



GEMEINDEBRIEF - NEWSLETTER

Evangelical-Lutheran Congregation
Stellenbosch & Somerset West

JULY & AUGUST 2026

JESUS SAID,

“

**I have
come that
they may
have life,
and have it
*to the full.***



JOHN 10:10
NIV



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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION: 25 AUGUST 2026

DEVOTION

WATCHWORD JULY 2026

**““But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!”**

Amos 5:24



The time in which Amos wrote these words was filled with growing inequality between the rich and poor, corruption was making its way into the courts, and exploitation of the vulnerable was becoming common. Sound familiar?

So, when Amos prophesizes: *“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”*, he wants to make clear that God is condemning a society where religious observance coexists with systemic injustice. The believers are *doing* all the write things. They are not being accused of wrong theology or neglecting worship.

Rather, God is addressing the fact that religious rituals cannot compensate for the injustice that is taking place in front of everyone. God rejects worship that is disconnected from justice and righteousness. As believers we cannot claim

DEVOTION

to belong to God while we live in ways that harm those around us. As Martin Luther later put it: *“God does not need your good works, but your neighbour does”*.

This responsibility is not meant to weigh us down as though God were placing another demand upon us. Rather, caring for those around us has always been part of the life of faith. Christ has always been at work shaping His people to become more like Him. Throughout His ministry, Jesus never ignored the needs of those around Him.

As those who bear His name, we too are called to reflect that same concern for our neighbours, not to earn God's favour, but *because* we have already received it. May God continue to mould us into "little Christs," so that His love may be seen not only in our worship, but also in the way we care for those around us.

Pastor Ingrid van Sittert

WATCHWORD AUGUST 2026

**“Jesus says: I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full.”**

John 10:10

I invite you to read John 10:1–11. This passage introduces Jesus through two beautiful images: He is both the **Good Shepherd** and the **Gate**. At first, this may seem unusual, but together these pictures reveal who Jesus is and what He offers to us.

Jesus explains that He is not like a thief, a bandit, or a stranger who comes for selfish gain. Instead, He is the true Shepherd who knows His sheep, calls them by name, leads them, protects them, and provides for them. At the same time, He is the Gate, the only way to safety, salvation, and the abundant life God desires for His people.

When Jesus speaks these words, He has just healed a man born blind and confronted religious leaders who cared more about their own position than about God's people. Through the image of the shepherd and the sheep, Jesus contrasts their self-serving leadership with His loving care.

DEVOTION

The heart of this passage is our monthly watchword: *"I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly"*. Jesus is not promising a life without hardship. We know that life brings illness, loss, loneliness, and change. There are seasons when we cannot do the things we once could, and there are days when we may wonder if we have been forgotten.

Yet, Jesus assures us that we are His sheep, and He knows us by name. The Good Shepherd does not forget His flock because they have grown older or weaker. He continues to call us, guide us, and walk with us.

The abundant life Jesus promises is not measured by wealth, success, or even the number of our years. It is the deep assurance that we belong to God, that we are loved beyond measure, and that we are never alone. Nothing can separate us from the care of our Shepherd.

May this be our encouragement: the Good Shepherd knows your name. He is your protector, your guide, and your source of life. Through Him, we have the abundant life of God's love and the promise that He will never leave us.

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 July there is a special collection for the Solidarity 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
JULY 2026				
5 JULY	5TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.00	Stellenbosch	Coffee
12 JULY	6TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.30	Somerset West	Coffee
19 JULY	7TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.00	Stellenbosch	Communion Children's Church Coffee
26 JULY	8TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.30	Somerset West	Communion
		18.30	Stellenbosch	Communion
AUGUST 2026				
2 AUGUST	9TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.00	Stellenbosch	Coffee
		18.30	Stellenbosch	
9 AUGUST	10TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.30	Somerset West	Coffee
		18.30	Stellenbosch	
16 AUGUST	11TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.00	Stellenbosch	Communion Children's Church Coffee
		18.30	Stellenbosch	
23 AUGUST	12TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.30	Somerset West	Communion
		18.30	Stellenbosch	Communion
30 AUGUST	13TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10.00	Stellenbosch	Coffee
		18.30	Stellenbosch	



FROM OUR CONGREGATION & EVENTS

NEW MEMBERS

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

- **Hans Christoph, Shani, Miriam and Elias Lange** (see p.14).

BAPTISM

Elias Friedrich Lange was baptised on 28 June 2026, at the Friedenskirche in Stellenbosch.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our long-time member **Jan S.V. van Zijl** (16/3/1935 – 10/5/2026) passed away at the age of 91. The private funeral service took place on 17/5/2026 in Onrus.

