

LWF Global Young Reformers Network

“Young people have a place and a voice in all aspects of church and communion life, including decision making and leadership.”

LWF Youth Priorities 2011-2017

LWF Strategy 2012-2017

Living Reformation projects

3 Themes

54 x Living reformation

5745 Youth directly involved

25897 people participated



Gender Justice

LWF Youth call on the Lutheran communion to challenge systems and practices that limit men's and women's choices based on gender.

LWF Visibility and the Role of Youth

LWF Youth advocate for more active youth participation through improved methods of communication, interaction, and decision-making.

Do you want to get involved with LWF Youth?

Connect with other Lutheran youth on Facebook Follow “LWFyouth” on Twitter and Instagram

- Check out the LWF Youth YouTube channel
- Contact the LWF Youth Secretary on Facebook
- Blog for LWF Youth
- Become a volunteer translator and help us make LWF Youth materials available in languages other than English, German, Spanish and French.

SALVATION NOT FOR SALE

We Lutherans understand that Luther's key message on justification by faith alone (rather than through our good works or indulgences we can purchase) should not be taken for granted in the 21st century. Salvation and wholeness, healed relationships, life in dignity, the longing for prosperity: none of these are for sale. We declare in a new age and in a new way that “Salvation is not for sale”.

Youth participation and leadership

Youth in decision-making
The LWF commits to 20% youth below the age of 30 in each decision making body. Youth delegates are prepared for their responsibilities in strategic meetings with young council members, with youth delegates to the LWF Assembly, or in regional leadership consultations.

Survey of youth participation and leadership in LWF member churches
According to the answers of 80 LWF member churches, youth participation today can fall into several different themes, such as:
- Being and Belonging
- Active participation and decision making
- Having a voice and speaking out
- Believing and Contributing
- Growing and Building
- Inter-generational sharing and sustainability
- Service and Guidance
- Commitment and shared responsibility

Tip: Download the study book for free and learn about the realities of young people today!

Intergenerational Sharing
The LWF communion is like a big family – it gathers different generations. We believe that working together across generations is valuable in shaping the future of the communion. We therefore developed a methodology for intergenerational dialogue and implemented it at the 2013 LWF Council meeting with a session on “Envisioning a sustainable LWF”.

Tip: Download the intergenerational toolkit in your language and try it in your own church!

“Youth who make the LWF communion”
After 70 years of the LWF, we see that the communion of churches is full of the stories and testimonies of those who were impacted by the LWF. Only we and who made us impact on the communion and their churches as young persons. The 2017 publication gathers testimonies from all regions and decades to underline the diversity of youth engagement and the importance for intergenerational dialogue.

Tip: Read about the Living Reformation projects around the world

Climate Justice Advocacy

From 2011 to 2017, the LWF closely followed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and was represented each year at a young delegation.

2013: The start of “Fast for the climate”
The Fast for the Climate movement started at the UN climate negotiations in Warsaw in November 2013. The young LWF delegation supported the call for the interfaith initiative #FastForTheClimate and invited people to fast on the first day of each month. This call quickly reached thousands of supporters around the world and resulted in new partnerships and networks with faith- and secular climate organisations.

Tip: See this video on how it started

2015: A key year for climate justice advocacy
In June 2015, the LWF Council adopted the “Public statement – Advocacy and Action for Climate Justice” with specific advocacy tasks for political leaders and member churches and the historic decision to “not meet in fossil fuels” anyone.

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2017: Harvesting of ideas and discussing the way forward
The LWF communion today is an ongoing global effort that is economically and ecologically. All Lutheran churches commemorate the Reformation anniversary locally and young reformers are a vital part of this. The project results and main ideas will be presented globally at the LWF Twelfth Assembly in Namibia and at the World Exhibition of Reformation in Germany.

2016: Living the ongoing reformation
The “Living Reformation projects” are youth-led projects that were launched on Reformation Day 2015 and implemented within one or two years at the local church level. They follow the Reformation themes “Salvation-not-for-sale”, “Human dignity belongs-not-for-sale”, and “Creation-not-for-sale”. All young reformers regularly connect and discuss online to that everyone can learn in a cross-regional and cross-cultural way.

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The LWF Global Young Reformers Network

Agents of ongoing reformation
The Global Young Reformers Network is a program of The Lutheran World Federation created by youth and for youth. We are active, creative Lutheran youth who identify with their own churches and therefore want to reform them. As we journey towards the 500th anniversary of the start of the Lutheran Reformation, we want to empower more youth to engage in all aspects of church and global communion life. With our global network of young reformers, we want to show the meaning of reformation: a church in ongoing reformation!

2013: Leadership by young people
The “steering team” was formed by seven youth leaders from the seven LWF regions and one creative advisor. They developed the objectives, program plan, and motto of the network: “Free by God's love to change the world.”

2014: Connecting online
All 145 LWF member churches were asked to endorse active youth – this has resulted in a network of 160 young reformer delegates from 94 Lutheran churches worldwide. To get to know each other, they engaged in social networking, Skype meetings, monthly webinars, and other forms.

