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Published by Communication Desk
of ELCSA (Cape Church)
240 Lung Street, Cape Town 8000
Editor: Ulrich Plüddemann
Tel/Fax: 021 886 5415
pluedeman@iofrica.com
Layout: Imel Dunaiski
Tel/Fax: 021 887 0502, Stellenbosch

Communication is often referred to as the lifeblood of an organisation. The apostle Paul knew about the value of communication. He not only preached and did visiting. He wrote letters to his congregations, conveyed greetings from one to the other, and engendered a sense of community between them.

The need for greater community and an organ to facilitate information flow within the Cape Church, beyond the congregational level, has been felt for a long time.

The Communication Desk was established after the Synod at Dawn in 1999 to serve this purpose. The *Communiqué*, of which the fourth issue appeared in April 2002, carries the sub-title Church Council News. It is aimed at keeping congregations in touch with developments at Church Council.

Our new venture, the *Cape Church News*, has a different focus. Its purpose is to provide a vehicle for congregations to share information about themselves with the Church as a whole as well as for general church matters.

I would like to thank all contributors. Their names appear at the end of each article. Material from the congregations is a pre-requisite for the success of this venture.

The publication will strive to be "reader-friendly" and give attention to the "human interest" side of events.

This first issue will be mailed to all members of the Synod. Congregations are responsible for the further distribution. We are also working towards disseminating the *Cape Church News* by e-mail, and aim to put it on the UELCSA web site in the near future.

This issue should be seen as an experiment. Comments and questions are invited. Positive responses would provide encouragement. Constructive suggestions for improvement would be welcomed.

May God bless our Church, its congregations and pastors and all its members.

Yours sincerely

Ulrich Plüddemann

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid

Watchword for 2002 (Isa. 12,2)

A statement of faith gains persuasiveness when it is recognized not merely as an abstract truth but as a statement of experiences in concrete historical situations.

In scripture we are seldom confronted by words that were formulated in an actual situation. Most of them are the product of long term reflection about the historical occurrence. But as such they become transparent for what had happened or what was experienced by those who formulated these words. The words that we regard as statements of faith are thus rather to be seen as reflected and verbalized prayer, which may even reflect the, at times, painful experience that led to these words.

Unfortunately in various such instances this road can only be reconstructed through the contents of such a word. The result is that such a word is not a recipe that could be simply followed with assured results in other situations. Rather it is an invitation to struggle through one's own situation in order to gain a similar experience as reflected in the words.

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid." This watchword of the year is such a word. It is a Psalm that was recited in a situation of political and social turmoil. Little security was offered because life was under constant threat by foreign powers, political and religious. The people were looking for points of orientation that would lead them to a new and meaningful life. No one had the sure answers ready of where they were heading. The only way to find the road forward was via the detour that could be summarized as follows: "I do not have the solutions to the problems that beset us, I do not know which path leads into the new future. I can only dare to take the path for which I am prepared to bear responsibility even though not being sure whether it is the right one or not." Thus I can take certain decisions that will influence the course of history for me, trusting that God will not leave me alone but will take the next step with me. Should it turn out to have been a wrong decision, he will stand by me to let me stand up again, review my life and the situation, and take a new decision.

These are some simple and practical steps of living under a word as the watchword for this year.

May you experience God's dynamic in a new way.

Albrecht Halne

Port Elizabeth Congregation Celebrates 101st Birthday

On Pentecost Sunday, 19 May 2002, the Port Elizabeth Lutheran congregation *Friedenskirche* / Church of the Peace celebrated the 101st anniversary of its founding on Ascension Day, 16 May 1901. The special Divine Service in the attractive church centre in Springfield was well attended, and included many guests. Bishop N. Rohwer preached the good news that God amazingly has faith in us, who are weak and sinful (Romans 8, 1-11), and by the Holy Spirit we can find faith in this love.

