

July-August 2014

CONFESSION

God, our Father, we thank You for Your great faithfulness in the history of our nation.
We look upon Your **many blessings** in the past with hearts full of thanks:

Thanks for the Reformation, the rediscovery of the true gospel
and the wide distribution of the Bible!
Thanks for every spiritual renewal and revival movement since then!
Thanks for those who have embarked on mission at home and abroad!
Thanks for the regathering of the people of Israel in their land!
Thanks for the return to the Jewish roots of our faith!

At the same time we today recognize the **dark side** of the Church of the Reformation and confess the guilt of our fathers and mothers in the faith on their behalf and standing in their place:

We confess to You the vilification and condemnation of the Jewish people by the Reformer Martin Luther and our Church. – Father, forgive us!
We confess to You the persecution of the Anabaptists and the complicity of the reformers and our Church in their deaths. – Father, forgive us!
We confess to You the rejection of the gifts of the Spirit and the general scepticism about the Holy Spirit since the time of the Reformation. – Father, forgive us!
We confess to You the denominational divisions in our country, the religious wars, and bloodshed in the name of the Church. – Father, forgive us!
We confess to You the re-interpretation of the Bible since the Enlightenment. We have made human reason the measure of all things. – Father, forgive us!
We confess to You every compromise with prevalent ideology and the vulnerability of our Church to the zeitgeist to this day. – Father, forgive us!
We confess the falsification of the gospel under the banner of the Swastika. We exiled Jesus the Jew from our Church. We despised Your chosen people and failed to stand up against their extermination. We kept silent when we should have spoken out and looked the other way when we should have taken action. – Father, forgive us!

You are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who keeps everlasting faith with His people. You are the God of grace and mercy, who forgives us in Christ Jesus. You are the Spirit, the creator of life, who renews His Church. So we pray:

Forgive us, our Church and each congregation for every deviation from the truth and every form of idol worship. Deliver us from the burdens of the past which weigh on our Church today and grant us a fresh outpouring of Your Holy Spirit! Transform every curse of the past into a blessing!

For the honour of Your Name and
the coming of Your Kingdom in this land!
Amen.

Charismatic Renewal Movement in the Lutheran Protestant Church in Germany
(Geistliche Gemeinde Erneuerung in der evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland)

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