

NEWSLETTER
EASTER 2021

LOGOS

Consecrating Humanity

- The transformation of humankind and of the human being
- That which exists, is taken up and transformed
- Logos encompasses everything that moves the world and moves us as The Christian Community

MICHAELMAS CONFERENCE
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE
SECOND CENTURY OF THE
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 7 - 11
DORTMUND 2022
GERMANY

Logos – Consecrating Humanity

This is the title of our worldwide conference in October 2022, with which we want to take a step into our second century; a step into the second century of religious renewal. LOGOS is the original beginning and ultimate goal of all evolution through which the world and we are moving.

The subtitle points to the hallowing, the healing and sanctification of humanity. We might say that this consecration happens through the transformation of the human being and the world. This is the bridge to the center of our movement, to the seven sacraments.

The conference will take place during Michaelmas. The Archangel Michael, spirit of our time and silent helper of humanity, is connected with Christianity and with The Christian Community in a special way. In the Michaelmas epistle of the Act of Consecration, the motif of Michael echoes that may guide us humans to an ever-growing divining of the mystery of death and resurrection; Through anthroposophy, which is so close to us in a helping way, Michael has – among so many other things – overcome the split between faith and knowledge.

There are questions connected with the dawn of our second century. How is to continue? What do we want to achieve in future with the Christian Community? What does Christ want to achieve through his Christian community on earth; that is, also through us? All this leads to the question: How do we develop the inspiration in a renewed Christianity?

Thus four pillars form content for the conference:

- LOGOS – consecrating humanity
- The sacraments
- Michael
- Awakening and developing inspiration

Practicalities

Everything planned at the conference in terms of topics and events is to crystallize around these pillars. We look forward to a manifold variety of approaches.

We are preparing a large conference for 2,000 people of all generations from all over the world, including 500 young people. There will be more than 130 individual events, from lectures to working and discussion groups, workshops, exhibitions, cultural program, discussion events and a late-night café. The Act of Consecration of Man will be held daily as well as evening services at eight altars in many languages. There will be generous breaks for refreshments, for conversation and for spontaneous contributions. There will also be special activities for children on the conference campus.

In tune with the conference theme, ordinations of priests will take place during the conference on several mornings (depending on the number to be ordained). In addition, there will be separate “rooms” for each of the seven sacraments, where through exhibitions and installations, as well as through our own activity, we can learn, work on and won-

der at the essential nature of these sacraments. Some of the lectures and workshops will also be thematically oriented to the sacraments.

On three occasions all participants can gather together: at the opening and closing of the conference and on an evening in the middle. This will take place in a large tent. All other events will take place in the halls and other rooms of the Waldorf Schools in Dortmund where young people will also be accommodated.

Rev ULRICH GOEBEL, LOGOS planning team

λόγος

The Prologue of John's Gospel

Nowadays we count the words. So it is my task to write 175 words – that's how much space there was in this newsletter – making a suggestion for our inner preparation for the beginning of our second century of The Christian Community. Clever theologians know that in the New Testament the word “logos” occurs 330 times in all its variants.

Now from the preparation group for the conference we would like to suggest a different relationship to the word for our great encounter in October 2022. In his unfinished drama *Demetrius*, Friedrich Schiller recommended a different way of dealing with word than the statistical one. He said that we should not count the votes in a ballot, but “weigh” them. This probably also applies to tuning into our conference theme. It is not just the quantity, but more importantly the weight of the word that matters.

Thus, the preparation group would like to encourage a deeper approach to the prologue of John's Gospel (1:1–14), and perhaps to have study groups on its contents in congregations.

Rev JAROSLAW J.J. ROLKA, West Germany Region

An experience in approaching our conference

In our congregations, how can we prepare for our conference in terms of content? The planning team considered this question at its last meetings. But what does that mean for me personally? What is in store for me? What about my ability to inspire? What are my impulses? I would like to describe an experience.

After a day with the unresolved questions in my mind, I had no other choice but to entrust myself to the night without answers. What happened when I woke up? I woke up to the melody of the Advent chorale from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*: "How should I receive you, and how should I meet you? O longing of the whole world, O adornment of my soul! O Jesus, Jesus, place yourself your lamp by me so that what gives you delight I may know and understand!"

Into the wonderful sounds of this simple melody I could rise, and heard the familiar words with a wholly new meaning. "How should I receive you?"

