *Indiscribable*) called: *Big Picture God. Little Picture World*. The subtitle is: *Keeping the faith when the road gets rough!*

These reading services are not to

leave a message for pastor Reinstorf on his cell phone: 083-4409498 (the reception in the bush is bad!)

be missed. Come and join the rest of the congregation as some wonderful and comforting discoveries are made.



Confirmation Camp, Presentation, and Confirmation Service

We have four boys in Saint Thomas who will be confirmed later this year: Errin Johnston, Sheldon Williamse, Keegan Karshagen, and Peter Reinstorf. It is an exciting and important time in their lives. The following (provisional) dates are to be noted:

- 28 Sep-1 Oct:** Confirmation Camp in Kleinmond
- 16 October:** Presentation (either in church or at the parsonage)
- 25 October:** Confirmation Service

Confirmands as Readers

We have a great group of confirmands! They have agreed to do each a "Lesson" in church. They may

discover their special gift und continue to read even after confirmation.

Shock fire in church

St Thomas Church almost burned down in the week of 7-14 June. One of the altar candles, assumed to have died during the church service, was not put out afterwards. During the week the candle burned right down, turning the wooden candle holder into ashes, burning a few spots into the well sealed altar, blackening both the altar wall and sealing, but thankfully dying before doing anymore damage. By Sunday, with the help of two church councillors, Shawn and Quinton, the damage had been repaired, except for the smell which reminded certain congregation members of a long overdue "braai".



We thank God for preserving our church.

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Mission Festival - A special service in 2009



Two years ago in preparation of the Mission Festival we launched "Luther's Loot". We

loot ourselves to give items of food to the needy in our community. This initiative is headed by Denise Kontsidis and Myrna Skibbe.

For our Mission Festival 2009 we have invited a guest speaker, Rev. Andrew Siebörger, of the Methodist Church in Edgemead. The members of Saint Mark's Methodist Church have been engaged in some great Mission activities in the past years, not least of all the building of churches in some of Cape Town's townships. Rev. Siebörger will deliver the message and tell us about their outreach programmes.

The St Thomas Church Bazaar 2009

Greetings All,

It is time for us to plan for our Annual Church Bazaar, the date decided for this event is **Saturday, 31 October**, which affords everybody sufficient time to decide in which way they may want to contribute and assist towards making our Bazaar function a success.

It is our intention to advertise our Bazaar day by various means which includes the radio, the local papers, by posters, the display of banners and by word of mouth,

All members that wish to convene and/or assist on the various stalls will again have the opportunity to get involved and interact with fellow christian brothers and sisters, family members, friends and visitors from Edgemead and the surrounding communities, our Bazaar affords us the ideal platform to work with and meet people and enjoy a day of good food, desserts and games.

The committee wishes to finalise the Bazaar stalls well in advance as this will allow enough time for the conveners and their assistants to do their planning.

It is proposed that this year we have additional stalls concentrating on games in which both children and adults can partake and we will need conveners and facilitators volunteering to manage this.

Should you have any suggestions or recommendations please do not hesitate to send the Bazaar Committee a short word or two in this regard so that your input can be considered and incorporated into our planning.

Your comments and input may be forwarded to: Juanita.peyper@capetown.gov.za

Regards
Heindry Francois Peyper

**Tea garden (with delicious cake), White Elephant and Books.
Granny's Kitchen.
German Sausages and Hamburgers.
Biltong, dried Wors.
Tombola and a great Holiday Raffle.
Various Crafts**

(free Jumping Castle for the children)



IT IS FUN!!

FROM THE TREASURER

The previous report covered the period from January 2009 until the end of March 2009. Therefore this report will cover the following two months, until the end of May 2009.

INCOME

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the contributions during the first quarter of the year exceeded our expectations. This trend continued during April 2009, but in May 2009 the contributions were approximately half of the figure for April 2009. Despite the lower contributions during May 2009, the high contributions received during the previous months, helped us to such an extent that on a cumulative basis, the actual contributions still exceeded the actual contributions by approximately R1 000. The total contributions until the end of May amounted to R58 652.

