Eastern Parish
NEWSLETTER
November & December 2026

<u>The Eastern Parish.</u>

St Andrews East London

St. Peters Komga

St Pauls Stutterheim

St Pauls Macleantown

The Journey Continues: God Watches Over Us:

“The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.” Psalm 121:8 (NIVUK)

Every journey has its own story. Some parts are filled with joy and laughter. Others bring unexpected changes, difficult goodbyes, and questions about what lies ahead. When we look back, we often recognise things we could not see at the time: people God placed in our lives, strength we received when we needed it, and small signs of his goodness along the way.

As we come to the end of another church year, we have much to be thankful for. We have gathered around God’s Word, prayed for one another, and shared in the joys and sorrows of life. We also remember those who have died during the past year, and those who continue to feel their absence.

Not every day has been easy, and not every prayer has been answered as we hoped. Yet through it all, God has remained faithful. For the journey we have shared, and for all that God has done among us, we give thanks.

As our journey brings us to Advent and Christmas, we turn to the story of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem. Their journey was shaped by circumstances they had not chosen, and they could not see everything that lay ahead. Yet God was at work, keeping his promises.

In Bethlehem, Jesus was born in humble surroundings. God came into our world, bringing the gift of his love and the hope of salvation. We too may find ourselves at the beginning of a new chapter. Some changes bring excitement; others bring uncertainty or sadness. We may not know what lies around the next bend, but Christmas reminds us of something we can always hold on to: God comes to us. We do not need to have the whole journey figured out before we can trust him. In Jesus, God has come close to us, and his promises remain sure.

As Brigitte and I prepare to begin a new chapter in Pretoria, we do so with grateful hearts for the journey we have shared with you. Thank you for your prayers, kindness, friendships, and moments of fellowship. These are gifts we will treasure. Although our paths will now lead in different directions, the words of Psalm 121:8 remind us that we remain in God’s care: “The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.”

As we enter Advent and prepare to celebrate Christmas, may the coming of Christ renew our hope! May God’s Word guide us, his promises strengthen us, and his love sustain us in every season. The journey continues, and we do not walk it alone. Wherever the road leads, we can move forward with hope, trusting the God who has been faithful in the past and who holds our future in his hands.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas. Pastor HP& Brigitte von Fintel

Christmas Message to the Eastern Parish & update from Dr C Johl – Chairperson of the Eastern Parish.

Dear members and friends of the Eastern Parish, I greet you with the watchword for 2026 written in Revelations 21 verse 5, “I am making everything new”.

This year is nearly over, with around two months left until Christmas. With year-end in sight, it is always good to reflect on the past year and look forward to some positive changes in 2027, and with Pastor HP and Brigitte leaving to respond to the calling from St Peters in Pretoria we will certainly experience change.

The Eastern Parish was formed on 1st January this year (2026) and is functioning well, despite the workload for Pastor HP being high, and also the requirement for preachers to lead worship and other occasional services.

As decided at the parish committee meeting, St Andrews has four English service per month, one of which is preacher led, and 3 Pastor led. It also has one German service per month which is Pastor led. Komga has one Pastor led service per month, whilst Stutterheim has two Pastor led and one preacher led services per month. Macleantown has one Pastor led and one preacher led services per month. It is the intention to maintain this frequency of worship services during the vacancy.

Vicar, Mr. Wikus Opperman, of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (UELCSA) has already passed his first Theological examination, and has, in principle, been placed in the Eastern Parish to complete his internship.

We are truly grateful that the UECLSA Church Council has agreed to place him in our parish and we look forward to his participation in this role. He and his family will move to the Eastern Cape from Cape Town, at this stage, before Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming him and his family to the parish. At this stage his second theological examination is planned for April 2028. (Order c820(a)(1) refers).

The next Synod meeting of the Cape Church will be hosted by the Eastern Parish members and held at St Andrews Church in 2027.

Thanks to Pastor HP for his loving pastoral service to the parish over the 11 years that he has been in this role. His commitment has been unwavering under any of the circumstances that we found ourselves in. Also, thanks go to Brigitte for her unwavering support for him. We are truly grateful that we have shared these past 11 years of HP and Brigittes’ lives with them in the fulfilment of Gods calling.

