



GEMEINDEBRIEF - NEWSLETTER

Evangelical-Lutheran Congregation
Stellenbosch & Somerset West

MAY & JUNE 2026



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H E B R E W S 13 , 3

CONTENTS

DEVOTION	3-5
CHURCH SERVICES	6-7
FROM OUR CONGREGATION AND EVENTS	8-9
CHURCH COMMITTEE	10
CHURCH COMMITTEE NEW MEMBERS	11
WINTERFEST	12-13
BREAKFAST MEETING	14
CHURCH IN MOTION DAY	15
CONGREGATIONAL WEEKEND	16
EASTER JOY WITH THE CRAYON COLLEGE	17
CAFÉ	18
WINFRIED LÜDEMANN	19-22
WE INTRODUCE OURSELVES	23
EASTER BREAKFAST	24
FIRST FEMALE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY	25-26
QUIZ	27
BIRTHDAYS	28
CONTRIBUTIONS	29
QUIZ ANSWERS	29
CONTACTS & BANK DETAILS	30



SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION: 25 JUNE 2026

DEVOTION

WATCHWORD MAY 2026

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.

Hebrews 6,19

ANCHORED IN HOPE



There are some truly fascinating jobs in the world. There are jobs so unique that many of us hardly ever think about them. From people who taste-test ice cream for a living, to those who design roller coasters, to professional storm chasers who track extreme weather to help scientists better understand it. The variety of human work is remarkable.

I was recently reminded of one of these unusual professions while watching a film called *The Final Breath*. The movie follows a team of deep-sea divers tasked with repairing pipelines far below the ocean's surface. Based on a true story, it's a gripping account of courage, teamwork, and survival under extreme conditions.

What struck me most was not only the bravery of the divers, but the incredible technology of the ship supporting them. The vessel is equipped with powerful positioning systems and propellers that keep it completely stable, even in stormy seas, so that the divers below can safely carry out their work. Without that stability, the mission would be impossible.

DEVOTION

This image immediately came to mind when reflecting on our watchword for the month: *“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure”* (Hebrews 6:19).

As believers, we have received a hope through Jesus Christ that holds us steady in every season of life. Just like that ship remains fixed in place despite the turbulence around it, so our lives can remain grounded through the hope we have in Him.

And yet, we often forget that we have this anchor. Sometimes we become overwhelmed by the stormy seas of life. Challenges, fears, and uncertainties threaten to carry us away. At other times, it’s not the storms but the calm. The beauty of life, the distractions, and the comforts cause us to slowly drift off course. It is not that we lack an anchor; rather, we forget to use it.

This is what makes this verse so powerful. It reminds us not only that we have hope, but that this hope has a purpose. It is not merely something that warms our hearts or lifts our spirits. It is something that holds us firm and secure, anchoring us to Christ in every circumstance.

As we move through this month, whether the seas of our lives feel calm or stormy, my prayer is that we would hold fast to this hope. That we would consciously make use of the anchor God has given us. And that, in doing so, we would remain steady, grounded, and secure in Him. *Pastor Ingrid van Sittert*

WATCHWORD JUNE 2026

**Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them,
those who are being tortured,
as though you yourselves were being tortured.
Hebrews 13,3**

REMEMBER IS MORE THAN THINKING

The central message of Hebrews is that **Jesus Christ is greater**—greater than angels, Moses, the priesthood, and the entire sacrificial system. He is the perfect high priest who offers a once-for-all sacrifice and opens the way to God, calling believers to hold fast, persevere, and not fall away.

Chapter 13 functions as the practical conclusion of the entire book. After all the deep theological teaching, the author turns to a series of rapid, concrete exhortations about everyday Christian living. It’s as if they were saying:

DEVOTION

“Because all of this is true about Christ, this is how your life should look.” So when we come to our watchword for this month, it is not just random advice, but the ethical outworking of everything the letter has been building toward.

Our watchword begins with by using the word “remember”. In biblical language, *remembering* is active. It implies solidarity and action, not just awareness. The readers are being called to care, support, and identify with those who are suffering.

Who are the people in our lives and communities who are suffering?

“Brotherly love” is not just kindness in comfortable settings (like hospitality in v.2), but **costly love**. It means standing with people who are suffering, even when it’s risky or inconvenient.

Do we allow the suffering of others to interrupt our lives?

We cannot deny that our eyes so easily catch glimpses of pain around us. It’s not only in far-off places or dramatic situations that we notice suffering. It is in the ordinary moments of our daily routines. It’s the person at the traffic light. It’s a colleague. It’s a neighbour. It’s the cashier at the shop. It’s the waiter at a restaurant. It’s the security guard at the gate. It’s the cleaner at work. It’s someone sitting alone on a bench. It’s the person in a hospital waiting room. It’s someone standing in a queue at the clinic. It’s a friend. It’s a family member.

