

ACK publishes Statement on 500 years of Reformation

A celebratory worship service and festive ceremony were the setting for the official presentation of the ACK's Statement on 500 years of Reformation during its general assembly in Augsburg. Focusing on the motto "Reconciled with each other," the statement outlines aspects and approaches for viewing the Reformation Jubilee as a celebration of Christ. The ACK encourages all to view the year 2017 from an ecumenical standpoint, to be open to the impulses stemming from the Reformation, to reflect together upon the results of the religious schism, to learn from each other and to work on ecumenism in the future. The statement can be downloaded from the ACK website and will be published in pamphlet form by 31 October 2016. The pamphlet will include the worship service as well as extensive information and materials on the commemoration of the Reformation.



K.-H. Wiesemann (left) presenting the Statement on the Reformation to B. Meier, Chairperson of the ACK in Bavaria.

"The Statement is unique and an important addition to the efforts made by the two largest churches in Germany because it takes into account the multilateral perspective of talents," explained Bishop Karl-Heinz Wiesemann (Speyer), chairperson of the ACK in Germany. It is not a given that the history of the Reformation, which is riddled with conflict, be jointly commemorated by the numerous ACK member churches while focusing on working together in the future. During the ceremony Bishop Wiesemann presented the Statement to the ACK chair-

person in Bavaria, Prelate Bertram Meier (Augsburg), as a symbol of the continuing work on the Statement needed at the regional ACK level.

Worship service for the Decade of Peace 2016 in Jena



On 16 November 2016 at 7 pm a central worship service in Jena will officially end the Ecumenical Decade of Peace. The worship service will be prepared in cooperation with the ACK Jena and the ACK

Thuringen and will take place in the city church St. Michael. The motto of this year's Decade of Peace is "War traces." The motto refers to existing traces of war within society such as the German military operation in Syria. Simultaneously it refers to the traces that war leaves behind within the lives of individuals. The Ecumenical Decade of Peace aims at uncovering these kinds of war traces and at the same time wishes to set an example for peace.

Week of Prayer 2017



The texts used worldwide for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2017 (January 18-25 or in the week before Pentecost)

have been developed by a German workgroup delegated by the member churches of the ACK. A draft of the prayer service, a poster as well as other materials can be downloaded from the website www.gebetswoche.de. Copies of the prayer service pamphlet and ready printed posters can be purchased in book stores or directly from the publisher Butzon & Bercker (publisher's distribution address – Frau Heike Spill, Hoogeweg 100, 47623 Kevelaer, telephone: 02832/929291, Fax: 02832/929114, email: heike.spill@azn.de. Prices: posters 1.00 €/each; prayer service pamphlets 2.50 €/each, 10+ copies 1.00

€/each, 100+ copies .50 €/each, plus postage.) The texts use a passage from 2 Corinthians with the motto "Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us (2 Co 5:14-20). The fact that the texts used worldwide for the Week of Prayer in the year commemorating the Reformation are from Germany is an essential contribution on the part of the ACK in Germany to the multilateral discussion on the Reformation commemoration. The central worship service in the city church will be held on 22 January 2017 at 1:30 pm in the Lutherstadt Wittenberg. The Ecumenical Award 2017 will be presented following the service.

Documentation from the Conference 50 years of Vatican II



The book documenting the conference, "*Blick zurück nach vorn. Das Zweite Vatikanische Konzil aus der Perspektive der multilateralen Ökumene,*" (Looking Back and Going Forward. The Second Vatican Council as Seen

from the Perspective of Multilateral Ecumenism) was released in June. The book, edited by Elisabeth Dieckmann and Karl Cardinal Lehmann, offers an interesting look at the Council in view of ecumenism. At the same time further ecumenical perspectives are developed.

ACK organizes Prayer for Unity for the World Reformation Exhibition



The World Reformation Exhibition will be held in Wittenberg from 20 May to 10 September 2017. Nearly 100 exhibits from the area of international ecumenism will present their work and encourage all to take in Reformation ideas and make them fruitful for the future. A daily prayer service for Christian unity will be offered by the ACK at 12:30 pm in the Christ Pavillion. The ACK also takes part in the presentation of the topic weeks "Integrity of Creation" and "Ecumenism." www.oekumene-reformation.de

„Weißt du, wer ich bin?“ (Do you know who I am?) Projects can still be submitted

**WEISST
DU
ICH BIN?**

Das Projekt der drei großen Religionen
für friedliches Zusammenleben in Deutschland

Whether a class or concert, workshop or women's group: projects for displaced persons organized by groups from at least

two religions can still be subsidized as a part of the program, "Do you know who I am?", offered by the ACK together with the Central Council of Jews in Germany and four Muslim organizations. The projects must take place this year; the determination of grants will be decided within 3-4 weeks after receipt of the project proposal. Funds are still available. There is still enough time for projects planned for November or December. The individual projects can receive grants up to 15,000 euros. Further information as well as all application forms can be found at www.weisstduwerichbin.de. The program is planned to be continued from 2017 to 2019; the program proposal has already been submitted to the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Ecumenical Day of Creation 2017: „Greater than Heaven and Earth“

The motto for the Ecumenical Day of Creation 2017 is "Greater than Heaven and Earth". The motto stems from Psalm 148:13 and aims to remind us of the depth and greatness of God's creation as well as of God's merciful action. Praise of God in a global dimension is made evident. The central service will take place 1 September 2017 in Lubeck. The ACK Schleswig-Holstein and the ACK Lubeck together with the National ACK are developing the worship service which will be available in April 2017.

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