

## Highlights

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The Geneva-based Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance has released a new guide aimed at helping Christians to talk openly and accurately, and with compassion about why HIV spreads...

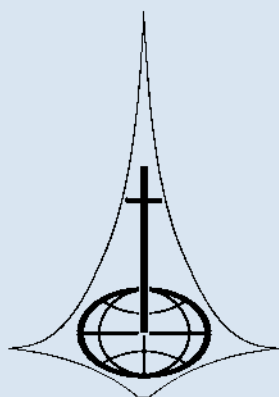
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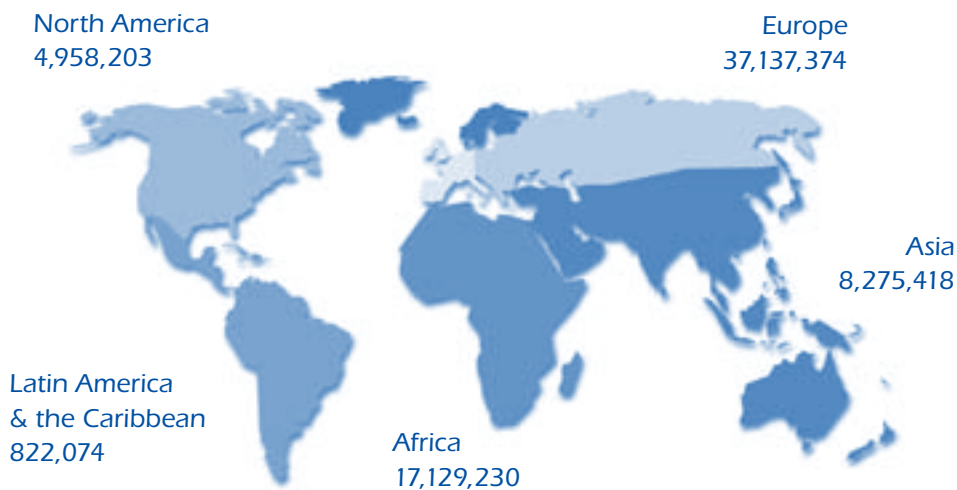
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After some 50 years, the German National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation has relocated its previously Stuttgart-based Office for Church Cooperation and World Service to the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany central office in Hanover...



## Global Increase in LWF Churches' Membership Pushes Total to 68.3 Million



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### LWF 2007 Membership Figures

## An Additional Two Million Members in Africa's Lutheran Churches

**GENEVA (LWI)** – Africa's Lutheran churches saw their total membership increase over the past year by just under two million, boosting the total membership of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches worldwide to over 68.3 million. Lutheran churches in Asia registered an increase overall, while slight decreases were again recorded in other world regions.

According to the latest LWF statistics, membership in the organization's 140 churches, 10 recognized congregations, and one recognized council in 78 countries worldwide rose by a total of 1,640,700, to reach 68,322,299, an increase of 2.5 percent over the previous year. In 2006, LWF member churches had some 66.7 million members worldwide, up from 66.2 million in 2005.

Over the past year, the total membership of all Lutheran churches worldwide rose by

1,623,024 to approximately 71.8 million (71,823,423), an increase of 2.3 percent. In 2006, all Lutheran churches worldwide counted some 70.2 million members, up from 69.8 million in 2005. The number of Lutherans in non-LWF member churches fell by 17,676, or 0.5 percent, to reach 3,501,124.

### Ethiopia Has World's Second Largest Lutheran Church

Over the past year, LWF church membership in Africa rose by 1,926,407 or 12.7 percent to reach a total of 17,129,230. The membership of non-LWF Lutheran churches in Africa remained unchanged at 56,069.

With an increase of 368,861 members, or 8.2 percent, to 4,869,157, the Ethiopian

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### LWF President Asks Prayers for Kenya

In a 8 February message to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), **Rev. Mark S. Hanson**, ELCA presiding bishop and LWF president asked the church's members to "join brothers and sisters throughout the world in prayer for peace and reconciliation in Kenya," in view of the political crisis there.

Hanson's message also served as a report with updates about mission personnel serving there and contacts with the local LWF member churches, including through Church World Service, the relief, development and refugee agency of 35 US churches including the ELCA.

*(ELCA News Service)*

### New Resource Equips Churches to Talk About HIV Prevention

The Geneva-based Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) has released a new guide aimed at helping Christians to talk openly and accurately, and with compassion about why HIV spreads and what they can do as individuals and communities to stop transmission of the virus.

The new guide titled, "Exploring Solutions: How to Talk about HIV Prevention in the Church" includes sections explaining the dialogue approach and practical considerations. It outlines six possible dialogue themes: dialogue, stigma and HIV prevention; HIV transmission and prevention; vulnerability; sex and sexuality; testing and counseling; and promoting life.

"While churches have been leaders in caring for people affected by HIV and AIDS," says EAA



coordinator, Linda Hartke, "church people and others have often been too silent or judgmental about how people get the virus because it touches on issues like sex and injecting drug use. We hope this guide helps people discuss in a respectful environment not just personal behavior but conditions in society that make some people much more vulnerable to infection."

The Lutheran World Federation is a member of EAA, a broad international network of churches and Christian organizations cooperating in advocacy on global trade and HIV and AIDS.

