

Week 48, November 2009

## In Focus...

### Thanksgiving/Ethnic event



The Gemeindesaal resounded to the music of Aotearoa New Zealand, Africa, Iceland, Scotland, Australia and the songs from Sound of Music on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November, as we celebrated Thanksgiving. Because our congregation is such a wonderful mix of nationalities, the meal and programme was extended to include all our ethnic groups. We enjoyed food from the US, South Korea, Romania, Austria, Germany, Africa, Scotland and the list could go on. Flags of the different countries decorated the Gemeindesaal and it was an interesting competition to see which table could name them all.

We thank God for this time of being together, sharing, singing, fun and fellowship.

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.* **Martin Luther King**

### SICC CALENDER

Sunday, 11am – **Worship**, followed by  
Coffee time

Tuesday, 7.30pm – **Prayer group**,  
Strubergasse 49/5/12.

Wednesday, 2.30pm – **Women's Bible Study Group**, Strubergasse 49/5/12

Wednesday, 7.30 pm – **Students' Bible Study**, at the Navisotschnig's, Am Römerstein 10, Wals-Himmelreich – phone 0664 5583722

Thursday, 1 pm – **Sacred Space**, hospitality lunch at the Mozarteum Cafe

### SICC COMING EVENTS

November 29 – **Advent commences**

December 5, 3 pm – **Ladies' Afternoon** at Christine Prentice's, Straniakstrasse 49/1, Bergheim, phone 0662-828 361

December 9, 7.30 pm – **Christmas Carols**

December 25, 11 am – **Christmas Day Service**

December 31 – **Open House at Pastor's home, Strubergasse 49/5/12**

### ECUMENICAL NEWS

#### Churches to ring the alarm on climate change

As nations are spelling out their bargaining positions for the negotiations on a new international climate deal to take place in Copenhagen next month, churches around the world are trying to ring home the message that climate protection is an ethical and spiritual issue. The 7-18 December UN summit in the Danish capital Copenhagen will set the agenda for the next stage of the fight against climate change. "This is the last chance the world has to keep global temperature increases below 2 degrees Celsius," says Alexi Barnett, campaign officer for Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, explaining the importance of churches' support for a successful outcome in Copenhagen.



That is why her organization has teamed up with Christian Aid and the [Presbyterian] Church of Scotland to get congregations in the northern part of the United Kingdom to heed a call by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and ring their bells on Sunday, 13 December. On that Sunday, midway through the UN summit, the WCC invites churches around the world to use their bells, drums, gongs or whatever their tradition offers to call people to prayer and action in the face of climate change. By sounding their bells or other instruments 350 times, participating churches will symbolize the 350 parts per million that mark the safe upper limit for CO<sup>2</sup> in the atmosphere according to many scientists.

Groups ranging from the Open Sanctuary at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Tilba Tilba, Australia, to the Lutheran congregation in Sibiu, Romania, have already pledged their participation. Some link the climate action with their traditional advent celebrations, such as the Evangelical Lutheran Epiphany Church in Hamburg, Germany, that will invite children to draw stars of hope while the bells will be rung and 350 drum beats will be sounded ahead of the congregation's advent concert.

As each group starts their own observation of the 13 December event at 3 p.m. local time, a chain of chimes and prayers will be stretching in a time-line from the South Pacific – where the day first begins and where the effects of climate change are already felt today – to Denmark and across the globe.



*Jottings from the Pastor's Desk*

I am quite taken with the idea of the bells ringing and the drums beating around the globe to sound the alarm regarding climate change. It is important that the voices of

Christians, the Church be heard. In recent days many people have commented on the unusual weather for this time of the year. In Australia the heat of summer has started earlier than is usual. Crops are going to suffer with the heat wave conditions. Let us not forget the melting ice at the polar caps and how that will affect the smaller islands. I read the following recently and I pass it on for each of us to consider. We need to think and talk about what we can do to help those suffering in the poorer countries as well as consider the effects of climate change in our countries.

**What changes can I make in my use of the world's resources?**

"My task is to live the Big Picture of God here and now in an honest and interconnected way which influences my finances, my time, my political positions, and how I use the goods of this earth. Francis of Assisi was fully convinced that utter simplicity had to be an essential part of the Christian lifestyle. Today this is an altogether practical and urgent matter, as we consider how many billion people live on this little planet. We either have to find very real and concrete ways to be brothers and sisters to one another, or any talk of justice, love or community is largely an impossible dream."

(Adapted from Simplicity, pp. 149-150, Richard Foster's Daily Meditations.)

**FOOD COLLECTION during NOVEMBER**



We continue to collect food items for the Warmstube. Bringing in canned/packet goods each Sunday during November is something concrete we can do for others during this coming Season of Peace and Goodwill. So each time you are out shopping, pick up a tin or packet for the food collection ... and don't forget to bring it!

God bless,  
*Glynthea*