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EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH (BAPTIST)

Welcome to our Community Centre.

The Evangelical Free Church (Baptist) in Offenburg was established in 1954.

We believe in Jesus Christ as the son of God who died for us on the cross and was resurrected after three days.

The Bible, the word of God, is the foundation and benchmark for our lives. Anyone who believes the gospel of Jesus Christ of their own free will can be baptised in the name of Jesus name and become a member of our church.

Our main holidays are Christmas, Good Friday and Easter, Ascension Day and Pentecost.

We are a free church, independent of the state, and are united with other churches all over Germany in the "Federation of Evangelical Free Churches".

As members of the "Arbeitskreis Interreligiöser Dialog" (Interreligious Dialogue Working Group) in Offenburg, we are committed to the peaceful coexistence of different religions and cultures.

We cordially invite you to our services.

2

ZEN-BUDDHIST DOJO OFFENBURG

We practice in the tradition of the Soto-Zen Buddhism.

We practice Zazen, the Zen meditation, by sitting quietly in the midst of our experience. By means of this exercise, we can harmonize more and more with ourselves, other people and our environment.

In the Zen Dojo, we offer Zen practice in the form of sitting and walking meditations for people who want to live their spirituality and deepen it. We recite Buddhist texts and organise introduction and exercise days, lectures and workshops.

The Zen Dojo Offenburg e.V., a non-profit association and member of the Association Zen Internationale (AZI), was founded by the Japanese Zen Master Taisen Deshimaru Roshi. Empathy and the connection with all beings and objects, as well as responsibility for our thoughts and actions are of central importance in Buddhism.

We are committed to the peaceful co-existence of different religions and cultures in Offenburg. For this reason, we are a member of the "Arbeitskreis Interreligiöser Dialog" (Interreligious Dialogue Working Group) in Offenburg.

3

DITIB TURKISH ISLAMIC COMMUNITY IN OFFENBURG

Founded in 1978, "DITIB Türkisch Islamische Gemeinde Offenburg e.V." is one of the oldest Muslim communities in Offenburg.

The Offenburg DITIB mosque has roughly 3,000 members. It not only provides a space for the free practice of religion, but also functions as a community centre for religious services, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, educational and cultural opportunities, social work and social services.

For Muslims, the Koran, which contains the revelation of Allah, is the guide to happiness on earth and in heaven. For Muslims, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) is a messenger of Allah, without any doubt and independent of time and place. Through his gentleness and kindness, he showed mankind a way to God's benevolence without renouncing earthly gifts. The beautiful example of Prophet Muhammed (saw) guides Muslims in all phases of their lives.

Our community is dedicated to living together in harmony with different cultures and religions. To promote peaceful co-existence and active participation in the community, we are a member of AKIDO Offenburg.

4

OLD-CATHOLIC CHURCH ST. MATTIAS

After the First Vatican Council (1870), parishes of Catholic Christians came into being all over the German-speaking world, founded by believers who did not want to accept the new doctrines on the infallibility of the pope and the papal authority. Consequently, they remained with the "old" faith. This is where the name "Old Catholic" comes from.

In critical confrontation with the testimonies of early Christianity, an episcopal-synodal church constitution was developed. Bishophood and priesthood were bound to democratic elements at all levels.

The principle "What concerns all should be decided by all" is applicable to this day.

The Old-Catholic Church practices a modern form of Catholic faith that is very open to our society and its developments. Women and men have equal rights at all levels of the church, there is no obligation for our clergy to be celibate, and the freedom of conscience of all believers is considered a very high good. Our Church welcomes everyone, regardless of their origin, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Our central holiday is Easter: It stands for the fact that suffering does not have the last word and that our life is valuable – even beyond death. We celebrate this hope on Sunday in the Eucharist, to which everyone is invited.

5

JEWISH COMMUNITY OFFENBURG-EMMENDINGEN

Founded in 1995, the community is responsible for all of Ortenau district.

Our congregation has approximately 360 members. In medieval times, the mikwe used to be a central meeting point for Jewish life in Offenburg. With the Salmen inn in the Lange Straße, we now established a place of remembrance and insight that is open to the public, where those interested to learn about Jewish life are welcome. Offenburg is also the home of a Jewish burial ground on the old cemetery.

Our synagogue, which also houses the office of the Jewish Community, is located in Emmendingen, where there are also an old and a new cemetery and a historical mikwe, which is managed by the "Verein für Jüdische Geschichte und Kultur" (Association for Jewish History and Culture) in cooperation with the Jewish Museum.

Each Friday evening and Saturday morning, Shabbat services are held in the synagogue. The annual holidays such as Rosh Hashanah New Year, Yom Kippur Day of Atonement, Sukkot Feast of Tabernacles, Passover Exodus from Egypt and Shavuot Day, when the Jewish people received the Torah from G'd, are also celebrated there.

For our young members, we offer a Youth Centre and religious education. Our Rabbi holds courses for adults regularly and is the contact person for all kinds of religious questions and pastoral needs.

We are a member of AKIDO because we think that dialogue between the religious communities is the way to peace and respect.