The calling of Pastor HP to St Peters, Pretoria is certainly St. Peters gain. May Almighty God continue to bless HP and Brigitte wherever they serve our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!
Dr Christian Johl, Chairman of the Eastern Parish Committee, 083 407 7937.

St Pauls Stutterheim: Bazaar

For more information, contact the:
St Pauls Stutterheim Church Committee.

Contact details on the back of the Newsletter.

Family News – within the Eastern Parish:

Peter Rautenbach (St Pauls Stutterheim) passed away on the 30th August 2026 – we remember his wife Nola and family.

Norma Ristow (St Pauls Stutterheim) passed away on the 2nd September 2026 – she is dearly missed by her husband, her children, her siblings, extended family and friends.

Merle Ahlschlager (St Peter's Komga) passed away on the 16th September 2026 – thinking and remembering her with fond memories.

Mervin Weyer (St Andrews) passed away on the 28th September 2026, our sincere condolences to his wife Erika and his sons Barry and Andrew, their spouses and his grandchildren. A gentle giant – resting in peace.

Those we love do not go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near, still loved, still missed and held so dear.

Carol Service

@ St Andrews

20th December @ 6pm

Come join us – All are welcomed.

Ps HP von Fintel & Brigitte's farewell service

– will take place on the 8th November at 10.30am at St Andrews.

After this service you are all invited to join us for a

Formal meal, some speeches, good company in the hall.

Should you wish to assist in the kitchen or bring a salad or dessert or just need more information – please contact Vera 082 576 3765,

Doreen 083 673 5589

Bettina 083 295 0506.

Dear Parents and Children – we are nearing the Christmas Season and that means – we are soon starting with practicing for the nativity play at St Andrews, 24th December 2026.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

For more information, please contact Renee Johl 083 554 3954.

Flower Duty: - St Andrews

01 November 2026 – Vera / Erika
08 November 2026 – Annette Fortmann
15 November 2026 – Pearl Coetzer
22 November 2026 – Doreen Hayter
29 November 2026 – Renee Johl
06 December 2026 – Belinda Hawyes
13 December 2026 – Doreen Hayter
20 December 2026 – Renee Johl
27 December 2026 - No service at St Andrews
03 January 2027 – Bettina du Buson

Should you ever want to bring flowers for the Altar, please let Vera Johl know and your name will be added to the roster.

At this Christmas Market – there will be a limited amount of dry sausage on sale. More details to be released nearer to the market dates.

Advent Wreaths – made from fresh foliage – will only be available on order. Please contact Bettina 0832950506.

Eastern Parish Members celebrating their Birthdays during November & December 2026.

	November			December	
2	Natalie Peden	St Andrews	2	Leanne Ristow	St Pauls Stutterheim
2	Ken Liss	St Andrews	2	Monika Hawkes	St Andrews
2	Nola Rautenbach	St Pauls Sutterheim	2	Koliwe Koti	St Pauls Macleantown
3	Rudolph Tessendorf	St Peters Komga	3	Annette Fortmann	St Andrews
3	Kelvin Burger	St Pauls Sutterheim	4	Jack Ries	St Andrews
3	Michael Daniel	St Pauls Sutterheim	6	Keegan Kirchoff	St Andrews
4	Glen Hawyes	St Andrews	6	Maria Mortimer	St Pauls Macleantown
9	Tara Leigh Moss	St Pauls Sutterheim	6	Lisa Braun	St Pauls Stutterheim
9	Lorraine Braun	St Andrews	6	Bev Iveson	St Pauls Stutterheim
10	Annemarie Schlüter	St Andrews	8	Luke Schwulst	St Pauls Macleantown
10	Chloe Lutge	St Andrews	10	Chandre Pitcher	St Andrews
12	Doreen Iveson	St Pauls Sutterheim	11	Peter Mortlock	St Andrews
13	Russel Paper	St Pauls Sutterheim	12	Terri Schwulst	St Pauls Macleantown
15	Baylee de Lange	St Andrews	15	Catherine Collocott	St Andrews
15	Bonni Sporke	St Andrews	16	Chantel Jarvis	St Andrews
16	Charne Kirsten	St Andrews	16	Haigen Syles	St Andrews
16	Birte Matson	St Andrews	17	Pearl Coetzer	St Andrews
16	Vernay Sternberg	St Pauls Sutterheim	18	Logan Davoren	St Andrews
17	Chris Johl	St Andrews	18	Claire Howe	St Pauls Stutterheim
18	Denise Maritz	St Pauls Sutterheim	24	Stuart Krause	St Pauls Macleantown
19	Tasmin de Coning	St Pauls Macleantown	25	Geoff Sykes	St Andrews
19	Noel Kieck	St Pauls Sutterheim	25	Wijna Wittstock	St Pauls Stutterheim
20	Andrew Vockerodt	St Pauls Sutterheim	28	Melanie Ritcher	St Andrews
20	Ann Kopke	St Andrews	28	Michelle Louw	St Andrews
23	Glenton Sternberg	St Pauls Sutterheim	28	Jason Klopper	St Andrews
25	Jacqui Krause	St Pauls Macleantown	28	James Mundell	St Pauls Stutterheim
25	Hannah Trollope	St Peters Komga	29	Lionel Ristow	St Pauls Stutterheim
26	Vernon Sternberg	St Pauls Sutterheim			
26	Caitlin Langhein	St Pauls Sutterheim			
26	Desiree Blom	St Pauls Sutterheim			
27	Andries Storm	St Pauls Sutterheim			
27	Malinda Pitcher	St Andrews			
28	Gwen Sternberg	St Pauls Sutterheim			
30	Matthew Langhein	St Pauls Sutterheim			
30	Michael Lentz	St Pauls Sutterheim			
30	Amy Ritcher	St Pauls Macleantown			

