



CHURCH OF THE CROSS
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BELLVILLE
KREUZKIRCHE



Prüft alles
und behaltet
das *Gute*

1. Thessalonicher 5,21

February 2025 till April 2025

Test everything and hold fast what is good. (1 Thess. 5; 21)

Soos ons die jaar 2025 begin, is dit ons begeerte om elke persoon uit te nooi om die genade wat Christus aan ons geskenk het, te betuig en uit te leef. Hierdie jaar is 'n geleentheid vir ons om te fokus op Sy genade en barmhartighede eerder as op die tekortkominge of geskille wat ons verdeel. Ons word geroep om Christus se eienskappe van liefde, nederigheid, geduld, vriendelikheid en vrede in ons woorde en daede te weerspieël, en daardeur/sodoende lewende getuies te wees van Sy transformerende genade ten spyte die feit dat ons in 'n wêreld van chaos, konflik, kritiek, oordeel, laster en elke vorm van boosheid leef.

In plaas daarvan om foute uit te wys of in argumente betrokke te raak, laat ons mekaar opbou met genadige woorde wat aanmoedig en verenig. Ons moet altyd in gedagte hou dat God, wat soewerein is om te oordeel, gekies het om ons nie volgens ons sondes te oordeel nie, maar volgens ons geloof in Christus.



Dit laat ons beseef dat ons deur Sy genade verlos, genees en versoen is. Hierdie waarheid maak ons vry om ander te vergewe sowel as om die passie van evangelisasie in elke aspek van ons lewens te beoefen. Mag hierdie jaar 'n jaar wees waar ons God se genade verkondig deur te strewe om Sy eienskappe uit te leef en daardeur genesing en hoop vir die wêreld te bring. Voorspoedige nuwe jaar, met baie seëninge!

Thaniël, Nicole en E-Jay

This year's Men's Breakfast took place on Saturday the 16th of November at our church centre and was well received. Mr. Doubell Chamberlain, internationally known economist, shared with us some of his experiences in Africa, Asia and South America. Doubell and his team of about 60 people render advice and support to emerging countries particularly in the fields of agriculture and economic development. He also forms a link between financial donors and those who implement viable programs within their countries.



Mr Doubell Chamberlain



Deutscher Kindergarten Bellville / German Kindergarten Bellville

In the nineteen-fifties the kindergarten (KiGa) was established on a small scale with Tante Renate Schmid as only teacher and other ladies helping. Several of our present congregants have spent their pre-school years at the Kreuzkirche KiGa.

Since then, many children have come and gone. A new building was erected next to the church's big hall during the late 1980's and the playground now also includes a sand box, a little Wendy house and other playground features. The KiGa was initially part of Kreuzkirche but later became a separate NGO entity.

Last year the KiGa committee decided to relocate the KiGa to the small German school in Parow. A memorable era in the history of our congregation is hence coming to an end.

This step was also made known to the congregation at the Special General Meeting on the third of November last year.

The actual move took place during the recent school holidays - thereby ending a collaborative venture which lasted for several decades.

Our church committee will soon start advertising for another KiGa to take the place of the old one. Another possibility is to convert the existing premises into office space which will be rented out.

The process to find a suitable solution for the existing buildings is ongoing and the congregation is also invited to come forward with suggestions.



EULOGY – ILSE LEMCKE

Ilse Margot Gerstenberg was born on the 24th of January 1933 to Fritz and Frieda Gerstenberg in Berlin. She was the older of two girls, Annelie being 6 years younger. Ilse started school on 1 September 1939 which was also the start of the Second World War.

After her schooling she wanted to study music but her father would not allow it. She therefore studied bookkeeping and eventually went to work in Hamburg where she met my father Helmut.

In 1957 they married and in 1958 Ilse and Helmut left Germany and came to South Africa by ship with 13 suitcases. They settled in Germiston on the East Rand.

Two daughters were born from this marriage, Ingrid and one and a half years later Rita. Rita died very suddenly in December 1990 at the age of 25 from a brain tumour. This devastated Ilse and took her a long time to get over.

Three years later in December 1993 her granddaughter Bianca was born and Ilse often said that Bianca walked in Rita's footsteps.

Sadly, the marriage to Helmut ended in 1981. Ilse then met Werner and together they moved from Johannesburg to the Western Cape where they built one of the first houses in Betty's Bay. Unfortunately, Werner had emphysema which he could no longer cope with and in 1991 took his own life.

Ilse then met Carl and they got married in 1996. Together they moved to St. Johannes Gardens. She always said the times with Carl were the happiest years of her life. Regrettably, Carl had heart problems and died on the operating table in 2006.

After Carl's death mom travelled a great deal. Some of her travels included Bianca and me - one of which was a cruise to St. Helena Island which is where the ship docked when she and Helmut came out to South Africa.

She also undertook five trips to Australia to visit our very close family friends who had emigrated there. Mom and I also did three pilgrimages together.

