



Photo: LWF/E. Neuenfeldt

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Thematic approach

We approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by intentionally upholding ecumenical relations and their achievements. This anniversary will be approached with a spirit of ecumenical accountability.

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Ecumenical

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Join us

- Reflect together on what it means to be liberated by God's grace

- Respond to the calling of Jesus Christ to love and serve the world

- Engage in worship, study, networking, action and celebration

- Get involved locally, regionally and globally

Liberated by God's grace

Thereby we want to keep in mind the following sub-themes:

- Salvation is not for sale – salvation is God's free gift
- Human beings are not for sale – every person is created in the image of God
- Creation is not for sale – the environment must be protected

world, and develop projects towards 2017. It will take place in August 2015 in Wittenberg.

- **From Marangu to Wittenberg:** In 2015, the key African event within the framework of the Reformation Anniversary will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first meeting of all African Lutheran church leaders.
- **LWF Council Meeting 2016:** At the 16-21 June Council meeting in Wittenberg, Germany, the LWF will deal with key issues of Reformation 2017, and the Luther Garden, initiated by the LWF German National Committee, will be symbolically handed over to the public.

- **The LWF Twelfth Assembly** will meet in May 2017 in Windhoek, Namibia, under the theme "Liberated by God's Grace." This is the main global LWF event commemorating the 500 years of the Lutheran Reformation and harvesting the fruits of the programs, processes and dialogues that have taken place within the framework of Reformation 2017.

- **Reformation Day 2017 Liturgical Celebration** is a virtual transmission of the Reformation Day celebrations from around the globe in a 24-hour sequence, including the ringing of the bells of the *Stadtkirche* in Wittenberg.

Ecumenical involvement

- **From Conflict to Communion**, the report of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity, was released in 2013. This is the first attempt by Lutherans and Roman Catholics to describe jointly the history of the Reformation. It is a useful tool for starting ecumenical discussions around the beginnings of the Reformation also in local settings. Drawing upon this document, a joint liturgy is being developed for occasions where Lutherans and



2017 - 500 YEARS OF REFORMATION



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION
A Communion
of Churches

2015/01

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For more information about Reformation 2017 see 2017.lutheranworld.org

- **Reconciliation with Mennonites:** Follow-up action taken by the LWF Assembly in 2010 will be released in 2015, and will include examples of cooperation and joint worship between Mennonites and Lutherans.
- More plans with other major ecumenical partners are on the way

Roman Catholics will commemorate jointly the 500 years of the Reformation.

- **Anglican-Lutheran Study Materials** for congregations on the main Reformation 2017 theme, "Liberated by God's Grace," will be published in 2016.
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toolkit equips women in the global Lutheran communion to take part by sharing texts, images and videos with other women.

(www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-women-move-wittenberg-windhoek-toolkit)

- **Global Young Reformers Network and its "Living Reformation Project":** Young Lutheran leaders around the communion are invited to contribute to the theme "Freedom by God's Love to Change the World," an adaptation of LWF's main theme for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. (<http://youngreformers.lutheranworld.org>)
- **Reformation 2017 booklets:** In 2015 a collection of popular articles written by authors from across the Lutheran communion on the main theme and sub-themes of the 500th anniversary will be published in English, German, Spanish and French. The booklets are meant to trigger discussions on what it means to be Lutheran in different contexts in the 21st century.

- **Hermeneutics process** reflects on Lutheran reading of the Scriptures within the framework of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
- **Understanding Renewal in Christian, Jewish and Muslim Traditions:** This will be the focus of texts to be published in 2015 on the link between social and religious change. They will be based on an interfaith conference held in 2014 and will invite churches to reflect with their interfaith partners on the meaning of reform and renewal.

Some exciting events ahead of us

- **Youth Conference of the Global Young Reformers Network** is an international conference for young people aged 18-30 from Lutheran churches around the globe that will look at what it means to be freed by God's love to change the

Approaching the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we would like to trigger discussions around ongoing reformation. We invite you to join the discussions on the main theme of this anniversary ...



Reformation Milestones

16th century
1517

31 October 1517: Luther posts his 95 Theses against clerical abuses and the sales of indulgences on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The Reformation begins.

17th century
1648

1648: The Treaty of Westphalia is signed marking the end of the Thirty Years' War between Catholics and Protestants in Europe and establishing the principle of cuius regio, eius religio. The principle of state sovereignty that emerged as a result of this treaty serves as the basis for the modern nation state.

18th century
1706

1706: Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg, sent by the Danish King and the Danish Church, arrives at Tranquebar, South India. The Lutheran mission to India begins.

19th century

Lutheran mission to Africa begins with several mission societies from Germany and Scandinavia becoming active in different parts of Africa. A growing number of Lutheran congregations are founded in North and Latin America.

20th century
1947

1947: The Lutheran World Federation, comprising 47 member churches, is founded in Lund, Sweden.

21st century
2017

2017: The Lutheran World Federation holds its Twelfth Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia, under the theme: "Liberated by God's Grace."

