

St. Thomas Congregation

Evangelical Church (Lutheran Confession)

Newsletter 2 (2010)

March & April



**“You are the Christ.... The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected.”
(Mark 8:29 & 31)**

CONTENTS

From the Pastor.	3
Cheap grace and costly grace	5
Weddings.	6
Meeting of the ladies guild	8
New Sunday Service times? ...	9
Bible Study programme... ..	10
From the treasurer... ..	11
Birthdays... ..	11
Laughter is good.	12
Bible Reading Plan.	13
Sunday Services and Duty Roster... ..	15-16

Important Dates

- 14 March Argus Sunday (evening service at 7.00)
- 21 March St Thomas Service held by Pastor Marco Jacobsen
- 18 April Meeting of the congregation to discuss synodical proposals and a new service time for St Thomas.

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

"You are the Christ.... The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected." (Mark 8:29 & 31) - and the death of a nephew!

"You are the Christ" - the Messiah, the promised Son of Man, the one who brings salvation. This was the confession that Simon Peter made when Jesus asked his disciples: "Who do you say I am!" It was a remarkable confession especially in the light of what others had said about Jesus. Very confused about the way he acted, Jesus' own family had implied that he could be "mad". The people in his home town Nazareth chased him out of the synagogue. Angrily they had threatened to kill him as he had broad shame and dishonour to their village. Others spoke more highly of him: He could be a prophet, possibly Elijah or Jeremiah, or John the Baptist who had returned from the dead. In the light of these statements Simon Peter's *confession* was truly remarkable, a divine revelation: "You are the Christ!".

But.... confessing Christ goes hand in hand with "expectations" and "perceptions" that each one of us have, including Simon Peter. He imagined that having Christ at his side would bring him more prosperity and less hardship, more successes and fewer failures, more glory and less humility. He envisaged Christ marching into Jerusalem, with his disciples on his sides (himself at his right hand),

sharing in his glory.

Despite the "confession", Jesus' knew exactly what *false* expectations Simon Peter was harbouring in his heart.

"The Son of Man must suffer", Jesus responded. That came as a surprise to Simon Peter. He didn't want a suffering Christ, he wanted a glorious and successful Christ. Who wants to follow a suffering Christ?!!

Simon Peter was so deeply disturbed by the thought of a suffering Christ, that he "rebuked" Jesus, not to speak like that. But Jesus makes it abundantly clear: There is no glory without suffering. God's journey to glory must lead through suffering.

The resurrected and indeed the glorious and victorious Christ is not just any Christ. He is the Christ who died on the cross, a necessary act to free us from the condemnation of sin.

But man in general has never warmed to a "suffering" Christ or indeed that the suffering was necessary to overcome "sin". The most popular churches are those that advocate fun and glory without addressing the evilness of sin. "Church" is about enjoyment, even entertainment. Church should be fun - always!! But *apparent* fun and glory

can so easily be cut short - its *superficiality* exposed.

As I write this, I am trying to come to terms with the death of my nephew and godchild. He was the adopted child of my second sister, Friedhild and her husband Lothar. For years the two were hoping for a child of their own. It was not to be. But then God gave them two adopted children, a daughter, called Heidi, and a son, called Dietmar.. But yesterday (28 March) he died. He, his girlfriend and some other friends watched Rugby at a public bar. Others game and made remarks about the girlfriend and were soon chased out by management. But when the two of them left, the guys were waiting outside. They struck him with a baton. Eternal bleeding ensued. Subsequent severe headaches caused him to loose his consciousness. He was rushed to hospital (in Middelburg, 300Km away), but never regained his consciousness. He died with his parents at his side.

How can a God of "glory", who rides into Jerusalem on horse back (dressed as an army general), subdues Israel's enemies and sets up a state of eternal power and never experienced death himself help in a situation like this? I prefer the *suffering Christ*, who never promised me a sorrow-free life of bliss on earth. But what he gives is more, far more: A life free of sin (based on his very own suffering), being reconciled with God that when my life ends on earth, I share in his eternal glory firmly rooted in his loving kindness and mercy for sinners like me.

Believe it or not: This God often draws us to him through suffering as we follow the suffering Christ. He does not cause the suffering. The suffering is caused by the sin in this world - also my sin. But he uses suffering (including all the pain and sorrow we feel) to refine our faith. Suffering frees us from false precepts, hope on the material, meaningless ambitions, and firmly sets our eyes on the eternal and the treasures in heaven that cannot be eaten by moths or rust.

