

Watchword 2012

“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you” (Mark 5:19)



April & May 2012

FROM THE PASTOR

The Holy Week

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It's a package! We cannot split the events of the Holy Week. We cannot celebrate Palm Sunday and the acclamation of the King that comes in the name of the LORD without thinking of the sign on the cross: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (INRI = Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum, in Latin).

We cannot remember the first Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday without thinking of the victorious living Christ, that promised to eat and drink with His disciples in the house of the Father. Each event is a piece of a divine puzzle, that nobody could understand until Jesus rose from the dead and announced forgiveness through His blood shed on the cross on our behalf.

We sing HOSANNA with the crowd on Palm Sunday; we receive the body and blood of Jesus on the Sacrament of the Altar; we mourn with the disciples and the women under the cross; and we rejoice with all Christians

on Easter Sunday because our Saviour lives!

This is the news to be shared with all people. When we come to church and celebrate the Holy Week in the hope of the resurrected Christ, our friends and relatives know that we are Christians and that our faith lifts our eyes to the promise of eternal life. Are our beloved ones walking with us in that direction? Or are they going far from God's love in Jesus?

Don't miss the special Services of Holy Week, and all other Services as well. It's a unique opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of our brothers and sisters, and to be in fellowship with our Saviour through His Word and His Sacraments. The Services are a "foretaste of all that is to come" and a blessing of our God and Father.

Pastor Walter

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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Services always at 09:30am

1 April - PALM SUNDAY

Celebrating the Holy Week in four stages in one Service: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Children youth, women, Elders and the Choir will have a special participation in that service. Aileene Isabella, daughter to Willem and Julie Avenant, will be baptized by her grandfather, our guest preacher Rev. Robert Fischer, on that Sunday.

5 April - MAUNDY THURSDAY at 18H30

6 April - GOOD FRIDAY

8 April - EASTER SUNDAY Brunch after the service. Bring something to share.



Sundays after EASTER till PENTECOST: Mission Festival Season: GO AND TELL!

15 April - The Mission of God in MOZAMBIQUE

22 April - Emaus/ ABLAZE

Reception of new members (if you are not a member at St. Thomas and want to become a member, please, talk to the pastor). A Bring & Braai will be held at the parsonage afterwards for all new members and the Church Council.

29 April - The Good Shepherd

5 May - The Mission of God in KENYA

13 May - Mother's Day

20 May - The Mission of God in BRAZIL

27 May - PENTECOST SUNDAY The Feast of the Holy Spirit

Visit to Congolese Lutheran Community

Some members of St. Thomas (Dennis, Deon, Margrit, Zenka and Lidia) accompanied Pastor Walter on Sunday 25 March on a visit to the Congolese Lutheran Community at Marconi Beam Primary School, Joe Slovo, where they rent a classroom for their services. The service was led by Pastor Inock, in Swahili. Pastor Walter preached and was translated by Ev. Joseph Baleke. The Luther's Loot donations were given to them and they thanked St. Thomas. Pray for this new mission and for their challenges.



Thank you for donations!

A sincere **THANK YOU** to all those involved in the following kind donations -

Our sisters in the **Women's Fellowship, Congregation of Christ, Kirchdorf** donated R10,327.13, towards a new fridge and new hymnals for the congregation. The fridge is already bought. As we received some hymnals as a donation from the LCMS WM, we decided to use part of that donation to improve our Sunday School Class.

A donation of R 70,000.00 was given by our brothers and sisters of **Christ Congregation, Kirchdorf** which will be used to build a fence around the parsonage as a matter of security.

St. Thomas has **new signage!** The signs were designed by Paulo H. Winterle, and our brother Keith Lünow made and erected the signs.

An anonymous donor gave six **ceiling fans** and one standing fan which has proved very useful on the hot Summer Sundays! Our brother Dennis managed to instal them.

Our brother Graham Lear, living in UK, donated a **projector** and a **filing cabinet**, in loving memory of his wife Frankie. The projector has been used every Sunday during Lent Season and we will use it in special services as well. We are looking for a good filing cabinet for the Sunday School. Please let us know if anyone can help. **THANK YOU, GRAHAM!**

St. Thomas received 14 **new Hymnals** as a gift from the LCMS WM Nairobi office, Kenya. Friends of Pastor Walter brought them on a visit to Cape Town.