GROUPS

- **Helderberg Village** (third Tuesday of the month):
21 July and 18 August 2026; 9h30-11h00.
- **Bridgewater Manor** (last Wednesday of the month):
29 July and 26 August 2026; 15h00.

WOMEN'S GROUP

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

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 Williard-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

FROM OUR CONGREGATION & EVENTS

LECTOR AND SEXTON WORKSHOP

2 August 2026

16h00

Friedenskirche, Stellenbosch

If you have been reading in our church services or helping with the preparations or if you would like to join us in this ministry in future, you are invited to come to our workshop.



We'll be looking at:

- A brief introduction to the meaning of the divine service.
- The tasks of preparing the church building for the divine service.
- Special attention to setting the table for holy communion.
- Welcome and announcements - setting the tone for the service.
- Reading, i.e. proclaiming the Word of the Lord.
- Recording the details of the service as a task of stewardship and care.

All are welcome!

FOR SALE: FELLOWSHIP CAP

These beautiful caps were produced to raise money for youth work in our congregation. They cost R200. If you want one, please contact the office or pay into account of our church:

Deutsche Ev.-Luth. Gemeinde Stellenbosch

Nedbank Stellenbosch

Current Account

Branch Code: 107 110

Account Number: 1071251643

Reference: Fellowship cap

Please send proof of payment to Bernhard Schiele and organise collection with him (beggsschiele@gmail.com; 065 568 3404).



FROM OUR CONGREGATION & EVENTS

PREACHER WORKSHOP

From 22-26 July 2026 twenty-five members of our current “Preacher Training/ Faith Course” will be meeting in person for a workshop led by Pastor Claudia Nolte-Schamm. Participating delegates from most of our Cape Church congregations will be travelling from as far as Cape Town, Bloemfontein and East London to assemble at Carmel Costal Retreat in Victoria Bay, to be equipped and trained in leading divine services.

The learning sessions will include:

- Presence in a liturgical space
- The art of reading aloud
- How to pray in church
- Choosing songs/hymns for a divine service
- Analysing and adapting a written sermon
- Steps to writing your own sermon
- Preaching a sermon
- Role, responsibilities and duties of the preacher
- Administering Holy Communion



Max von Dürckheim and Barbara Meylahn are the delegates from our congregation who will be attending the workshop.

Please pray for this important training for the (lay-)preachers of our church – that it may be time of fruitful learning and heart-felt fellowship!



FROM OUR CONGREGATION & EVENTS

NEW BEGINNINGS!

As most of you probably know by now, Pastor Ingrid and her husband Sybrand are expecting the birth of their first child in August with much excitement, and Ingrid be on maternity leave from 1 August until early January 2027.



In Ingrid's absence, Pastor Felix Meylahn will be taking on the role of *locum tenens* and take care of many of her official functions within the Cape Church and the congregation. Thankfully our congregation is able to draw on the services of a number of pastors, preachers and theology students for the morning and evening services to fill her role during this time.

Ingrid and Sybrand, we wish you all the best as you start out on this extraordinary, beautiful and challenging new chapter with your family. As you embrace this journey with your new baby, may you as a family be blessed and filled with love, laughter and lots of baby snuggles. We look forward to meeting your little one soon and wish you a healthy and happy time together!

If you have any questions or need support, please contact a member of the Church Committee or Pastor Felix Meylahn directly (see page 26).

We are always looking for extra volunteers to take on various duties during and beyond our services, so please contact the church office or one of the members of the Church Committee if you can join in! More hands make light work! Do a reading or a prayer, join our technical group or our music team, or help with Bible studies and devotional groups – and become more involved in our faith community.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CAMP

Dear Congregation!

You are all heartily invited to join us on our first Congregational Camp!

We would love to see as many as possible joining this camp, from all age groups - children, confirmands, students, young adults and the more senior members.



The aim of the Camp is to get to know each other better so that we can rediscover ourselves as a community grounded in Christ, discerning steps that we can take together to witness to the Gospel in our society.

The Church Committee, together with Pastor Felix Meylahn, is busy with the planning and it promises to be an inspiring weekend.

Date: 11-13 September 2026

Arrival: Friday, 11 September from 15h00

Departure: Sunday, 13 September at about 12h00

Venue: Wortelgat near Stanford/Hermanus

Theme: Daring to Take New Steps - Walking on Water (Matthew 14:22-32)

Cost: R1 200 per person for two nights.

Fees are to be paid into the church's account (see p. 26) with reference: *YOUR NAME* and CAMP.