Mom was very generous and giving, even when she had little, she gave to others. She loved classical music and had a collection of about 1000 CD's and DVDs which we donated to the Bellville library for the music hub they are building.

Eulogy - Ilse Lemcke

She had many hobbies, such as knitting, sewing, card making, scrapbooking, beading and jewellery making. She had a lady's group where they did crafts together and she helped bake for the bazaars. She often had "the grandchildren" around to try out new recipes.

Her biggest passion was yoga, and she was the yoga queen. She was very proud of the fact that she was still so supple at 91 and an inspiration to others. Her favourite saying when people did not believe her age was: my birth certificate says so. Then she would say that she gives thanks every day to our good Lord for health, fitness and daily bread.

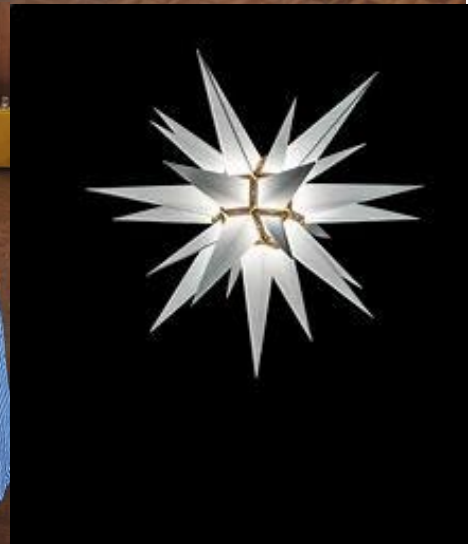
Ilse was very thankful that she still had the privilege of being a great-grandmother to Christo who was born four years ago in October.

Ingrid (daughter of Ilse Lemcke)



Ilse Lemcke

Advent Market



Advent Market





We would like to thank all of you who made this bazar possible - including those who supported it.

We all enjoyed this wonderful event.



Meet Duduzile Cynthia Kgaditsi

I grew up in Pretoria and moved to Cape Town in 2024. Currently, I am working part-time as a remote online technician. I'm blessed to share my life with my wonderful family.

I am currently pursuing my studies at Curro Private College, working towards a degree in Information Technology. Balancing my studies with my other responsibilities has been challenging but incredibly rewarding.

My faith journey has been a significant part of my life. I found my way to church after experiencing moments of clarity and insight that led me to seek a deeper understanding of my faith. It has been a blessing ever since. My faith has grown deeper through the support and fellowship of this wonderful community.

At Kreuzkirche Church of the Cross Bellville, I also enjoy volunteering for the bazaar events. Being part of the bazaar has allowed me to connect with others and serve meaningfully. It's a joy to communicate with others and grow in faith together.

Outside of church, I love diving into a good book, ice skating, tackling obstacle courses, and ziplining. Spending time with my family and friends is something I cherish. My interests also include trying new recipes, exploring new environments, traveling, poetry, and journaling which bring joy and balance to my life.

One of my favorite Bible verses is **2 Corinthians 5:7** "*For we walk by faith, not by sight*", this verse reminds me to trust in something greater than myself, even when I can't see the path ahead. It encourages me to surrender my worries and uncertainties, knowing that faith will guide me through.

I am grateful to be part of such a loving and supportive community at Kreuzkirche Bellville. I'm looking forward to continuing this journey with all of you and welcoming new members into our church family. May God's love guide us all!



Duduzile Cynthia Kgaditsi

Special Dates 2025

CCW AGM	01 March
Annual Church Day	02 March
Easter Market	05 April
Special General Meeting	23 April
AGM Church of the Cross	25 May
Congregational Lunch	01 June
Soup & Sherry Evening	End of July
Main Bazaar	06 September
Synod: Cape Church	18-21 September
Men's Breakfast	11 October
Budget Meeting	02 November
Advent Market	29 November

In Loving Memory of Danie Louis Steytler
07.10.1952 – 05.01.2025 +

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our beloved father, husband, and grandfather, Danie Louis Steytler. After a long and courageous battle with cancer, Danie passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by the love of his devoted wife and children.

Danie's faith as a Christian sustained him through life's trials, and he has now found eternal rest in the arms of our Heavenly Father. His unwavering love for his family, his wisdom, and his gentle spirit will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. While we grieve his absence, we take comfort in the promise of eternal life and celebrate the incredible legacy he leaves behind.

Yngvild Steytler and family

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day." (2 Timothy 4: 7-8).



Danie Steytler

Ein Wochenende in Rogge Cloof

Zum Winterfest im Juni fahre ich immer gerne nach Stellenbosch. Es gibt andere Dinge zu kaufen, als beim Basar in Bellville. Außerdem sehe ich meine Kinder und Enkel und treffe Freunde, mit denen ich mich austauschen kann.

In diesem Jahr gab es eine besondere Überraschung: bei der Verlosung gewann ich einen Preis – zwei Nächte für zwei Personen im Rogge Cloof Naturreservat bei Sutherland. Mein erster Gedanke war, 'Da ist es jetzt bestimmt kalt!' Daher wurde es November, bis meine Tochter Christa und ich den Preis in Anspruch nahmen. Die 365 km von Kapstadt nach Sutherland sind zwar gute vier Stunden Fahrt, aber der weite Weg lohnt sich.