And yet, how often do we fight the urge to move on, to dismiss what we have seen, to tell ourselves that someone else will step in?

Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering - Hebrews 13:3.



This month’s watchword calls us to something different. Not to ignore, but to engage. Not to withdraw, but to draw near. May we choose to remember in the way Scripture calls us to—through action, through presence, and through love that costs something.

Pastor Ingrid van Sittert

CHURCH SERVICES

COLLECTIONS

Collections on **1st, 3rd and 4th and 5th Sundays** of the month are generally for the work in **our congregation**.

The collections on **2nd Sundays** are a **Diaconical collection** (see table).

On the third Sunday of May there is a special collection for the Education Fund of the Cape Church.

MONTH	DIACONICAL COLLECTION
January & February	Paarl East Soup Kitchen Kids Week & Street Children
March & April	Hospice (Stellenbosch & Somerset West)
May & June	iThemba Labantu
July & August	Night Shelter (Stellenbosch & Somerset West)
September & October	Family Welfare (Stellenbosch & Somerset West)
November & December	St Johannis Lifestyle Estate

Collections can also be transferred by:

- EFT:** Deutsche Ev.-Luth. Gemeinde Stellenbosch
Nedbank Stellenbosch
Current Account Branch Code: 107 110
Account Number: 1071251643 Reference: Collection/Diaconia

2. SnapScan:

SNAPSCAN COLLECTION (Paypoint 20)

SNAPSCAN DIACONIA (Paypoint 19)



Thanks for your support.

YOUTUBE

If possible, we record the Stellenbosch service and distribute the YouTube links. You can view all recorded services on our YouTube channel, *Lutherans in Stellenbosch and Somerset West*:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3RRDr_Ah3dJAR8V1aHmdxg

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	SUNDAY/SERVICE	TIME	VENUE	REMARKS
MAY 2026				
3 MAY	KANTATE	10.00	Stellenbosch	Confirmands introduce themselves; Sunday School; followed by a bring-and-share lunch
		18.30	Stellenbosch	
10 MAY	ROGATE	10.30	Somerset West	Coffee
		18.30	Stellenbosch	
14 MAY	ASCENSION DAY	18.30	Stellenbosch	
17 MAY	EXAUDI	10.00	Stellenbosch	Communion Sunday School Coffee
		18.30	Stellenbosch	
24 MAY	PENTECOST	10.30	Somerset West	Communion
		18.30	Stellenbosch	Communion
31 MAY	TRINITY	10.00	Stellenbosch	
		18.30	Stellenbosch	
JUNE 2026				
7 JUNE	1ST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.00	Stellenbosch	Harvest Festival Coffee
		18.30	Stellenbosch	
14 JUNE	2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.30	Somerset West	Coffee
		18.30	Stellenbosch	
21 JUNE	3RD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.00	Stellenbosch	Communion Sunday School Coffee
		18.30	Stellenbosch	
28 JUNE	4TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.30	Somerset West	Communion

Evening services in Stellenbosch resume on 26/7/2026.

FROM OUR CONGREGATION & EVENTS

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members and hope they feel at home in our congregation:

- **Helge Springhorn** (see p. 23)
- **Carl, Emma, Juan and Deon Rohwer**
- **Bianca Ulrich**



BAPTISM

Sebastian Michael Kahle was baptised on March 22, 2026, at St. Paul's Church in Somerset West.



RESIGNATIONS

Carlotta, Michael, Marko und Silja Kiessling from Kleinmond have left our congregation and joined local churches. We wish them well in their new spiritual homes.

BRING AND SHARE LUNCH

On **3 May 2026** after the church service in Stellenbosch, we invite you all for a communal lunch to welcome and meet the new members of our congregation. Further details to follow.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Pastor Ingrid van Sittert has begun a course of confirmation study has begun with five confirmands. They will introduce themselves at the church service in Stellenbosch on 3 May 2026.



GROUPS

- **Helderberg Village** (third Tuesday of the month):
17 March and 21 April 2026; 9h30-11h00.
- **Bridgewater Manor** (last Wednesday of the month):
25 March and 29 April 2026; 15h00.



BREAKFAST MEETING

Barbara Meylahn will present a talk in the church hall on her and Felix's recent trip to **Lebanon** on Friday, 15 May at 9h30.

Please **RSVP by 12 May** with the office if you can help or if you wish to attend.



