



## 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

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



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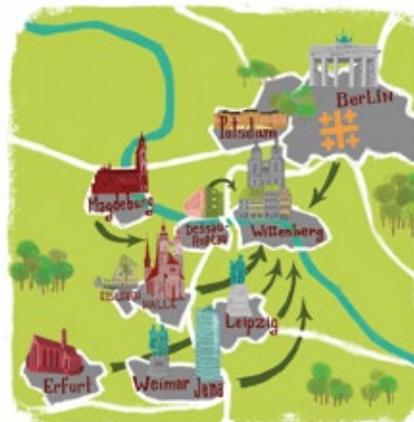
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r2017.org



**Kirchentag on the Way**  
**25 – 28 May 2017**  
**Magdeburg**



Kirchentag is celebrating, singing, listening, discussing, praying, meeting old friends and making new ones. Come and join us!

#### **With analogue and digital mindsets**

Magdeburg was the press centre of the Reformation era. From here, new ideas travelled around the world. Book printing and the Reformation went hand in hand. Both changed the world then. But what about now? How do modern media and digitalisation influence society and the Church today? At the Kirchentag we come together as analogues. We'll be trying out new forms of communication, discussing cybercrime, trolling and media fallout, and questioning the ethics of the Internet. And we'll be connecting digitally, exploring the possibilities and limits of modern communication. Join us on our journey of discovery!

#### **With seekers and believers**

We shall be celebrating Ascension Day with a great ecumenical service, together with Bishop Ilse Junkermann, Roman Catholic Bishop Gerhard Feige and Bishop John Inge from the Church of England. We will sing and pray in churches and other more unusual places. Christians



The Luther memorial (left) and jugglers in Magdeburg (right)

have been networking for 2,000 years. Following on from this tradition, we want to access virtual spaces. We'll be tweeting prayers. We'll join in services that make use of new media to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Enjoy what you're familiar with, and get excited about what's new!

#### **With reconcilers and peacemakers**

Magdeburg's imposing cathedral is steeped in history, bearing witness to war and destruction, rebuilding and peace. This is where we'll be talking about today's peace politics with politicians, religious leaders and peace groups from all over Germany. We'll be asking journalists about the responsibilities of the media, both traditional and modern. Simulation games will help us take a closer look at resolving conflicts peacefully. Exhibitions will show how we're working for peace. You'll find peace theses all over the city. Come and join the discussions!

#### **With kith and kin**

The Rotehornpark – an island in the middle of the Elbe – will become the children and young people's area. Here they can go climbing, slacklining, breakdancing and skateboarding. They can listen to stories, sing songs and laugh at clowns.

Or they can tell their own stories through Lego movies or Minecraft. They will discover how communication has developed from the dawn of time to the digital age. There will be performances by up-and-coming bands. And parents can enjoy a coffee nearby, or join in with workshops where their children will explain the computer games that they find so fascinating.

#### **With sailors and landlubbers**

You'll hear a cheery 'Ahoy there!' from the Elbe, with boats from near and far dropping anchor to celebrate the Kirchentag with us. The parade of ships will be accompanied by a glittering light, music and song spectacular along the banks of the Elbe and on board the vessels.

#### **With you**

Be there when the city is filled with music, when Luther's hymns are sung everywhere, when street theatres tell old stories in new guises and puppets dance. Take up our invitation to concert performances of masterworks by Beethoven, Haydn and Telemann. Step through the open doors of our museums. Enjoy the magical atmosphere of the Ekmagadi Cultural Festival. Listen to young poets honing their skills. And see how the illuminations along the banks of the Elbe bring a sparkle to the river. That's good news!

Magdeburg Cathedral by night

