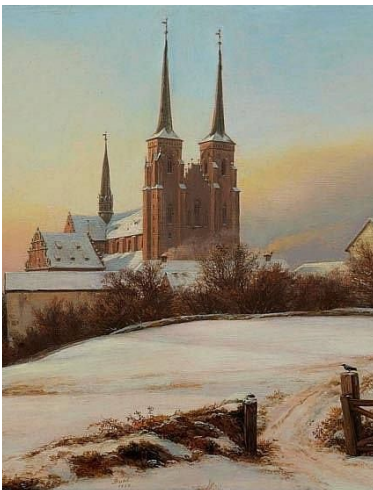




# Webers in Murrayfield

Circular 2016

*Across the sky the shades of night  
This New Year's Eve are fleeting.  
We deck Your altar, Lord, with light,  
In solemn worship meeting;  
And as the year's last hours go by,  
We raise to You our earnest cry,  
Once more Your love entreating.* (James Hamilton 1819-98)



We've all moved on one year. It's been a good one for us in Rubida 196, but also up in Süd-Tiroler Straße 7. Down in Moya Ave my dear father-in-law was called home after we had just rejoiced in his 50th ordination anniversary. Across the grave the witness sounded loud and clear: „*This one, was also with that Jesus of Nazareth!*“ It was good to have holidays on the beach afterwards with the siblings from the corners of the globe recalling the good times with him. I had only gotten to know him better after his retirement and our wedding in the late 80s. Going through those childhood memories of Angelikas added lots of depth to my appreciation of this our father, friend and confidant.

We're grateful that brother Gerald & Co can keep such close watch and good care of Mama Scharlach, so she can stay right there in her beloved congregation, circle of friends and more family close by - even if we would love to have her stay up here for much longer than just for this past Christmas. Thankfully Christoph stays just across the garden fence with ever helpful Manfred & Elisabeth, so he's got the most of his gran compared with any of us others up here - especially Matt.

Angelika did her work at the University even as the students were going about those much publicised strikes: „Fees-must-fall.“ She attended 2 conferences and presented as many well-received papers: One in Cologne, one in Windhoek. Before Cologne, we visited with our dear aunt Bärbel in the beautiful Rheinvalley to do some more mourning at the passing of uncle Ulf, whom we miss sorely too. We also caught up with ageing Professor Strehl in Oberursel, before travelling north to our siblings in Lachendorf & Hamburg and joining Matzi in Linz for some special days in the Austrian summer. We're so grateful, that this was possible before he finishes off his apprenticeship.



*Let our gladness, banish sadness  
All throughout creation! God,  
whose favour sent our Saviour,  
Praise with adoration! He is born  
in a stall, now he lies, infant  
small, in a manger, heav'nly  
stranger, Lord of all, in a manger,  
heave'nly stranger, Lord of all.  
(Juraj Tranovsky 1591-1637)*

Frikki and Dedi both completed their exams without a hitch and the latter is now done with the Bachelor with 4 majors: History, German, Latin and English. Sounds like the perfect combination, although I would have added Philosophy still. No, no, I'm just kidding. 2 majors are normally quite enough for the final year as all of us will remember from years back. We're glad that we can live together so conveniently in Murrayfield even as we all get ready for another year in the trenches.

At Seminary another good year passed without too many hitches. I'm happy for all the good progress made by students in the preparatory course and looking forward to the theological course to teach „Prolegomena“ in Dogmatics I and „Romans“ in NT. This load reminds me of late Bishop Schulz DD, who took care of this combination for some years in Enhlanhleni. „Lutheran Catechisms“ for the juniors is added as a bonus. Personal highlights were the visits of our dear friend deaconess Rao and Professor Nordling, who both stayed over at our place. With the latter we visited in the Eastern parts of Swaziland, which was quite an adventure.

During my last visit to the US and experiencing the surprising win of the Chicago Cubs, the election triumph of president elect Donald Trump and a Reformationfestival out in Frankenmuth, MI with old compatriot Mark Loest, I got to know his lovely wife Mindy and some of his dear children. Mark and I go back all the way to Oberursel i.T. in the 80's. In Ft. Wayne, I caught up with some urgent networking before going out to Holyoke, CO to stay with vice-president Gary Rahe and his wife Diane for a missionfestival in Zion LC. Together we're trying to address sustainable funding for LTS and looking for additional projects like the library expansion.

## Good wishes for 2017

As the year closes I greet you with the assigned words for this old year's eve from Psalm 103:8 „***The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.***“ That is a whole load of comfort for what is passed and hope for what is to come. He reigns and therefore we are well taken care of.

May you have a joyful, prosperous and peaceful new year of the Lord ahead of you, so that you may flourish as his very own and grow ever nearer to the Lord, who is our all and everything!