FROM OUR CONGREGATION & EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CAMP

We invite you to save the date for our congregation weekend camp on **13-15 September** at Wortelgat near Stanford (<https://www.wortelgat.com/>). Details and costs will be shared soon.



WOMEN'S GROUP

For many years, we've had a more or less active women's group in our congregation. This year, we'd like to try to meet more regularly again (every six weeks, usually on a Thursday evening), because the fellowship is always so good for us. What do we do at a meeting? Of course, first there's good food and drinks, and lots of catching up to do, because we always have so much to say and ask each other, especially since we do not see each other very often.

Then there's a topic or discussion: book club, wine tasting, healthy eating, crafts, and usually once a year a women's weekend with spiritual input and a specific theme. These weekends together are always especially wonderful. This year, we'd like to invite the whole congregation to a **retreat** in Wortelgat near Stanford. The weekend is from **11-13 September**, and we'd like to invite you.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. If you need more information, please feel free to contact Barbara Meylahn or Christa Büttner-Rohwer.

We are looking forward to our next meeting on **11 June** at Meylahn's house (34 Rhodes North Road, Stellenbosch) at 18h30. The topic is still undecided; if anyone in the group would like to contribute, please let us know.

On **30 July**, Beate Willard-Bidoli will be present a talk on "The Adventure of Aging".

In September, we have a retreat, and in October, Maren Stallmann will share some of her research as a pharmacist.

PASTORAL VISITS AND COUNSELLING

Pastor Ingrid van Sittert encourages you to let her or the office know if you would like a visit. We also have a visiting group, and if you would like a visit from one of them, their names and contact details are listed below:

Hinrich Mummenthey: +49 176 63346915	Barbara Meylahn: +27 82 221 0104
Bärbel Kloos: +27 83 547 7858	Dorothea Perwas: +27 83 587 6307
Beate Willard-Bidoli: +27 72 371 3665	Irmel Dunaiki: +27 82 372 9824
Magda von Pressentin: +27 79 832 4197	Sieglinde Ruhle: +27 83 294 1636
Max von Dürckheim: +27 82 441 2075	

CHURCH COMMITTEE

NEW CHURCH COMMITTEE (2026)

L to R: Bernhard Schiele, Sieglinde Rühle, Angelique Filter, Ingrid van Sittert, Barbara Meylahn, Christa Büttner-Rohwer, Ralph Thomas.



PORTFOLIOS IN OUR CONGREGATION

Chair and Deputy Chair: Barbara Meylahn; Christa Büttner-Rohwer

Secretary: Ralph Thomas

Church services: Ingrid van Sittert

Treasurer: Hermann Böhmer

Seniors: Ingrid van Sittert

Visiting circle: Hinrich Mummenthey.

Youth and students: Angelique Filter; Bernhard Schiele

Communication: Christa Berghammer-Böhmer; Erika Gerntholtz

Website: Erika Gerntholtz

Audio- und Video technology and Streaming: Bernhard Schiele

Music: Christa Büttner-Rohwer

Breakfast circle: Ingrid van Sittert

Maintenance: Thomas Harms (volunteer/s needed)

Networking with neighboring churches/congregations: Volunteer/s needed

Diaconal work: Volunteer/s needed

CHURCH COMMITTEE NEW MEMBERS



My husband Johann and I have lived in Stellenbosch for over 29 years now. We have three children and are very happy here.

I work freelance as an editor and translator.

In my free time, I enjoy being outdoors and travelling, reading, and singing and playing music (currently also as part of the music team at evening services).

I look forward to working with the Church Committee and to many wonderful encounters within the congregation!

Christa Büttner-Rohwer

I have been a member of the Stellenbosch/Somerset West congregation for about a year and a half. Actually, I am more involved with the Somerset West congregation which is closer to me as I live in Strand.

Serving on the Church Committee is an exciting task, even if some things, like finances, are not exactly my cup of tea. I'm looking forward to the challenge. Please pray for us; it is our congregation, and if we all participate more actively, it will be a vibrant congregation.

Sieglinde Rühle



Hello! My name is Angelique Filter and I am 23 years old. I am from Somerset West and grew up in this congregation. Some of you might recognise me as the yellow "Grommel" who visited the church hall earlier this year. I am happiest in nature and I work in theatre and drama. I especially love children's theatre. I hope to use my creativity here on the Church Committee and help out wherever I can.

Angelique Filter

WINTERFEST

WINTERFEST

SATURDAY

6 JUNE

9:00-13:00

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
STELLENBOSCH**

26 HOFMEYR STREET

**TRADITIONAL
GERMAN FOOD**

Herzlich willkommen!

www.lutheranstellenbosch.co.za



WINTERFEST



WINTERFEST 2026

6 JUNE 2026 9-13h00

What is on offer?

