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Christian Call for Peace 2025

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Christian Call for Peace 2025 published - Call for peace

The peace synod took place as part of the Ecumenical Peace Center during the German Protestant Church Congress (Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag) in Hannover 1.-3. May 2025. Invitations were issued by Pax Christi, the Christian Call for Peace Initiative and other church and civil society actors in Germany. The synod was opened by former presiding bishop of EKD Prof. Dr. Margot Käßmann and Rev. Susanne Büttner, Dean for prison chaplaincy in Baden-Württemberg Regional Protestant Church, followed by intensive discussions and consultations in plenary and in groups.

The call for peace has been issued - a signal of encouragement

The call for peace published today is a clear appeal: Christians are invited to understand and live out their faith as a basis for non-violent action, engagement for peace diplomacy and a just, peace-promoting economy.

Becoming capable and competent for peace!

Call for peace from Christians

Peace Synod Hanover, May 1, 2025

On May 8, 1945, the Second World War ended. "Never again war, never again fascism!" is the lesson learned. Now there is once again talk of "capabilities and readiness for war". But Jesus Christ says: "Blessed are the peacemakers". The current wars are a reminder for us to repent. God's word calls us to become peacemakers.

1. Thou shalt not kill! (Exodus 20:13)

The prohibition against killing also applies in the face and context of war and violence. In every person who is killed, an image of God dies. We cannot point weapons at other people because we would be "pointing weapons at Christ himself" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

2. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you! (Matthew 5:44)

It is said that aggressors must be defeated on the battlefield or forced to negotiate by military means. Jesus Christ, however, expects us to love our enemies. This does not mean accepting injustice and aggression. But it does require us to free ourselves from simplistic good-evil thinking and to recognize our own co-responsibility for the development of conflicts.

3. For unto us a child is born, a ... Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:5)

It is said that we are experiencing a turning point in time or new era that requires from us a policy of military strength. For us, the fundamental turning point has come already in Jesus Christ. We do not rely on the force of arms, but on diplomacy and non-violent resistance.

4. You know that rulers hold down their peoples and the powerful do violence to them. Let it not be so among you. (Matthew 20:25f)

It is said that forcing people into military service is legitimate in order to defend freedom and human rights. However, our solidarity applies to all those who refuse or evade military service. The right to conscientious objection is a basic human right for all.

5. Put your sword in its place! For whoever takes the sword will perish by the sword. (Matthew 26:52)

It is said that renouncing violence is naïve, unrealistic and unreasonable. But Jesus teaches us the rationality of renouncing violence that breaks the spiral of escalation. War produces countless dead, injured, displaced and traumatized people. It threatens life on our planet, even to the point of nuclear annihilation. That is why we advocate a deliberate return to disarmament and the renunciation of arms exports.

6. And the fruit of righteousness shall be peace; and the fruit of righteousness shall be quietness and safety for ever. (Isaiah 32:17)

It is said that the economy must grow. This leads into an ecological and social dead end. The competition for resources is already leading to wars. The consequences are devastating, especially for the Global South. Jesus Christ, however, taught sharing and consideration. A prerequisite for peace is an economy that focuses on the common good as well as environmental and climate protection.

7. They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruninghooks ... and they shall learn war no more. (Micah 4:3)

It is said that we must become capable of war and secure peace through arms race. But we want to become capable of peace. Money, time, creativity and other resources must be invested in social, cultural and ecological transformation instead of in weapons and war. Those who want peace must practice and prepare for peace. We pray and work for a church that witnesses to and spreads the peace of Jesus Christ. We advocate a world without violence. We encourage each other to practice peace - trusting in God's peace.

This call to peace is an invitation to repentance. It reminds us that faith in Jesus Christ means a consistent rejection of violence - and calls us not only to demand peace, but to live it in everyday life, in church and society.

Come awaken peace!

Let us be loud, visible and courageous - for a credible, Christian-based pacifism that creates hope.