



Experiences and impulses:

Dear friends, this will be the last parish newsletter I write. On January 19, 2025, I will be released from my duties at the service. From February onwards, I will come to you as a guest preacher.

In the past weeks and months I have repeatedly done things that I did the last time I was in ministry. Some of them were liberating, some were tinged with sadness. Now my time in ministry is coming to an end and I am excited to see what God wants to call me to do in retirement. (I have already made a few suggestions to him) and I am excited to see where God's spirit will lead me.



This year I have been working a lot in my garden and have literally picked up a lot of soil. The song below kept going through my head and I wasn't just thinking about the soil in my garden.

You can play with the earth Play like the wind in the sand
And you build in your dreams A colorful dreamland You can
build with the earth Build yourself a big house But you
should never forget One day you will move out again

A handful of earth, look at it God once said, let there be, remember A
handful of earth, look at it God once said, let there be, remember

On the earth you can stand Standing because the ground holds
you And so the earth offers you A standpoint in the world
In the earth you can plant a tree of hope And it will give you
many years of colorful flowering dream A handful of earth, ...



On earth you can live Live completely and now and here And
you can love life For the Creator gives it to you To preserve our
earth To preserve what lives

God has commanded you and me Because he loves
his earth A handful of earth, ...

The first verse invites us to see responsibility for the earth, for the relationships in which we live, for our community in a playful way, not frivolously, but lightly. I was able to experience this most of the time in my service with you. For this I am infinitely grateful to God and to you.

We have dreamed and tried to implement many things together. Some things have succeeded, others have failed. Now it is my turn to let go of this responsibility in the community. I am withdrawing from responsibility for the community.

The second verse speaks of a firm position on earth and I add in my thoughts: IN CHRIST. It speaks of planting, growing and future fruit. You can judge better than I whether my time with you bears fruit. But I was and am allowed to plant hope in the trust that God will make things grow and give fruit. When this summer, one thing or another grew luxuriantly in my little garden, it filled me with joy. And I am even happier when I can see how our work in the church bears fruit.

The third verse invites us to see our life on earth as a gift. We have not worked for it or earned it. It is a gift to us. And this gift must be used responsibly and preserved for ourselves and the generations after us. This applies to both material and spiritual resources. I pray a lot that our church will be "a handful of earth" where many people can see and experience how good God means to us humans and that he wants to give us a future on this earth. God says his IT WILL be in the future too, I trust in that, even when I move out of the EmK Recklinghausen church "house" and come to you as a guest in the future.

God will bless us.

birthdays

November: Ingrid Bullerjahn (4.11.), Valentina Eck (4.11.), Lara Duda (16.11.), Annegret Deiß (25.11.)

December: 3.12. Andrea Deiß, 15.12. Nina Baltuttis, 18.12. Taria Böhm and Siegfried Emlich, 25.12. Karola Kreutzenbeck, 27.12. Christina Cieslik.

January: 2.1. Ewa Blodau, Andreas Rüdiger, 5.1. Gunhild Schwand, 7.1. Eduard Weiland, 11.1. Daniel Letzig, 13.1. Ruth Trojan, 14.1. Ursula Kmitta, 16.1. Andreas Baltuttis.



church services

Every Sunday 10:30 am and afterwards church coffee

Date

November 3rd	family service/bring-your-own lunch
November 10th	
November 17th	
November 20th, 3:30 p.m.	Church service in simple language (especially for people with dementia)
November 24th	All Saints' Day
December 1st	1st Advent Bring-along lunch Acceptance into church membership
December 8th	2nd Advent
December 15th	3rd Advent
December 22nd	4th Advent

Date

January 5th
January
12th
January
19th
January
26th

farewell service with bring-your-own lunch

Important Dates

women's circle:The women's group meets on Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. in even-numbered weeks. Here, content from the Bible is discussed and then the group continues to exchange ideas over coffee and cake.

On December 10th The women's Advent celebration will take place again. You are cordially invited.

Women's Corner Every second Friday (or by arrangement) "Women's Corner" takes place.



KREATIVMARKT

Wann? 10.11.2024 ab 14 Uhr
Wo? Emk Recklinghausen
Limperstr 34
45657 Recklinghausen
Kosten? 5€ pro Meter

Kommt vorbei, stöbert durch unser buntes Angebot. Fürs leibliche Wohl ist gesorgt. Unser Gelände ist Barrierefrei und Kinderfreundlich

Anmeldung unter:
Flohmarkt-emk@web.de



The Reading Foyer on November 28th at 6pm. Dogs also read the Bible with us.

hut of good deeds

is taking place again this year. Our day is December 8th. Thank you in advance to everyone who helps out at the hut of good deeds and accepts donations for all the good projects. More information to follow.



A photo of Ingrid Bullerjahn with her visit. Armin enjoyed taking part in the children's classes around 2000 and knows Ingrid Bullerjahn and Angelika Zettelmeier from that time. Perhaps one or the other still reminds her of him.



Finances – an unpleasant topic?

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees! You hypocrites! For you give to God even a tenth of spices such as mint and dill and cumin.

At the same time, you do not observe the more important things in the law: justice, mercy, and faith. But you should do these things without neglecting the others.

This is what it says in Matthew 23-23 Basic Bible. Jesus notes what is much more important than giving a tenth, namely justice, mercy and faith. Nevertheless, he states in the last sentence:

... but you should do that, **without leaving the other behind.**

What does it look like for us? In our community? Why give something? I want to be part of the club, but support it? ... a tenth part? Why?

Well, I would like to announce the financial situation of our community here. In September 2024, I compiled all of our community's income and expenses as of January 1, 2024.