The 44-page resource is available for free in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. Copies can be downloaded or ordered at:

[www.e-alliance.ch/hivaids\\_exploringsolutions.jsp](http://www.e-alliance.ch/hivaids_exploringsolutions.jsp)

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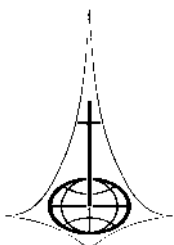
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The Lutheran World Information (LWI) is the information service of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

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# Global Increase in LWF Churches' Membership Pushes Total to 68.3 Million

*Continued from page 1*

Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the largest LWF member church on the continent, now becomes the second largest worldwide. The Church of Sweden remains the world's biggest Lutheran church with 6.9 million members.

Among African churches, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, the continent's second largest Lutheran church, recorded the highest membership increase—32.4 percent—with an additional 1,132,480 new members to reach a total of 4,632,480, making it the fourth largest Lutheran church in the world. The ELCT attributes its growth to “effective evangelism in [its] dioceses over the past two years ... and a realistic authentication of statistics.” The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria saw its membership rise by 380,630, or 27.9 percent, to 1,745,050. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana also grew a substantial 25.1 percent, with membership up 5,521 to reach 27,521. Membership in the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church was up by 8,000, or 22.2 percent, to 44,000. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi reported 60,000 members, for an increase of 10,000 or 20 percent.

Other churches on the continent recording an over 10 percent increase included the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Angola, Kenya and Cameroon.

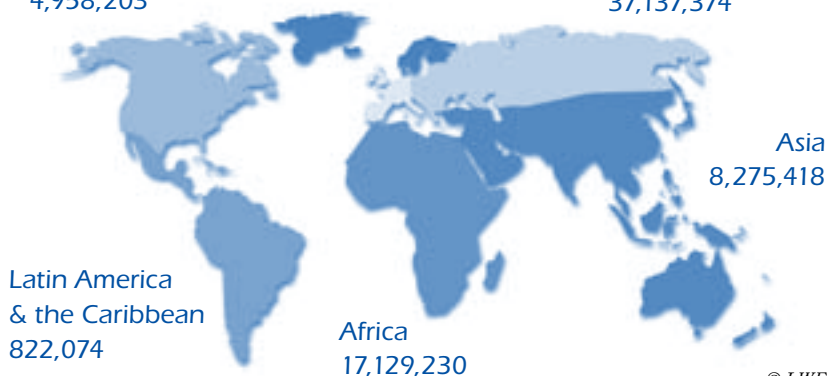
While no statistical changes were reported by the 3-million-member Malagasy Lutheran Church, the third largest Lutheran church in Africa, a 12.4 percent decrease in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique put its total at 6,482.

## Asia: Over 100,000 New Members

The total number of Lutherans in Asia rose 101,439 in 2007, an increase

North America  
4,958,203

Europe  
37,137,374



© LWF

## LWF 2007 Membership Figures

of 1.22 percent. Of a total 8,415,776 Lutherans in Asia, 8,275,418 belonged to LWF member churches, which corresponds to a 1.24 percent increase or 101,258 members.

Membership in Asia's largest Lutheran church, the Protestant Christian Batak Church (Indonesia) remained steady at 3.75 million.

In terms of absolute figures, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea registered the highest growth in the region with 85,000 new members or 10.4 percent increase, to count 900,000 members. The United Protestant Church (Indonesia) recorded 1,150 additional members, or 11.5 percent, to reach 11,150. A more than 6 percent increase was recorded by the Bangladesh Lutheran Church and the Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (Indonesia).

Decreases were registered by the Lutheran Church in Singapore, Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church (India) and the Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church.

## Europe: Membership Nearly 300,000 Down

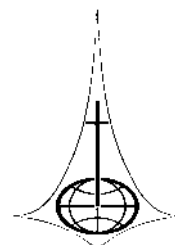
Over the past year, the total membership of Lutheran churches in Europe fell again by 292,117, or 0.78 percent, to reach 37,177,468. Membership in LWF member churches went down

by 292,031, also 0.78 percent, to 37,137,374.

Membership in the world's largest Lutheran church, the Church of Sweden, remained nearly unchanged over the course of 2007, with a slight drop of 0.03 percent to reach 6,893,901. The fifth largest LWF member church worldwide, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, saw its membership drop by 22,983, or 0.5 percent, to 4,533,629. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, the sixth largest LWF member church, recorded a decrease of 13,274, or 0.3 percent, to 4,493,168. The Church of Norway had 67,531 fewer members, or 1.71 percent, to reach 3,871,513.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia recorded a 25 percent membership increase or 3,000 new members to reach 15,000, while the Lutheran Church in Great Britain grew by 18.6 percent (440 members) to 2,810. The Evangelical Lutheran Church – Synod of France and Belgium, a non-LWF church, recorded the highest percentage increase in Europe by a two-thirds' rise (400 members) to 1,000. The Protestant Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine (France) increased by 10,000 members, or 4.8 percent, to 220,000.

With 2,330 fewer members, the Lutheran Church in Ireland,



an LWF recognized congregation, recorded the highest percentage of membership loss—75 percent—to reach 770. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary recorded a significant decrease of 30.1 percent due to a change in the method used to count its membership. It had 213,125 members, down 91,875 from the previous year.

