

February 10 to 16

Stuttgart District

The Lord will shine upon you; God's glory will appear over you.
(Isaiah 60:2 CEB)

The presence of God dispels fear

At the moment as I write these lines, it is just one day since the "blood moon" rose above us. Unable to sleep due to illness, I watched this lunar eclipse. Actually, there was something threatening about seeing the moon blood red. It doesn't shed any light in the night. On the contrary, the blood moon makes it seem even darker because it doesn't let the accustomed moonlight get through to us.

And so the word from Isaiah 60 appeals to me particularly just now: "The Lord will shine upon you". What a fantastic picture! The Lord shines upon us like the sun in the morning. He makes the darkness light. We all know how good it is to see the sun rising after a bad night in which we couldn't sleep and were held captive by dark thoughts. We know the relief when at last the sun comes up and dispels

the darkness. "The Lord will shine upon you; God's glory will appear over you." Shining here refers to the presence of God. God is here, he shines upon you, he puts light in your life and dispels fear. It is exactly this same presence of God shining upon us that is referred to in the Christmas message: "Glory to God in the highest and peace toward men on earth". "Glory" is just another way of describing how the Lord shines upon us. As Christians, we know that the glory of God appears to shine upon all people in none other than Jesus Christ.

Siegfried Reissing

Contact: siegfried.reissing@emk.de
Translation: Jacqueline Rohmann

I GIVE THANKS

- for all those in full-time ministry who have taken up the calling to serve and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- for all who come together in church services in order to encounter God.
- that through God's love we are bound together as sisters and brothers, and as churches, charges, districts, annual conferences and to the Church worldwide.

I PRAY

- for the unity of our church and for the wisdom to see ourselves as sisters and brothers, despite all the things that makes us different from each other.
- that God will give all those in full-time ministry joy in their work and inspiration for their sermons.
- for the work and institutions in the Stuttgart District
- that people will find their way into our churches and that there they will find Jesus Christ
- that the people in our churches will find the help and support which they need.

Stuttgart District

The Stuttgart District of the South German Conference is the smallest in area, but from the number of people and churches one of the largest Methodist districts in Germany.

It has 33 charges with a total of 62 churches. 53 pastors are in active ministry in the District, and 36 live here in retirement. The "Children's & Youth Work", the "Training Work" and the EmK's radio station, "radio m", are all found in the District.

Contact:

Siegfried Reissing
Superintendent
Giebelstr. 16
70499 Stuttgart

Tel.: 0711 251984
distrikt.stuttgart@emk.de