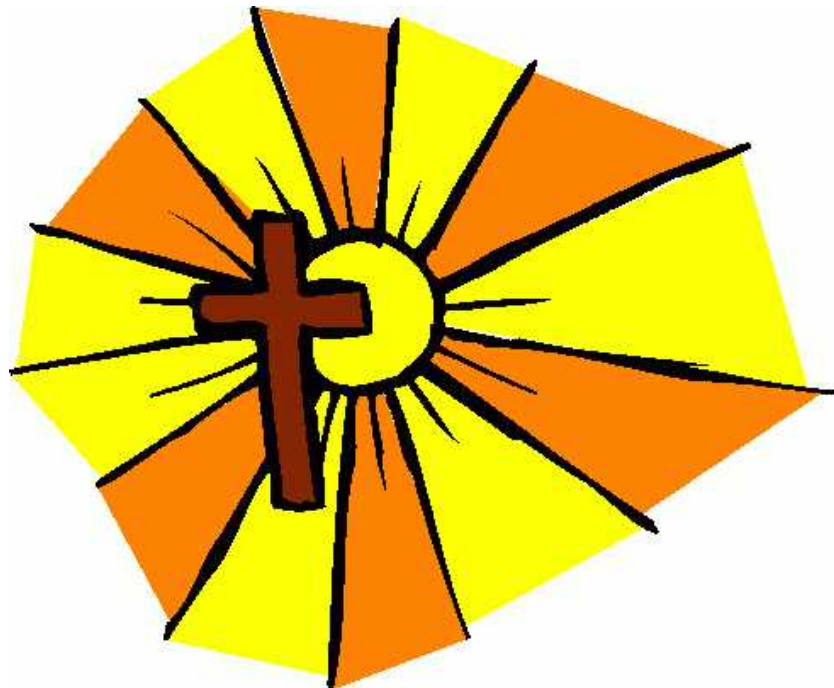


St. Thomas Congregation

Evangelical Church (Lutheran Confession)

Newsletter 1 (2010)

January & February



**Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe in me (John 14:1)**



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Important Dates

- 31 January St Thomas proposals to be handed in to the Church Council
- 1 February Church Council Meeting
- 7 February Proposals and Agenda on Notice Board
- 21 February St Thomas Annual General Meeting

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

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe in me” (John 14:1).

If you have been away on holiday, welcome back again. The new year, 2010, has just started. I greet you at the beginning of this new year with the watch word, recorded in John 14:1.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled”, Jesus says. Is your heart troubled? Are you going through a difficult time? Are you apprehensive or even anxious about the future? For most of us a new year brings new hope. But then again, every year has it challenges as well. Some of these we expect, other come as a surprise: sickness, a death in the family, difficult working conditions, and much more. Listen again to what Jesus says: **“Do not let your hearts be troubled”**. How can he say that?

No matter what awaits you in 2010, Jesus has been there before. The cross reminds us: He knows the pain of hardship, betrayal, doubt, loneliness, even death. And once resurrected he made the promise: **“I am with you always, to the very end of the age”** (Mt. 28:19).

Jesus' words, captured in the watch word for 2010, were spoken before his death on Calvary. It is a touching, dramatic scene. He is gathered with his disciples in

Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. It is the last time that they would all be together before his death. They do not expect it, but he knows what lies ahead. Jesus' own heart is troubled - not least of all by the betrayal of one of his own disciples: **“I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me”** (13:21). As yet the disciples do not grasp the full dimension of what is unfolding before them. As always, however, Jesus does not focus on himself. He knows his fallible disciples will be challenged as well. Their hearts will be troubled.

When hearts are troubled, “faith” is called for. When the unexpected happens, which you didn't foresee or contemplate, *faith* is called for. Faith is openness towards God. Faith is trust, where no help is seen or imagined.

Jesus' disciples already believed in God, the Father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who led them out of Egypt. But as yet they had not quite internalised that Jesus himself *is* God in human form. This becomes clear when Jesus says first to Thomas: **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you would know my**

Father as well” (John 14:6-7), and then to Philip: **“Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father”** (John 14:9).

As Christian we don't only believe in God in general. We believe in CHRIST, the very face of God. We trust him who came to share in our life, who became one for us, and also conquered the world for us.