Wir wurden bei unserer Ankunft sehr freundlich begrüßt. Unsere Unterkunft war in 'The Stables' – mit herrlichem Blick vom Wohnzimmer, das größer ist als meine ganze Wohnung im St. Johannisheim in Bellville. Die Karoo ist eine ganz andere Welt, wenn man Stadt gewöhnt ist. Viel Platz – wenige Menschen! Zum Abendessen gönnten wir uns den Besuch im Rittersaal: Vorspeise, Hauptspeise (Karoo-Lamm) und Nachtisch – es war ein richtiges Festessen!

Sutherland ist bekannt für seine dunklen Nächte; leider war aber an beiden Abenden der Himmel zu bewölkt für die Sterneführung. Dafür fuhren wir Samstag nach Sutherland und zum Southern African Large Telescope, auch SALT genannt. Die Führung mit Video und Besichtigung von zwei Teleskopen war ein Erlebnis.

Die verbleibende Zeit in Rogge Cloof verbrachten wir mit Spaziergängen, Lesen und Faulenzen. Da das Naturreservat auf ca. 1800 Meter über dem Meeresspiegel liegt, ist die Luft trocken und die Sonne tags warm. Ein leichter Wind sorgte für Abkühlung. Beim Spaziergehen haben wir erstaunlich viele Pflanzen in der sonst kargen Landschaft entdeckt: zwischen vielen kleinen und großen Steinen und Felsen und niedrigen Büschen gab es viele kleine Blumen in verschiedenen Farben.

Mir fiel dabei die Ballade von Kaiser Rotbart ein, der ins Heilige Land gezogen kam - da heisst es an einer Stelle: "viel Steine gabs und wenig Brot". Wir hatten uns zum Glück mit reichlich Essen eingedeckt – und hätten gut und gern länger bleiben können! Auch die Ruhe tat gut. Immer wieder erlebten wir bewusst die Stille.

Am Sonntagmorgen überraschte uns eine Herde Springböcke vorm Fenster. Sie hatten uns schon auf der Fahrt im Naturreservat begleitet. Nach dem Frühstück und noch einem Spaziergang mussten wir leider schon den Rückweg antreten. Die Springböcke verabschiedeten uns entlang des Weges. Bald waren wir wieder auf der N1 Richtung Kapstadt. Wohlbehalten erreichten wir am Nachmittag wieder unser Zuhause. Es fühlte sich an, als seien wir viel länger als nur zwei Tage weg gewesen!

Ein großes Dankeschön – es war wunderbar!

Annegret Büttner



Prüfet alles, behalten das Gute 1. Thessalonicher 5, 21

Vertrauen ist gut, Kontrolle ist besser! Eine alte bewährte Weisheit. Der Satz soll von dem russischen Politiker Lenin geprägt worden sein. Verlass dich nur auf das, was nachgeprüft werden kann.

Für Journalisten ist das zum Beispiel ein ganz wichtiges Prinzip. Man soll nur das veröffentlichen, was auch nachprüfbar ist.

Das Vier Augen Prinzip wird vielfach eingefordert, wenn es um Verwaltung von Geldern geht.

Autos kommen auf den Prüfstand, um zu checken, ob sie noch verkehrssicher genug sind.

Viele halten sich daran und gehen einmal im Jahr zur Hauptuntersuchung zum Arzt und lassen sozusagen alles prüfen, was die wichtigen Lebensorgane angeht. Sich durchchecken lassen!

In der Kirche wurde die „Visitation“ oft als Überprüfung“ der Gemeinde verstanden, was sie ja auch zu einem großen Teil sein soll. Sie hilft der Gemeinde zu prüfen, wo sie zur Zeit stehen.

Ich habe von einem Glaubenskurs gehört, in dem es einen „Geistesgaben Test“ gibt. Man soll prüfen, wofür man als Mitarbeiter in der Kirche geeignet ist. Hiob kommt auf den Prüfstand! Gott lässt zu, dass der Teufel die Frömmigkeit des Hiob prüfen darf.

Bei einem Jahreswechsel oder Geburtstag ist es gut in der Rückschau zu beachten, was werden wir nach reiflicher Überlegung, nach guter Prüfung beibehalten und was werden wir ändern.

Denn das Gute behalten, heißt umgekehrt: das andere, was eben nicht die „Prüfung“ bestanden hat, loslassen.

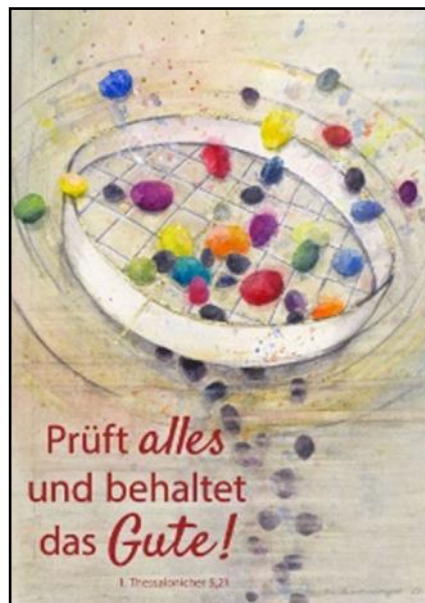
Noch einen ganz anderen queren Gedanken: Prüfet alles !

Wenn ich ständig meinen Puls überprüfe, ob er in Ordnung ist, dann macht mich das nicht gesünder. Und wenn ich jeden Tag prüfe, ob ich auch fromm genug lebe, dann wird mein christliches Leben zur Anstrengung.

Prüfet alles, behaltet das Gute! Schauen wir uns den Kontext an, in dem diese Aufforderung steht. Der Brief an die Thessalonicher ist der älteste erhaltene Brief des Paulus und damit zugleich der älteste Text des ganzen Neuen Testaments. Wir lesen also die früheste Urkunde des entstehenden christlichen Glaubens. Vermutlich im Jahr 50 nach Christus hat Paulus diesen Brief während seines Aufenthalts in Korinth geschrieben. Wie oft in Briefen wird am Schluß noch einmal alles Mögliche kurz angeschnitten.

So auch in diesem Brief. Und mittendrin in Empfehlungen, Ratschlägen oder gar Anweisungen kommt dann der Satz, der zur Jahreslosung 2025 gewählt wurde. Imperative, Befehle. Ach, so denken manche vielleicht: nicht schon wieder! Ratgeberliteratur gibt es genug, nun noch eines für Fromme? Prüfet alles und das Gute behaltet. Es gibt für unser Leben auch so etwas wie einen TÜV (Technischer Überwachungsdienst). Wir sollten dabei nicht vergessen, dass uns ein eigenständiges Urteil zugetraut wird. Wir sollen prüfen! Nicht, was die anderen denken, was sich bei mir ändern soll, ist wichtig, sondern, was ich selbst entdecke kommt auf den Prüfstand. Und ich denke es ist wichtig, im Blick zu behalten, dass es nicht um Nörgelei geht. Es gibt ja die Menschen, die überall ein Haar in der Suppe finden. Und wenn keins drin ist, wird eins reingelegt, damit man was zu meckern, zu kritisieren hat. Es geht um viel mehr als um Ratgeberliteratur. Es geht darum, daß das Evangelium Gottes, nicht in eine Seitennische des Lebens geschoben wird. Es geht darum, dass wir prüfen sollen, ja prüfen dürfen, ob das Angebot Gottes für das Leben tragfähig ist. Was wirst du auf den Prüfstand bringen? *Persönlich; *die Gemeinde; *die Kirche! Es gibt schöne Poster für die Jahreslosung, die, wie ich finde, uns eine gute Hilfestellung geben können:

Bild vom Sieb



Jonathan Schöps erinnert in seinem Poster daran, daß man bei der Prüfung genau hinsehen muss. Es geht darum, durch welche „Brille“ wir die Prüfung vornehmen?

Ist das, was „immer so gemacht wurde“ noch für die Zukunft tragfähig? Wir brauchen manchmal den Mut eine neue Brille aufzusetzen, durch die wir uns die Sache anschauen.

Wir mögen lieber einfache Lösungen. Schwarz-weiß. Gut-böse. Und auch in Glaubensfragen muss man aufpassen, wenn zu einfache Lösungen kommen.

Stefanie Bahlinger stellt ein Sieb dar, durch das ausgesiebt werden soll. Die Künstlerin Stefanie Bahlinger vergleicht diesen Prüfprozess mit einem Siebvorgang. Einige Steine liegen auf dem Siebboden, andere sind durchgefallen. Wie Edelsteine schimmern die einen; viele der gräulich schwarzen sind bereits durch den Gitterboden gefallen.

Ich entnehme diesem Bild zwei wichtige Aspekte der Prüfung: die bunten Edelsteine können Vielfalt bedeuten. Es muss nicht alles gleich sein. Aussieben sollten wir wohl solche Dinge, die viel hermachen, aber wenig einbringen. Was setzt sich fest: Negatives (schwarze Steine) oder Positives (bunte Steine) Durch welches Sieb geht unsere Prüfung? Ich schlage vor Glaube, Hoffnung und Liebe.

