

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020



The Council of Churches in Germany (ACK) celebrated its central service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, 19 January 2020, together with ACK Lower Saxony and ACK Hannover in the Neustädter Hof- und Stadtkirche St. Johannis Hannover. The ACK Chairman, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, preached the sermon. Three further members of the board as well as regional and local representatives assisted at the liturgy, and the service was musically accompanied by the organist and the choir of the Christian Hope Church in Brunswick. After the service, a welcoming address was held by Grant Hendrick Tonne, Minister of Education in Lower Saxony, on behalf of the Minister President.

Following the motto of this year's Week of Prayer, „They showed us unusual kindness“ (Acts 28:2), which had been chosen by the churches in Malta, an inflatable lifeboat had been placed in front of the altar. Life jackets were used to visualise the intercessions.



The texts for 2021 come from the Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and are based on words from the Gospel of John: „Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit“ (cf. Jn 15:5-9). The ACK will hold its central service together with the ACK Hamburg on Sunday, 24 January 2021, at 5 p.m. in the church of St. Peter in Hamburg. This will also serve as the opening event of the Year of Ecumenism 2021.

Year of Ecumenism 2021

At the autumn General Assembly 2019, the ACK declared 2021 as the „Year of Ecumenism“ because of its particular importance for ecumenism in Germany. This will provide a framework for all kinds of events, whether large or small, such as the 3rd Ecumenical Kirchentag, the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches and all other regional and local projects. The ACK is publishing information about the idea on the homepage www.oekumene-jahr-2021.de, which provides details of the various events that demonstrate the strength of ecumenism in Germany.



ACK Ecumenism Award 2021



Every second year, the ACK awards a prize to honour projects and initiatives making a special contribution to Christian unity and promoting joint activities by Christians of different denominations. The Ecumenism Award will be presented for the fifth time in 2021, the Year of Ecumenism. On this occasion a special feature has been introduced.

In addition to the main prize (endowed with 2,500 euros), an Innovation Prize (endowed with 1,000 euros) will be awarded for the first time to projects exploring new and unusual paths of ecumenical cooperation.

Dr Agnes Abuom, Moderator of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and Co-Chair of the National Council of Churches of Kenya, has agreed to act as patroness. The closing date for applications is 31 December 2020, and a multilateral jury will select the winners. The award is planned to be presented during the 3rd Ecumenical Kirchentag 2021. Further information on how to apply under www.oekumenepreis-der-ack.de

Project „Do you know who I am?“ concluded

The final event of the project „Do you know who I am?“ in the funding phase 2017-2019 took place on 4 December 2019 in Berlin. The topic of the event was the sustainability of interreligious projects. Dr Uta Dauke, Head of Section in the Federal Ministry of the Interior, commended „Do you know who I am?“ as a „unique dialogue project in Germany“ and indicated that the project would probably be continued in the years 2020-2022. In the past three years, a total of 101 projects in twelve federal states received funds.



Material for the Ecumenical Day of Creation 2020 is ready

The motto of the Ecumenical Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2020 is „(w)einklang“ (a play on words, like „harmony/harvest“). The materials for the service were prepared by representatives of the ACK in Germany, the ACK South West Region and ACK Landau. The central service of the Day of Creation will take place on September 4, 2020 at 4 p.m. in Landau. The booklet with the service paper and further material for the Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation can be downloaded from the website www.schoepfungstag.info or ordered in the ACK shop.



Ecumenical Peace Decade

On Sunday, 17 November 2019, at 6 p.m., the central service of the Ecumenical Peace Decade took place in the Ludwigskirche in Saarbrücken. The invitation had been jointly issued by the ACKs in Saarbrücken, in the Southwest Region and in Germany. Referring to the Peace Decade motto „peace climate“, the chairman of the ACK Southwest Region, Pastor Dr. Jochen Wagner, stated concisely: „Work for peace is work for the climate, and vice versa.“ The service was accompanied musically by the Saarbrücken Gospel Choir. After the service words of greeting were held by the Minister for Environment and Consumer Protection in Saarland, Reinhold Jost, and the

Chairman of the ACK in Germany, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron.



The material for the Ecumenical Peace Decade 2020 under the motto „Conversion to Peace“ will probably be available from this summer and can be ordered at www.friedensdekade.de.

ACK Publications

- Ecclesiology. A Dialogue between the Finnish Ecumenical Council and the Council of Churches in Germany. Documentation of the consultation with the Finnish Ecumenical Council on questions of ecclesiology (in English).
- Jesus Christ is our righteousness, our sanctification and our salvation. A statement by the Faith and Order Commission (DÖSTA) and a declaration by the ACK General Assembly 20 years after the „Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification“. A double brochure in German and English.
- Cross. Theology of the Cross - Statements from various confessional perspectives. Documentation of the study conference 2017 (in German).
- Booklet with an order of service and further material for the Ecumenical Day of Creation 2020 (in German).
- Leporello 2020 with basic information about the work of the ACK (in German).
- Application flyer for the ACK Ecumenism Award 2021.
- Documentation of the project „Do you know who I am?“ 2016-2019 (in German).

ACK Diary

4 September 2020, 4 p.m., Landau: Central service for the Ecumenical Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. www.schoepfungstag.info

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen in Deutschland e.V. / Council of Churches in Germany
Ökumenische Centrale
Ludolfusstraße 2-4
60487 Frankfurt
Tel.: 069/247027-0
info@ack-oec.de
www.oekumene-ack.de



