



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches

[lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)

To representatives of the media

January 2017

Dear Representatives of the Media, Colleagues and Friends,

It is a great pleasure for my colleagues and me in the Office for Communication Services to invite you to apply for press accreditation to the Twelfth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to be held in Windhoek, Namibia, 10-16 May 2017.

Almost 800 participants — including 373 delegates from the 145 LWF member churches in 98 countries worldwide — will gather in the Safari Court Hotels and Conference Centre in Windhoek, Namibia under the LWF Assembly theme “Liberated by God’s Grace.” The Assembly will be hosted by the three LWF member churches in Namibia: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia-German Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Assemblies are milestones in the life of the LWF, as they hold highest authority over LWF policy and activity. They usually take place only every six or seven years. Every Assembly elects a President and a Council, which is the governing body between Assemblies. The Assembly is also responsible for the LWF Constitution and Bylaws. It gives general direction to the work of the Federation and acts on the reports of the President, General Secretary and Chairperson of the Finance Committee. The Assembly also enables churches to worship, witness, confer and speak together on matters common to the whole Church.

The Twelfth Assembly takes place in 2017 when the Lutheran Communion commemorates the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. Its theme “Liberated by God’s Grace” draws our attention to two key insights of Lutheran theology: the prevalence of God’s grace when it comes to justification, and the gift of freedom that results from God’s transformative action. Three sub-themes further explore the theme: Human beings – not for sale, salvation – not for sale and creation – not for sale.

Dr Denis Mukwege, founder of the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu in Congo, will give a keynote address on the theme of the Assembly. Since 1999 Dr. Mukwege and his staff have helped to care for more than 30,000 survivors of sexual violence.

LWF President Bishop Dr Munib Younan, General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge and Chairperson of the Finance Committee Ms Christina Jackson-Skelton will address the Assembly in their reports and speeches on the matters of the communion.

The Assembly starts with the opening worship on Wednesday 10 May at 9:30 am local time. The Assembly program is available at <https://www.lwfassembly.org/en/program/assembly-schedule>.



LWF TWELFTH ASSEMBLY  
WINDHOEK – NAMIBIA  
10–17 MAY 2017

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND  
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For further information please consult the LWF Assembly website  
**[www.lwfassembly.org](http://www.lwfassembly.org)**

The Assembly communication will take place in the four working languages of the LWF (English, German, French, and Spanish). A press office for accredited media representatives has been reserved by the Assembly Office.

Once accredited, media representatives will receive more detailed information as well as Assembly documents. Please share this invitation with media colleagues who may also be interested in seeking accreditation.

*Please note that media representatives are expected to pay for their own travel, accommodation and other expenses.*

Please fill out the online **media accreditation application form by 28 February 2017:**  
<https://www.lwfassembly.org/index.php/en/press/media-accreditation>.

With kind regards,



Arni Svanur Danielsson  
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Office for Communication Services  
Department for Planning and Operations  
Lutheran World Federation