

Bishops' Post – February/March 2026

“And the One seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”
(Revelation 21:5)

A new year always begins with a mixture of hope and uncertainty. We look back on the year that has passed and still carry much of it with us: joys and blessings, but also disappointments, failures, loss, and weariness. The calendar turns, but life does not automatically feel “new.”

In this tension, God’s word resounds: “Behold!” It is an invitation to pause, to pay attention, to look differently. Not in the first instance at ourselves or at the world, but at God who speaks from the throne.

God does not say, “Make everything new yourselves.” He says, “I make all things new.” This promise stands at the heart of Revelation 21, but it runs like a golden thread through the whole New Testament. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17: “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.” The new creation is therefore not only a future reality — it has already begun in Christ and in the lives of those who belong to Him.

This is also how God works in the transition between the old and the new year. He does not wipe out our past as if it never existed. He carries it with us, takes it up into His work of redemption, and transforms it.

But Paul goes further. In 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 he writes that God, who has reconciled us to Himself, has entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation. We become ambassadors for Christ. Those who have themselves been made new are drawn into God’s work of renewing the world — not as its originators, but as bearers and witnesses of what God is already doing.

Think of a long journey at night. You cannot see the whole road ahead. Darkness remains all around you, but the light of the headlights illuminates only the next few metres. That is enough to keep moving forward. In the same way, God does not give us the whole picture in the new year, but enough light for the next step. Renewal happens step by step, under God’s hand.

As people who live from hope, we already carry within us the first signs of the new creation. We are called, in the midst of a troubled world, to live signs of God’s future: reconciliation where there is conflict, hope where there is discouragement, light where there is darkness.

At the beginning of this year, God invites us to thirst for the water of life (Rev. 21), to live as new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5), to persevere in hope even when creation groans (Rom. 8), and to be ambassadors of God’s renewal.

The new year lies open before us — not without challenges, but under God’s promise and His calling.

Theo Jäckel

From the NELCSA

We wish our theological students well in their upcoming first and second theological exam, which will be held from the 11th to the 14th of March 2026. Wikus Oppermann will be doing his first theological exam and PJ Hanekom and Hans-Christoph Lange their second. We wish them God’s presence and guidance during their time of preparation.

NELCSA and FELSISA have been engaging one another for several years theological dialogue, notably through a Theological Working Group established in 2018. In 2024–2025, church leadership of both churches initiated an additional process of short, one-page statements to address members’ questions and to enhance communication. These statements offer accessible, non-binding summaries of each church’s theological perspectives, prepared by mixed teams of theologians and lay members. Their purpose is to deepen mutual understanding in a spirit of openness and Christian love. The document will be made available to congregations as soon as it is finalised.

