

INTERNATIONALE SCHLOSSKIRCHENGEMEINSCHAFT

Dear fellow members of the International Castle Church Community:

We have had in late August our directors' meeting, and I would like to send greetings from Lutherstadt Wittenberg to all of those in our worldwide ICCC.

This year has been marked by many special events held in connection with the Reformation Summer. Many more people have been attending worship. Every day, a stream of tourists comes in and out of the Church. At times, we reach our limits. However, it has been nice that through their encounter with this special place and their participation in Sunday worship, many people have left our Church with extraordinary experiences.

We recently commissioned our third group of Church guides who provide well-informed tours of our Church. Along with the volunteers and other staff members of the Church and Visitors' Center, the guides make sure that the varied and diverse questions of tourists are answered and that the guests come to understand the „Message of the Building“.

On Pentecost Sunday, we held the annual worship service of the ICCC. Pastor Robert Meier from Milan, Italy, was the preacher. During the communion celebration, worshipers used papers that had been distributed throughout the pews to greet one another with the words: „Peace be with you“ in one of several languages represented within our ICCC fellowship- German, English, Danish, Finnish, Swedish, Swahili, Dutch, Hungarian, French, Polish, and Icelandic. It was a joyous mix of languages!

This year, October 31st will be a special day for Wittenberg. Not just because many people in many



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countries will be looking at our town, but also because many people will have come here to experience the day in Wittenberg. It will be a special challenge. In the Castle Church, there will be an English language service at 8 am, and a German service at 10 am with Margot Käßmann preaching.

In addition to the many Renaissance Festival events in various parts of town, there will be lectures in English and German on the Reformation and Martin Luther. Following the official festival worship service at 3 which concludes with a State event for invited guests, we are looking forward to the „Festival of Songs“ at 5:30 p. m. in the Castle Church. We will enjoy „Songs throughout 500 Years of Reformation -- for listening and singing“ with the Chorale of Valparaiso University (USA) and the select Brass Ensemble of the Evangelical Church of Middle Germany.

The complete program for the end of October is available under (<https://lutherstadt-wittenberg.de/fileadmin/downloads/veranstaltungen/Reformationsfest/Englisch-Programm-Reformationsfest-Die-Woche-davor.pdf>).

Since the sudden passing of Propst Kasparick, there have been personnel changes. Dean Christian Beuchel is now pastor of the Castle Church congregation. This is in addition to his leadership role in the local church conference. Along with staff of the Preaching Seminary, he will organize further cooperation between all offices in the Castle campus and Castle Church congregation.

As stated in our by-laws, the International Castle Church Community supports the many-faceted life of the Castle Church. In Paragraph 1 we read, „ In particular, it promotes spiritual life, culture and education in the Castle Church building complex.“. The Board of Directors is considering donating a communion chalice and paten to the Castle Church with a dedication from the ICCC. Even though the communion set would be a powerful sign of spiritual fellowship, we are unfortunately not in a financial position to move forward because we still need minimally 1,500 euros. We do not yet know the exact cost, but the price of communion ware of good quality and design is generally over several thousand euros. Perhaps this idea of our Board appeals to several of you. We invite you very much to support us to implement this idea. The bank information is available below.

Cordial greetings from a very lively Lutherstadt! God's blessings for you and your endeavors.

Hans W. Kasch

Chairman of the Board of Directors Of the International Castle Church Community