

Church letter October, November 2021



Experiences and impulses:

We plow and we scatter the seeds on the land, but growth and prosperity is in the hands of heaven ...

I like to sing this song for Thanksgiving, even if it doesn't describe my / our everyday life. And yet it is a beautiful picture for our daily life. We plow and start something new, whether this will lead to fruitful, sustainable new perspectives in life depends on what God does. I am amazed again and again how little what I do and how great what God does.

Both seeds and good soil are given by God. I use what God gives by planting seeds in the earth at the right time. And then again comes God's sole action, growth and prosperity. And then we can harvest and enjoy what God has allowed to grow.

God allowed a lot to grow in our church in the past year: A lot of fellowship, many new approaches, new projects and he made many of us mature very personally.



Some weather conditions were unfavorable: We did not celebrate church services again until Pentecost, we first had to find the common rhythm again, but we also gained more joy in being together, we enjoy it more simply to sit together in the garden or foyer and without talking to each other about specific topics.

And in our private everyday life, too, violent storms have broken in: death of close relatives, health problems, breakdown of relationships.

And in all of this we have seen grace and growth, seen how God sustained and strengthened us. I am infinitely grateful for the past year. God has given us many good things, often precisely where we have gone through painful situations. It helps me to keep reminding myself of this, not just thanks to Thanksgiving. And it is good for me to live in a community that inspires me to be grateful because we share our gratitude with one another.



Our grateful memories include many people with whom we have shared journeys. Karola suggested creating a memory book in which we collect grateful experiences and a picture of the person who contributed the memory and / or of the event that we want to remember with gratitude. And then scroll through it every now and then and indulge when the courage or memories fade.

Birthdays

October: Fabian Akkermann (October 5), Walter Bloch (October 8), Margret Bloch (October 12), Christiane Bludszat (October 15), Elfriede Weiland (October 22), Brigitte Heilmann (October 25)

November: Ingrid Bullerjahn (November 4), Valentina Eck (November 4), Lara Duda (November 16), Annegret Deiß (November 25)

Church services Every Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Please bring a cup with you for the church coffee that follows.

Masks must be worn inside the building until everyone is seated. Then the mask can be put down.

There is a special regulation in the new CoronaSchVO in § 3 paragraph 13 on the mask requirement for singing: When singing together, the mask may only be removed if only immunized or tested people participate, whereby, in deviation from § 2 paragraph 8 sentence 2, a PCR test is required is.

We will distribute the Lord's Supper in the rows of seats. The distributors will wear masks.

<i>date</i>	<i>topic</i>	<i>Who preaches</i>
03.10.	Thanksgiving*	Regine Stoltze
10.10.		Regine Stoltze
17.10. with communion		Regine Stoltze
October 24		
October 31		Regine Stoltze
07.11.	Themed service	Regine Stoltze
11/14		Regine Stoltze
11/21 with communion		Regine Stoltze
11/28		Regine Stoltze

* with your own buffet after the service. Simply bring gifts for the Thanksgiving table.

Important appointments

Women's circle: October 6th and 20th; 03. and 17.11. 15:30h

Prayer group via Whats App (collect requests and pray afterwards every Monday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Home group

Teenage club every Tuesday 6-8pm, there is no meeting during the holidays

Homework assistance every Thursday from 3 p.m.

Recklinghausen community Limperstrasse 34, 45667 Recklinghausen

Tel.: 02361 482898

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EmkRecklinghausen>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnlfKUyY-bdkx5iCEVimILq/videos>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/emkrecklinghausen/>

Multi-generation meeting every Thursday from 4 p.m.

Autumn church cleaning on November 13th Extensive cleaning in the house and garden. Anyone who likes to clean in a community and has a good time is very welcome. We start at 10 a.m., those who come later are also welcome.

Announcements

On September 4th, 2021 we say goodbye to **Ursula Wünstel** taken. We are allowed to know them in the loving presence of God.