All the other income that we receive on a monthly basis, are all up to date and as budgeted. The only uncertainty is the interest we receive, which might be lower than expected due to the decline in interest rates. This might to some extent be offset by the higher balances we are keeping on our money market account.

EXPENSES

The normal running expenses we incurred during April and May were all within the budgeted figure. There are

only two expenses worth mentioning. The one is that we spent R1 300 to have the lettering done on the plaques for the Wall of Remembrance. The other item is that we had to replace the old photo copier. The old copier served our congregation since its inception and no parts were available. It has been cleaned, serviced and placed in the children's room at church where some copies can be made if needed. The cheapest copier available was a second hand, but fully serviced, Gestetner for R5 130.

Although we have not spent much money so far this year, we must bear in mind that there still are some major expenses to be incurred like our annual levy to Synod as well as the finalization to the Wall of Remembrance.

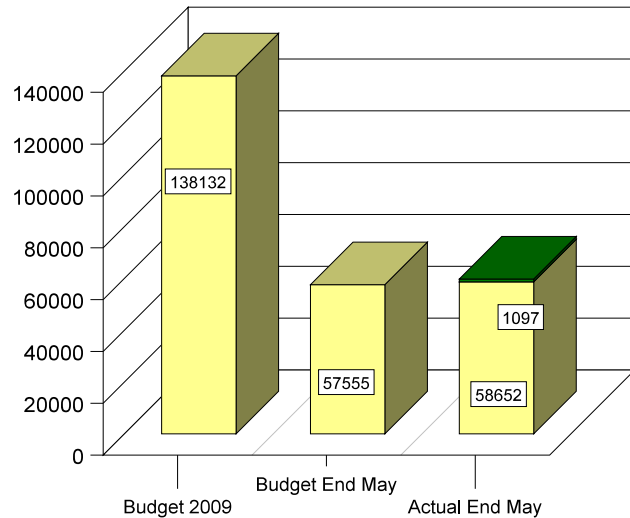
CONCLUSION

Thanks to every person that has contributed so faithfully during the first five months of the year. We pray that God will bless the contributors as well as the use of the funds. Let us, who have been blessed in so many different ways, continue to give as a sign of our gratitude for all the blessings God has granted us.

A detailed income and expenditure statement is available on the notice board at the church. Contributions are made voluntarily and can be made by means of a thank offering at the service on Sundays or by means of a

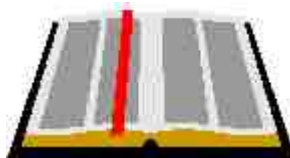
direct transfer into our bank account. The details of the bank account appear on the last page of the newsletter.

Contributions can be summarized as follows:



Günther Meier

BIBLE STUDY



Since Easter we have been engaged in the DVD Series: **“The Truth Project”**. It is heavy stuff and quite challenging. But those are the times you grow. We meet on a weekly basis at 7pm at the parsonage (10 Van Gogh Street). You are welcome to join us:

- 22 July Sociology: The Divine Imprint
- 29 July Unio Mystica: Am I Alone?
- 5 Aug Labour: Created to create
- 12 Aug (Pastor absent)
- 19 Aug No Bible Study
- 26 Aug Community & Involvement: God Cares, Do I?

FANIE’S CORNER



Relationships and persons with disabilities

Research has shown that a great number of people with physical disabilities are young people – mostly young men in their prime, as a result of accidents, sporting injuries, violence etc. It is interesting to note that those who are in a relationship or marriage before an accident, often leave their partner out of fear that he/she will not/can accept the new circumstances. Persons with disabilities should give their partners the opportunity to get used to the new circumstances. Open and honest communication plays an important role in the success of any relationship. The self confidence of a person with a disability is drastically reduced and much time is taken up through attempts to adapt to the new circumstances. A supportive partner is invaluable.

Experts are of the opinion that a happy relationship is a lifestyle

commitment that should be strived towards. There are times when it is reached, but to be happy at all times is an unreachable dream. Persons with disabilities must always keep this reality in mind. Enjoy every moment of happiness when it comes your way. If you keep this expectation in mind you will receive it.

