INTERNATIONAL
Lutheran Council

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Secretariat of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV
00120 Vatican City
CITTÀ DEL VATICANO

Re: Congratulations and Intercessions on Your Election

Dear Holy Father:

Greetings in the Name of the Risen Christ! I write to express sincere congratulations to you on your recent election as Bishop of Rome and pontiff to serve Roman Catholic Christians throughout the world. As you may be aware, confessional Lutheran churches of the International Lutheran Council (ILC) have been blessed to take part in informal dialogues with the Roman Church since this was arranged in 2013 through Cardinal Kurt Koch.

We have deeply appreciated the goodwill of Roman Catholic participants in these informal dialogues, as well as the Roman Church's commitment to the ancient ecumenical creeds and – in this time of theological and ethical confusion – to its courageous defence of holy marriage and unborn life.

Though it is surely an honour and a joy for you to have been summoned to this role, we are keenly aware of the solemn responsibility and even the personal burden it will entail. May God sustain you in your work and life of faith through all the years He has in store for you.

Please know that ILC member churches together with our bishops and presidents, wish you every needed blessing for these days. We look forward to fruitful contacts with representatives of the Catholic Church in all the places our paths may cross.

Sincerely yours,

Juhana Pohjola

The Rev. Bishop Juhana Pohjola D.Th.
Chairman of the Board of Directors

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