

# NEWSLETTER

December 2015

January 2016



St Andrews East London

St John's Dawn

Luther Brakfontein

St Peter's Komga

## Advent: A season of Hope and joy.

Dear fellow believers in Christ, it is hard to believe that Christmas is less than a month away. We find ourselves in the beginning of the new church year – Advent. Advent means arrival. The arrival of our Lord is imminent – The Lord of Lords who was born on a chaotic night in the little town of Bethlehem in a little animal shelter. The Advent season is a time of waiting; a time of listening and a time of preparation for the coming of our Lord.

Waiting is not always easy. Imagine waiting for 400 year. 400 years spans the gap between the prophet Malachi who promised that God will send the Messiah and the arrival of the Son of God. 400 years of waiting and silence from God. We too often wonder why God seems to be silent in our own messy lives. We try and make sense of suffering, heartache and the brokenness of life and we perceive God to be absent.

Then on a starry night when the time was right and God's Son Jesus was born into this chaotic broken world. The Son of God becomes the Son of Man and consequently God becomes a God who is with us – Emmanuel. God is with us in all our happiness but also in our brokenness, heartache and suffering. The Advent season is a season of waiting and hoping IN GOD. Let us then in this advent not be caught in the mad rush of consumerism which stresses us out and cause anxiety. But rather let us wait in hope and prepare in peace, reflecting on this amazing gift from God which we receive anew this Christmas again. We can wait because when we look towards Christmas we are reminded that God keeps his promises to us: that He is God with us! For this reason we to can join in with our watchword for December and also so shout:

“Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains!  
For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones”  
Isaiah 49:13

May each one of you experience Christ peace in your hearts and homes this Christmas! May you experience God's blessing in the New Year and remember his promise to us whatever may come: GOD WITH US!

Your brother in Christ Pastor Hans-Peter von Fintel.

## „Kehrt um! Denn das Himmelreich ist nahe“ Matthäus 3:2

Lieber Leser, liebe Leserinnen!

Unglaublich der letzte Monat vom Jahr, Dezember ist hier. Ein Jahr ist wieder um. Die Advents- und Weihnachtszeit liegt vor uns. Dies ist die Zeit von Jahr wo wir auch so beschäftigt sind: Geschenke müssen eingekauft werden, und wir haben schon lange geplant wer wo Weihnachten feiert. Da ist schon großer Aufregung im Haus, die Kinder zählen die Zeit bis Weihnachten ab.

Wir beschäftigen uns so mit die Weihnachtszeit, das wir den Sinn der Adventszeit verpassen. Johannes der Täufer erinnert uns daran mit die folgende Worte: *„Kehrt um! Denn das Himmelreich ist nahe“*. Er kündigt den Retter, Jesus Christus an. Gott kommt zum Menschen, wie ein Mensch. Die Adventszeit kündigt auch dass Christustag an. Die Adventszeit ruft uns auch zur Umkehr. Wir sollen nach uns selber schauen und uns selber fragen, gebe ich Gott Raum in meinem Leben, in meinem Herz zu abreiten oder ist der eigene „ich“ in Kontrolle von meinem Leben. In die Adventszeit werden wir immer wieder daran erinnert das Jesus Christus auf uns zukommt, sich immer wieder neu zuwendet und uns immer wieder neu einlädt zur Buße und Umkehr. Unser Herr will haben dass wir ihn mit alles was wir haben gehören weil er uns liebt. Mein Wunsch ist das wir in unsern Herzen, Gottes Kind einen Raum geben, so wie Martin Luther sagte:

*„Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein, mach dir ein rein sanft Bettelein zu ruhen in meines Herzens Schrein, dass ich nimmer vergesse dein.“*

Ich wünsche auch eine gesegnete Weihnachtszeit.

*Hans-Peter von Fintel*

## News from the Bishop's desk

### Food for Thought

*"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."* Hebrews 13:2 This scripture was a guiding verse for our Joint Reformation Day service in Athlone. We often have visitors in our congregations, homes and in many daily encounters. But how can we see the opportunities given in meeting strangers? I would like to suggest 3 R's:

1. **Return visits** – invite the strangers in such a way that they want to be back and be part of the body of Christ.
2. **Relationships** – built meaningful relationships. It is not always easy but that is what we are about. God has created us as relational beings.
3. **Responsibility** – help them to find their gifting and ministry so that they serve in, with and for the body of Christ that lives to His glory, instead of just being there as a new member.