See for yourself:

revenue (monthly)	donations/collections	462.19 €
	member councils of 16 congregation members	2,465.00 €
	Dead	222.22 €
	Rent	214.56 €
	Special Offering Easter pp. 1/2	95.28 €
		3,459.24 €

These are the average earnings per month.

The membership fees are paid regularly every month by only **16 congregation members** ToT (partially open door) are grants that we receive from the city and state to offer projects for children aged 6 and over. We are allowed to pass on 3500 euros annually to our community as operating costs. This grant is only valid for one year and is reviewed every year. Half of special offerings are paid to our community treasury. The other half is passed on to World Mission.

Now to the expenses:

expenditure (monthly)	Telekom community	- 71.28 €
	Telekom Regine	- 57.50 €
	Advance	- 300.00 €
	payment municipal utilities	- 125.00 €
	Sparkasse	- 17.99 €
	conference fund levy	- 3,050.00 €
	salary costs district	- 488.67 €

Ruhr area

church music	- 77.78 €
Computerhilfe Würtz	- 3.97 €
Own contribution community	- 16.67 €
Blumen Risse	- 4.44 €
	- 4,213.29 €

The monthly contributions for the conference fund are calculated as follows:

½ pastor's salary	2237.50 €
Fixed cost flat rate per community member	
42 registered community members	620.00 €
compensation	<u>193.00 €</u>
Together:	3050.00 €

The municipality must pay the contribution for ToT (partial open door) once a year in the amount of 200 euros.

Every month, our municipal coffers are missing **754.05 Euro**.

Unfortunately, we do not have any reserves, so we rely on donations when repairs are needed in or on the building.

The following article appears on the website of the Evangelical Methodist Church:

Church and Money – Acquire, Save and Give as Much as You Can

Every community, every association, and every church must think about how the tasks associated with their respective objectives can be financed. In Germany, the Evangelical Methodist Church has the legal form of a public corporation. This entitles it, among other things, to ask the state to collect church tax from its own church members. However, the Evangelical Methodist Church deliberately waives this right to which it is entitled. **When joining the church, church members commit themselves to supporting their congregation and the church with regular donations.** This is usually done through a monthly contribution. The amount of this contribution can be set at your own discretion.

Generosity is the measure

John Wesley himself kept a careful account of what he spent on himself and on God's work. His records show that when he first received £30 a year, he needed £28 for his personal needs. He gave two pounds away. In a time of no inflation, he kept the amount he needed for his personal needs. When his income increased to £60, he gave away £32; when he received £90, he gave away £62. He followed this principle to the end of his life. He never spent more than £28 on himself. In later years he received over £1,000 a year from the sale of his books, but he gave the whole amount away, deducting only his travel expenses. In this way he spent more than £30,000 on charity in his lifetime.

Responsibility is the guideline

For John Wesley, an important characteristic of a redeemed life was independence from material and financial possessions. At the same time, he appreciated it when people used their possessions responsibly and generously, thereby supporting the work of God and helping to alleviate people's suffering.

That is why John Wesley could say, "You get no reward in heaven for what you put away, but for what you give away. Every pound you put in the earthly bank is lost, it brings no interest above. But every pound you give to the poor is put in the heavenly bank. It will bring great interest, which multiply in eternity."

In a sermon on the right use of money, he formulated the guideline

"Acquire as much as you can, save as much as you can, give as much as you can."

So: Without any fear of contact, recognize and perceive the opportunities and possibilities of possessions and money and use them responsibly and generously.

Guideline that is still relevant today and provides a spiritual perspective.

From: Evangelical Methodist Church in Germany (EMK)-Faith-Typically Methodist



What else is there to say? I would like to add a few personal words:

When I was admitted, I asked: "What do you give?" (Giving nothing at all was out of the question for me.) The answer I received was usually: "Use the Old Testament as a guide. You should give 1/10 of your income."

I didn't really understand that. Do you mean the net salary or the gross salary? Whenever I asked, the answer was: "Give what you think, what your heart tells you, what you feel, what is right for you."

Well, now what? My husband and my children are not members of the church. What do I give? Well, I gave what I thought was right and good.

I couldn't do anything with the rigid adherence to the tithe. It is a guideline at best.

God has given me and Rolf so much more. We have a living and I am eternally grateful for that. In the past, I often thought: "How am I supposed to manage this? A low income, two children and I don't work." Then a door opened and I was able to work a little on the side. Then there was Rolf, who was wonderful with money. Without him, a lot of things would have been more difficult.

We bought most of our children's clothes at flea markets. But we were never poor - really poor. Thank God.

Yes, and what do you give today?

God does not force anyone to give their money to his church. He lets his heart speak to us and wants us to let our hearts speak to our neighbors. We are so loved by God that he gives us the free choice to voluntarily do what our heart and our feelings tell us.

I wish you all that God guides and blesses you in all your ways.

What will happen next with the parish newsletter?

We in the parish leadership have thought about it. At the moment it looks like there will be no more parish newsletter in the future, unless someone can be found to put it together quarterly from February 2025. For all those from outside the parish who cannot keep up with social media as intensively, this would mean that contact with the parish would be broken.

Perhaps there is someone who can and wants to do this service for the parish. I have always enjoyed this task, which I took on at the beginning of the pandemic. For the transition into retirement, it is important that I finish all of these tasks. And I would like to use this opportunity to say goodbye to everyone with whom I have only kept in touch through the parish newsletter.

Remain safe under his grace.

Yours, Regine Stoltze

Weihnachtsaktion 2024



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von GRUND auf

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