

# *Ways to Peace 2025*

Churches between  
responsibility for the world  
and their own nation

**19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>th</sup> September 2025 | Fri. – Sun.**

Evangelische Akademie Sachsen-Anhalt  
Lutherstadt Wittenberg | Schlossplatz 1d

For more information and registration  
visit [www.ev-akademie-wittenberg.de](http://www.ev-akademie-wittenberg.de)  
or scan QR-Code





**FRIDAY | September 19<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Welcome and check-in 16.00 Uhr/ start 17.00 Uhr

**Opening Message**

Friedrich Kramer, Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Church in Central Germany & Peace Commissioner of the EKD

**Entering & Introduction**

Christoph Maier (Ev. Akademie), Jens Lattke (Lothar-Kreyssig Ökumenezentrum), Heinz-Joachim Lohmann (Oikosnet Europe), Eva Lange (Evangelische Frauen in Mitteldeutschland)

**Panel 1 KONTEXT**

**Between responsibility for the world and their own nation**

Moderation: Dr. Judith Königsdörfer (Lothar-Kreyssig Ökumenezentrum)

Briefings from the partner churches

Panel debate

Moderation: Jens Lattke

**SATURDAY | September 20<sup>th</sup> 2025**

start 9.00 Uhr

**Morning meditation**

Freeman Palmer (Conference Minister of the Central Atlantic Conference United Church of Christ)

**Panel 2 URTEXT**

**The “Pazifizierung” of God and the part of the churches**

Moderation: Christoph Maier

Is there a development in the Bible from more to less violent or warlike images of God?

Dr. habil. Gerlinde Baumann (Translator, Lecturer and Author)

The Church's Peace Ethics in the Mirror and Context of Time. Systematic Theological Considerations

Dr. Sarah Jäger (Assistant Professor Tenure Track Theological Faculty Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)

In response

Bishop Pavlo Shvarts (German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine)

**Panel debate**

Bishop Friedrich Kramer, Bishop Pavlo Shvarts, Dr. habil. Gerlinde Baumann, Dr. Sarah Jäger

Moderation: Heinz-Joachim Lohmann und Christoph Maier

**Workshops**

**Panel 3 SUBTEXT**

Gender perspectives on war and peace

Moderation: Eva Lange

Creating Peace without power?

Resilience, Resistance and Critique of Power

Prof. Dr. H.E. Heleen Zorgdrager (Systematic Theology and Gender Studies, Protestant Theological University Utrecht and visiting professor to the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine)

Peace Ethics, Religion, and Diversity.

Intersections, Challenges, and Pathways Forward

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Ernst-Auga (Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies (ZtG), Faculty of Theology Humboldt University of Berlin)

**Panel debate**

Dr. Ulrike Ernst-Auga, Dr. Heleen Zorgdrager, n.n. (Moderation Eva Lange)

**Get together / Buffet & Music**

Music: Hymn improvisations and jazz (Almuth Schulz)

**SUNDAY | September 21<sup>th</sup> 2025**

start 10.00 Uhr

**Worshipservice in the Castle Church**

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, Program Director for the Department of Life, Justice and Peace, World Council of Churches, Geneva; Eva Lange

**Gallerywalk**

**Impulses for action, paths to peace, concretions**

**Wrap-up and Conference observations**

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata

**Farewell & travel blessing**

Christoph Maier

The churches' ecumenical networks cultivate intensive transatlantic and European contacts and friendships. In this years study day Oikosnet Europe, together with the international partner churches of the Evangelical Church in Central Germany, is exploring a church's ethic of peace in the tension between global and national responsibility.

The wars in Ukraine, the Middle East, and numerous other places around the world also call for a theological assessment. The Bible contains very different images of God. From a God of strength who commands armies to a God of peace who places law and justice above power and violence. What significance do biblical texts on peace have for politics and our Christian existence today?