Lidia has prepared a new **Advent Altar Cloth**.

An **outdoor table** and seating were donated by the Rewitsky family. It allows some people to sit during coffee and

tea time after the service.

Besides these donations, some improvements were done to the church, managed by our brother Dennis.

A new **store room** was built in substitution of the old Wendy House. Of the cost of R 16,500.00 , R15,000.00 was covered by a donation.

The **roof** on the side of the church, where we have coffee and tea, received new galvanized square tubs to sustain it.

The **parsonage** has had a shower installed in the en-suite bathroom and a fence is being built around the property.

Our brother Heindry installed several plugs and ceiling fans in the parsonage, besides other **electrical improvements**.

Many people are donating their time and skills plus several other items to the church, and we apologise if we haven't mentioned you, but God knows your heart. For all these blessings, we give thanks to the LORD who moved people to give their time, skills and money. May God bless you all!



Teaching Moments & The Value of the Liturgy

Hi Everyone,

Since I don't know if the church has a Facebook page, I thought I would send this email to all the recipients of the weekly E-Bulletin, and relay how wonderful the Holy Spirit works to provide us as parents with opportunities to teach the faith to our children.

We are new to St. Thomas, and also to Lutheranism, my wife and myself having come from a very decision theology, Charismatic / Pentecostal background, which we left nearly 11 years ago. But life goes on, and since then, God has blessed us with two wonderful children, and fortunately for them, they were never exposed to all of the false teaching which so badly hurt my wife and myself, so now, having found Lutheranism through God's grace, I am teaching my children the faith, which should have been taught them long ago.

So, we have been going through the ten commandments, and the Law is doing its Job, so the other night, I think it was Tuesday, we were just sitting down for dinner, when my 10 year old son asks me: "Dad, So if you want to go to heaven, you must never Sin ?" My heart raced, I instantly knew that this was a teaching opportunity and what I say next is vitally important, so without skipping a beat, I plainly said to him: "yes Ryan, If you want to go to heaven, you must never ever commit a single Sin in your life". Then I put the bite of food which I was about to eat in my mouth, and waited while I watched his reaction from the corner of my eye. I knew it was not what he expected. I saw the shock on the little boys face, as he pulled his head back and said "ooh!?". I could see the questions in his head as he realized that he is not sinless enough to go to heaven.

Before he could come up with some way to justify himself, I looked up and saved him by explaining something like: "That is why Jesus had to die on the cross... to pay the price for all your sins, and in exchange he gave you his perfect life, in which he never committed a single sin, so that you can go to heaven." I

might have used other words and explained a bit more, but that was the basic message. Dinner went on as normal, and I left it there.

Wind the clock forward to this Sunday morning [25 March]. We went to Church (only the second time ever for the two of them). I watched him as he participated in the service. Its all very new for them, but I saw him read and say the confession with interest, and when Pastor pronounced the forgiveness in the absolution, I noticed a little, unsure, half smile on his face... at which point I bent down and whispered in his ear: "see Ryan, now all YOUR sins have been forgiven". His face lit up like a light bulb, and the smile on that kids face is a sight that I will hold dear for a long time to come.

Why am I sharing this? because this is the power and the value of the Liturgy. I don't think that many people who grew up Lutheran, realize the amount of doubt, personal guilt and condemnation which comes from being involved and committed to the kind of church were the ancient Liturgy, the Lectionary, the Word of God, Baptism and the Lords Supper have been replaced with the charismatic personalities, vision and purpose, big screen tv's, praise bands and coffee shops, which distract you from the fact that you are caught up in a theological system which ultimately makes YOU responsible for your own salvation. As someone who has walked a while on "the dark side of Christianity", I would like to encourage you all to treasure your Lutheran heritage. It really is worth not merely holding on to, but understanding, learning about and teaching, because it truly does an excellent job of teaching, preaching and confessing the one and only true faith, which is able to save our souls.

May God bless us and keep us in the one true faith as we eagerly await the resurrection of our bodies, and the day when all false teaching will be done away with. Until that day, treasure what is pure and contend for what is true.

Buks Hanekom



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



Two new vice-dean positions have been created in the Faculty of Science in an effort to further strengthen both the research and teaching endeavours in natural sciences at Stellenbosch University.

