GEMEINDEBRIEF
NEWSLETTER

Evangelical-Lutheran Congregation Stellenbosch & Somerset West



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2026

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PART-TIME VACANCY

PART-TIME VACANCY FROM JANUARY 2027

In October, the Church Committee met in an expanded format to consider various options for filling the 25% vacancy in Stellenbosch/Somerset West, effective from January 2027. Participants included Beate Williard-Bidoli, Hermann Böhmer, Sietske Rubow, and Irmel Dunaiski.

We discussed which areas of responsibility this individual would have and what skills they should possess to ensure effective teamwork with Pastor Ingrid von Sittert.

Several options were explored, and further inquiries have been initiated.

We will inform the congregation as soon as we have concrete proposals.

The Church Committee

MEMBERSHIP FEES

CALL FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2026

The financial well-being of our church depends on membership contributions.

We appeal to all those who can afford to do so but may have postponed or neglected to pay their contribution so far to please pay the amount they have assessed for themselves.

As a guideline, an annual amount of R4 400 for adults and R220 for students, apprentices and young people under the age of 18 was set at the Annual General Meeting in February.

Please help us to stabilise the congregation's financial situation. We thank all donors in advance, and especially those who have already made their contribution this year.

NOVEMBER 2026

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
Isaiah 2,4

FROM SWORDS TO PLOUGHSHARES

Isaiah gives us a vision that can seem almost impossibly distant from our world. We live in a time when nations still prepare for war, communities experience violence, and disagreements too often become reasons for division and hostility. Yet into this reality comes God's promise: a day will come when weapons will no longer be needed and the tools of destruction will become instruments of life.

The image of swords being beaten into ploughshares is especially powerful. A sword is made to destroy; a ploughshare is made to cultivate. One takes life, the other helps life to grow. Isaiah's vision is therefore not simply about the absence of war. It is about a profound transformation in the way human beings live with one another.
As Christians, we are called to live in the light of this promise even before its fulfilment. We cannot bring God's kingdom by our own efforts, but we can bear witness to it. Whenever we choose reconciliation rather than resentment, forgiveness rather than revenge, listening rather than hostility, we give a small glimpse of God's promised future.

The image of pruning hooks is particularly fitting. A pruning hook cuts away what prevents a plant from flourishing. Perhaps there are things in our own lives that need to be pruned: anger we have held onto, prejudices we have nurtured, old hurts that continue to divide us. Christ calls us to let these things go and to make room for peace to grow.

Isaiah's vision ultimately points beyond human achievement to God himself. The Lord is the one who judges between the nations and establishes peace. We therefore pray and work with hope, trusting that God's purposes are greater than the conflicts of our present world.



May God turn our swords into ploughshares, our fears into faith, and our conflicts into opportunities for reconciliation. And may our lives become places where his peace can take root and grow.

DECEMBER 2026

**The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox."
Isaiah 11,7**

A PEACEFUL CREATION

Isaiah's vision of God's kingdom is wonderfully surprising. A cow and a bear feeding together, their young lying peacefully beside one another, and a lion eating straw like an ox - these are images that turn everything we know about the natural world upside down. The strong no longer prey upon the vulnerable. Fear gives way to peace, and hostility is replaced by harmony.

This is part of Isaiah's beautiful vision of the coming Messiah and the renewed creation. It reminds us that God's work of salvation is larger than we sometimes imagine. God is not concerned only with our individual souls; his purpose is to bring healing, reconciliation and peace to his whole creation.

We live in a world where strength is often measured by power, possessions or the ability to protect ourselves. Isaiah offers a very different picture. In God's kingdom, strength is no longer used to dominate. The lion does not need to devour. The powerful and the vulnerable can live alongside one another without fear.

There is a message here for our own lives and communities. We may not be able to transform the whole world, but we can ask where God's peace is needed around us. Are there relationships marked by suspicion or old disagreements? Are there people we avoid because they are different from us? Where can we choose gentleness instead of force, understanding instead of judgement, and reconciliation instead of division?
The promise of Isaiah points us towards Christ, the Prince of Peace. In him we see God's desire to reconcile what has been divided and to make all things new. We live between promise and fulfilment: the world is not yet as Isaiah describes it, but God's kingdom is already breaking into our lives.