6

NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH

The New Apostolic Church is a world-wide Christian congregation whose doctrine is based on the Holy Gospel. It split off from the Catholic Apostolic Church in 1863 and today has nearly nine million members. Like the first Christian congregations, the church is led by apostles. The New Apostolic Church knows three sacraments:

Holy Baptism in water, Holy Sealing (baptism in the Spirit), and Holy Communion.

Jesus Christ is at the centre of the life of faith. Thus, New Apostolic Christians strive to live their lives according to His example by obeying the commandment to love God and to practice charity. The core of the New Apostolic gospel is the return of Christ. The goal of the faithful is to be united with Jesus Christ and to enter the Kingdom of God.

The Offenburg congregation was founded in 1902 and currently has about 440 members. It belongs to the church district Freiburg/Offenburg.

Services are held twice weekly: on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. Our priests and deacons officiate on a non-paid voluntary basis at parish and district levels.

7

ROMAN-CATHOLIC KREUZKIRCHE, CHURCH OF THE CROSS

The Roman-Catholic church is the oldest Christian congregation here in Offenburg. It aims at addressing people in today's society.

That is why all our work for the people is governed by the motto: "Close to God and close to man".

In the church services we celebrate the greatness and love of God and the redemption through Jesus Christ. In the sermons, exegeses of the texts of the Bible are provided and references between our lives today and those texts are established. Full-time employees and voluntary workers are involved in a wide range of social and charitable projects.

Our most important holidays are Christmas, the birth of Jesus, and the celebrations of the death and resurrection of Jesus in the week from Palm Sunday to Easter, as well as Pentecost, which focuses on the strengthening of the Holy Spirit.

In 2014, members of our church felt so strongly about the cause of peace between religions that they provided the impetus for the " Interreligiöse Friedenserklärung" (Interfaith Declaration of Peace) which formed the basis for today's AKIDO.

8

PROTESTANT MUNICIPAL CHURCH

You are standing in front of the Evangelische Stadtkirche, the Protestant Municipal Church, inaugurated in 1864 as the church of the first Protestant congregation in Offenburg.

Today, there are six more congregations in and around our city.

The Offenburg Protestant church has roughly 13,000 members. It manages the Youth Centre, Adult Training Institute, the District Cantorate, healthcare chaplaincy, five daycare centres, two welfare institutions (Diakonisches Werk and Paul-Gerhardt-Werk) and the CJD Offenburg.

In our church services, the gospel is proclaimed in a variety of ways, for example by singing together and by listening to the sermons and to church music.

We bear witness to God's love for all the world when we baptise and confirm believers, celebrate the Lord's Supper together or officiate weddings. We also accompany people pastorally when the end of life comes near. Our central holidays are Christmas, Good Friday, Easter and Thanksgiving.

We feel closely connected to other Christian churches in the ecumenical movement.

We are involved in AKIDO because we see peace between religions as our contribution to peace in the world.

9

ROMANIAN-ORTHODOX CHURCH

On 07 March 1993, the Romanian Orthodox congregation "Holy Trinity" was founded by Father Gabriel Cernăuțeanu with the help of the Catholic Dean Peter Schnappinger in the Holy Trinity Church in Offenburg. Until 1996, the parish was governed by the Romanian Orthodox Vicariate in Paris. On March 10, 1996, the parish joined the newly founded Romanian Orthodox Metropolitanate for Germany, Central and Northern Europe. Until October 2015, services were held in the crypt of the Holy Trinity Church. The increasing number of Romanian members made it necessary to relocate to the Josefskirche as a new parish centre; now, the Romanian-Orthodox liturgy is read here every Sunday and on the holidays.

The Orthodox church has 7 sacraments, with the Holy Liturgy in the centre of the prayers. The Orthodox church accompanies its members through their lives with a range of special prayers that are spoken when a child is born and baptised, when a member moves to a new apartment, falls ill, or suffers mental and physical weakness etc. It is also actively involved in the integration of Romanians newly emigrated to Germany, and in general where social, financial, or pastoral support is required.

We joined the AKIDO to promote the peaceful co-existence of all religions.

10

ALEVITE COMMUNITY

Alevism is a humanistic doctrine. Gender equality, connection with nature, tolerance, cosmopolitanism, modesty and helpfulness are core elements of the Alevi faith. Generally, Alevism as a contemporary way of life is in compliance with the findings of science.

The human being is in the centre of the Alevi doctrine, as the "divine truth" is hidden in every man and woman, and in the cosmos. The profoundly humanistic core of this belief is evident in the words of the scholar Hünkar Hacı Bektaş Veli (13. century): "Others have the Kaaba – my Kaaba is the human being, both creator and redeemer, is man, is mankind itself". Because everything is divine for the independent religious community of the Alevis, "God" can be traced in all of nature and in one's own self. The Askı (Loving One) Daimi wrote: "I am the mirror of the universe though I am human. I am the ocean of truth (reality) though I am human." Alevism is considered a faith of release and liberty.

Founded in 1994, the Alevitische Gemeinde Offenburg e. V. is organised in the form of an association in the same way as the German umbrella organisation. In Offenburg, it represents about 300 member families.

Since November 2005, the religious community has a centre of its own in Otto-Hahn-Straße 9a, 77652 Offenburg.