



BISHOPS POST



Ascension Day - the forgotten festival, not only since it was scrapped as public holiday. Even before that many Christians did not celebrate it as such. In Germany many only associate it with Father's day. And yet, this festival, well established in the 4th century, is one of the major Church festivals. It commemorates Jesus being taken into heaven, not above, but into the omnipresent, invisible realm of God. Since that day Christians do not need to be at a specific place to have fellowship with Christ their King, but meet with him everywhere, at all times.

It also marks the beginning of the "waiting time" for Pentecost "**Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my father has promised**" Jesus tells his disciples in Acts 1. Many Churches celebrate the 10 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost as a time of prayer and preparation for the Holy Spirit.

I challenge us to re-discover and celebrate this special day and the 10 subsequent days.

We need to be reminded that Jesus Christ is King of Kings - especially when earthly rulers see themselves as gods.

It is good to learn again to await God, prayerfully, rather than wanting to achieve everything in our own strength.

It is important to open up again to the thought that Christ wants to empower us to spread the gospel through our words and actions, wherever we are.

Most of us still observe Lent and Advent. Let us now rediscover these 10 days of joyful expectation and prayer culminating in the celebration of the birthday of the Church - Pentecost - the day that God equipped his Church to continue the mission of Christ for the salvation of mankind.

News from ELCSA (N-T)

Congratulations to **Rolf Schmidt** on passing his final theological Examination. After his Ordination on 29 May 2011 he will serve as Pastor coll. in Trinity Zululand. We welcome him, his wife Jessica and daughters Mia and Eva in our Church.

Frank Schütte passed his first theological examination and will serve as intern in Walvis Bay.

Hans-Peter von Fintel has relocated to Melle/Germany to complete his second year of internship with Pastor Karsten Keding.

On 12 June 2011 the North Rand congregation bids farewell to **Pastor Helmut Dedekind**, he is retiring. He and Christa will re-locate to Germany. We thank them for their dedicated service to our church for the last 34 years!

Yours in Christ
Horst Müller