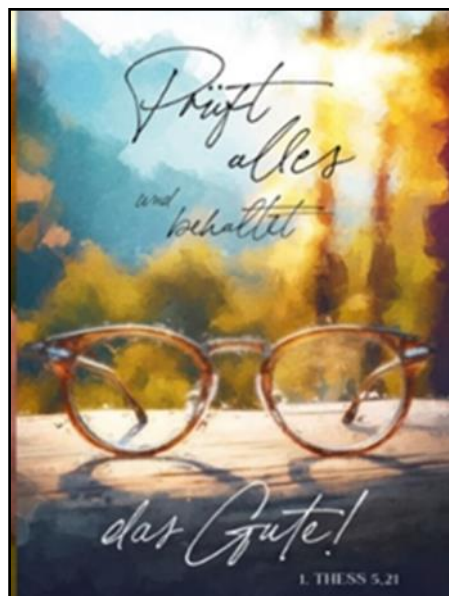
Bild von Tomaten



Elke Bussemeier: Prüfen heißt, die noch eßbaren von den schon faul werdenden Tomaten aussortieren. Nur die guten werden behalten. Das Ziel ist ja nicht alles wegzuschmeißen, sondern die guten zu behalten.

Nur dann verhindere ich, dass alle Tomaten verfaulen, wenn ich die schon faulen herausnehme. Das Gute zu behalten bedeutet, das zu finden, was dem Zusammenleben in

Bild von der Brille



P. Reinhard Keding
Text verkürzt: E-G Brunke

CRAVEN, Margaret: I heard the owl call my name. Toronto, 1967.

A young vicar, Mark Brian, newly ordained, is posted to a remote corner of British Columbia. His bishop knows that Mark has an incurable disease and only has about 2 years left to live. He does not tell Mark this. The bishop says to him: "Don't be sorry for yourself because you are going to so remote a parish. Be sorry for the Indians (Red Indians). You know nothing and they must teach you." During the few months left to him a rewarding relationship develops, and in exchange for his warmth and support, Mark learns enough of life to be ready when the owl calls his name...

This story has also been made into a movie of the same name as the book.

CHILDREN'S letters to God ; compiled by Stuart Hample + Eric Marshall. London, 1992.

- In Sunday School, they told us what you do. Who does it when you are on holiday? (Jane)

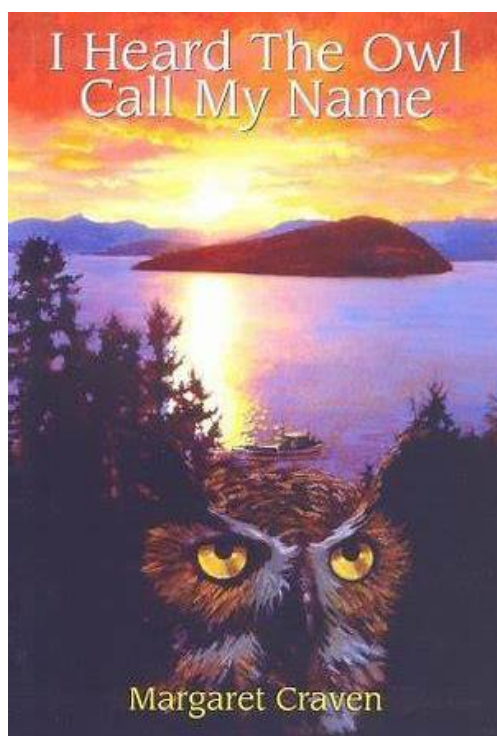
- Dear God, did you mean for giraffe to look like that or was it an accident. (Norma)

- Dear God, Do animals use you or is there somebody else for them? (Nancy)

- Dear God, I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is *that ok?* (Neil)

- *Dear God, is reverend Coe a friend of yours, or do you just know him through business?* (Donny)

Dear God, Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother. (Larry).



Ingrid Brunke

Joint service with Kraaifontein



This year's joint Advent service of the two Lutheran churches - Kreuzkirche and Saint Phillips - took place on Sunday the 8th of December at Kraaifontein. We had the privilege of having had the Moravian brass band playing during the service as well as a choir performance. About 16 congregants from Kreuzkirche attended. After the service there was ample time for socializing. We were also treated to a finger lunch including Dieter Geiger presenting us with freshly grilled Bratwurst. All-in-all it was a wonderful experience again - connecting the two congregations.

Reflecting on a blessed Advent season as a guide to how I want to engage 2025.

At the end of last year for the Advent season, there were many events that celebrated something special about the Christmas story. With each of these, I found I could take a message away about how important it is to celebrate Christ.

The first event was already held on the 6th of December with the end-of-year function at the St. Johannisheim. The hall was beautifully decorated, and we sang Christmas carols and songs together. There were sweet decorations on the tables and lovely food to share. At my table, I sat with the German and Swiss consulates, which made for interesting conversation and reminded me of how the Christmas celebration brings together people from different countries and backgrounds. The theme for the day was “Home is where the heart is,” and I shared about how important it is to see those around us—living in our Heim, complex, or street—as part of a broader family. For many people living in the St. Johannisheim, the absence of close family can make this time of year lonely. But just as the early church brought together people from different backgrounds to form a family, we, too, can be family to one another through the bond of Christ.