If anyone can help sponsor a student, it would be greatly appreciated.

Accommodation: In separate family units.

Catering: All meals will be provided.

Bring: Please bring own bedding and towels.

Register: RSVP the office by **25 August 2026** (please indicate number of people).

Venue Website: <https://www.wortelgat.com/>

GPS Coordinates: S 34° 25' 48.00" / E 19° 21' 11.0

Distance from Stellenbosch: 129 km

Looking forward to seeing you!

Warm wishes

Babsi Meylahn and the Church Committee

WE INTRODUCE OURSELVES

Dear Congregation

We are glad to join this local fellowship. Some of you might recognise us both as former students, and now, after studying abroad (and Hans-Christoph working in the St Martini congregation), we are excited to be back 'home'. Shani is a lecturer of Latin at Stellenbosch University, prompting our return. Hans-Christoph remains involved with the church as well as the university as a pastor and part-time lecturer.

We bring with us our little girl, Miriam, and the most recent addition to our family, our son, Elias.

We look forward to being church with you,

The Langes



CONFIRMATION CLASS INTRODUCTION

It is such a joy to journey with this year's confirmation class. Their thoughtful questions, and willingness to engage deeply with matters of faith make our time together a highlight in the weeks that we have class together. As they continue on this important step in their faith journey, I invite you as the congregation to keep these five confirmands in your prayers. When you see them at worship services or at church events, please take a moment to introduce yourself and get to know them as valued members of our church family.

Pastor Ingrid van Sittert

LUCA BIDOLI

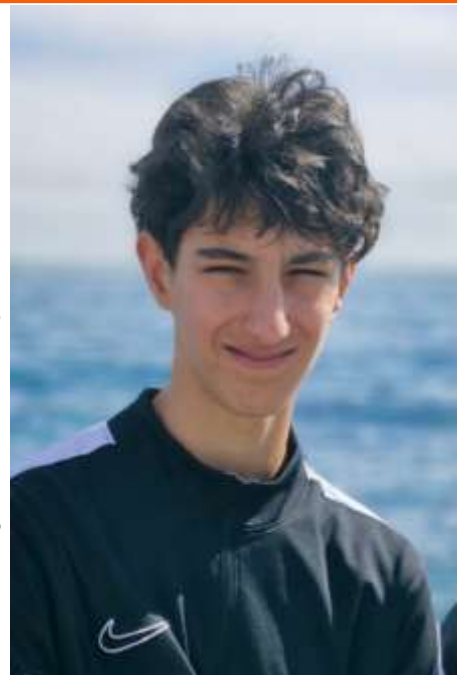
Age: 16

Grade: 11

I enjoy spending time with friends and family and playing football in my free time.

I hope to go into sports management after school, as sport is my passion.

I decided to join the confirmation class because I want to learn new things and help where I can within the church. I can learn a lot from confirmation class but one thing I hope I can learn is to trust God more and learn what He teaches us.



KAROLINE HOLM

Age: 16

Grade: 11

I am not entirely sure what I would like to proceed doing after school but as of now I am very interested in medicinal studies.

The reason I decided to join this congregation was to be part of a discussion over faith, rather than learning about it in isolation. I also really believe that even one hour of Confi-classes every two weeks helps to relieve all stress for a moment.



CONFIRMATION CLASS INTRODUCTION

KORNELIUS HOLM

I am Kornelius Holm. I am 18 years old and am in Grade 12 at Paul Roos Gimnasium. I enjoy playing bassoon and piano in my free time, as well as fiddling with machinery. I am looking forward to study in the STEM field after I finish school.

I chose to take part in the confirmation classes due to the rich history and cultural importance of confirmation in my family and

the people I surround myself with. I hope to gain better perspective on a plethora of different aspects in my life and wish to be able to confront myself with different difficult questions throughout the course of my confirmation classes.



MARTIN ROHWER

I am Martin Rohwer. I am 15 years old and in Grade 9. In my free time I enjoy playing hockey and making and composing music. After school I hope to study mechatronic engineering.

I decided to join confirmation class this year because I wanted to become a proper member of the congregation and feel more included into the congregation.

CHRISTINA THOMAS

I'm Christina Thomas, I'm 15 years old in Grade 10. I love to write poems and stories and to spend time with my friends. After school I hope to be a children's nurse or an occupational therapist working with young children.

I joined confirmation classes this year to understand my faith more and to build a foundation with Jesus I can keep building on continuously.



KIDS WEEK 2026



We are excited to share that our second Kids Week will take place from **13–16 July 2026** at Paarl East Lutheran Church. Once again, the Outreach will bring together children, volunteers, and helpers for four days of intentionally spending time with the children who will be attending.

