

February 3 to 9

Senior Citizens' Work

**I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus.
(1 Corinthians 1:4)**

Prospect: tasty picnic

With their particular form of team-spirit, the Corinthians cause Paul more than enough headaches. In view of their critical distance from the word from the cross, and towards their high-handed tendency to raise themselves on high, should he just smooth things over? Does he think with this positive approach he could fix the error in the church, if he named it by name? If we think that, we would misunderstand him completely.

Whatever there is to clear up, or to consider, between the apostle and the Christians in Corinth, he sees them in the light of the grace of God; as people who have received new life in Jesus Christ. Redeemed through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and resurrection through the Father – in fellowship with the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit. He sees them as saints and beloved of God That is the miracle of God's grace. Paul has this miracle before his eyes and in his heart

when he thinks of this congregation – and when he maintains contact with them through his letters. He knows he is united with them in serving Jesus.

Wherever God's spirit leads us, we should thank God for our church and its congregations. For there isn't the slightest doubt that, yesterday, today and tomorrow, God alone deserves thanks for the existence of our church. What we have and are is the gift of God and his grace. When we meet each other, pray or sing together, or hear God's word, then we should be sure that this fellowship is a gift from the Lord. For this grace, we should always give him thanks.

Thomas Röder

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Translation: Chris Woodhead

I GIVE THANKS

- for Paul's letter to the Corinthians. The apostle declares this word from the cross to be the power of God; and God's spirit writes this living word on our hearts
- for the rich gifts which God bestows upon his church; which enable us to serve and be there for each other
- for the living hope through the resurrection of Jesus; and the promise that God will raise us too, in the fellowship of his son, Jesus Christ our lord

I PRAY

- for our United Methodist Church and that we recognize it as a gift of God; and that the grace of God may work in all her members, in all their variety
- for an increase in faith in God's guidance; leading both church and congregation
- for vigilance and patience, to pray and do the right thing, waiting for God's time, here and now

Senior Citizens' Work

Senior Citizens' Work comes under the Education Department and supplies material to churches and pensioners' groups. Our magazine publication, „Horizonte“ („Horizons“) is particularly popular. The next edition will appear shortly, with the theme „Wohnen“ (Living). In this, the authors bring up biblical contexts, experiences and ideas on the subject. The magazine is available in churches & through members of our team

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