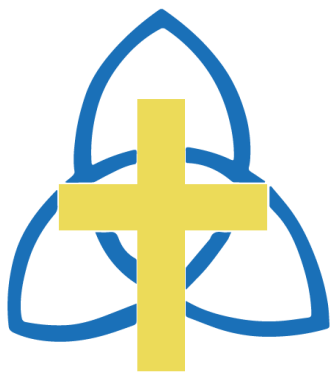




WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"We would see Jesus and be transformed into His Likeness"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus

I trust that you are all well this morning. As you may know, I am currently pursuing my studies in Theology. I have resolved that my studies will not be solely to achieve high marks, but rather to gain knowledge and apply that knowledge effectively. Today, I wish to share with you a lesson I have learned. We are currently in an era where empathy and sympathy seem to be in short supply among many individuals. The government and numerous politicians often exhibit a lack of empathy and sympathy towards the constituents they represent. As Christians, we need to recognise that we are called to embody both empathy and sympathy.

What is empathy? Empathy is the capacity to step outside of ourselves and engage with another person's inner experience. It involves being receptive to the feelings or circumstances of another individual while maintaining a focus on them. An empathetic listener not only hears the words being spoken but also connects with the speaker's emotions, ensuring that the attention remains on the individual communicating. Sympathy, on the other hand, is the feeling of sorrow for someone else's misfortune without necessarily grasping their emotional state or viewpoint. In the case of sympathy, the listener acknowledges the feelings of the other person but primarily reflects on the emotions that arise within themselves as the listener.

According to biblical teachings, empathy and sympathy are illustrated through various scriptures. To understand what does not constitute empathy and sympathy, we can examine some contrasting examples.

Absence of Empathy Hard-heartedness: The Bible refers to individuals with hardened hearts as those who lack empathy (Ephesians 4:18, Romans 1:21). A prime example is Pharaoh, who ignored Moses and displayed a hardened heart towards the Israelites, illustrating a clear absence of empathy (Exodus 7-12). **Self-centeredness:** When we prioritise our interests and neglect the feelings of others, we exhibit a lack of empathy (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Philippians 2:3-4). **Judgmental attitudes:** Criticising others without comprehending their challenges reflects a lack of empathy (Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 14:10-13). **Absence of Sympathy Indifference:** Not responding to the suffering or needs of others signifies a lack of sympathy (Proverbs 21:13, James 2:15-16). **Lack of compassion:** Failing to show compassion or mercy towards others contradicts the essence of biblical sympathy (Matthew 9:36, Mark 6:34). **Turning a blind eye:** Overlooking or dismissing the struggles of others instead of providing support indicates a lack of sympathy (Isaiah 58:6-7, Proverbs 24:11-12).

Biblical Examples: The narrative of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) exemplifies the significance of demonstrating empathy and sympathy towards others, regardless of whether they are unfamiliar or come from diverse backgrounds. Conversely, the behaviours of the priest and Levite in the same parable reveal a deficiency in empathy and sympathy. By comprehending what does not constitute empathy and sympathy as per the Bible, we can endeavour to nurture these attributes in our own lives and interpersonal relationships.

Thank you very much, Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, for indeed you have journeyed with me, and you all have shown me empathy and sympathy.

Best Regards

Evans Kalenga



“Our Purpose is to GROW DEEPER! Grow deeper with God, in Relationships with each other, by creating Opportunities for ministry and as Witnesses.”

Friday night Youth – Junior and Senior Youth on Fridays

Check out the WhatsApp group or contact Ross for more information

Sunday morning children’s worship at 9am - all ages welcome

Commissioning of Holiday club leaders as they say their pledge



MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE 2025

We are challenging everyone to learn 10 memory verses off by heart.

July verse: John 14:6 states, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" This verse is part of a conversation Jesus has with his disciples at the Last Supper, where he is reassuring them about his departure and emphasizing his unique role as the path to God

Themba Ngwira at the airport with his family before leaving for overseas, with Iain and Caryn



SENIORS SOCIAL

**10 JULY
from 9:30at Trinity**

**Please join us for a chat and
cards next Thursday – UNO,
Backgammon, Rummikub or
Scrabble and a biscuit or two**





SAVE THE DATE

MANDELA DAY OF SERVICE
CHOP & CHAT AT TRINITY

SATURDAY - 19 JULY
8:00AM TO 12:00PM

Soup vegetable cutting & maintenance day

Trinity Presbyterian Church, St David Road,
Elma Park, Edenvale.