May we therefore live as people of hope - planting seeds of peace, protecting the vulnerable, caring for God's creation, and trusting that one day God's vision of harmony will be fully realised.

"And the lion will eat straw like the ox."
What seems impossible to us is not impossible for God.



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).

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/paid by:
1. EFT:Deutsche Ev.-Luth. Gemeinde Stellenbosch
Nedbank Stellenbosch
Current Account
Branch Code: 107 110
Account Number: 1071251643
Reference: Collection/Diaconia
2. YOCO: Using credit/debit cards after church services.
3. SnapScan:

SNAPSCAN COLLECTION (Paypoint 20)

PayPoint20

SNAPSCAN DIACONIA (Paypoint 19)

PayPoint19

Thanks for your support!

YOUTUBE

If possible, we record the Stellenbosch services and distribute the YouTube Links. You can view all our recorded services on our YOuTUbe channel, *Lutherans in Stellenbosch and Somerset West:*
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3RRDr_Ah3dJAR8V1aHmdxg

DATE	SUNDAY/SERVICE	TIME	VENUE	DETAILS
NOVEMBER				
Nov 1, 2026	22ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	10H00	Stellenbosch	Coffee
		18H30	Stellenbosch	
Nov 8, 2026	THIRD-TO-LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR	10H30	Somerset West	Coffee
		18H30	Stellenbosch	
Nov 15, 2026	PENULTIMATE SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR	10H00	Stellenbosch	Communion Children's Church Baptism; Coffee
		18H30	Stellenbosch	
Nov 18, 2026	DAY OF REPENTANCE AND PRAYER	18H30	Stellenbosch	Penitential Service
Nov 22, 2026	ETERNITY SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE DEAD	9H00	Stellenbosch Cemetery	
Nov 29, 2026	1ST ADVENT	10H00	Stellenbosch	Coffee
DECEMBER				
Dec 5, 2026	2ND ADVENT	10H00	Stellenbosch	Baptism Christmas Carols Coffee
Dec 13, 2026	3RD ADVENT	10H30	Somerset West	Christmas Carols Coffee
Dec 20, 2026	4TH ADVENT	10H00	Stellenbosch	Communion Coffee
Dec 24, 2026	CHRISTMAS EVE	18H00	Somerset West	
		18H00	Stellenbosch	
Dec 25, 2026	CHRISTMAS DAY	10H00	Stellenbosch	
Dec 31, 2026	OLD YEAR'S EVE	18H00	Stellenbosch	Communion

BIRTHS

Alexandra Danielle Schmidt-Dumont, daughter of Hester and Thorsten and sister of Sofia Marie was born on 3 September 2026.
We wish the young family God's richest blessings.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our long-standing and active member **Ursula (Ulla) von der Heyden** (4/3/1939–/10/2026) has passed away at the age of 87. The funeral service took place in Stellenbosch on 17 October 2026.
We pray that God's presence will surround the family and friends in their grief, that His love will sustain them, and that the hope of the resurrection through our Lord Jesus Christ will bring them comfort.

GROUPS

- **Helderberg Village** (third Tuesday of the month):
  17 November and 15 December 2026; 9h30-11h00.
- **Bridgewater Manor** (last Wednesday of the month):
  25 November and 30 December 2026; 15h00.

CEMETERY CLEANING

Saturday, 21 November, 8h00
We are looking for energetic volunteers to help clean the graves and the cemetery in preparation for Sunday's Eternity Sunday service. Please bring your own gardening tools and water.

CHRISTMAS MARKET BAKING AND CRAFTING

Tuesdays, 3, 10 and 17 November 18h00 Church hall
All welcome!