At the subsequent lunch, many good words of greeting and prayers of blessing were conveyed by: Mr Charles Green on behalf of Church Council and the pastor and congregation of St. Crucis Beacon Bay; Mr Herhold Grieb, chairperson, for the Circuit Conference East and St. Andrew's East London; Mrs Yvonne Joffa, chairperson, on behalf of the Moravian Church (6th District, Eastern Cape); Mr. Herbert Klasse on behalf of ELCSA (Cape-Orange Diocese) and the Korston Lutheran Congregation; Rev Solomon Nkesiga of the Swartkops Anglican district and congregation, and involved in the Walmer Township Xolelanani Youth Project; and Mr Josef Ritter of the Port Elizabeth German Club. Among the many written messages received was also that of the Honorary German Consul Mr H. Stucken and Mrs Stucken.



As a prelude to the festivities, a well attended Festival Concert was held in the church on Saturday evening, 18 May. The programme included trumpet and organ music, as well as a string quartet. The East Cape Children's Choir delighted the audience with sacred music, folk songs and secular choral items. Refreshments were enjoyed afterwards in the hall.

Hans Schaberg, Port Elizabeth

Port Elizabeth Congregation from 19th to 21st Century

BEGINNINGS

The history of the Port Elizabeth Lutheran congregation goes back to 1899 when German divine services were started at the request of a group of dedicated "German Protestants" within the local German community. Pastor Gottfried Wagener visited the community occasionally all the way from Cape Town's St. Martini Congregation. Soon the group approached the Lutheran Church of Hanover for a full-time pastor, and in December 1900 Pastor Grussendorf was seconded to Port Elizabeth. He held his first service in the "Liedertafel" in Western Road. Under his guidance the congregation *Deutsche Friedenskirche* was founded; it joined the Cape Synod in 1902.

EARLY GROWTH

By 1904, when Pastor H. Müller took charge as spiritual leader, the congregation numbered over 300, and the idea of an own church building was initiated. A property was bought (corner of Rink Street and Park Drive) and, with the limited funds available, a hall was built which served as the church. The neighbouring house was acquired for a parsonage. The congregation held its first meeting in their own building in March 1908.

TWO WORLD WARS, SETBACKS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

The anti-German sentiment during World War I hit the German community and the congregation hard, many members being forced to leave and return to Germany, including the pastor. Between 1915 and 1920 there was no official congregational activity in Port Elizabeth.

In October 1920 some 20 "old" members (mainly women) got together to deliberate about the future. The parsonage was sold to pay for the debts. The congregation felt too small to "have their own pastor", and it was decided to co-operate with the other Lutheran congregations in the Eastern Cape. Pastors from these congregations now served Port Elizabeth on a regular basis (for example, Pastor F. Schrader from Stutterheim, Pastor L. Janssen from East London and Pastor Th. Schanz from Keiskammahok). In 1934 Pastor M. Dellmann (formerly of Berlin in the Eastern Cape) took charge of the congregation full-time until he had to leave for Germany in 1936 (for "political reasons"). Pastor Schanz acted as *locum tenens* again from 1936-1938, followed by Pastor Harold Plüddemann (from East London). The Second World War again wreaked havoc on the community. In 1941, with Pastor Plüddemann being interned and many members having been forced to leave, there was only one member of the committee left and no regular services were held.

After the war Pastor Plüddemann came to Port Elizabeth six times a year for services, confirmation classes and visiting (taking the bus or train from East London and returning by 'mail boat' on Sunday night or, later, travelling by air). In 1955, when Brakfontein was added to his responsibilities, the Port Elizabeth congregation was entrusted to the care of Pastor em. J. Cyrus.

OUR OWN PASTOR

A new era began in 1959 when Pastor Walter Peschel was inducted as resident pastor. He was followed, in 1965, by Pastor Dr. W. Plautz. Due to a strong influx of American Lutherans, and in line with Synod decisions, services were now conducted in both German and English. The word "German" was deleted from the name of the congregation. The new church centre in Springfield was built. On 5 March 1972 the new *Friedenskirche* was dedicated by Bishop Dr. Hanns Lilje of the German "mother church" of Hanover. In May 1972 Pastor H. Plüddemann, in response to a call, took up his office as resident minister.

