

The Lutheran World Federation – 2023 Membership Figures

Summary

The LWF has 150 member churches, including two associate member churches (AM), as well as ten recognized churches and congregations, and two recognized councils.

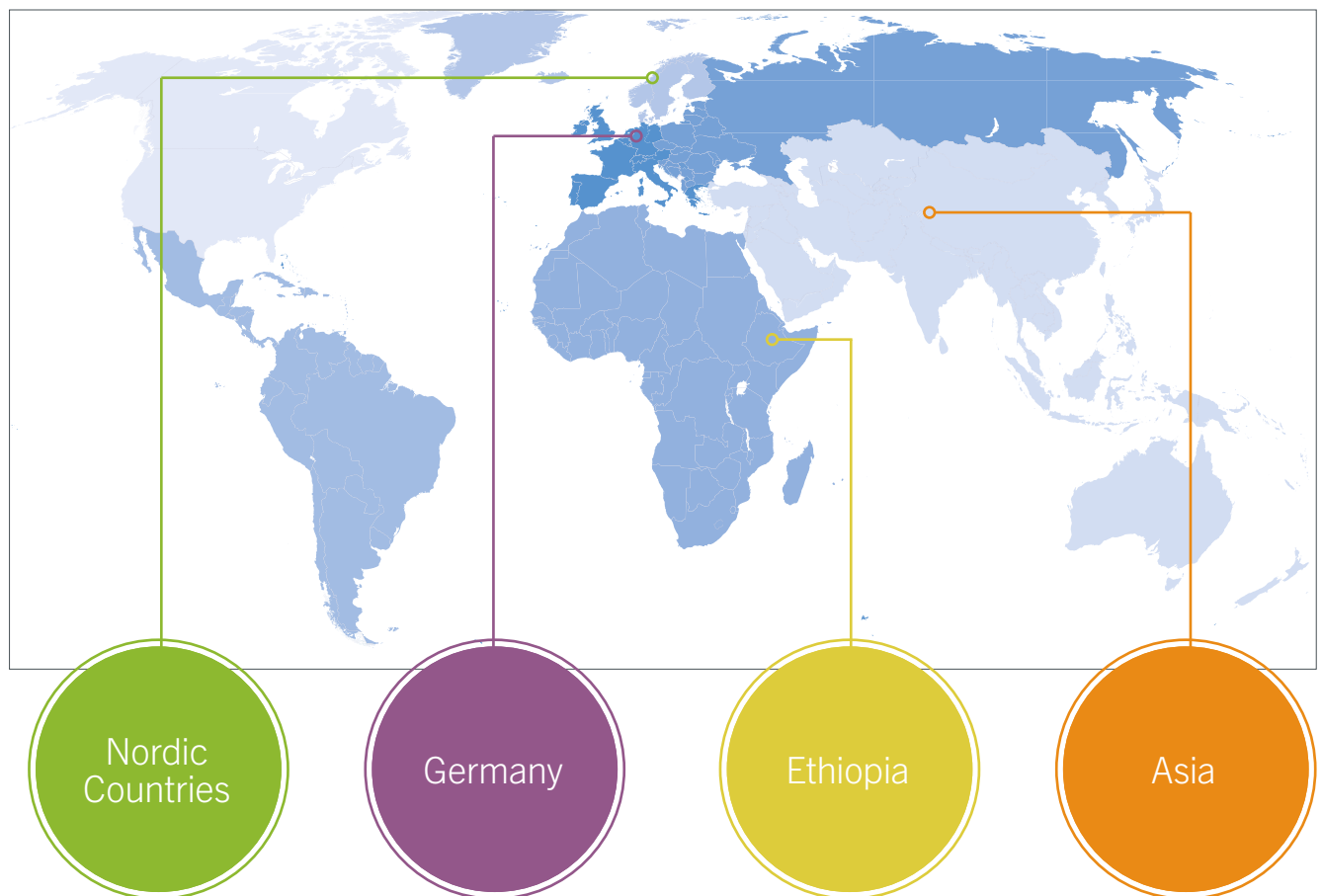
General summary 2023

150 LWF member churches 78,431,111

LWF Regions

	LWF Membership
Africa	30,753,298
Asia	13,774,760
Central Eastern Europe	1,119,379
Central Western Europe	11,941,116
Nordic Countries	17,177,471
Latin America & the Caribbean	720,230
North America	2,944,857
Total	78,431,111