Your grandparents helped found the community in Marl-Hüls. Ursula Wünstel, née Niedorf, was at home in this community all her life. After the Hüls congregation closed, she attended church services in Recklinghausen. As the rector of a Protestant elementary school, the integration of children and families with a migration background and contact with the Jewish religious community was important to her, even in retirement. We are grateful for fellowship with her. Our intercession goes to her relatives.



On 09/28 became **Lara Duda** consecrated in the Zionskirche in Mülheim.

We congratulate you warmly and wish God's care on all your paths.

After 16 years the cellar church 2.0 has to close its doors.

After the UMC congregation in Duisburg started their work in Duisburg closed in spring 2020, the conference sold the building in summer 2021.

For a long time it looked as if we could stay in the basement as tenants. Then 16 days before the clearance period for the ground and first floors of the building came the end of the basement church. The new owner has rented out the entire building including the basement. We only had a few days to part with all the things that we have collected over the past 16 years for working with school-age children

had. Some of the playground equipment is now moving to Recklinghausen, some of which we store in our private cellars. But we had to dispose of a lot with a heavy heart. That was pure grief.



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With all the clearing and throwing away, we also gratefully remembered how little material we started with 16 years ago. We remembered all the children who were encouraged to grow up in the cellar church and experienced something of God's love. We remembered all the successful celebrations and church services, all the applications for third-party funding that helped us to finance our work, which was growing year after year. We were involved in the network work on site and in the trampoline network.

We have seen a lot, a lot of grace, a lot of challenges, a lot of miracles. We are grateful for 16 wonderful years. We are grateful for everyone who accompanied us on our way in the cellar church 2.0, in prayer, in active support, in the company of the employees.

Now we look forward with anticipation. How does the work continue without a roof?

The district is on the up, which is good for the area around the cellar church. But it is a disadvantage in our efforts to rent affordable space. Even 2 garages next to each other could not be found, which is also noticeable in the parking situation around the building. More people in the neighborhood have their own cars. Conversely, this means that families with less income can no longer afford the quarter. Which in turn means that our primary clientele is more likely to move away from the neighborhood. Perhaps it is our task to go with the cellar church 3.0 where the living space is affordable for these families. But we can only tackle that in spring 2022. And for this we need people who reliably do and support the work on site with us.

Invitation to church membership

- Say yes to God / Christ who says YES to me

One becomes a member of the Church in the Evangelical Methodist Church at one's own request in a service. Whoever allows himself to be accepted, confesses his YES to God in the community of the community.

God himself calls into following and places us in one Community that needs exactly what he has gifted us with. There are questions about this that we answer with yes and the help of the Holy Spirit: *Do you confess to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and do you accept the salvation promised to you in the gospel?*

- 1. Do you renounce evil and do you trust only in the grace of God?*
- 2. Do you want to follow Jesus Christ and live responsibly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit?*
- 3. Do you recognize the Bible as the God-given foundation of your faith and life?*
- 4. Do you want to stick to the United Methodist Church? Do you want to meet with the church regularly? Do you want to participate in the service of the church in accordance with your calling through your intercession, cooperation, and regular gifts?*



If you would like more information or would like to be recorded, simply contact Regine Stoltze or Leila Akkermann: in writing, by telephone, via Whatsapp, in direct contact, ...

We are happy about everyone who develops the church together with us into the wonderful future that God has for us.

10 good reasons to become a church member

1. I connect with others who also believe in God
2. I stand with others to believe in God
3. I am jointly responsible for the particular form of religious community in my local community and beyond
4. I belong to a worldwide community
5. I am an active part of a community that knows that it is not supported by its own achievement, but by God's grace and his and mutual forgiveness
6. I am an active part of a community that strengthens one another through word, sacraments, gifts of grace and community
7. I contribute with my gifts, given to me by God
8. I experience how God needs my gifts for the future of the church
9. I receive encouragement from fellowship to grow in faith
10. God serves me through the fellowship of brothers and sisters