By coming to us, Jesus has made God-trust not only possible, but tangible. But then again, trust doesn't just happen. It flows out of a relationship that we have with Him - walking with Him and sharing our lives with Him long before the trials of life come and our hearts are troubled.

Journeying with Christ includes, among other, the reading of his Word and prayer - a difficult proposition, however not if has become a habit. On how you can make this into a joyful and enriching habit read the “insert” at the

end of the “Daily Bible Reading Plan” on the 2nd last page of this newsletter.



The Crucified one says: **“Do let your hearts be troubled”**. He has been there. He can be trusted.

Wishing you all a blessed 2010 - a year of inner joy and lasting peace.

Dieter Reinstorf

“We're never so vulnerable than when we trust someone - but paradoxically, if we cannot trust, neither can we find love or joy.” (Walter Anderson)

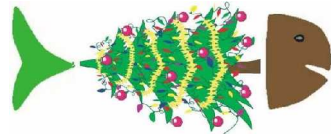
“God is doing a greater work in us, and that can only come as we learn to trust him no matter how dark the days and sleepless the nights. And it is only as we have been through the darkness with him that what we know with our heads slides down into our hearts, and our hearts no longer demand answers. The Why? becomes unimportant when we believe that God can and will redeem the pain for our good and his glory.... When I put the sovereignty of God beside his unfailing love, my heart can rest. (Verdell Davis)

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Advent Celebrations

2009 ended on high note with the annual "Advent Celebrations". It has become a tradition in St Thomas that on 1 Advent we celebrate both Advent and Christmas on the same day as most members go on holiday during the Christmas season. The advent celebrations are hosted during an evening service. Seated around tables, enjoying some savouries, the congregation sang Christmas carols, were captivated by a thought-provoking Nativity Play hosted by our Sunday school children and confirmands (Teneal Karshagen played the leading role of the "little star"), were surprised by the visit of Father Christmas (Shane Swiegers), and

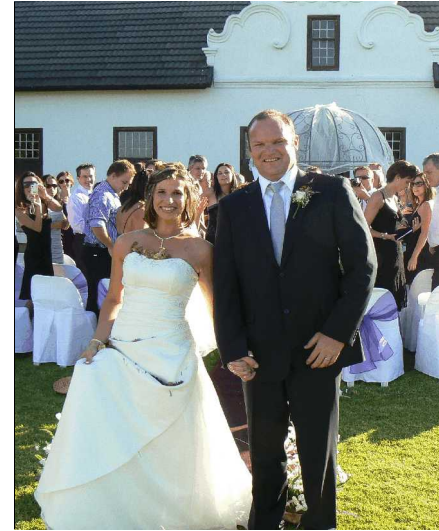
meditated on the true meaning of Christmas (with the help of a Christmas tree in the form of a fish, reminding us that during Christmas we celebrate that *Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became our Saviour* - based on the first letters of the Greek word for "fish").



It was a most uplifting evening, well attended (by more than 60 people).



Runds and Glass Wedding



Wednesday, 16 December 2009, was a special day for the Runds and Glass families. Nestled between the trees and old farm buildings on a sunny (and windless) summer afternoon on the two century old wine estate, Hazendal, the couple were joined in marriage, witnessed by family and close friends.

We pray for God's blessing on Mr. and Mrs. Glass and hope for an increased awareness of God's love, through whom they were joined together in a lasting union, symbolising the union that God himself seeks with mankind.

Engaged to be married

There are wedding bells in the air. St Thomas has no less than four engaged couples:

(1) **Anton Eggers and Kirstin Redinger.** They are to be married in New Hanover (Kwazulu-Natal) on 6 February 2010. Pastor Georg Scribe (ELCSA-NT) will officiate.

(2) **Eckard Köhne and Taryn Roseveare.** Eckard's own dad, Pastor Siegfried Köhne, will officiate at this wedding, held in Kirchdorf/Wartburg (Kwazulu-Natal) on 13 February 2010.

(3) **Fanie du Toit and Erica Laspé.**

Their wedding is scheduled for 6 March 2010. Pastor Reinstorf will officiate.

(4) **Marthinus Fourie and Antje Eggers.** Thinus (as he is called) and Antje got formally engaged to be married during the Christmas holidays. The wedding date has as yet not been set. Marthinus is in the process of joining St Thomas, although the couple (after Antje has completed her Master's degree) will be moving to Johannesburg/Pretoria at the end of 2010.

