

# Pentecost Letter 2020

## What to learn from the Corona crisis

The current pandemic shows us how fragile life and every form of community is. Each and every one of us, as well as our global community, is facing the Corona crisis with unprecedented challenges. This is also true for our faith and for all faith communities. In addition: **The Corona crisis has a revelatory character:** already existing crises and injustices are now being drastically brought before our eyes; social and material differences in our country, in Europe and worldwide are being reinforced. Much quicker than, for example, in the case of the climate catastrophe, we are realising the effects of our actions in this pandemic.

At the same time, however, an unprecedented solidarity has developed. We are experiencing new dynamics and what joint, hands-on action can achieve. Supposedly unchangeable conditions can now be changed in an emergency. **We recognize: Another world is possible.** Now it is a matter of seeing reality anew, of examining habits and of mobilising the potential of spiritual resources! A forward-looking commitment, with the paradigm shift in mind, offers an enthusiastic horizon of hope. For our church(es) this is a great challenge, but also a chance to prove its relevance.

- As important as liturgy, which is community-building celebrations, diaconal service is just as important. **Human service is worship** and therefore an indispensable form of the free exercise of religion.
- Let us dare for a fundamental **new conception of church services** which, in a holistic and fraternal way, shape the tasks of liturgy, diaconia, testimony of faith and community and refers believers to their own responsibility and maturity!
- Let us strengthen **house churches and small communities** which have proven themselves especially in this crisis and which are setting out anew to live the message of Jesus and to carry it into the world!
- Let us not allow successes in the **equality of women and men**, which have been laboriously achieved up to now, to be cancelled out by a relapse into old role patterns! It is precisely women who provide vital services. Those who continue to discriminate against women ignore the message of Jesus.
- The coming to terms with **sexualised violence** must continue and **compensation** must be improved!
- The **Synodal Path in Germany** that has just begun must not falter! Because the work on the four main topics is decisive for the credibility of the Roman Catholic Church.
- Let us face the **questions of suffering, dying and death**, which are often suppressed in Western societies! And let us face the **question of God**, of the origin and abandonment of our existence in a new way!
- Let us support the many **ecumenical and inter-religious initiatives** that work for a peaceful coexistence of peoples and religions!
- Let us hold on to the **peace-making idea of Europe**, not as a fortress, but as a community of solidarity overcoming old nationalisms! Many countries are not in a position to shoulder the pandemic alone.
- Let us help to ensure that the **environmental and social encyclical "Laudato si"** of Pope Francis receives real attention, and let us support the protests and activities for sustainable development!
- As Christians, let us demand the **responsibility of globally operating corporations** and urgently needed **debt relief measures!** Let us change our consumer behaviour! Let us exert massive influence on politics and companies! The supply chains must also be taken into consideration.
- Let us help, especially now, to break the cycle of poverty through **worldwide development partnership** work and to build **political structures capable of action!** Many church organisations and non-governmental organisations make a major contribution.

The Corona crisis may well be with us for a long time to come. Now we are celebrating the feast of the mission of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ruach. **Pentecost is a time of hope. It stands for new beginnings and renewal - especially when fear is spreading** so that our world may become more human and fraternal than before.

National Team of *We are Church Germany*

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