

Quick Facts

Good stuff to know about the ELCA

Fact 1: The ELCA has many members, spread across the country.

- **Baptized Members** ([2010](#)): 4,272,688
 - **Congregations**: 10,008
 - **Synods**: 65 in nine geographic regions
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Fact 2: The ELCA is a diverse church body, becoming more so every day.

This church is committed to growing in [diversity](#) and strengthening its global, ecumenical and interfaith relationships around the world.

Fact 3: ELCA congregations are led by gifted men and women who have been called by God to serve their community.

The ELCA calls both women and men to serve as pastors and lay [rostered leaders](#). Here are some other facts about ELCA leaders:

- As of September 23, 2011, there are 18,264 leaders on the ELCA roster including:
 - 1,017 [associates in ministry](#)
 - 66 [deaconesses](#)
 - 169 [diaconal ministers](#)
 - 17,012 [ordained clergy](#)
 - In 2010, 21% of clergy on the ELCA roster are women. In seminaries, the numbers of women and men preparing for ministry are about equal.
 - Approximately 86% of ordained women and 83% of ordained men are actively serving in congregations.
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Fact 4: The ELCA offers opportunities for Lutheran education at every level.

The ELCA considers education an important part of our calling, and we offer quality education at every level through our institutions:

- **8** [seminaries](#) and **2** seminary extension centers
- **26** [colleges and universities](#)
- **50** or more [lifelong learning](#) programs
- **14** high [schools](#)
- **296** elementary [schools](#)
- **1,573** early childhood programs
- **145** [camp and retreat centers](#), serving 450,000 yearly

Our institutions can be found throughout the country, and probably in your hometown. To learn more about our educational institutions, visit [ELCA and Education](#).

Fact 5: The ELCA is committed to making the world a more just and peaceful place to live.

Through programs, ministries and partnerships, the ELCA works every day to address inequities in political, economic and social systems—and to end conflict and violence all over the world.

You can learn more about our efforts in this arena in [Justice](#)