SAVE THE DATE

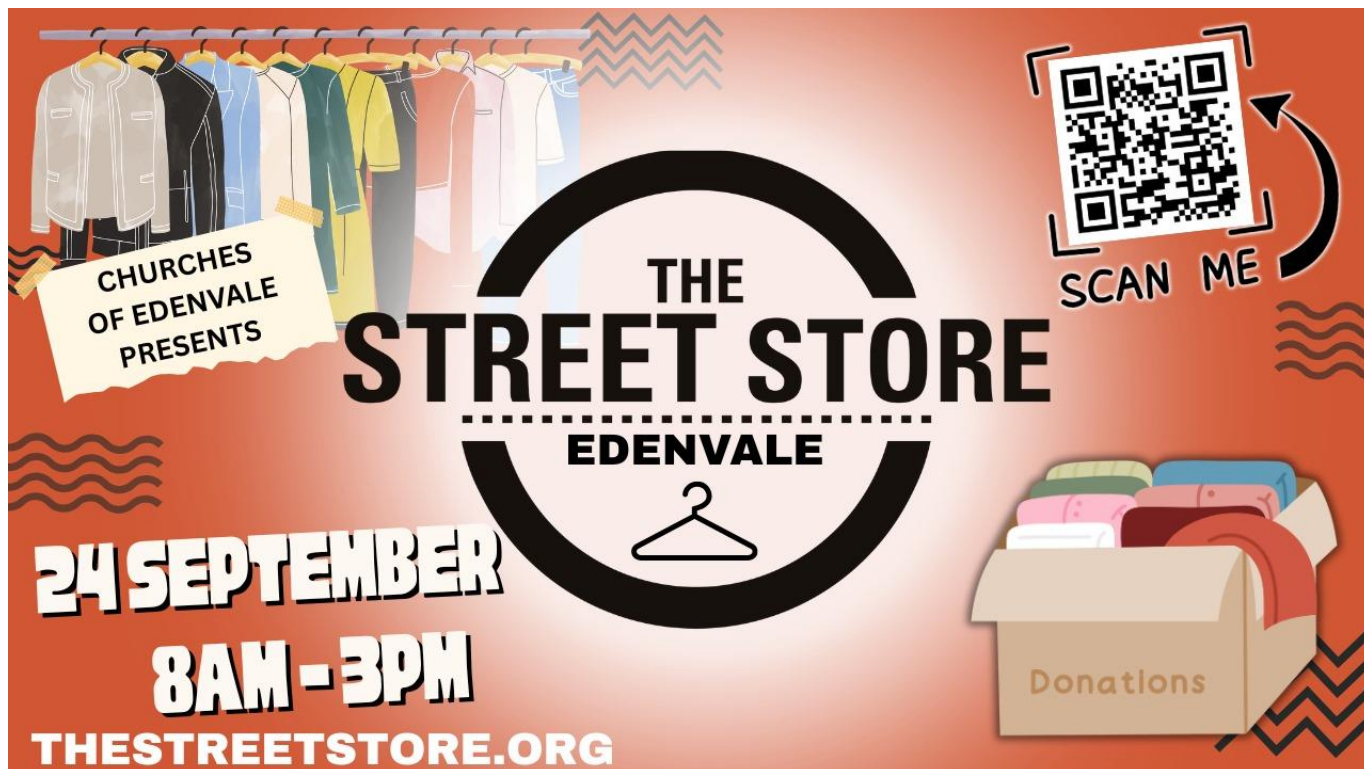
FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, 26 JULY
FROM 9AM

**Enjoy the famous Socon
cooked breakfast &
guest speaker.**

R100 PER TICKET

Trinity Presbyterian Church,
St David Road, Elma Park,
Edenvale.





You are welcome to drop off clothes donated for the Street Store at the church – please clearly mark the bag ‘Street Store’ – thank you

Staff on leave

Ross will be on leave from 9-16 July
Iain will be on leave from 9 – 27 July
Mxolisi will be on leave from 7 – 20 July

! Attention Trinity Family!
PURIFIED WATER FILLING STATION

@ Trinity Presbyterian Church

A self service purified water
dispensing machine:

- 24/7
- Tap to pay
- SANS 241
- R1,50/l.

*Drink the difference
sip by sip*



FM filter media, carbon pre
and post treatment filters,
ultra filtration, UV disinfection

WWW.COMPLEXWATERSOLUTIONS.CO.ZA

Giving

Please take note:

EFT Payments

We would like to ensure
that the payments made to
Trinity towards tithing,
retiring offerings, food bags
etc are allocated correctly.
In order to do this, please
would you ensure that the
reference shown on your
payment has the correct
beneficiary.

For Tithing, please use the
following methods:

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
STANDARD BANK
CURRENT ACCOUNT
NUMBER: 42 448 2088,
BRANCH: 016 342

Zapper QR Code



Scan the QR
code with your
phone camera
to go to either
our Facebook or
Instagram
pages.



TRINITY_PRESBY_EDENVALE