



A warm welcome to Central Germany!

2017 will be a very special year for our three churches – the Evangelical Church of Anhalt, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony and the Evangelical Church in Central Germany. We hope that it will be special for you too, which is why we're inviting you now to come and join us. During the year of Luther celebrations in 1983, three regional Kirchentage took place in the GDR, all with the theme of 'Daring to Trust'. The good times we shared then continue to inspire us today as we prepare for the six regional Kirchentage on the Way. Each of these will have a different focus and flavour, so you will have plenty of choice. But everyone, including the Kirchentag visitors from Berlin, will come together at the festival service in Wittenberg, uniting our experiences of Kirchentag from East and West in one great celebration. We look forward to seeing you in Central Germany in 2017!

Ilse Junkermann

Regional Bishop of the Evangelical Church
in Central Germany (EKM)



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Kirchentag on the Way
25 – 28 May 2017
Halle/Eisleben



Deutscher
Evangelischer
Kirchentag



“Two towns, one Hallelujah!”

**Kirchentag on the Way in Halle (Saale)
and Lutherstadt Eisleben**

Historical: Luther versus Albrecht

Luther's hometown, dreamy little Eisleben, and the pulsating city of Halle, birthplace of Handel – two contrasting yet closely linked locations. The life story of Martin Luther begins and ends in Eisleben. The house where he was born, the church of St Peter and St Paul where he was baptised, St Andrew's where he preached his last sermon and the house where he died all stand in newly restored splendour as witnesses to this period in history. Compare this to the city of Halle, where Luther's adversary Cardinal Albrecht lived and worked. His building works, including the cathedral, Neue Residenz and Moritzburg, still dominate the cityscape today. But Luther himself also visited Halle on several occasions and preached in the magnificent Market Church, where today the Reformer's death mask can be seen on display. The Marian Library owns works with dedications in Luther's own handwriting. The sheer number of these authentic stations of the Reformation gives visitors a particularly strong impression of Luther's life and work.

Celebratory: a warm welcome from friends

The Kirchentag programme in Halle and Eisleben not only links the two towns but brings together art and



The church where Luther was baptised and the house where he died in Eisleben



The Market Church in Halle

culture with discussions about society and spirituality. It opens on Ascension Day with an ecumenical service outside the Market Church. This will be followed by a “Culture in the Courts” festival, when the historic squares in the city centre will form the backdrop for social events: music, theatre and cabaret.

Multifaceted: inspiring encounters

On the second day everyone is invited to join in with Bible study, discussion groups and workshops, and to get talking to one another about God and the world. The day will reach its climax in the evening with a “RIBBON OF OPEN CHURCHES”. The traditional “Night of Churches” will become a great ecumenical spring festival, stretching more than 50 km along the Luther Trail and linking Halle with Eisleben, Petersberg Abbey and the cathedral city of Merseburg.

Unforgettable: the finale to a memorable time

On the final day all attention will be on Luther's hometown, Eisleben. Guided historical tours and a variety of workshops, as well as a critical discourse on Luther's relationship with the Jews, will bring the Reformation period in the Mansfeld region to life in all sorts of fascinating ways.

See how faith is portrayed in creative works from the College of Art and Design in Halle's public spaces. Find out what life was like in Luther's times at the Family Kirchentag in the Franckesche Stiftungen. And hear massed Gospel choirs bringing their convention at the Kirchentag to a close with a grand evening concert.

We extend a warm invitation for you to join us when two towns come together with one great shout of “HALLELUJAH”. See you there!

Luther's death mask in Halle

