



Pentecost letter 2021

Awakening and renewal - starting at the grass-roots!

Pentecost, the feast of the sending of the Holy Spirit, calls us to new beginnings and renewal, especially in anxious times like the current Corona pandemic. Much that seemed self-evident until now is proving to be no longer sustainable, even in the Church. We need a conversion that is oriented to the Kingdom of God message of Jesus of Nazareth (see www.wir-sind-kirche.de/osterbrief). Let us be carried away like the women and men at the first Pentecost. Let us Christians begin this locally in small communities and at the level of the congregation.

Faith needs community

We need basic places of common faith experiences and faith practice. House churches and small communities are proving themselves especially in the current crisis and are setting out to live the Good News and carry it into the world. Let us listen to this message together and interpret our situation in the light of the Gospel! Let us also celebrate the dawn of the Kingdom of God by sharing a meal in the name of Jesus! Let us seek and strengthen the networking of the people of God wherever possible!

Practicing ecumenism

More than 500 years after the Reformation, Christianity in Germany has a special obligation for reconciliation between the denominations. The urge to grow together ecumenically is becoming more and more noticeable among the vast majority of believers. The understanding of church and ministry must no longer divide us! Let us practice theologically and pastorally founded hospitality at Eucharist and Lord's Supper, because the inviter is Jesus! Let us celebrate Pentecost Monday as a feast of Christian unity!

Living the liberating message

As baptized and confirmed, as Christians of whatever denomination, we are all responsible for the lived practice of faith in the one whose name we bear. Just as important as community-building celebration and liturgy is diaconal service. Human service is worship. Let us proclaim Jesus, the Christ, through our lived humanity to our neighbors as well as to those far away!

Stand out instead of leaving

In the present great crisis of the Church, many believers are considering leaving the body of the "Roman Catholic Church". The bishops must take this very seriously - and so must the Vatican. Worldwide, our church is in a crisis of credibility exacerbated by abuse and cover-ups. That is why it is important to join forces with many other reforming forces to stand up forcefully for the overdue reforms. Let us not be silenced! Let us exercise our rights as believers!

Praying for renewal

Awakening and renewal require a deepened spirituality that respects tradition but is oriented toward the future. The prayer "Step by Step" from the Swiss monastery Fahr (www.gebet-am-donnerstag.ch) wants to accompany the ecclesiastical epochal change, just as the Monday prayer in Leipzig accompanied the political one in 1989. Let us form spiritual communities, because we are only at the beginning of a long process of transformation of our churches!

The Lord's Prayer "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" means trust in God and calls for concrete action. At the same time, we are all searching for what sustains us as human beings, what gives meaning to our lives and what leads to community in solidarity. "Now is the time, now is the hour, today is done or also wasted, what matters when he comes."

We are Church Germany, steering committee see more: www.wir-sind-kirche.de/pfingstbrief

*"We are still in the infancy of
chrism, and the whole history
of the Church history is one
proof of that."*

Eugen Biser

*1918-2014, German priest and philo-
sopher of religion,*

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