Jipee! Praise God. We wish them all God's blessing and years of growing intimacy with one another and God.

Passing away of a special person - Frankie Lear



Frankie was like a fresh breeze in the congregation. Her friendliness warmed the hearts of all. For the pastor she was a “confidence builder”, always finding something to marvel at. She saw it as her God-given calling to uplift others and to make them feel important and wanted. We will miss her, but rejoice in the knowledge that she has reached the goal of her life, her destiny: Life with the Father in heaven, washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ. Frankie’s remains will be laid to rest in the St Thomas Wall of Remembrance. This way she will remain in our thoughts and provide encouragement for us who are still in the race of life.

Frankie reached the age of 79 years. We pray for God’s comfort on the family.

How we enjoyed it when Frankie and Graham arrived in Cape Town from the UK for their annual summer holidays.

New Member - Jürgen Hohls



On Sunday, 3 January 2010, Saint Thomas congregation welcomed Jürgen Hohls as a new member. We are grateful that he has become part of the local family of God hosted at St. Thomas.

Jürgen introduces himself:

I was born in Pietermaritzburg, Natal and grew up in Wartburg a small town near Pietermaritzburg.

I went to Wartburg-Kirchdorf School and thereafter I went to varsity at University of Kwa Zulu Natal for 4 years studying towards a Chartered Accountant qualification. I completed my three years of articles with KPMG in Pietermaritzburg.

My parents, August and Michelle, moved to Cape Town in January 2009 and my sister and brother in law, Erika and Shane (Marriott-Watson) with Storm and Taylor, also reside in Cape Town.

I am the youngest child. My other

sister, Lisa, and brother in law, Jason, live in Johannesburg.

After living for 25 years in Natal I have decided to move to Cape Town and I am currently looking for an accounting position in Cape Town. I arrived in Cape Town in November 2009

Irrigation System fitted at church

The Saturday before our Advent Celebrations, 28 November 2009, various members of St Thomas arrived at church to help set up a new irrigation system. This was done under the able supervision of Shawn Johnston. He provided the plans, fitted the valves, connected the wires, and set the computer box. The rest of us dug the trenches!!! The exception was Quinton Aubrey. He dug no trenches but provided us all (financed out of his own

and I am currently living with my parents in Sunset Beach.

I enjoy most sports with Golf, Tennis and Snowboarding being my favourite. I enjoy watching rugby and going to the beach.

pocket) with a tasty Breakfast Burger that will be remembered for a long time. Worried that the valve-system might be stolen, Wesley Karshagen volunteered to build a lock-up casing for us. This he did not only within a week, but also managed to find a sponsor at work for all the material.

We thank everybody who helped. Working together promotes fellowship and saves a looot of money.

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Annual General Meeting

The annual general Meeting (AGM) of Saint Thomas is scheduled for **Sunday, 21 February 2010**. This is a bit later than usual, but provides the treasurer (Günther Meier) and the auditor (Dennis Rewitzky) more time to complete the financial reports and for the church council to prepare a formal budget for 2010. The AGM of the congregation is to be attended by all members of St Thomas who have reached the age of

18. Be present and make a positive and constructive contribution to the building of St. Thomas.

Please take note of the following dates:

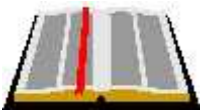
31 January: All proposals (written and motivated) are to be handed in to one of the church council members.

7 February: Agenda and Proposals to be placed on the notice board at church (and e-mailed to all members).

Meeting of the Ladies Guild

The official meeting of the ladies guild, under the chairmanship of Denise Kontsidis is to be held on **Sunday, 31 January**, immediately after the church service. At this meeting the ladies will reflect on the past year, consider what improvements can and should be made, and possibly make proposals to the AGM of Saint Thomas.

More information will be provided closer to the meeting.



Bible Study

Bible Studies are held every Wednesday evening from 7-8pm in the parsonage, 10 van Gogh Street, Panorama. Bible studies are to resume on **Wednesday, 20 January**. At the first Bible study we will plan ahead and set a programme for the first term.

Who wants to join the young married and adult group?

Many of our previous youth members are getting married early in 2010. Most have expressed the wish to start a "fellowship group" aimed at improved acquaintance and discussions on spiritual matters (videos, books, etc) and much more. The group is to be launched

early in March 2010. Mark the date and watch the space! Share your ideas on a good name for the group. Whether you are single or married, you are welcome to join to the group.