ADVENT WREATH PRODUCTION

Wednesday, 25 November 17h00 Church hall
All welcome! Please bring apron, secateurs, wire or string, evergreen branches, cones and pods, and succulents etc.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

Stellenbosch: 6 December after the 10h00 church service
Somerset West: 13 December after the 10h30 church service
All welcome! Please bring a platter of Christmas cookies to enjoy with coffee/tea.

FAREWELL: BERNHARD SCHIELE

On Sunday 25 October, we bade farewell to theology student Bernhard Schiele during the evening worship service.
Bernie, as most people knew him, has been a very active participant in our congregation throughout his six years of study. He was a committed member of the brass ensemble, the music team, and the choir. He was a valued part of the technical team and always ready to lend a hand at bazaars, events, and worship services—often serving as sexton or lector, and always available to help set up tables, prepare for bazaars, or clean up the kitchen. In recent years, he was also an active member of our Church Committee, where he made valuable contributions.
We wish Bernhard God's blessing on his new path—first as he returns to his parents in Germany, and subsequently as he begins his time as a Vicar.
Thank you, Bernie!

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION STELLENBOSCH & SOMERSET WEST

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET



SATURDAY
28 NOV. 2026

DELI
CANDLES
KIDS TABLE
COFFEE & CAKE
ADVENT WREATHS
BREAKFAST & LUNCH
CHRISTMAS COOKIES
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

9h00-13h00

26 HOFMEYR ST.
STELLENBOSCH

EVERYONE
WELCOME

CHRISTMAS MARKET



Please invite your family and friends to our popular Christmas Market:

- Start with a **delicious continental breakfast**
- Followed mid-morning by a **coffee and mouthwatering German cakes**
- And then stay for **Bratwurst, Sauerkraut and potato salad** for lunch
- And buy lots of our traditional and very popular homemade **Christmas cookies** and **decorations** (they make great Christmas gifts), as well as German sausages and **meat products, jams and chutneys, books, and water-wise plants**
- And for the **children** we have activities
- And of course meet and get to know lots of **friendly people**!





HOW CAN YOU HELP?

BEFORE THE BAZAAR:

- Make a **donation** if you cannot bake, craft or help.
- **Bake** traditional Christmas cookies and Stollen or come to one of the evenings to help with baking and crafting (3, 10 & 17 November at 18h00 in church hall). If you love baking but cannot afford all the ingredients, please contact the committee or the office – we get donations to cover these costs
- Help make **Advent wreaths** on Wednesday, 26 November from 17h00
- Make home-made **crafts** to sell as gifts for our craft table.
- Help **setting up** on Thursday, 27 November from 17h00



ON THE DAY:

- **Help** at one of the stands and **support** the Bazaar.

AFTER THE BAZAAR:

- **Help** pack away and clean up.

The success and enjoyment of the bazaar depends on us all working together – and it is much more fun in any case!

The proceeds from the event are an important source of revenue for our congregation's budget.



We appreciate your interest and support!

Sieglinde Rühle and Christa Büttner-Rohwer
ruhle.sieglinde@gmail.com; 083 294 1638 - xta1br@gmail.com; 083 321 1991







From 11 to 13 September, 28 participants, young and old, from various countries gathered for a weekend together at the Wortelgat Camping Farm on the lagoon near Stanford. Our church had organised a weekend with the theme: 'Walking on Water'. The last participants arrived late on Friday evening. We were accommodated in six different houses with rooms containing two to four beds; some were even treated to a room all to themselves.
Quite a few nature lovers braved the wet and cold weather straight away to explore the surrounding fynbos. We were well looked after with plenty of food; there was a barbecue evening, and coffee and tea were available round the clock, which we enjoyed with the cakes and biscuits we'd brought along.

Divided into groups, there were opportunities for discussions, games, crafts and cheerful chats. Everyone could decide for themselves when to go to bed.

We gathered time and again in the large living room with its open fire for devotions, Sunday service and singing. The music was organised by Barbara Meylahn and Christa Büttner-Rohwer. Christa played the guitar and her son Martin accompanied her on a cajón. This is a wooden drum that originally comes from Peru.