Persons with disabilities should be themselves to reach their potential and must not unnecessarily be supported by others to show their self worth.

The acceptance of their unique circumstances is important. Know where they are going and do everything in their power to achieve a future for themselves. This mindset will motivate them and others.

People must find happiness within him/herself before they find it in others.

Fanie du Toit

Thank you, Fanie, for your contribution. Fanie has agreed, to write a short article for our bi-monthly newsletter. You can respond to Fanie, or, if you wish, write something yourself. Your contributions make the newsletter more interesting.

Birthdays

Wishing you a happy and a blessed birthday!

July

- 2 August Hohls
- 6 Kirstin Redinger
- 18 David Skibbe
- 19 Shawn Johnston / Ulrike Reinstorf



August

- 20 Heindry Peyper
- 24 Carol Sandmann
- 25 Maggi Reinstorf
- 27 Fred Halm
- 29 Minnie Halm
- 30 Annzel Runds

September

- 3 Anton Eggers
- 6 Eckard Kohne / Robert Stirling



The church in Lünburg.



20 August Youth Meeting

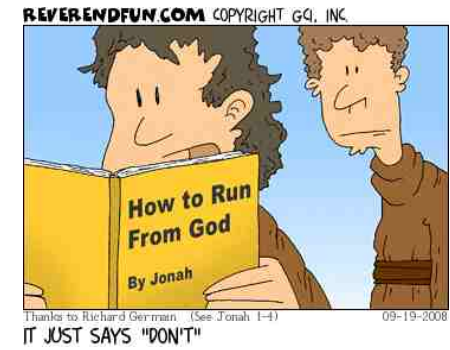
In the Quarter the youth will only be meeting once, on 20 August 2009; Where? Bianca & Rüdell. More information to follow.

Synodical Youth Day

As always our Saint Thomas youth will be participating in the Synodical Youth Day on 27 June 2009 in Lüneburg (between Paulpietersburg and Piet Retief). We wish them well.



sent in b





July

01 The Acts 14,8-20
 02 Acts 14,21-28
 03 Acts 15,1-12
 04 Acts 15,13-35
 05 Acts 15,36-16,5
 06 Psalm 26
 07 Acts 16,6-15
 08 Acts 16,16-24
 09 Acts 16,25-40
 10 Acts 17,1-15
 11 Acts 17,16-34
 12 Acts 18,1-22
 13 Psalm 9
 14 Acts 18,23-19,7
 15 Acts 19,8-22
 16 Acts 19,23-40
 17 Acts 20,1-16
 18 Acts 20,17-38
 19 Acts 21,1-14
 20 Psalm 11
 21 Acts 21,15-26
 22 Acts 21,27-40
 23 Acts 22,1-22
 24 Acts 22,23-30
 25 Acts 23,1-11
 26 Acts 23,12-35
 27 Psalm 14
 28 Acts 24,1-21
 29 Acts 24,22-27
 30 Acts 25,1-12
 31 Acts 25,13-27

August

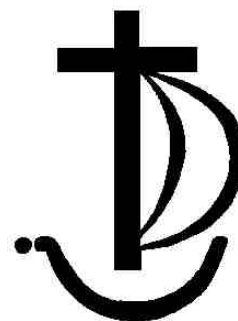
01 Acts 26,1-23
 02 Acts 26,24-32
 03 Psalm 69,1-22

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

04 Acts 27,1-12
 05 Acts 27,13-28
 06 Acts 27,27-44
 07 Acts 28,1-10
 08 Acts 28,11-16
 09 Acts 28,17-31
 10 Psalm 17
 11 2 Kings 2,1-15
 12 2 Kings 5,1-19a
 13 2 Kings 6,8-23
 14 2 Kings 16,1-16
 15 2 Kings 17,1-23
 16 2 Kings 18,1-12
 17 Psalm 19
 18 2 Kings 18,13-37
 19 2 Kings 19,1-19
 20 2 Kings 19,20-37
 21 2 Kings 22,1-13
 22 2 Kings 22,14-23,3
 23 2 Kings 23,4-25
 24 Psalm 29
 25 2 Kings 23,26-37
 26 2 Kings 24,1-17
 27 2 Kings 25,1-21
 28 Ezra 1,1-11
 29 Ezra 3,1-13
 30 Ezra 4,1-24
 31 Psalm 119,137-144

