

European Ecumenical Study Course 2023

■ Date

Arrival: 15 May until 4 p.m.

Departure: 24 May after breakfast

■ Costs

Course incl. excursion:

757 Euro (single room with ensuite bathroom)

640 Euro (single room with communal bathroom)

Delegates from church districts ("Kirchenkreise") of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (ELKB) will be reimbursed by the Ecumenical Office except for a personal contribution of € 200,-. Travel costs will not be reimbursed.

Employees and volunteers of the various churches in Bavaria can apply for grants from the appropriate authorities in accordance with the training guidelines. Travel costs will not be reimbursed.

For Non-Bavarian delegates special financing has been agreed upon between the delegating churches and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria.

■ Further information and registration

Delegates are asked to register with the ELKB Ecumenical Office in good time:

Volker Napiletzki

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eMail: volker.napiletzki@elkb.de

Non-delegated participants can register directly with the Josefstal Study Centre:

Ms. Marija Hirsch

Aurachstr. 5, D-83727 Schliersee

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The study course is organized by the Evang.-Lutheran Church in Bavaria and the Josefstal Study Centre for Evangelical Youth Work e.V. in cooperation with the Romanian Orthodox Metropolis for Germany, Central and Northern Europe.



Evangelisch-Lutherische
Kirche in Bayern



RUMÄNISCHE ORTHODOXE
METROPOLIE FÜR DEUTSCHLAND,
ZENTRAL- UND NORDEUROPA

Josefstal
Studienzentrum
Fort- und Weiterbildung



Rejoice in the Lord always (Phil 4,4)

European Ecumenical Study Course

15-24 May 2023

Christian Joy in Face of the Cross

Philippi is considered the first Christian congregation in Europe. Its founder Paul was connected with it in a cordial relationship. Imprisoned, worried about his own future and yet hopeful, the apostle addresses „his“ community in the Letter to the Philippians, exhorts to unity and encourages a cheerful trust in God in spite of all circumstances.

Today's European Christian community has every reason to be concerned. The common house of Europe is burning, parts of it are in ruins. We are afraid of the effects of war and fear its expansion. We struggle to find ways to peace. Climate change threatens our livelihoods. We struggle over values, over justice, over the treatment of minorities and refugees. We seek our role as churches in polarized societies. And, as if all that were not enough, personal strokes of fate may be added to the mix. All in all, more a reason to weep than to rejoice?

What does „Christian joy“ mean in view of the challenges of this world? Is it a challenging, encouraging or rather impossible gift? What does joy mean for me personally? What gives me support and strength not to resign? Which spiritual ways and forms of expression can help not to despair in the face of the brokenness of this earthly world, but to draw joy and strength from the hope of resurrection? How is this joy expressed in our respective denominations?

We invite you to a confessionally diverse, joyful and thoughtful journey of discovery in the light of the cross.

Participants

- Delegates of invited churches
- Ecumenically committed employees and volunteers

The conference languages are German and English; translation between these two languages will be provided.

To ensure the success of the study course, participants are expected to be present for the entire duration of the course.



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The European-Ecumenical Study Course

offers Christians from Northern, Southern, Eastern and Central Europe and Great Britain the opportunity to come together for an intensive 10-day meeting. The course is grounded in:

- meeting ecumenically committed men and women from different Christian confessions and churches of Europe – across different nations and all generations;
- coming together and learning from one another;
- enjoying an open and truthful dialogue as well as discussing theological and cultural questions;
- giving and receiving spiritual impulses from different spiritual and liturgical traditions which we pass on to one another.

The international team

- Iveta Apostu-Starcova, Orthodox Church, Slovakia
- Eike Kohler, PhD, United Church, Germany
- Remus Marian, Orthodox Church, Romania
- Volker Napiletzki, Lutheran Church, Germany
- Teresa Pfefferkorn, Musician, Germany
- Roger Schmidt, Lutheran Church, Germany
- Ewa Sliwka, Evangelical-Augsburg Church, Poland