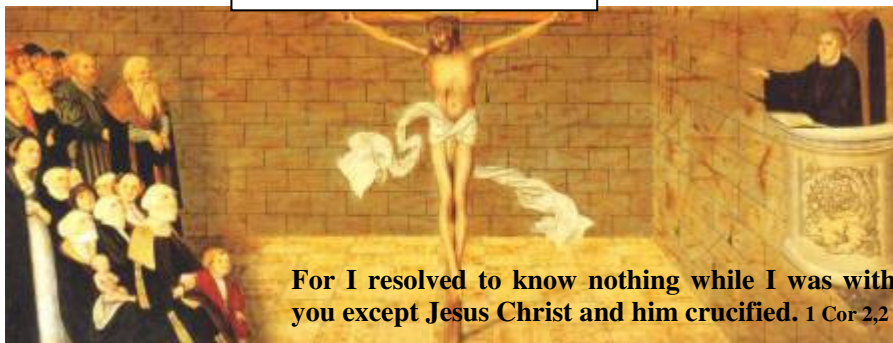
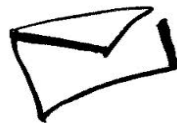




BISHOP'S

Oct 14 POST Nov 14



For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 1 Cor 2,2

The reformation artist Lucas Cranach senior has drawn an impressive illustration of Luther preaching. It symbolises many aspects of the reformation and the Lutheran Church. It clearly shows that Christ the crucified is the centre of the Church and of all preaching. It also shows Luther's passion for Jesus Christ. His highest goal was to proclaim this Christ.

Looking at the congregation, one can read a lot into their faces. Some look at the crucified Christ, adore and worship him. It is so wonderful when people hear the gospel and get to know Christ. The sermon has fulfilled its purpose!

Quite a few look at Luther. This is the danger of any revival movement. To the preacher Christ is at the centre, but all too easily it happens that the audience starts worshipping the preacher. This also remains the danger of the Lutheran Church - that we focus on Luther, rather than looking at where he is pointing! Yes, we may look at him – but may we then also see where he is pointing, and look at Christ.



One face fascinates me. One woman seems to be looking at us. Suddenly I am no longer just an observer. I am standing in the room! Her eyes are calling: Come and join us. Come and listen - and meet Jesus Christ.

On 31 October we will be remembering Reformation day. A lot of focus will be on Martin Luther. I hope that many will see the real focus and hear the wonderful message that Jesus Christ, the crucified is the Saviour of the world. I also hope that in each service, in each congregation, there will be those like this one woman, who ensure that onlookers will be met by welcoming glances that say: Come in and get to know our Saviour Jesus Christ!

Yours in service of this Christ,

Horst Müller

A high resolution image of the predella can be found at

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Luther-Predigt-LC-WB.jpg>

News from the Church:

Congratulations to **Frank Schütte** who passed his second theological examination on 13 August 2014. He was ordained in the Johannesgemeinde Pretoria on 17 August, and has commenced his service as pastor-coll in Augsburg Congregation (Eastern Circuit). We wish him, his family and the congregation God's blessing for their journey together.

Various **elections** were held recently.

Vryheid elected Pastor Rüdiger Lutz from East London as successor to Dirk Köstlin. He will be seconded by the Cape Church as from 1 March 2015.

Hermannsburg School and Congregation elected Pastor Rene Risch as successor to Burgert Brand who will take up his office as Bishop in Namibia on the 1st of January 2015.

Pastor Reinhold Schiele was elected as pastor of the Northern Congregations of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia. He will commence his duties there when he returns from Germany at the end of 2014.

Southern and Eastern Circuits elected to continue with the **25% Youth Pastor post KZN** for a further 3 years.

Both **ELCSA (Cape) and (NT)** at their synods in 2013 adopted a motion of "engagement in view of marriage" between the Churches. The respective church councils were tasked to take the process further.

On 4 August a task team comprising of the bishop, president of synod and treasurer of each Church met to address the issue in more detail.

The following was agreed upon:

The aim is one Church which serves and empowers its congregations to fulfil their local calling and where these congregations constructively engage with one another.

The task team divided into sub-teams on structure, laws and finances. Each of these sub-teams is encouraged to think outside the box, rather than just adapting or amalgamating what we have.

At the next meeting in November 2014 the suggestions will be discussed. After that you will receive a next report.