Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

July 27 to August 2 **Children's Ministry (Kinderwerk)**

Now you are coming to him as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. (1 Peter 2,4-5a CEB)

Heavenly Architecture

I a looking at stones on my shelve – mementoes from travels to countries far and near; some stones are smooth, some rough, and each one is special. – A story of three construction workers comes to my mind.: A child comes to the site and asks the first one: "What are you doing?" "Can't you see?" says the man without even looking up. "I'm cutting stones!" "And what are you doing?" the child turns to the second. He answers with a sigh: "I'm earning money to buy bread for my family. I have a large family." Now the child asks the third man: "What are you doing?" He lifts up his eyes and answers softly: "I'm building a big church!" To me the impressive thing in this story written by Manfred Frigger is, that the third man has a vision and is willing to work hard for it. – My thoughts return to the stones on my shelve. Each stone is different from the others. And the mason will take each stone in his hands, look at it, and find the right place for it. Now, it has become a special stone like the stones on my shelve, which are no longer lost in the mass of stones at the side of the way. They have been looked at, and memories have made them special. – So we humans are changed in that moment, when God, the Builder, looks at us. As living stones, we represent memories, and as so many individuals we can be built into a great monument which reminds people of God and points to him. A heavenly architecture is being built – a community of people joined together by their common trust in Jesus Christ. What a chance to belong!

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I give thanks

- For people with visions who believe in the power of change.
- For people who are willing to stand up and become active to initiate new beginnings.
- For witnesses who have become living stones of memory for others and in honor of God.
- For people who encourage, are strong believers, peacemakers, and soul comforters.

It is my prayer

- That we let God "cut", where necessary, to make us a part of the big picture.
- That desperate people will find a new perspective through others acting as living guideposts to God.
- For unity among Christians to be seen as true and authentic "heavenly monuments".
- That the living stone will not become a stone of contentions causing quarrel and war but will connect people across borders.

The UMC Children's Ministry wants to guide children to Jesus Christ and stay with them. We want to help the young to develop their personality. We want to support children's rights in church and in society. We want to provide areas of safety for children in our congregations and our church. We support the protection of child welfare of girls and boys. We want to be "a church of all God's children" together with them.

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