The position of Vice-Dean:

Teaching has been filled since October by Prof Ingrid Rewitzky, executive head of the Department of Mathematical Sciences (Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Computer Science). She is slowly but surely getting her teeth into matters relating to the academic programmes and teaching initiatives relevant to BSc students. Challenges such as the successful throughput rate of students and the support of lecturers who are passionate about teaching and learning are high on her agenda. (*Excerpt from "Kampusnuus"*)



Aileene Isabela was born to Willem and Julie Avenant on 28 February. Julie's parents and sister are here from the USA and her father, Rev. Robert Fischer, will be performing the Baptism on 1st April! May God bless the family!



LEA SOPHIA was born on 22 March, at 12:20 pm, in Munich, Germany, to Pastor Walter and Lidia's son Léo and his wife Carol. She weighs 3,100kg and her length is 50 cm. The proud grandparents will be meeting her at the baptism in May.

"Children's children are a crown to the aged" (Proverbs 17:6). Praise the LORD!

St. Thomas held its Annual General Meeting on 19 February after the Service. It was chaired by Mr. Dennis Rewitzky and Erica Du Toit was the Secretary. Reports were tabled from the Pastor (Pastor Walter Winterle), the Treasurer (Mr Paul Böhmer), Sunday School (Mrs Christy Johnson), the Ladies Guild (Mrs Jackie Karshagen) and from Link Way Mews (Mr David Skibbe).

It was further agreed that the Church Council would establish a team to facilitate fund raising and arranged regular social events. The congregation approved plans and goals for 2012, based on the Five Areas of Ministry: Worship, Learning, Witness, Service/Fellowship and Stewardship.

A most exciting development is the invitation St. Thomas plans to extend to FELSISA to host the 2014 FELSISA Synodical Convention.



The Annual Meeting of the Ladies guild was held on 4 March after the service. Jackie Karshagen was re-elected to the position of Chairlady. Many ladies volunteered to help with Altar duty (to prepare the Elements for the Lord's Supper), Flowers for the Lord's Altar, serving coffee & tea after the service. Others will manage Luther's Loot, and the buying of supplies. Some will help as Sunday School Teachers. If you were not around and would like to help, please contact Jackie.





Bible Study

The Bible Study Group begins its activities on the 1st of February, Wednesday, from 7:00 to 8:00pm, at the parsonage. We usually have a nice group of 10 to 15 people every week.

Even so, I'm sure that more people can come to study the Bible and to pray together. If you are available on Wednesday evening, don't miss this opportunity to come closer to God's Word. Welcome!

01-Apr John 16,4b-15
 02-Apr Psalms 132
 03-Apr John 16,16-24
 04-Apr John 16,25-28
 05-Apr John 16,29-33
 06-Apr John 17,1-5
 07-Apr John 17,6-8
 08-Apr John 17,9-13
 09-Apr Psalms 102
 10-Apr John 17,14-19
 11-Apr John 17,20-23
 12-Apr John 17,24-26
 13-Apr Mark 14,26-31
 14-Apr Mark 14,32-42
 15-Apr Mark 14,43-52
 16-Apr Psalms 88
 17-Apr Mark 14,53-65
 18-Apr Mark 14,66-72
 19-Apr Mark 15,1-15
 20-Apr Mark 16,16-23
 21-Apr Mark 15,24-41

22-Apr Mark 15,42-47
 23-Apr Mark 16,1-8
 24-Apr Mark 16,9-20
 25-Apr 1 Peter 1,1-12
 26-Apr 1 Peter 1,13-16
 27-Apr 1 Peter 1,17-21
 28-Apr 1 Peter 1,22-2,3
 29-Apr 1 Peter 2,4-10
 30-Apr Psalms 122
 01-May 1 Peter 2,11-17
 02-May 1 Peter 2,18-25
 03-May 1 Peter 3,1-7
 04-May 1 Peter 3,8-12
 05-May 1 Peter 3,13-17
 06-May 1 Peter 3,18-22
 07-May Psalms 136
 08-May 1 Peter 4,1-11
 09-May 1 Peter 4,12-19
 10-May 1 Peter 5,1-7
 11-May 1 Peter 5,8-14
 12-May 1 Corinthians 1,1-9