The second event was held on Sunday the 22nd of December, where we had our carol-singing service. In this service, we sang hymns and carols in English, German, and Afrikaans, read Bible texts that foretell the story of Jesus, and shared in fellowship afterward with coffee, tea, and cake. It was wonderful to hear how the congregation sang these beautiful carols together, voices united in worship. Afterward, I played a short extract from a podcast about the 1914 Christmas in the war-torn area of France. It brought to life the miraculous power of singing together. In the podcast, an English soldier recounts how, in 1914, the German army and their opponents sang Christmas carols together, and for a holy moment, made peace, shared fellowship, and even exchanged gifts. This moment was a powerful reminder of how Christmas can transcend conflict and division, bringing the light of Christ into the darkest places.

The third event was the Christmas Eve service, wherein we heard the story before the story. The characters of Zechariah, Mary, and Elizabeth were brought to life by congregants playing their roles in a play. Through their stories and interactions, we learned of how doubt can turn to praise for Zechariah, how important it is to share the joy of the Christmas miracle like Elizabeth did, and

how fitting it is to answer God's call with awe and a willingness to listen as Mary did. These stories remind us that our own lives are part of God's larger story, and we are called to live in readiness, preparing for the ultimate story of Christ's return.

The final event was the Christmas Day service, where we explored the profound mystery of the Word becoming flesh through John 1. This text, rich with meaning, invites us to see the gospel as God's ultimate gift - a promise that spans creation, witness, response and grace. Like a thoughtfully chosen present, its true value unfolds over time as we come to understand and experience its transformative power.

A gift is more than just an object; it is a promise made by someone who knows you, who has thought about your needs and desires, and chosen something specifically for you. In the same way, God's gift to us in Christ is deeply personal. Through the Word, God declares, "I know you; I made you; this is for you." The light that entered the world in Jesus is a promise that, no matter how great the darkness, it can never overcome the light. This gift of grace through Christ is not just for one season but for all of life. It continually renews us, reminding us of God's eternal love and the hope we have in Him. It is a gift that invites us to share its joy, to live in its light, and to carry its promise into the world. Truly, this is the gift that keeps on giving - grace upon grace, for all who receive it.





Socializing in the small hall around coffee and something sweet.

As I reflect on these four events from the Advent season, I am reminded of the many ways Christ's light shines in our lives and how it calls us to respond. From embracing the broader family around us, even in the absence of biological ties, to the unifying power of shared worship and song that transcends division, I see the importance of building connections and celebrating Christ together. The stories of Zechariah, Mary, and Elizabeth inspire me to live with faith, readiness, and joy, while the mystery of the Word becoming flesh reminds me of the gift of grace that continually transforms and sustains us. As I step into 2025, I want to live intentionally—seeing those around me as family, sharing the joy of Christ's love, preparing my heart for His call, and carrying the light of His promise into the world. May we all embrace the opportunities to be a blessing to one another, guided by the hope and grace that Advent revealed to us.

P. Schalk Treurnicht

Birthdays

February

03 February	Megan Schirmacher
05 February	Benjamin Davidyan
06 February	Daniela Davidyan
13 February	Carla Buhr
17 February	Maureen van Eck
19 February	James Andrag
23 February	Bianca Buhr
	Gitte Buhr
26 February	Martina Popkiss
28 February	Karin Fröhlich
	Heinrich Preusker
	Hildegard Vogel

Birthdays

March

02 March	Gabriele Coode Rudi Engelke
03 March	Jeanette Prüter
08 March	Ulf Demasius Wendy Haller Marianne Majewski
12 March	Liana von Aulock
13 March	Christiane Duwe
18 March	Heidi Erasmus
20 March	Kyra Solomon
21 March	Shermon Collins
23 March	Arno Müller Gerhard Schlenther
31 March	Helga Venter

A Special Birthday Wish to our Elderly

Shermon Collins - Celebrating his 70th
Wendy Haller—Celebrating her 80th
Gerhard Schlenther - Celebrating his 85th

Birthdays

April

02 April	Michael Haller
04 April	Barbara Kober
07 April	Marie-Louise Hellström
08 April	Barend Erasmus
09 April	Thaniel Frans
14 April	Christl Böhringer Sharon Collins
26 April	Michaela Ross
29 April	Hans-Jürgen Gerhardt

