

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 will be eligible for re-election at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

MEMBERS:

- **Baptized Members:** 4,984,925
- **Communing and Contributing Members:** 2,349,855
- **Average Worship Attendance Each Week:** 30.15%
- **Congregations:** 10,657
- **Synods:** 65 in nine geographic regions
- **Members of Color (or)
Whose Primary Language is Not English:** 138,560
 - African-American: 53,258
 - Latino: 42,988
 - Asian or Pacific Islander: 22,030
 - American Indian or Alaska Native: 7,265
 - Other: 13,019

LEADERS:

- **Clergy:** 17,703 (2,760 female; 494 people of color)
- **Associates in Ministry:** 1,239
(1,006 female, 233 male; 18 people of color)
- **Diaconal Ministers:** 84
- **Deaconesses:** 67
- **Missionaries:** approx. 300 adult missionaries, of which some 78 self-funded volunteers, serving in over 50 countries
- **Campus Pastors and Ministries:** 195 campus ministry sites supported by synod and/or churchwide funds
- **Federal Chaplains:** Approximately 770
(Retired Military, Armed Forces Active Duty, Reservists, Veterans Affairs, Civil Air Patrol, Federal Bureau of Prisons)
- **Chaplaincy, Counseling and Clinical Education:** Approximately 800 ordained and lay rostered people serving in 12 specialized ministries such as correctional, health care, CPE, substance abuse, police, etc.

INSTITUTIONS:

- **Theological Seminaries and Deaconess Community:**
 - 8 Seminaries
 - 2 Seminary Extension Centers
 - 1 Deaconess Community
- **Colleges and Universities:** 28
- **Schools:**
 - 20 High Schools
 - 240 Elementary Schools
 - 1,775 Early Childhood Programs
- **Social Service Institutions:**
 - 280 parent corporations with many more subsidiaries, providing service in 3,000 communities
- **Camps and Retreat Centers:** 145, serving 450,000 yearly
(summer programs 175,000, retreats and conferences 275,000)

FINANCES:

- **ELCA Churchwide Current Fund Results:**
 - 2004 Revenue \$81,254,314
 - 2004 Expense \$76,702,432
- **Total 2003 Income of Congregations:** \$2,554,509,414
- **Average Giving Per Confirmed Member:**
\$550.04 (Regular \$467.78; Designated \$82.26)