



Merry Christmas

and a happy new year

Dear Business Partners,

We have the feeling that it is becoming increasingly difficult to write a good Christmas card. The reason is that, thanks to modern communication and social media, so many interesting, thought-provoking and encouraging messages are already shared throughout the year. In addition, these channels spread just as much superficial, ugly and destructive information. The reality that lies behind these messages is becoming increasingly complex and therefore less suitable for a brief, reflective Christmas greeting.

We have several employees and friends who have lost their partners this year, either due to long illness or suddenly and unexpected. There were older people, who were looking forward to a peaceful time together after their retirement, but also young people, who had a wealth of plans for themselves and their families. These are now alone, and some are abruptly faced with children to look after without a partner. However, so many of these employees and friends do not become bitter, but look back gratefully on the time they had together, they accept support from colleagues and friends, and finally gain new, even stronger courage to face the ups and downs of life.

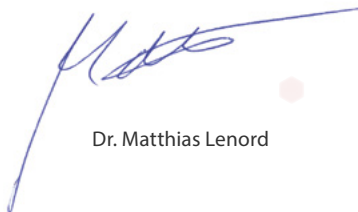
While the events themselves make us sad and often leave us confused, we are encouraged by seeing the will to live and to carry on. When it comes to existential matters as these, it is important to find solid ground. Family, friends and colleagues can provide such a firm foundation. The Christmas season reminds us that we can also find a firm foundation in our faith and in our justified hope. This is why we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. So this special festive season, in which everything else fades into the background, can help us to value the gift of life anew and to appreciate every day of it.

We hope that you will be able to look back with thankfulness at the end of this year, and, in happy anticipation, look forward with confidence to the coming year.

A blessed and joyous Christmas



Dr. Rudo Grimm



Dr. Matthias Lenord



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