Wishing you a Happy Birthday!

Christmas Word Search

A	L	X	O	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	J	O	Y	I	N	S	Q
S	G	I	N	G	E	R	M	A	H	T	A	E	R	W	M	Z	A
H	Y	S	E	M	E	A	N	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	N
P	W	O	T	R	E	E	J	Y	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E
L	R	Q	A	O	K	E	L	O	V	I	A	N	F	G	T	H	N
O	S	H	R	G	C	O	W	V	O	W	S	R	A	W	R	I	A
D	J	V	B	E	S	K	N	G	E	H	O	X	M	N	E	D	W
U	O	O	E	L	I	K	I	D	O	S	L	G	E	D	E	O	I
R	L	Q	L	S	T	H	A	N	T	L	Z	D	C	O	D	N	G
J	U	E	E	L	O	C	K	Y	G	P	E	G	S	G	N	Y	N
H	B	N	C	A	Y	L	U	T	H	L	H	E	J	Y	I	T	I
E	L	O	B	E	R	S	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	W	H
E	I	R	E	I	N	T	E	B	E	X	W	F	I	R	R	S	T

SANTA
CELEBRATE
BELLS
RUDOLPH
MISTLETOE
STOCKING
CANDY CANE
FROSTY
REINDEER
WREATH
ELVES
CHRISTMAS
TREE
JOLLY
HOLIDAY
SLEDGE

November 2026	
01 November 2026 **22. Sunday after Trinity** With you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. (Psalms 130,4)	***Liturgical Colour: Green*** Sermon Text: Romans 7,14-25a Old Testament: Isaiah 44,21-23 Epistle: Romans 7,14-25a Gospel: Matthew 18,21-35
08 November 2026 **3rd Last Sunday of the Church Year** Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Matth.5, 9	***Liturgical Colour: Green*** Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 5, 1-6 (7- 11) Old Testament: Micah 4,1-5 (7b) Epistle: Romans 8,18-25 Gospel: Luke 17,20-24 (25-30)
15 November 2026 **2nd Last Sunday of the Church Year** We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:10	***Liturgical Colour: Green*** Sermon Text: Luke 16, 1-8 (9) Old Testament: Job 14,1-6(7-12)13(14)15-17 Epistle: Romans 14, (1-6) 7-13 Gospel: Matthew 25,31-46
18 November 2026 **Day of Repentance** Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people. Proverbs 14:34	***Liturgical Colour: Violet*** Sermon Text: Isaiah 1,10-18 Old Testament: Isaiah 1,10-18 Epistle: Romans 2,1-11 Gospel: Luke 13,(1-5)6-9
22 November 2026 **Eternity Sunday** Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning. Luke 12, 35	***Liturgical Colour: White*** Sermon Text: Revelation 21,1-7 Old Testament: Isaiah 65,17-19 (20-22) 23-25 Epistle: Revelation 21,1-7 Gospel: Matthew 25,1-13
New Cycle: Year 3	
29 November 2026 **1. Sunday in Advent** See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation. Zechariah 9,9	***Liturgical Colour: Violet*** Sermon Text: Zechariah 9,9-10 Old Testament: Zechariah 9,9-10 Epistle: Romans 13,8-12 Gospel: Matthew 21, 1-11

