

INTERNATIONALE SCHLOSSKIRCHENGEMEINSCHAFT

*Dear members of the International Castle Church Community,
I cordially greet you from the Castle Church in Lutherstadt
Wittenberg!*

*The last meeting of the Board of Trustees of the International
Castle Church Community brought about a change in the
chairmanship. Among other news from the ICCG I would like
to use this letter to briefly present some biographical details
about myself.*



*Until February 2020 I was the
executive pastor of the Lutheran
parish in Leipzig South. I grew up in
the northern Black Forest and studied
at the Eberhard-Karls-University of
Tübingen and the University of
Leipzig with a focus on social studies
and practical theology.*

*Since March 1 I have been Director of the Protestant
Academy of Saxony-Anhalt. Because my induction could not
take place in spring due to the Corona Virus, I will be officially
installed as Academy Director and Head of Studies for
Theology and Politics on November 1 at 10:00 a.m. in the
worship service of the Castle Church by Propst Dr. Dr. h.c.
Johann Schneider, Regional Bishop of the Halle-Wittenberg
District, and by Propst Christoph Hackbeil, Regional Bishop of
the Stendal-Magdeburg district. An eventful weekend lies
ahead!*

*On Reformation Day this year the Festival of Songs with the
motto "Help me believe" with Carmen & Friedemann Wutzler
& Friends (vocal, piano, percussion) will take place. New
spiritual songs from pop to gospel will be presented. Due to
the limited space available, the concert will take place twice,
at 16:00 and 17:30. The historical market spectacle in
Wittenberg had to be cancelled this year - like so many other
things..*



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Beginning last March 15 public services in the Castle Church were prohibited for a few weeks. During this time the church remained open as a place of prayer and silent devotion. Since May 10 musical evening services have been held at 5 p.m. in which the organ "does



the singing." On Ascension Day there was an open-air service in the castle courtyard, and on October 3 a prayer service for peace was held in the city church and again on the market square with the new band of the Castle Church.

On Communion Sundays following the service we offer bread and wine in the courtyard of the castle or in the visitors' reception area. It is a wonderful opportunity to keep the memory of communion alive despite all the restrictions. We are looking forward to experiencing our beautiful new chalices in action. One day this will be possible again.

Some things are already possible again! The musical groups have resumed their rehearsals with all the necessary hygiene measures. For the smaller groups this can be well realized. More problematic is the rehearsal with the gospel choir, which currently meets in the church with the necessary intervals and sings together at least for a short time. Unfortunately, concerts cannot yet take place. The planned trip in May to the USA, which Timothy Reaman had prepared so intensively, had to be cancelled. In the USA as well as here in Wittenberg people were very sad about the necessary cancellation of the long-awaited trip. There was a lot of work in the preparation. A big "thank you" from the ICCC goes to Timothy Reaman!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would also like to thank the husband and wife team of Cantors Sarah and Thomas Herzer very much for repeatedly succeeding in making the services in this unusual time a special musical experience in their altered form.

Dear members of the International Castle Church Community: Be well and safe!

*I would like to greet you in these unusual times with a verse by Paul Gerhardt:
"All things pass away, but God is not moved; his thoughts, his word, and his will have eternal purpose. His salvation and grace do no harm, heal the deadly pains in the heart, keep us healthy, both temporally and eternally.*

*Christopher Maier
Chairman of ISKM/ICCC*

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