



LWF CENTER  
WITTENBERG  
THE LUTHERAN  
WORLD FEDERATION

LWF Center Wittenberg, Töpferstraße 9, 06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Member Churches of the LWF

## **Studying Luther in Wittenberg Invitation to the 13<sup>th</sup> International Seminar within the Luther Decade**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the member churches of the Lutheran World Federation:

188 pastors from the different member churches have already participated in the 11 previous seminars within the Luther decade in Wittenberg, 20 more will be here to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> seminar in November this year. All these seminars have had this in common: that all participants enjoyed the teaching, the fellowship, and the program, and they went back home inspired, strengthened, and much more familiar with Luther, his time, and his theology. All liked the setting in this historical place and the opportunity to listen to each other, to learn from each other, and to experience spiritual community.

Again I encourage those member churches that haven't used this chance to send someone to such a seminar to identify a pastor. She or he will benefit for their ministry very much! You might be interested to read the comments from the previous participants which you find under <http://www.lwb-zentrum-wittenberg.de/seminare/archiv.html>

You are invited to send a pastor to the 13<sup>th</sup> **seminar** which will take place in Wittenberg from **February 27<sup>th</sup> until March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016** and will be led by Prof. Dr. Walter Altmann, Brasil and Prof. Dr. Lubomir Batka, Slovakia. The topic of the seminar will be: „The Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in Luther's Theology ". All participants will receive some relevant texts in advance so that they can prepare for the seminar. The seminar takes place in the Colleg Wittenberg, a venue right in the center of Luther's town.

Again we ask you kindly to identify appropriate female or male pastors in your churches. Since so far we had much less female pastors than male pastors we encourage you urgently to identify female pastors from your church who meet the requirements:

- **excellent** knowledge of English, because the seminar is conducted in English
- pastors with some years of parish experience or students with special competence in Lutheran theology
- basic theological education
- endorsement of the leadership of the church

We will invite 20 participants from the regions within the LWF. This will ensure a fruitful, cross-cultural dialogue that will strengthen the communion of the LWF.

We hope that participants will return to their respective home churches better equipped to



spread Lutheran theology and willing to announce the Luther Decade and the events of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and so involve their churches in these preparations. For the home churches, these seminars provide the opportunity to offer their pastors additional theological education.

The itinerary of the seminar will be as follows:

- 27.2. - arrival
- 28.2. - worship service in Wittenberg  
6.30 p.m. start with the dinner and welcome
- 29.2. – 4.3. - seminar, part one
- 5.3. - day trip to Erfurt, Augustinian Monastery, and Eisenach, Wartburg Castle
- 6.3. - worship service in Wittenberg, visiting Torgau
- 7. – 11.3. - seminar, part two
- 12.3. - departure

Participants in the seminar are required to be present for the **entire** seminar program. Personal trips or excursions after the seminar are possible at one's own expense and responsibility **and need to be mentioned on the application form** in order for the LWF Center to buy the health insurance and to issue the official letter of invitation for the appropriate time period.

Please find attached the nomination/registration form, which should be returned to us as soon as possible, but not later than November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Because of limited funds we have to ask the churches in North America, Western and Northern Europe to cover the costs or to subsidize their participants. In addition to travel expenses, participants need about 950,- Euro for accommodations, food, the day trip to the Wartburg and Torgau, entrance fees, materials, etc. We ask delegates from churches from other regions of the LWF **to kindly consider what they can contribute** (travel costs to get visa and to go to the airport, contribution to the stay in Wittenberg etc.). In a questionnaire we will send to the participants we will ask for your pledge. The more money is contributed, the more participants we can invite.

We need your cooperation and ask you to invite pastors from your church. So far, we have received many applications from the Global South but only a few from Central Western and Northern Europe and North America. Thus, we ask the Lutheran churches in these areas to encourage pastors to apply for the seminar. This invitation will come via different channels to you. All those who applied for a previous seminar but were not able to be accepted will receive the invitation directly.

All further communications will go directly to the participants, with copies sent to the respective churches and institutions. We kindly ask for your understanding if not all applications are accepted. This is due to limited financial means and limited capacities. But there will be seminars in the future, the next taking place in March 2017.

We do hope that this study opportunity will be of interest to member churches and their pastors. We look forward to a fruitful exchange within the communion of the LWF.

On behalf of Professor Altmann, Professor Batka, and myself, I send you kindest regards,

