



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

Office of the  
General Secretary

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

Rev. Simon Ghebrekristos  
President, The Evangelical Lutheran  
Church of Eritrea  
P.O. Box 905 Asmara – ERITREA

Rev. Yonas Y. Dibisa  
President, The Ethiopian Evangelical  
Church Mekane Yesus  
P.O. Box 2089 Addis Ababa - ETHIOPIA

Geneva 12 July, 2018

**Re: LWF congratulatory letter for the peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea**

Dear Rev. Ghebrekristos,  
Dear Rev. Dibisa,  
Dear sisters and brothers in the LWF member churches in Eritrea and Ethiopia,

Greetings in the name of the Prince of Peace our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is with a grateful heart that I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation, a communion of churches, to join you and your people in offering thanksgiving to God for the peace agreement that has been reached on Monday 9 July 2018 between Eritrea and Ethiopia after almost two decades of war and closed borders. This comes as an answer to the prayers of people of God around the globe for many years.

The news about this agreement at exactly the time we are hearing so much discussions to yet again increase budgets for military expenses among the powerful nations is a true gift to the world. It comes like a gentle rain falling down on people around the world thirsting for a message of peace. We can't but join the words of the prophet Isaiah "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Isaiah 52:7)

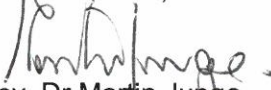
We congratulate the leaders of the two countries, HE President Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea and Ethiopia's Prime Minister HE Dr Abiy Ahmed for reaching this milestone of peace initiative.

We can only imagine the importance of the role of the churches to express this agreement in tangible ways, and pray for God's ongoing guidance for the churches to offer their own contributions towards peace. Please let us know how the LWF communion can walk with you, as you walk the paths of peace among your people.

I would like to conclude my greetings with the following words of the apostle Paul, "*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body*". (Col. 3:15)

May these words always remind us to continue working for peace and justice in our communities and in the world.

Yours in Christ,

  
Rev. Dr. Martin Junge  
General Secretary