13-May 1 Corinthians 1,10-17
 14-May Psalms 148
 15-May 1 Corinthians 1,18-25
 16-May 1 Corinthians 1,26-31
 17-May 1 Corinthians 2,1-5
 18-May 1 Corinthians 2,6-16
 19-May 1 Corinthians 3,1-4
 20-May 1 Corinthians 3,5-8
 21-May Psalms 149,1-5
 22-May 1 Corinthians 3,9-17
 23-May 1 Corinthians 3,18-23
 24-May 1 Corinthians 4,1-8
 25-May 1 Corinthians 4,9-16
 26-May 1 Corinthians 4,17-21
 27-May 1 Corinthians 5,1-8
 28-May Psalms 96
 29-May 1 Corinthians 5,9-13
 30-May 1 Corinthians 6,1-11
 31-May 1 Corinthians 6,12-20

BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

1 Wesley Karshagen
 8 Fanie du Toit
 9 Gillian Skibbe
 12 Bryan Ravenscroft & Margrit Deetlefs
 13 Nala Ndebele
 16 Shane Marriot-Watson
 17 Taryn Köhne
 23 Heike Weinert
 24 Juergen Hohls
 27 Mandy Aubrey

MAY

2 Ingrid Rewitzky
 3 Paul Böhmer & Stephan Böhmer
 9 Karin Zuccarini
 11 Keegan Karshagen
 15 Keith Luenow
 19 Karl Crouch
 20 Raymond Schulz, Mona Hillermann
 & Martina Reinstorf
 27 Tilana Ndebele
 29 Charles Melck & Gunther Meier
 31 Erika Marriot-Watson & Dieter Reinstorf



Jesus washes the disciples feet

It has been a long day. Jerusalem is packed with Passover guests, most of whom clamor for a glimpse of the Teacher. The spring sun is warm. The streets are dry. And the disciples are a long way from home. A splash of cool water would be refreshing.

The disciples enter [the room], one by one, and take their places around the table. On the wall hangs a towel, and on the floor sits a pitcher and a basin. Any one of the disciples could volunteer for the job, but not one does.

After a few moments, Jesus stands and removes his outer garment. He wraps a servant's girdle around his waist, takes up the basin, and kneels before one of the disciples. He unlaces a sandal and gently lifts the foot and places it in the basin, covers it with water, and begins to bathe it. One by one, one grimy foot after another, Jesus works his way down the row.

In Jesus' day the washing of feet was a task reserved not just for servants but for the lowest of servants...The servant at the bottom of the totem pole was expected to be the one on his knees with the towel and basin.

In this case the one with the towel and basin is the king of the universe. Hands that shaped the stars now wash away filth. Fingers that formed mountains now massage toes. And the one before whom all nations will one day kneel now kneels before his disciples. Hours before his own death, Jesus' concern is singular. He wants his disciples to know how much he loves them...

You can be sure Jesus knows the future of these feet he is washing. These twenty-four feet will not spend the next day following

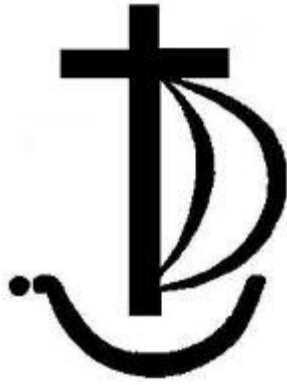
their master, defending his cause. These feet will dash for cover at the flash of a Roman sword. Only one pair of feet won't abandon him in the garden. One disciple won't desert him at Gethsemane—Judas won't even make it that far! He will abandon Jesus that very night at the table...

What a passionate moment when Jesus silently lifts the feet of his betrayer and washes them in the basin!

Jesus knows what these men are about to do. He knows they are about to perform the vilest act of their lives. By morning they will bury their heads in shame and look down at their feet in disgust. And when they do, he wants them to remember how his knees knelt before them and he washed their feet... He forgave their sin before they even committed it. He offered mercy before they even sought it.

by Max Lucado





Evangelical Church (Lutheran Confession) St. 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 9.30am
Sunday School
Holy Communion

Pastor

Ps. Carlos Walter Winterle

☎ 021-9303734
081 482 1018

E-Mail: cwwinterle@yahoo.com.br

Treasurer

Paul Böhmer

Church Councillors

Eckard Köhne 021-4331116
074 159 5538
Marja Wybrow 021-5571328
082 6255 629
Shawn Johnston 021-5591069
083 325 9965
Paul Böhmer 086 5028872
082 3807590
Shane Swiegers 082 4603605
021-9390486