In 1976, Pastor H.W. von Falkenhausen (previously of Stutterheim) was inducted in the congregation by Praeses H. von Delft in the presence of "Oberlandeskirchenrat" J. Hasselhorn of Hanover. In 1983, the congregation hosted the meeting of the Synod of the Cape Church. Later that year Pastor von Falkenhausen retired and returned to Germany. In 1984, Pastor H.J. Schönfeld took over the spiritual leadership. On 16 October 1988 the erection of the "bell tower" and installation of the bell (donated by the Keiskammahoek congregation) was celebrated in a special dedication service.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GEORGE

From 1993 to 1999, Pastor Klaus-Peter Edinger from Germany was entrusted with both the Port Elizabeth and George congregations. In 1994 the two congregations pledged closer co-operation. In 1999, a new organ (by Jan Pekelharing Organbuilders) was inaugurated with a memorable concert on 14 November.

After Pastor Edinger's departure the congregations were vacant for more than a year before the arrival of Pastor Felix Meylahn and his wife Barbara together with their children Janusz, Mirjam and Benedikt. During this time, many loyal members kept the services and other activities going. On 17 December 2000, Pastor Meylahn was inducted as pastor of the parish Port Elizabeth and George by Bishop Rohwer in services in both congregations.

On the occasion of its 101st anniversary, the congregation of George wished its sister congregation God's blessing and support for the future and greeted it with a word from the letter to the Philippians 4,4: "May you always be joyful in the Lord. I say it again: rejoice!" "Freuet euch in dem Herrn allewege, und abermals sage ich: Freuet euch!"

Information by Pastor Felix Meylahn, Hans Schaberg and Hannes Scribo

Pastor Muriel Kossmann Inducted in Beacon Bay



On Trinity Sunday, 26 May 2002, Pastor Muriel Kossmann was inducted into her office as pastor of the congregations St. Crucis Beacon Bay and Luther Church Brakfontein by Bishop Nils Rohwer; she was also given the locum tenency of St. Paul's Macleantown as a "bonus", as Bishop Rohwer put it. She is the first woman pastor of our church in the Border area. The festive induction service was well attended. Pastors Rüdiger Lutz, Dieter Trümpelmann and Werner Ludewig took part in the ceremony. The subsequent bring and share meal was also well supported. The presence of our bishop was especially appreciated.

The Bishop's induction address was on Ephesians 6, 14. He elaborated on the image of the preacher as a soldier. "The soldier does not determine where she is sent to, but she knows who has sent her. She often does not know why she is to be stationed at a certain place, but she knows that her master knows why he has placed her there."

This is not only true for Muriel as a Pastor but also for her way into the ministry.

Muriel Kossmann was born and grew up in Germany. After some years working as a shop assistant in a hospital, and qualifying as a doctor's receptionist, she pursued her studies and became a dietitian. In 1978 she was married to Bernhard and became a housewife and mother of two children. As dietitian she worked mainly in adult education and with groups of teenage diabetics.

Because of a job opportunity of her husband, the family immigrated to South Africa in 1988. In Paarl, the Kossmanns had to adapt to the new language/s and a very different environment. Muriel became involved in the local Lutheran Church. Somehow God pulled her into his service. First she helped in Sunday School and with various other activities, then she served on the church committee.

At age 40 she explored possibilities to study Theology. She found out that she could do this just around the corner, with UNISA at the Huguenot College in Wellington, while still caring for her family. She learnt Afrikaans through private lessons with a friend, and took a three year course in "Jeugwerk" with a special theological selection of subjects. In 1996 she was awarded the degree B Diac from UNISA.

To become a Lutheran Pastor she needed to go further. And again God opened a way for her. One year at the Faculty of Theology of the University of the Western Cape, this time in English, took her to a BA Hon. degree with theological subjects. She completed her 5th year at the Lutheran House of Studies in Pietermaritzburg, partly with distance learning, in 1999.

Muriel served her two-year internship in Bellville under the guidance of Pastor Felix Meylahn, and in Stellenbosch under Pastor Silke Moolman. She was ordained in December 2000 to take care of the congregation Church of the Cross in Bellville, working in German and Afrikaans. After six months, she was placed in Beacon Bay and subsequently called to the parish where she succeeds the late Pastor Basil Sonnenberger.