## German Churches Count 100,000 Fewer Members

In 2007 the total number of Lutheran Christians in Germany was 12,627,746, reflecting a decrease of 105,245, or 0.83 percent. Germany continues to be the country with the highest number of Lutheran Christians in the world. Lutheran churches there had 12.7 million members in 2006 and 12.9 million members in 2005. The number of Lutherans in LWF member churches there fell by 104,774, also 0.83 percent, to reach 12,590,247.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover, the country's largest Lutheran church, recorded 3,023,897 members, for a decrease of 21,457, or 0.7 percent. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria reported 2.6 million members, reflecting a 1.5 percent decrease of 40,724. Membership in the Evangelical Church in Württemberg fell by 18,803, or 0.8 percent, to 2,304,062. A decrease of 0.5 percent or 10,645 fewer members in the North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church put the total at 2,099,315.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony recorded 823,487 members, reflecting a decrease of 10,339 or 1.2 percent. A drop in membership was also recorded in the Evangelical Church of Pomerania, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe, and the Church of Lippe [Lutheran Section], as well as in the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church, a non-LWF church.

Slight membership increases were recorded in the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Thuringia and Mecklen-

burg, and in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad.

Membership figures remained unchanged for the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Baden, Brunswick and Oldenburg, and in the non-LWF member Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany.

## Slight Decrease in Latin America

The total membership in Lutheran churches in Latin America and the Caribbean fell last year by 14,053, or 1.26 percent to reach 1,104,194. A drop of 2.34 percent among LWF member churches in the region put the total at 822,074. Non-LWF churches registered 5,633 new members, a 2 percent increase, to reach 282,120.

While most Lutheran churches in Latin America and the Caribbean reported little change in their membership statistics, the region's largest Lutheran church, the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, registered a 2.3 percent decrease or 16,756 members to reach 703,000. Declining membership was also reported by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia and the Argentina-based Evangelical Church of the River Plate. The non-LWF Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil reported 230,215 members last year, a rise of 5,692, or 2.5 percent.

The LWF's recognized congregations in Mexico and Peru noted major changes in their membership figures.

Membership in the German-Speaking Evangelical Congregation in Mexico fell by four-fifths, 2,474 fewer members to reach 636, while a 45 percent drop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru pushed the total down by 180, to 220 members.

## Nearly 100,000 Fewer Lutherans in North America

Total membership in North American Lutheran churches fell by 98,652

or 1.23 percent in 2007. Of a total 7,940,686 Lutherans, 4,958,203 belonged to LWF member churches. The region's LWF member churches registered a decrease of 75,248 members, or 1.49 percent.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the LWF's third largest member church, recorded 4,774,203 members in 2007, a decrease of 76,573, or 1.6 percent. Membership in the Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Diaspora (USA) remained unchanged at 1,500.

Decreases were also recorded in non-LWF churches—the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (USA and Canada), with 2,417,997 members, for a loss of 22,867 or 0.9 percent, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, down by 1.2 percent, to 396,000.

The non-LWF Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (USA) registered a 10.3 percent increase (4,041) to 43,360 members.

Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada remained relatively stable in 2007, falling by a mere 0.03 percent to count 174,500, while the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (Canada) recorded an increase of just under 21 percent, pushing the total to 8,000.

*15 February 2008*

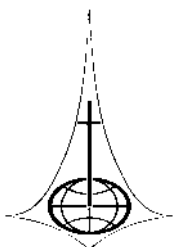
*The LWF membership statistics are based on information received from the LWF member churches, recognized congregations and council, as well as from other Lutheran churches, organizations, mission bodies and congregations. The figures recorded for the year ending 2007 were used for churches that did not indicate any changes by the end of January 2008.*

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# The Lutheran World Federation 2007 Membership Figures

## Summary

The following figures give the membership of the 140 LWF member churches (M), including two associate member churches (AM), 10 recognized congregations and one recognized council (R), as well as other Lutheran churches, bodies or congregations (C).

### General Summary 2007

140 LWF member churches, 10 recognized congregations and one recognized council .....	68,322,299
Lutherans outside LWF constituency.....	3,501,124
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>71,823,423</b>

Continent	All Lutherans	LWF Membership	Other Churches
<b>Africa</b>	17,185,299	17,129,230	56,069
<b>Asia</b>	8,415,776	8,275,418	140,358
<b>Europe</b>	37,177,468	37,137,374	40,094
<b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</b>	1,104,194	822,074	282,120
<b>North America</b>	7,940,686	4,958,203	2,982,483
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,823,423</b>	<b>68,322,299</b>	<b>3,501,124</b>

### Countries with more than half a million Lutherans

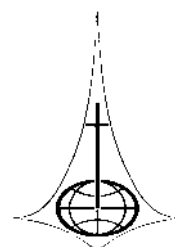
<b>Germany*</b>	12,627,746	<b>Madagascar</b>	3,000,000
<b>USA*</b>	7,682,436	<b>Netherlands</b>	2,300,000
<b>Sweden</b>	6,893,901	<b>Nigeria</b>	1,880,050
<b>Indonesia</b>	5,190,672	<b>India</b>	1,850,588
<b>Ethiopia</b>	4,869,157	<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	1,040,000
<b>Tanzania</b>	4,632,480	<b>Namibia</b>	1,007,395
<b>Finland</b>	4,533,629	<b>Brazil</b>	934,265
<b>Denmark</b>	4,493,263	<b>South Africa</b>	696,873
<b>Norway</b>	3,893,333		