We are grateful for the enthusiastic response from the young adults, of whom many are students within our congregation, with approximately 10–13 volunteers committed to giving of their time during the outreach. Kids Week is a wonderful example of ecumenical ministry in action, as we work alongside another congregation and volunteers from various church backgrounds to serve the children and families of Paarl East.

As we prepare for this year's Outreach, we ask the congregation to keep Kids Week in your prayers. Please pray for the children and their families, the volunteers, organisers, and everyone involved in making the week possible.

This year's theme is based on **1 Corinthians 15:57**: *"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"*. Through stories, games, music, crafts, and time spent together, we hope to share this message of hope and victory with the children and their families. *Pastor Ingrid van Sittert*



Kids Week 2025

PHOTOGRAPHS

CONFIRMANDS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES

3 MAY 2026



BRING & SHARE LUNCH FOR NEW MEMBERS

3 MAY 2026



PHOTOGRAPHS



PHOTOGRAPHS

BREAKFAST MEETING

15/5/2026



CHURCH SERVICE WITH CANTICUM NOVUM CHOIR

31/5/2026



PHOTOGRAPHS

WINTERFEST 6/6/2026



PHOTOGRAPHS



QUIZ

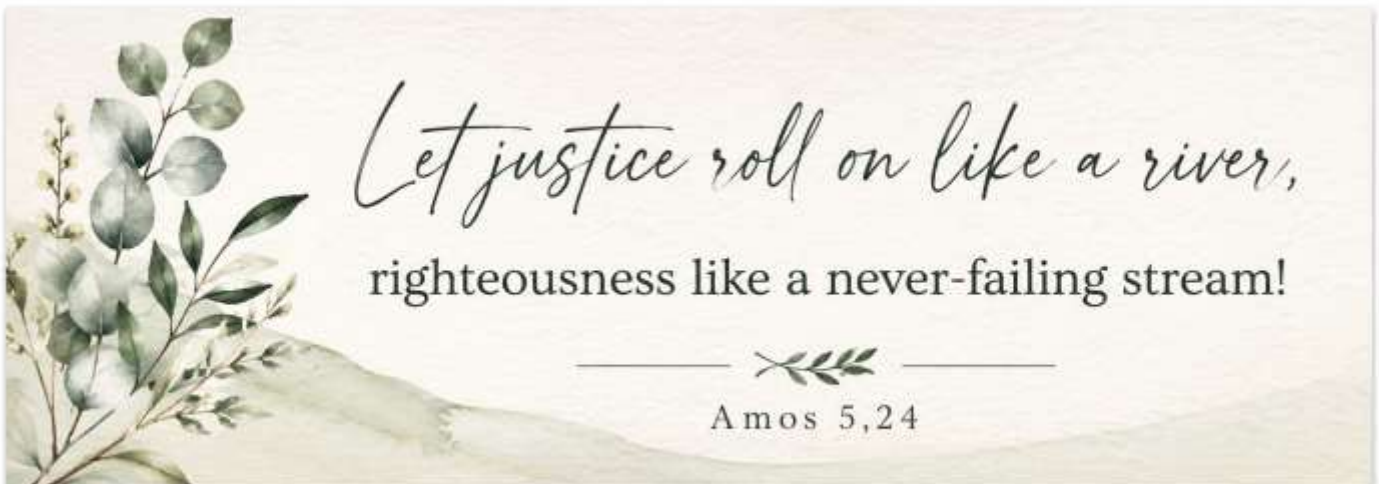
TRUE OR FALSE

<https://jesustomyrescue.com/biblequizzes>

1. Abel killed his brother Cain.
2. The Tower of Babel was destroyed by brimstone and fire from heaven.
3. Paul was converted on the road to Damascus.
4. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers.
5. Mary, mother of Jesus, was at the wedding in Cana.
6. Lazarus was healed of his blindness by Jesus.
7. Haman plotted to kill the Jews during the reign of Queen Esther.
8. Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist.
9. Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Damascus.
10. Moses led the children of Israel over the river Jordan into the Promised Land.
11. The Prodigal Son was hired to work as a shepherd.
12. Abraham's first son was called Isaac.
13. Noah had three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth.
14. Jesus was born in Nazareth.
15. The tenth plague upon Egypt was the death of the firstborn.
16. Saul was the first king of Israel.
17. Moses fled to Midian because he had killed an Egyptian.
18. Five loaves and two fish were used to feed the 5,000.
19. The Ten Commandments were given to Aaron on Mt. Sinai.
20. Daniel spent three days and nights in the lions' den.

