

NEWS



The United Methodist Church Graz

Dezember 2020

So now we have got the situation that many expected or at least feared: we all find ourselves in the middle of the second lockdown.

Again we are faced with many restrictions and again we are advised to avoid all unnecessary social contacts. So it seems good that we can fall back on a tool from the first lockdown, which many of us had to work out first: the video conference.

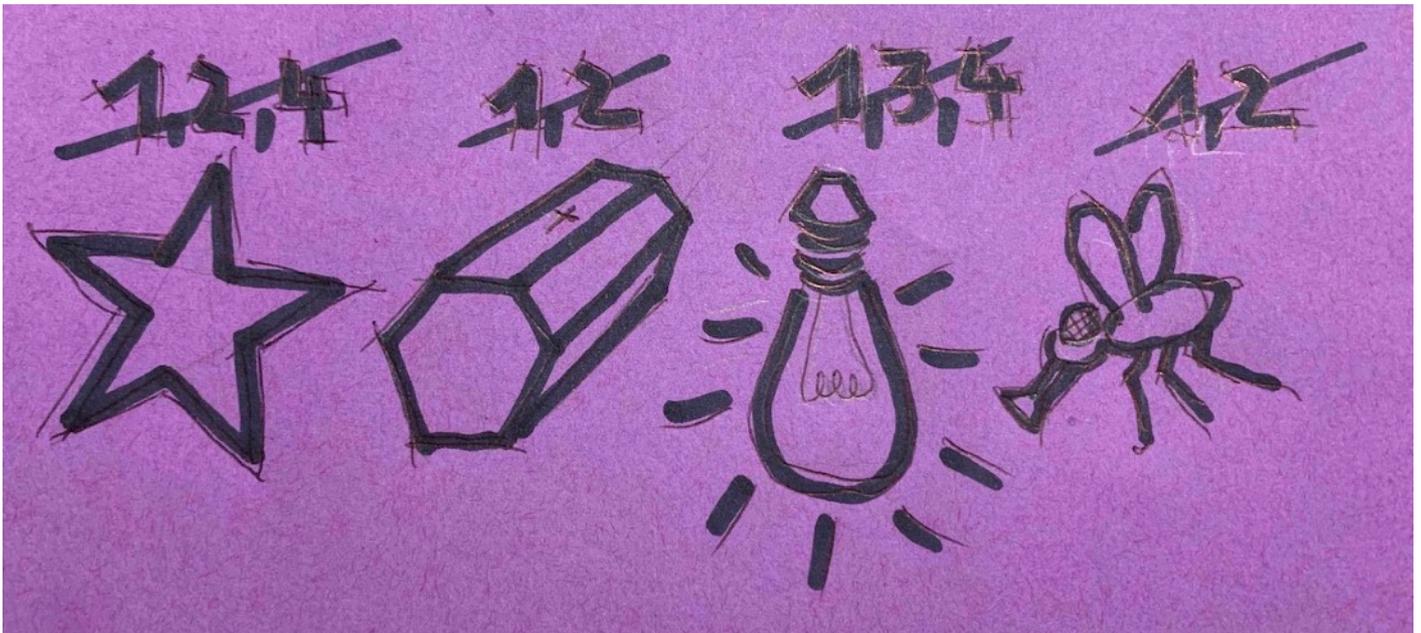
Whether it is via Zoom, Teams, Skype, Jitsi or GoToMeeting, we have discovered video conferencing for our meetings!

It is also obvious that we behave differently if we follow a service via video or if we are personally present in a worship service.

The fidgeting in front of the screen would easily suffice for at least three family services.

From my own experience I can tell that sometimes I don't know with which hand I should support my head that is getting heavier.

You constantly see yourself and everyone else very closely and every inattention is mercilessly noticed.



The newly discovered technology, or should we rather say the technology that has now reached the population and is being used, is both a blessing and a curse.

I don't want to determine whether it is more of a blessing or more of a curse at this point, but rather I would like to show the positive and negative sides of each.

Where we used to travel hundreds of kilometers and for several hours, it is now sufficient to turn on the computer two minutes before the meeting. This is good for the climate, but bad for our health.