"Take up your cross and follow me!" is the call of the suffering Christ. It will not always be easy, but the victory is ours. How do I know that? EASTER! The one who raised Jesus from the dead, raises us from the dead as well, also Dietmar.

So, my dear sister, you may mourn your loss, but the suffering Christ, who knows what you are going through and has shared in all the suffering that we experience, will wipe the tears from your face. Your tears of sorrow and pain will one day be tears of eternal joy.

"You are the Christ" - that is also my confession. Having learned from Scripture, I add: "You are the suffering Christ. And thank you for suffering for me."

Wishing you all a blessed Lenten Season, perseverance in hardship, and comfort in the Christ who is victorious even over death. Wishing you also a blessed Easter - God's confirmation that the suffering of Christ was not in vain.

Dieter Reinstorf

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT IN

Cheap grace and costly grace

Cheap grace and costly grace are terms coined by Dietrich Bonhoefer (who was executed by the Nazis in 1945). He writes

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

"Costly grace is costly because it cost God the life of His Son... and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. It is the hidden treasure in the field, for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. And it is costly as it call on us to take our

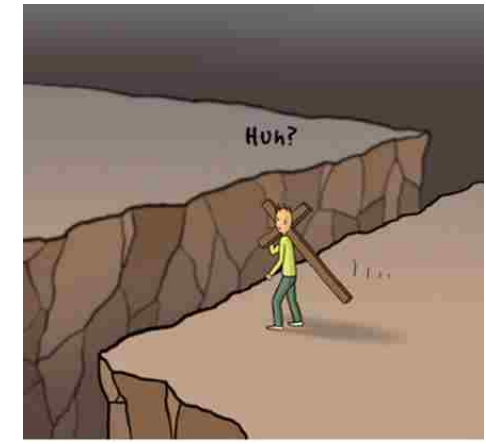
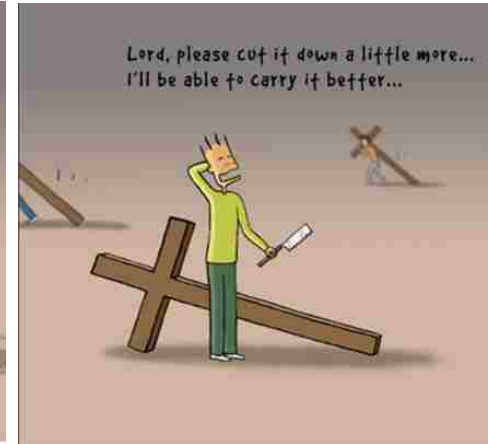
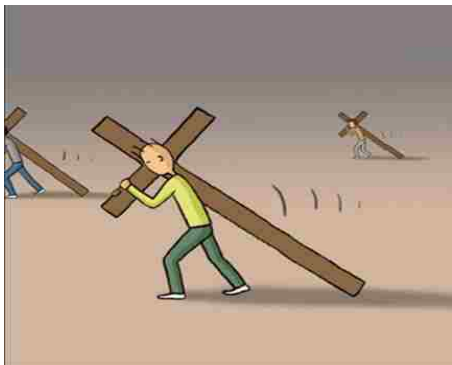
cross upon ourselves and to follow HIM.

Cheap grace = wanting forgiveness but not being prepared to face the sin in my own life and to repent.

Cheap grace = eager to go the Holy Communion, but being unwilling to reflect on the sins that destroy my life.

Costly grace = the joy of forgiveness in the light of a Christ who died to make this

The cross (sent in by Elke Crouch)



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Weddings

On 6 February Kirstin Redinger and Anto Eggers got married near New Hannover - in sweltering conditions, I

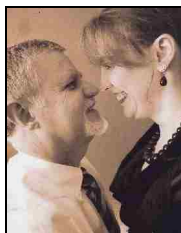
believe. The happily married couple have just returned from their honeymoon. We welcome you back in Cape.

Maggi and myself were fortunate to attend the wedding ceremony of Taryn Roseveare and Eckard Köhne. It was a special day. The ceremony was held by Eckard's father, Pastor Siegfried Köhne. The celebrations were in the Kirchdorf hall. Eckard made a moving speech. There is more depth and spiritual maturity amongst our young adults as we think. Eckard's speech was a great testimony to his upbringing. Now we also understood



why he made such a good choice with Taryn. Welcome back Eckard and Taryn Köhne.

