

St. Thomas Congregation

Evangelical Church (Lutheran Confession)

Newsletter 5 (2010)

October & November



“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, but the holy Spirit has called me.”
 (Martin Luther)



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Important Dates

9 October Sunday School Breakfast
 5 December Advent Celebrations

**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

Confirmation

“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, but the holy Spirit has called me” (Martin Luther).

Having confirmed four boys last year, I didn't expect to have another Confirmation this year. But behold, one day I received a phone call. It was a young lady from Edgemoor High School, named Maxine. She asked me if I would please confirm her. I asked her, “Why?” She just said: “It is just something I have always wanted.” On inquiring to what church she goes to, I discovered that (although she had been baptised) she never really attended church. Her father and mother are separated. Neither can really recall the last time they went to church. But Maxine doesn't only want to be confirmed, she comes to church regularly and already helps with Sunday School.

The world has been turned upside-down. Teenagers seldom, if ever are drawn to church. They get drawn to McDonalds, movies, parties, and long hours of sleep over the weekend. There is no jumping out of bed: “Dad, we are running late. Can you please take me to church!” And the dad does it. Every Sunday Maxine's dad drops his daughter off at church. Every Thursday he drives her to the parsonage for confirmation class and patiently waits for his daughter.

For me the confirmation classes

are a highlight of the week. Maxine's friendly smile and warm greeting is heart-warming. So is her enthusiasm. She listens to every word. And then dashes off: “See you next week, pastor!”

“How is this possible?”, I ask myself. Maxine has become a living example to me of what Martin Luther wrote in his explanation to the 3rd article of the Apostle's Creed. Coming to Christ, being enthusiastic about church, is not something that “we” work, but it is the work of “Holy Spirit” who calls us through the Gospel and enlightens us. Maxine is for me a “confirmation” that God is indeed alive and active. What adults so often don't see, God reveals to the little children and those he chooses to do so. This way the wisdom of the world is turned into foolishness (1 Cor.1:18ff). Those who should recognise God don't, but the “weak” (those least expected to come to God) find Him and their lives are filled with joy.

Martin Luther experienced the same. All effort on his part to draw closer to God, to find him, were shattered in disappointment. But one day, reading the Gospel, the Spirit of God touched his heart. God's mercy and grace filled his inner being. He was never the same again, but was

“drawn” to God and to the fellowship of believers.

On Sunday, 24 October, Maxine is to be confirmed in her faith. We will pray for the Holy Spirit upon her life, as we are not only led to faith by the Holy Spirit, but also kept in faith only through Him.

But every confirmation service is also a time for you and me to humbly bow before God and to pray for his Spirit. Only the Spirit of God works

forgiveness. Only the Spirit of God works true gratitude, commitment and dedication, and lasting joy.

So join us for Maxine's Confirmation. And may our faith in a loving God and the gracious Saviour be confirmed to last forever.

Wishing you God's blessing.

Yours in Christ
Dieter Reinstorf

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Postponement of the Bazaar to Feb/March 2011

As always a bazaar was scheduled for the last quarter of the year. However due to fact that the chairman of the bazaar committee, David Skibbe, has recently taken over “Bloemhof” in Durbanville, which is run, among other, as a B& B, restaurant, conference centre and wedding reception, the decision was taken (after consulting with David) to rather postpone the bazaar to early next year.

Both at the AGM and Church Council meetings the bazaar date has been a discussion point. Spring (September to November) is invariably a time of the year when many churches and other city organisations have their own bazaars, craft markets, Christmas sales, etc, which in the past

has often clashed with our own mini bazaar. Autumn in contrast seems to be more quiet.

A bazaar in February or March next year has the following added advantages:

- St Thomas should have a new pastor. Having a bazaar then would be a great opportunity for him and his wife to meet you and to foster greater relationships, best done when performing tasks together.
- Most of congregation members will hopefully be re-energised after the Christmas holidays and eager to take St Thomas to the next level (remember this is your church, which you are building not only for yourselves, but also your

children, grandchildren and hopefully many other friends)

- The weather should be great (best time of the year)
- Raffle tickets could be sold over the Christmas period to family members and friends.

