

Religion and Theology 2023



Religion & Theology
2023

Foreign Rights Guide

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Religion, Religion

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Original title: Mit der Tora durch das Jahr

JEHOSHUA AHRENS

With the Torah through the Year

A REAL-LIFE INTERPRETATION OF THE PARASHIOT

Date of publication: August 30, 2023

The Torah, read for today

It is the heartbeat of Jewish religious real-world orientation: the Parashiot, the 54 sections of the Torah read by every Jewish community in weekly Shabbat over the course of a year.


Rabbi Jehoshua Ahrens provides an interpretation of each weekly passage, uniquely associating the messages of these ancient texts to the issues and existential challenges of the present day. Whether prayer and spirituality, environmental protection, migration, health, justice or forgiveness, it becomes impressively apparent that the biblical texts continue to provide indispensable orientation and have a fresh impact on people's contemporary lives.

A book that brings to life the Torah's instructions for each week of the year, and at the same time provides an extraordinary introduction to the Torah and to Jewish thought.

- A contemporary interpretation of the guidance of the Torah
- A journey of discovery into the spiritual world of Judaism
- An introduction to Jewish thought in light of biblical texts
- For all who want to know more how Jews view their Holy Scriptures

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AUTHOR

Jehoshua Ahrens



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Jehoshua Ahrens, born in 1978, pursued Jewish Studies in Ramat Gan, Budapest, and Cambridge. After receiving his doctorate and habilitation in Lucerne, he was ordained an Orthodox Rabbi in Israel. He is a Research Fellow at the University of Salzburg and the Central European Director of the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation. He has been a congregational rabbi in Sofia, Zurich, Düsseldorf, and Darmstadt. His honours include the Papal Medal of Pope Francis and the Rav Chaim Kossowsky Award for Academic Excellence, Bar Ilan. He was an initiator and co-author of the 2015 Orthodox Rabbinic Declaration on Christianity and is the author of numerous other publications. He is a regular guest on radio and television.



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus
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HARRY ALBRECHT

The Foundations of a New Congregational Culture

HOW LOCAL CHURCHES CAN BECOME RADIANT

Date of publication: May 24, 2023


Giving the congregation a new profile

A Christian congregation should be like a city on a mountain: it cannot remain hidden, and instead should shine and be inviting. To achieve this, a befitting culture based on the appreciation of human interactions must grow. Such a culture will reshape the way we communicate with each other; it will foster gratitude and shape community life from within, in the ways we treat each other and how we intentionally make use of our spaces and buildings. With this as a foundation, a distinctive character of a congregation will come into being, a congregation of people who are there for each other and who encourage others to join them. Through numerous examples from congregational experiences, the author presents an inspiring step-by-step process by which people can increase the radiance of their own congregation.

- How congregational culture can be revolutionized
- Practical approaches for a congregational life filled with radiance
- All the details of congregational work, summarised in practical ways applicable for everyday life

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AUTHOR

Harry Albrecht



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Harry Albrecht, born in 1968, is a Protestant theologian and minister. He studied theology at Bonn and Münster/Westphalia and earned his doctorate at the University of Bonn. After his vicariate in Odernheim, he was ordained a minister and was active in various parishes in the Palatinate. Since 2015, he has been a congregational pastor of Otterberg in the Kaiserslautern district.



Religion, Religion

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SIEGFRIED ECKERT

Arrival

HOW YOUR SOUL CAN FIND ITS HOME

Date of publication: March 29, 2023

Being at home with yourself – religious life-guidance with a new tone


Fears and anxieties, unfulfilled needs, and a range of uncertainties about who we actually are or want to be are often significant aspects of our lives. Particularly in times of crisis, these life issues can become afflictions, and we can feel lost and homeless.

Siegfried Eckert shows us how we can find the way to our inner home. He explains how life is a process of growth that we can influence and in which we can experience a solid trust in ourselves, in the world, and in God. He insightfully combines his many years of pastoral experience with new psychotherapeutic approaches to uncover the therapeutic power of biblical texts. He inspires us to lead a life of trust in spite of all the adversities of our time. He opens up to us religious paths leading to greater inner peace, from which the strength for essential changes and new perspectives can grow.

