



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

lutheranworld.org



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
AD CHRISTIANORUM UNITATEM FOVENDAM

11th January 2016

To the
Catholic Bishops' Conferences
Bishops, Presidents and Leaders of the Lutheran World Federation member churches

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

With this letter we are sending greetings for a blessed New Year and inviting you to join the Lutheran and Catholic communities around the world in preparing for the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation taking place in 2017. The same year also marks the 50 years of global ecumenical dialogue between Catholics and Lutherans.

In our joint letter dated the 18th of March 2014, we shared with you the latest report of the Lutheran-Catholic study commission, *From Conflict to Communion. Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017*. This is a powerful document in which Lutherans and Catholics describe the history and the intentions of the Reformation. It builds on five decades of theological work between Lutherans and Catholics, and now calls Lutheran and Catholic communities together in thanksgiving and repentance and common witness. We are grateful for the many joint initiatives Catholics and Lutherans have been taking together in studying the document and thus committing together to a common journey leading us from conflict to communion. You can find the document from <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-conflict-communion-basis-lutheran-catholic-commemoration-reformation-2017>.

Based on the study report, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Lutheran World Federation, in cooperation with a group of theologians, have prepared liturgical material for a joint common prayer to mark the Reformation anniversary. The template of the common prayer can be found from <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-joint-common-prayer-lutheran-catholic-common-commemoration-reformation-2017>.

While the material invites you to join the global Lutheran and Catholic communities in commemorating the Reformation anniversary, it is also designed in a way that allows you to adapt it to your local liturgical and musical traditions.

This common prayer marks a very special moment in our common journey from conflict to communion. We are grateful for being able to invite you to participate in this journey in witnessing to the grace of God in the world.

Rev. Martin Junge
General Secretary
Lutheran World Federation

Cardinal Kurt Koch
President
Pontifical Council for Promoting
Christian Unity