<https://jesustomyrescue.com/biblequizzes>

ANSWERS: Page 25



BIRTHDAYS

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

JULI

Armand Ottermann	1.7
Peter Ottermann	1.7
Sieglinde Rühle	1.7
Tomas Hegewisch	2.7
Claus Peter Mette	2.7
Matthew Addison	2.7
Pia Addison	7.7
Erika Prozesky	7.7
Philipp von Bodenhausen	7.7
Marlene Kriel	7.7
Kaspar Holm	8.7
Beate Müller-Nedebock	12.7
Dorothea Perwas	12.7
August Christoff Koch	12.7
Natalia Hälbich	15.7
Nina Ottermanb	16.7
Jakob Holm	17.7
Hans Eggers	17.7
Anneliese Stabler	19.7
Angelique Filter	23.7
Christina Thomas	23.7
Christian von Dürckheim	24.7
Irmel Dunaiski	24.7
Hannelore Berg	24.7
Peter Rohwer	26.7
Reino Ottermann	26.7
Lukas Stabler	28.7
Hugo Filter	30.7
Saskia Rohwer	30.7
Helene Heydorn	31.7

AUGUST

Erika Stülpner	1.8
Tanja von Leipzig	3.8
Anneli Striebeck	3.8
Gerard (Pine) Pienaar	8.8
Walter Prozesky	9.8
Helge Schimansky	10.8
Karl Hoffmann	10.8
Ingrid van Sittert	10.8
Olivia Bidoli	14.8
Carlotta Kiessling	17.8
Wolf Siegmund	18.8
Irmtraud Melerski	18.8
Vincent Bidoli	19.8
Michelle Thomas	19.8
Konstanze Harms	19.8
Leonard v Bodenhausen	21.8
Irmgard Filter	21.8
Ingo Hälbich	21.8
Johanna Holm	22.8
Janneke Rubow	24.8
Bernd Wortmann	24.8
Gela Tölken	25.8
Gertrud Wenger	29.8
Ulrich Gerntholtz	30.8
Kurt Müller-Nedebock	30.8
Annemarie Plüddemann	30.8
Marie von Wechmar	30.8



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. False. It was the other way round, Cain killed Abel. Gen 4:8.
 2. False. The Bible says nothing about the tower being destroyed. Gen 11:1-9.
 3. True. Acts 9:3.
 4. True. Gen 37:28.
 5. True. John 2:1.
 6. False. Lazarus was raised from the dead, not cured of blindness. John 11.
 7. True. Est 3:6.
 8. True. Matt 3:13.
 9. False. The wedding was at Cana. John 2:1-10.
 10. False. Joshua was the one who led them into the Promised Land. Josh 1:1-2.
 11. False. He was hired to work with pigs, not sheep. Luke 15:15.
 12. False. His first son was Ishmael. Gen 16:15.
 13. True. Gen 6:10.
 14. False. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Matt 2:1.
 15. True. Ex 13:15.
 16. True. 1 Sam 11:15.
 17. True. Ex 2:14-15.
 18. True. Matt 14:17-21.
 19. False. They were given to Moses. Ex 20.
 20. False. He only spent one night in the den. Dan 6:18-19.
-

CONTACTS & BANK DETAILS

LUTHERAN CONGREGATION STELLENBOSCH & SOMERSET WEST

044-038 NPO

Friedenskirche: 26 Hofmeyr Street, Stellenbosch

St Paul's Cath. Church: Cnr. Andries Pretorius- & Lourens St., Somerset West

PASTORS

July: Pastor Ingrid van Sittert

079 922 4959

pastor@lutheranstellenbosch.co.za

Ruhetag: Samstag

From August: Pastor Felix Meylahn

082 579 6381

fmeylahn@live.com

CHURCH OFFICE

Christa Berghammer-Böhmer

Tel: 021 887 5030

info@lutheranstellenbosch.co.za

26 Hofmeyr Street, Stellenbosch

Office hours: Wednesdays 9h30-12h30

WEBSITE

www.lutheranstellenbosch.co.za

WEBSITE CAPE CHURCH

www.capelutheranchurch.org.za

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/lutheranstellenbosch/>

CHURCH COMMITTEE

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Hermann Böhmer (coopted;

Treasurer) 082 829 3803

hbohmer@skyafrica.co.za

BANK DETAILS

Deutsche Ev.-Luth. Gemeinde

Stellenbosch

Nedbank Stellenbosch

Current Account

Branch Code: 107 110

Account Number: 1071251643

Reference:

Name & Purpose/Membership Number



Snap here to pay



SnapScan