Pastor Reinstorf absent from the congregation

From 26-28 January Pastor Reinstorf will be Pretoria attending various meetings: Seminary Board of Directors meeting, Synodical Council meeting, and the Seminary Shareholder meeting.

From 9-11 February Pastor Reinstorf will be holding a synodical ladies camp in Paulpietersburg. Thereafter he (and his wife Maggi) will attend the wedding of Eckard Köhne and Taryn Roseveare in Wartburg on 13 February, followed by a meeting of the Pension Fund Committee in Durban on 15. February.

On 14 February a Reading Service will be held in Saint Thomas.

Sunday School Teachers needed!

Saint Thomas needs more Sunday School teachers. At the moment the Sunday school lessons are being presented almost exclusively by the Reinstorf family.

If you would like to help with Sunday school, please talk to Maggi or the pastor.

SYNODICAL NEWS

FELSISA Newsletter now available in English

The FELSISA Newsletter *Bekennende Lutherische Kirche* is now also available in English and Afrikaans under the title *FELSISA Witness / VELSISA Boodskapper*. The first English/Afrikaans issue was published in December 2009. For St Thomas members a hard copy can be obtained at church.

FELSISA Website

Did you know that the FELSISA has a website in English. There you will find links to all congregations of the FELSISA, contact details of the pastors, Sunday service times, and also the websites of the congregations.

Pastor Dr. Reinstorf serves as acting president of the FELSISA

From 1 January 2010 the office of the president rests with Pastor Reinstorf. On reaching the retirement age, President Ahlers officially handed back the office of the president on 31 December 2009. Pastor Reinstorf will serve as acting president until a formal election is held at the Synodical Convention in May 2010.

Synodical Convention 2010

The Synodical Convention is scheduled for 4-5 May 2010. All proposals to Synod must be handed in to the Synodical Council by not later than 5 March 2010.



FANIE'S CORNER

The criteria and procedure to apply for beach permits for persons with physical disabilities ("mobility impaired")

Do you know of a person with a physical disability who would like to have access to a beach (reachable by a vehicle)? These are the guidelines that need to be followed:

The applicant must be able to prove

that he/she is permanently disabled. The term mobility disabled refers to the physical disability or lack of an appendage that would make a person is able to be independently mobile on the beach. Persons with emphysema and

illnesses/or such like, do not qualify, as they are known as health conditions.

Application forms may be obtained at the offices of the Dept of Environmental Affairs and Tourism they are also available electronically on the website www.deat.gov.za

As part of the application package, the National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities in South Africa, requires another certificate. This certificate must certify that the applicant is actually permanently and severely disabled. The council is only in an advisory role and only makes recommendations to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism on the severity of disability of the applicant and if the applicant satisfies the functional definition according to the council.

The recommendation is completed by the provincial structure. The applicant must send the completed evaluation form, together a medical certificate to the National Council before a final recommendation can be made. The cost for the services of the National Council

[and its structures] is a non-refundable amount of R100.

All documentation to the Dept of Environmental Affairs and Tourism must be addressed to: att The Assistant Director General of Sea Coast Administration, Dept Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012. A non-returnable application fee of R150 per application and copy of proof of identity is required.

In the case of children, only the birth date is required.

Beach permits are given to specific people, not to vehicles or registration numbers. The receiver of the permit must see to it that the permit is not abused. The general limitation on beach areas is the same as for non-disabled people in terms of "Notice no R1399 of December 2001[as amended]".

Applications should not take longer than 90 days to process. For more information contact the department on [086]-1123 626 or [021 402 3011].

The contact information of the National Council is: [011] 726 8040.

Birthdays

Wishing you a happy and a blessed birthday!



January

- 5 Anita Willis
- 7 Elke Crouch
- 21 Denise Kontsidis
- 30 Myrna Skibbe

February

- 2 Michelle Viljoen
- 7 Hans Schreiber
- 16 Louie Eggers
- 19 Jackie Karshagen / Lee Laspé
- 28 Erin van der Walt

March

- 1 Martin Skibbe / Caleb Potgieter

Laughter is good



Grey hair

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, 'Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?'

Her mother replied, 'Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.'

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, 'Mummy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?'

Empty head?

