



Evangelical Luke Community



NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's children. You have not received a spirit that makes you slaves. Then you should be afraid again. Rather, you have received a Spirit that makes you God's children.
Romans 8:14-15a

Dear Reader,

The feast of Pentecost is behind us, and Paul's words speak especially to our present situation. Because God's Spirit causes people to move. Movement is life - life is change. In spring in nature, you can clearly see the growth of plants, the unfolding flowers and leaves: everything is in motion, in growth, in change.

Our confidence that we are on the right track grows as we change things in our lives. We are not trapped in what used to be. In this way we experience a new liveliness. We do not stagnate, the intrinsic vitality of the community is allowed to find its own personal expression. Through sometimes painful changes and healing processes. The common prayer in the sisterhood and the daily reading of the Bible together are something like a haven of peace and anchorage for us.

Movement is life - this was also the guiding principle of Renate Raffel, who enriched the program of events in the "Tent of Encounter" with her gymnastics offers during the years of her life in our community.

We would like to share this confidence with you. The knowledge of mutual sympathy and solidarity with the circle of friends and support in any form always means comfort, encouragement and strengthening in these years of change.

Even in its early years, the community was designed in such a way that it could only exist by embedding it in a circle of supporters. In this way, the sisters were able to welcome many people and accompany them for a long time. The work in agriculture and gardening within the community was also designed for the cooperation of the co-living, there was a need for mutual give and take. Relationships have developed that testify to deep attachment and loyalty.

20 years of the Tent of Encounter

The "Tent of Encounter", as our place of worship and meeting is called, is now 20 years old.

We have the idea to collect testimonials and publish them on our website. Would you like to write something about it?

What was the path from the big barn to a meeting place? Anyone who helped with the conversion and expansion, traveled to work assignments and followed the creation of the "tent" will probably have a lot to tell. Not only worshippers and festival-goers have seen the tent. It was also a place of learning, a creative space and a bicycle stop, sometimes also a hostel.



The Old Barn

2003 Inauguration



Here children and adults were baptized, sisters were blessed, weddings, Birthdays and anniversaries celebrated, farewell to the deceased. Here people sang, danced, ate and prayed, played theater. Exhibitions were also held here. All this is provided by this great sacred and everyday place.

According to the concept of community at that time, most of the events were the responsibility and carried out by the sisterhood. To ensure that the house can continue to serve its purpose and be available to more people,

we want to become more flexible here. We would like to make the "Tent of Encounter" available to others. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact us!

For example, family celebrations, seminars, exhibitions are conceivable. Since the Tent of Encounter is also a sacred place, the events should fit its atmosphere and dignity. In order to make better use of the space, changes in the interior are being considered: e.g. technical equipment, seating, room layout, floor condition, renovation of the kitchen.

The tent is in need of renovation after 20 years. We are grateful for your financial support.

But God has heard me, he has heeded my loud supplications. Praise be to God! He did not reject my prayer, nor did He take His goodness away from me. Psalm 66:19-20

For about half a year we have had a mailbox for prayer requests in the "Tent of Encounter". This has been well received and we have received positive feedback. We rejoice in all reports of answered prayers and good experiences with God's presence. Thank our great God for that!

Sister Margrit supervises this work. We would also like to encourage you to name concerns for which we should pray!



Prayer mailbox

Sister Michaela and Sister Gabriele would like to share with you what is changing in their lives.

Sister Michaela writes:

This year, I'm looking for distance from the community. The change processes in our community, with the necessary processing and tidying up, were very intense for me and consumed my strength. Now I would like to focus more on my art therapy training, and I am also striving for a job in this field. I was promised to get a job qualification when I joined the community. However, this promise has not been fulfilled in 40 years of community life. The community project garden continues to be my field of work. In addition, I continue to offer the prayer time with artistic elements in the "Tent of Encounter".

Sister Gabriele writes:

Since 2016, together with Sr. Martina, I have been the managing director of our non-profit limited liability company, which manages our buildings and charitable projects with the help of donations. I am very grateful to God that Sr. Traute supports us in this task with her expertise and experience.

What's next materially for our community and for me personally?

On this subject, God is my present contact person in prayer, and I experience myself in dialogue with him. He doesn't leave my questions unanswered. He asks for me and waits for my answer in the matters of my life and ours together, which I and we bring to him.