## News from the Circuit Conferences and Congregations

### Circuit Conference East

- a. Coastal Parish. Pastor HP von Fintel has started his ministry in the parish on 1 October. He will be inducted as pastor of the parish on 29 November at St. Andrew's in East London. We wish him and the congregation God's richest blessing for the journey together
- b. Friedenskirche in Port Elizabeth. Pastor Anja Spiske has start with her ministry on 1 November. She will be inducted as pastor of the congregation on 13 December 2015. We wish her and the congregation God's richest blessing for the journey together.
- c. The Inland Parish congregations are still vacant The Regional Church in Hannover has agreed to advertise this post in December, which will hopefully result in pastors from that region to showing their interest so that we will be able to fill the post by September 2016. Let us carry these congregations in our prayers.  
Pastor em. Arthur Becker has agreed to assist during the vacancy as from February 2016.
- d. The Dawn congregation has taken a decision to close the congregation, starting with the process of selling the property. We wish

the Congregational Council and all members God's guidance in this process and trust that they will soon find a spiritual home in one of the neighbouring congregations.

### Circuit Conference West

a. The St Martini congregation has elected Pastor Dr. Claudia Nolte-Schamm as their pastor. They are currently engaging with her when she will start her ministry.

Pastor Siegfried Hambrock will retire at the end of June 2016.

We wish all involved wisdom, peace and guidance in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

b. Pastor Jens Warnke was after a long process unsuccessful to obtain a visa to serve for an extended period of three year. This means that the Southern Cape Congregation is vacant. We thank him and his family for their dedicated service and wish them God's blessing for the ministry in Germany.

### ELCSA(NT) Synod

The Synod of the ELCSA(N-) has adopted a motion to continue to prepare a possible merger following the same time frame as adopted by our Synod in King Williams Town. The congregations will be kept informed as we prepare for the synods in 2017.

# FAMILY PAGE

## Baptism

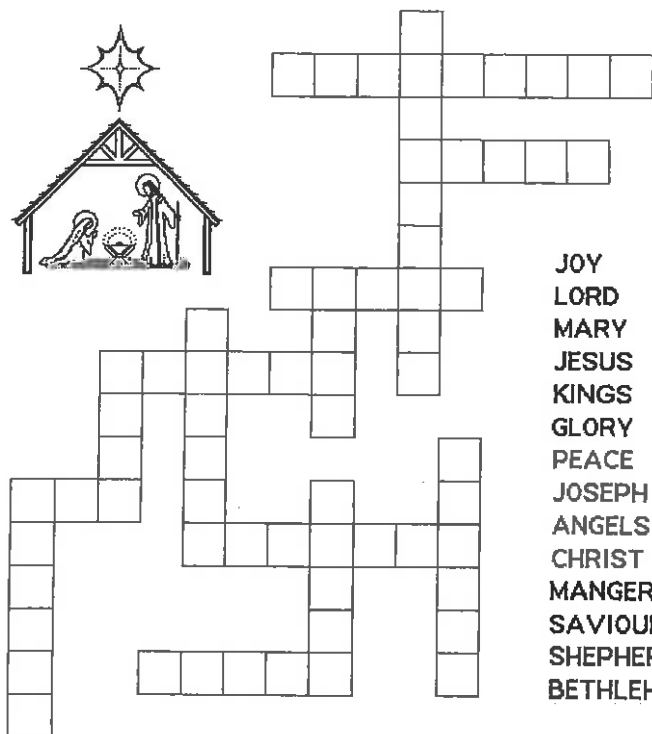
Ethan Sholto Douglas – baptised on the 22 November 2015 at St Andrews.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. - James 1: 17

## Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.

Each word is only used once.



JOY  
LORD  
MARY  
JESUS  
KINGS  
GLORY  
PEACE  
JOSEPH  
ANGELS  
CHRIST  
MANGER  
SAVIOUR  
SHEPHERDS  
BETHLEHEM

DECEMBER

JANUARY

- 2 Monica Hawkes St John's Dawn
- 4 Jack Ries St Andrews
- 10 Chandre Pitcher St Andrews
- 12 Nick Klopper St Andrews
- 13 Bradley Goodard St John's Dawn
- 15 Cathrine Collocott St Andrews
- 18 Ithabiseng Mbedzi St Andrews
- 16 Chantel Jarvis St Andrews
- 16 Haigen Sykes St Andrews
- 17 Pearl Coetzer St Andrews
- 17 Renell Weyer St John's Dawn
- 19 Martha Schwarz Luther Brakfontein
- 21 Sharlene Ehlert Luther Brakfontein
- 23 Roslyn Boucher St Peter's Komga
- 23 Gamet Kretxmann St John's Dawn
- 25 Geoff Sykes St Andrews
- 25 Linda Bottcher St John's Dawn
- 25 Vernon Schultz Luther Brakfontein
- 26 Hiltruf Cloete St Andrews
- 26 Jake Jones Luther Brakfontein
- 28 Michelle Louw St Andrews
- 28 Jason Klopper St Andrews
- 28 Melanie Pitcher St Andrews
- 9 Brandon Korte St John's Dawn
- 9 Eunice Hein Luther Brakfontein
- 0 Gareth Krause St Andrews
- 1 Tarryn Lentz St John's Dawn

