

Tenth anniversary of the mutual recognition of baptism

The ACK General Assembly celebrated the tenth anniversary of the agreement on the mutual recognition of baptism, signed in 2007 by 11 ACK member churches, in a worship service in Magdeburg Cathedral. ACK Chairperson Bishop Karl-Heinz Wiesemann stated that the agreement reestablished the central significance of baptism for all of the member churches, even for those churches that did not sign the agreement.



Service in Magdeburg Cathedral

In a commemorative ceremony Catholic professor Dorothea Sattler (University of Münster) and Free Church professor Markus Iff (Theological Seminary Ewersbach) encouraged strengthening an ecumenism based on baptism and to make it fruitful for all churches. The theologians gave a recount of the results of the ecumenical dialogue on the worldwide level that are in part widespread but have not yet been adequately received in all churches. In view of the theological understanding of baptism in the Anabaptist churches it is important that all churches stress the connection of faith and baptism in their own baptismal praxis. During the general assembly the Apostolic Community (Apostolische Gemeinschaft) affirmed its acceptance of the Magdeburg Agreement in writing. The letter can be accessed online at the website www.taufanerkennung.de.

Ecumenical Day of Creation 2017



“Greater than Heaven and Earth” is the motto of the Ecumenical Day of Creation 2017. Materials for the event and the worship service have been published and can be ordered at the online

shop. The nationwide celebration will take place on 1 September 2017 in Lübeck. A service beginning at 17:00 in the Lübeck Cathedral will be followed by a procession to Mühlenteich. At 18:30 Prof Nicole Karafyllis (University of Braunschweig) will give a special lecture at Sacred Heart Church followed by a reception given by the ACK in the Lübeck Cathedral’s facilities. For further information see www.schoepfungstag.info.

ACK and Ecumenical Council Berlin-Brandenburg at the Kirchentag



The ACK, together with the Ecumenical Council Berlin-Brandenburg (Ökumenischer Rat Berlin-Brandenburg), will be represented at the Kirchentag from 24-28 May 2017 in Berlin. In line with the motto “We are born to communicate,” (Philipp Melancthon) representatives from different denominations will discuss ecumenism at stand number 118, in Halle 1.1a.

New publications in English

The ACK statement „Versöhnt miteinander” – “Reconciled with one another” compiled for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is now available in bilingual form. The brochure contains the statement in German and English and can

be ordered from the ACK [shop](#) for 0,60 € per copy. The brochure „Die Bibel neu als Schatz entdecken“ has also been translated – “Discover anew the Bible’s treasures” – and can likewise be ordered from the [shop](#) for 3 € per copy.

ACK at the World Reformation Exhibition in Lutherstadt Wittenberg



The World Reformation Exhibition is taking place from 20 May to 10 September 2017 in Wittenberg. Some 100 stands from around the world will show their work, encouraging visitors to glean ideas from the Reformation and make them fruitful for the future. There will be daily prayer for Christian unity from 12:30 to 12:45 offered by the ACK in the “Christ tent” (see www.gebet-fuer-die-einheit.de). The German Ecumenical Academic Commission (Deutscher Ökumenischer Studienausschuss – DÖSTA) will be offering a seminar on the “Priesthood of all Baptised” on June 9th during the “Ecumenism” theme week (7-12 June). The ACK workgroup “Pilgrimage” will be offering a seminar on June 12th entitled “A Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace.”

Study on the Question of God today



Helping Christians in today’s world to be more articulate when talking about God is the goal of the study “The Question of God Today”, prepared by the ACK’s German Ecumenical Academic Commission (DÖSTA). The study, developed by theologians of different denominations, uses as its starting point biographical experience including the recurring questioning about God. The study was able to show that it is precisely this questioning that the classic disciplines within theology address, such as the doctrine of the Trinity, Christology, the experience of God in the sacraments, and

God’s concealment in suffering. The study has now been published together with all of the presentations that were held during the DÖSTA sessions on this study topic. The study can be ordered in the ACK’s [shop](#).

„Weißt du, wer ich bin?“ (Do you know who I am?) Project will be continued

**WEISST
DU
ICH BIN?**

Das Projekt der drei großen Religionen
für friedliches Zusammenleben in Deutschland

“Do you know who I am?”, a program offered by the ACK together with the Central Council of Jews in Germany and four Muslim organiza-

tions, will be continued well into 2019. Alongside interreligious assistance for refugees there will once again be subsidy for projects on interreligious dialogue. The individual projects can receive up to 15,000 euros in funding. For more information along with the application documents see www.weisstduwerichbin.de.

NAK is guest member in ACK Baden-Württemberg

At the 89th Assembly of Delegates on the Reichenau Island, the ACK Baden-Württemberg accepted the New Apostolic Church (Neuapostolische Kirche – NAK) of South Germany as a guest member (“advisory participation”). The NAK of South Germany submitted an application for guest membership at the end of 2016 following long and careful preparations. Contact and conversation between the NAK and ACK in Baden Württemberg started in 2001 and led to contact meetings between NAK International and ACK Germany. At the ACK national general assembly in Magdeburg in March 2017 the delegates argued in favor of looking into guest membership for the NAK at the national level.

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