2015: Regional meetings and the “Workshop Wittenberg”
Regional networks were developed by the young reformers of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa. All young reformers met for a first time in their region and then joined the respective regional leadership conferences in Taiwan, Maraga, Honolulu, 69 Plaza and Chicago. From 22 August to 4 September 2015, the “Workshop Wittenberg” brought together 140 young reformers from 80 LWF member churches in 50 countries.

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Tip: Read about the Living Reformation projects around the world

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Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland
“Who are we? What's our vocation?”
Global Young Reformers: Anahita Raza and Dorota Fanger
Implementation period: Oct. 2015 to Dec. 2016

Facts
Project holders: 2
People directly involved in the project: 34
People reached: 10-18
Age groups: 18-30
Project activity: Monthly
Website: facebook.com/whatwecanforpoland

What we have achieved
- We have created and published material on how to develop a diocesan project.
- We have reached and engaged over 413 youth in 21 groups all over Poland.
- “I want to see more youth engagement in my church and let them experience their Lutheran identity.”

What we aimed at
- Strengthening Lutheran identity and showing the presence of young Lutherans in Polish society.
- Martin Luther was moved by the Word of God written in the Scriptures, and then he began the Reformation. His main goal was to show people God's grace and love. We want to give youth the chance to meet with Martin Luther's discovery, and give them space to show God's love to one another.

For this we aimed
- To prepare material which consists of 3 lesson units for youth meetings.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Reclaiming, Reviving, Rethinking: Renewing Faith for Millennials
Global Young Reformers: Christine Stander and Nicole Newman
Implementation period: Aug. 2016 to Oct. 2016

Facts
Project holders: 2
People directly involved in the project: 27
People reached: 4650+ (via social media)
Age groups: 18-30
Project activity: 1 meeting
Website: elcayouthreformers.org

What we have achieved
- We met with youth and young adult voices, we are listening to what is on another's experience and we are sharing across synods, generations and continents.”

The problem at hand
We were realizing that there are more pushing young adults in the church than in other roles. We are also asking important questions about the way our faith is perceived in society and media, and how that may differ from our experience, understanding and proclamation of faith. What needs to be reclaimed? What needs rethinking? How can we be faithful to the cross, Gospel, grace – and our baptismal promises? How can we be faithful to the call to love our neighbor? How do we live to experience resurrection?

What we aimed at
- Accompanying young adults as they deepen in faith, discover their identity, uncover their vocation, and develop to present before who do justice in the world.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia
With activities for young people
Global Young Reformers: Marian Coy and Lina Suarez Preciado
Implementation period: October 2016 (ongoing)

Facts
Project holders: 2
People directly involved in the project: 27
People reached: 30
Age groups: 18-30
Project activity: Monthly

What we have achieved
- Implementation of 23 virtual workshops about the different themes.
- Virtual training for youth and church leaders of every parish in the Lutheran church in Colombia.

The way forward
We must continue working on this project and improving the material for further development. Launching the book is a concrete way of fulfilling our call to serve the church. We would like to extend the book with material on the different church vocations and professions in order to learn about our church members and to grow in the Lutheran community. The continuation of the project will be done in conjunction with the church members, leaders, and youth. We hope to continue with the support of our sub-themes (doctrinal, sacramental, environmental and political).

Church of Norway
Awareness Raising and Empowering Youth
Global Young Reformers: Anahita Raza and Dorota Fanger
Implementation period: Jan. 2016 – Feb. 2017

Facts
Project holders: 2
People directly involved in the project: 350
People reached: 10-18
Age groups: 18-30
Project activity: Monthly

What we have achieved
- We have created and published material on how to develop a diocesan project.
- We have reached and engaged over 413 youth in 21 groups all over Norway.

What we aimed at
- To explore what it means to be a Lutheran today in a global and pluralistic world. This is a part of a global Christian family. We want to empower the Lutheran youth in Norway to give their own voices and some basic knowledge of what is happening to our sisters and brothers all over the world. In this way we can give ourselves a voice to speak up against injustice and to inspire others to take action.

What we have achieved
- We presented the project material which consists of 3 lesson units for youth meetings.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia
Lutheran Doctrine
Global Young Reformers: Rev. Filimon Namuposhi
Implementation period: November 2015 (ongoing)

Facts
Project holders: 2
People directly involved in the project: 6
People reached: 3000
Age groups: 10-18
Project activity: Monthly

What we have achieved
- We have created and published material on how to develop a diocesan project.
- We have reached and engaged over 413 youth in 21 groups all over Namibia.

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- To explore what it means to be a Lutheran today in a global and pluralistic world. This is a part of a global Christian family. We want to empower the Lutheran youth in Namibia to give their own voices and some basic knowledge of what is happening to our sisters and brothers all over the world. In this way we can give ourselves a voice to speak up against injustice and to inspire others to take action.

What we have achieved
- We presented the project material which consists of 3 lesson units for youth meetings.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
Lutherian Identity
Global Young Reformers: Rev. Heli Ranta and Rev. Tapio Laitinen
Implementation period: 31 October 2015 (ongoing)

Facts
Project holders: 3
People directly involved in the project: 32
People reached: 8644 (social media)
Age groups: 10-18
Project activity: Monthly
Website: www.lutheran.fi

What we have achieved
- We have created and published material on how to develop a diocesan project.
- We have reached and engaged over 413 youth in 21 groups all over Finland.

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