In all this, she had the full support of her husband Bernhard and her two children Fianna (17) and Magnus (20).

Asked about her move to the Eastern Cape, Pastor Kossmann told *Cape Church News*, "I feel very welcomed and supported here in the Border area." With regard to how she sees her task at this stage she explained: "My vision for the future is to assist the congregations I serve towards transforming to welcoming and caring congregations. I also like to work on the understanding of our Lutheran identity, since this was found to be a weak point in our SWOT analysis. I am also working closely with our new youth worker Yvonne von Elling. Since St. Crucis has a lot of young people, we need to work towards integrating the youth in our church."

Information provided by Bernhard and Muriel Kossmann

EASTERN CIRCUIT

CHURCH DAY

The annual Church Day of the Eastern Circuit will be held on 8 September 2002 at St. Crucis, Beacon Bay. Bishop Rohwer has been invited as guest speaker on the topic Islam.

AGM

The annual general meeting of the Circuit Conference East is expected to take place on 5 October, at St. John's Dawn. Final confirmation is awaited.

First Full Time Youth Leader Inducted

New development in Youth Work of Border Area

5th May 2002 was a very special and happy day for the youth in the Eastern Circuit! Our first ever full time youth leader, Miss Yvonne von Elling, was inducted at a combined service at St. Andrew's East London. Formally based at St. Andrew's and residing in Beacon Bay, she will serve all congregations in the area.

Combined camps for the youth as well as combined meetings and outings had been taking place for many years. Different pastors and lay persons had been coordinating the youth work. But it is not so easy to motivate young people. Our youth work has to compete with attractive programmes of other churches who have full time youth pastors. In the Border Area there are three bigger Lutheran congregations in East London, one each in King William's Town and Stutterheim as well as several smaller rural congregations.



As Lutheran Church we feel that we have a very valuable message, the Message of the Gospel which emphasizes the unconditional grace of God. Our value as human beings does not depend on our achievements. We are valuable because we are God's children and he has accepted us as sinners. We are justified by faith alone. Therefore churchwardens, youth leaders

and pastors thought that we had to care for the young generation and intensify the youth work to enable our young people to live out the faith and remain in the Lutheran Church. By this we will fulfil the task of passing on the Message.

On the initiative of one church committee, the Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Circuit created the post of a C.C.E. Senior Youth Leader (financed from a special fund built up far-sightedly through contributions by all congregations over a number of years).

Miss Yvonne von Elling was interviewed on 11th January 2002 in East London and it was decided to employ her for one year. She introduced herself with the following words:

"I was born in Pietermaritzburg, grew up in New Hanover and went to school in Wartburg. I then studied at Edgewood College of Education in Pinetown and qualified as a primary school teacher. For the next 2 years I taught in New Hanover at the Pre-Primary School. I have spent the last 3 years living and working in the UK and travelling. I was baptised, brought up and confirmed in the Pietermaritzburg Lutheran congregation. I attended youth there and later helped with the organization of it. Youth played an important role in my teenage years."

Yvonne was recommended by several pastors from our sister church, the NI-Church. She is 26 years of age and we have great hopes in her ability to develop a lively youth work in this English speaking area.

This new post is also the outcome of a closer cooperation between the congregations in the Border Area. At present this area is served by four pastors: Muriel Kossmann of

Beacon Bay and Brakfontein (1 year), Rüdiger Lutz of East London (12 years), Torsten Marienhagen of Stutterheim and Queenstown (4 years), and Dieter Trümpelmann of King William's Town and Komga (half a year). The Parish Dawn/Macleantown/ Berlin is vacant at present.

Different vacancies in the past and the arrival of two relatively new pastors have opened new possibilities of cooperation in different fields of church life. We have run the Alpha I and II Course together for all congregants in the East London area, we have joint Bible Sharing groups and joint Informal Evening Services to especially reach out to the young generation. In most congregations Contemporary and Informal Services have been introduced besides the traditional Services.

The goal of the Youth Work is not to neglect the spiritual aspect and to offer exciting programmes and activities through Comps at the beautiful coast or in the Stutterheim Forest, and Contemporary Services with youth involvement throughout the year.



