

To:
LWF Member Churches

Geneva, 11 November 2022

CALL FOR SONGS FOR THE GLOBAL ACHTLIEDERBUCH

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In 1524, Martin Luther published his first hymnal, the so-called *Achtliederbuch*. It documented what was sung in the young congregations of the reformation movement. It included new hymns, drawing from the popular musical culture, and newly arranged Gregorian chants that invited worshippers to join in the singing. The hymns were meant to be sung in churches and homes, to grow in faith and discipleship. These early hymns of the reformation movement also provided a foundation for artful interpretations by composers such as J.S. Bach till the present day and have become important cornerstones of a tradition of sacred music that is performed in many parts of our world.

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of this hymnal, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) will release a hymn book in 2024, titled *Of Pilgrimage, Freedom and Belonging - A Global Achtliederbuch*. It will contain music, prayers, and blessings expressing the hopes and visions, from a global perspective, of being Christian in the Lutheran communion. The collection will stem from the seven regions of the LWF as well as new arrangements and settings of Luther's chorales are included as a shared global heritage.

The content of the 2024 Hymnbook will be curated by a group representing the seven regions of the LWF as well as people who work in the field of ecumenical faith relations from a global perspective. The group includes pastors, lay people, and professional musicians from over 20 different countries. Members of the 2017 and 2023 LWF General Assembly worship teams are included as well. The overall coordination on behalf of the LWF is carried out by the Liturgical Institute in Leipzig.

Timeline

The hymnal will be edited and designed in the fall of 2023 and printed in the beginning of 2024.

Its structure follows the arch expressed in its title:

"Pilgrimage: being on a journey ever deeper into faith, guided by Scripture and the grace of Jesus Christ. Longing and striving for **Freedom**, working toward a more just and generous world for all creation, shaped by God's immeasurable love. Celebrating **Belonging**, as one communion through the Holy Spirit in the one body of Christ."

We invite all LWF member churches to send in favorite songs, new arrangements or settings of Luther chorales and short prayers of longing, lament, hope and thankfulness as well as blessings for everyday life. We are grateful if you could, if possible, add an English translation of hymns, prayers or blessings that are not composed in one of the LWF's four official languages. The deadline for submission is 28 February 2023. We would also welcome videos of these prayers, blessings, and songs spoken and sung from your communities.

You can submit your suggestions and find more information here:
<http://hymnsandrites2024.org>

Thank you so much for your support.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Burghardt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Anne Burghardt
General Secretary