

November 18 to 24

Commission of Church and Society

For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ.
(2 Corinthians 5:10 NRSV)

What a relief

To be quite honest, this is not my favourite verse in the Bible! The words “judgement seat” fill me with respect. Particularly in the context of my job as Speaker for Church and Society. Every time I go shopping I generate more plastic waste. I love driving down an empty road with the radio turned up loud. Then the “ecological angel” taps me on the shoulder and whispers “What about the environment, air pollution, climate protection?” There’s a long list of what I really ought to do, but somehow I still don’t manage to do it. It even goes beyond aspects of what I’m do right at this very moment in time to include my human relationships and the question “Is God really the main thing in my life?”

If I fail to live up to my own standards, how can I hope to stand before the judgement seat of Christ?

I can only do that because I can expect his for-giveness; because I know that Christ is my judge, prosecutor and defend-er all in one; because he shares my grief at my failing and because he doesn’t let any of it come between us. The judgement seat of Christ is for me the place where my abject failure is seen by God, and carried and overcome by Christ. What a relief not to think “it’s not possible, I’m going to be condemned in the end”. No, on the contrary: God’s binding love en-courages me to do what I can – and if I can’t manage it, I’ll be given an-other chance!

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I GIVE THANKS

- for God’s colourful creation that he in his infinite love has given to all his creatures for them to live and flourish in;
- for the many people in our church who care about and proactively protect God’s creation;
- for every conversion in which people cheerfully tell me how they are trying to change their shopping and consumption habits because it touches their hearts to see that this can have an effect;
- for all those who aren’t discouraged by in-difference and don’t talk things down.

I PRAY

- For the General Conference in February and for the unity of our church in Jesus Christ – despite differences of opinion;
- that we as a global church of regained uni-ty may follow in God’s footsteps with even greater conviction and stand up for God’s creation, for peace and justice.

Commission of Church and Society

The Commission of Church and Society focuses on church and social issues and how they af-fect the EMK in particular.

It looks at global justice and ecological challenges in Ger-many. For example, how what we do or don’t do in our every-day lives has a specific impact on God’s creation and on the lives of people “on the other side of the world”, while doing good for the environment at the same time.

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