Dear young reformers!

Not in their wildest dreams would the reformers from the 16th century have thought what you, the LWF Global Young Reformers, would achieve almost five hundred years later in that same city that became the cradle of the Reformation: to meet as young people from all continents of the world, from countries as diverse as Papua New Guinea, Argentina, Canada, Norway, United Kingdom, Hungary and Ethiopia, in order to discuss what is happening in Lutheran churches around the globe, as they prepare for the next decades of witness in our world.

Did you know that the reformers from the 16th century were young, too? Luther was 29, scholars say, when he rediscovered in the message of the Gospel, according to which God gives live and freedom by faith - not because of who we are, or what we do, but because of who God is and what God does.

Nothing wrong, hence, with being young and with being caught by the beauty and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! On the contrary: it is a blessing for the entire LWF communion to know about your meeting and to pray for meaningful discussions, growth in friendship and in faith, and for strong outcomes that will define your and our further work until the Assembly in the year 2017.

You all coming together in Wittenberg is a strong message. Because in a world that seems to struggle so much with conflict and division, your togetherness becomes a sign of hope: There is a young generation committed to building relationships of mutuality and of solidarity; there is a generation that is keen to “live and work together for a just, peaceful and reconciled world” (LWF Strategy). Let that message of hope speak eloquently as you meet and relate to each other.

May God bless your meeting,

Rev Dr Martin Junge

General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation