



# THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

A COMMUNION OF CHURCHES – EINE KIRCHENGEMEINSCHAFT – UNA COMUNIÓN DE IGLESIAS – UNE COMMUNION D'ÉGLISES  
LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND – FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL – FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

## *2008 Christmas Message from the President of the Lutheran World Federation*

*The Word became flesh and made a home among us. – John 1:14*



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Home. The promise of being at home and in a place of security and peace is universally appealing, but fulfillment of the promise can be elusive. Cold and harsh realities lurk on the horizon like an ominous storm. Poverty and its attendant diseases persist; the infection of violent hatred can be found everywhere from international forums to local gatherings. In every corner of this world the human family yearns for a home, a place of joy, peace and hope.

Christmas brings good news of a great joy for you and all people: home is not far away. God has come to make a home with you in Jesus. In the life of this human brother, on the stage of human history, God took up residence in the world you and I inhabit. From

cradle to cross his life embodied the fulfillment of God's promised mercy—forgiveness for every sinner, liberation for the oppressed, the hope of welcome in the very heart of God.

This life—the Word deeply enfleshed in human experience—is the embodiment of God's glory, and the shining brightness of this embodied glory is like the lamp whose light transforms a cold, forbidding space into a warm and welcoming home. Even when your life's journey takes you far from the familiar sights and sounds of your childhood and you find yourself uprooted and displaced, this light searches you out, this God finds you, this home comes to you.

Good Christian friends, rejoice!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop Mark S. Hanson  
President, The Lutheran World Federation  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

November 2008

*The 2008 LWF Christmas card features embroidery done by 20-year-old Morsheda Khatun from Taluk Kalua village, Kurigram district, northeastern Bangladesh. She participated in a 2007 handicraft production course organized by the non-governmental organization Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), the LWF associate program in Bangladesh. Khatun's daily income of around 70 takka (one US dollar) provides for her basic needs and helps her support her family.*

*Mr Sirajus Sadeque, an artist working at RDRS, designed the image.*