



Third Ecumenical Kirchentag

The 3rd Ecumenical Kirchentag 2021 took place digitally and decentrally. This change meant that the planned ACK-Polis could not be held with a live audience, so the ACK participated with a digital treasure chest (www.oekumene-schatzkiste.de) to generate ideas for decentralised events as well as with its own ACK worship service, held on Friday evening by the ACK Frankfurt, the ACK Hessen-Rhein Hessen and the

ACK Germany under the motto „Many voices - one prayer: The Lord's Prayer“.

Furthermore, the ACK was responsible for the development, preparation and coordination of the ecumenical hour in the digital programme as well as the three related in-depth events. The chairperson of the ACK was also one of the participants at the opening event and the closing service of the Kirchentag.



Ecumenical Day of Creation 2021

The celebration began in Bregenz with an ecumenical service of morning praise held by Bishop Dr Benno Elbs (Diocese of Feldkirch) and others. Thomas Blank, Department Head of Water Management in the Vorarlberg Provincial Government, gave a statement on the international cooperation of the countries bordering on Lake Constance with regard to water protection and pollution control. This was followed by an Orthodox water blessing. After the lunch break, an ecumenical midday prayer took place at the Bavarian Garden Show in Lindau, with a devotional address by Bishop Dr. Bertram Meier. Georg Gewinner from the water works in Nonnenhorn was interviewed on the system of drinking water at Lake Constance. The day was rounded off with an ecumenical service in St.

John's Church in Romanshorn. The Swiss Old Catholic Bishop, Dr. Harald Rein, preached the sermon on the motto „Let rivers of living water flow“. The collection was taken in aid of projects of Caritas and Diakonie that support people who have suffered as a result of the recent flood disaster in Germany.

The event concluded with a reception to celebrate the 50th anniversary of AGCK Switzerland. Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron (ACK in Germany), Dean Christine Schürmann (ACK in Bavaria) and Landes-superintendent Rev. Mag. Thomas Hennefeld (ÖRKÖ) congratulated the AGCK on its anniversary on behalf of the Christians in Germany and Austria. The guests were welcomed by Milan Kostresevic (AGCK).



Ecumenism Award 2021

The Innovation Award of the Ecumenical Award 2021 was presented to the *#hoff-nungsfenster* („Window of hope“) project of the urban ecumenical group Elmshorn at the Buttermarket in the town during the Night of the Churches on 25 September. During Advent 2020, churches and society in Elmshorn had been in contact with each other through various actions as well as digital media, despite the necessity of keeping a distance. The prize, endowed

with 1,000 euros, is sponsored by the New Apostolic Church in Germany. Retired Apostle Volker Kühnle spoke a word of greeting at the award ceremony. Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron (Chairman of the ACK in Germany) presented the award.

The main prize will be awarded to the project „With Luther to the Pope“ on 24 October during its second pilgrimage in Rome.



General Assembly

After two years in which the General Assembly could not be held physically, delegates from member and guest churches as well as observer organisations met for the 249th General Assembly in Pforzheim from 29-30 September 2021.

Beforehand, a study meeting was held with the conference of directors of the regional ACKs on the topic of „Communion/Eucharist - all new in Corona times?“.

In the evening, an ecumenical service was held to celebrate the admission of the Federation of Free Evangelical Churches (BFEG) as a full member of the ACK. The official admission had already taken place in spring at the digital General Assembly.

Other topics on the agenda were the projects for the „Year of Ecumenism 2021/2022“ and reports from the member churches.

Pilgrimage App

The Pilgrimage app is online and can be downloaded from the usual stores (Google Play and Apple Store). The app and its functions were presented at a kick-off event

on 5 October. The weekend hostels are organised by church partners, ecumenical organisations and member churches of the ACK.



Do you know who I am?

Funding is still available for 2021. Interfaith projects can apply for funding up to a maximum of 15,000 euros on an ongoing basis.

On 3-4 November, an interreligious symposium will be held in Frankfurt a.M. on

the topic „Do you believe on religious freedom?“ Participation is free of charge.

The project leader is always available to answer questions:

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022

The central service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place in Cologne in 2022. It will be celebrated by the ACK in Germany, the ACK in North Rhine-Westphalia and the ACK Cologne on Sunday, 23 January 2022, at 3.30 p.m. in Cologne Cathedral.

The texts for the Week of Prayer for

Christian Unity 2022 were prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches. The selected biblical and liturgical texts refer to the visit of the Magi to the newborn King, as reported in the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 2:1-12). The motto is also taken from this text: „We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him“ (Mt 2:2).

ACK Diary

- 3-4 November 2021: Interreligious Symposium on freedom of religion
- 17 November 2021: Central worship service for the Ecumenical Peace Decade at 5.30 p.m. in the City Church of Ludwigslust

- 23 January 2022: Central worship service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 3.30 pm in Cologne Cathedral

