



Reformation und die Eine Welt 2016

One more year until the great Reformation anniversary: The festival for the theme year “Reformation and the One World” will take place on Whitsunday, May 15, in the civic center garden (“Stadthallengarten”) in Muelheim an der Ruhr. The Evangelical Church in the Rhineland together with the Church District An der Ruhr are inviting everybody to their ecumenical festival “beGeistert 2016 – Weite wirkt” (“enthusiastic 2016 – Try a Broader Outlook”).

A special invitation goes out to the ecumenical partners of the Protestants: Be they our parish partners from other European countries, parishes that speak other languages and have different origins, Church District partners from Africa or Asia - all the congregations in the Rhineland and Church Districts are welcome to the “Try a Broader Outlook” festival on the banks of the River Ruhr. A delegation from the Muelheim partner district in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) is expected, along with delegations from other countries.

Everybody is invited to join in. “BeGeistert 2016” invites you to celebrate “Try a Broader Outlook” together. A large number of activities and performances will be taking up the annual theme of the EKD Reformation Decade “Reformation and the One World”. Justice, peace and the integrity of creation are ambitious targets, strongly advocated by Christians in the “one world”. The open-air event in Muelheim is also the Rhineland’s contribution to the countywide campaign “Try a Broader Outlook” and district “Kirchentag” (Church Congress) on the banks of the River Ruhr.

The Whitsun Festival will start with a large open-air service at 11 a.m. and continue until the early evening with choirs and bands on stage, games and creative activities, as well as a large “market of opportunities”. A varied program is being prepared: concerts on stage directly on the banks of the River Ruhr, encounters with international ecumenical guests from (almost) all over the world, raft rides, lots of games and creative activities for children and adults, and much more. A separate children’s and youth village will provide space for younger visitors; planned activities include tree climbing, human table soccer, a roller slide... On the eve of Whitsunday the evangelical youth will take over the festival area on the riverbank. There will be a first open-air concert in the “Beats 4 free” series starting at 6 p.m.

Updates to the program will be published continuously as of February.

One musical highlight, and the last act on the main stage, will be the appearance of world musician and world citizen Judy Bailey and band from 6 p.m. Judy Bailey combines her singer-songwriter roots with Caribbean grooves and a progressive idea of Christian pop music.

Many local players and our international ecumenical partners will be contributing to the program: parishes from Muelheim, departments of the Church District on the Ruhr and the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland and affiliated organizations. In addition, as special partners in the context of "Try a Broader Outlook": the United Evangelical Mission (UEM), Bread for the World (Protestant development service), Kindernothilfe (an international Christian child rights organization) and Oikocredit (a worldwide cooperative with Christian roots, providing funding for the microfinance sector and fair trade organizations).

The special Whitsunday Festival is building on a local Muelheim tradition: The Church District "an der Ruhr" invites the city's inhabitants to a large local "Kirchentag" (Church Congress) and family celebration taking as its motto "beGeistert". "beGeistert 2016" is aimed not only at people already familiar with the church, but should be expressly understood as an invitation to discover the Evangelical Church its activities for the first time.