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Rev. Rostislav Novgorodov

Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
the Republic of Kazakhstan

Geneva, 23 August 2024

**Rev. Rostislav Novgorodov**

Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Kazakhstan

On behalf of the Lutheran World Federation, a global communion of 150 churches in 99 countries, I extend our heartfelt congratulations on your election and installation as the new bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Kazakhstan. This is a momentous occasion, and we rejoice with you and the entire church community.

As you step into this new role, I would like to greet you with the words from Psalm 94:18: *“When I thought, ‘My foot is slipping,’ your steadfast love, O Lord, sustained me.”* In today’s world, the role of a Lutheran bishop is both challenging and rewarding. I wish that your steadfast faith and God’s unwavering love will support you in dealing with these responsibilities.

The Apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 12:9, reminds and assures you, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”* I pray that God’s grace will also strengthen you in your moments of weakness, which will inevitably come in your ministry. As a bishop, you are called to lead with humility and strength, knowing that God’s grace will guide you and make your leadership fruitful.

The Lutheran World Federation remains committed to supporting you and your church in continuing to bring the Good News of God’s love and salvation to every person and all creation. We pray for you now as you begin this new chapter of ministry and will accompany you with our prayers in the future. May God bless you with wisdom, strength, and grace as you serve His people.

While we rejoiced at your election as the new bishop, we were deeply concerned to hear about Archbishop Yuri Timofeyevich Novgorodov’s health problems. We wish him much strength and good health, and we pray to God for his recovery. Having worked closely with him for many years, we shared a cordial, fraternal relationship. His great commitment to the Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan, dedication to all those in need, and efforts in ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue are deeply appreciated. This dedication extended far beyond the borders of the country, encompassing not only the countries and churches of the ELCROS communion but also many others.

I would like to express my deep gratitude for the fruitful cooperation with your predecessor, Archbishop Yuri Timofeyevich Novgorodov. His leadership and dedication strengthened the bonds between churches and many people. We hope that Archbishop Yuri Novgorodov will be able to represent the LWF at this year's meeting of the Secretariat of the International Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, in whose work he has been so actively involved for many years. As requested by the Archbishop Yuri Novgorodov, we would be glad if, in the future, you, as the bishop of your church, could continue this work and represent us in the organization of the Congress.

I am also pleased that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan is seeking direct membership in the Lutheran World Federation. This is a significant step, and we are fully committed to supporting you throughout this process.

I trust that together we will continue to nurture strong relationships, supporting and strengthening each other in the service of the Gospel to which we have been called.

May God richly bless you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ireneusz Lukas', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Dr Ireneusz Lukas  
LWF Regional Secretary for Europe