Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

June 15 to 21 — Youth Mission (Jugendwerk)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!
(2 Corinthians 13,13 CEB)

Strong Words

„Take good care of yourself!“ This was the final good bye of the former talk master Mr. Juergen Fliege for his hearers at the end of his discussion rounds. He had read his Bible well, this Mr. Fliege, and used Paul as an example: Paul always formed a final blessing at the end of his letters, and some of these blessings have become liturgical parts of our church services: One is the grace greeting at the beginning of the sermon another the greeting of peace at the end of the service. But Rev. Fliege did not copy Paul completely. For Paul does not say “You should take care of yourself!” He says: “God’s love is with you in everything you do! For God accepts you!” And Paul does not say it simply in everyday words; he uses a special form. I like such special forms. I like them in our private life, when my children say: “I love you, Dad!” as a farewell, And I answer: “I love you, too!” I like such forms in the church services: “The Lord be with you!” or “Go in peace!” They make me feel at home, protected, they sound familiar. For a good reason is the above quoted form triple oriented, Trinitarian: towards God, the Father, towards Jesus Christ, and towards the Holy Spirit. The God in whom we believe wants to met us, know us and walk with us in our life. This God loves us, puts us peacefully at ease with himself, for he has acquitted us and made fellowship with him possible for us. Let us say to each other this ritual form which Paul has set at the end of his letter: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!”

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I GIVE THANKS

- For those many young people who bring new ideas and unconventional questions into our congregations.
- For all volunteers who use their free times to work with much love and enthusiasm for teenagers and young people.
- For all adults who try to deal with children, teens and youths “at eye level”.

MY PRAYER IS

- For all young people in our society who are looking for reliable answers to their questions about faith and for successful relationships.
- For all young people who seem to have no chances in our society.
- For an honest and successful cooperation of young and old in our church.

The UMC in Germany has organized a Mission for Youth and Children in each conference area. These missions cooperate as Child Mission and Youth Mission in the Zentralkonferenz (ZK)/Central Conference in Germany. The ZK acts for the concerns of teenagers and young persons of our congregations in denominational and political youth organizations in Germany. It provides educational materials and seminaries for co-workers and organizes mayor events for our youth like the bi-annual youth event / Bundesjugendtreffen (BUJU) on Pentecost.

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