In the mean time share your ideas with David and the other committee members (Heindry Peyper and Erica du Toit). Nothing energises a

Sunday School Breakfast

You are invited to attend a "Sunday School Breakfast".

Date: Saturday, 9 October
Venue: Parsonage (10 Van Gogh Street, Panorama)
Time: 9.00am

Invitations to parents and Sunday school teachers were already e-mailed, but all interested congregation members who may be interested in becoming Sunday school teachers are welcome to attend. **RSVP by 3 October.** Please bring R20 along.

Programme: Setting goals for 2011, introducing the Sunday School material, and choosing a Sunday School coordinator, followed by a sumptuous breakfast/brunch (prepared by Quintin Aubrey).

committee more than willing participants. The Pick n Pay Argus Cycle Tour is on 13 March. The Bazaar could either be held before that date, on 26 February, or 5 March, or thereafter, 19 or 26 March. Easter in 2011 is only 25 April.

We apologise to those who had already made bazaar preparations, but pray for a very successful bazaar in 2011.



Remember, God's loves the little children and has entrusted them to us. The early years of life are the formative years. Sunday school commitment and dedication will pave the way for a healthy, Christ-orientated upbringing. Children regularly in church on Sundays tend to follow this pattern also in later years.

Advent Celebrations - 5 December



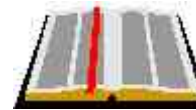
It is a tradition - and indeed a good one. As many people go on vacation during the Christmas holidays, "Advent" has become the "Christmas" of St Thomas. Each year we have our *Advent celebrations* in an informal service with a nativity play, Christmas carols, a visit by Father Christmas, seated at table (with coffee and tea and something to munch)

When: Sunday, 5 December (2nd Advent)

Time: 9.30 for 10.00

Please note the later date and the earlier time. Schools close only on 10 December. And the service is moved from the evening to the morning (for small children the evening service is often too late!!). With the actual service time delayed by half an hour, we should have ample time to set up the tables, starting at 9.15.

Bible Study



Join us for Bible Study: Every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the parsonage (10 Van Gogh Street, Panorama). After a holiday break, the Bible studies will resume on Wednesday, 6 October.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

New Members: The Nedebele Family

We welcome the "Ndebele family", Dumisani, Tilana, Nala, and Mangaliso as new members to St Thomas (photo in the next newsletter).

Duminsani comes from a family of eight children, 4 brothers and 4 sisters, presently spread across the whole country: 2 in Pretoria, 3 in KZN, and 2 in Cape Town. Duminsani is the

4th child. His parents and one brother have already passed away. Dumisani was born in Dundee. His family belonged to the Ev.-Lutheran Church, based in Rocks Drift, where he was also baptised. He attended primary school at the mission school in Dundee, Noordenveld, and secondary school at Zicole High School in Nqutu.

After school Dumisani obtained various qualifications: BA (University of Durban Westville), B Soc Sc Hon (University of Natal), PDM (Wits), and a Certificate in Strategic Human Resources Planning (UCT). Over the years he has held various positions as a Human Resource Executive, presently employed by PathCare (NI-City). He is also a Non-Executive Board Member at the Cape Town Society for the Blind.

Tilana comes from a family of two children, both girls. Tilana is the eldest. Her sister works overseas. Tilana was baptised and confirmed in the Dutch Reformed Church in Pinelands and Monte Vista respectively. She attended both the primary and high school of Groote Schuur School, but completed her secondary education (Gr.11-12) at Hoerskool President. After school Tilana became an IT Helpdesk Operator and then an IT Technician at Consani Engineering in Cape Town.

Confirmation of Maxine Brookes

On Sunday 24 October, St Thomas congregation will celebrate the Confirmation of Maxine Brookes. The Presentation will be at the parsonage on Friday, 22 October.

Maxine started with Confirmation classes at the beginning of this year.

Usually the classes are run over a two year period, but Maxine (being a high



school learner!) has worked hard and is ready to be confirmed in her faith. We rejoice with her, as she confesses her faith and joins St Thomas congregation for the first time in celebrating Holy Communion. Maxine is already actively involved in St Thomas, regularly teaching Sunday School.

