



Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration

Rev. Dr Martin Junge - General Secretary The Lutheran World Federation

Rev. Dr Martin Junge is the first Latin American General Secretary of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a global communion of 145 churches in the Lutheran tradition representing over 74 million Christians in 98 countries.

Rev. Junge was born in Chile in 1961. He studied theology at Georg-August University in Göttingen, Germany and was ordained in Chile in 1989. After pastoring two congregations in Santiago, Rev. Junge was elected president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile in 1996. He joined the LWF in 2000 as Area Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The LWF Council elected Rev. Junge as General Secretary in 2009, and he assumed office on 1 November 2010. Under his leadership, the LWF has:

Adopted and is implementing its first LWF Strategy, consolidating a shared vision of the member churches, deepening their relationships and fostering their joint witness in the world.

Expanded its operations by almost doubling its budget and outreach to serve poor and marginalized populations worldwide and uphold their rights.

Adopted a "Gender Justice Policy" with a mandate to contextualize and implement it locally – the first for a Christian World Communion.

Prepared programs and activities to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Lutheran Reformation (1517–2017), with the pledge to approach the anniversary in a spirit of ecumenical accountability.

In June 2015 Rev. Junge received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Martin Junge and his wife Marietta Ruhland have two children.

[*Full biography on the LWF web site*](#)