Statistics at a glance



The churches in the Nordic countries have the highest percentage of Lutherans, ranging from 51-71% of the population

With 10 million LWF members, Germany is the country with the single largest number of Lutherans in Europe.

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus with 12 million members is the largest LWF member church.

There are 55 member churches in Asia.

2023 World Lutheran Membership Details

- (M) Member Church
- (AM) Associate Member Church
- (R) Recognized Church, Congregation or Recognized Council
- (C) Other Lutheran churches, bodies or congregations
- † Figures from 2019

Church	Individual Churches	National Total
Africa		
Angola		92,051
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Angola (M).....	92,051	
Botswana		26,023
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (M).....	26,023 [†]	
Cameroon		925,378
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Cameroon (M).....	225,378	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon (M).....	700,000	
Central African Republic		120,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (M).....	120,000	
Congo, Democratic Republic		98,123
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (M).....	98,123	
Congo, Republic		3,908
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo (M).....	3,908	
Eritrea		11,000
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (M).....	11,000 [†]	
Ethiopia		12,000,000
The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (M).....	12,000,000	
Ghana		22,750
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (M).....	22,750 [†]	
Kenya		115,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (M).....	100,000 [†]	
Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	15,000	
Liberia		118,000
Lutheran Church in Liberia (M).....	118,000	
Madagascar		4,000,000
Malagasy Lutheran Church (M).....	4,000,000	

Church	Individual Churches	National Total
Malawi		150,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (M)	150,000	
Mozambique		18,163
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique (M)	18,163	
Namibia		1,277,722
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN-GELC) (M)	4,200	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) (M)	420,000†	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN) (M)	853,522†	
Nigeria		2,265,000
The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (M)	2,200,000	
The Lutheran Church of Nigeria (M)	65,000	
Rwanda		7,200
Lutheran Church of Rwanda (M)	7,200†	
Senegal		8,000
The Lutheran Church of Senegal (M)	8,000	
Sierra Leone		6,565
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (M)	6,565	
South Africa		673,250
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church) (M)	3,950	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA) (M)	580,000†	
Moravian Church in South Africa (M)	80,000	
Northeastern Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa (NELCSA) (M)	9,300	
Tanzania		8,500,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (M)	8,500,000	
Zambia		5,284
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (M)	5,284	
Zimbabwe		309,881
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (M)	309,881†	
Asia		
Australia		140,000
Lutheran Church of Australia (AM)	140,000	
Azerbaijan		
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) (<i>see Russian Federation</i>)		
Bangladesh		18,340
Bangladesh Lutheran Church (M)	6,270†	
Bangladesh Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	12,070	