- Discovering the life-enhancing power of the Bible
- A holistic method from pastoral and therapeutic approaches
- Advice and help for the individual and a stimulus for pastoral dialogue

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AUTHOR

Siegfried Eckert



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Siegfried Eckert, born in 1963, studied Protestant theology in Neuendettelsau, Bonn, and Tübingen, after which he was a minister in Essen. He has been a synod representative for the Protestant Church Gathering (Kirchentag), a state synod member of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, and chairman of the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation in Bonn. He is the author of assorted sermon studies, essays, and books, has been the head of pastoral colleges, and is active nationwide in the areas of church and culture. Following the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, he founded the Reformation Forum. He currently works as a parish pastor in Leverkusen.



Religion, Religion

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Original title:
Sonntagmorgensingle

MATTHIAS KLEIBÖHMER

Sunday Morning Single

HOW IT IS TO BE THE ONLY CHRISTIAN IN THE FAMILY

Date of publication: April 26, 2023

Believers pray, the others keep their fingers crossed

He trusts in God – but she trusts only in what she can verify. How can this work out in the long run? Wouldn't a successful marriage be somewhat difficult under these circumstances?

The (lack of) faith of a partner can indeed be a problem, but it can also be an opportunity to create greater depth in a relationship. After all, it's really less about whether you go to church together on Sundays, and more about finding words for what is particularly meaningful to the partners. This sort of challenge can help both of them to grow.


Matthias Kleiböhmer is an engaged Christian, while his wife is a non-believer.

Tapping into his own experiences as well as Biblical sources, he offers a fresh perspective on the life situation of many Christians. Intelligently and unpretentiously, he shares his life of faith, family, and marriage and explains why a life of faith together, while wonderful, is not the only important factor in a relationship. And he provides clear and insightful support on how being the only practicing Christian in the family can function.

- Loving each other even though one is not a believer
- Authentic stories from an everyday marriage
- An unusual and encouraging perspective

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AUTHOR

Matthias Kleiböhmer



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Matthias Kleiböhmer, born in 1976, as a Christian is nearly alone in the family. As a Protestant theologian and fundraiser, he works at the Creative Church Foundation and organizes major events, such as the International Gospel Church Day, the largest gospel festival in Europe, and moderates various Christian events. He has produced over 100 spiritual videos on YouTube with the Living Room Church Service team. The project was awarded the innovation promotion prize "TeamGeist" of the Lutheran Church of Westphalia. He is married to an atheistic scientist and editor and has two children.



Religion, Religion

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CHRISTOPH KREITMEIR

What Colour Is Death?

A CLINIC PASTORAL WORKER'S EXPERIENCES WITH LIFE AND DEATH

Date of publication: August 30, 2023

8-page 4-colour illustration section

Joy of life in the transience of life


As a hospital chaplain, Christoph Kreitmeir has assisted many hundreds of people of all ages when they were confronted with pain, illness, or death. He is familiar with the emotions, concerns, and anxieties that people experience when faced with the end of life.

In this book, he approaches illness, suffering, and dying from various perspectives, and he addresses the fact that people, and society in general, prefer to ignore or suppress death rather than accept it as part of reality. Making use of his practical experience, he provides sound insights and offers a variety of cases that are sources of encouragement and convey a vitality of hope. Here is an 'Ars Moriendi', an art of dying, which conveys strength, comfort, and meaning, something we can learn while facing the inevitable. The author also explores possible answers to the perennial question of what happens after death.

- Empowerment and encouragement for those ill and in distress and for their loved ones
- Profound and supportive insights into the fundamental topic of death
- Comforting support for difficult times, for yourself or as a gift

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AUTHOR

Christoph Kreitmeir



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Christoph Kreitmeir (Lic. theol.), born in 1962, is a social education worker with training in logopedics and client-centred counselling and value imagination according to Böschmeyer. Since 2017 he has been the chaplain at the Ingolstadt Clinic. He has spent many years lecturing on the questions of the meaning of life, is a member of the "German Society for Logopedics and Existence Analysis" and a successful author.
www.christoph-kreitmeir.de



Religion, Religion

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REGINA LAUDAGE-KLEEBERG

Homeless as Catholic

ON THE WAY TO A CHURCH THAT IS ONCE AGAIN A HOME

Date of publication: March 01, 2023

On the search for a religious home

Regina Laudage-Kleeberg is sure that being Catholic does her good – the values, the traditions, the rituals. If only it weren't for the institution of the Church! This institution seems intent on driving faithful Catholics out of the Church – making them homeless Catholics.

How does one stay Catholic when the institution of the Church is on the path to becoming so misanthropic? And what if the Church were to rediscover how to offer its wayward members a home? Even before they had attained something and in spite of any feelings of guilt?

The author knows all this from the inside. For years she devotedly engaged in the Essen diocese and in radio ministry. In her book, she tells us in a very personal way how being Catholic works even when the Church doesn't seem to function at all; and she describes what a new home would be like for all the faithful who want to remain Catholic, but who cannot accept the institution of the Church as it is.

- A strong voice that shapes discussions and passionately advocates for the Catholic faith
- An astute perspective that dares to strongly associate Church and home in a common context
- A focus on religion as a driver of social cohesion

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AUTHOR

Regina Laudage-Kleeberg



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Regina Laudage-Kleeberg, born in 1986, is a religious scholar, folklorist, and philosopher. She loves things out of the ordinary, the sense of otherness and even the processes involved, of people, systems, and organizations. She herself has been formed by this, as she has been a Rhinelander in Franconia and a German in Istanbul. Until March 2022, she worked for the Diocese of Essen. Today she is a change manager in the IT and finance sectors. She has turned her back on the Church as an employer, but not as her spiritual home.



Religion, Religion

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Original title: Auferstanden, oder?

SIMONE PAGANINI, CLAUDIA PAGANINI

Resurrected, right?

THE GREAT FACT CHECK ABOUT THE STORY OF EASTER

Date of publication: February 15, 2023

numerous illustrations


The comprehensive fact check on one of the extraordinary story in Christianity

Do the accounts of Jesus' resurrection describe a real event? We're not certain. What we do know is that the stories of the Passion are in stark contrast to what people believed at the time of Jesus. No one was expecting that this was a Messiah who would die and then be raised from the dead. The members of the community around Jesus, however, found that their teacher was indeed alive and that his message would go on living. If they wanted to tell about this, they had to rely on evidence that could be understood in the context of their time. That is what this book is about. Who could this Judas have been, who is believed to have betrayed Jesus? Who was Pontius Pilate, and how can a trial and a crucifixion be pictured? What were the ideas then about death and the afterlife? The answers to these questions provide a new perspective on a very old and yet constantly new story.

- The Bible made accessible for the modern day – the new book from the successful author couple
- Entertaining, intelligent, and surprising
- A radically new look at the central story of Christianity

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AUTHOR

Simone Paganini



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Dr. Simone Paganini, born in 1972, studied Catholic theology in Florence, Rome, and Innsbruck. He has been a professor of biblical theology at RWTH Aachen University since 2013. Dr. Simone Paganini and Dr. Claudia Paganini both have enthralled large audiences at science slams and have co-authored successful non-fiction.

AUTHOR

Claudia Paganini



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Dr. Claudia Paganini, born in 1978, received her doctorate in cultural philosophy in 2005 after studying theology and philosophy. She is currently a professor of media ethics at the Institute of Philosophy in Munich.

ILLUSTRATOR/PHOTOGRAPHER

Christian Wischnewski

Christian Wischnewski, born in 1984, lives and works as a freelance illustrator and artist in Berlin and on Usedom.

RAINER M. SCHIEßLER

Hope – Right Now!

CARRIED THROUGH BY COURAGE IN ALL LIFE SITUATIONS

Date of publication: March 08, 2023

2-colour throughout

A book that provides comfort

We are now experiencing a time in which it is becoming increasingly difficult to summon courage. Military conflicts, diseases, economic dangers – one gloomy piece of news followed by the next. But Rainer Schießler is convinced that the stories in the Bible can today be a source of hope, confidence, and encouragement. He has personally experienced this. After a serious mountaineering accident, he needed to reflect on his life and to recreate feelings of hope. Not so easy – even for a pastor.

In his new book, the well-known, highly regarded Munich minister bundles together themes that affect everybody over the course of life – relationships, suffering, trust, issues from everyday life – draws together the relevant biblical passages, and interprets them in an unparalleled way. He delivers vibrant, empowering, and spiritually fortifying help. Here is a book that comforts, uplifts, and raises our awareness that we are richly blessed in this life, even in these trying times, and one that makes biblical interpretation as close to life, accessible, and relevant.

- Best-selling author with over 270,000 copies of his Kösel books sold
- The most unconventional Catholic voice interprets the Bible, personally and encouragingly




Religion, Religion

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AUTHOR

Rainer M. Schießler



© Frank Bauer

Rainer Maria Schießler, born in 1960, is a Catholic parish priest. Because of his unconventional pastoral care and media-enhanced projects, he is one of the most well-known religious figures in Germany. His intentions are to shake things up with explicit proposals and advocate for a living, engaged church. Since 1993, he has been the parish priest at St. Maximilian in Munich. From 2006 to 2017, he worked as a server in the Schottenhamel Tent at the Munich Oktoberfest. He is the author of the Spiegel bestselling books "Jessas, Maria und Josef" ("Jesus, Mary and Joseph"); "Die Schießler-Bibel" ("The Schießler Bible"); and "Himmel, Herrgott, Sakrament" ("Heaven, Lord God, Sacrament"), which has been filmed.



Religion, Religion

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ANDREA VON TREUENFELD

Jewish Now!

YOUNG JEWS ON LIVING IN GERMANY

Date of publication: April 26, 2023

26 b/w portrait photographs

Pictures of everyday life of the present day

Most non-Jews in Germany have never – or at least not knowingly – met a Jewish person. Accordingly, in the non-Jewish, majority society, old clichés, generalizations, and stereotypes are still much alive. But what does Jewish life in today's Germany actually comprise? How do Jews feel being in Germany? And just what does being Jewish actually mean, if you were to ask them about it?


In conversations with the author many notable figures have provided insights with their life stories: Noam Brusilovsky, Sveta Kundish, Garry Fischmann, Lena Gorelik, Dr. Sergey Lagodinsky, Shelly Kupferberg, Daniel Grossmann, Anna Staroselski, Daniel Kahn, Helene Shani Braun, Prof. Michael Barenboim, Deborah Hartmann, Jonathan Kalmanovich (Ben Salomo)...

Here is a remarkable and informative book that reveals the diversity of Jewish identities and Jewish life in Germany, making the voices of a multicultural generation heard, something that – now self-evidently – wants to be perceived in its whole diversity.

- Stories of a new generation
- Accounts of homeland and foreignness, expectations, and courage
- Extensive background information on Jewish culture and Jewish life today in Germany

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AUTHOR

Andrea von Treuenfeld



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Andrea von Treuenfeld studied journalism and German literature and spent many years working as a columnist, correspondent and editor for such well-known print media as Welt am Sonntag and Wirtschaftswoche. As a freelance journalist she now writes portraits and biographies. Gütersloher Verlagshaus published her books "In Germany a Jew, A Yekke in Israel", "Back to the Country That Wanted to Kill Us", "Heirs of the Holocaust", "Israel. Moments in the country's biography" and "Living with Auschwitz".



Religion, Religion

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JÜRGEN WERTH

I Want to Have Good Days!

AGE-OLD WISDOM FOR A TODAY AND TOMORROW FILLED WITH HOPE

Date of publication: July 26, 2023

Composure in facing the largest questions of life

“There is nothing new under the sun.” – “There is a time for everything.” Through such sayings, the biblical Book of Kohelet is alive for people who have little or nothing to do with the Bible. No wonder, because this Kohelet, who is also known as Preacher Solomon or Ecclesiasticus, is a teacher of wisdom, a master, a searcher into the depths of knowledge of life, of the connections of the world, and of the human soul.


Jürgen Werth describes how worthwhile it is these days to rediscover this book of the Bible. He has listened to the words of Kohelet and transports those insights about the great questions of life into the everyday life of the 21st century. He juxtaposes Kohelet’s wisdom with his own search for the how and why of existence, with his own dreams, fears, and hopes. The result is an exceptional dialogue in which ancient wisdom unfurls its power in the present day. A book of life that comforts, encourages, and makes our days all the more beautiful.

