



# Virtual Global Church Festival

[churchfestival.org](http://churchfestival.org)  
8 October 2016



A group of women in traditional African attire, including headwraps and patterned dresses, are shown in profile, singing and clapping their hands. They are outdoors, with a building and trees visible in the background. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# Meet the Global Church

## **A completely new experience:**

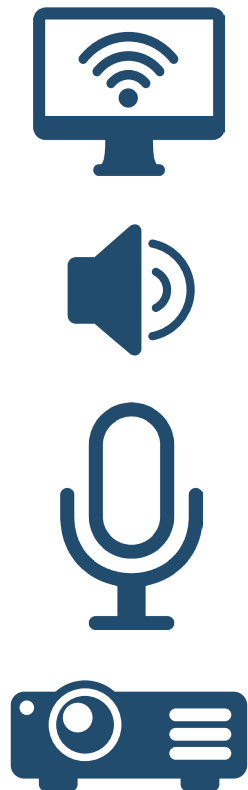
Individuals, congregations and groups of Christians around the world connect with each other on the Internet: Evangelical Lutheran churches in Brazil, Malaysia, Liberia, Tanzania, Hungary, Papua New Guinea and Bavaria (Germany). We will participate together in a worship service, listen to important presentations and bible studies, we'll be engaging with each other in direct conversations through text, audio and video links.

The aim is to experience our communion and church partnership in a new way. Small and larger groups gather locally in fellowship halls, homes and internet cafés to follow an online program with contributions from all around the world and in at least 3 languages (English, Portuguese and German).

Register here: <http://churchfestival.org>

# How does it work?

All you need to participate on 8 October 2016 is a computer with an internet connection, speakers and microphone or a head set. If you are in a group, a video projector would be ideal. If you would like to video-conference with others, you will need a webcam.