Church	Individual Churches	National Total
Hong Kong, China		46,699
Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church (M)	2,399	
The Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (M).....	13,500	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (M)	18,000	
Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong (M)	12,800	
India		3,894,452
Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	3,000,000	
Arcot Lutheran Church (M)	44,689	
Christ Lutheran Church (M)	9,640	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh (M)	23,000	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Himalayan States (M)	40,064 [†]	
Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	20,926	
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam (M).....	242,803	
India Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	150,000	
Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	150,000 [†]	
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	12,070	
South Andhra Lutheran Church (M)	95,000	
The Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	100,000	
Indonesia		7,771,178
Batak Christian Community Church (GPKB) (M)	37,718	
Christian Communion of Indonesia Church in Nias (Gereja AMIN) (M).....	26,250	
Christian Protestant Angkola Church (GKPA) (M).....	30,128	
Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia (M)	274,685	
Communion of Protestant Christian Church (M)	51,125	
Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) (M).....	23,000	
Pakpak Dairi Christian Protestant Church (M)	42,785	
Protestant Christian Batak Church (HKBP) (M).....	6,333,000	
Protestant Christian Church in Mentawai (M)	39,892	
Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (M).....	227,690 [†]	
The Indonesian Christian Church (M)	200,893	
The Protestant Christian Church (M)	464,012	
The United Protestant Church (GPP) (M)	20,000	
Japan		24,787
Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	21,558	
Japan Lutheran Church (AM)	694	
Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	2,535	
Jordan		2,500
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (M)	2,500 [†]	
(see <i>Palestinian Territories</i>)		
Kazakhstan		
Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan – member of ELCROS (see <i>Russian Federation</i>)		
Korea, Republic		2,228
Lutheran Church in Korea (M).....	2,228	

Church

Individual Churches National Total

Kyrgyzstan

Evangelical-Lutheran Church in the Kyrgyz Republic – member of ELCROS (see *Russian Federation*)

Malaysia.....110,717

Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (M) 65,000

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (M) 4,250

Lutheran Church in Malaysia (M) 6,736†

The Protestant Church in Sabah (M) 34,731†

Myanmar.....31,104

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (Lutheran Bethlehem Church) (M) 3,395

Lutheran Church of Myanmar (M) 2,000

Myanmar Lutheran Church (M)..... 3,830

The Mara Evangelical Church (M)..... 21,879

Nepal1,385

Nepal Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) 1,385

New Zealand1,130

Lutheran Church of New Zealand (C) 1,130

(District of the Lutheran Church of Australia)

Palestinian Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (M) (see *Jordan*)

Papua New Guinea.....1,649,869

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (M) 1,500,000

Gutnius Lutheran Church - Papua New Guinea (M) 149,869†

Philippines.....58,000

Lutheran Church in the Philippines (M) 58,000†

Singapore.....2,727

Lutheran Church in Singapore (M) 2,727

Sri Lanka.....5,324

Lanka Lutheran Church (M)..... 5,324†

Taiwan.....11,450

Taiwan Lutheran Church (M)..... 9,502

The Lutheran Church of Taiwan (Republic of China) (M) 1,517

The Lutheran Church of the Republic of China (C)..... 431

Tajikistan

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) (see *Russian Federation*)

Thailand4,000

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (M) 4,000

Uzbekistan

Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Uzbekistan – member of ELCROS (see *Russian Federation*)

Church

Individual Churches

National Total

Central Eastern Europe

Belarus

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) (see *Russian Federation*)

Croatia3,300

Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia (M)..... 3,300

Czech Republic 72,440

Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (M) 58,521

Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (M)..... 13,919

Estonia.....160,000

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) 160,000

Georgia40,000

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Georgia (M)..... 40,000

Hungary.....176,000

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary (M) 176,000

Latvia.....254,800

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (M) 250,000[†]

Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Worldwide (M) 4,800

Lithuania.....18,100

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania (M) 18,100

Moldova

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) (see *Russian Federation*)

Poland60,244

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (M) 60,244

Romania.....34,473

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania (M) 10,773

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania (M) 23,700

Russian Federation45,000

Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Russia and Other States (M)..... 20,000

(see *Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tadjikistan and Uzbekistan*)

Evangelical-Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East – member of ELCROS