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make

the matter clearer, she said, 'Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.' 'Yes,' the class said.

'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?' A little fellow shouted, 'Cause your feet ain't empty.'

God is watching the apples!

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch.. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun 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.'



DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

Making Bible Reading a habit! The Bible makes it clear that God considers 40 days a spiritually significant time period. Whenever God wants to prepare someone for his purpose, he took 40 days: Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain. Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai.. David was transformed by Goliath's 40 day challenge. Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness. It's typical and average for most people to do the same thing at the same time, everyday for 40 days for it to become habit. How about committing yourself to read a short passage from the Bible for 40 days! It only takes 5 minutes!

January

11 Psalm 96
12 John 3,22-30
13 John 3,31-36
14 Joshua 1,1-18
15 Joshua 2,1-24
16 Joshua 3,1-17
17 Joshua 6,1-23
18 Psalm 44
19 Joshua 7,1-26
20 Joshua 8,1-29
21 Joshua 8,30-35
22 Joshua 9,1-15
23 Joshua 9,16-27
24 Joshua 10,1-15
25 Psalm 92
26 Joshua 11,1-15
27 Joshua 20,1-9
28 Joshua 23,1-16
29 Joshua 24,1-15
30 Joshua 24,16-28
31 Joshua 24,29-33

February

1 Psalm 99
2 Ephesians 1,1-10
3 Ephesians 1,11-14
4 Ephesians 1,15-23
5 Ephesians 2,1-10
6 Ephesians 2,11-18

7 Ephesians 2,19-22
8 Psalm 51
9 Ephesians 3,1-13
10 Ephesians 3,14-21
11 Ephesians 4,1-6
12 Ephesians 4,7-13
13 Ephesians 4,14-16
14 Ephesians 4,17-24
15 Psalm 57
16 Ephesians 4,25-32
17 Ephesians 5,1-14
18 Ephesians 5,15-20
19 Ephesians 5,21-33
20 Ephesians 6,1-4
21 Ephesians 6,5-9
22 Psalm 31
23 Ephesians 6,10-17
24 Ephesians 6,18-24
25 John 11,1-10
26 John 11,11-19
27 John 11,20-27
28 John 11,28-44

March

1 Psalm 91
2 John 11,45-57
3 John 12,1-11
4 John 12,12-19
5 John 12,20-26
6 John 12,27-33



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

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
10 January	Epiphany	G. Meier M. Wybrow (U)	E. Köhne Eph.3:2-6	Peter Reinstorf	J. Peyper	M. Hohls	M. Hohls Lauren Swiegers
17 January	2 nd Su.a. Epiphany	S. Johnston A. Runds (U)	D. Skibbe Rom.12:4-16	Ulrike Reinstorf	A. Willis	F. Dini	F. Dini E. Crouch
24 January	Last Su.a Epiphany	Q. Aubrey S. Swiegers (U)	S. Swiegers 2 Cor.4:6-10	Maggi Reinstorf	M. Skibbe	M. Deetlefs	M. Deetlefs D. Kontsidis
31 January	Septagesimae Meeting of the Ladies Guild	M. Wybrow S. Johnston (U)	Errin Johnston 1 Cor.9:24-27	Ulrike Reinstorf	M. Halm	M. Aubrey	M. Aubrey J. Karshagen
7 February	Exagesimae	G. Meier W. Aubrey (U)	H. Peyper Heb.4:12-13	Peter Reinstorf	B. Schreiber	E. Crouch	E. Crouch L. Wilson
14 February	Estomihi Reading Service	J. Johnston M. Wybrow (U)	D. Skibbe 1 Cor.13:1-7	Maggi Reinstorf	No Communion	C. Johnston	C. Johnston M. Reinstorf
21 February	Invocavit AGM	Q. Aubrey S. Swiegers (U)	Sheldon Willemse Heb.4:14-16	Antje Eggers	L. Swiegers	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen F. Dini
28 February	Reminiscere	G. Meier A. Runds (U)	C. Melck Rom.5:1-11	Ulrike Reinstorf	J. Peyper	D. Kontsidis	D. Kontsidis M. Deetlefs
7 March	Oculi	Q. Aubrey J. Johnston (U)	Peter Reinstorf Eph.5:1-8	Maggi Reinstorf	A. Willis	M. Wybrow	M. Wybrow L. Swiegers

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 sauces 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.