

Evangelische-reformierte (Presbyterian)  
Church Community  
Community Office  
Am Osterkamp 5  
27624 Ringstedt  
Telephone 04708 262 (also fax)  
email: [Dietrich.Meier@reformiert.de](mailto:Dietrich.Meier@reformiert.de)

Those who would like to find St. Fabian in Ringstedt will find us in the middle of the village on Osterkamp street. There you will see what is depicted in the watercolor to the right. This picture was used in previous years for Church certificates such as for confirmation.

The photo to the left depicts the Tablet Altar from St. Fabians Ringstedt. Above note that there are no pictures are to be seen! Text of the confession and biblical phrases such as the Ten Commandments appear in biblical order. So according to the meaning of Second Commandment: You shall make no picture of God before which you pray or serve.

St. Fabians church in Ringstedt was built approximately in the twelfth century A.D. From this time before the Reformation until today a signet remained to be discovered. In the photo to the right you can see the Signet of Archbishop Cono von Megara that had been built into the altar on the occasion of its consecration in 1319. At the renovation of the church in 1980 in addition to the Archbishop's Signet a small bronze plate from the grave of St. Fabian and a small clay pitcher used as a ointment container. Both were stored in the altar's reliquarium. A detailed exposition of this can be found in the text Reliquien from Johannes Göhler. (This text is included as a pdf file in German immediately below.)

The picture to the right is of our Wilhelmy-Röver-Führer orgen, whose pipes were stepped in place by Georg Wilhelmy in 1788. In the course of the centuries the instrument underwent various changes to its specifications and today offers a historical pipe organ structure underneath a "young" exterior in a timeless modern design. The Harm Kirschner Firm from Weener performed the last major renovation in 2005. (Lower Saxony west of Bremerhaven)

The news of our church community can be found in the Ringstedt church newsletter. You can download this as a pdf file below. The actual data has a size of 1-2 MB. At your request we can notify you every two months when the latest newsletter is posted. Simply write a short note to: [Dietrich.Meier@reformiert.de](mailto:Dietrich.Meier@reformiert.de) .  
To the right is a sticker for the door to your house!

Things are not going well for the Ringstedt church tower (original photo left). Therefore the tower will be renovated in 2010 still without the money it just won't go forward. Bank account: Kirche-Ringstedt, Konto 2410107902, bei (with) Volksbank Bremerhaven-Cuxland, Blz 29265747.

Two middle size bells hang in the tower one with a high tone and the other with a somewhat lower tone. Those who would like a bit more information about the Ringstedt bells will find a pdf file by Pastor Johannes Göhler below.

Many different groups belong to the community. One of these is the Ringstedt church choir. Those who love to sing can come Thursdays at 19:30 for the choir tryouts. From an Advent service we have included a recording below.

Weekly groups and meetings

Monthly groups and meetings

Belong to the community? The normal way into the Church Community is through baptism. In Ringstedt baptism can be arranged with the coffee gathering after services. But other occasions can be arranged by telephone. There is also conversion and reception back into the Church community.

(Bulletin of meeting times not translated)

Extras:

On Tour: The church community announces that it has a vehicle available for community work. The van offers 7 passenger seating a trailer coupling and a roof rack. It is available for diverse church oriented recreation and can also be rented by other church organizations. Private use is not permitted.

Many beautiful leisure activities will be offered together with other church communities. If you would like an overview of these activities and seminars you can request a brochure from Sabrina Mammen [jugend@reformiert.de](mailto:jugend@reformiert.de)

An unusual aspect of the Ringstedt St. Fabians church is that two church communities use it simultaneously: Together here are the Lutheran Community and the Reformed Community.

The seal of the Reformed Community depicts the sun and sunflower. This meaning of this symbol is that the community should reach out to God like the sunflower turns toward the sun. In the song "God is Present" this thought is sung in these six stanzas:

You who see all;  
Let your most beautiful light,  
Lord, warm my face.  
Like the tender flowers  
who willingly unfold  
and the sun that silently keeps,  
let me be so like them  
silent and joyful  
that your rays hold me  
and you weave me into you.

A candle with the signet/logo of the church community is available in the church office for a little donation similar to a baptism candle. Use of candles in a Presbyterian community is unusual and refers back to the compromise on sharing the altar in the Ringstedt dual church, where for the services candles are used however no cross.

More information about the dual church of Ringstedt is available in the book by Heinz Henke: *Wohngemeinschaften unter deutschen Kirchendächern*, Leipzig 2008 (Communal Accommodations under German Church Roofs)

Church History: The relationships of the two Ringstedt communities have not in the course of the community history always been harmonious. In the Ringstedt church struggle the battle was between the reformed Pastor Hinrich Zevenhuisen in the time of National Socialist "German Christians" and Pastor Gerd von Busch from the time of the "Confessional Church". The contradictory situation had been made worse by the perception of the confessional Pastor Busch (photo below) as a very difficult man and the National Socialist Pastor Zevenhuisen as a real human being and a benevolent man. (photo left)

Those who would like more information on the Presbyterian Church of Ringstedt and St. Fabians Church can find it in the book published in 1990 by retired Pastor Johannes Göhler. The account covers the centuries in which the Sachsens converted to Christianity and within which the Ringstedters changed to Lutherans in 1534 and then in 1706 when the decision was made for the dual church. Much is to be learned about the church building and the pastors that served here. The 612-page work is available in the Antiquariat for approximately 37 Euros. A few new copies of the book remain and are available direct from the author. You may contact him directly: Johannes Göhler, Neue Straße 21, 27624 Ringstedt, Tel 04708/262, [goehler.ringstedt@gmx.de](mailto:goehler.ringstedt@gmx.de) .

Numerous different waves of emigration are also a part of the history of St. Fabians Church in Ringstedt. Today there is an extraordinary interest in the history of the emigrants for their European heritage and their families. Some of these people have found in the old church books answers to their questions. In order to protect these valuable books and to enable their access we have granted our genealogy researcher permission to work with these documents. For a small fee he will conduct a search for anyone anywhere in the world. Contact: [clausclaussen@vr-web.de](mailto:clausclaussen@vr-web.de) in German please.