



Lutheran Youth Mission, NELCSA  
KZN Youth Council  
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Lutherische Jugendmission, NELKSA  
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## NELCSA KZN Youth Pastor and Hermannsburg Chaplain report 2023

### 1. Introduction

After extensively reporting on the youth pastor and school chaplain post at Synod 2021 just a few months ago, I will briefly add a few points that have transpired since then. It would be useful to have read the report from Synod 2021 to better understand the points below.

### 2. Youth Pastor Post

The first three-year term of my tenure as youth pastor comes to an end in December 2023. The youth pastor post is up for election every three years, and with the current format, all parties involved need to agree to an extension of the memorandum of agreement or adjustments to it every three years. These three parties being the Hermannsburg Peter Paul congregation, the KZN Youth of NELCSA, the Hermannsburg School and then the Church Council of NELCSA also needs to agree to this. The process to do so started at the AGM of the Hermannsburg Peter Paul congregation in March 2023 where they voted to continue with the current structure for a further three years (i.e. financing, supporting and committing to a ¼ pastors post for a further three years). The Hermannsburg school has through its board and its executive head verbally agreed to host a school pastor from the NELCSA also for a further three years. This will be confirmed at a meeting between the church council and the Hermannsburg School board during the course of 2023. The KZN Youth will host meetings where congregations of the Southern and Eastern circuits, through their representatives, will vote on this matter as well.

Should all agree to this, it then paves the way for a further three years in the current format.

#### 2.1 Camps

The youth pastor is responsible to organise camps, assist in choosing the theme for these camps, arranging the registration process and pre-camp administration as well as attending these camps, which are as follows:

**2.1.1. Kailager Children's Camp (Ages 8-12)** – this camp took place at the Kailager site close to Port Edward on the KZN South Coast again from 26 June to 1 July. 45 children and 23 volunteers attended.

**2.2.2. KT Camp (Ages 12-16)** – this camp also took place at the Kailager site in the week after the Kailager Children's camp (3-8 July). There were 26 participants and 11 helpers.

We are again very very grateful for the support shown by congregations and the two circuits in financing these camps and for the many wonderful donations received.

### 3. Hermannsburg School

Due to the extensive commitments by the three different posts a request was sent out at Synod last year to find an assistant for the chaplain at the Hermannsburg School. From 1 April 2023 an assistant, Nonjabulo Shezi, has been employed by the Hermannsburg School as Chaplain and Teachers assistant. The KZN Youth partly funds this post in support of the youth pastor post.

This has come at an opportune time as the scholar numbers have greatly increased (179 in 2021 to 225 in 2023) and all indications are that the numbers will increase further, adding to the commitments to the school chaplain post. This is a positive development for the school and the future looks bright.

#### **4. General**

##### **4.1. Children's Church camps**

###### **4.1.1. Eastern Circuit**

I attended a circuit wide Children's church camp in the Eastern circuit which was a great success and a wonderful experience. It was well organised and meaningful for the attendees.

###### **4.1.2. Southern Circuit**

The annual Children's church camp in the Hermannsburg congregation was held again for the first time since 2020. This was mainly for the congregation and the School, with 40 children attending. After a positive experience in the Eastern Circuit it was decided at a pastor's convention to explore the possibility for the Southern circuit to also have a circuit wide Children's church camp.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Despite the many challenges that two quarter posts and one-half post hold, it still makes sense to continue with the current format for at least the next three years. With the employment of a chaplain's assistant and a few minor adjustments to the post I feel that the challenges can be overcome and look forward to three more years in these exciting positions.



Pastor René Risch