

PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONALE MARTIN LUTHER STIFTUNG

Erfurt, 27th May 2016

Danish businessman receives the LutherRose 2016

The International Martin Luther Foundation (IMLS) plans to award the *LutherRose 2016 for social responsibility and Entrepreneurial Courage* to the Danish businessman Niels Due Jensen in the Danish National Museum in Copenhagen on 12th November 2016.

Niels Due Jensen, Chairman of the Poul Due Jensen Foundation, receives this award from the International Martin Luther Foundation. The foundation is registered in Eisenach home of the Wartburg where Luther translated the Bible, and has its offices in St Augustine's, Martin Luther's former monastery in Erfurt, the capital of the German Federal State of Thuringia.

The reasoning for the nomination includes the following: The foundation honours Niels Due Jensen as a person, *"[...] who through his private life and professional activities has used the reformatory traditions of freedom and responsibility for the common good"*. He made the Danish pump-manufacturer Grundfos into a global player in the struggle to provide clean drinking-water for people all over the world. Henrik Stubkjær, Bishop of Viborg described Niels Due Jensen as *"[...] a person who is firmly anchored in Christian values and and is very aware of his responsibility for his time and for our world."*

Karsten Dybvad, director general of the Confederation of Danish Industry, will give the laudation. He said the following concerning Niels Due Jensen: *"Social responsibility, decency and respect for the individual are just some of the words that characterize Niels Due Jensen not only as a person, but also as a businessman. In that sense, he is an inspiration to us all."*

Margrethe Vestager, the European Commissioner for Competition will present the commemorative speech at the event. She stated:

"This conference provides the opportunity for an exchange of perspectives of the socio-political and economic consequences of the Reformation. I am looking forward to participating at the LutherRose award ceremony in Copenhagen this year."



Niels Due Jensen, born 1943, completed his apprenticeship as a skilled machinist in 1964. Following his graduation with a degree in mechanical engineering from Aarhus Technical College in 1971, he worked for Grundfos and joined the company's management in 1977. From 1980 to 2003 he served as Group CEO of Grundfos and from 2003 to 2011 as Group Chairman of Grundfos, followed by 5 years as an ordinary board member until he retired from the

holding board this April, after almost four decades of activity in senior management. Niels Due Jensen, however, continues as Chairman of the majority owner of Grundfos – the Poul Due Jensen Foundation – giving full attention to the active ownership of Grundfos.

Niels Due Jensen is considered a keen debater, who goes his own way and is not afraid to speak his own mind, even in public.

Grundfos was established in 1945 in Bjerringbro by Poul Due Jensen, the father of Niels Due Jensen. Initially the business was called Bjerringbro Pressestøberi og Maskinfabrik but in 1967 the name was changed to Grundfos. The company is one of the leading manufacturers of pumps and pumping systems worldwide. Grundfos currently employs over 18,000 people in 55 countries and is one of the ten largest companies in Denmark by turnover. The ideals of Grundfos include *responsible actions, in business as well as in society*.

In order to secure the future of the company the **Poul Due Jensen Foundation** was established in 1975. The foundation is the majority shareholder and holds 88 % of the shares in Grundfos Holding A/S.

The German **Niels Due Jensen Foundation** was created in 2010 to mark the occasion of the 50th jubilee of the founding of the two German subsidiaries. The aim of this non-profit-making organisation is to support projects that assist people through training to become self-sufficient.

Photo: thepoulduejensenfoundation.com

The *LutherRose* will be presented on 12th November 2016 directly following on from the 9th LutherConference on the future of business and society organised by the IMLS. This year marks the ninth time that the prize has been awarded. The previous prize holders are Dr. Heinz Horst Deichmann (2008), Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr.-Ing. h. c. Hans Peter Keitel (2009), Gabriela Grillo (2010), Dr. Dirk Ippen (2011) Jon Baumhauer (2012), Dr. Peter Gauweiler (2013) Dietrich Pestalozzi (2014) and last year Ulla Unseld-Berkéwicz (2015).



The prize itself is a quality reproduction based on a pane from the medieval stained glass windows (from about 1310) of St Augustine's church in Erfurt. Martin Luther lived as a monk at St Augustine's monastery in Erfurt from 17th July 1505 until autumn 1511. He would have had this window in front of him each time he prayed, which would have been at least seven times every day and was the inspiration for his coat-of-arms. It portrays a rose between two lions. On 8th July 1530 Martin Luther described this rose as "a sign of my theology" and provided it with an impressive, meditative explanation.

Henceforth he used it as his seal for documents. Since then the Luther-Rose has become one of the important symbols of international Evangelical-Lutheran Christianity.

The IMLS is grateful to the German Savings Banks Association (DSGV), which has also sponsored this year's conference and award ceremony.

**Programme and venue of the
9th LutherConference & LutherRose award ceremony 2016**

Luther, Marx and the Consequences

The Reformation and the Modern Welfare State

Date: Saturday 12th November 2016

Venue: Prinzen-Palais in the Danish National Museum Copenhagen,
Prinsens Palæ, Ny Vestergade 10, 1471 København

15:00 9th LutherConference
"Lutheran State Socialism?"
Opportunities and risks of present day social politics in Denmark and Europe

18:00 Award Ceremony - presentation of the LutherRose 2016

Registration:

Tel: +49 361 55 45 85 40

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Registration closes on Reformation Day 31st October 2016

The *Internationale Martin Luther Stiftung* is registered in Eisenach and was founded on 10th November 2007 in Wittenberg. Its aims are to develop the basic impulses of the Reformation into a topic-related and outcome-oriented dialogue between Church, business, academia and politics, in order to contribute to the development of a responsible and efficient business and civil society. It supports people, groups, ideas and initiatives that promote Christian values and ethical business practices based on the Reforming tradition and that use their talents for the general good.

You can receive more information about the awardee from:

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