

Festival of Diversity

An annual Pentecost Sunday celebration of faith and diversity

Vision:

The Festival of Diversity envisions to create a cherished tradition that celebrates the rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions both within our congregation in St. Catherine's and in the wider community of Stuttgart. We aim to foster a spirit of unity, understanding, and inclusion among all participants, embracing diversity as a source of strength and enrichment for our collective journey of faith.

Objectives:

1. **Celebrate Diversity:** Embrace and celebrate the diverse backgrounds, cultures, and experiences of all participants, recognizing them as valuable expressions of God's creativity and love.
2. **Foster Unity:** Create opportunities for members of our congregation and the wider community to come together in worship, fellowship, and dialogue, promoting understanding, respect, and solidarity across cultural and social divides.
3. **Extend Outreach and Engagement:** Reach out to the broader community of Stuttgart, inviting local residents, organizations, and religious groups to join us in celebrating diversity and unity on Pentecost Sunday.

Key Activities:

1. **Multilingual Worship Service:** The worship service will feature prayers, music, and reflections that celebrate the theme of diversity and unity, incorporating elements from various cultural traditions and languages.
2. **Cultural Exhibits and Interactive Activities:** Set up cultural exhibits, workshops, and interactive activities that showcase the diversity of cultures, languages, and traditions present within our congregation and the wider community. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from and engage with each other's cultural heritage.
3. **Communal Meal and Fellowship:** Conclude the celebration with a communal meal that brings together members of our congregation and the wider community. Participants will share dishes from their cultural traditions, fostering fellowship, cultural exchange, and further celebration of diversity.
4. **Community Partnerships:** Collaborate with local organizations, community centers, and religious institutions to co-host the event, facilitating meaningful connections and partnerships that extend beyond the boundaries of our chaplaincy/parish.

In this festival, we seek to create a welcoming and inclusive space where all members of our congregation and the wider community feel valued, affirmed, and empowered to fully participate in the celebration of our shared humanity and faith.

This festival will be fully celebrated and implemented in 2025.

For our Pentecost Sunday service this year on May 19th, we're excited to incorporate elements that celebrate the diversity of our community:

1. Multilingual Readings. The readings on Pentecost theme will be read in three languages, chosen to represent the linguistic richness of our congregation.
2. Intercessory Prayer in Various Languages. Our intercessory prayer will embrace our multicultural community by including petitions in different languages. Members fluent in these languages will lead us in prayer, lifting up the needs and hopes of our diverse congregation and the themes of unity, peace, solidarity and justice.
3. Hymns from Other Languages. We should be thrilled by the introduction of at least one or two hymns from other languages to enrich our worship experience. These hymns, reflecting the cultural diversity of our community, will be sung alongside our traditional hymns, uniting us in praise and celebration.

By incorporating printed materials with English translations of the readings, the intercessions, and the lyrics of songs, we ensure that all members of our congregation can fully participate and understand the significance of Pentecost Sunday.

Together, let's make this a vibrant and inclusive expression of our unity in diversity.

Accepted by the Church Council in its meeting today, 5 May 2024 together with the following council members to lead a committee for this purpose namely; Rebecka, Bernd, and Sandie with the power to co-opt some other people who can help them.

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