*\* These figures include the membership of the Baltic churches abroad.*

### Lutheran churches with more than half a million members

<b>Church of Sweden</b>	6,893,901	<b>Protestant Church in the Netherlands</b>	2,300,000
<b>The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus</b>	4,869,157	<b>North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>	2,099,315
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</b>	4,774,203	<b>The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria</b>	1,745,050
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania</b>	4,632,480	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>	900,000
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland</b>	4,533,629	<b>of Papua New Guinea</b>	
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark</b>	4,493,168	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony</b>	823,487
<b>Church of Norway</b>	3,871,513	<b>Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>	800,000
<b>Protestant Christian Batak Church</b>	3,750,000	<b>Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession</b>	703,000
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover</b>	3,023,897	<b>in Brazil</b>	
<b>Malagasy Lutheran Church</b>	3,000,000	<b>The Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>	652,195
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria</b>	2,600,000	<b>in Namibia (ELCIN)</b>	
<b>The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**</b>	2,417,997	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>	580,377
<b>Evangelical Church in Württemberg</b>	2,304,062	<b>in Southern Africa</b>	

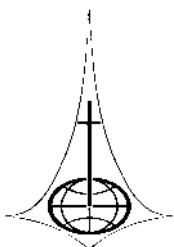
*\*\* Not an LWF member church*



## 2007 World Lutheran Membership Details

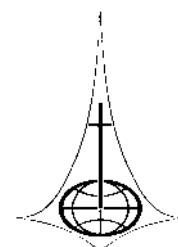
- (M) Member Church
- (AM) Associate Member Church
- (R) Recognized Congregation or Recognized Council
- (C) Other Lutheran churches, bodies or congregations

<b>Africa</b>	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Angola</b> .....		<b>29,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Angola (M) .....	29,000	
<b>Botswana</b> .....		<b>21,110</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (M) .....	21,110	
<b>Cameroon</b> .....		<b>325,372</b>
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Cameroon (M) .....	105,994	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (M) .....	215,020	
The Lutheran Church of Cameroon (C) .....	4,358	
<b>Central African Republic</b> .....		<b>55,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (M) .....	55,000	
<b>Chad</b> .....		<b>21,305</b>
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Chad (C) .....	21,305	
<b>Congo, Democratic Republic</b> .....		<b>136,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (M) .....	136,000	
<b>Congo, Republic</b> .....		<b>1,828</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo (C) .....	1,828	
<b>Eritrea</b> .....		<b>11,000</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (M) .....	11,000	
<b>Ethiopia</b> .....		<b>4,869,157</b>
The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (M) .....	4,869,157	
<b>Ghana</b> .....		<b>27,521</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (M) .....	27,521	
<b>Kenya</b> .....		<b>129,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (M) .....	85,000	
Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	44,000	
<b>Liberia</b> .....		<b>71,196</b>
Lutheran Church in Liberia (M) .....	71,196	
<b>Madagascar</b> .....		<b>3,000,000</b>
Malagasy Lutheran Church (M) .....	3,000,000	
<b>Malawi</b> .....		<b>60,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (M).....	60,000	
<b>Mozambique</b> .....		<b>6,482</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique (M).....	6,482	

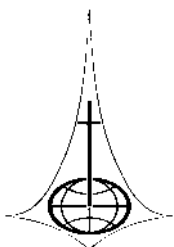


## Individual Churches    National Total

<b>Namibia</b> .....	<b>1,007,395</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN-GELC) (M) .....	5,200
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) (M).....	350,000
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN) (M).....	652,195
<b>Nigeria</b> .....	<b>1,880,050</b>
The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (M) .....	1,745,050
The Lutheran Church of Nigeria (M).....	135,000
<b>Rwanda</b> .....	<b>35,724</b>
Lutheran Church of Rwanda (M).....	35,724
<b>Senegal</b> .....	<b>4,053</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal (C).....	no data
The Lutheran Church of Senegal (M) .....	4,053
<b>Sierra Leone</b> .....	<b>3,150</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (M) .....	3,150
<b>South Africa</b> .....	<b>696,873</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church) (M).....	4,108
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (M).....	580,377
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Natal-Transvaal) (M).....	9,730
Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (C).....	2,658
Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (C).....	20,000
Moravian Church in South Africa (M) .....	80,000
<b>Tanzania</b> .....	<b>4,632,480</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (M) .....	4,632,480
<b>Togo</b> .....	<b>5,920</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Togo (C).....	5,920
<b>Zambia</b> .....	<b>5,683</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (M).....	5,683
<b>Zimbabwe</b> .....	<b>150,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (M).....	150,000
<b>Asia</b>	
<b>Australia</b> .....	<b>75,000</b>
Lutheran Church of Australia (AM).....	75,000
<b>Bangladesh</b> .....	<b>13,684</b>
Bangladesh Lutheran Church (M) .....	4,800
Bangladesh Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	8,884
<b>Georgia</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ( <i>see Russian Federation</i> )	
<b>Hong Kong (China)</b> .....	<b>48,983</b>
Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church (M).....	2,065
Lutheran Church, Hong Kong Synod (C).....	8,300
The Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (M) .....	14,000
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (M) .....	15,118
Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong (M).....	9,500