Our popular **Continental breakfasts**; delicious home-baked **German cakes**; good **coffee and tea**; our traditional **Bratwurst, Sauerkraut and potato salad**; nostalgic **potato pancakes** and **apple sauce** (*Kartoffelpuffer* and *Apfelmus*); warming **Glühwein** as well as **beer and cold drinks**; home-bottled **deli products**; traditional **German meat products** (can be pre-ordered); large selection of **books**; **children's entertainment**; **good company and much more!**

How can you help?

- Source or donate a prize for our popular raffle – cash, vouchers, wine, delicious goodies to eat, arts and crafts.
- Buy and sell raffle tickets (R30 each).
- Donate funds that can be used to buy ingredients for baking the delicious German cakes we are renowned for.
- Bake a cake or two or three...
- Pre-order German meat products.
- Help at one of the stands – please contact Sieglinde or the office if you can help.
- Advertise the Winterfest amongst family and friends and via social media.
- Support us on the day!

This bazaar is a wonderful advertisement of the welcoming spirit and warmth of our congregation in Stellenbosch and the surrounding area. It is also a vital fundraiser for our congregation.

Thank you in advance

Sieglinde Rühle (Winterfest organiser)

083 294 1638

ruhle.sieglinde@gmail.com



BREAKFAST MEETING

FRÜHSTÜCKSTREFF

15. MAI 2026 9.30 UHR GEMEINDESAAL

UNSERE LEBANON-REISE

Barbara & Felix Meylahn

*Bitte melden Sie sich bis
zum 12. Mai im Büro an.*



BREAKFAST MEETING

15 MAY 2026 9h30 CHURCH HALL

OUR LEBANON TRIP

Barbara & Felix Meylahn

Please RSVP by 12 May with Office.

CHURCH IN MOTION DAY

— CCW —

CHURCH IN MOTION DAY

GROWING EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. FREDERICK MARAIS

Join us for a morning of learning as Dr. Frederick Marais guides us through the topic of Christian Leadership and what that means for us today as a church.



KREUZKIRCHE
BELVILLE
CONGREGATION

16 MAY
SATURDAY

09:00 - 13:00
WITH LUNCH

THIS DAY IS FOR YOU

WHETHER YOU SERVE ON A COMMITTEE, LEAD A BIBLE
STUDY, OR SIMPLY WANT TO GROW IN FAITH.

CONGREGATIONAL CAMP

SAVE THE DATE!

Gemeinde Wochenende Congregational Camp

📍 Wortelgat, Stanford

11- 13 Sep, 2026



More information on costs and signing up to follow soon.

EASTER JOY WITH THE CRAYON COLLEGE

It is truly a joy to have Crayon College in our church space. Not only does this allow us to create a space for families within our Stellenbosch community to be served in a meaningful and practical way, but it also opens up opportunities for us as a congregation to connect with the children and their families.

During Holy Week, I had the privilege of taking the children into our space of worship and sharing an Easter devotion with them. We began by entering the church together, and as the church bells rang, there was a wonderful sense of awe on their small faces, lighting up with curiosity and wonder at the sound filling the space. It was a deeply moving moment.

We gathered near the altar, where I shared a message about Jesus Christ and His love for them. We sang a few songs together and ended with an Easter egg hunt in the pews. Moments like these remind me what a gift it is to share the good news of Easter even with the youngest among us.

I would like to encourage us as a congregation to keep the children, their families, and the kindergarten staff in our prayers. May they continue to feel welcomed, loved, and held within this space, and may our church remain a place where seeds of faith are planted and nurtured.

Pastor Ingrid van Sittert



CAFÉ

We (the Stellenbosch Lutheran congregation) have been part of the Stellenbosch landscape for the past 50 years or so. Over this period, the context of our congregation's building on 26 Hofmeyr Street has changed. Recently, we have tried to adapt to this change by renting a section of our building to the Kindergarten,



Craxton College. After all, young working parents in our communities are in dire need of adequate care for their children. It is really cool that we can play a role in responding to this need and being 'gospel' to these parents (as we had done some decades ago).

Another way that we think our building could be 'gospel' in our context is to open a church café - a safe and welcoming space for you and our local community to fellowship, work and collaborate throughout the week. Especially our proximity to so much of the student accommodation could also make this a great way to reach out to the student community.

If you would like to discuss this idea of a church café further - and perhaps become part of a task team that develops a workable concept - please indicate your interest to me or a member of the Church Committee by leaving your name and contact details. It would be really cool if we could steward the use of our beautiful church building in such a way that the Stellenbosch community knows that the Lutherans are still in town and making their wholesome mark.