During the group discussion, there was also an opportunity to get to know one another a little better. People spoke of courageous steps they had taken, much like Peter did when he bravely stepped out of the boat to walk on the water and reach Jesus. Further reflections centred on the future of our congregation. What steps can we take together in our church to foster a vibrant and growing community?

The Sunday service was led by Barbara Meylahn and had been prepared the evening before together with some of the younger participants. Many hymns were sung to lovely accompaniment. Moving in a circle, everyone was then able to say a personal goodbye to one another in a cheerful atmosphere.

A brunch afterwards filled our stomachs for the journey home ahead. After a group photo, everyone packed away what they'd brought with them, and the first cars set off. The car-sharing arrangements that had been in place for the journey there were also available for the return journey. Some stayed on for walks to explore the surrounding area further.

The biggest thank you must surely go to the organiser of the weekend, Barbara Meylahn. With a great deal of planning and loads of boxes, she'd thought of everything one might need for leisure activities in a large group. Our church wardens provided active support throughout. Thank you to the whole team!

It was a varied, interesting, successful and lovely weekend, full of positive thoughts and plenty of food for thought.

Dorothea Perwas

One of my greatest regrets had always been never experiencing a church camp, and then, almost out of nowhere, an opportunity presented itself. Wortelgat.

Now, let me be honest: the expectations were anything but modest. I was looking forward to the outdoor activities but then came the weather forecast. Rain. More rain. As it turned out, the outdoor activities, kayaking included, did not quite make it off the ground. But as I would discover, the best parts of Wortelgat had very little to do with what happened outdoors.

What made the camp so special was the people. There was something beautiful about connecting with people from different age groups, backgrounds, and countries, all gathered in one place with a shared faith. The international Bible studies and discussions were among my favourite parts of the experience. These were not just conversations for the sake of filling a schedule; people were willing to ask deeper questions, share personal experiences, and listen to perspectives different from their own. I found it refreshing to be in a space where everyone felt welcome to contribute. The conversations did not end when the Bible studies did, either. They carried on around the table after meals, during games, and those spontaneous conversations somehow became some of the most memorable parts of a trip.

The camp was wonderfully organised, and I particularly loved how everyone was involved and willing to work together. There was a genuine sense of community, one that grew through shared meals, thoughtful discussions and the simple willingness to make everyone feel included. By the end, the people who had initially been strangers felt a little less like strangers. The camp turned out to be a happy, spiritually uplifting experience, one that left me with a deeper appreciation for fellowship and the ways in which our faith can grow through the experiences and perspectives of others. I may not have got my kayaking adventure, but I left with something far more meaningful.

Victoria N. Nakafingo













THANKSGIVING

On Sunday, 4 October about 50 members and visitors travelled to Springfontein, the beautiful apple farm of the Bidoli family in Grabouw. Pastor Beate held the church service in their tomato greenhouse - cathedral like and festively decorated in a harvest theme. The sermon's theme was "Reverence for Life," (Proverbs 9,10). Pastor Felix bravely accompanied the hymn singing on a keyboard.

The collection and the donated food items were shared by the Stellenbosch Feeding in Action and the Paarl East Soup Kitchen.

After the service everyone wandered over to the house and enjoyed a lovely meal under the shady trees on the beautiful green lawn next to the dam – the Bidolis braaied boerewors for wors rolls and everyone had brought a selection of salads, fruit and cake for the shared meal.

Thanks to the Bidoli family for their gracious hosting of the congregation and to everyone who contributed to make this a blessed thanksgiving.

We truly have a lot to be grateful for!















Preacher Training Faith Course topics

YEAR 1 2027

Bible 1 (Hermeneutics)
What is the Bible? How do we read and interpret it?
The central message(s) of the Bible.

Bible 2 (Old Testament)
Overview of genres, authors and theologies in the Old Testament.

Bible 3 (New Testament)
Overview of genres, authors and theologies in the New Testament.

Theology 1 (Overview)
Who is God? The role of Jesus. The Holy Spirit.

Theology 2 (Confessional Writings)
What makes us Lutheran? Our confessional writings.