December 2026	
06 December 2026 **2. Sunday in Advent** When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Luke 21,28	**Liturgical Colour: Violet** Sermon: James 5 7-8(9-11) Old Testament: Isaiah 63,15-19 & 64, 1-3 Epistle: James 5, 7-8 (9-11) Gospel: Luke 21, 25-33
13 December 2026 **3. Sunday in Advent** Prepare the way for the LORD; See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power. Isaiah 40,3+10	**Liturgical Colour: Violet** Sermon: Luke 1, 67-79 Old Testament: Isaiah 40, 1-11 Epistle: 1. Corinthians 4, 1-5 Gospel: Luke 1, 67-79
20 December 2026 **4. Sunday in Advent** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! The Lord is near. Philippians 4,4-5b	**Liturgical Colour: Violet** Sermon: Genesis 18,1-2, 9-15 Old Testament: Isaiah 62, 1-5 Epistle: Philippians 4, 4-7 Gospel: Luke 1, 26-38 (39-56)
24 December 2026 **Christmas Eve** The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. John 1, 14a	**Liturgical Colour: White** Sermon: Matthew 1, 18-25 Old Testament: Zechariah 2,14-17 Epistle: 1 Timothy 3, 16 Gospel: Luke 2, 1-20
25 December 2026 **Christmas Day** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. John 1,14a	**Liturgical Colour: White** Sermon: Isaiah 52, 7-10 Old Testament: Isaiah 52, 7-10 Epistle: Titus 3, 4-7 Gospel: John 1, 1-5, 9-14 (16-18)
27 December 2026 **1 Sunday After Christmas** We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1,14b	**Liturgical Colour: White** Sermon Text: Luke 2,(22-24)25-38 (39-40) Old Testament: Isaiah 49,13-16 Epistle: 1 John 1,1-4 Gospel: Luke 2,(22-24)25-38 (39-40)
31 December 2026 **Old Year's Eve** My times are in your hands Psalm 31:15	**Liturgical Colour: White** Sermon: Exodus 13 20-22 Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3, 1-15 Epistle: Romans 8, 31-39 Gospel: Matthew 13, 24-30

Pastor H-P von Fintel **084 064 6228**
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St Andrews Church 50 Park Ave, East London

Church Committee

Mrs. Bettina du Buson - Treasurer, Preacher, Secretary	0832950506
Mrs Celeste Vosloo - Church Committee	0833832646
Dr. Christian Johl - Chairperson, Preacher	0834077937
Mrs Vera Johl - Minute Keeper, Convenor of Fundraising	0825763765
Mr Leslie Klug - House Visiting	0833578924
Mr Martin Köpke – Vice Chair & Maintenance	0722257048
Mrs Doreen Hayter – House Visiting	0836735589
Mr Markus Schlüter – Church Committee	0730296623
Mrs Lucille Jooste – Fundraising & House Visiting	0728308507
Mr Therrol Schwartz - Maintenance, Fundraising	0827055415
Mr Erald Hohls – Maintenance	0824438379
Mr Brian Sporke – Reader	0724334393
Sunday School: Renee Johl	0835543954
Lucille Jooste, & Catherine Collocott	
Organist:	
Elaine Johl	0832369221
Ginny Schultz	0784713835
Frauenverein: Erika Puchert	0839228556
Prayer Chain: Lucille Jooste	0728308507
Lifts: Mr Therrol Schwartz	0827055415

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Komga Church Committee

Church Committee

Mr Gavin Tessendorf, Chairperson	078 0426290
Mr Jacques Weyer	083 555 3089
Ms Pearl Tessendorf – Treasurer	083 444 9099
Mrs Debbie van Huyssteen	082 712 8188
Dr L Trollope	

St Pauls Macleantown

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