Similar to Samuel, whom God called, and who, after realizing that he was meant and who it was that called him, replied, "Lord, here I am." (1 Samuel 3.)

One of God's answers to my prayers is that I have been able to start a paid part-time job since March 1, 2023. This means an improvement in my and our economic situation. I enjoy

my work and experience myself in a completely new way in the world. I am very grateful to God for these new experiences.

Due to the extensive administrative activities as managing director of the GmbH, together with sister Martina, the agricultural work was no longer possible for me. My health situation also no longer allowed me to do regular heavy physical work. There was nobody here to help with the heavy work. Since 2016 we have been in the process of dismantling our agriculture (with the exception of the garden).

Saying goodbye to agriculture is a very painful path for me personally. Through living with agricultural work, with people and animals out in nature, I had the impression of experiencing a little more of God's closeness in His creation. I would like to continue to share this with many people.

Nevertheless, I am comforted and hopeful that we can support people we know with everything we give away or sell. In this way, we support their interest in farming in a way that is good for people and animals. This is possible, for example, by leasing meadows or fields. This confirms that it is helpful for everyone involved if we share what we have, or pass it on. I thank God for this precious experience.

Pilgrimage "From the front door"



Get out of everyday life, enjoy God's creation, have fellowship!

This is the motto of our pilgrimage days, which are gladly accepted. We are always exploring new trails around Bergen. However, so that people for whom a day's journey of approx. 15 km is too far can also participate, we are also offering two shorter routes of approx. 6 km this year. If you are interested in these routes, you can find www.ev-lukas-communitaet.de information ON OUR website. Or call us on 05845 553 and we will call you back.

Work in Ukraine

We would like to thank you for the earmarked donations for the care of the refugees from Ukraine! We were able to make a lot possible for them, and they have gathered new strength here. Gradually, some have returned to their husbands in their homeland. Most recently, right after Easter 2023, Sister Antonina, who wanted to be with her family, also traveled back.

*Sister Antonina's **daughter Irina** would like to thank everyone who has helped to make her life and that of her loved ones in Germany easy and safe. She uses her experience in Ukraine to train professionals who work with traumatized persons.*

***Irina** writes here about her husband Igor, about two of her daughters and about her mother:*

With us, everything is determined by war. It can be scary, but we're glad we're all together! There is still work, and Igor and I are very happy!!!

At the moment I am leading a training course on how to heal mental wounds. We train professionals who work with internally displaced persons and children who have suffered trauma. This training is more and more in demand.

Mom doesn't feel well. The heart hurts regularly, and the sugar level does not drop. She works a little in the garden.

We have great news: Tanya is expecting her second child. Please pray for her and the baby! I can say that God has his own plans.

I'm worried too. The rocket attacks continue. It can be very scary. Kostya, Nastya's husband, was summoned to the military registration and recruitment office. Everyone prayed. Thankfully, he was put in reserve.

How are you all doing there??? Hello everyone! We pray for you! What should we pray for?



Irina and Igor

With love, your family from Ukraine.

Katya, the youngest daughter of Irina, stays with us with her husband and baby. The family lives in Clenze. Katya writes:

Hello everyone! This year was the most terrible and at the same time the happiest for us, because our daughter Miya was born. With her birth, she gave us hope for the future. There is still a war going on in our country and therefore we are grateful to all people for their support and love. Special thanks for the help of the community and all the sisters. Thanks to you, we were not alone. Thank you for being able to support us at all times. This year has taught us to appreciate and be strong. Thank God for everything.



Dima, Miya and Katya

Greetings from Belau,

Your sisters of the Ev. Luke Community

On our own behalf!

We have stored the name and address of all persons who receive our Newsletter. Due to the new data protection regulation since May 2018, we must ask you to let us know if you no longer wish to be in the list. In this case, a written or telephone message is sufficient and we will then delete your data.

We only store your address for the purpose of being able to send you the Newsletter, the donation receipt and other information from our community .

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Donation account:

Fürsorge- u. Vermögenstreuhand GmbH der Evang.
Lukas-Communität

IBAN: DE 50 5206 0410 0005 0084 76

BIC: GENODEF1EK1

Account of the community of sisters:

Ev. Luke Community

IBAN: DE45 5206 0410 0006 600530.

BIC : GENODEF1EK1