We look forward to the Wedding of Erica Laspé and Fanie du Toit. By the time you read this newsletter, they will be married. The wedding ceremony is planned for 6 March at St Thomas. All St Thomas members are/were invited. We wish them God's blessing on their journey together. As a congregation we are grateful that you belong to St. Thomas. Enjoy the honeymoon and deserved rest from work.



Memorial Service of Frankie Lear

It was a sad moment when the remains of Frankie were placed in the Wall of Remembrance. But during the Memorial Service, held on 17

February, we were reminded of God's salvation in Christ, and that all his children will be reunited again. But we *will* miss Frankie.

Meeting of the Ladies Guild

The St Thomas ladies Guild met on Sunday 31 January. It was pleasing to see how many ladies are willing to help and joyfully volunteered their services for various ministries or tasks:

- Chairperson: Jackie Karshagen
- Luther's Loot: Denise Kontsidis
- Children's charity at state

- hospitals: Christy Johnston
- Juanita Peyper: Buying of Kitchen and Communion items
 - Plants in church: Marja Wybrow and Faith Dini (have you noticed the new flowers in church!!)
 - Advent Wreath: Marja Wybrow
 - New Sunday school teachers: Denise Kontsidis, Christy Johnston, Lynette Wilson

A special thanks to Denise who chaired the ladies guild in 2009. Thank you ladies for everything, not least of all the faithfulness in performing Sunday duties. From now on the duty roster will be prepared by



Jackie. Please share your preferences with her. You can contact Jackie at Jackiek@sigma-health.co.za. Tel. 021-5342681 or 082-8266412

Annual General Meeting of the Congregation

The two main items on the agenda where the reports of Pastor Reinstorf and that of the treasurer. No formal motions had been tabled for the meeting.

There was, however, one general motion concerning the **Sunday Service times**. It seems as if most members of St Thomas would prefer an earlier service time. There is, however, no consensus on what the "perfect" time would be. The meeting did however resolve that a "survey" should be done to determine what time would be most suitable to most members of St Thomas. Presently the "Anglicans" are using the church for their "early morning" service on Sunday, starting at 8.30. Once a

suitable alternate time has been discussed with them, the survey will be done and a formal proposal will be made at the next official meeting of the congregation.

Elections: There were no elections of Church Councillors. The terms of office of Günther Meier and Marja Wybrow expires in 2011 and those of Quintin Aubrey and Shawn Johnston in 2013. Reelection is possible. Mandy Aubrey was reelected as the secretary and Dennis Rwitzky as the auditor. The bazaar committee remains the same: Heindry Peyper, David Skibbe and Erica Laspé. David Skippe will be chairing the committee.

Reinhold and Richarda Küsel are relocating to Australia



Reinhold and Richarda, once active members of St Thomas, moved to Port Elizabeth three

years ago.

They have just received news that a 4 year visa to work in Australia has been approved. We wish them well as they move on and continue to serve the Lord.

Care Groups



As in previous years St Thomas congregation has been divided into three "Care Groups", each group being headed by one of our church councillors. The church councillors are tasked to take special care of the people in their group. These groups can also function as a telephone chain if news needs to be passed on (if your name does not feature, please inform the pastor):

Group 1 Günther Meier

Clifton, Konrad
Crouch, Ian/Elke//Matthew
Halm, Fred/Minnie
Hohls, August/Michelle
Hohls, Jürgen
Küsel, Reinhold/Richarda
Laspe, Bob/Lee
Lear, Graham
Melck, Charles
Rewitzky, Ingrid
Rewitzky, Dennis/Jenny
Schreiber, Hans/Brigitte (Gitta)

Group 2: Quinton Aubrey

Deetlefs, Deon/Margrit//Zenka
Dini, Jason/Faith
Glass, Brigitte/(Mathew)
Louw, Vivian
Ravenscroft, Brian
Runds, Carl/Annel
Sandmann, Carol/(Michael)/
Skibbe, David/Myrna//Martin/Gillian
Stirling, Robert
Van der Walt, Rhod/Tracey//Erin
Wilson, Lynette
Wybrow, Marja/(Michael)