September

01 Ezra 5,1-17
 02 Ezra 6,1-22
 03 Ezra 7,1-28
 04 Haggai 1,1-15
 05 Haggai 2,1-9.20-23
 06 Nehemiah 1,1-11



EVANGELICAL CHURCH (LUTHERAN CONFESSION) SAINT THOMAS CONGREGATION

Church

27 Settlers Drive, Edgemead

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

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Dieter Reinstorf

☎ 021-9303734
 083-4409498

Church Councillors

Günther Meier 021-9760313
 Marja Wybrow 021-5571328
 Quinton Aubrey 082-9726666
 Shawn Johnston 021-5591069

Women's Guild Chairladies

Denise Kontsidis 021-5584525
 Christy Johnston 021-5591069

Sunday School

Maggi Reinstorf 021- 9303734

Treasurer

Günther Meier 021- 9760313

Banking Details

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

Website: www.stthomas.za.net

SUNDAY SERVICES AND DUTY ROSTER

Service Times: Every Sunday at 10.00 (with Holy Communion) / (U) = Usher / RS = Reading Service. Evening Service at 19.00 (7pm) /

DATE	SUNDAY	CHURCH COUNCILLOR	READER	SUNDAY SCHOOL	ALTAR DUTY	FLOWERS	TEA DUTY
28 June	4 th Sunday after Pentecost (RS)	M. Wybrow S. Johnston (U)	D. Skibbe 1 Tim.1:12-17	----	No Communion	M. Skibbe	D. Kontsidis T. Roseveare
5 July	5 th Sunday after Pentecost (RS)	Q. Aubrey S. Swiegers (U)	H. Peyper Rom.14:10-13	----	No Communion	M. Hohls	M. Hohls L. Swiegers
12 July	6 th Sunday after Pentecost (RS)	S. Johnston M. Wybrow (U)	E. Köhne 1 Cor.1:18-25	----	No Communion	M. Deetlefs	M. Deetlefs M. Aubrey
19 July	7 th Sunday after Pentecost	M. Wybrow Q. Aubrey	C. Melck Rom.6:3-11	Maggi Reinstorf	A. Willis	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen F. Dini
26 July	8 th Sunday after Pentecost	Q. Aubrey A. Runds (U)	S. Swiegers Acts 2:41-47	Taryn Roseveare	B. Schreiber	J. Peyper	J. Peyper E. Crouch
2 August	9 th Sunday after Pentecost	S. Johnston G. Meier (U)	D. Skibbe Eph.5:8-14	Antje Eggers	M. Skibbe	D. Kontsidis	D. Kontsidis L. Wilson
9 August	10 th Sunday after Pentecost	G. Meier H. Peyper (U)	Sheldon Will. Phil.3:7-14	Martina Reinstorf	M. Halm	E. Crouch	E. Crouch M. Reinstorf
16 August	Mission Festival Special Service ☆☆	M. Wybrow S. Johnston (U)	Errin Johnston Isaiah 42:1-8	Ulrike Reinstorf	No Communion	C. Johnston	C. Johnston A. Eggers
23 August	12 th Sunday after Pentecost	Q. Aubrey D. Skibbe (U)	Keegan Karsh. Eph.4:4-10	Maggi Reinstorf	A. Runds	L. Swiegers	L. Swiegers Lauren Swiegers
30 August	13 th Sunday after Pentecost	M. Wybrow G. Meier (U)	Peter Reinstorf Acts 9:1-9	Taryn Roseveare	J. Peyper	M. Aubrey	M. Aubrey R. Roseveare
6 September	Thanksgiving Harvest Festival	S. Johnston S. Swiegers (U)	D.Skibbe 2 Cor.9:6-15	Antje Eggers	L. Swiegers	F. Dini	F. Dini M. Wybrow

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.