



Bishop's Post February-March

How well do you know your Bible? How long will you take to find the book Zephania without using the index? If it is more than 10 seconds, this challenge definitely is for you!

I invite you to go on a four year journey through the Bible. A Bible Reading Plan, downloadable from www.elcsant.org.za, will guide you with a passage for each day. During the next four years you will have read all of the New and large portions of the Old Testament. Are you up for the challenge? I hope so!

To make it more interesting you can have a Bible Quizz in your house group, seniors or youth group, or even for the whole congregation, covering the sections read during the past few months. It can be great fun!

The best time to do the daily reading is in the morning before breakfast. Night owls might prefer the time before going to sleep.

You can start off with a prayer: Lord, speak to me!

You can use a pen, pencil or marker to highlight sentences that speak to you. One idea is to write a thought or verse that struck you on a small piece of paper to take with you this day. You might even give it to someone during the day and thus share what you have read.

End with a prayer speaking to God about what you read and heard.

During January and February 2018, the main focus is on Deuteronomy (Literally: Second law). The book, compiled during the Babylonian Exile in the 6th Century before Christ, is a summary of the first 4 books of the Bible till the death of Moses. Apart from the 10 Commandments and ritual laws it also contains many laws and guidelines for everyday life. Some you will find archaic, others still totally relevant.

End of February we continue with John, the main gospel for 2018. Unlike the other gospels it contains only a few miracles, parables, carefully chosen to cover specific themes. If you are only starting now with the Bible reading, I encourage you to also read the first three chapters which were covered in January.

John says: Much more could have been written, but I chose this so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that you may have life in him (20,31)

I pray that this journey with the Bible will indeed be a life-renewing experience for you!

Your fellow Bible reader,

Horst Müller
Horst Müller

News from the Church

2018 sees quite a few moves and new beginnings.

Pastor Andreas Wernecke is reaching retirement in February. He is willing to help out in Kempton Park still during the vacancy before relocating to the Cape.

After his ordination in December 1983, he started his service in St Peters by the Lake, Johannesburg. In 2000 he went on a six-year exchange programme to Germany, and after his return became pastor in Kempton Park. In 1993 he was part of a small study group that visited Lutheran Churches in the USA. This was part of the ELCSA (N-T) Dynamis Decade, and valuable resources and ideas were brought back from there. It impacted on the English ministry of our Church. The “Crossways” Bible Study material was used extensively by many pastors in the years to follow.

We thank Pastor Wernecke, his wife Marianne and daughters for the impact that they had on their congregations and the Church, and pray that there will be many happy years of retirement, with health restored and energy replenished.

In the meantime, Kempton Park has elected **Pastor Dieter Klee** from New Hannover as pastor. He will commence his duties in the second half of 2018 after completing his study leave.

Pastor Dieter Trümpelmann relocated from East London to St Peters by the Lake and was inducted on 21 January 2018. May he, his wife and children settle in soon!

After receiving funding from the **ELM (Evangelisch- Lutherisches Missionswerk in Niedersachsen)** **Pastor Rosalie Madika** could start with the Migrant Ministry Project, linked to St Peters Pretoria congregation. The family relocated from Midrand to Pretoria in December. She will be inducted into the new post on 4 February 2018. With the growing numbers of refugees world-wide this is an important project for our church, and close partnership with the ELM will hopefully be beneficial for both countries.

Mr Randolph Kassier, a farmer, who studied theology part time and served the Methodist Church in the Free State on a voluntary basis, will be employed on a quarter post in Vanderbijlpark for 2018. During this period, he will receive ongoing training, leading to the second theological examination at the end of 2018, and, hopefully, his full-time employment as pastor of our Church. We pray that for him and his wife it will be a blessed journey, and that the congregation will move forward in this new arrangement.

From 6-8 March 2018 members of the **Council of the EKD (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland)** will be visiting our Church. Due to the short period available they will only be in Johannesburg and Pretoria, ending with a meeting with our Church Council. Hopefully a get together between them and pastors and congregational chair persons from Gauteng on 7 March in Pretoria will give them a glimpse of the variety within our Church. From here they will then visit the Cape Church and Namibia.