Hans-Christoph Lange
079 178 8253
thapelolange@gmail.com

WINFRIED LÜDEMANN

A THANK YOU TO WINFRIED LÜDEMANN



Our faithful organist, Winfried Lüdemann, who has served since 1979, will be retiring at the end of April.

For well over 40 years, Winfried has not only regularly played the organ in Stellenbosch and Somerset West, but he has also frequently directed the choir, alternating with Monika Plüddemann and Rolf Rohwer. To conclude his long service to our parish, he conducted the expanded church choir in Heinrich Schütz's St Matthew Passion on Palm Sunday.

Since 1979, Winfried has been a music lecturer and later a professor at the Stellenbosch University Conservatory.

In the years leading up to his retirement in 2016, he also held a prominent position there – as head of the music department.

Winfried wrote his doctoral dissertation on Hugo Distler; however, he says he does not have a favorite composer! He is, of course, also a composer himself and has written a great deal of sacred choral music; his most important work is his St John Passion, "Die Kruisiging", which has even been performed in Germany.

Besides his passion for music, Winfried also has other hobbies: for example, astronomy and bonsai trees.

We wish Winfried many more healthy years and thank him sincerely for the countless hours he dedicated to preparing and leading the church services, which he always performed with great care, dedication, and faithfulness! He has thus significantly shaped the character of many services and touched hearts with his music.

Maren Stallmann

ANOTHER THANK YOU TO WINFRIED LÜDEMANN.

Loyal, reliable, and meticulous – these three words perfectly describe Winfried for me. But at the same time, despite his seriousness, he also possesses a refreshingly uncomplicated nature, combined with a fine sense of humour. Winfried is a modest man who nevertheless makes his opinion clear when he deems it necessary. And musically speaking, he knows exactly what he wants! He has great appreciation for the profound meaning and musical beauty of centuries-old traditions but is also open to experimentation and new approaches. When I arrived here in 2008 and had to familiarise myself with the local liturgy, Winfried was one of my pillars of support from the very beginning. He and Rolf

WINFRIED LÜDEMANN



Rohwer patiently and kindly introduced me to the form of worship in Afrikaans and familiarised me with many new songs. At the same time, Winfried was always willing to learn my suggestions for new songs or try out a modified liturgy over the years.

It was always clear that for him, church music was fundamentally "worship", service to God and service to other people. This was also evident in his compositions, some of which I had

the privilege of singing as a member of the Canticum Novum Choir. He often used Afrikaans, which is also closely related to German, for his compositions.

One of Winfried's passions was to bring the essence of Lutheran spirituality closer to South Africans, even those without German as their native language, through music. In recent years since his retirement, he dedicated himself to ensuring that our church regularly hosted special musical services that attracted visitors from far beyond our congregation.

Following Heinrich Schütz's moving St John Passion in previous years, we were able to experience Schütz's musical interpretation of the Passion story according to Matthew this Palm Sunday. I will also cherish the many "quiet" services in which Winfried faithfully supported us as organist – for example, on Maundy Thursday or New Year's Eve – occasions that often brought us together.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Winfried, for your calm and reliable way of making music and for all the special moments we were able to create together (Passion, Paul Gerhardt songs, the beautiful year-end song by your grandfather, and so much more). May you remain a blessed, living stone in the house of our community!

Christiane Simon

On Easter Sunday Pastor van Sittert and the Church Committee, on behalf of the congregation, handed over a small token of appreciation to Winfried Lüdemann for his many years of dedicated service to the music at our church (photo R).



WINFRIED LÜDEMANN

QUESTIONS FOR WINFRIED LÜDEMANN

Where did your love for music originate?

I can't say, it's always been there. When I was still a lecturer and had to welcome the new students at the beginning of the year, I always asked them if they were sure they wanted to study music because it's so difficult and demanding, and then added: "You don't choose music, music selects you". That was certainly the case for me as well.

Was your family musical?

Yes, especially my mother's family.

What is your earliest musical memory?

When my grandfather, Winfried Wickert, played and improvised on the harmonium or the piano, because we didn't have a piano at home. He also composed chorales, which he sometimes played for us. All of that made a deep impression on me, even before I started school.

What did you want to be when you were 10?

I don't remember. But when I was 8, I wanted to be a train driver because my sister and I had to take the train to school and back every day for half an hour, and I was so impressed by the train driver when he slowly pulled into the station, looking out of the open side window. I wanted to be able to do that, too.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Pietermaritzburg and then grew up nearby on the state-run Cedara experimental farm. My father was a lecturer there in animal husbandry.

Which schools and universities did you attend?

