Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

September 21 to 27

Referat für diakonische und gesellschaftspolitische Verantwortung

Rejoice always. Pray constantly. Give thanks in every situation.
(1 Thessalonians 5, 16-17a)

Try it!

Congregations wonder how they can make their faith in the Triune God attractive for their part of town, their environment or their neighborhood, and what their responsibility might be. Organize a tent mission at a central point or conduct Bible nights in their church center? Arrange for a Bible week for children or initiate lunches for poor people? Offer help with homework or organize a street festival? Start a "Fresh Expressions" work or a repair cafeteria in the church rooms or gardening together in public green areas? What is the congregation, what are we supposed to do in God's name and commission?
In his first letter to the congregation at Thessalonica Paul suggests: "Rejoice always! Pray! Thank God!" – When we think and plan on the basis of hope we are on God's side. In other words: When we trust God and think creatively we can and should trust in God's ability to lead us and open our minds for God's Spirit. Joy, prayer and thanking are basic for a congregation's life – especially when it wants to become effective in society and world. We can accept joy and sorrow gratefully with hope and enthusiasm from God's protective hand. This will open ways for our congregations to other people and into our society – and also for individuals who trust in God. "Just try it, get started, and you will see what can be done ..."

Hans Martin Renno
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Translation: Irmingart Günsch

I GIVE THANKS

- For people and congregations that are open for the underprivileged, people in need, refugees, children, for the earth and it fruits produced in abundance again.
- For sharing joy and sadness, happiness and mourning together in our congregations.

MY PRAYER IS

- That we can honestly and openly see ourselves, the members in our congregations and the people in our neighborhood, and that we notice when they need us.
- That our gratefulness towards God for justifying us in his son Jesus making us free to serve the world.
- That our relationships with others will help them to see: Here is the Kingdom of God.

The mission called "diaconal and society political responsibility" is an encouragement to form and change our society according to Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. Our church speaks up for people on the margins of society, for justice and peace, and for the protection of God's creation.

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