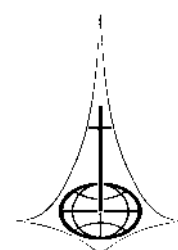


<b>India</b> .....	<b>1,850,588</b>
Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	800,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh (M).....	15,850
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Himalayan States (M) .....	24,750
Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	9,837
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam (M).....	400,000
India Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	80,000
Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	133,500
North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church (C).....	110,301
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	85,000
<i>(see Nepal)</i>	
South Andhra Lutheran Church (M) .....	45,500
The Arcot Lutheran Church (M).....	37,000
The Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	108,850
<b>Indonesia</b> .....	<b>5,190,672</b>
Batak Christian Community Church (M) .....	20,000
Christian Communion of Indonesia Church in Nias (Gereja AMIN) (M).....	18,561
Christian Protestant Angkola Church (M) .....	28,592
Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia (M) .....	355,316
Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (M).....	23,000
Pakpak Dairi Christian Protestant Church (M) .....	35,798
Protestant Christian Batak Church (M).....	3,750,000
Protestant Christian Church in Mentawai (M).....	38,907
Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (M) .....	210,659
The Indonesian Christian Church (M).....	350,000
The Protestant Christian Church (M) .....	348,689
The United Protestant Church (M).....	11,150
<b>Israel</b> .....	<b>130</b>
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission – Shalhevetyah Christian Center and Congregation (C) ....	80
Lutheran Church in Israel Immanuel Church (C) .....	50
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (M) <i>(see Jordan and Palestinian Territories)</i>	
<b>Japan</b> .....	<b>32,544</b>
Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	22,056
Japan Lutheran Brethren Church (C).....	1,219
Japan Lutheran Church (AM).....	2,732
Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	2,745
West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	3,792
<b>Jordan</b> .....	<b>3,000</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (M) .....	3,000
<i>(see Israel and Palestinian Territories)</i>	
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) <i>(see Russian Federation)</i>	
<b>Korea, Republic</b> .....	<b>5,239</b>
Lutheran Church in Korea (M).....	5,239
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) <i>(see Russian Federation)</i>	
<b>Malaysia</b> .....	<b>93,942</b>
Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (M) .....	50,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (M).....	3,000
Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (M) .....	8,942
The Protestant Church in Sabah (M).....	32,000

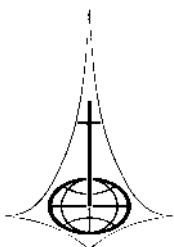




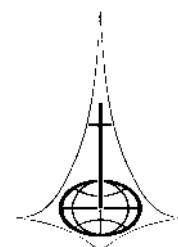
<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Myanmar</b> .....	<b>1,900</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (Lutheran Bethlehem Church) (M).....	1,900
<b>Nepal</b>	
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) ( <i>see India</i> )	
<b>New Zealand</b> .....	<b>1,065</b>
Lutheran Church of New Zealand (C) .....	1,065
( <i>a district of the Lutheran Church of Australia</i> )	
<b>Palestinian Territories</b>	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (M) ( <i>see Israel and Jordan</i> )	
<b>Papua New Guinea</b> .....	<b>1,040,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (M).....	900,000
Gutnius Lutheran Church – Papua New Guinea (M) .....	140,000
<b>Philippines</b> .....	<b>27,000</b>
Lutheran Church in the Philippines (M) .....	27,000
<b>Singapore</b> .....	<b>3,521</b>
Lutheran Church in Singapore (M) .....	3,521
<b>Sri Lanka</b> .....	<b>5,324</b>
Lanka Lutheran Church (M) .....	5,324
<b>Taiwan</b> .....	<b>20,372</b>
China Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	2,621
China Lutheran Gospel Church (C) .....	225
Chinese Lutheran Brethren Church (C) .....	1,668
Taiwan Lutheran Church (M).....	13,044
The Lutheran Church of Taiwan (Republic of China) (M).....	1,614
The Lutheran Church of the Republic of China (C).....	1,200
<b>Thailand</b> .....	<b>2,812</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (M).....	2,812
( <i>including the Lutheran Mission in Thailand</i> )	
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ( <i>see Russian Federation</i> )	
<b>Europe</b>	
<b>Austria</b> .....	<b>320,264</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria (M).....	320,264
<b>Belarus</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ( <i>see Russian Federation</i> )	
<b>Belgium</b> .....	<b>809</b>
Lutheran Church of Belgium: Arlon and Christian Mission (R).....	809
<b>Croatia</b> .....	<b>3,329</b>
Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia (M) .....	3,329
<b>Czech Republic</b> .....	<b>140,000</b>
Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (M) .....	110,000
Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (M).....	30,000