We have started cooperation with the St. Martini Congregation in Cape Town who have had a full time youth leader for 5 years. They will come to the Border Area with a drama team and band of 14 senior youth and young adults from 2nd to 12th July 2002. We will offer a holiday programme with youth evenings

and workshops for the first time ever. Their visit will also contribute towards closer cooperation between the Eastern and Western Circuit.



Let us hope and pray that our youth will become more motivated and excited about being involved in the youth work and in the congregation. May the congregations become more youth orientated through new ways and relationships between the youth and young adults. This is what Yvonne and the youth leaders and pastors want to achieve under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Rüdiger Lutz, St. Andrew's East London and head of the Church Council Desk "Youth Work"

VACANCY IN BLOEMFONTEIN/KIMBERLEY

The recently merged congregation of St. Paul's Bloemfontein / St. Martini Kimberley is vacant and has advertised for a new pastor. In the mean time, Bishop Rohwer is acting as *locum tenens*. He is assisted by Pastor em. Peter Koch.

Pulpit Exchange with ELCSA

A new spirit of co-operation between ELCSA and the Cape Church is evident in the Border area.

On 21 May 2002, Pastor Siya Mcoyana from the Mdantsane Parish of ELCSA preached for the first time at St. Andrew's East London in the early service. This was a new experience for the English speaking East London Congregation where German services are still conducted twice a month. The majority of the congregation is open for this new way of cooperation.

After the service Pastor Mcoyana and Pastor Rüdiger Lutz went to Mdantsane, the township only 20 km away from the city centre of East London. Rüdiger Lutz preached in the Lutheran Church there for the first time. The Service was conducted in Xhosa but it was not necessary to translate the English sermon. Pastor Lutz was cordially received by the Parish who showed appreciation that a stage has been reached where pulpit exchange is accepted by both sides.

The Mdantsane Parish has between 200 and 250 members, approximately the same as St. Andrew's East London.

On the same day, Dean Raymond Zazini preached at St. John's King William's Town. While the local choirs of the respective congregations sang in the services in East London and Mdantsane, Dean Zazini brought his own choir to St. John's. Pastor Dieter Trümpelmann will preach in one of the ELCSA sister congregations near King William's Town on 23 June.

It is good news that Dean Zazini and Pastor Mcoyana, who had come to the Border area last year, have accepted the invitation of our Pastors' Conference East. They join the meetings when theological issues, including sermon preparation, are discussed and relationships between our churches and developments in South Africa of concern to our congregations.

Let us hope and pray for continued cooperation and good fellowship between the pastors and congregations.

Pastor Rüdiger Lutz, St. Andrew's East London

Ecumenical Services in East London

On 17th May 2002 an Ecumenical Service between the Catholic and Lutheran Church in the city centre of East London was held for the fourth time. It took place in the Catholic Church at the end of the week of church and unity among the Christians.

Pastor Rüdiger Lutz preached on Ephesians 4. This text is a document of reconciliation and therefore very suitable for such an occasion. While the original intention was the justification of the unity between Jewish Christians and Gentiles, the text makes us



understand the deeper dimension of the unity in the Triune God and the importance of real peace in the Lord and among the Christians from different backgrounds and cultures saying: "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one

baptism." (Ephesians 4: 3-4) Hymns well known in both churches were sung, e.g. "The Lord's my shepherd", "Make me a channel of your peace" and "The Church's one foundation".

We started with Ecumenical Services in May 2001 when a new priest took over at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in the city. Just previously, in October 2000, the church committee of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church had completed our thorough SWOT analysis. In it we had discovered that we lack relationships with other churches. It was therefore a blessing that the new Catholic priest proposed Ecumenical Services.

After the horrible terrorist attack in New York on 11th September 2001 an Ecumenical Service was held at St. Crucis Lutheran Church, Beacon Bay, in which the Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran and Methodist Church were involved. The Methodist Bishop from East London preached the sermon.

