What makes Kirchentag unique:

Everyone can play an active part.

The Kirchentag is a forum with a distinctive culture of open discussion and of making sure that people, politicians, academics, theologians and activists are involved in this.

It is about building One World, about questions of theology and spirituality.

We celebrate being in community with large-scale acts of worship reaching out beyond boundaries. We celebrate a festival of faith and of social responsibility.

The Kirchentag is accessible to all. Inclusion plays a big role, as does also holding joint conversations with other religions.

Cultural events include music, dance, cabaret, theatre and much more. With more than 700 cultural events, the Kirchentag is a diverse and colourful festival for all.
The Kirchentag movement is the same age as the German Federal Republic. Reinold von Thadden-Trieglaff founded the German Protestant Kirchentag in 1949, together with other concerned people who were looking for a fresh start for Christian engagement with society following the experiences of the Nazi period. It is independent and sees itself as a counterpart to the institutional church.
The Market of Opportunities is one of the biggest events for networking by civil society initiatives in Germany. This is a meeting place for those who want to get things moving!

Without the "helpers" and stewards the Kirchentag would not be possible. Around 5000 people help to supervise the flow of visitors, control the entrance points or oversee the collection of rubbish. Every second Kirchentag visitor is at the same time an active contributor – and thus part of the Kirchentag itself.

The German Protestant Kirchentag has a major objective: to be a zero-emission mega event. This needs to involve all areas: from traffic control through logistics to the provision of food. The Kirchentag has been certified by EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme). So it is that in each town the Kirchentag establishes a new environmental project and a wide-reaching thematic environmental programme.

There is a place where the very youngest have a mini-Kirchentag of their own – and yet remain right in the middle of things. At the site for the Children’s Centre there will be spiritual, creative and exciting activities on offer, providing lots of fun. Other Centres will cover a range of topics such as Gender, Bible and Local Congregations, among other things.

The Youth Centre will be a multi-coloured potpourri of creativity and experiences. It will involve content-related and organisational participation. It will include accepting responsibility, involving conversations, reflection, discussion – and at the same time the chance simply to relax ...

Every Kirchentag is marked by encounters and conversations between different cultures and religions: in the Centres for Jews and Christians, and for Muslims and Christians – as well as in the general coming together that is part of the Kirchentag.
It is all of these put together: the discussions, the unique atmosphere, the bible studies and the worship, the concerts and creative ideas. It is people who make the Kirchentag happen in such a special way. A forum that enables you to really get into current issues – on the spot and directly with those who actually bear responsibility. An arena that offers space for new ideas, for forward-thinking in all areas of life, that gives the opportunity to put challenging questions – and together draw mutual strength.

You are warmly invited to join in, to get involved, to make a contribution and offer support. We look forward to seeing you!

The next Kirchentags will be the German Protestant Kirchentag in Dortmund from 19 – 23 June 2019 and the Ecumenical Kirchentag in Frankfurt/Main from 12 – 16 May 2021.

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