



# COD NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011

## **PREMIER SNIPPETS FROM THE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT OF MARTIN LUTHER**

### ***1. PRIDE IS GOOD, BE PROUD OF....CF. JER. 9:23***

“As far as the Grace of God is concerned, pride is preferable to humility. You should, of course, be humble with regards to your own life and concerns. You are nothing more than a sack of maggots. However, you can never be sufficiently proud of the goodness of Christ and you have to say: ‘Even if I had been ten times more loathsome than I am, nevertheless I still have that Blood that purifies and sanctifies me and that has cost Christ so much to save me as well as Saint Peter’.

All the saints are just as contemptible as we are; that is why we are just as sublime as they are so that no one has anything over me, except that they may well have a stronger faith.

That is why everything is equal before God with regards to Faith, Grace and Celestial life...” (From Luther’s Breviary 2007)



## **FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S PEN**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

*Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you. [Matthew 7:7]*

The 93<sup>rd</sup> session of the Diocesan Council resolved that the leadership of the Diocese should own and run our website.

Hence the coming into being of the regular column called “**from the Executive Secretary's pen**” This column will seek to update you the member of the ELCSA – COD and all who are regularly visiting this website. Here you will get up to date information on decisions taken by DC and you will also know of the events that will take place within the Diocese. Here under are some of the recent decisions of Diocesan Council.

- I. Diocesan Council resolved to ordain three young Vicars into the Full- time Ministry of our Church. The ordination service was held at the Diocesan Centre, St. Paul's, 24 July 2011, Kimberley. They are:

**Rev. Mandisa Mbiza**

**Rev. Charlton Broekstein**

**Rev. Alison Williams**

- II. Diocesan Council further resolved to ordain four Vicars into the Self-supporting Ministry at a service to be held at the Cape Town Parish, Athlone, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011. They are:


**Vicar Cynthia Davids**

**Vicar Michael Jacobs**

**Vicar Mark Lakey**

**Vicar Dualaneo Prins**



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- III. The Diocesan Council with the assistance of the Pomeranian Evangelical Church delivered a laptop and a 3G internet access enabling device to every Parish in the Diocese. The primary purpose of these devices is to enhance effective communication within the Diocese. We have also created an email address for each and every Parish in the Diocese. The address is the name of the Parish (e.g. [riversdale@elcsacod.co.za](mailto:riversdale@elcsacod.co.za)).

People who are assigned in every Parish to set up the address should phone Sandra Vorster at the Diocesan administration.

IV. **OBITUARIES IN THE DIOCESE – JUNE - JULY 2011**

The following persons were called to higher service in the period mentioned above. Please note that the Deans in their Circuit updated will make mention of the manes of those who passed on in the Parishes.

- Mrs. Doreen Hendricks – mother of Bishop Bowles
  - Juffrou Caroline Graaf – widow of the late Rev. A. Graaf
  - Dean emeritus Leepile Paul Mokae
  - Juffrou Pogisho Seekoei – wife of emeritus Rev. Modise Seekoei
- V. The 18 session of the General assembly which met on 10 – 11 July 2011 in Kempton Park, adopted the amended constitution of the Church, and at the same meeting also the constitutions of the PWL, PML, YAL, YL and that of ELCSA Student Organization (ELCSASO). We are making the undertaking that we from the Diocesan Administration will workshop every Circuit on the amended constitutions in preparation for the elections next year.

May God bless you all

Shalom

Motsamai Manong

Diocesan Executive Secretary





## **FROM THE CIRCUITS**

### ***KALAHARI CIRCUIT***

The Young Adult league members would like to thank their hosts for a very special weekend spend at the Conference and Rally in Bloemfontein. The conference around the theme: “*Claim your space*” indeed made us sensitive to do more to build the kingdom of God.

### ***FREE STATE CIRCUIT***

YAL would like to thank all who participated in the Conference and Rally last weekend. All the sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. Thanks to the Planning Team.

Condolences go to the Seekoei and related families with the passing away of Mamoruti. We praise God for her contribution to our Church.

Well wishes: Circuit Council would like to wish all women a special Women’s day in the light of the commitment shown towards our freedom in the past.

Reminder: Heritage Day Celebrations will take place at Adamshoop this year.

### ***NORTHERN CAPE***

Please pray for Dean Matthys who is currently not well and in hospital.