On inquiring from his pastor in KZN about a Lutheran Church in Cape Town, Dumisani was referred to St Thomas. After work one day he looked for the church and saw the service times on the door. On arriving home he said to Tilana: "I have found the church where we can go and worship with kids on Sundays". About St Thomas, Dumisani notes: (1) We were immediately accepted as members of the family, even before we joined. (2) The services and sermons have helped us to grow spiritually (3) There is always peace, care and discipline in the church.

The Ndebele's love sports, have a heart for the needy, and are saddened by the lack of humanity and respect for fellow human beings. Their home is in Table View.

Once again, we welcome you to St Thomas. We pray that God will bless you (as he has blessed us with your presence) and that you will continue to be a blessing to many.

News on the Winterle's

Work Permit

Pastor Reinstorf will be holding his last service on Sunday, 19 December (4th Advent). Pastor Dr. Winterle and wife, Lidia, are scheduled to commence their service in St Thomas in the first week of January.

Presently effort is being made to obtain a "work permit" for pastor Winterle, which proves to be a rather complex issue. After applying for a permit, attention was drawn to legislation concerning the "recruitment of local citizens". Although this paragraph is hardly applicable to a church, which by nature recruits its workers from within its own ranks or affiliated churches, we were informed to apply for a waiver of the paragraph at the Department of Home Affairs. This process is underway. Pray for a positive outcome.



Furniture and other items needed

The Winterle's will be relocating directly from Nairobi (Kenya) to Cape Town, with a minimum of personal

belongings. Most items will be purchased in Cape Town after arrival. However, to make the transition possible, congregation members are requested to make some household items available. Needed are:

- Beds (and mattresses)
- Curtains
- Furniture for the lounge, dining room and office
- Kitchen utensils
- Etc.

If you can provide such items (for a limited time), please inform pastor Reinstorf or one of the church council members. Günther Meier will make his (old) Toyota available for the first

month, which should give the Winterle's some time to purchase a used vehicle (if you know of a good 2nd hand car, or maybe even wish to sell your own car, talk to a church council member).

Pastor Reinstorf in Germany

Pastor Dr. Reinstorf has been invited to attend a theological symposium in Germany. The symposium will be held on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Oberursel (just outside Frankfurt). Scholars from

all over the world have been invited to present papers on Church Relationships. During his time in Germany (from 17-23 November) Pastor Reinstorf hopes to also engage with students and church leaders.

“Thanksgiving” food items bring joy to many

On Thanksgiving Day congregation members responded generously on the call to bring food items to church. After the service, Myrna Skibbe and Denise Kontsides (in charge of “Luther’s Loot”) gathered the items and passed them on to “Helping Hands” (where Denise is an active member), who in turned handed food parcels to at least 15 needy families in our community. In a “Letter of Thanks” Helping Hands express their gratitude for the donations received:

*Dear Dieter,
Many thanks for the wonderful donation of food parcels your Church donated to our organization.*

Helping Hands is a community based, non-profit organization helping the destitute and needy within our community. All the workers of the organization are volunteers and are involved in various projects, from emotional support, physical care, job creation, youth groups, and pets as well as a feeding project.

In order to accomplish this, we solely rely on donations from the community and local businesses.

We hereby thank you for your assistance in donating food parcels to our organization. We appreciate the support given to us.

*Kind regards
Karen Koegelenberg (CEO -HH)*

FROM THE TREASURER

This report deals with the period until the end of August 2010, in other words, it covers the first eight months of our financial year. There are only four months left before the end of our financial year.

Income

As mentioned in our previous newsletter the contributions so far this year did not meet our needs. Although our contributions have increased during the past few months, at this stage it seems as if our own

contributions for 2010 will be less than 2009 and even less than 2008. During the eight month period ending August 2010 our own contributions totalled R85 828 or R10 728 per month. This is R17 508 short of the budgeted figure. To compound this problem we will not receive any income from the bazaar this year and the tenant in the flat could not always meet his commitments. The interest we receive on our savings will also be lower due the decline in interest rates. This means that from a cash-flow

point of view we will most probably show a deficit at the end of the year. The other sources of income which is primarily payments by people using our facilities at church, are up to date and as budgeted.

