



ELCA.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace

ELCA Quick Facts

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America resulted from a union of three North American Lutheran church bodies: The American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the Lutheran Church in America.

The three churches agreed to unite in 1982. They formed a 70-member Commission for a New Lutheran Church, which planned the merger. The plan was approved by church conventions in 1986, and the ELCA constituting convention was held April 30-May 3, 1987, with the church actually beginning operations on January 1, 1988.

The ELCA meets in assembly every two years; at its 2001 Churchwide Assembly it elected its third bishop, The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, who was re-elected at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly held August 6-12 in Chicago.

MEMBERS:

- **Baptized Members:** 4,850,776
- **Communing and Contributing Members:** 2,256,700
- **Congregations:** 10,549
- **Synods:** 65 in nine geographic regions
- **Members of Color**
 - African-American/Black: 54,354
 - American Indian/Alaska Native: 7,095
 - Arab/Middle Eastern: 1,779
 - Asian/Pacific Islander: 21,950
 - Latino/Hispanic: 39,157
 - Multiethnic: 12,261
 - Other: 11,096

LEADERS:

- **Clergy:** 17,694 (3,140 female; 570 people of color)
- **Associates in Ministry:** 1,082 (867 female; 215 male; 18 people of color)
- **Diaconal Ministers:** 105
- **Deaconesses:** 62
- **Missionaries:** approx. 270 adult missionaries serving in over 48 countries, of which 79 are self-funded volunteers
- **Campus Pastors and Ministries:** 185 campus ministry sites supported by synod and/or churchwide funds
- **Federal Chaplains:** Approximately 706
(383 Retired Military, 96 Armed Forces Active Duty, 183 Reservists, 37 Veterans Affairs, 7 Federal Bureau of Prisons)
- **Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling and Clinical Education:** Approximately 965 ecclesiastically endorsed ordained and lay rostered people serve in the areas such as general health care, correctional, substance abuse, long term care chaplaincy and clinical education ministry.

INSTITUTIONS:

- **Theological Seminaries and Deaconess Community:**
 - 8 Seminaries
 - 2 Seminary Extension Centers
 - 1 Deaconess Community
- **Colleges and Universities: 28**
- **Schools:**
 - 14 High Schools
 - 296 Elementary Schools
 - 1573 Early Childhood Programs
- **Social Ministry Organizations:**
 - 280 parent corporations, providing service to 6 million people in 3,000 communities, and serving one in 50 Americans every year
- **Camps and Retreat Centers: 145, serving 450,000 yearly**
(summer programs 175,000, retreats and conferences 275,000)

FINANCES:

- **ELCA Churchwide Current Fund Results:**
 - 2005 Revenue \$81,791,720
 - 2004 Expense \$78,317,968 (plus Church Council Designated funds of \$4,000,000)
- **Total 2005 Income of Congregations: \$2,676,901,588**
- **Average Giving Per Confirmed Member: \$598.75**

Statistics as of December 31, 2005