

February 25 to March 3

Heidelberg District

But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

(Romans 5,8 CEB)

God shows us the way

If I want to conclude a purchase order on the internet, then first I have to consent to the General Terms and Conditions, otherwise the whole process comes to a halt. If someone submits an application request, then it won't be dealt with until all the necessary documents are complete. If and then. That's the way it goes. Procedures that are commonplace in business transactions also apply to personal relationships. "If you behave appropriately, then I shall be nice to you."

God is different. Even before we've given him a single thought, there he is waiting for us with his arms spread wide. His loving care is ours unconditionally, regardless of how we behave. And God goes one step further: this still applies even to those who reject God – that is what "sinner" refers to here. Not even such human animosity can

diminish God's love. He even loves those who deny him, vilify and accuse him. God does everything to create the necessary prerequisites for a good relationship of trust. To revert to our initial imagery: God already had the parcel packed long before anyone knew anything about "General Terms and Conditions".

That is the way shown us by God. Relationships between people and church communities could change ... if people and churches let themselves be overcome by the love of God, sharing and living this love just as unconditionally.

Carl Hecker

Contact: carl.hecker@emk.de
Translation: Jacqueline Rohmann

I THANKS

- that you always want the best for me.
- I trust that you will accompany and help me in facing the difficult challenges of everyday life.
- that you can also act in my church and help us to move forward.

I PRAY

- for good support in our church situation and in the face of the many different changes in society at large.
- for your prevenient love so that I can approach others unconditionally.

Heidelberg District

The circuits in the district know all too well that the congregations will have to change their approach. They all want to reach out to people outside their direct church community to tell them the Good News about the love of God. Sometimes there is a certain amount of tension between those who would like to keep things as they are and those who are willing to make changes. This is where an open approach is needed free of any anxiety, with the willingness to listen together to the Lord.

Contact:

Heidelberg District
Superintendent Carl Hecker
Landhausstraße 17
69115 Heidelberg

Phone: 06221 9149644
E-Mail: distrikt.heidelberg@emk.de