Theology 3 (Lutheran Theology)
What makes us Lutheran? Central themes of Lutheran theology.

All online sessions FREE of charge

In-person workshop (optional)
Tying together the content of all topics for Year 1 and Year 2.

YEAR 2 2028

The Divine Service
History, structure, liturgical calendar, characteristics of a good service.

Preaching
The homiletical cycle; who am I as preacher? Types of sermons. Using other sermons; steps to writing your own sermon.

The Sacraments
History and theology of Baptism and Holy Communion.

In-Person practical (workshop)
Practical skills: reading aloud, praying, benediction, choosing hymns, preaching - dos and don'ts. Administering Holy Communion.

Catechetics / Teaching
Leading a small group Bible study.

Pastoral Counselling
Skills, visiting ministry, dos and don'ts.

Personal Faith Development
Who am I as a person of God?

Being a Leader in the Church
Styles, skills, dos and don'ts.

Online sessions
Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings
for detailed info contact Past. Claudia Nolte-Schamm
WhatApp 074 136 7017
preacher.training@capelutheranchurch.org.za

NOVEMBER

Nicola Rohwer	9.11
Reinhard Hösch	11.11
Johann Schloms	14.11
Stephanie Midgley	16.11
Renate Schlenther	16.11
Cordelia Pagels	18.11
Klaus-Gerd v Pressentin	20.11
Heinrich Stadler	20.11
Ursula von St Ange	21.11
Leonore Krause	25.11
Bärbel Kloos	25.11
Marietta Hennes	26.11
Konrad von Leipzig	26.11
Henriette Röttcher	28.11
Monika Hoffmann	29.11

DECEMBER

Luca Bidoli	2.12
Mila Filter	5.12
Hilko Hegewisch	6.12
Eva Margarete van Zijl	6.12
Gundula Searle	6.12
Marlene von Dürckheim	7.12
Christel Rohwer	7.12
Theodor Andrag	9.12
Harold Matthiae	10.12
Alec Koch	11.12
Daniel Koch	11.12
Willem Kriel	13.12
Gustav Köhne	16.12
Gerhard Seeger	16.12
Sofia Schmidt-Dumont	18.12
Hürgen Rubow	19.12
Bianca Ulrich	20.12
Jutta Herrmann	31.12



WHO SAID THIS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

1.“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”
2.“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”
3.“Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”
4.“I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.”
5.“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”
6.“Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.”
7.“How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”
8.“Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”
9.“And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.”
10. “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”
11. “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”
12. “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”
13. “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
14. “Are you the King of the Jews?”
15. “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,[a] stand up and walk.”
16. “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me.”
17. “Do you understand what you are reading?”
18. “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?”
19. “Tabitha, get up.”
20. “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

ANSWERS

1.Jesus (Luke 23,34) 2.Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10,46-47)
3.Mary Magdalene (John 20,15) 4.The prodigal son (Luke 15,18)
5.Thomas (John 20,25) 6.Zacchaeus (Luke 19,8)
7.Nicodemus (John 3,4) 8.King Herod (Matthew 2,7-8)
9.Angel Gabriel (Luke 1,26-31) 10.Nathanael (John 1,46)
11.Mary (Luke 1,38) 12.The Samaritan woman (John 4,9-11)
13. Jesus (Matthew 4,4) 14. Pilate (John 18,33)
15. Peter (Acts 3,6) 16. A sick man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5,7)
17. Philip, the evangelist (Acts 8,30) 18. Andrew (John 6,9)
19. Peter (Acts 9,40) 20. The devil (Matthew 4,3)

https://godlypearls.com/Bible%20Quiz/Who%20said%20this%20-%20NT.pdf

EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN CONGREGATION STELLENBOSCH & SOMERSET WEST

044-038 NPO

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WEBSITE CAPE CHURCH

www.lutherancape.org.za

FACEBOOK

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

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Current Account
Branch Code: 107 110
Account Number: 1071251643
Reference: Name & Purpose/Membership Number

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NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

20 December 2026

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