Group 3: Shawn Johnston

du Toit, Fanie/Erica
Karshagen,
Wesley/Jackie//Keegan/Teneal
Köhne, Eckard/Taryn
Kontsidis, Denise
Marriott-Watson,
Shane/Erika//Storm/Taylor
Ndebele,
Dumisani/Tilana//Nala/Mangaliso
Peyper, Heindry/Juanita
Potgieter, (Anton)*//Dalene//Caleb
Swiegers, Shane/Leanne//Lauren
Willis, Anita/(Dennis)

Pastor Marco Jacobsen to hold Service - 21 March

Please note irregularities on **14 & 21 March**. **14 March** is Argus Sunday. There will be no morning service. The service will be held at 7pm by Pastor Reinstorf.

On Sunday **21 March** Pastor Reinstorf will be attending the installation of the newly elected bishop of the *Lutheran Church in Southern Africa* (LCSA), Dr Wilhelm Weber, in Johannesburg. Pastor Marco Jacobsen from our sister church in Brazil will be holding the service in St Thomas. We thank him and his wife Lilian, who has agreed to play the organ.

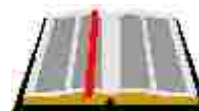
CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Synodical proposals: Official meeting 18 April

An official meeting of the Congregation is called for Sunday 18 April immediately after the service. There will be two items on the agenda. (1) Discussion of the proposals to the Synodical

Convention of the FELSISA, to be held on 4 & 5 May, tabled by the Synodical Council and other congregations of the FELSISA, and (2) St Thomas Sunday Service times (see above).

Bible Study



Bible Studies are held every Wednesday evening from 7-8pm in the parsonage, 10 van Gogh Street, Panorama. In the Lenten

Season we will be reflecting on the passion narrative according to the Gospel of Mark:

10 March Mark 14:32-511
27 March Mark 15:1-15
24 March Mark 15:21-40

FROM THE TREASURER

Financial Results for the year ending 31/12/2009

Looking back over the past financial year, we as a congregation can only marvel at how blessed we were. To be able to end the year with a surplus, during these financially difficult times, is indeed a blessing.

The surplus was made possible

by our own contributions which rose again compared to 2008, but primarily by generous donations we received from members of Synod. Words fail to express our gratitude for these donations. We pray that the Lord will bless all those who contributed as well as the use of the funds. Payments made by various organizations using our church complex also contributed

to a rise in income.

The rise in funds received made it possible to cover all the normal running expenses and have sufficient money to spend on certain extraordinary projects. These included the finalization of the Wall of Remembrance, improving the flat by installing a marble top in the kitchen and blinds in the rooms. We were also able to buy a new photocopier, install a new irrigation system at the church and replace the old alarm system. During the past financial year we also concluded the exchange of land for a flat and recorded this transaction in our books. This resulted in our balance sheet to more than double. The rent income we receive for letting the flat should boost our income in years to come.

Budget 2010

The financial budget which was approved at the annual general meeting in February differs from the previous year. The budget for 2010 is more of a "normal" budget with only one extraordinary item. This item is the expenses we intend to incur for the renovation of the kitchen as well as the toilets. Apart from this item all the other items are the normal recurring expenses which will rise with inflation or as prices are adjusted by organizations such as ESCOM, City of Cape Town etc.

We enter 2010 with confidence, trusting God that we will be able to balance our finances. I am sure the same positive attitude will prevail as during the previous years. Let us remember; God loves a cheerful giver!

Birthdays

Wishing you a happy and a blessed birthday!



March

- 8 Martin Skibbe
- 11 Shane Swiegers / Sheldon Willemse
- 13 Erica du Toit
- 16 Anton Potgieter
- 17 Lynette Wilson / Teneal Karshagen / Errin Johnston
- 21 Quinton Aubrey / Brigitte Glas
- 30 Juanita Peyper / Konrad Clifton

April

- 1 Wesley Karshagen
- 2 Tania Willis

- 12 Margrit Deetlefs / Brian Ravenscroft
- 13 Nala Ndebele
- 16 Shane Marriott-Watson
- 17 Taryn Köhne
- 24 Jürgen Hohls
- 27 Mandy Aubrey
- 29 Antje Eggers

Laughter is good



Some rather unusual church announcements (sent in by Erika M-W)

Next weekend's Fasting & Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale! It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The school drama group will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church hall on Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.



DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

March

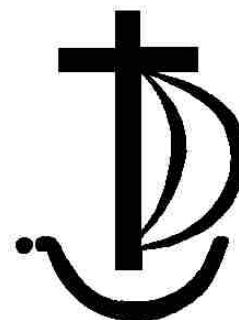
1 Psalm 91
 2 John 11,45-57
 3 John 12,1-11
 4 John 12,12-19
 5 John 12,20-26
 6 John 12,27-33
 7 John 12,34-36
 8 Psalm 38
 9 John 12,37-43
 10 John 12,44-50
 11 John 13,1-11
 12 John 13,12-20
 13 John 13,21-30
 14 John 13,31-35
 15 Psalm 109,1-5.21-31
 16 John 13,36-38
 17 John 14,1-7
 18 John 14,8-14
 19 John 14,15-21
 20 John 14,22-26
 21 John 14,27-31
 22 Psalm 53
 23 John 15,1-8
 24 John 15,9-17
 25 John 15,18-25
 26 John 15,26-16a
 27 John 16,4b-11
 28 John 16,12-15
 29 Psalm 43
 30 John 16,16-24
 31 John 16,25-33

April

1 John 17,1-5
 2 John 17,6-13
 3 John 17,14-19
 4 John 17,20-26
 5 Psalm 56
 6 John 18,1-11
 7 John 18,12-27
 8 John 18,28-40
 9 John 19,1-16a
 10 John 19,16b-30
 11 John 19,31-42
 12 John 20,1-10
 13 John 20,11-18
 14 John 20,19-23
 15 John 20,24-31
 16 John 21,1-14
 17 John 21,15-19
 18 John 21,20-25
 19 Psalm 148
 20 1. John 1,1-4
 21 1. John 1,5-10
 1. John 2,1-6
 23 1. John 2,7-11
 24 1. John 2,12-17
 25 1. John 2,18-29
 26 Psalm 55
 27 1. John 3,1-10
 28 1. John 3,11-18
 29 1. John 3,19-24
 30 1. John 4,1-6

May

1 1. John 4,7-16a
 2 1. John 4,16b-21



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

Jackie Karshagen 021-5587759
 082-8266412

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
7 March	Oculi	Q. Aubrey S. Johnston (U)	Peter Reinstorf Eph.5:1-8	Maggi Reinstorf Peter Reinstorf	A. Willis	M. Wybrow	M. Wybrow L. Swiegers
14 March	Laetare	G. Meier	Argus Cycle Tour - Evening Service at 7pm. No Communion				
21 March	Judica Pastor M. Jacobsen	S. Johnston M. Wybrow (U)	H. Peyper Heb.5:7-9	Christy Johnston Errin Johnston	J. Peyper	D. Kontsidis	D. Kontsidis J. Karshagen
28 March	Palm Sunday	Q. Aubrey S. Swiegers (U)	E. Köhne Phil.2:5-11	Lynette Wilson	L. Swiegers	M. Deetlefs	M. Deetlefs T. Köhne
1 April	Maundy Thursday	G. Meier	Evening Service at 7pm				
2 April	Good Friday	M. Wybrow S. Johnston (U)	D. Skibbe 2 Cor.5:14-21	Ulrike Reinstorf	M. Skibbe	E. Crouch	E. Crouch M. Reinstorf
4 April	EASTER	G. Meier Q. Aubrey (U)	C. Melck 1 Cor.15:1-11	Maggi Reinstorf Peter Reinstorf	M. Wybrow	M. Hohls	M. Hohls L. Wilson
11 April	Quasimodogeniti	S. Johnston M. Wybrow (U)	S. Swiegers 1 Peter 1:3-9	Christy Johnston Errin Johnston	B. Schreiber	C. Johnston	C. Johnston Fini
18 April	Misericordias Domini	Q. Aubrey S. Swiegers (U)	Errin Johnston 1 Peter 2:21-25	Lynette Wilson	M. Halm	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen L. Swiegers
25 April	Jubilate	M. Wybrow G. Meier (U)	H. Peyper 1 John 5:1-4	Antje Eggers	J. Peyper	A. Eggers	A. Eggers M. Reinsotrf
2 May	Cantate	S.Johsnton Q. Aubrey (U)	E. Köhne Kol.3:12-17	Ulrike Reinstorf	A. Willis	M. Aubrey	M. Wubrey D. Kontsidis

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.