It is the question of inner preparation, that the lamp – his light – can shine in each person, in a community, in a festive community. Openness is connected with the question. It does not happen automatically, it is not natural, but requires an active process that the individual can contribute to the success of the encounter. I also mean that quite pragmatically. In order for a celebration to happen, it is first necessary to tidy up thoroughly, getting rid of obstacles, creating space, and then to clean the room so that the guests can feel comfortable. An inner cleansing path gives the chance for a new step to happen, for something new to come about.

What do people's souls long for in the present world? It can be the deep longing for the reconnection with the spiritual. Defects in the human relationship become clear in the world situation caused by the Corona crisis. What new understanding of togetherness in the human as well as the supersensible world becomes necessary and possible through this? Seen in this way, perhaps the worldwide suffering may be a help to become receptive for an encounter with the reappearing Christ.

"Place yourself your lamp by me so that what gives you delight I may know and understand!" What can we know and understand? The words of John's Prologue can become signposts to experience the way of the Logos from the original beginning through the depths of life to the world goal.

STEPHANIE KUHLE , LOGOS planning team

Internet forum and journal "This Moves Us."

It was and is our goal to involve many people in shaping the content of the conference. There are two technical ways to do this: first, the internet forum at logos-2022.org/dialog/, where people can contribute their thoughts about The Christian Community and share with others; secondly, we had asked the question "What moves you?" in the 2019 St John's Tide Newsletter. This turned into the PDF journal *This Moves Us* which can be requested by email at newsletter@logos-2022.org. In this interactive, German-English PDF document, you can add your own commentary to the contributions of the 38 authors so far.

These technical communication channels are especially important now for our joint conference preparations. Because we are now starting with making the concrete program, taking into account both your previous contributions and your current suggestions.

Especially at this time, when larger meetings and personal encounters are more difficult, the internet forum and the journal *This Moves Us* are very helpful. After all, even in adverse circumstances, we want to stick to our goal, which is to shape the future of The Christian Community. So we welcome your contributions. But even without a computer, you can always reach us by phone or letter in the traditional ways (see page 4).

WOLFGANG JASCHINSKI, LOGOS Public Relations

Dates for 2021

Large planning team

Info and registration: info@logos-2022.org

Saturday, June 12, 11 am – 6 pm in the Ruhr area

Young people's planning team

Info and registration: youth@logos-2022.org

May 1–2 Please ask for location when registering

June 25–26 Cologne community

Worldwide young people's festival in Stuttgart

Info and registration: <http://iyfestival.org/>

May 12–16 Act now – dreams of transformation (*Tatzeit Jetzt - Wandlungsträume leben*)

Wurttemberg meeting: Working from the Future: The Christian Community 2022

Info and registration: m.gerhardts@posteo.de

Three times a year meetings take place in Württemberg, which deal with different topics around the Christian Community and the congregations.

Saturday, July 3, 11 am – 6 pm, Stuttgart-Möhringen community

Activities in North and Northwest Germany

Info and registration: www.michael-kirche.de

In congregations is a cycle of lectures by priests on topics related to the centenary of The Christian Community.

There will be a conference in Hanover, Germany, October 8-10, entitled *Learning from each other – Living for each other – Working for each other: Business and Christianity*. Experts from the field of economy will report about attempts on new ways and at the same time bring the question what The Christian Community can contribute in this field.

Parallel to this, there will be a youth conference.

Working group in the community of Bielefeld

Info: <http://christengemeinschaft.org/bielefeld>

The working group "100 Years of The Christian Community – Conversations about the Future" meets monthly

Conference office

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Impressum

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German speaking communities receive printed issues by mail.

Multilingual editions can be found as PDF documents at

<https://logos-2022.org/wp/>

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Comments and short contributions welcome to

newsletter@logos-2022.org

Next deadline: May 15, 2021

Online options

Listen to "Where the Word becomes reality".

Our LOGOS podcast is released on the 22nd of each month

<https://cq-2022.org/wp/index.php/logos-podcast/>

Suggestions for getting into the right mood

<https://logos-2022.org/wp/index.php/einstimmen/>

Go online to worldwide communities

<https://logos-2022.org/wp/index.php/gemeinden/>

shows the internet pages of all churches and their references to "100 Years of The Christian community". We are happy if you provide us with the latest information.

Connect with the world

Links for different institutions, initiatives, newsletters from the worldwide Christian Community at

<https://logos-2022.org/wp/index.php/links/>