Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

May 25 to 31 **Migrant and international Ministries**

Calm down your fierce anger. Change your minds about doing terrible things to you own people.
(2 Moses 32.12b)

The Risk not Being in Control

Many people think that God never changes and yet here we read a story of a time when Moses changed God's mind. God was angry with the people he brought out of Egypt because they had become anxious and had Aaron make something tangible they could worship. God wanted to destroy the people but Moses intervened and God did not destroy the people.

We may wonder what this has to do with us today. If we are honest we still make gold calves to worship. We still prefer to worship the tangible rather than the living God. Sometimes our "golden calves" are places. We must continue to have the worship space as it always is. Sometimes our "golden calves" are the way we worship. We cannot sing faster. We cannot sing new songs. We cannot dance in worship. Or sometimes our "golden calves" are the way we do things - the committees that control things or the groups that make decisions. We are unwilling to share power to make decisions about the future of "our" church and its leadership, its finances, or its program.

The God we worship and serve is a living God. God was upset with what the Israelites did. They did not do everything as he had said they should. But God was compassionate and listened to Moses. God changed his mind and the people lived. Are we willing to be open to the living God - to risk not being in control and changing our ways so that God's will might be done. So our brothers and sisters in Christ might truly be accepted for who they are and the gifts they have to share? May God give us the grace so to do.

Carol Seckel

Contact: coordinator@emk.de
Translation: Irmingart Günsch

I GIVE THANKS

- For the rich diversity of people and cultures in God's Creation.
- For the opportunity to learn more about God and life from the many different understandings others bring.
- For the many different ways we experience and worship God.

MY PRAYER IS

- For peace among all God's Creation.
- For a desire for understanding between God's people.
- For the ability to offer and accept hospitality to one another.
- For the willingness to change and be changed as we learn to live together as one family in God.

»Migrant and International Ministries« is the ministry in migrant congregations and international congregations of the United Methodist Church in Germany. There is a close cooperation with the ICUM – International Council of The United Methodist Church to promote the ministry in international and multi-lingual congregations in Germany.

Kontakt:

Coordinator: Migrant and International Ministries
Rev. Carol Seckel, D. Min.
(until June 30, 2014)
Rev. George Miller (after July 1, 2014)
Ludolfusstr. 2-4
60487 Frankfurt am Main

069 242521-112
coordinator@emk.de

www.unitedmethodist.de
www.emk.de\internationalegemeinden

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