- Life knowledge of an ancient wisdom teacher transported into the world of today
- From one of the most well-known spiritual authors of our time
- A guide to serenity in the modern world

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AUTHOR

Jürgen Werth



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Jürgen Werth was Chairman of the Board at ERF Medien until 2014. Presently he is active as a songwriter, presenter, and author. He is a masterful storyteller, and many of his songs have become classics.
www.juergen-werth.de



Non-Fiction, Biographies & Memoirs, Religion, Religion

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Original title: Aufwärts fallen

PRISKA LACHMANN

Falling Upwards

HOW MY LIFE FELL APART AND I FOUND NEW FAITH

Date of publication: October 25, 2023

A book that instills the courage to find God again


Priska Lachmann grew up in an environment imbued with fundamentalist constraints. Adherence to rules was valued; independent thinking and critical questions were unwelcome. She married early and went to a Bible school to become a pastor. Then, during her vicariate, everything fell apart: she experienced an increasingly strong desire to finally be allowed to live authentically. She divorced. Her community abandoned her.

Even in the chaos of change, she did not renounce her faith. Instead, she set out in search of a relationship with God that would allow what was previously forbidden: uncertainty, searching, openness, wide horizons. Here she recounts her story about how she managed to find her way out of religious restrictions to a gratifying, beneficial, and authentic faith.

- Encouragement for rediscovering faith
- Charting a development of faith – from restrictiveness to expansiveness

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AUTHOR

Priska Lachmann



© privat, Foto: Juliane Weicker

Priska Lachmann, born in 1986, is a theologian, author, and influencer. After studying at a Bible school and subsequently working as a youth worker, she became a vicar in a free church. In her mid-20s she broke with her narrow world of faith. She lives with her husband and three children in Leipzig, blogs, writes books, and is doing a master's degree in Marriage and Family Studies at Lee University in Tennessee.



Non-Fiction, Biographies & Memoirs, Religion, Religion

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JUTTA KOSLOWSKI

Who was Klaus Bonhoeffer?

APPROACHES TO AN UNKNOWN RESISTANCE FIGHTER

Date of publication: September 20, 2023

The life and importance of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's older brother Klaus Bonhoeffer

Who was Klaus Bonhoeffer? While Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life and work have been thoroughly examined, there has not yet been a single monograph on his brother. Yet Klaus was not only older, he was also in advance of Dietrich in many other respects – not the least in becoming part of the resistance against Hitler. In keeping with his personality, Klaus was in some ways even the more resolute of the two in the fight against the Nazi regime.

This book chronicles the story of Klaus Bonhoeffer, providing a new view of his life and his historical importance. Jutta Koslowski has examined previously unpublished sources and extensive archival material and was also allowed to access documents that were previously known only within the Bonhoeffer family circle. Comprehensive interviews with Klaus Bonhoeffer's three surviving children complement the work.

The life of an unusual and hitherto neglected personality from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's family as well as an exciting piece of contemporary history.


- The rediscovery of a strong personality in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's family
- The biography of Klaus Bonhoeffer, as it has never been told before
- With accounts from contemporary witnesses and based on previously unpublished sources

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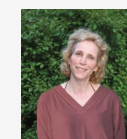
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AUTHOR

Jutta Koslowski



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Dr. Jutta Koslowski is a Protestant pastor and lecturer on ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue. She has been deeply involved in Bonhoeffer research, focussing especially on biographical and social aspects. She is a member of the International Bonhoeffer Society and was most recently Dietrich Bonhoeffer Visiting Professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Through Gütersloher Verlagshaus, she has published various books on the Bonhoeffer family.



Religion, Religion, Religion, Spirituality

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Licht

MARION KÜSTENMACHER

Setting Off into the Light

STRENGTHENED INTO THE NEW YEAR WITH ADVENT MYSTIQUE, CHRISTMAS
MAGIC, AND TWELVE DAYS ENERGY

Date of publication: September 27, 2023

2-colour throughout, with vignettes and illustrations

Discovering the renewing power of the Christmas season with the mystic expert Marion Küstenmacher

Every year, the time of anticipation begins with the first Advent, a time of preparation for the hallowed events of Christmas, and of letting go of the old and starting anew through the ritual power of the Twelve Nights. Moving fortified into the new year! Far too often, however, we allow ourselves to get distracted: there is so much decorating and baking still to be done, and the great aunt still needs a present, and so on.

With this book in Advent-calendar style, Marion Küstenmacher provides a very personal spiritual Christmas companion. From the First Advent to Epiphany, each chapter 'door' contains inspiring messages and grounding exercises for the soul that will carry you through the wonder and mystique of Advent and prepare you for the true meaning of Christmas Eve. Immerse yourself in the magic of the Christmas season and discover the healing power of the special Twelve Days, with every day presenting an invitation to your soul to set out and find home.

- An inter-spiritual, modern approach to Advent and Christmas – far removed from Christian clichés
- Ideal gift for yourself or others

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AUTHOR

Marion Küstenmacher



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Marion Küstenmacher, born in 1956, is a Protestant theologian who studied German language and literature. She is one of the most innovative spiritual authors of our time, and some of her inspirational bestsellers have been translated into many languages. For many years she worked in publishing as an editor in the fields of spirituality and psychology. In 2010 she received the Argula von Grumbach Award of the Lutheran Church in Bavaria.



Religion, Theology

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ISABELLE FRIES

I and Thou

THE CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY IN MARTIN BUBER

Date of publication: August 30, 2023

100 years of I and Thou – A new look at Martin Buber's philosophy of dialogue

Martin Buber is known today primarily as the translator of the Hebrew Bible and as the philosopher who made critical contributions to the philosophy of dialogue with his work "I and Thou" exactly 100 years ago. What has rarely been appreciated until now is that Buber not only overcame the subject orientation of idealism through thinking in terms of the Other, he was also an outspoken "philosopher of community" who emphasized the responsibility of the individual for others.


Isabelle Fries focuses on this aspect of Martin Buber's thought in a novel way. Starting from the concept of community, she analyzes the complex work of Martin Buber in both its biographical and historical contexts. Against the historical background of the turmoil and catastrophes of the 20th century, she illustrates how Buber's concept of community developed over his lifetime and how it was in critical resonance with the respective political debates. Thus it has become evident that Buber's thinking has an enduring relevance and even a diagnostic potential that can be used in helping to shape a co-existence and interrelationships between people in the pluralized society of the present.

- Martin Buber's philosophy of community in the context of 20th century history
- Honoured with the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz Award in 2022
- An enriching discovery for contemporary debates

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AUTHOR

Isabelle Fries



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Isabelle Fries, born in 1986, studied Protestant theology along with journalism in Tübingen, Erlangen, Edinburgh, and Berlin. After becoming a vicar in 2015, she was a research assistant at the Seminar for Systematic Theology and Social Ethics at the Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Mainz. From 2018 to 2021, she was consultant for Media Policy and Journalism at the Württemberg Regional Church, and then the online editor for Science Communication at the University of Stuttgart. Since 2021, she has been a research associate in applied ethics at the Professorship for Protestant Theology within the Ledger Innovation and Operational Network for Sovereignty Project at the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Munich.



Religion, Theology

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KLAUS FITSCHEN (EDITOR), NICOLE GROCHOWINA (EDITOR), OLIVER SCHUEGRAF (EDITOR)

Lutheran Identity

CULTURAL INFLUENCES AND REFORMATIONAL HERITAGE

Date of publication: July 26, 2023

Complete English translation available

Lutheranism between cultural influences and Reformational legacy


Lutheranism has spread throughout the world in a number of ways and has become at home in widely differing cultural contexts. But is there such a thing as a Lutheran identity? Or are there many Lutheran identities, depending on the conditions and circumstances from which they were formed? What do these identities have in common? What connects them? How is it to live in a community or congregation that makes these numerous expressions of Lutheran identity possible, and what are the challenges of these interconnections?

In its struggle for church community to become a vital church fellowship, the Lutheran World Federation is confronted with precisely these questions. This is reason enough to search for distinguishing features of identity and for pillars of a common Lutheran identity that have relevance in history, for the present time, and in different cultural contexts, thereby conjoining theology with history.

- The unity of Lutheranism in the context of cultural diversity
- Identifying the unifying elements in global Lutheranism
- An indispensable work in the context of a global debate

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EDITOR

Klaus Fitschen



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Klaus Fitschen, born in 1961, with a doctorate in theology, is Professor of Modern and Contemporary Church History, and History of Ancient Christianity, at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Leipzig.

EDITOR

Nicole Grochowina

Nicole Grochowina, with a PD, is a private lecturer for the History of the Early Modern Period and Modern Church History at the Friedrich Alexander University in Erlangen/Nuremberg. She is also the Chairperson of the History Commission of the DNK/LWB (German National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation).

EDITOR

Oliver Schuegraf

Oliver Schuegraf, with a doctorate degree, is a Senior Church Councillor and the Director of the Historical Commission of the DNK/LWB.