Expenses

So far this year we have spent money on improving the toilet facilities at church as well as on the floor in the courtyard (R28 359). We have also spent some money on tiling and renovating the bathroom in the parsonage. By the end of August not all the accounts had been received and these payments will be made during September.

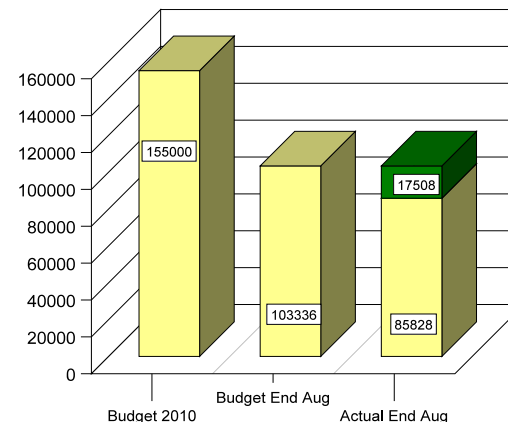
Apart from these payments the other payments are the normal running expenses like electricity, cleaning, municipal services etc. They are all up to date and within the budgeted figure.

Conclusion

As indicated earlier we are running short on our income. I would really appeal to every member of the congregation to make a concerted effort to help and reduce the deficit. We are blessed so abundantly by God and we receive far more than we ever deserve. To give to the church is just a small thank you for all the blessings we receive. Lets all make a special effort to contribute during the remainder of the year. Remember giving is a special and most wonderful gift from God.

Contributions can be summarized as follows:

Budget 2010	R155 000
Budget end August	R103 336
Actual end August	R85 828
Shortfall	R17 508



SYNODICAL NEWS

Synodical Choir Festival and Church Council Meeting

St. Peter's Congregation, Greytown, has extended an invitation to this year's synodical Choir Festival, to be held on 10 October. Choirs from most congregations of the FELSISA join to form a mega-choir. Hymns are practised in advance. Pastor Reinstorf will be represented by his deputy, vice-bishop Dieter Schnackenberg.

A synodical Church Council meeting will be held during the 1st

weekend of November, at the FELS-Retreat near Paulpietersburg (KZN), on 5 & 6 November. During the meeting Pastor Reinstorf will give two talks (1) The way forward for the FELSISA, and (2) Views on Homosexuality. At the same meeting Pastor Harry Niebuhr will present the FELSISA Budget for 2011, with an opportunity to engage and to ask questions.

CONGREGATIONAL BIRTHDAYS

We wish the following people a very happy birthday and above all a renewed awareness of God's grace on their lives.

October

2 Gitta Schreiber
6 Storm Marriott-Watson
15 Zenka Deetlefs
20 Jenny Rewitzky
22 Mike Sandmann
Faith Dini
25 Deon Deetlefs
28 Carl Runds



November

11 Glynis Rewitzky
13 Dhenis Rewitzky
20 Christy Johnston
22 Matthew Crouch

Dezember

3 Graham Lear / Taylor M-W
5 Peter Reinstorf

Laughter is good



The Sermon I think this Mom will never forget...

This particular Sunday sermon... 'Dear Lord,' the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. 'Without you, we are but dust ...' He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four-year old girl voice, 'Mom, what is butt dust?'

Lot's wife

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mommy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

Good Samaritan

A Sunday school teacher was telling

her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?' A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

Unanswered prayer

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. 'Well, Honey,' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.' With the brutal honesty of kids, she asked 'How come He doesn't answer it?'

Coffee!

Did you know it's a sin for a woman to make coffee? Yup, it's in the Bible. It says . . . "He-brews"

Babysitter

Q. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?

A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

(Sent in by Erica du Toit and Shane Sweigers)



DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

October

3 2 Chronicles 36,22-23
 4 Psalm 65
 5 Esther 1,1-22
 6 Esther 2,1-18
 7 Esther 2,19-3,6
 8 Esther 3,7-15
 9 Esther 4,1-17
 10 Esther 5,1-14
 11 Psalm 54
 12 Esther 6,1-13
 13 Esther 6,14-7,10
 14 Esther 8,1-17
 15 Esther 9,1-19
 16 Esther 9,20-28
 17 Esther 9,29-10,3
 18 Psalm 75
 19 Revelation 1,1-18
 20 Revelation 1,9-20
 21 Revelation 12,1-6
 22 Revelation 12,7-12
 23 Revelation 12,13-18
 24 Revelation 13,1-10
 25 Psalm 52
 26 Revelation 13,11-18
 27 Revelation 14,1-5
 28 Revelation 14,6-13
 29 Revelation 14,14-20
 30 Revelation 15,1-4
 31 Revelation 15,5-8