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Hilfe, die ankommt



Polen – Dariusz und Monika Zuber haben ein Herz voller Träume

Doch als sie 2012 nach EtK kamen, mussten die Träume warten: vernachlässigte Kirchenräume mussten renoviert werden, um die Gemeinde mit neuem Leben zu füllen. »Meine Träume wurden von den Aktivitäten Jesu inspiriert, der sich denen zuwandte, die von der Gesellschaft und den religiösen Normen abgelehnt wurden. Doch Gottes Fürsorge und Liebe erreichen alle Bereiche des menschlichen

Lebens«, sagt Pastor Zuber. »Wir haben uns geöffnet und gemeinnützige Organisationen sowie städtische Einrichtungen mit einbezogen. Mit Wohltätigkeitskonzerten, Kursen der Universität des Dritten Lebensalters, Film-Diskussions-Clubs oder Programmen für Kinder und Jugendliche haben wir »das Reich Gottes verkündet«. Unsere Arbeit, verbunden mit der Offenheit für neue Menschen, hat unsere Kirche zu einem guten Ort gemacht, der den Dialog lehrt und die Vielfalt verbindet.«



Mehr dazu: www.emkweltmission.de

Spenden: Ev. Bank eG • Projekt G10

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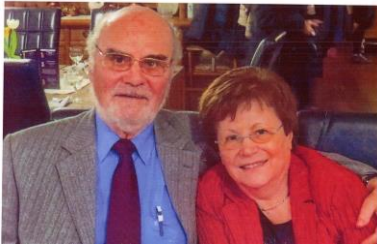
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Impulses from the annual conference

Despite, or perhaps because of, challenging topics, it was a good conference.



We thought again of Kurt and Rose Böttcher in the memorial service.

And Siegfried and Hildegard Ermlich celebrated their 70th service anniversary.



On the one hand, the main topic was **CreationLADDER**. It is about steps that a community can take to protect creation from exploitation within the limits of its possibilities. You can find out more here: <https://www.schoepfungsleiter.de/>

We have a **System change** decided on finances. The pensions are to be financed in three years from the income from the church's own property rented to third parties. And each municipality then pays for its own salary and building costs. There should be a transition period of 3 years during which municipalities that were previously unable to raise their own costs can work towards this. Congregations with diaconal projects that they cannot carry out on their own can be supported by more financially strong congregations and people.

The congregations in the NJK (North German Annual Conference) donate EUR 3.3 million annually to the allocation of the conference. This is used to pay the salaries of the pastors, including the superintends, and the conference office. In addition, there are the costs that the municipalities need to maintain their buildings. That's a lot of money.

The system change is also an opportunity for congregations to take a closer look at what they want to spend the money the siblings give to the congregation, or whether they can / want to use their building together with others in order to reduce costs.

A big thank you to everyone who helps in Recklinghausen so that we can bear our costs. You helped me to be very grateful and relaxed about this topic.
Thanks!

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Then came the topic of the round table and the foundation of the **Community federation** on the agenda. The NJK has clearly spoken out in favor of the accession of municipalities to the community federation. In this way, congregations and individuals can feel at home in the UMC, even if we as the German UMC decide in favor of the full participation of homosexual people. The federal government strengthens our togetherness despite different understandings of the scriptures.

From the **Position paper of the ZK-Kinder- und Jugendwerk to Right-wing extremism, racism and discrimination** ...It is becoming more and more a matter of course, out of fear for one's own safety, out of fear for one's own prosperity and out of fear of losing more and more power, to marginalize other people and defame them online. "Fake News", "Hate Speech" and all the conflicts described are not a new phenomenon; but the challenge of facing them is a very topical task. ... It is incompatible with the Christian faith to devalue people on the basis of their origin, their gender, their faith, their way of loving or their social affiliation. ...



The congregations have been asked to think about the children's works collections. The children and youth organization of the NJK needs our support. You can read more here: <https://www.emk.de/mmeldung-2021/>

And the **Team of the cellar church** is in an official meeting for it **thanked** that we cleared out the church building so vigorously so that the sale of the church building could go so smoothly. I am particularly happy to pass on these thanks.