



## *Bishop's Post*

*December 21 January 2022*

NELCSA

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The word became human and dwelt amongst us” John 1:1&14**



“There is a longing in our hearts, o Lord for you to reveal yourself to us.” The song by Ann Quigley expresses this longing in a range of life-situations. The longing to be close to Christ, to be guided, comforted, encouraged.

It is wonderful to realise that God has the same longing. That is why he decided to become human and touchable. He became a baby, carried in the arms of his parents, Hannah, Simeon and many others.

Jesus, in turn, when he was an adult, took time to embrace children brought to him (Mark 10, 16). The statue (by Karin Rabe) shows the deep peace on the faces of Jesus and children in his presence.

After almost two years of physical distancing many people also have this longing for touch, embracing, closeness. It is good to find safe ways to be in touch and to make use of them.

When doing so, let us remember our Lord, who could no longer stand to be at a distance, and became human to be with us. We celebrate this especially at Christmas and Epiphany (6 January). We also experience it at baptism, when the water

touches us, at communion, when we taste and see Christ in the elements and fellowship. And we can feel the touch when we are blessed with laying on of hands (which can be done safely even in Corona times). Not only the pastor can do it. When we pray with our children, let us lay our hands on them. When we

pray in the family, let us lay our hands on each other with words of blessing. Through all this we can experience that the Lord is dwelling amongst us. May his peace and presence surround you this Christmas and as we start the year 2022.

Yours in Christ

*Horst Müller*

## NELCSA News

1. On 16 October 2021 **Käte van Scharrel**, widow of Pastor Bernhard van Scharrel, passed away, aged 90. The couple served in various mission stations of the ELCSA Tswana Region from 1955-70 (Emmaus, Ramotswa, Klerksdorp) before moving to Hakboslaagte (Gerdau) where they served until their retirement in 1990. May the Lord bless and comfort the family!

2. **Elections:** The **ELCSA Cape Church** has elected **Bishop Gilbert Filter** for another 4 year term. **Pastor Hans-Peter von Fintel** was elected as deputy. May the Lord bless them in their serving!

Our member of Church Council, **Ann Mokhine**, has been elected onto the National Executive Committee of the South African Council of Churches. We congratulate her, and pray that the Lord will bless her and the work of the NEC through her.

On 28 November **Bishop NE Mogorosi** has been inducted as bishop of the **ELCSA Western Diocese**. May he be blessed in his serving.

3. **UELCSA: Ingrid Kassier** has been accepted as intern in UELCSA. She completed her MTh degree in Bloemfontein, and will commence her internship in Stellenbosch. Her first Theological Examination is planned for 27 January 2022.

**Jessica Schmidt**, wife of Pastor Rolf Schmidt (UELC) is completing her second theological examination on 27 January 2022. We are glad that she is taking this step.

**Annelise Hofmann** was ordained on 1<sup>st</sup> of Advent, 28 November 2021 in Namibia.

We pray that the Lord will bless them in this new phase of their ministry!

## 4. Dates for 2022

**eEquip** in Hermannsburg from 2-6 January on "Touched". More at <https://www.nelcsa.net/equip-2022.html>

**NELCSA Brass Festival** 22 May 2022 in Wartburg

**NELCSA Synod** 14-16 October 2022 in Northrand