I spent the first four years of my schooling at Laddsworth Primary School in Hilton, near Pietermaritzburg. Then I went to Hermannsburg, where I stayed until matriculation. After my military service, I studied at the University of the Orange State in Bloemfontein. I finally completed my degree under the supervision of Reino Ottermann in Stellenbosch. I received my first organ lessons from Rolf Rohwer. At university, Leonore Kloppers and Jacobus Kloppers were my organ teachers. I also audited courses in musicology at the University of Hamburg for a total of 18 months.

How long have you been an organist and where have you played?

My first regular organist position was as a student in the Lutheran congregation in Bloemfontein. That was 53 years ago. When I came to Stellenbosch in 1979, 47 years ago, I shared the organ duties with Richard Behrens, Reino Ottermann, and Antony Melck. I was responsible for all the Afrikaans services, which were held twice a month. Later, Maren Stallmann and Johnny Rohwer shared the duties with me. It was always a good collaboration. I also occasionally filled in as organist for six months at the Philippi congregation and later at St Martini.

To whom are you especially indebted?

To all the pastors of our congregation, because they were without exception sup

WINFRIED LÜDEMANN

portive of the organist and always open to suggestions. The hymns for the upcoming Sunday were always chosen well in advance, allowing time for preparation. That's not always the case. I am also particularly indebted to my wife, Christiane, for her selfless support of my various musical activities and for readily accepting the many hours of my absence, especially in the evenings or on weekends.

If you could organise your dream concert, which pieces and composers would you choose?

My dream concert would be a complete performance of the Psalms of David by Heinrich Schütz. It's one of the greatest works in music history.

And which orchestra, conductor, and/or soloists would you engage for this dream concert?

I would engage my colleague Martin Berger for this concert.

We have a beautiful organ in the Friedenskirche, but which organ that you've played is your favourite, and why?

My favourite instrument is the Paul Ott organ in the Lutheran church in Bloemfontein.

Which concerts do you remember fondly, ones you enjoyed attending?

I've heard a great many concerts in my life. At the conservatory, there were one or two world-class concerts every year, so I can hardly single any one out. The same is true for the many concerts I heard during my time in Germany.

What prompted you to choose Hugo Distler as the topic of your thesis?

I first encountered Hugo Distler's music at school and during Schütz Weeks. Its powerful radiance made a particularly strong impression on me. At the time of my thesis, there was relatively little good literature on the subject, so my professor in Bloemfontein suggested that I study Distler academically. Since then, however, I have also written on many other topics.

Besides classical and sacred music, do you listen to other genres of music? No.

What other hobbies do you have?

Pastor Erich Rust first introduced me to bonsai trees, and I've been intensively involved with this hobby ever since. I co-founded the local bonsai club in 1992. I'm also very interested in stargazing, and I own an eight-inch telescope with which I scan the night sky for the classic constellations and other interesting objects.

What is your favourite or most unforgettable travel destination?

The cities of Lübeck and Rome.

Who are your favourite authors?

Siegfried Lenz, David Bentley Hart, and Deon Meyer.

P.S. Do you sing in the shower?

No!

Christa Beghammer-Böhmer

WE INTRODUCE OURSELVES

My name is Helge Springhorn, and I was born in Johannesburg, the youngest of three daughters of my parents, Ernst and Dorothea Springhorn. My grandfather, Pastor Friedrich Garz, baptised me in Lilienthal (KwaZulu-Natal).

I spent most of my school years in Florida Park, except for five years in Kroondal in the North West Province. I was confirmed in Kroondal and celebrated my golden confirmation anniversary there in 2025. As a child, I also belonged to the West Rand congregation in Gauteng.

After high school, I began my nursing training in Pretoria and moved to Cape Town in 1983 to continue my career and studies.

In 1997, I left South Africa to join a group of South African nurses and gain experience in the Middle East. I started in Saudi Arabia, then moved to Qatar, and finally to the United Arab Emirates. My two-year plan eventually turned into 20 years, as I was offered exceptional work opportunities and the chance to travel to many countries; this provided me with wonderful experiences. In 2018, I returned to Cape Town to settle down again in the place where I have always been very happy.

During my recent months abroad, I participated in an international healthcare accreditation programme. This gives me the advantage of being able to travel to many countries, inspect hospitals, and determine whether they adhere to international standards.

Besides the extensive travel, I also took up scuba diving in Saudi Arabia and learned off-road driving in Qatar. When I am not travelling (even for leisure) or working, I enjoy spending time in nature, reading, working on challenging jigsaw puzzles, and visiting family and friends. I also thoroughly enjoy my personal travels. The Passion Play in Oberammergau in 2022 was a particularly memorable experience. In total, I have visited 46 countries so far.