Women's Guild Chairlady

Jackie Karshagen 021-5587759
082-8266412

Sunday School

Christy Johnston 021- 5591069
073 246 4398

Banking Details

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

www.st-thomas.org.za

PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

ST. THOMAS CONGREGATION - EVANGELICAL CHURCH (LUTHERAN CONFESSION)

SUNDAY SERVICES AND DUTY ROSTER – APRIL—MAY 2012 - Service Times: Every Sunday at 09.30 (with Holy Communion) / (U) = Usher.

DATE	SUNDAY	CHURCH COUNCILLOR	READER + READINGS	SUNDAY SCHOOL	ALTAR DUTY & SERVING THE LORD'S SUPPER	FLOWERS	TEA DUTY
01 April	Palm Sunday	S. Johnston E. Köhne (U)	E. Crouch, H. Peyper, C. Melk, Rev. R. Fischer: Matt 21:1-11; Matt 26:17-30; Luke 23:26-43; Matt 28:1-20	ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ON DUTY	A Willis S. Johnston	L. Winterle	C. Johnston L. Winterle
06 April	Good Friday	P. Bohmer S. Johnston (U)	C. Melck: Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 (Psalm 22; Gospel: John 19:16-27)	SCHOOL HOLIDAY	J. Peyper G. Meyer	E. du Toit	E. du Toit L. Wilson
08 April	EASTER	E. Köhne S. Swiegers (U)	R. Hillermann: Is 25:6-9; 1 Cor 15:1-11 (Psalm 16; Gospel: Mark 16:1-8)	SCHOOL HOLIDAY	M. Skibbe E. Köhne	M. Wybrow	M. Wybrow F. Dini
15 April	2 nd Sunday after Easter	M. Wybrow (U) S. Johnston	E. Johnston: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1 - 2:2 (Psalm 148; Gospel: John 20:19-31)	Christy & Errin	E. du Toit S. Swiegers	C. Johnston	C. Johnston M. Hohls
22 April	3 rd Sunday after Easter	P. Bohmer S. Swiegers (U)	H. Peyper: Acts 3:11-21; 1 John 3:1-7 (Psalm 4; Gospel: Luke 24:36-49)	Brigitte & Rolf	J & I Rewitzky P. Bohmer	B. Bohmer	B. Bohmer E. Crouch
29 April	4 th Sunday after Easter	S. Johnston (U) E. Köhne	E. Köhne: Acts 4:1-12; 1 John 3:16-24 (Psalm 23; Gospel: John 10:11-18)	Taryn & Heike	M. Halm H. Peyper	T. Köhne	T. Köhne L. Swiegers
06 May	5 th Sunday after Easter	S. Swiegers P. Bohmer (U)	S. Swieger: Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:1-21 (Psalm 150; Gospel: John 15:1-8)	Keegan & Jackie	J. Peyper S. Johnston	J. Karshagen	J. Karshagen L. Wilson
13 May	6 th Sunday after Easter Mother's Day	M. Wybrow (U) E. Köhne	C. Melck: Acts 10:34-48; 1 John 5:1-8 (Psalm 98; Gospel: John 15:9-17)	Elke & Zenke	M. Skibbe E. Köhne	M. Deetlefs	M Deetlefs L. Winterle
20 May	7 th Sunday of Easter	S. Johnston P. Bohmer (U)	R. Hillermann: Acts 1:12-26; 1 John 5:9-15 (Psalm 1; Gospel: John 17:11b-19)	Christy & Errin	A. Willis G. Meyer	E. Marriot- Watson	Michelle Hohls Yvonne
27 May	PENTECOST	E. Köhne (U) S. Swiegers	E. Köhne: Ezek 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21 (Psalm 139:1-16; Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15)	Taryn & Heike	J & I Rewitzky S. Swiegers	L. Swiegers	L. Swiegers Lauren Swiegers

Flower Duty: The person on duty is requested to make a 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).
The Elders/ Assistant in altar duty assist the pastor with serving the Lord's Supper.

Tea Duty: The person on duty is requested prepare the cups and saucers before the service, switch on the urn, serve coffee and tea after the service (provide milk), and wash the dishes.

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