Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2018

October 21 to 27 **Dresden District**

Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.
(Romans 12:21 CEB)

What is the opposite of "good"?

"We're good!". The electronics chain with this advertising claim went out of business some years ago. Now that's interesting! Perhaps we shouldn't be quite so certain about what's "good" and "evil".

Of course it's nicer to be on the "right side" and to see the "axis of evil" at work elsewhere. It's a relief to belong to those who seem to have it in their hands to fight evil. After all, this is a daily exercise that God already entrusted to His creation already on the first pages of the Bible: "Sin is waiting at the door ready to strike! It will entice you, but you must rule over it" (Genesis 4, 7). Actually, that didn't go well either.

One of the most admirable impulses of humans as portrayed in the Bible is our ambivalence, the "both .. and" side of human nature. It allows us to be both: completely and absolutely selfless, bursting with life-affirming creativity, and at the same time profoundly cruel, utterly inhuman, godforsaken. Loving and killing and everything in between. The choice is ours. Sin is always waiting at the door.

I'd interpret sin like this: where sin happens, it breaks up relationships; where sin is resisted, relationships can continue to grow. It's not really that hard to do good: after all, we all live within the network of relationships that let us live.

How can we stay together? That is the current issue facing our church in these days. We know what good is, even though we also know that the opposite of good is not "evil" but "well-intentioned": "He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6, 8).

Christhard Rüdiger

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I GIVE THANKS
- for every little bit of resistance to relationship killers in the everyday life of the church and the world. For all the strength, self-conquest and mercy without which this would not have been possible.

I GIVE THANKS
- for all successful talks about the current challenges facing our worldwide church and for the will to stay together despite differing positions.

I PRAY
- for patience and staying power in the face of segregating issues where there's no quick fix. For Spirit-given inspiration to find unconventional solutions and new answers to old challenges.

I PRAY
- for the victims of evil whom we have left behind on our life journey, often unintentionally but nevertheless implicated. I also pray for forgiveness and, where possible, for an opportunity to make amends.

Dresden District

Dresden District is one of the two districts of the East German Annual Conference. It comprises 28 congregations from the city of Zittau to the Erzgebirge mountains. Superintendent is Rev. Christhard Rüdiger with his office in Chemnitz.

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