

# Conference of the churches on the Rhine

CCR newsletter

## What's new?

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### On the way to the European elections

Shaping the Future of Europe - An Encouragement from the Churches along the Rhine

**A joint initiative of the Protestant Church in Baden, the Union des Églises protestantes d'Alsace et de Lorraine and the Protestant Church of the Palatinate.**

#### Strengthen Europe in the Spirit of Christ!

A hundred years after the end of World War I, we as churches on the Franco-German border are grateful for peace in Europe.

We are also aware of the military challenges that our continent is facing: securing peace, promoting social justice within Europe and worldwide, limiting climate change, securing human rights for all, including those who seek refuge with us, strengthening personal freedom in the digital age, preventing any new forms of racism and nationalism.

As Christians from different countries, we want to shape Europe's future in the spirit of Christ. Together we call on you to take responsibility and go to the polls! Give your vote to a party that wants to further develop Europe in the spirit of reconciliation, peace and mutual respect.

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*Give your vote to a party that wants to further develop Europe in the spirit of reconciliation, peace and mutual respect.*



### Word of the month

#### March

Commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only.

1 Samuel 7.3

## On the way to the European elections — continued

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*At Easter, the three church leaders will publish a joint declaration on European policy.*

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Church President Christian Albecker, Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace and Lorraine (UEPAL), Bishop Jochen Cornelius-Bundschuh, Evangelische Landeskirche in Baden and Church President Christian Schad, Evangelical Church of the Palatinate will jointly publish a declaration on European policy at Easter.

On Passion Sundays, the following themes will be linked to the Bible reading before the sermon:

- Solving conflicts civilly
- Making the world a fairer place: starting in Europe
- Towards a climate neutral Europe by 2040
- Strengthening personal freedom against economic and political power

- The Europe of the future is diverse and colourful
- Strengthen the rule of law and subsidiarity.

The reflection text on the six themes and the liturgical guide can be downloaded from: <http://acteurs.uepal.fr/uepal/actualites/europe-et-elections>.

## Neighbour churches

### Protestant Church in the Principality of Liechtenstein

The Protestant Church in the Principality of Liechtenstein is one of the smallest Protestant churches.

Its beginnings are linked to a weaving mill in Triesen founded by Swiss industrialists in 1863. In 1880, the pastor of the Reformed parish of Sevelen (CH) asked the government for permission to provide pastoral care and religious instruction for the workers there (about 50 in 1875), most of whom came from nearby countries. From 1881, the first prayer hall was opened for nineteen Swiss and five German parishioners. Later this group, which still belonged to the Reformed parish of Sevelen and was supported by both the Swiss and Germans, bought a house in Triesen, which was used until 1963.

Two other "Protestant Associations" were established in Vaduz/Schaan and Eschen/



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Mauren. The latter association was established following the customs treaty with Switzerland and consisted largely of Swiss border officials and their families. In Vaduz/Schaan, the members of the Protestant Association were mainly from Switzerland and Germany,

and had come to the country because of industrialisation. On 30 January 1944, the three "Protestant Associations" merged to form the "Verein der Evangelischen im Fürstentum Liechtenstein", which in

1961 adopted the name "Protestant Church in the Principality of Liechtenstein". Until 1952, the Protestant associations in Triesen, Vaduz and Mauren were under the responsibility of the pastors of the

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## Protestant Church in the Principality of Liechtenstein — continued

neighbouring Protestant parishes in Switzerland and Vorarlberg. In 1952, thanks to the help of the Cantonal Church of St. Gallen and the Protestant Church Aid Association of Switzerland, a part-time parish post was created, which then became a full-time parish post in 1956. Eugen W. Pfenninger was elected as the first pastor of the young church. In 1958, the Jenny & Spoerry Weaving Mill donated a

church plot in the Vaduz-Ebenholz district. The church was built in 1960 and the parish moved into it in 1963. The church services had previously taken place either in the school buildings or in the Vaduz Town Hall, which has space for approximately 200 people. The church enjoys the status of a registered association. Most of the

members are still not Liechtenstein citizens (one third of the Liechtenstein inhabitants are foreigners, and about 8% of the inhabitants are Protestants). Since 15 September 1964 the Protestant Church has received state subsidies, but is dependent on donations and membership fees to finance its tasks.



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*The church was built in 1960 and the parish moved into it in 1963.*

## Miscellanea

### "We are here for you..."



Rev. Rudolf Ehrmantraut



Rev. Sören Lenz

The General Secretary of CRR, Rev. Rudolf Ehrmantraut, and Rev. Sören Lenz, from the joint office of CEC and CRR in Strasbourg, are happy to organise a parish evening, a church service or a parish visit to the European institutions in Strasbourg on ecumenical or European themes.

Our contact details can be found in this newsletter.

### Pulpit exchange

Why not worship in another country? Envisage a pulpit exchange without borders? The CCR would like to encourage pastors to "look at the Rhine" from a different perspective.

Anyone interested can contact Rev. Rudolf Ehrmantraut or Rev. Sören Lenz in Strasbourg.



## Miscellanea

### Cross-border training

Conference of the Churches on the Rhine / Regional Group of the CPCE explores possibilities of cross-border formats of further training.



On 22 March 2019, those responsible for the continuing education programme and those involved in ecumenical relations within the member churches of the CCR will meet together at the Council of Europe for an exchange of views on the possible themes, the form, the length and modalities of these training courses.

The regional group is acting on a decision of the General Assembly in Basel, which provides for cross-border further education and training programmes for pastors and other church staff.

## Word of the month April

Jésus-Christ says: "Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age".

Matthew 28.20

### Handbook World War I

This German-French guide about the First World War for young people can readily be used in the framework of religion, history or French / German classes. Not only does it provide an overview of the events, but it also offers material and suggestions for further work on the topics of War and Peace, Europe and Franco-German relations.

[www.itinerairesprotestants.fr/1918-le-centenaire](http://www.itinerairesprotestants.fr/1918-le-centenaire)

The brochure can also be ordered against postage: Accueil de l'UEPAL, 1bis quai Saint Thomas, BP 80022, 67081 Strasbourg Cedex, France

It can be downloaded as a PDF document from the CPCE and UEPAL websites : <http://>