- 2 Estelle Kretzmann St John's Dawn
- 3 Markus Schlüter St Andrews
- 3 Elaine Gravett Luther Brakfontein
- 6 Heather Schoof St John's Dawn
- 7 Timothy Hayter St Andrews
- 7 Raymond Korte St John's Dawn
- 8 Michael Skriver St Andrews
- 9 Gary Neil St John's Dawn
- 10 Bettina du Buson St Andrews
- 11 Celeste Vosloo St Andrews
- 11 Johann Vosloo St Andrews
- 16 Gavin Sporke St Andrews
- 16 Colleen Jordaan St Peter's Komga
- 17 Denzil Kretzmann St John's Dawn
- 18 Melanie Hayter St Andrews
- 19 Chantel Piater St Andrews
- 19 Uli Hein Luther Brakfontein
- 19 Inez Korte St John's Dawn
- 19 Iris Burger St Peter's Komga
- 21 Ginny Schultz Luther Brakfontein
- 23 Chloe Römer St Andrews
- 24 Adrian Pitcher St Andrews
- 27 Esme Kieck St Andrews
- 29 Stanley Klug St John's Dawn



<p align="center"><b>4 December 2015</b> <b>2. Sunday in Advent</b></p> <p>When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. <i>Luke 21,28</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: Violet</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: James 5,7-8 Old Testament: Isaiah 63,15-19 &amp; 64,1-3 Gospel: Luke 21:25-33</p>
<p align="center"><b>13 December 2015</b> <b>3. Sunday in Advent</b></p> <p>Prepare the way for the LORD; See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power. <i>Isaiah 40,3.</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: Violet</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: 1. Corinthians 4,1-5 Old Testament: Isaiah 40,1-11 Gospel: Matthew 11,2- 10</p>
<p align="center"><b>20 December 2015</b> <b>4. Sunday in Advent</b></p> <p>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! The Lord is near. <i>Philippians 4,4-5b</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: Violet</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: Philippians 4,4-7 Old Testament: Isaiah 52,7-10 Gospel: Luke 1,46-56</p>
<p align="center"><b>24 December 2015</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory. <i>John 1,14a</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: Violet</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: Romans 1: 1-7 Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-14 Gospel: Matthew:18-21</p>
<p align="center"><b>25 December 2015</b> <b>Christmas Day</b></p> <p>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory. <i>John 1,14a</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: White</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: Titus. 3,4-7 Old Testament: Micah. 5,1-4 Gospel Luke 2,15-20</p>
<p align="center"><b>27 December 2015</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas</b></p> <p>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory. <i>John 1,14a</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: White</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: 1 John 1:1-4 Old Testament: Isaiah 49:13-16 Gospel Luke 2:25-39</p>
<p align="center"><b>3 January 2016</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas</b></p> <p>We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. <i>John 1:14b</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: White</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: 1 John 5:11-13 Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-11 Gospel Luke 2,41-52</p>
<p align="center"><b>10 January 2016</b> <b>1. Sunday after Epiphany</b></p> <p>Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <i>Romans 8,14</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: Green</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: Romans 12,1-8 Old Testament: Isaiah 42,1-9 Gospel: Matthew 3,13-17</p>
<p align="center"><b>17 January 2016</b> <b>Last Sunday after Epiphany</b></p> <p>The LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <i>Isaiah 60,2</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: White</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: 2. Corinthians 4,6-10 Old Testament: Exodus 3,1-10 Gospel Matthew 17,1-9</p>
<p align="center"><b>24 January 2016</b> <b>Septuagesima</b></p> <p>We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. <i>Daniel 9,18</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: Green</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: 1. Corinthians 9,24-27 Old Testament: Jeremiah 9,22-23 Gospel Matthew 20,1-16</p>
<p align="center"><b>31 January 2016</b> <b>Sexagesimae</b></p> <p>Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. <i>Hebrews 3,15</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Liturgical Colour: Green</i></p> <p>Sermon Text: Hebrews 4,12-13 Old Testament: Isaiah 55,6-12 New Testament: Luke. 8,4-15</p>



**Sunday 6 December : No Morning Tea**

**Tuesday 8 December at 12h00:**

As usual, we will be having our Christmas Function which will be a Bring and Share Lunch.

Please remember to bring a small gift to exchange.