In March, I transferred from St Martini Church in Cape Town to the Stellenbosch/Somerset West congregation, having moved from Bloubergstrand to Paarl in 2025.

I look forward to building strong relationships in our congregation and am happy to dedicate myself to the church as much as possible through my work abroad.



Helge Springhorn

EASTER BREAKFAST



FIRST FEMALE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY



Dame Sarah Mullally was announced as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury in 2025 and was formally installed at Canterbury Cathedral on 25 March 2026. She is the first woman in the role's 1 400-year history, becoming the first female leader of both the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion. She is also only the second person since the Middle Ages to hold the office without a degree from Oxford or Cambridge.

Her predecessor, Justin Welby, stepped down in 2024 following his involvement in the mishandling of an abuse scandal.

Sarah Elisabeth Mullally (née Bowser) was born on 26 March 1962 in Woking, England. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College, and became a Christian at the age of 16. In 1980, she began studying for a nursing degree at South Bank Polytechnic, qualifying in 1984 with Registered General Nurse (RGN) status and a Bachelor of Science (BSc). She later completed a Master of Science (MSc) in inter-professional health and welfare studies at London South Bank University in 1992.

Mullally worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, describing the role as “an opportunity to reflect the love of God.” She specialised in cancer care, became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, and later Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. In 1999, at just 37, she was appointed Chief Nursing Officer for England—the youngest person ever to hold the position. In recognition of her contributions to nursing, she was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005.

While serving in this role, she felt called to ordained ministry and began training at the South East Institute for Theological Education. She was ordained in 2001 and initially served as a self-supporting minister. In 2004, she left her government post, describing it as “the biggest decision I have ever made.”

FIRST FEMALE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

In 2016, she became the fourth woman ordained as a bishop in the Church of England. Two years later, she was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral—the first woman to hold that position. She also sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spiritual, where she draws on both her pastoral experience and healthcare background. She has been particularly involved in debates on assisted dying.

Mullally is married and has two adult children. She has spoken openly about living with dyslexia, especially the challenges it presents in reading and writing. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, walking, and pottery.

REACTION TO HER APPOINTMENT

Her historic appointment, approved by King Charles III, marks a significant turning point for the Church of England. However, it has also highlighted existing divisions, particularly among more conservative members of the global Anglican Communion who oppose the ordination of women. Reactions to her appointment have been varied and often strongly expressed. Supporters see it as a major step forward for gender equality within the church. Many leaders, including the Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, welcomed the decision, describing it as an exciting development and a hopeful sign of progress for women in leadership. Support has also come from other parts of Africa. Emily Onyango, the first female Anglican bishop in Kenya, suggested that Mullally's election signals meaningful change and a renewed commitment to justice within the church. However, opposition has emerged from conservative Anglican groups that reject the ordination of women as priests and bishops. Some have also raised concerns about her views on same-sex relationships and the blessing of same-sex couples.

Despite these disagreements, there have been calls for the new Archbishop to unite the church and work across its divisions, aiming to manage differences constructively rather than allowing them to deepen further.

Christa Berghammer-Böhmer

QUIZ

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE QUIZ

- 1. Which woman was thought to be drunk while praying to the Lord for a child?**
A) Raquel B) Hannah C) Abigail D) Sarah
- 2. Who was the wise woman who stopped David from destroying Nabal, her husband, and her house?**
A) Merab B) Michal C) Abigail D) Bathsheba
- 3. Who were the wives of the first bigamist (married with 2 wives) mentioned in the Bible?**
A) Adah and Zillah B) Hannah and Penina C) Leah and Rachel
D) Zilpah and Bilhah
- 4. What was the name of Saul's eldest daughter, who was promised to David but given to someone else?**
A) Michal B) Shulamite C) Merab D) Talmi
- 5. After his ordeal, Job had 7 sons and 3 daughters. These were the most beautiful women on earth. Who were they?**
A) Ada, Olibema, and Basemath B) Ahinoam, Kileab, and Maacah
C) Hadassa, Dina, and Sulamita D) Jemima, Keziah, and Keren-Happuch
- 6. What woman wanted to change her name to Mara (meaning bitter)?**
A) Naomi B) Hannah C) Orpah D) Rebekah
- 7. Who was the woman who threatened to kill the prophet Elijah?**
A) Jerusha B) The Medium of Endor C) Jezebel D) The widow of Zarephath
- 8. Who was the young woman who gave water to Eliezer and his camels in Mesopotamia?**
A) Milcah B) Rachel C) Ruth D) Rebekah
- 9. How many years did Sarah live?**
A) 156 years B) 127 years C) 107 years D) 116 years
- 10. What was Priscilla's trade?**
A) Seller of purple fabric B) Tent maker C) Idol maker D) Dressmaker
- 11. What was the name of the so-called prophetess who was leading the church in Thyatira into sexual immorality and idolatry?**
A) Jezebel B) Lili C) Delilah D) Athaliah
- 12. What were the names of Timothy's mother and grandmother?**
A) Priscilla and Aquila B) Sarah and Rachel
C) Mary and Elizabeth D) Eunice and Lois

https://www.bibliaon.com/en/bible_trivia_questions_hard/ Quiz: Women of the Bible (Hard)

