



BISHOP'S
Apr 14 POST May 14



“You are the salt of the earth” Mt 5,13

April and May are two months with major events. Christians will be remembering the suffering and death of Christ, and then celebrate his victory over death on Easter morning. Ascension Day on 29 May will again pass unnoticed by many Christians, since it is not listed in most calendars and is a normal working day. However, we as Christians this year celebrate that Christ is King in the same month that a political party will celebrate its victory in the elections. This should encourage us to make more of this day.

Our country is in dire need of Christians confessing that Christ is King - not only with their mouths, but with their whole lives!

In the run up to the elections, many politicians will continue to make empty promises, which they will conveniently forget soon afterwards.

Once again many people will fall for these promises, and be more embittered afterwards, when nothing happens.

For two thousand years Christians have been living with the statement of Jesus: You ARE the salt of the earth. When these words were written down in the gospel of Matthew, Christians were facing difficult times. Many had been imprisoned, some even killed.

Still the writer penned down these words of Jesus, which challenge us not to withdraw into a protected, secluded Christian community, but rather to live our lives as followers of Christ *in* this world. Our lives should not be empty promises, but testimonies to Christ the king, his powerful word, and his healing, loving power.

The elections are coming. Each one who can, should vote. In 450 BC Pericles, the “mayor” of Athens stated: “If you do not participate in the affairs of your city, you are not a silent, but a bad citizen” - This is not very different from Jesus’ statement: When salt loses its saltiness, it is useless” Let us not be useless citizens! We

should carefully discern whom we vote for. Let us then also pray for those who are going to be elected, that they may become wise leaders.

On Easter and Ascension Day we should raise our voice and “vote” for Christ, proclaim that he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He did not seek his own advantage and pleasure, but gave his life to set us free. He did not make empty promises to please the listeners. His words are active, powerful, life giving and life changing!

We, as salt of the earth, are part of his movement and called to live and proclaim: Christ is Lord!

May this Lord guide, protect and bless us through the next two months!

Yours in Christ,

Horst Müller

News from the Church:

After the coll-time of **Pastor Udo Lütge** ended, Wartburg congregation elected him as their new pastor. He was inducted on 16 March. May God bless him and the congregation, as well as the KZN youth work, for which he has a 25% post.

Mrs Lotte Engblom, who, together with her husband Austin, had been caring for our theological students at our Church’s training centre in Pietermaritzburg from 1979 to 1990 passed away on 26 February, aged 92. We thank God for all the good things that the Church received through her.

The Church’s **brass festival** is planned for 11 May in New Germany. May it be a blessed, joyous occasion. I encourage you to join in!

Pastor Olaf Gieseke from East Rand Parish married **Tintswalo Khoza**. We congratulate them. May God richly bless the couple!