Evangelical-Lutheran Church in European Russia – member of ELCROS

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (M) 25,000

Serbia50,000

Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia (M) 50,000

Slovak Republic193,995

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic (M)..... 193,995

Church	Individual Churches	National Total
Slovenia		8,327
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia (M)	8,327	
Ukraine		1,000
German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (M)	1,000	
Central Western Europe		
Austria		247,834
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria (M)	247,834	
France		255,000
Malagasy Protestant Church in France (M).....	10,000 [†]	
Union of Protestant Churches of Alsace and Lorraine (M)	220,000	
United Protestant Church of France (M).....	25,000	
Germany		10,002,632
Church of Lippe (Lutheran Section) (M)	22,400	
Evangelical Church in Central Germany* (M)	615,855	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden (M).....	2,444	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria* (M).....	2,143,233	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick* (M)	293,979	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany* (M).....	1,772,953	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg (M).....	371,688	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg (M)	1,821,266	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover* (M)	2,302,547	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony* (M)	610,503	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe* (M).....	45,764	
* <i>Members of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (R)</i>		
Italy		6,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy (M)	6,000	
Liechtenstein		
Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) (see <i>Switzerland</i>)		
Netherlands		1,425,000
Protestant Church in the Netherlands (M)	1,425,000	
Switzerland		3,150
Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland & in the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) 3,150 (see <i>Liechtenstein</i>)		
United Kingdom		1,500
The Lutheran Church in Great Britain (M).....	1,500 [†]	

Church**Individual Churches****National Total****Latin America and the Caribbean**

Argentina		31,000
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M)	25,000	
(see <i>Paraguay, Uruguay</i>)		
United Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	6,000	
Bolivia		3,731
Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	3,731	
Brazil		614,555
Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (M)	614,555	
Chile		12,400
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (M)	2,500	
Lutheran Church in Chile (M)	9,900 [†]	
Colombia		2,100
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (M)	2,100	
Costa Rica		500
Lutheran Costa Rican Church (M)	500	
Cuba		1,500
United Evangelical Church in Cuba Lutheran Synod (M)	1,500	
El Salvador		15,500
Salvadoran Lutheran Church (M)	15,500	
Guatemala		1,107
Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (M)	157	
Guatemala Lutheran Church (ILUGUA) (M)	950 [†]	
Guyana		15,594
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (M)	15,594	
Honduras		2,005
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (M)	2,005	
Mexico		1,200
Mexican Lutheran Church (M)	1,200	
Nicaragua		10,200
The Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope (M)	10,200 [†]	
Paraguay		
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) (see <i>Argentina</i>)		
Peru		853
Lutheran Church of Peru (M)	853	

Church	Individual Churches	National Total
Suriname		4,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (M)	4,000†	
Uruguay		
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) (<i>see Argentina</i>)		
Venezuela		1,250
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (M)	1,250	
Nordic Countries		
Denmark (including Greenland)		4,235,575
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M).....	4,235,575	
Finland		3,579,616
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (M)	3,579,616	
(<i>including ELCF members abroad</i>)		
Greenland		
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) (<i>see Denmark</i>)		
Iceland		227,259
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (M).....	227,259	
Norway		3,633,021
Church of Norway (M)	3,611,670	
The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway (M)	21,351	
Sweden		5,484,000
Church of Sweden (M).....	5,484,000	
North America		
Canada		40,171
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (M)	40,171	
USA		2,904,686
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (M).....	2,904,686	
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M) (<i>See Latvia</i>)		

Recognized churches, councils and congregations

Lutheran Church of Belgium: Arlon and Christian Mission (R)	350
The Lutheran Church in Ireland (R)	260
United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (R)	N/A
Council of Lutheran Churches (R)	5,500
German-Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Bolivia (R)	N/A
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Costa Rica (R)	N/A
St Martin's Congregation in Colombia (R)	N/A
St Matthew's Lutheran Church in Colombia (R)	N/A
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation "La Epifania" in Guatemala (R)	N/A
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ecuador (R)	N/A
<i>(including the El Adviento Evangelical Lutheran Church in Quito, and The Savior Church in Guayaquil)</i>	
German-Speaking Evangelical Congregation in Mexico (R)	N/A
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru (R)	N/A

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LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION