



CENTER FOR PEACE CHURCH THEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER



Photocaption: On the title picture you can see a wall plate. In Pashto, the official language of Afghanistan, it says "freedom" - we wish this freedom especially for women, girls and all other people in Afghanistan from the bottom of our hearts! Read more on page 3.

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FOREWORD



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE ATF,

I first wrote in this space 10 years ago as "Chair of the Friends of the Center for Peace Church Theology Work Group." At that time, the aim was to establish the ATF in the Department of Protestant Theology. For this purpose, it seemed necessary to us to form a circle of friends that would support this important work in terms of content and financially. In the meantime, the ATF is well established. There are many contact persons for you as donors, first of all Doris Franzbach in the secretariat of the ATF, the student assistants and research assistants, whom you can usually meet at the mennoForums in the Mennonite Church Hamburg-Altona. In spring 2021 you already saw here the face of Bernhard Thiessen, the chairperson of the ATF Board of Trustees. Therefore, I can say goodbye to you - in this function - today.

This in no way means that I will no longer be committed to this work and make my own contribution in the future. What is on our minds right now? The hardship caused by the floods in our country, the fires all over the world, the situation in Afghanistan after 20 years of military deployment of the Bundeswehr, also the commemorations 60 years after the Berlin Wall was built. Many of us can tell about our own experiences of flight. The Wall was broken down peacefully in 1989. This is commemorated in all media. For the coming fall/winter, we are again planning a new series of the mennoForum. Maybe it will have to take place differently than usual. But we are already looking forward to it. Stay healthy, practice new habits that will make your life more beautiful, maybe even easier. As early as the 1970s, a slogan came up, "More with less!" That still holds true, perhaps more than ever! Very warm greetings and thank you for your commitment,

Sigrid Wiebe



THANKS



When the ATF, founded in 2006, was threatened with closure for financial reasons after five years of development work, Sigrid Wiebe (together with Annelie Kümpers-Greve) was one of those who actively campaigned for its continuation. A circle of friends was quickly founded, which made the continuation possible. Today we are financially secure - thanks to this commitment. Peace work needs people who have clear visions and pursue them energetically, persistently and unselfishly. Sigrid Wiebe is such a person! A blessing for which we, who are allowed to work in the ATF today, are extremely grateful.

Bernhard Thiessen

ATF TEAM



"Armament kills, it is the peace that „this“ world produces. We need another peace because we still need another world." With these words of Dorothee Sölle we introduced the third political night prayer at the Department of Protestant Theology. With shock and bewilderment we followed the events in Afghanistan and together as students we formulated prayers, listened to some information about the current situation in Afghanistan and received the peace speech (2013) of the recent Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai. Already a few months before, we convened two political night prayers for the war between Palestine and Israel. Because peace is the only option, we would like to continue holding more political night prayers at the faculty in the near future and create a space by perceiving the conditions of the world as ours.

On the cover is a wall plate. In Pashto, the official language of Afghanistan, it reads "Freedom" - this is the freedom we heartily wish for women, girls, and all other people in Afghanistan in particular! The full proceeds from the sale of the plates will be donated to "Medica Mondiale e.V.", who are working on the ground to protect women and girls and provide safe escape routes. To the wall

plates:

https://www.etsy.com/de/listing/1072205221/wandteller-afghanistan-spende?ref=shop_home_active_1&crt=1

Josy Kaiser

PEOPLE



WE SAY GOODBYE TO: NTIIMI MWAKALAMBO

In Hamburg you say "Tschüss"-

And that's what I'm doing now. Because I'm saying goodbye to the ATF after two and a half wonderful, funny, loving, explosive, successful and partly digital years. After five semesters at the ATF, I'll soon be taking my intermediate exam and will then (hopefully) be able to study in Tanzania for a semester. I am incredibly grateful for the last few years and for everyone I have been able to get to know during that time!

But, as it is also sung in the song "In Hamburg you say 'Tschüss'. That means 'Auf Wiedersehen'", we will meet again. Whether in the following "Summer Schools", in the exciting seminars or in the mennoForum. I am already looking forward to warm greetings, highly interesting conversations and seeing you again.

PEOPLE



WARM WELCOME TO: JOSY KAISER

I am Josy and I am in my 11th semester of studying Protestant theology in Hamburg, before that in Zurich and Tübingen. From October I will support the team as a student assistant. I am mainly concerned with the question of how theology can become concrete and relevant to the needs of the world today. Especially Karl Barth, Søren Kierkegaard, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Dorothee Sölle have been running through my theological reflections since the beginning of my studies. Responsible action, radical peace and thinking about the world in a different way are the topics that keep me busy, and that's why I'm very happy to be part of the team starting next semester, to work on other topics and to support where I can help.

PEOPLE



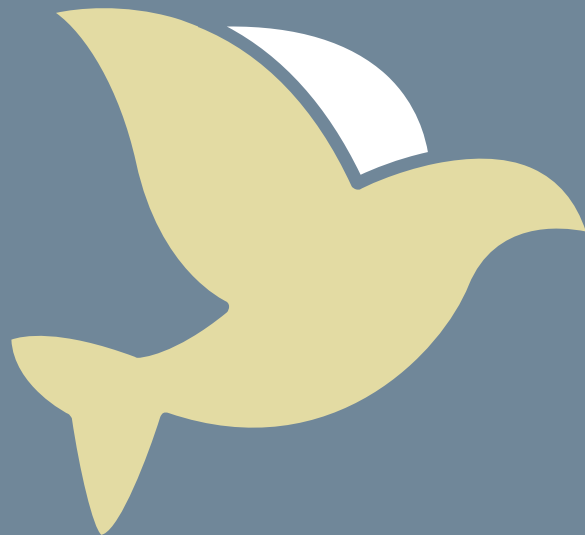
WARM WELCOME TO: DR. ASTRID VON SCHLACHTA

The ATF becomes more diverse! As of fall 2021, PD Dr. Astrid von Schlachta will strengthen the ATF with an academic position (50%) on Anabaptist and Mennonite history. In time for the Anabaptist commemoration in 2025, Anabaptist and Mennonite history will once again be taught at a German university - and for the first time in a specialized academic position. We sincerely thank all those who are contributing to the funding.

In the future, new fields and previously unknown aspects and episodes of Anabaptist and Mennonite history will be prepared and presented in teaching and research. For those interested outside the university spectrum, Astrid von Schlachta will offer a regular Zoom course beginning in the coming winter semester.

In the five-year course "Dared? 500 Years of Anabaptists," Anabaptist and Mennonite history will be explored in depth and developed through source and literature studies in its full breadth and significance to the present day.

RESEARCH & TEACHING



WINTER SEMESTER 2021/22

ASTRID VON SCHLACHTA

"Daring? 500 Years of Anabaptists."

Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. (Nov. 2, 2021-Jan. 25, 2022). Information and registration at: Astrid.von-Schlachta@posteo.de

ASTRID VON SCHLACHTA/MARIE ANNE SUBKLEW.

The Power of Language - War and Peace in the Mirror of Text and Image.

The seminar will be scheduled as a digital event and as a block seminar. If the development allows it, the event can be held in presence or hybrid, if necessary. Vaclav Havel, Czech dissident and from 1989 President of the Czech Republic, assumed that all important events in the real world, the beautiful as well as the monstrous, always have their prelude in the sphere of words and language. Language has power; language constructs reality and shapes the climate in a society. The seminar examines across epochs how language as word and image has been used in different situations and conflicts within churches and religious groups and how action and reaction are reflected in it. On this basis, we will use texts and art to examine which religious and theological patterns of argumentation shaped the respective times and whether the conflicting parties were able to develop solutions for peaceful coexistence.

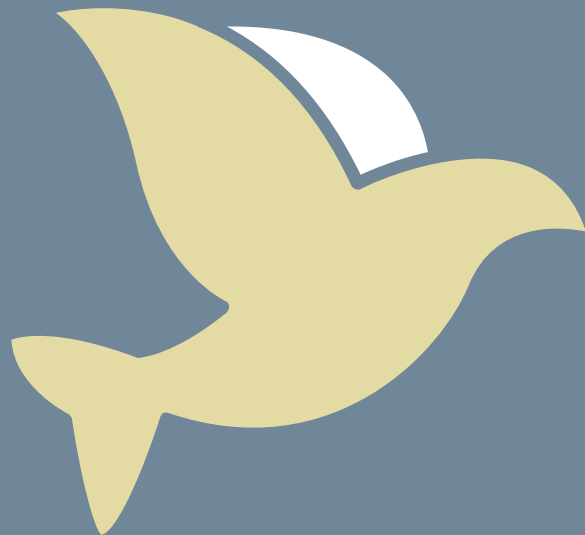
FERNANDO ENNS

"Decolonizing Christology."

Insights from postcolonial studies are changing our entire perception and hermeneutics. The entanglements in the colonial history of violence, accompanied by oppression, slave trade, racism, exploitation of land, and much more, still have an effect - according to the thesis of postcolonial studies. Theologians from former colonies analyze the still existing economic dependencies, foreign attributions and self-perceptions; theologians from former colonizing contexts hesitantly begin to reflect on their white supremacy and to ask (self-) critical questions regarding their worldview and their scientific theories influenced by it.

In the seminar we want to turn to newer approaches to Christology, especially non-European designs. Interpretations of the incarnation, the life and teaching of Jesus, his death on the cross and the resurrection are the main classical topics.

RESEARCH & TEACHING



WINTER SEMESTER 2021/22

ATF TEAM

"Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation" - Peace Theology Ecumenically

In the history of the churches, questions about war and peace have been posed differently in each case, depending on the respective position of the church in society.

With this seminar we want to offer for the first time a "Basic Course in Ecumenical Peace Theology". A number of key themes will guide this course: Nonviolence, military intervention, revolutionary violence, political resistance, human rights, economic globalization, climate justice, cultural diversity, transformative spirituality - to name a few. Each topic is introduced theologically and contextualized historically. Source texts from different centuries, ecclesiological and ethical implications will be highlighted. - The entire team of the ATF will conduct this seminar together.

mennoForum 2021/22

Longing for normality

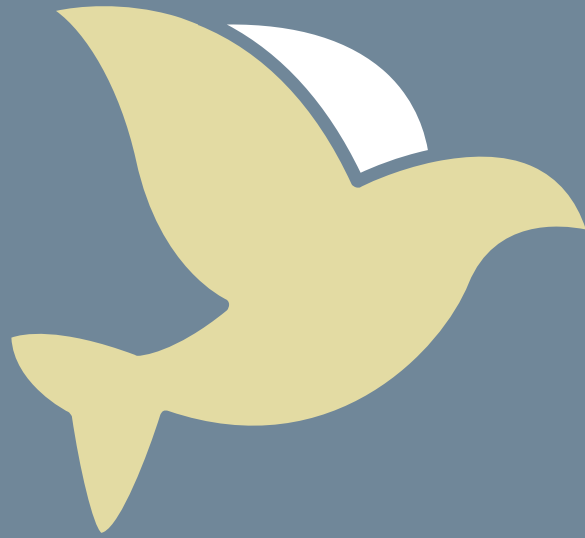
12.11.2021 What is normal? - Normality as a construction

07.01.2022 Insecure language - normality as a social dispute

04.02.2022 Insecure life - normality in the face of crises and vulnerability

During the Corona crisis, many longed for normality. But what is actually normal? Who defines it? And where does our need for normality - or for what we consider normal - come from?

Normality is a construction, dependent on the respective perception and subject to constant change. In this respect, it is a sign of inequalities; it has to do with language and power.



RETROSPECT SUMMER 2021

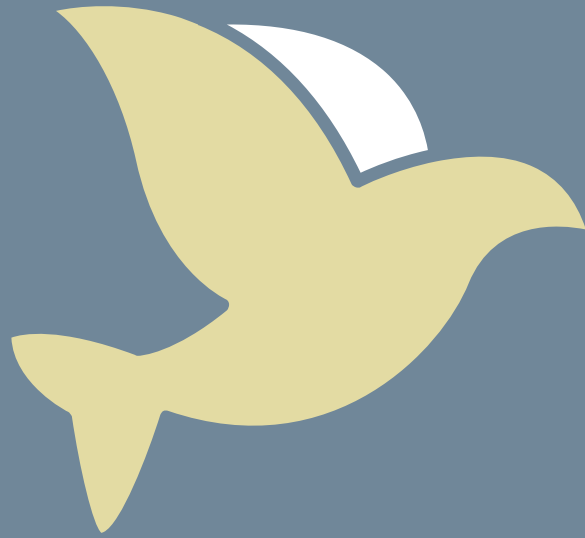
EMSTM - EUROPEAN MENNONITE STUDENTS OF THEOLOGY MEETING

Tolerance, Power and Identity: Exclusion and Embrace from a Mennonite Perspective.

The week after Easter, Mennonite theology students, doctoral students and faculty in Europe gathered for their annual meeting. Contrary to the name, our community was not only European, but also consisted of people coming from North and South America and Southeast Asia. The theme of our conference was Tolerance, Power and Identity from a Mennonite perspective. In addition to historical reflections, we also addressed current questions.

How is tolerance rooted in our faith and where does it show up in practice? Or are we only tolerant because we are members of the state in which we live and thus want to avoid conflict? On the contrary, isn't tolerance precisely a way of dealing constructively with conflicts and differences of opinion? In any case, we must distinguish between the person and their deeds and opinions. The person always remains an image of God, while different opinions and actions can be criticized. But where can we draw the line between what is tolerable and what is to be rejected? Is the standard found in the Bible (and which parts of the Bible exactly), in our Mennonite identity, or in what we understand to be the center and core of our faith? Is tolerance simply acquiescence or does it require engagement with the other by whom I allow myself to be challenged? - Towards the end, we were surprised to discover that despite the travel restrictions, a genuine sense of togetherness was able to emerge in the digital space, and a real sense of community emerged.

Aaron Klaaßen

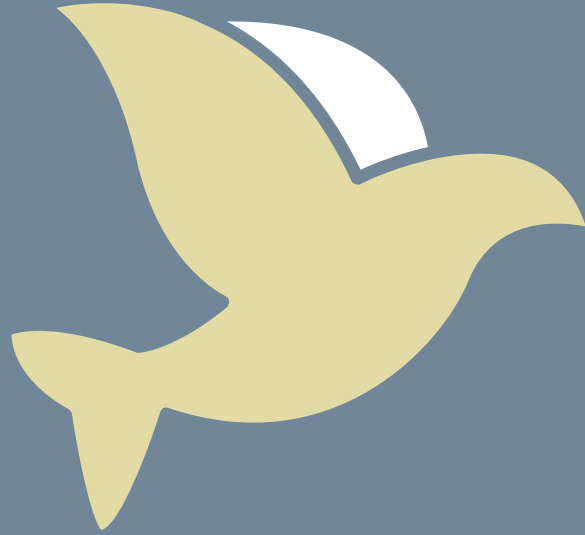


RETROSPECT SUMMER 2021

Formatio Mennonitica 2021: Just Peace - Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Contribution to an Ecumenical Theology of Peace.

"For peace must be dared, is the one great venture, and can never, ever be secured." We encountered this phrase from Dietrich Bonhoeffer again and again in our block seminar this year, in which we and about 40 students explored Bonhoeffer and his theology of peace and thoughts on ecumenism. Working on Bonhoeffer's biography made it all the more clear how remarkable his theology of peace is for us today, given the circumstances of life under National Socialism, war and dictatorship. Although the seminar could only take place in digital form this year, two intensive weekends took place in which we not only dealt with Bonhoeffer's ethics and theology in the context of his time, but also reflected on what his demands for daring peace and justice could mean as a form of resistance for the church today.

Friederike Cord

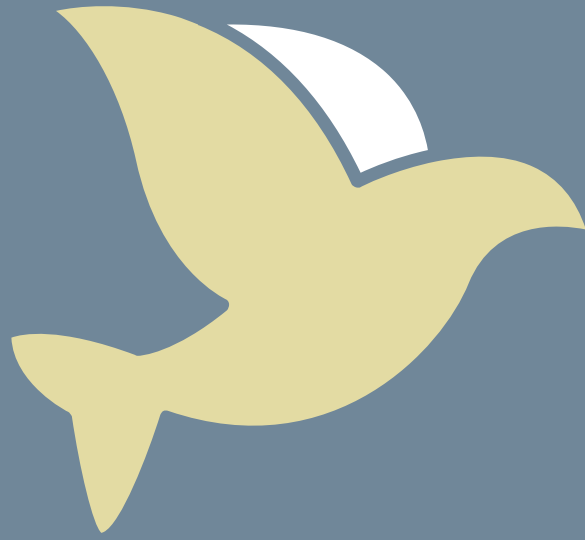


OTHER NEWS

Menno Simons Sermon Prize 2021 goes to Daniel Kaiser (Hamburg)

ATF awards this year's Menno Simons Sermon Prize to the head of the cultural editorial department of NDR 90.3, Daniel Kaiser. The award-winning sermon, delivered on Palm Sunday (April 5, 2020) in the service of the Mennonite Church Hamburg-Altona on "The Anointing in Bethany" (Mark's Gospel 14:3-9), captivates with its clear, unambiguous language without flattening the content. Kaiser does an excellent job of transposing this story into the present context of the Corona pandemic. Moralizing considerations recede into the background when the question of immediate needs is allowed to arise: What is needed here? Who needs what here? - Compassion, attention, tenderness. Jesus here becomes the "Christ" (i.e. the anointed one). "For there, where we waste ourselves, where we give ourselves away, precisely there in this precious moment, heaven and earth touch", concludes the homily. Award ceremony: Sept. 26, 2021, 10 a.m. in the worship service of the Mennonite Church Hamburg-Altona.



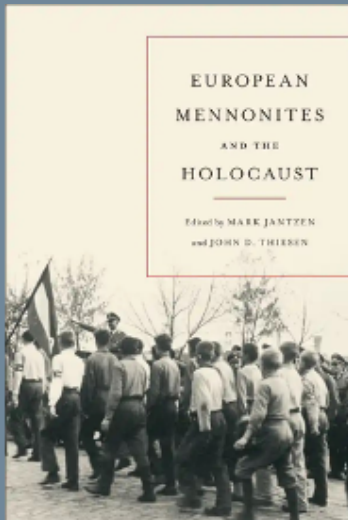
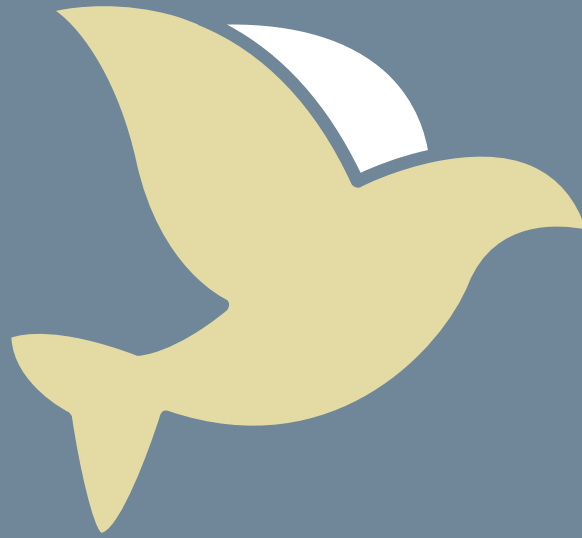


New Master's Degree in Peace Education in Freiburg

The Protestant University of Applied Sciences Freiburg, together with its Peace Institute, has developed the new consecutive and practice-oriented Master Peace Education / Friedenspädagogik as a 3-semester full-time program (90 CP). It will start in the summer semester of 2022.

<https://www.eh-freiburg.de/ma-friedenspaedagogik-peace-education/>

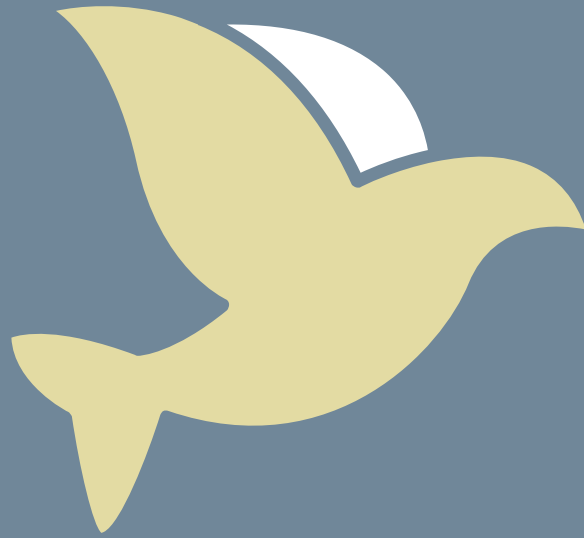
NEWLY PUBLISHED



European Mennonites and the Holocaust, ed. By Mark Jantzen and John D. Thiessen, Totonto, 2020.



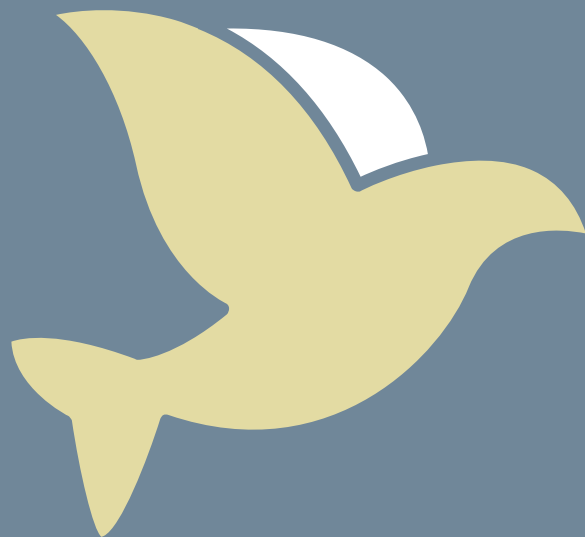
Täufer. Aufrührer, Friedfertige, Märtyrer. Eine Galerie kleiner Porträts, hg. von Hans-Jürgen Goertz, Bolanden-Weierhof, 2021.



Marie Anne Subklew, „Von der Nische auf den Markt? Kirchen-Erfahrungen der DDR-Zeit als Orientierung für gegenwärtige Herausforderungen“. in: Ulrike Link-Wieczorek (Hrsg.), In der Kraft des Geistes. Kirche in gesellschaftlichen und kulturellen Umbrüchen, Leipzig, 2021.

Marie Anne Subklew, „Regine Hildebrandt. Am Ende wurde gesungen“, in: Siegfried Hermle, Thomas Martin Schneider (Hrsg.), Protestantische Impulse. Prägende Gestalten in Deutschland nach 1945, Leipzig, 2021.

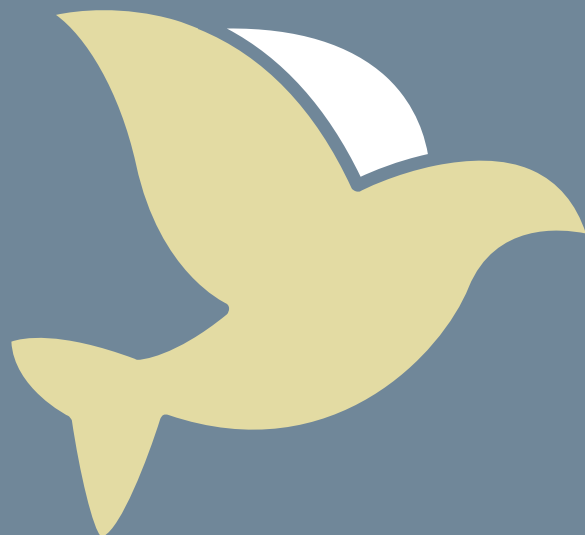
Marie Anne Subklew, The Peace Ethics of the Churches in East Germany during the Cold War in: Ecumenical Review, 6/2021.



Fernando Enns, Review of: Enzyklika „Fratelli tutti – Über die Geschwisterlichkeit und die soziale Freundschaft“ von Papst Franziskus, hg. von der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz, Bonn 2020; in: Ökumenische Rundschau 3/2021 (70. Jg., 2021), 418-422.

Fernando Enns, Gespräche auf dem roten Sofa." Radikale Reformation heute (Stiftung Luthergedenkstätten in Sachsen-Anhalt), 25. Mai 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKHyj1dRtc8&t=216s>

DATES



Please inform yourself before the events whether they will take place - as planned - in presence or due to the pandemic development digital

mennoforum

Nov. 12, 2021, Jan. 07 and Feb. 04, 2022, each starting at 6:00 p.m., Mennonite Church Hamburg-Altona.

Workshop: Church on the way of justice and peace Bible, Ecumenism, Church Image,

Sept. 13-14, 2021, impulse and discussion by and with Fernando Enns on the topic: Church on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. Theological impulses from ecumenism for the church in Germany.

Menno Simons Sermon Award Ceremony

Sept. 26, 2021, 10 a.m. Service, Mennonite Church Hamburg-Altona

Reconciliation Research Network

Nov. 12-13, 2021, Jena and online

Readings "Shadow Play. Pastor Eckart Giebeler between church, state and Stasi" (Marie Anne Subklew).

Sept. 9th 2021, 7 p.m., Chapel of Reconciliation, Bernauer Strasse 4, 10115 Berlin

Sept. 21st 2021, 6:30 p.m. Cottbus Prison Memorial, Bautzener Straße 140, 03050 Cottbus

Oct. 21st 2021, 7:30 p.m., Bei der Nikolaikirche 8, community room, 18055 Rostock