A special Ecumenical Service was held on 21st March 2002 in which the problem of corruption and the suffering of the victims was addressed. An Anglican priest from the East London township delivered the sermon and the deputy mayor spoke on this theme that concerns the community very much. During the years the youths from the Catholic Church and Lutheran Church had met occasionally. We hope that there will be closer ties between the young people in future.

Ecumenical relationships are not the main focus of our work in the Eastern Cape and only a part of Lutherans support this task by attending these Services. However, these relationships will eventually change our church towards becoming a more fully South African church. The use of the English language in the Border Area is a great advantage in this respect.

Pastor Rüdiger Lutz, St. Andrew's East London

Wynberg Cemetery Relocated

The St. Johannis Lutheran Congregation in Wynberg, Cape, successfully relocated their cemetery to the church grounds in Waterloo Road.

The congregation had owned the cemetery since 4 December 1884. Situated at the corner of Rosmead Avenue and Wetton Road, it was transferred to the congregation by the then Liesbeek Municipality as a free grant from the government. Members of the Lutheran Community were buried there from 1883 until the City Council prohibited further burials in 1958, for hygienic reasons.

The upkeep of the cemetery had become a grave problem. Vagrants had occupied and fouled it, fires had been started on the grounds and fences that were erected had been stolen. The cost of upkeep was increasing. It had become a public eyesore.

Over a period of 28 years the congregation sought to solve the problem by relocating the cemetery to its premises in Waterloo Road 52. The intention was duly advertised. Rezoning and the right to exhume and to move the headstones were subsequently granted. After the successful sale of the commercially attractive property, the project could become a reality.

Lutherans have been part of Wynberg since 1852. The church was built in 1860 on premises acquired from the military. The present congregation was established in 1883. Its first own pastor, Pastor J.F. Krönlein, previously Superintendent of the Rhenish Mission in Namaland, arrived in 1887. In 1895, Pastor Bracklo opened the congregation's "Lutheran Mission School" on the premises behind the church; this school served the congregation and the surrounding communities for 80 years. Today church services are held in German, English and Afrikaans.

On 27 June 1999 the St. Johannis congregation could gratefully hold a service on the relocated cemetery. Family members can now visit their family's headstones and the new garden of remembrance in safety. The headstone of Pastor Krönlein was placed at the centre of the garden of remembrance, next to his wife's. The inscription it carries a word of promise from Revelation 2,10: "Sei getreu bis an den Tod, so will ich dir die Krone des Lebens geben." (*Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.*)



On the site of the former cemetery a stone and commemorative plaque were unveiled on 10 July 2001. The inscription in English, German and Afrikaans refers to the history and relocation of the cemetery, adding that "the congregation consisted mainly of farmers who by their hard work helped turn the Cape Flats into the vegetable garden of Cape Town."

Information provided by Pastor Walter Schwär and Alfred Rix, supplemented from Reino Ottermann, The Centenary of the Synod 1895-1995, ELCSA (Cape Church) 1995

English Worship Services in Bellville

In February 2002 English Worship Services were started in Bellville on a monthly basis. This monthly Service is offered in addition to the existing Afrikaans and German Services.

Fourteen percent of the congregation are English-speaking. These members want to be part of the Lutheran Church and need to be accommodated in their church. Ideally, they would be served in their mother tongue on a weekly basis. At present this is not possible. However, should developments render it necessary in future the number of services would have to be increased.

Our church is a trilingual church. It therefore seems logical to develop structures in the congregations, which reflect this. Often the question is asked whether such a small number of people justify the additional work. Should we not rather concentrate the work on existing members? It is rarely taken into account that many people have left the church because they were not offered a spiritual home in "their" denomination. The Lutheran Church has the unique message of the unconditional acceptance of the sinner by grace alone. This confessional statement has to be part of the everyday life of the church wherever possible.

What motivates you to be part of the Lutheran Church? Are not all churches serving the same God and professing the same faith? The denominational tags - are they not only important to a few specialists and traditionalists? It is said that "the man in the street" is not interested in such "trivialities". What is needed is a more hands-on approach to Christianity. Wherever there is vibrancy in the church, people will be attracted by it. Dogmatic correct statements are not what the people of today desire or need. We often come across such or similar arguments. Superficially they seem convincing. Or are they merely palatable?