### ***MORIA CIRCUIT***

Invitation to Lutheran Golf Day

**When:** Saturday October 29

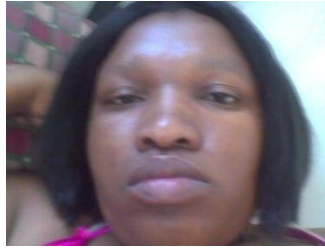
**Where:** Riversdale Golf Club.

**Time:** 08h00.

***See you there!***

Please support this event (Ed)





## **WHO'S WHO PROFILES**

### **REV. MANDISA HLONGWANA MBIZA**


Mandisa Hlongwana (Mbiza) was born in 1977 June at Matatiele Bubesi location. I am the first born at home I have two younger sisters and one brother. Matatiele is situated in the East Coast of KwaZulu Natal as a result it is difficult to say I am from Eastern Cape because we use doctors of Pietermaritzburg. I got married on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2010 with Edwels Mbiza who is originally from Limpopo Province. We have one son Wisdom. He is 8yrs and studying grade 3.

At home I grew up staying with my great grandmother whom God helped to give me education from grade one up to grade 12 and teach me how to survive under struggle through prayer. I attended Primary school at Bubesi Junior secondary and High School at Lupindo S.S.S. I completed my matric in 1999.

I was confirmed in 1992 by the late Reverend D.D. Dlangalala at Mangolong Lutheran Church Mount Fletcher Parish. In my congregation we were 7 and two of us now are pastors in the Lutheran Church the other one is Rev Zoleka Kambi .In 2000 the Lord called my granny home. By that time I was already applied to study theology but our applications were put on the waiting list because Umphumulo was preparing to move to Pietermaritzburg.

In was involved in activities of my Parish. During Good Friday we use to act the Passion of Christ and I use to act Jesus character. I began to read the Bible in the church services when I was eleven years old. We used to go with women's league when they have meeting with other churches because we were singing for them.

To be at the University was very challenge to me since it was my first time being in town and in higher education after 4 years. I struggled with my studies but through God's



grace I manage to complete. I was not thinking that I will make it but my Friend Kholiwe Biyela and Mrs. Maphumulo were always there to support me even financially they give me courage to believe that if God appointed me to be a pastor I will what I need is just to focus on my studies and forget about people who always discouraging me.

When I was I grade 9 we read a book about a pastor who was struggling fighting for the truth he was shot to death while he was preaching but after he died people began to realize that he was right. That book gave me power that it is better to die for the truth than to pretend as if things are right because you want to please people than to please God. Apart from that the situations I grow under in my community forced me to take Christ as the only option so I wanted to be a pastor so that I can be able to help people in need. I like to read books of pastoral care and counseling.

There is a book called *The Wounded Healer* that book is very helpful to me to uplift my soul when I am down because it makes me realize that Christ went through all my sufferings but he became a victory because he knew what he wanted to achieve so if I know what I want to achieve I must not allow evil and sufferings to separate me from the love of God where I will get power to face difficult situations.


That is why every time when I prepare sermon I take away my problems and read the text in time so that I can meditate about the text for the whole week and prepare it looking outside and inside the text.

Now the challenge I am facing in my ministry is to give strength to my congregants to take all their burdens to Christ since he has all answers for our problems. For my congregation I want to say God is the beginning and the end what He has began also have a way to end just trust and be obedient that He is faithful to save us from all sorrow.

## **REQUESTS**

1. **Your participation is awaited to suggest a new name for this newsletter. Please motivate your suggestion if need be. Your efforts will be rewarded with a book prize and CD from Ivan Rens (specializing in LUTHERAN Hymns).**



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2. Vacancies exist for two dynamic and committed persons, a woman and young person to join the Newsletter team to bring fresh articles/ info from these two perspectives to the readers.
  
  3. A reader outside the ELCSA COD membership is requested to post ecumenical articles and info to expand the insight of our readers.

## **HAVE YOUR SAY >>>**

Readers are requested to send comments to the Exec. Secretary, Rev. M.Manong via email ([mjmanong@yahoo.com](mailto:mjmanong@yahoo.com) ), Facebook or Twitter (use link @website [www.elcsacod.co.za](http://www.elcsacod.co.za))

### *Newsletter Team*

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Dean N.Brandt (Editor)

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Women' Advocacy (Vacant)

Youth foci (Vacant)