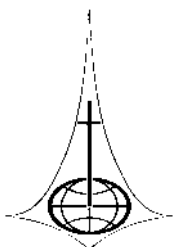
<b>Denmark</b> (including Faroe Islands and Greenland).....	<b>4,493,263</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M).....	4,493,168
The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark (C).....	95
<b>Estonia</b> .....	<b>163,500</b>
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	163,500
<b>Faroe Islands</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) ( <i>see Denmark</i> )	
<b>Finland</b> .....	<b>4,533,629</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (M).....	4,533,629
(including ELCF members abroad)	
<b>France</b> .....	<b>271,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church – Synod of France and Belgium (C).....	1,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of France (M).....	40,000
Malagasy Protestant Church in France (M).....	10,000
Protestant Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine (M).....	220,000
<b>Germany</b> .....	<b>12,627,746</b>
Church of Lippe [Lutheran Section] (M).....	31,000
Evangelical Church in Württemberg (M).....	2,304,062
Evangelical Church of Pomerania (M).....	101,576
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden (M).....	3,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (M).....	2,600,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick (M).....	405,614
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg (M).....	463,448
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia (M).....	440,866
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover (M).....	3,023,897
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg (M).....	208,532
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony (M).....	823,487
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe (M).....	60,800
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany (C).....	1,470
Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (C).....	36,029
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M).....	24,150
North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	2,099,315
<b>Greenland</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) ( <i>see Denmark</i> )	
<b>Hungary</b> .....	<b>213,125</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary (M).....	213,125
<b>Iceland</b> .....	<b>252,234</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (M).....	252,234
<b>Ireland</b> .....	<b>770</b>
The Lutheran Church in Ireland (R).....	770
<b>Italy</b> .....	<b>7,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy (M).....	7,000
<b>Latvia</b> .....	<b>250,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (M).....	250,000
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	
Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) ( <i>see Switzerland</i> )	



<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Lithuania</b> .....	<b>20,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania (M) .....	20,000
<b>Netherlands</b> .....	<b>2,300,000</b>
Protestant Church in the Netherlands (M) .....	2,300,000
<b>Norway</b> .....	<b>3,893,333</b>
Church of Norway (M) .....	3,871,513
The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway (M) .....	21,820
<b>Poland</b> .....	<b>75,000</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (M) .....	75,000
<b>Romania</b> .....	<b>45,927</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania (M) .....	13,927
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania (M) .....	32,000
<b>Russian Federation</b> .....	<b>90,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) .....	75,000
<i>(see Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan)</i>	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (M) .....	15,000
<b>Serbia</b> .....	<b>49,500</b>
Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia (M) .....	49,500
<b>Slovak Republic</b> .....	<b>372,858</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic (M) .....	372,858
<b>Slovenia</b> .....	<b>20,000</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia (M) .....	20,000
<b>Sweden</b> .....	<b>6,893,901</b>
Church of Sweden (M) .....	6,893,901
<b>Switzerland</b> .....	<b>5,370</b>
Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) .....	5,370
<i>(see Liechtenstein)</i>	
<b>Ukraine</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) <i>(see Russian Federation)</i>	
<b>United Kingdom</b> .....	<b>134,910</b>
Lutheran Church in Great Britain (M) .....	2,810
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (C) .....	1,500
The Lutheran Council of Great Britain (R) .....	130,600
 <b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</b>	
<b>Argentina</b> .....	<b>71,960</b>
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) .....	25,000
<i>(see Paraguay, Uruguay)</i>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) .....	30,000
<i>(see Chile, Uruguay)</i>	
Protestant Congregation in Tandil (C) .....	160
Protestant Society in Southern Argentina – Lutheran Church (C) .....	3,800
Protestant Society of the South-East (C) .....	2,000
United Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	11,000



<b>Bolivia</b> .....	<b>24,400</b>
Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	22,000
Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia (C) .....	700
German-Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Bolivia (R).....	1,000
Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Bolivia (C).....	700
<b>Brazil</b> .....	<b>934,265</b>
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C).....	1,050
Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (M) .....	703,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (C).....	230,215
<b>Chile</b> .....	<b>13,450</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (M).....	3,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) ( <i>see Argentina</i> )	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile (C).....	170
Lutheran Church in Chile (M).....	10,280
<b>Colombia</b> .....	<b>3,483</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (M) .....	3,000
St Martin's Congregation (R).....	160
St Matthew's Congregation (R).....	323
<b>Costa Rica</b> .....	<b>1,924</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Costa Rica (R).....	600
Lutheran Costarican Church (M) .....	1,324
<b>Ecuador</b> .....	<b>2,020</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ecuador (R).....	520
<i>(including the El Adviento Evangelical Lutheran Church in Quito, and The Savior Church in Guayaquil)</i>	
Evangelical Lutheran Indigenous Church of Ecuador (C).....	1,500
<b>El Salvador</b> .....	<b>12,000</b>
Salvadoran Lutheran Synod (M) .....	12,000
<b>Guatemala</b> .....	<b>211</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation "La Epifanía" (R).....	211
Lutheran Church of Guatemala (C) .....	no data
<b>Guyana</b> .....	<b>11,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (M) .....	11,000
<b>Haiti</b> .....	<b>no data</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (C).....	no data
<b>Honduras</b> .....	<b>1,200</b>
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (M) .....	1,200
<b>Mexico</b> .....	<b>6,705</b>
All Saints' Lutheran Church (C) .....	191
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico (C) .....	3,000
German-Speaking Evangelical Congregation in Mexico (R) .....	636
Lutheran Synod of Mexico (C) .....	1,211
Mexican Lutheran Church (M).....	1,500
The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (C).....	167
<b>Nicaragua</b> .....	<b>7,050</b>
The Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope (M).....	7,050