When reading Paul's letters in the New Testament, or the gospels, the approach seems to be so different. These writings are marked by clarity of thought and vision of what the gospel content is for their life and situation. Paul dares to question the religious approach and message of the church in Corinth by saying what is uncomfortable to a church that seemed so vibrant and growing. The writers of the gospels did not merely tell little Jesus stories but translated the message of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ into their own, at times very precarious situations of persecution.

The question behind these writings could be formulated as follows: Who is this Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, in our own situation? This question goes beyond the 'what would Jesus do' approach and leads us to the more profound question of who is revealed in the life, death and resurrection of the man of Nazareth?

The writers dare to spell out the mystery of the divine drama of God's quest for his people. It is the story of God who cannot sit back and watch his creation to be wrecked but who involves himself in redemptive actions.

The watchword for this year spells this out in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid." (Isa. 12,2)

The message of this caring God even in situations where his care is not recognizable is a motivation to live in the community of his people in his church and to confess: "My Lord and my God."

Pastor Albrecht Hahne

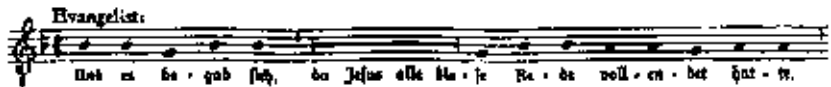
ANNIVERSARY IN WORCESTER

Heilige Dreifaltigkeitskirche
125. Jubiläum, 25. August 2002, 16:30 Uhr

Op 25 Augustus, om 16:30, vier die Worcester-Gemeente sy 125-jarige Jubiläum. Biskop Rohwer is genooi om die Woord en Sakrament te bedien. Gaste en verteenwoordigers van ander gemeentes is ook genooi, asook die Worcester Mannekoor. Agterna sal daar 'n ligte ete saam genuttig word.

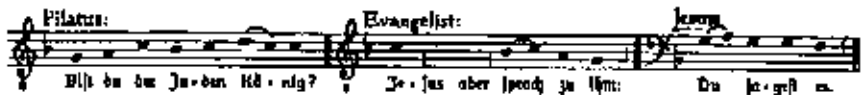
On 25 August 2002 the Worcester congregation Church of the Holy Trinity will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a commemoration service at 16:30, followed by a light supper.

Church Music in Stellenbosch



Congregants and guests from Lutheran sister congregations and other local churches filled the Stellenbosch church for a special musical service on Good Friday evening.

The church choir performed the St. Matthew's Passion by Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672), the great German composer of sacred music before J.S. Bach. This a-cappella masterpiece dramatises the narrative of the gospel. Individual characters (the evangelist, Jesus, Peter, Judas, Pontius Pilate etc.) are represented by solo voices while the choir expresses the voice of the people. The regular choir was enlarged for the occasion by congregation members unable to attend normal weekly practices year-round. The solo parts were taken by choir members. Johann Rohwer sang the part of the evangelist. Even our bishop was given a role, as Pontius Pilate!



The congregation is blessed with a choir which has continued uninterrupted since the early sixties. Early leaders Reino Ottermann and Winfried Lüdemann were followed for many years by Monika Plüddemann.

The choir was recently strengthened through some new members moving in from elsewhere, including the new conductor Rolf Rohwer, retired headmaster of *Deutsche Schule Hermannsburg*. The choir is active in Sunday services in both Stellenbosch and Somerset West, particularly on the feast days of the church calendar; it also has a tradition of reaching out to old age homes, especially in the season of Advent.

The name Heinrich Schütz is well known in church music circles in our country through the inspiring choir retreats the S.A. Heinrich Schütz Society has held annually in Bloemfontein and other venues since 1969.

This year's Schütz Week, the 34th, will take place in Bloemfontein from 30 June - 6 July. For more information contact the organiser: Prof K. von Dalt, 5 Webb Street, Bloemfontein, 9301 Tel: 051 436 6687, E-mail: vondaltklaus@shisos.co.za.

Ulrich Plüddemann