



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

Office of the  
General Secretary

[lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)

To LWF Member Churches

Geneva, August 2016

**Re: Joint Lutheran-Catholic commemoration of the Reformation anniversary**

Respected church leaders, Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Earlier this year I wrote to you about the joint commemoration of the Reformation anniversary, which will be held in Lund and Malmö, Sweden on 31 October, 2016. With this letter I want to offer additional information about the occasion and ways for your church to be part of this historic event.

The theme of the day is "From Conflict to Communion – Together in Hope" and it will have two main parts: In the early afternoon of October 31, a common prayer will take place in the Cathedral of Lund (the time-zone is GMT+2). The liturgy is based on the report and the Common Prayer "From Conflict to Communion", which were jointly developed by Catholics and Lutherans. For easy reference, please find these two documents here: (<https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-conflict-communion-basis-lutheran-catholic-commemoration-reformation-2017> and <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/joint-common-prayer-lutheran-catholic-common-commemoration-reformation-2017> )

Lund Cathedral offers limited space for attendance, which needs to be shared between the local and global hosts. The LWF will be represented by the full Meeting of Officers, plus the LWF President and myself as co-hosts.

The service in Lund Cathedral will be broadcast on live television and will be made available to TV-stations all over the world. It will also be made available as a live-stream on the net. This will allow people and communities to follow the liturgy. Please follow the website for the Joint Commemoration and register for notifications so that you receive further information as it becomes available (<http://www.lund2016.net/> ).

Simultaneously, there will be an event in Malmö Arena which will enable up to 10,000 people to participate. Those gathered at the Arena will be able to follow the live-stream of the Common Prayer at the Lund Cathedral. After the Common Prayer in the Cathedral the hosts will move to the Arena and join the thousands people gathered there. The Arena will be a stage for activities focusing on the commitment to common witness and



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10–16 MAY 2017

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FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE  
FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL

P.O. Box 2100, Route de Ferney 150, CH-1211 Geneva 2  
Tel. +41/22-791 61 11, Direct +41/22-791 63 63  
Fax +41/22-791 66 30, E-Mail [mju@lutheranworld.org](mailto:mju@lutheranworld.org)

service of Catholics and Lutherans in the world. Highlights of the joint work of LWF World Service and Caritas Internationalis will be featured, including care for refugees, peace building, and advocacy for climate justice. Access to the Arena will require registration in advance. Streaming of the event at the Malmö Arena is foreseen as well.

The Joint Commemoration will conclude in the evening of October 31.

How can you and your church participate?

- Register for the Malmö Arena event. Registration will open in mid-August. (Unfortunately, LWF is not in a position to support transport and accommodation of participants registered for the Arena event.)
- Disseminate within your church this information, particularly the link to the live-stream of the Commemoration, once available.
- Encourage communities and congregations to follow the live-stream jointly, ideally including also neighboring Catholic communities and parishes, where applicable.
- Encourage common Lutheran – Catholic prayers at a local and national level, use and/or adapt the liturgy mentioned above for those common prayers. You may choose to hold these prayer services on, or around October 31, 2016.

The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary calls for a strong focus on ecumenical accountability. We are grateful for the support the LWF has received from its bilateral dialogue partners to live up to that call of the time. The joint Lutheran – Catholic commemoration of the Reformation anniversary offers a beautiful opportunity to express this call and the common hope we all have in Christ.

In a world of communication breakdowns, the joint commemoration tells the story of the value of dialogue; in a world wounded by violence and wars, it tells the story of conflict that can be left behind; in a world often confused about the role of faith and religion, it tells the story of the strength and the beauty of our shared faith in Christ, and how it transforms us towards compassionate service and joyful witness in our world.

Please contact the LWF Area Secretaries for any further information that you may need. Subscribe and follow the LWF news <http://lutheranworld.us8.list-manage1.com/subscribe?u=73ae02875d33ba3afb8af3675&id=b9529d0174> . See also <https://www.lutheranworld.org/lund2016> .

We invite for your ongoing prayerful support as we continue planning and working towards this historic event.

In Christ,



Rev. Dr Martin Junge  
General Secretary