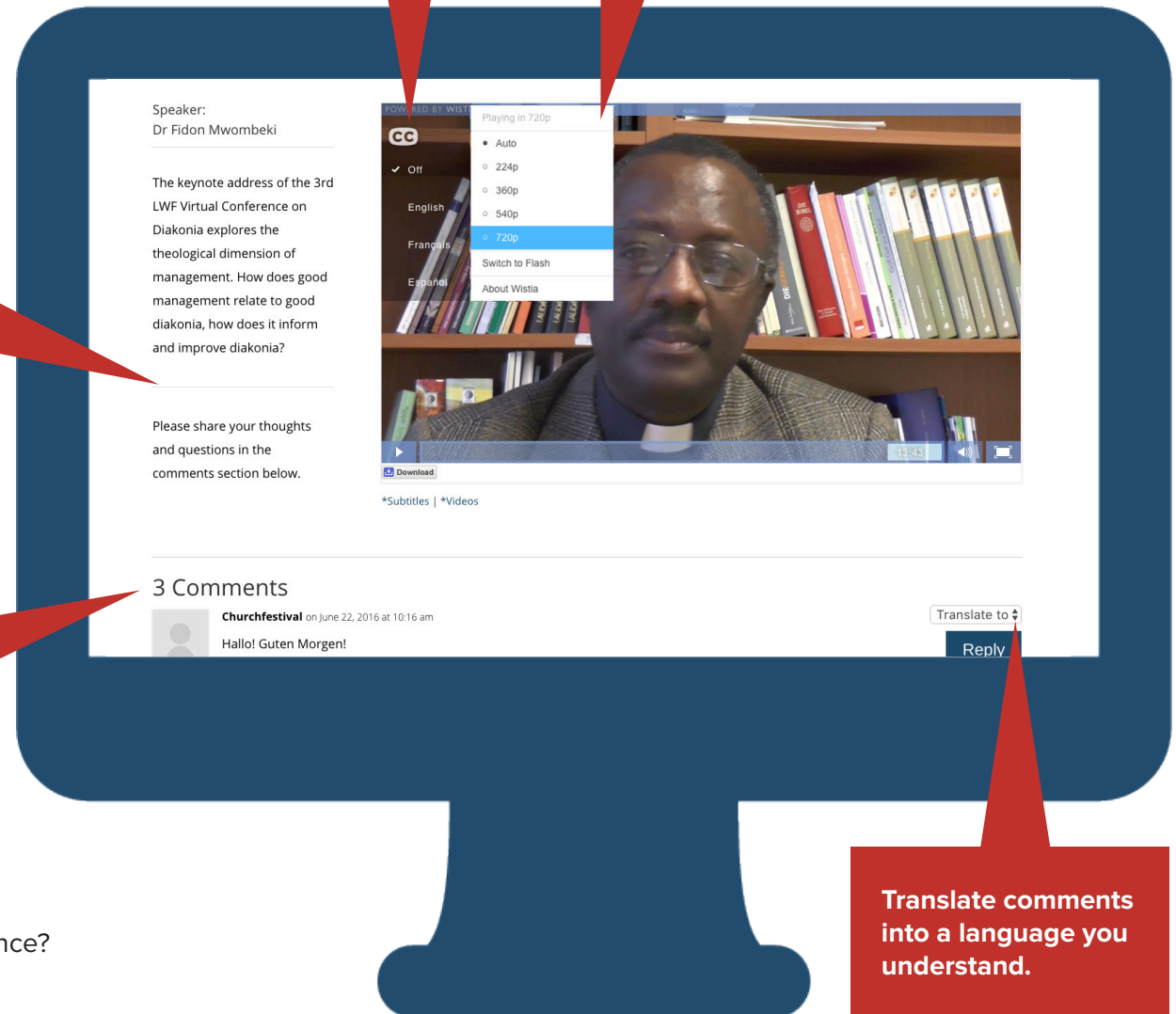


**Most events you will be able to follow on a webpage similar to this.**

**Read comments relating to the presentation from other participants, and submit your own comments.**

**Click “CC” to change the subtitle language.**

**Some devices will allow you to change the video resolution. To change the resolution on PC, right click on the video. To change the resolution on a Mac, hold Ctrl and click.**



**Translate comments into a language you understand.**

Want a better idea of what to expect on the day of the conference? Visit and test out the sample presentation page here: <http://churchfestival.org/mock-presentation-page/>

# Program

## God justifies us:

In Jesus Christ he has saved us and made us sinners just. This is the fundamental experience of Christians. Because we are so loved by God, we can also act justly and demand justice for those who are deprived of it. The Church Festival is going to reflect on justification and justice in various aspects.

## Our topics:

- Justice for the justified - Theological and ethical reflections
- Justice among the generations (Youth focus)
- Ecological Justice
- Economic justice in an age of migration
- Churches' contributions to a just and peaceful society
- Justice for women and men

## Please note

Find the current version of the program and schedule online:  
<http://churchfestival.org/schedule/>

## Opening

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There will be three worships from around the world, celebrated together:

### Worship I

The Fruit of Justice is Peace (Isaiah 32:17)

*Preacher: Bishop Rev. Aaron Yap, Lutheran Church in Malaysia*

### Worship II

Prayer for Peace (John 14: 27)

*Preacher: Rt. Rev. D. Jensen Seyenkulo, Bishop, Lutheran Church in Liberia*

### Worship III

Sending to serve as church around the world, unified in our service (1 Corinthians 16:13 & 14)

*Preacher: Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford Stroh, bishop of the Bavarian Church*

## Keynote

The keynote address opens up current perspectives on the theme of "The Fruit of Justice is Peace". It explores the experiences of injustice around the world and highlights the contributions of Lutheran theology and of Lutheran churches towards justice and peace.

*Speaker: Martin Junge, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (from Chile)*

## Track 1: Justice for the Justified: Theological and Ethical Reflections

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### Presentation 1.1: Justification and Responsibility

If God forgives me anyway, why should I strive to be a good person? This popular critique of Christian and perhaps particularly Lutheran ethics finds many answers in theology. This presentation reflects on what Lutherans contribute through their theology in the struggle for justice and peace worldwide.

*Rudolf Sinner, Theology Professor Sao Leopoldo (Brazil)*

### Presentation 1.2: What does it mean to be saved?

Salvation by faith in God is general Christian conviction; but what is meant by salvation exactly may find divergent answers. For some it includes the promise of material wealth in this world. This presentation reflects and discusses with the participants what understanding of salvation Lutheran theology should contribute to the global conversations.

*Dr. Fidon Mwombeki  
(formerly UEM soon: World Council of Churches, from Tanzania)*

### Workshop 1.1: Justification and Justice today

In this panel discussion, young theologians talk about their experience and their thinking on the connection of justification and their involvement for justice. This panel discussion invites all participants of the church festival to add their voices to the discussion.

*Rev. Eszter Kalit, Hungary; Pastor Kelvin Sia, Malaysia;  
Rev. V. Xastor Leela Yarkpazuo, Liberia;*

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## Track 2: Justice among the generations (Youth focus)

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### 2.1 Panel discussion: Youth ministry as power of transformation for individuals and societies

Young people change societies. In this panel conversation, youth leaders from different regions talk about the challenges they face and the contributions young Christians may bring.

*Julia Simon (Assistant leader of the Lutheran youth organization in Bavaria, Germany), Jerome L. M. Kollie, Jr. (Youth Leader, Liberia), Michael William (National Youth Director, Methodist Church in Malaysia)*

### Presentation 2.2 Theology for Youth Ministry

Children and young people are full members of the church through baptism. But how is it possible to make their voices heard and how can they be fully part of congregational life? This presentation lays out basic principles of a theology of youth ministry.

*Rev. Dr. Angela Olotu Dean, Faculty of Theology Tumaini University Makumira (TUMA)*

### Workshop 2.1 Justice and Justification in Children's Ministry

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## Track 3. Ecological Justice

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### **Presentation 3.1: Nature: God's Gift to us (theological perspectives on ecology)**

God's justice does not just extend to humans. It is the entire creation that is under God's love and care. This presentation is going to lay out the current ecological crisis and is developing theological ideas how churches and individual Christians can address it.

