



(Photo: Dagmar Brunk | Christian Schauderna /medio)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

this year we are sending you greetings once again from both our churches, the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau (EKHN) and of Kurhessen-Waldeck (EKKW). We wish you a blessed Pentecost.

We are celebrating Pentecost in times when hope is needed. People are seeking for peace all around the world, seeking for social and food security, for sustainable and just development and for strategies responding to the climate change.

In our thoughts and prayers, we are with all who suffer and mourn, who are fleeing, who must go beyond their borders and who are there for others.

In these times we appreciate our companionship with you as our ecumenical partners in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States. We share our life concerns, pray for each other and search for common action and solidarity. This is our common mission to God's world to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have (1 Peter 3,15).

May God's Spirit strengthen our ecumenical fellowship!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Detlev Knoche
Rev. Dr. Diethelm Meißner

Every year, the festival of the federal state of Hesse takes place in a town in Hesse, this year in Fritzlar in the north of the federal state. From 24 May to 2 June 2024 the "Hessentag" will also be a place for spiritual encounters. EKKW, EKHN and the Diakonia are presenting ERLEBNIS:KIRCHE, which wants to get hearts and legs moving with a rousing dance performance.

Dancing as an expression of living faith has deep biblical roots. From Miriam's joyful dance in the Exodus story to King David's enthusiastic movement when he carried the Ark of the Covenant - the Bible is rich in dance stories.

The song 'Heaven on Earth' was specially composed for this festival. People around the world can film and send in their own dance performance to the song. The best submissions will be integrated into the show and made visible to all visitors.

Yet the focus is not only on dance, but also on blessing and community. The church garden becomes a place for special moments of blessings. Weddings, anniversaries and baptisms find a worthy setting here.

ERLEBNIS:KIRCHE at the "Hessentag" promises a unique experience that brings faith to life in a lively and inspiring way: www.erlebnis-kirche.de



News Items

EKHN – The solemnly signed friendship between the EKHN and the diocese of Västerås in Sweden sends a strong signal for being church together in Europe. This friendship is to be lived in Christian discipleship and is in favour of an open, lively and sustainable society in Europe. The church friendship that has begun is orientated towards conviviality: towards a deep, spiritual and also cheerful togetherness in respect for the future and for our fellow creatures. (cs)

EKKW – The EKKW has extended its partnership with the „Church of South India - Karnataka Northern Diocese“ for a further four years. A partnership agreement was signed on 10 January 2024 by Bishop Martin Borgai and General Secretary Vijaykumar Dandin as well as Bishop Dr Beate Hofmann and Dr Diethelm Meißner. The partnership, which thrives on mutual exchange, encounters and support, has existed for over 50 years. (dk)

EKHN – At its spring meeting, the Synod of EKHN adopted a resolution in favour of democracy, diversity and human dignity - against right-wing populism. It welcomes the diverse activities in favour of a free and democratic society. The threat to democracy and especially to disadvantaged groups

that has recently become apparent requires a committed and sustained effort. The resolution states, among other things: "We are guided by the commandment to love our neighbour and the biblical mandate. We stand up for justice and a life of diversity and peace. Racist nationalism is not compatible with our Christian view of God and humanity." (dt)

EKKW – Over 2.000 singers are expected to attend the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (EELK) singing festival in June. In addition to choirs from Estonian parishes, partnership groups from the EKKW will be taking part. Around 60 singers from the Hofgeismar-Wolfhagen church district will also take part in the opening concert. A project choir with 15 singers from the Spangenberg parish will take part in the singing festival. Both choirs will visit their partners in the Järva presbytery and in the Rāpina parish. (ms)

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Editing: Detlev Knoche (dk), Diethelm Meißner (dm),
Michael Schümers (ms), Christina Schnepel (cs),
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