



Edition 206 – July/August 2022

Good News: Ukrainian Orthodox Church

In the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Schöneberg (which is independent of the Moscow Patriarchate), refugees find inner support and a sympathetic ear. They are guests of the evangelical Nathanael Church and are finding the spiritual home they are looking for after fleeing. Now that a quarter of a million war refugees are in Berlin, the Ukrainian community is experiencing an enormous influx. The "Church of the Holy Apostle Paul" has quickly developed into a centre for spiritual and humanitarian help for the refugees.

Prayer: Thank God for this spiritual home for the Ukrainian refugees and pray that the war in their homeland would end

The new Senate: Stephan Schwarz (independent), Senator for Economics, Energy and Businesses

This is the end of the series in which we have been introducing the new members of the Senate and praying for them.

Stephan Schwarz was born in West Berlin in 1965. He comes from a family of entrepreneurs steeped in tradition and thus has practical experience. From 1984-1986 he studied at the FU Berlin, from 1987-1989 at the Sorbonne in Paris, graduating with a master's degree in philosophy and history in 1989. He gained his first professional experience in a Paris publishing house. He and his younger brother have been running GRG Services Berlin (building cleaning) since 1990 after his father died in a plane crash. From 2003-2019 he was President of the Berlin Chamber of Crafts. In 2021 he received the Order of Merit of the State of Berlin. He has been Senator for Economics, Energy and Businesses since December 21, 2021. He has 350 employees under him. His tasks include advising companies, economic development, settlement of new companies, supervision of energy companies, promotion of renewable energies, management of Berlin state companies such as city cleaning, transport companies, water companies and public utilities. After the pandemic, the challenges are the restart of tourism and gastronomy, digitization of administration and expansion of the fibre optic infrastructure. He has been a deputy member of the

Bundesrat since January 4th, 2022. In March of this year, he thanked the people of Berlin on RBB for their great willingness to help the Ukrainian refugees.

Prayer:

- **Pray for support for companies that have suffered losses as a result of the covid pandemic**
- **Pray for the acquisition of new companies for the Berlin location in order to create jobs**
- **Pray for the promotion of digitization in order to improve competitiveness**

The new Senate: Lena Kreck (Die Linke), Senator for Justice, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination

Lena Kreck was born in 1981 and comes from Wittenberg. She studied law at the Humboldt University in Berlin and received her doctorate in 2015 with the help of a scholarship from the "Rosa Luxemburg Foundation" at the Centre for European Legal Policy at the University of Bremen. After completing her legal clerkship, she worked, among other things, as a lawyer at the gay counselling centre in Berlin, where she took care of the needs of refugees. She has been a member of the Left Party since 2007, having previously been a PDS member since 2005. She is close to the party's current "Emancipatory Left". Since October 2019 she has held a professorship for law and society at the Evangelische Hochschule Berlin. A scandal broke out when she was nominated as a judge at the Berlin Constitutional Court, but failed to get the necessary $\frac{2}{3}$ majority in the House of Representatives in October 2019.

Challenges: Increase in personnel and digitization of the judiciary and promotion of women. It is interesting that the anti-Semitism commissioner of the state of Berlin, Prof. Dr. Samuel Salzborn, is assigned to her area of responsibility. The position has existed since 2019. In addition, the supervision of legally responsible foundations under civil law based in Berlin is part of her department, e.g., "Die Arche", "Die Help Stiftung" etc. A complete list can be downloaded from the Internet. Lena Kreck wants to fight for the expropriation of housing companies and has the utopia of a world without prisons as a guide. Challenges: Increase in personnel and digitization of the judiciary and promotion of women.

Prayer:

- **Pray for sufficient suitable staff for the judiciary and promotion of digitalization**
- **Pray for success in implementing anti-discrimination and particularly in combating anti-Semitism**
- **Pray for wisdom for foundation oversight**

The Alliance for Housing Construction has been signed

On June 20, 2022, the Berlin Alliance for New Housing and Affordable Housing was signed - by representatives of Berlin politics and administration and by representatives of the housing industry. It contains three "keys" to affordable housing in the city: housing construction, re-letting and protection against excessive rent increases. Representatives of the Berlin Tenants' Association reject this alliance in its current form and have therefore not signed it. All those involved are not really satisfied. The housing industry sees too great an economic burden for itself, the Greens see the alliance as just a first step and the tenants' association points out that the agreements are only about voluntary commitments by the housing industry, but that nothing is legally enforceable. The Governing Mayor, on the other hand, believes that the alliance has brought more advantages for Berlin tenants than are even being discussed in other states. Above all, the construction of new apartments should now proceed quickly. Despite all the differences, it can be seen that those responsible on all sides are struggling to meet the housing shortage in the city.

Prayer:

- **Thank God that those responsible are taking this first step towards more and affordable housing**
- **We bless politics, administration and those responsible in the housing industry with wisdom, willingness to negotiate and compromise so that there is quick and effective help against the housing shortage**
- **Pray that the focus in the housing industry is also on people and not on maximizing profits**

Protestors Against Climate Change are Blocking Freeways Again

Climate activists from the group "Last Generation" have blocked several exits of the A100 city motorway in the past week. Apparently, there were clashes between drivers and demonstrators. This week's blockades had been announced and are to take place every morning. The demonstrators called for free public transport and a speed limit on their banners under the motto "Save oil instead of drilling". In addition, under "Nordseeöl - nö" they plead to Chancellor Olaf Scholz for a cancellation

of new oil drilling in the North Sea. "We still have three years to avert the collapse of our climate," said co-initiator Henning Jeschke. Interior Senator Iris Spranger (SPD) tweeted: "Anyone who sticks themselves onto the streets wants to blackmail politics and society. The end does not justify the means. This also applies to the climate movement. The actions are punishable by law."

Prayer:

- **Pray that the activists would understand that the blockades endanger human lives**
- **Pray for dialogue between Senate and activists**
- **Pray for wisdom, determination and patience of the police in dealing with the activists**

More Traffic Accidents

The number of traffic accidents and people injured in them increased significantly in Berlin and Brandenburg in the first four months of 2022 compared to the same period last year. In Berlin, the increase was more than a third (34.8 percent). 625 people suffered serious (up 45.3 percent) and 3614 minor injuries (up 32.1 percent).

Prayer:

- **Pray for the protection of all those using the roads**
- **Pray for a reversal of reckless and selfish behaviour in traffic to more considerateness and caution**

Keeping On: Staff Shortages in Schools

Berlin's State Parents' Committee has come up with ways to alleviate the emergency situation that is arising from the worsening shortage of teachers and other educational staff. The starting point is the realization of the education administration that the gap in teachers will increase to around 1000 full-time employees. Additional offers or regular hours would have to be reduced. If teachers fall ill, there is a replacement budget. But it only works for long-term illnesses. In addition, many substitutes have long since been scheduled in the schools due to the long-standing shortage. The State Parents' Committee demands that the education administration convene a "round table on teacher shortage management" with all relevant associations and committees.

Let's continue to pray for a quick and effective measures to alleviate the teacher shortage.

Dates

July 13 and August 10: Prayer for City Politics, 6-7 pm, Rotes Rathaus, in front of the main entrance