*Rev. Emilio Voigt (Brazil)*

### **Presentation 3.2 Panel Discussion: Three innovative Projects from Three Regions**

Practitioners from different regions give insights into their action towards ecological justice.

### **Workshop 3.1: Developing an environmentally friendly Congregation**

What are congregations and other church groups able to do in various contexts? This hands-on workshop is proposing concrete strategies and will help to transform local action.

*Rev. Eszter Kalit, Hungary; Pastor Kelvin Sia, Malaysia;  
Rev. V. Xastor Leela Yarkpazuo, Liberia;*

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## Track 4. Economic justice in an age of migration

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### **Presentation 4.1 Stories of migration**

What does it mean to migrate? What are the reasons for migration? Migrants from different places and into different countries share their experiences to adapt to a new culture and how churches have helped or could have helped them in their journey.

### **Presentation 4.2 Theology of Hospitality**

How can churches learn to be non-judgemental and develop a culture of hospitality and welcome in view of the age of migration? The bible provides many stories and is continually challenging us to welcome the stranger.

### **Workshop 4.1 Churches respond: Diaconal outreach to migrants**

Migration requires often a diaconal response from the church. This workshop is going to help with tools how to assess the needs in the community and how churches can find ways to welcome migrants and support them diaconally.

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## Track 5. Churches' contributions to a just and peaceful society

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### Presentation 5.1 Stories of peace

Reports from different regions how the church has contributed to peaceful dialogue.

*Rev. Dr. Sivin Kit (Institute of World Religions, Seminari Theoloji Malaysia)*

### Presentation 5.2 How to engage in conversation

It is difficult to get into conversation with people whose cultural background is different and whose values we may perceive as different. This contribution presents theological reflections on how we are able to get into contact with others and practical steps.

*Rev. Dr. Simone Sinn (LWF)*

### Workshop 5.1: How to Develop a Small Project

There are major challenges right outside our front door. But how is it possible to address them in a meaningful way? This workshop is going to layout principles in how to address specific issues in a community and how to plan a specific project.

## Track 6. Justice for women and men

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### Presentation 6.1

#### Reading of Biblical Texts from a Women's Perspective

Biblical scholarship has shown how important women are in biblical stories despite many readings that were traditionally more male oriented. This presentation will look at selected bible stories from a women's perspective.

*Rev. Oretha M. Davis, Lutheran Church in Liberia*

### Presentation 6.2 Gender Policy of the LWF and how to Implement it in the Churches

In 2013, the Lutheran World Federation adopted a gender justice policy and recommended it for use in the member churches. This presentation reflects on its contents and its implementation in Brazil.

### Workshop 6.1 Panel Discussion: The State of Gender Justice

The panel discussion looks at the basic content of the gender policy and assesses its implementation in different regions.

*Rev. Ulrike Hansen (Mission EineWelt/WICAS),  
Dr Elaine Neuenfeldt (Lutheran World Federation/WICAS)*

# Speakers



**Angela Olotu**

Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, lecturer of Pastoral Theology at Tumaini University Makumira



**Eszter Kalit**

Doctoral candidate of the Evangelical-Lutheran Theological University in Budapest, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Romania



**Aaron Yap**

Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia



**Oretha Miller Davis**

Dean of the Monrovia District Lutheran Church in Liberia



**Elaine Neuenfeldt**

Secretary for Women in Church and Society of Lutheran World Federation; from Brazil



**Jensen Seyenkulo**

Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Liberia



**Rudolf von Sinner**

Professor of Systematic Theology, Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue at the Escola Superior de Teologia in São Leopoldo, Brazil



**Simone Sinn**

Study secretary for public theology and interreligious relations at the Lutheran World Federation; from Germany



**Jerome L.M. Kollie**

Youth, Lutheran Church in Liberia



**Julia Simon**

Assistant leader of the Evangelical youth in Bavaria, Germany



**Martin Junge**

General secretary of the Lutheran World Federation; from Chile



**Emilio Voigt**

Pastor of the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, secretary for education and parish development in southern Brazil



**Ulrike Hansen**

Pastor of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Bavaria, Germany; director of studies for Mission EineWelt



**Ulrike Streck-Plath**

Author and composer, Germany



**Pamela Milbratz**

Pastor of the Evangelical Church of Lutheran Confession in Brazil



**Michael William**

Executive youth director, Malaysia



For more and constantly updated information, please visit our website:  
[churchfestival.org](http://churchfestival.org)

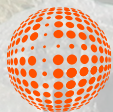
**Contact**

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**Organizer:**

The Luther Decade/Luther 2017 in cooperation with  
Mission EineWelt and Lutheran churches in all continents  
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Photos: Mission EineWelt  
(Christian Weber, Ulrich  
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Traugott Farnbacher)



**Mission  
EineWelt**