## Individual Churches    National Total

### Panama ..... no data

Brotherhood of Popular Pastoral Action – Lutheran Coordination (C).....no data

### Paraguay ..... 3,981

Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) (*see Argentina*)

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay (C)..... 3,981

### Peru..... 3,421

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru (R)..... 220

Evangelical Lutheran Congregation Cristo Rey (C) ..... 41

Norwegian Lutheran Mission (C) ..... 2,060

Peruvian Lutheran Evangelical Church (M).....1,100

### Suriname ..... 4,000

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (M) ..... 4,000

### Uruguay ..... 190

Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) (*see Argentina*)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Uruguay (C) .....190

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) (*see Argentina*)

### Venezuela..... 2,934

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (M).....1,950

Lutheran Church of Venezuela (C).....984

## North America

### Canada ..... 258,250

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M)..... 8,000

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (M).....174,500

Lutheran Church – Canada (C)..... 75,750

### United States of America ..... 7,682,436

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America (C) ..... 7,707

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C) ..... 43,360

Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America (C) ..... 8,860

Church of the Lutheran Confession (C)..... 8,631

Conservative Lutheran Association (C).....994

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (M) ..... 4,774,203

Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C).....20,559

Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Diaspora (M) ..... 1,500

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (C)..... 2,417,997

Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (C) ..... 1,500

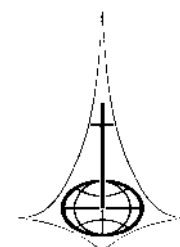
The Protestant Conference [Lutheran] (C) ..... 1,125

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C)..... 396,000

*These statistics are based on data received by 31 January 2008.*

*Compiled by Janet Bond-Nash and Colette Muanda (LWF/OCS)*

**More LWI News at**  
[www.lutheranworld.org/News/Welcome.EN.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/News/Welcome.EN.html)





## The Lutheran World Federation Consultations 2008

The consultations listed below are currently planned and will take place providing funding has been procured.

DMD	=	Department for Mission and Development
DTS	=	Department for Theology and Studies
DWS	=	Department for World Service
OCS	=	Office for Communication Services
OGS	=	Office of the General Secretary
OEA	=	Office for Ecumenical Affairs
OFA	=	Office for Finance and Administration
OIAHR	=	Office for International Affairs and Human Rights

### January

Date	Unit	Place	Title
8-24	DTS	Geneva, Switzerland	International Theological Course: "The Ecumenical Church in a Globalized World"
22	OIAHR	Davos, Switzerland	Human Dignity and Human Rights Caucus at the World Economic Forum
27.01-02.02	DTS	Hong Kong, China	Seminar for Global South Teaching Theologians
28-30	OGS	Stuttgart, Germany	Assembly Planning Committee

### February

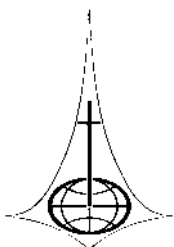
Date	Unit	Place	Title
18-22	DWS	Kampala, Uganda	Donor Meeting – Evaluation, Debriefing and Country Strategy Workshop
End Feb.	OEA	Johannesburg, South Africa	LWF-International Lutheran Council (ILC) Contact Meeting

### March

Date	Unit	Place	Title
3-6	DMD	Santiago, Chile	Reference Group Meeting: Sustainability of Latin American LWF Member Churches
3-6	DMD	Pematang Siantar, Indonesia	Capacity Building Workshop
12-18	DMD	Bangkok, Thailand	ENGAGE – LWF Global Training for Young Leaders, Asian Regional Meeting
26-30	DTS	Geneva, Switzerland	Consultation: Women in Ministry as Ecumenical Witness
31.03-04.04	DMD	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	Latin American Church Leadership Conference
31.03-04.04	DWS	Jerusalem	Regional Consultation for Asia and Middle East

### April

Date	Unit	Place	Title
3-4	OFA	Geneva, Switzerland	Endowment Fund Board
4-8	DTS	Geneva, Switzerland	Study Program on "The one holy catholic apostolic church"
14-18	DMD	Arusha, Tanzania	Sub-regional Workshop: Africa Lutheran Communication and Information Network (ALCINET)
21-22	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	Annual Forum
23-24	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	Standing Committee for World Service
24-27	DMD	St. Petersburg, Russian Federation	Workshop on Church and State in Russia
26-29	OGS	Strasbourg, France	LWF Renewal Committee Meeting
28.04-5.05	OEA	Chennai, India	Anglican-Lutheran International Commission



## May

Date	Unit	Place	Title
Early May (to be confirmed)	OCS	Geneva, Switzerland	Roundtable: A Web Site for the Lutheran Communion
13–16	DMD	Riga, Latvia	LWF Project Committee Meeting
16–17	Strasbourg Institute	Strasbourg, France	Board Meeting: Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research
26–30	DMD	Johannesburg, South Africa	First Meeting, Lutheran Council in Africa & Follow-Up Program on Poverty and the Mission of the Church
30.05–3.06	DMD	Johannesburg, South Africa	Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) Executive Meeting
30.05–08.06	OEA	Paphos, Cyprus	Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission

## June

Date	Unit	Place	Title
2–6	OEA	Strasbourg, France	Lutheran-Mennonite International Study Commission
2–6	DMD	Lilongwe, Malawi	Capacity Building Workshop
12–16	DTS	Bossey, Switzerland	Study Program on “The one holy catholic apostolic church”
19–23	DMD	Arusha, Tanzania	Pre-Council Youth Workshop
24	OGS	Arusha, Tanzania	LWF Executive Committee
25.06–01.07	OGS	Arusha, Tanzania	LWF Council Meeting