Let's not fool ourselves, comfortably participating in various meetings from our own homes promotes obesity. If we do not refrain from excessive eating with great discipline ;-)

And while some people enjoy not having to be constantly on the move and also being able to enjoy the comfort of their own homes, others suffer from the fact that it is not possible to distinguish clearly between work time and leisure time, if you no longer have to leave the home.

Like it was once the case for Jogi Löw, and to remove the video from the worldwideweb is simply impossible.

And then there might still be the fact that many are able to manage the video technology, but for some this remains impossible. Especially older people, who have already learned an incredible amount in their lives, are sometimes not ready to embrace this new learning process. Just yesterday, there was the mobile phone - and now I should learn something 'new and modern' again?

So what is the bottom line? Everyone will have to decide that for themselves and some things still remain to be seen.

But for the Advent season that is now beginning, I wish all of us, whether with or without video support, the solution to my rebus puzzle

(rebus is a picture puzzle, the picture represents a word and the numbers indicate which letters should be taken out or added).

Frank Moritz-Jauk



Thanksgiving 04.10.

Thanksgiving... How should it be this year?
It was wonderful!

On October 4th, there were so many people in the church, more than for a long time! This joy of seeing each other again and celebrating our Sunday Service together was huge!

The table was richly set - a heartfelt thank you to all who brought something. We sang together (at least a little bit). We prayed together and we celebrated Holy Communion together.

And after the service there was a congregational lunch for the first time since February. And for all to take place, exact guidelines had to be followed. All was served at the tables - the delicious pumpkin cream soup and the delicious lentil soup! Accompanied by homemade flat bread and rye bread. And the homemade apple pie was the icing on the cake! I was very thankful for all these conversations, needing not to be conducted between a door and its hinges, but with peace and quiet in a community. And I am sure, I am not alone in being thankful!

We also did not have to do without this year's congregational photo. Many thanks to Gerhard Groß and Chang-Jun! Individual persons were photographed, and Gerhard then „arranged them together" to form a congregational photo.

These special times need special people to make them extraordinary!



News from the Parish Council

The Parish Council was mostly busy with scheduling for Fall and Winter as well as covid-19 guidelines.

We also discussed a restart of the youth work and we thought about who we could appoint to the Parish Council to replace Herbert Wukovits. We found a competent person, Evi Theiler, who participated at the October meeting via video conference.

During the October meeting we discussed the current situation of the congregation and the Parish Council decided to join the Austrian Climate Alliance. Since we will get state funding, the congregational expenses are extremely low.

As a Climate Alliance congregation we will now be able to take advantage of extensive advice and as well an extensive network. With this step, we want to take our responsibility for God's creation seriously and therefore want to start a climate support group.

During our November online meeting we talked about concrete plans in Advent and questions about our Advent evening.

Climate Alliance

The Climate Alliance was founded in 1990 in Frankfurt and meanwhile connects 1,700 communities and cities in 26 European countries with indigenous peoples in South America.



As part of this partnership, the Austrian Climate Alliance has been supporting indigenous people on the Upper Negro, in the extreme northwestern part of Brazil since 1993.

We are now a part of this network and whoever is interested in climate issues and would like to develop environmentally relevant measures for our community is cordially invited! As a congregation, how can we contribute? What does it require and how can we reach our goals?

Young adults meeting 04.12.

After some preliminary considerations and discussions, we want to try a proposal of Erica Huber's and network twice a month via video conference. (Once more, via video conference).

Maybe we also need a morning meeting, but we'll try it now with Friday afternoon at 15:30.

The link was sent to all young adults by email, but if you haven't received anything yet, feel free to contact the pastor. We might make mistakes - but we do not cling to them.



Congregation Field Trip 26.09.

Not everyone could or wanted to participate at this year's hiking around the Mondsee. („Wandern für die Andern“)

Therefore, on the following Saturday there was a congregation field trip to the observation tower of Stainz.

Equipped with a pack of dogs, we found interesting mushrooms (chanterelles), the one or other earth star, the tasty frizzy mother hen or the scary octopus mushroom.



The weather got better and better so at the end we could enjoy a visit to a Buschenschank.

