“Worship cultures are in a constant state of change.” This statement is as general as it is evident and applies simply because worship services, as cultural expressions, are part of processes of social transformation. It even applies to services that intentionally do not allow any changes in their texts and melodies – such as the services of many Orthodox churches or the prayers in Orthodox Judaism. They also have “changing faces”, which are related to changing spaces, new technical possibilities etc.

However, this statement applies particularly to the services of Protestant churches, which have been constantly changing since their beginnings 500 years ago. Some of these changes are intended – for example, through liturgical reforms, the creation of new agendas or worship reform programs. Sometimes, however, the changes are also taking place beneath the surface of explicit and reflected academic liturgical or practical discussions. Worship services change with medial and cultural forms of expression – especially with regard to language, music, space, participation or interaction. Therefore, questions concerning liturgical transformations are also important as worship services reflect the constitution and expression of individual and collective identity being specific places and visible phenomena of these aspects.

Our virtual conference about “The Changing Faces of Lutheran Worship” is a first approach to all these questions taking a comparative look at the VELKD (United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany) and the IECLB (Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil), two churches which look back at a long common liturgical tradition and yet come from completely different cultural areas.

Prof. Dr. Alexander Deeg
Practical Theology
Leipzig, Germany

Prof. Dr. Júlio Cézar Adam
Practical Theology
São Leopoldo, Brazil
Friday, 19.11.2021

Speakers and guests

Prof. Dr. Júlio Cézar Adam, Professor of Practical Theology, Faculdades EST, São Leopoldo, Brazil

Prof. Dr. Alexander Deeg, Professor of Practical Theology, Faculty of Theology at Leipzig University, Germany; Head of the Liturgical Committee of the VELKD (United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany)

Rev. Silvia Genz, Church President of the IECLB (Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil), Porto Alegre, Brazil

Dr. Johannes Goldenstein, Advisor for Worship and Liturgy at the VELKD (United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany), Hannover, Germany

Daniel Hörsch, Social science advisor at the Protestant Working Group for Missionary Church Development and Diaconal Profiling (mid) in Berlin, Germany

Prof. Dr. Claudia Jahnel, Professor of Intercultural Theology, Faculty of Protestant Theology at Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

Prof. Dr. Emil Albert Sobottka, Professor of Sociology at Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil

As there won’t be one main conference language, you are welcome to attend and participate in one of our three language channels: German, Portuguese or English. The presentations and discussions will be translated.

Please register beforehand via e-mail to Maria Zink (maria.zink@uni-leipzig.de) with short reference to your profession and discipline. After registering you will be provided with the meeting details and further information on the interpreting procedures.

Contact for further Information:
Christian Boerger
christian.boerger@uni-leipzig.de

Registrations via e-mail to:
Maria Zink
maria.zink@uni-leipzig.de

Faculty of Theology at Leipzig University
Institute for Practical Theology
Beethovenstraße 25
04107 Leipzig, Germany