



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

General Secretary

lutheranworld.org

To
His Holiness Pope Leo XIV
Vatican City

Geneva, May 9, 2025

Your Holiness, dear Pope Leo XIV

It is with deep joy and gratitude in the Holy Spirit that the Lutheran World Federation welcomes your election as Bishop of Rome! Praise be God for the discernment of the College of Cardinals and for your ministry which has reached from Chicago to Peru to Rome. Peace be with you!

The Lutheran World Federation as a communion of churches has been deeply committed to the dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church that began shortly after the Second Vatican Council and that has produced the ground-breaking document *The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* (under the guidance of your predecessors Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI) and commemorated together the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with Pope Francis.

These events and others continue to express our deep ecumenical hope as we look forward to the Sixth Phase of the International Lutheran-Catholic Commission on Unity and the 500th Anniversary of the Augsburg Confession in 2030. Your episcopal motto inspires great hope for us all: *In Illo uno unum*. May we continue on this journey from conflict to communion.

Amid global conflict and rising division, we share your hope for peace, justice, and care for the least among us. Together, may we build bridges, open paths of reconciliation and the common good, bearing witness to Christ's love and mercy for all.

In these days and weeks, as you begin your ministry, we hold you particularly in our prayer that you "may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Colossians 1:9). May you find strength, endurance, patience, and joy as you exercise your ministry not only for the Roman Catholic Church but for all Christian world communions, and, in fact, for all humanity.

United in prayers,

Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt
LWF General Secretary

Bishop Henrik Stubkjaer
LWF President