## July

Date	Unit	Place	Title
1–3	DTS	Arusha, Tanzania	Consultation on Religious Education in Interfaith Contexts
13–19	DTS	Pietermaritzburg, South Africa	Seminar for Global South Teaching Theologians

## August

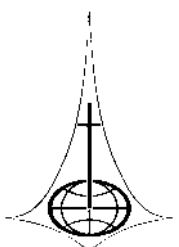
Date	Unit	Place	Title
21–23	DMD	Bangkok, Thailand	Consultation on Networking among Theological Institutions in Asia
20–24	DMD	Dinajpur, Bangladesh	Capacity Building Workshop
25–28	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	Associate Programs’ Consultation

## September

Date	Unit	Place	Title
11–16	DMD	Greifswald, Germany	European Church Leadership Consultation: “Called to Grow, Lead and Nurture”
To be determined	DMD	Bolivia	Reference Group Meeting on Sustainability of Latin American LWF Member Churches
Back to back with previous	DMD	Bogota, Colombia	Capacity Building Workshop

## October

Date	Unit	Place	Title
1–5	DMD	Johannesburg, South Africa	Sub-regional Workshop: Africa Lutheran Communication and Information Network (ALCINET)
1–7	DMD	Kenya	ENGAGE: LWF Global Training for Young Leaders, African Regional Meeting
4–11	OEA	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Lutheran-Reformed Joint Commission
9–11	DMD	To be determined	Preparatory Meeting for Consultation on Church-State Relationships in Transitional Contexts
13–17	DMD	Ethiopia	Global Consultation on Diakonia
18–21	DMD	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Lutheran Communion in Central and Eastern Africa (LUCCEA) Executive Meeting
20–24	OEA/OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	Plenary: Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions



24–26	OGS	To be confirmed	LWF Executive Committee
27–31	DWS	Switzerland	Field Directors' Meeting
October (to be confirmed)	OIAHR	Bangkok, Thailand	Ecumenical Conference on Dalit Liberation

## November

Date	Unit	Place	Title
12–16	DMD	Nigeria	Consultation on Gender and Power
19–22	DWS	Guatemala	Standing Committee
November (to be confirmed)	DMD	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Workshop: Asia Lutheran News (ALN)

## Undetermined

Date	Unit	Place	Title
To be determined	OEA	To be determined	Symposium of Biblical Scholars
Late April or early September (to be confirmed)	DTS	To be determined	Theological Consultation on Climate Change
Late 2008	OIAHR	Oslo, Norway	Symposium on Illegitimate Debt

For an updated version, see the LWF Web site: [www.lutheranworld.org/Essentials/LWF-Calendar.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/Essentials/LWF-Calendar.html)

## LWF German National Committee Closes Stuttgart Office

After some 50 years, the German National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation (GNC/LWF) has relocated its previously Stuttgart-based Office for Church Cooperation and World Service to the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD) central office in Hanover, Germany, within the Church Office of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD).

Outgoing GNC/LWF executive secretary at the Stuttgart office, Rev. Dr Andreas Wöhle said effective January 2008, LWF member church partners in Germany will require only one address for their work. The main contact will be the Hanover-based GNC executive secretary *Oberkirchenrat* Norbert Denecke, also responsible for VELKD. While the Stuttgart scholarship program will continue in close coordination with EKD's diaconal services, the GNC/LWF public relations and fundraising officer Ms Regina Karasch has also relocated to Hanover.

**History of the Organization:** At its August 1952 Second Assembly in Hanover, the LWF resolved to create its own Lutheran World Service to combine the churches' response to emergencies throughout the world. The GNC subsequently created for its member churches the "Ordnung des Lutherischen

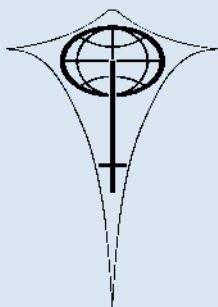
Weltdienstes – Deutscher Hauptausschuss (DHA). The DHA held its first meeting on 16 April 1953 in Berlin-Spandau.

While in the years between the LWF's founding in 1947 and the DHA establishment aid materials had been sent to Germany, in 1953 the country's LWF member churches sent for the first time a contribution to the LWF Geneva headquarters to support World Service projects worldwide. By 1957, the West German churches no longer required financial support themselves. Of the six original Lutheran World Service offices in Germany, only the Stuttgart and East Berlin offices, responsible for the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) remained open, with the latter closing in 2003.

The GNC/LWF currently represents 13 churches in Baden, Bavaria, Brunswick, Hanover, Mecklenburg, North Elbia, Oldenburg, Pomerania, Saxony, Schaumburg-Lippe, Thuringia and Württemberg; as well as Church of Lippe [Lutheran Section]. They have a combined membership of 12.6 million people.

The new GNC/LWF address is:

DNK/LWB im Kirchenamt der EKD, Herrenhäuser Str. 12,  
30419 Hanover, Germany, E-mail: [LWB@diakonie.de](mailto:LWB@diakonie.de)



Published and distributed by:  
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