CHRISTINE MARIANNE SCHOEN

GÜTERSLOHER
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Religion, Theology

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The Bohemian Utraquismus as a Denomination in the 16th Century

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Becoming a denomination during the Reformation

Volume 100 of the Reformation research series QuFRG focuses on the history of the Bohemian Reformation in its early modern European context. In the 15th and 16th centuries, the majority of the Bohemian population belonged to a national church founded by Jan Hus and his associates. Celebrating Holy Communion in both forms and consequently referred to as Utraquists, the members of this church were able to achieve a status legitimized by particular and national law on the fringes of the papal church. While considered schismatics and merely tolerated, the Utraquists saw themselves as legitimate members of the Roman Church. However, from its inception the Wittenberg Reformation, exerting an increasing influence, started a process that would lead to the majority of the Utraquists professing the Reformation, as articulated in the 1575 Confessio Bohemica. This study is the first to closely examine the relevant source material, most of which was still untranslated, and to reconstruct how Bohemian Utraquism evolved from a primarily ritually and liturgically deviant manifestation of Latin European Christianity into its own particular Reformation denomination through its interactions with the Wittenberg Reformation. In addition, the distinctive characteristics of the Bohemian Reformation are examined.

- What became of the teachings of Jan Hus?
- A particular aspect of the history of the Reformation in Early Modern Central Europe

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AUTHOR

Christine Marianne Schoen



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Christine Marianne Schoen, born in 1991, has a doctorate in theology. She studied Protestant theology in Saarbrücken, Mainz, Prague, Leipzig, and Wuppertal. She is currently the vicar of the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau.



Religion, Theology

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LUZIA SUTTER REHMANN

Demons and Impure Spirits

THE GOSPELS READ AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF WAR, EXPULSIONS, AND TRAUMA

Date of publication: May 24, 2023

The experience of violence, biblically interpreted

The Bible reports that Jesus freed women, men, and even children from 'unclean spirits'. It was especially these 'demon exorcisms' that established his reputation as the bringer of salvation. But what exactly is meant by these stories? Did Jesus display a special empathy for the mentally ill?

The author places these stories in the context of the Jewish-Roman war and explores them in liberation-theological terms. These many 'possessed' people had been scarred by those years of violence. They were desperate, traumatized, yet at the same time strong in their struggles with powers and forces that challenged them spiritually and physically. They existed in an in-between, indeterminate space, in a state of crisis that finds resolve in the message of Jesus.

Read in this context, these well-known stories are transformed. They recount something that many people caught in war and fleeing violence are experiencing these days, and thus speak to the reality of the 21st century.

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✉ lizenzen@penguinrandomhouse.de

AUTHOR

Luzia Sutter Rehmann



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Luzia Sutter Rehmann, born in 1960, studied Protestant theology in Basel and Montpellier. She has been an ordained pastor since 1986. In 1994 she received her doctorate on the motif of birth in the Apocalypse. She is titular professor of the New Testament at the Theological Faculty of the University of Basel and was the translator of the Gospel of Luke for the "Bibel in gerechter Sprache" ("Bible in Updated Language"). Her work focuses on feminist liberation theology and social history of the New Testament.
www.luziasutterrehmann.ch



Religion, Theology

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LUZIA SUTTER REHMANN

Of the Courage to Look

FEMINIST LIBERATION THEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLICAL APOCALYPSE

Date of publication: October 25, 2023

The Bible and the poetry of hope


The interpretations of apocalyptic biblical texts offered here cut to the core of the insecurities of the present. With in-depth scholarly analysis, Luzia Sutter Rehmann explores such ancient texts as the Book of Daniel and the Revelation of John in their historical contexts. Further, she asks from a more subjective and evaluative perspective: What meaning could these texts have today in my life, and in people's lives overall?

In dialogue with the texts of the Bible, she discovers the power of imagination and poetic interpretations that possess the power to evoke the unexpected, to inspire new beginnings, and to show us how to engender renewed hope. Here is a liberation-theological rereading of sources that can become transformational and open us up to what has not yet been.

- Scholarship encounters poetry
- Unusual interpretations of biblical texts of hope
- From one of the most inspiring scholars of our time
- Inspirations for worship, sermons, and personal spirituality

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AUTHOR

Luzia Sutter Rehmann



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