**Sunday 13 December : Carol Service**

After Carol Service, Tea and Christmas eats in the Hall.



**JANUARY 2016:**

**Sunday 3 January : Combined Divine Service for all congregations**

at St Andrews. Please assist with eats for morning Tea.

**Sunday 17 January : Tea and Biscuits in the Hall after service.**

**FEBRUARY 2016:**

**Sunday 7 February 2016**

Phyllis Botha; Annette Fortmann; Ulrike Köpke; Bettina Du Buson;  
Friederike Kieck

The next meeting of the Frauenverein will be on:

**Tuesday 9 February 2016**

**Tea Duty:** Erleen Paschke; Adelle Dörksen; Pearl Coetzer

Please remember to bring milk for all functions.



**FLOWER DUTY: DECEMBER / JANUARY / FEBRUARY**

Sunday	Dec	6 <sup>th</sup>	Lucille Römer
		13 <sup>th</sup>	Vera Johl : Carols by Candlelight
		20 <sup>th</sup>	Renee Johl
		24&25 <sup>th</sup>	Bettina Du Buson
		27 <sup>th</sup>	Service at St Crucis
Jan		3 <sup>rd</sup>	Phyllis Botha
		10 <sup>th</sup>	Bettina Du Buson
		17 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Klopper
		24 <sup>th</sup>	Sheila Liss
Feb		31 <sup>st</sup>	Pearl Coetzer
		7 <sup>th</sup>	Erleen Paschke

**The ladies of the Frauenverein wish all members of the  
Congregation a Blessed Christmas and Peace and  
Goodwill in the New Year 2016**

# St Andrews Lutheran Church 50 Park Ave, East London

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043 - 7437444 (Kitchen)

## Pastor H-P von Fintel

084 064 6228

46 Sherwood Ave, Beacon Bay 5241

## Church Committee

Mrs. Bettina du Buson, Altar Care, Treasurer, Preacher	0832950506
Dr. Christian Johl, Chairperson, Preacher	043 7481500 / 0834077937
Mrs Catherine Collocott, Buildings	043-7481523
Mrs Vera Johl, Minute Keeper, Convenor of Fundraising	043-7261181
Mr Nicholas Klopper, Convenor of Maintenance	0748007917
Mr Leslie Klug, House Visiting	043-7411371
Mr Martin Köpke, Maintenance	0722257048
Mr Gavin Römer, Maintenance	0834535323
Mr Hans Richard Schlüter, Vice Chair, Maintenance	043-7484671
Mr Therrol Schwartz, Maintenance, Fundraising	043-7412645
Mr Keith Sporke	0835266894
Mr Tyrone Sporke, Electronics	0844606830
Caretaker: Mrs Sandra Klopper	0847653960
Choir: Mrs Helene Meister	043-7401355
Youth Service & Youth: Mrs Annemarie Schlüter	043-7484671
Organists: Mrs Valerie Engelbrecht	0606200427
Mrs Enid Tessendorf	043-8311156
Mrs Elaine Johl	0832369221
Frauenverein: Pearl Coetzer, Sheila Liss	043-7267794/043-7481886
St Stephen's: Pearl Coetzer, Adele Dörksen, Bettina du Buson & Dawn Krause	
Prayer Chain: Magriet Klug	0824646271
Preacher: Mr Bruno Johl	043-7261181
Lifts: Mr Therrol Schwartz	043-7412645
Vice Treasurer: Mrs Donne Sporke	0835266894

**Cheque Account: St Andrews Lutheran Church**

**Nedbank Vincent Park, Acc Number 1206039922**

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**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Komga**

**P.O. Box 92, Komga, 4950**

**Church Committee**

Mr Gavin Tessendorf, Chairperson 043 - 8311017

Mr Coert Jordaen 043 - 8311202

Mr Rudolph Tessendorf 043 - 8311156

**Standard Bank : Br Code 050421 Acc Number 280736606**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Dawn**

**Church Committee**

Mr Merwin Weyer ( Chairperson) 043 - 7820910 / 0833610750

Mr Adrian Hawker (V-chair/ Secretary) 043 - 7210957 / 0833233274

Mr Calvin Korte ( Treasurer) 043 - 7412210 / 0839513260

Mr Stanley Klug 043 - 7265147 / 0822532397

Mrs Wendy Fiebiger 043 - 7402510

**First National Bank : Br Code 210221 Acc Number 52126180274**

**Luther Brakfontein**

**Church Committee**

Alan Heger (Chairperson/ Treasurer) 043 - 7374001 / 0826524250

Micheal Hormann 043 - 7374448 / 0825751767

Hazel Luck 043 - 7370326 / 0824825322

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Ginny Schultz (Organist) 0784713835