ANSWERS: Page 30

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday and God's blessings for your special day!

MAY

Winfried Lüdemann	02.05
Beate Williard-Bidoli	02.05
Hugo Truter	04.05
Heidrun Diekmann	04.05
Karen Theron	05.05
Max von Dürckheim	06.05
Bodo Brendel	07.05
Nele Holm	08.05
Günter Gerischer	16.05
Claudia Meyer	20.05
Ursula Neckel	21.05
Clemens Diekmann	21.05
Lynette von Fintel	22.05
Johann Rohwer	25.05
Kirsten Wohlfart	26.05
Ann-Mari v Bergmann	28.05
Ute Hallwachs	29.05

JUNE

Egmont Filter	03.06
Corinna Truter	03.06
Annette Gerntholtz	03.06
Ute Rousseau	04.06
Mareta Mette	05.06
Marcus Bidoli	09.06
Jens Gerntholtz	11.06
Kornelius Holm	12.06
Marguerite Rohwer	12.06
Gigi Wellmann	15.06
Hildegund Hälbich	16.06
Mathias Tölken	19.06
Crystal Kahle	19.06
Peter Allan	20.06
Christa Andrag	25.06
Mikkel Koch	27.06
Hubertus v Bergmann	29.06



CONTRIBUTIONS

At the AGM on 15 February 2026, it was decided to raise the indicative membership fee per year to **R4 400 (R366,66/month)** per adult member. For children under the age of 18 and for students and trainees, the symbolic levy stands at **R220/year**. Young adults over the age of 18 will be treated as independent members.

We emphasise that these figures are only **guidelines** and not all members can afford them. Please pay what you can afford within your means.

For a confidential discussion of this subject, please contact the treasurer Hermann Böhmer (Tel: 082 829 3803; Email: hbohmer@skyafrika.co.za) or a member of the Church Committee.

When making EFT payments to the Church, please supply the following under the **recipient's bank reference**:

- **SURNAME + INITIALS / MEMBER CONTRIBUTION NUMBER**
- **PURPOSE** of your payment, e.g. **BEITRAG/ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION; COLLECTION; DIAKONIE; WINTERFEST; RAFFLE; ADVENTS BAZAAR**

Many thanks for all donations and contributions!

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. **Answer B** - Hannah prayed and wept before God, but the priest Eli thought she was drunk. See 1 Samuel 1:9-14.
2. **Answer C** - Abigail was the wife of Nabal, a wicked and foolish man. She interceded for him and prevented David and his men from destroying him. See 1 Samuel 25:23-33.
3. **Answer A** - Adah and Zillah were the wives of Lamech, a descendant of Cain. See Genesis 4:19-23.
4. **Answer C** - Merab, Saul's eldest daughter, was to be David's wife, but was given to Adriel. See 1 Samuel 18:17-19.
5. **Answer D** - Jemima, Keziah, and Keren-Happuch were Job's daughters. Beautiful women from that land who received an inheritance along with their brothers. See Job 42:13-15.
6. **Answer A** - Naomi asked to be called Mara when she returned to her homeland widowed and without her two sons. See Ruth 1:20-22.
7. **Answer C** - Queen Jezebel, wife of Ahab, after the confrontation with the 450 prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. See 1 Kings 19:1-3.
8. **Answer D** - Rebekah, the beautiful young woman who drew water from the spring, gave water to Abraham's servant and his camels. See Genesis 24:15-19.
9. **Answer B** - Sarah died at the age of 127 and was buried by her husband Abraham in the cave of Machpelah. See Genesis 23:1.
10. **Answer B** - Priscilla and Aquila, her husband, were tentmakers. See Acts 18:2-3.
11. **Answer A** - Jezebel. See Book of Revelation 2:18-20.
12. **Answer D** - Eunice and Lois. See 2 Timothy 1:5.

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www.capelutheranchurch.org.za

FACEBOOK

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Stellenbosch

Nedbank Stellenbosch

Current Account

Branch Code: 107 110

Account Number: 1071251643

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