



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

lutheranworld.org

PRESS KIT

ABOUT THE LWF

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a communion of churches, established in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, is a global communion of 150 member churches bringing together over 78 million Christians worldwide. Guided by four foundational pillars—Theology, Mission, Unity, and Service—LWF’s work spans theology, advocacy, diakonia and humanitarian aid, and ecumenical relations. The LWF connects Lutheran churches to one another while expressing what they do together globally.

- **Vision:** Liberated by God’s grace, a communion in Christ, living and working together for a just, peaceful, and reconciled world.
- **Mission:** To share hope that empowers churches and people to make a positive difference in the world.

LEADERSHIP

[Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt](#), General Secretary

Serving since November 2021, Rev. Dr Burghardt is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Ecumenical Officer, she represents LWF globally and oversees its work at the Communion Office. An ordained pastor of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, she previously held key roles in ecumenical relations and theological development in her home church and within the LWF.

[Bishop Henrik Stubkjær](#), President

Elected in September 2023 at LWF’s Thirteenth Assembly in Kraków, Poland, Bishop Stubkjær serves as the fourteenth President of the LWF. In his role, he presides over the Assembly, Council, and Executive Committee, guiding LWF’s mission in partnership with the General Secretary. An ordained pastor, he is the Bishop of Viborg Diocese in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark.

STATISTICS AND FACTS

- 150 member churches representing 78 million Christians in 99 countries.

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- World Service – operational in 24 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe.
- **Staff:** Total workforce of 6,949 of which 108 work for the headquarters, 41 are international staff in country programs and 6,800 work in the country programs as national staff, incentive workers and volunteers.

AREAS OF WORK

Joint Efforts in Theology

LWF strengthens capacity of Lutheran churches for doing theology that addresses the challenges of our time. We equip churches for vibrant and effective witness within contemporary societies. Our networks of lay and ordained theologians, leaders, and students share resources, knowledge, and learning experiences.

Supporting People in Need

LWF supports more than 2.6 million people through LWF World Service. Our humanitarian and development work focuses on securing livelihoods, quality services, protection, and social cohesion. Our Action for Justice hub is focused on advocacy for human rights, gender justice, climate justice, and peace.

Strengthening Churches in Mission

LWF member churches come from diverse contexts and are united in the calling to share the gospel and serve the neighbor. LWF builds on an understanding of mission which is always holistic, comprising proclamation, diakonia and advocacy. Our programs empower young people and women for leadership.

Working for Unity

We promote and engage in dialogue with ecumenical partners, shared worship, and cooperation to help those in need. We strive to put our Christian faith into action through humanitarian and development work, advocacy, shared witness, and dialogue.



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MAJOR PARTNERS

- LWF member churches and their related organizations
- United Nations agencies (especially the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR)
- European Union, United States of America governments
- Ecumenical partners

MILESTONES IN LWF'S HISTORY

1947: First LWF Assembly in Lund, Sweden, with 600 participants from 26 countries.

1950: Augusta Victoria Hospital placed under LWF trusteeship.

1955: LWF convenes the first All-Africa Lutheran Conference.

1967-1970: LWF is a part of the large-scale airlift operation to bring food and medical supplies into Biafra, Nigeria.

1984: The Seventh Assembly in Budapest endorses 40% participation of women and 20% youth in future assemblies.

1990: LWF resolves to become a Communion of Churches at Curitiba Assembly.

1999: Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification signed with Roman Catholic Church.

2008: The LWF Council requests deeper theological reflection on the climate crisis.

2016: Lund Commemoration brings Catholics and Lutherans together to mark the Reformation anniversary.

2022-23: Following the Russian invasion in Ukraine, LWF opens humanitarian programs in Poland and Ukraine.

2023: Thirteenth LWF Assembly takes place in Kraków, Poland, offering a message of unity during times of polarization and fragmentation

2024: New LWF Strategy for 2025-2031 adopted: Sharing Hope – Empowering Churches, Impacting the World



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FURTHER INFORMATION

For official statements, news, and updates, visit our website <https://lutheranworld.org>

Access our photo library for visual assets, <https://flickr.com/lutheranworld>

The LWF logo and visual identity guidelines in our four languages:
<https://lutheranworld.org/resources/policies-lwf-visual-identity-guidelines>

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As The Lutheran World Federation embarks on its new strategic period from 2025 to 2031, we remain dedicated to sharing hope, empowering churches, and impacting the world. Grounded in our faith and united in purpose, we are committed to addressing pressing global challenges—from promoting peace and justice to advocating for climate action and human dignity. Together with our partners and supporters, LWF strives to be a beacon of unity, compassion, and resilience in the world, guided by a shared vision for a just, peaceful, and reconciled world.

