



BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHEASTERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA

Director Egmont Ottermann
44 First Str.
Linden
2195
Johannesburg

Telefon +27 82 650 7237
email ewottermann@gmail.com
www.posaunenverband.org.za

03 September 2023

Report to the Synod 2023

Introduction

What a relief to be playing again after enforced restrictions due to the COVID Pandemic. Although most brass bands started with enthusiasm the effect was palpable. Quite a few brass bands were smaller, but we will prevail.

Brass Band Festivals

We celebrated the brass band festival in Wartburg as guests of the UELC congregation. It was a wonderful festival where the joy and relief of being able to praise the Lord together again was palpable.

A great gratitude is due to the UELC congregation for the wonderful arrangements and hospitality.

We also celebrated regional festivals in Kempton Park and Braunschweig, with the festival of the southern region coming up on 10 September in Bethanien.

The preparations for the centenary festival are taking shape. The festival is planned for 9-11 August 2024 in Hermannsburg and the whole church is invited.

Even though our brass band movement started the same time as the first Lutheran missionaries landed in the country our association started in 1924 with a decision to start an association of brass bands in our church.

The festival has been set over a long weekend so that we can expand the festival over three days and families can enjoy the long weekend with us.

Further, we are also planning to send a delegation of players to the next festival of the Evangelischen Posaundienst in Deutschland in May 2024.

Education

We held a successful conductor course with Günter Marstatt in April under the auspices of the Evangelical Brass Band Associations of Southern Africa. Representatives from FELSISA, NELCSA and the BBSA attended.

It was a successful first course for the new intake and they will complete their training in 2024.

Co-operation

We were privileged to attend the BBSA 70th anniversary in Elim with players from all associations. It was a wonderful weekend and enforces the power of music to bridge divides between churches.

We are also thankful for the co-operation with the Evangelischen Posaunendienst in Deutschland.

The Future

The brass band movement has been resilient during the COVID period and is poised for growth. Yet our biggest challenge, and at the same time opportunity, is the growth of the brass band movement amongst the English-speaking members of our church.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Egon Otterman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'E'.