Birthdays

We wish God's blessings to all members and friends who have birthdays in December!

It is a difficult time right now, but we don't want it to spoil your birthday. That is far away, as Paul would put it!

God accompanies you in the new year of your life and there will be easier times again!

That is what we pray for.

ÖKUMENISCHER GOTTESDIENST

am

TAG DES JUDENTUMS

Sonntag, 17. Jänner 2021 um 19:00 Uhr

Evangelische Heilandskirche

Kaiser-Josef-Platz 9

8010 Graz

Courage, Courage

Predigt:

Dr. Michael Bünker

Altbischof der Evangelischen Kirche A.B. in Österreich

Events

Theological Talk

Every 1st Tuesday of the month
6:30 pm, Devotion Room

Wednesday Circle

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month
10:00 am, Devotion Room
starting again in september (09.09.)

Prayer Group in the Devotion Room

Every Friday 9:30 am and Sunday 9:15 am

Youth Group

Every Sunday with their own Program.
Contact: Michel Gnigler

Korean speaking Bible Study

Every Sunday at 12:30 pm

Women

Every 1st Wednesday of the month
3:30 pm, Devotion Room
starting again in september (02.09.)
Contact: Felizitas Petau

Choir

starting again in september

Chinese speaking Sunday Service

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday at 3:30 pm

Chinese speaking Bible Study

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 3:30 pm

Prayerevening

always on the last Saturday of the month
7:00 pm in the Main Church.



Das Ökumenische Forum christlicher Kirchen in der Steiermark
Die Evangelische Pfarrgemeinde Heilandskirche
Die Römisch-Katholische Pfarre Graz Herz-Jesu
Das Grazer Komitee für christlich-jüdische Zusammenarbeit



Due to the Covid-19 situation it can happen again and again that events are cancelled. For more information, please visit www.emk.at or contact the pastor or the responsible contact person. Thank you!

Sunday Services

date	time	if celebrated via Zoom	if celebrated in real	texts
Su 29.11. 1. Advent	9:30	Sunday Service Sermon: Wilfried Nausner Music & Liturgy: Vienna		Isaiah 64:1-9 1. Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
Su 06.12. 2. Advent	9:30	Sunday Service Sermon: Esther Handschin Music & Liturgy: Salzburg		Isaiah 40, 1-11 2. Peter 3, 8-15a Mark 1, 1-8
Su 13.12. 3. Advent	9:30	Sunday Service Sermon: Stefan Schröckenfuchs Music & Liturgy: Vienna	Sunday Service Sermon: Ute Frühwirth	Isaiah 61, 1-4 u 8-11 1. Thess. 5, 16-24 John 1, 6-8 u 19-28
Su 20.12. 4. Advent	9:30	Sunday Service Sermon: Frank Moritz-Jauk Music & Liturgy: Graz	Sunday Service Sermon: Frank Moritz-Jauk	2. Samuel 7, 1-11 Romans 16, 25-27 Luke 1, 26-38
Th 24.12. Christmas	16:00	Sunday Service 14:30 : Salzburg 16:00: Vienna	Sunday Service Sermon: Frank Moritz-Jauk	Isaiah 9, 2-7 Titus 2, 11-14 Luke 2, 1-20
Fr 25.12. Christday	10:00	Sunday Service Sermon: Christoph Petau Music & Liturgy: Graz	Sunday Service Sermon: Christoph Petau	Isaiah 52, 7-10 Hebrews 1, 1-4 (5-12) John 1, 1-14
Su 27.12.	9:30	Sunday Service Sermon: Esther Handschin Music & Liturgy: Salzburg	Sunday Service Sermon: Sonja Herler	Isaiah 61, 10 - 62, 3 Galatians 4, 4-7 Luke 2, 22-40
Su 03.01.	9:30	Sunday Service	Sunday Service with Covenant Renewal Sermon: Frank Moritz-Jauk	Liturgy Covenant Renewal

picture reference:

page 2 left above: Gerhard Gross, left down below: Chang-Jun Choi, right: Klimabündnis Österreich, page 3, left above: Andreas Weissenbrunner, right: Peter Ebenbauer, all other pictures: Frank Moritz-Jauk.

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