A Special Birthday
Wish to our Elderly

Barbara Kober - Celebrating her 75th

Weekly Activities

Current Weekday Activities	Contact Persons
<u>MONDAY</u>	
No office hours. Contact Pastor in case of emergency.	Pastor Schalk Treurnicht (083 297 0526)
<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>Pastor@kreuzkirche.co.za</u>
General enquiries - Church office: secretary / pastor available: 09:00 till 12:00	Secretary Christiane Duwe (021 948 5928)
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>info@kreuzkirche.co.za</u>
Home Office for pastor and secretary – please call to make appointments. Devotion (Andacht) at the Heim @ 15:00 1 st Wednesday of month: German 3 rd Wednesday of month: English	Web Pages: https://kreuzkirche.co.za/ https://www.lutherancape.org.za/ https://www.lutherancape.org.za/gracevine-newsletters/ Contact person: Annegret Büttner (071 032 2889)
<u>THURSDAY</u>	
At the church centre: 09:00 Prayer meeting (Gebetskreis) 09:30 Bible study (Bibelstunde) General enquiries - Church office: secretary / pastor available: 09:00 till 12:00	Gebetskreis: Ingrid Brunke (021 913 1614) Bibelstunde: S. Treurnicht; E-G. Brunke Secretary Christiane Duwe (021 948 5928)
<u>FRIDAY</u>	
Home Office for pastor and secretary – please call to make appointments.	P. Schalk Treurnicht (083 297 0526)
<u>GENERAL</u>	
Church services/Gottesdienste Children's church/Kindergottesdienst Newsletter/Gemeindebrief	Ps Treurnicht; E-G. Brunke (072 559 7684) Ingrid Brunke (021 913 1614) Editorial committee: E-G. Brunke; S. Treurnicht; H. Sachse, A. Büttner, I. Brunke.

Kreuzkirche Parsonage: History and Future

For centuries the parsonage has been an integral part of the church complex, normally located next to, or at least close to the church building, serving as the pastor's residence and in addition, as administrative office of the local parish, often including additional buildings to accommodate schooling and care for children and other congregants.

In Cape town, in use as a parsonage until 1891, the Martin Melck House, designed as an architectural entity to meet the needs of the Lutheran Church, has survived and is of historic interest symbolising the long drawn-out struggle of the Lutherans for the right to practise their religion.

A parsonage is typically owned and maintained by the church, as a benefit to its pastor. Cape Church policy stipulates that each congregation provides accommodation to its pastor, preferably in close vicinity of the church.

As we uphold the practice to transfer clergy from one congregation to another at relatively frequent intervals, it implies that the parsonage must have flexible infrastructure to meet the needs of different individuals and their families. As for any other building, maintenance also requires constant attention and can from time to time be very costly.

Our parsonage history displays a diverse scenario, since the 1960's, at different stages, Kreuzkirche owned three different parsonage properties.

The first one was in **Middel Street, Bellville** opposite the church, at the time when our current church complex was established. For about 30 years it provided residence to various pastors, many from Germany doing duty in South Africa. This house was eventually sold in the 1990s to make place for a more modern house, which was located 2 km away in Boston, (**corner Bloem and Boston Streets, Bellville**).

In the 2000's the situation arose where a pastor required a larger house. To meet the changing needs and avoid great maintenance expenditures, the house in Boston Street was sold. The money was invested to earn interest and a property in 6 Van Nierop Street, Panorama, 7 km away from the church, was rented by the church to serve as parsonage.

A subsequent Kreuzkirche pastor stayed at Devonvale (18 km away) and the church paid a subsidy to cover his rental expenditure.

Since Kreuzkirche had now been without a parsonage property for several years, the congregation then decided to again acquire a parsonage. In 2018 a house was bought at **12 Angelier Street, Brackenfell** (7.4 km away from Kreuzkirche).

Also, to complement the Kindergarten (KiGa) on the church premises, the adjacent property (27 Middel Street, Bellville) was initially acquired expand

the premises of the KiGa, but later rented out.

When the pastor occupying 12 Angelier Street, Brackenfell left prematurely, the parsonage was rented out during the vacancy period, so as not to lose any income. Unfortunately, the tenants stopped paying their rent and greatly neglected the property. It took more than a year and legal assistance to finally evict them from the property. The financial loss incurred to the church (rental loss and renovating the property) came to about R300 000.

Our current pastor is renting a suitable property about 5 km away from the church. The rental income from both 12 Angelier Street, Brackenfell and 27 Middel Street, Bellville provides a sufficient income from which the church can subsidise the rental expenditure. The current 12 Angelier Street, Brackenfell, tenants are reliable and complying with their rental payments and other obligations. The families occupying 27 Middel Street pay regularly, but the property urgently needs maintenance and renovation.

To properly manage and fulfil our parsonage obligations, Kreuzkirche Church Committee has recently created a **Parsonage Fund** and kindly appeals to congregants to support this project (Bellville Church of the Cross FNB Account 6276 8932 644; Willow bridge branch; Code 210655).

With the DSK Kindergarten having vacated our premises (they relocated to their Parow premises), we now have many challenging options pertaining to our property portfolio. We need to consider diverse investments, renting and even selling some of our properties and facilities to ensure that we can continue optimal fulfilment of our parsonage obligations.

The congregation is encouraged to give this topic some thought and come forward with proposals in this regard.

Your Church
Comittee.

12 Angelier Street;
Brackenfell



Lord God, creator of Heaven and Earth, Holy Spirit sustainer of all life, by your power and by your holy angels, bring lasting peace to Gaza, Israel and the neighbouring countries. By your very same power bring peace to Ukraine as well as to countries in Africa, notably the DRC, the Sudan and Mozambique. Let all the warring parties meet around a table and secure a lasting and stable peace.

Stop and oppose those who are war mongers and who want to continue fighting for their own power and profits only.

Protect especially the women and children, the frail and elderly in those war zones. Protect your Christians where they are being killed and prosecuted as we speak, protect all who are prosecuted for their faith.

We ask that you would create peace in our hearts also, where we are hurt and feel alienated from ourselves and where our intent is to harm ourselves and sometimes others. Soothe our hearts with your love and grant that we may love ourselves also, so that peace may reign in our lives also and in our families, that peace may reign between men and women.

Lord, let us forgive where others have wronged us. Let us pray fervently: 'Lord, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.'

Grant that our government upholds law and order to serve all. Grant justice through our courts and give our police force the will and energy to keep order and to uphold the law.

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

Where there is apathy, let me provoke;

Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning;

Where there is silence, may I be a voice.

Where there is too much comfort and too little action, grant disruption;

Where there are doors closed and hearts locked,

Grant the willingness to listen.

When laws dictate and pain is overlooked...

When tradition speaks louder than need...

Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it;

Disturb us, O Lord.

To be with, as well as for, the alienated;

To love the unlovable as well as the lovely;

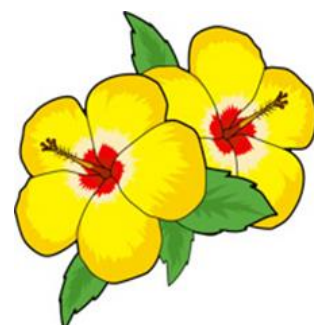
Lord, make me a channel of disturbance. Amen.



COFFEE AND FLOWER DUTY PLAN

February 2025 to May 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Coffee Duty</u>	<u>Flower Duty</u>
02 February	Ingrid Ahlert	Christiane Duwe
09 February	Renate Langenhoven	Gisela Prüter
16 February	Hannelore Sachse	Annegret Büttner
23 February	Liezel Engelke	Liezel Engelke
02 March	Kirchen Tag	No Flowers
09 March	Yngvild Steytler	Carla Buhr
16 March	Hildegard Vogel	Anel Beneke
23 March	Beatice Treurnicht	Beatice Treurnicht
30 March	Sharon Collins	Mikayla Nathoo
06 April	Annegret Büttner	Hildegard Vogel
13 April	Anel Beneke	Ingrid Ahlert (PALM SUNDAY)
20 April	Easter Breakfast	Christiane Duwe
27 April	Hannelore Sachse	Fam. Schröder
04 May	Sharon Collins	Mikayla Nathoo
11 May	Beatrice Treurnicht	Beatrice Treurnicht
18 May	Inge Demasius	Anel Beneke
25 May	Gisela Prüter	Renate Langenhoven



Contact Details

<p>Office of the Church Büro der Gemeinde</p> <p>Secretary/Sekretärin Christiane Duwe</p>	<p>33 Middel Street Bellville 7530</p> <p>Office Hours (pastor & secretary): Tuesdays and Thursdays @ church: 09:00 -12:00</p> <p><u>Home Office:</u> Wednesday and Fridays. Secretary can be reached via cell phone or Email.</p> <p><u>Banking Details:</u> Church of the Cross Bellville; FNB Cheque Acc. Nr. 62761993776 Branch Code 210655</p>	<p>Tel: 021 948 5928</p> <p>Cell: 078 955 9329</p> <p>E-mail: info@kreuzkirche.co.za</p>
<p>Bishop of the ELCSA Cape Church Gilbert Filter</p>	<p>ELCSA Cape Church 240 Long Street, Cape Town</p>	<p>P.O. 15528, Vlaeberg 8018 Tel: 021 422 0592 Email: bishop@elcsacape.co.za</p>
<p>Vorsitzender des Kirchenvorstandes Chairperson of the congregational committee Mr Dieter Geiger</p>		<p>Tel: 082 729 7212</p>
<p>Schalk Treurnicht Pastor</p>	<p>Office Hours: Thursday @ church: 09:00 -12:00 <u>Home Office:</u> Tuesday - Wednesday. Pastor can be reached via cell phone or Email.</p>	<p>Tel: 021 948 5928 Cell: 083 297 0526 Email: pastor@kreuzkirche.co.za</p>
<p>Kindergarten</p>	<p>Umgezogen nach De Grendel Road, Parow North, 7500</p>	<p>Nadine Krusekopf Email: principal@deutscher-kindergarten.co.za</p>



EASTER MARKET / OSTERVERKAUF / PAASMARK 2025

05/04/2025 – 09h00 to 12h00

**Kreuzkirche Bellville
33 Middle Street**

The following will be on offer:

- Hand-crafted Easter Eggs
- Easter Decorations
- Biscuits
- Cake slices
- 2nd hand books
- Crafts
- Rolls with cold meats or cheese
- Waffles with Syrup & Cream or Ice Cream
- Bratwurst
- Coffee/Tea and Cakes

**Various cold meats and sausages from Raith – price list to follow
(078 955 9329 via SMS or WhatsApp)**

(Pre-order to avoid disappointment)
(078 955 9329 via SMS or WhatsApp)