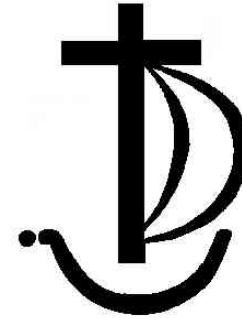
November

1 Psalm 58,1-10.12
 2 Revelation 16,1-9
 3 Revelation 16,10-16
 4 Revelation 16,17-21
 5 Revelation 17,1-6

6 Revelation 17,7-14
 7 Revelation 17,15-18
 8 Psalm 1
 9 Revelation 18,1-24
 10 Revelation 19,1-10
 11 Revelation 19,11-21
 12 Revelation 20,1-10
 13 Revelation 20,11-15
 14 Revelation 21,1-8
 15 Psalm 50
 16 Revelation 21,9-14
 17 Revelation 21,15-21
 18 Revelation 21,22-27
 19 Revelation 22,1-5
 20 Revelation 22,6-15
 21 Revelation 22,16-21
 22 Psalm 90
 23 Isaiah 1,1-9
 24 Isaiah 1,10-20
 25 Isaiah 2,1-5
 26 Isaiah 3,1-15
 27 Isaiah 4,2-6
 28 Isaiah 5,1-7
 29 Psalm 24
 30 Isaiah 5,8-24

December

1 Isaiah 6,1-13
 2 Isaiah 7,1-9
 3 Isaiah 7,10-17
 4 Isaiah 8,1-15
 5 Isaiah 8,16-22



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.org.za

(Website presently down: "expected" new address)

SUNDAY SERVICES AND DUTY ROSTER

Service Times: Every Sunday at 9.30 (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
3 October	19 th Su. a. Pentecost	M. Wybrow G. Meier (U)	H. Peyper Rom.14:17-19	Maggi Reinstorf	M. Halm	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen M. Deetlefs
10 October	20 th Su. a. Pentecost	G. Meier S. Johnston (U)	Peter Reinstof Eph.4:22-32	Ulrike Reinstorf	A. Willis	T. Köhne	T. Kohne L. Wilson
17 October	21 st Su. a. Pentecost	Q. Aubrey M. Wybrow (U)	S. Swiegers 1 Thess.4:1-8	Peter Reinstorf Errin Johnston	J. Peyper	M. Aubrey	M. Aubrey L. Swiegers
24 October	22 nd Su. a. Pentecost Confirmation	S. Johnston Q. Aubrey	D. Skibbe Eph.6:10-17	Lauren Swiegers	M. Skibbe	M. Hohls	M. Hohls Lauren Swiegers
31 October	Reformation	G. Meier M. Wybrow (U)	C. Melck Rom.3:21-28	Maggi Reinstorf	B. Schreiber	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen J. Peyper
7 November	3 rd Last Sunday	S. Johnston A. Runds (U)	Errin Johnston Rom.14:7-9	Christy Johnston	M. Halm	C. Johnston	C. Johnston M. Reinstorf
14 November	2 nd Last Sunday	M. Wybrow S. Johnston (U)	E. Köhne Rom.8:18-25	Ulrike Reinstorf	A. Willis	M. Deetlefs	M. Deetlefs D. Kontisidis
21 November	Sunday of Fulfilment	Q. Aubrey G. Meier (U)	H. Peyper Rev.21:1-7	Maggi Reinstorf	-----	L. Swiegers	L. Swiegers T. Köhne
28 November	1 Advent	S. Johnston M. Wybrow (U)	D.Skibbe Rom.13:8-12	Christy Johnston	M. Skibbe	F. Dini	F. Dini M. Aubrey
5 December 9.30 for 10.00	2 Advent Advent Celebration	G. Meier Q. Aubrey (U)	Pastor	-----	-----	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen M. Hohls

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.