



What We Believe

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS) accepts the Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther that launched the Lutheran Reformation of the Christian church in the 16th century. We believe that the Lutheran Confessions are the correct interpretation and presentation of biblical doctrine. The Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther can be summed up in three phrases:

- ▶ Grace alone.
- ▶ Word alone.
- ▶ Faith alone.

Founded in the United States

The LCMS was established in April 1847 by Saxon and other German immigrants seeking the freedom to practice their faith and follow confessional Lutheranism. Charter congregations were located in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and New York.

Emphasis for the Church

“Witness, Mercy, Life Together” describes how the church lives and works together to proclaim the Gospel and to care for people in need in our congregations, communities and throughout the world. For more information, visit lcms.org/emphasis.

By the Numbers

Current President:

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

Members:

- ▶ 1,968,641 baptized members
- ▶ Second-largest Lutheran church body in North America

Congregations: 6,047

Clergy: 9,656

Educators: 16,292

Missionaries:

- ▶ 126 full-time missionaries
- ▶ 230 short-term missionaries

Non-School Recognized Service

Organizations: 191

Auxiliaries:

- ▶ International Lutheran Laymen’s League (Lutheran Hour Ministries)
- ▶ Lutheran Women’s Missionary League

Annual Budget: \$69.4 million

Worldwide Partners: The Synod is in full doctrinal fellowship with 38 other confessional Lutheran churches worldwide.

Overview of Ministries

Missions & Outreach

A long-standing emphasis on and commitment to “go and make disciples of all nations” drives the people of the LCMS to reach out to those around them with the Gospel in word and deed. We focus on building mission alliances to reach the lost, plant churches, train local leaders and revitalize mission involvement. Also, we provide military, veterans affairs and prison chaplaincy programs.

Education & Pastoral Formation

As a respected leader in the field of education, we place great emphasis on instruction in the Word. Our congregations administer the largest Protestant school system in the United States, which comprises some 1,984 preschools, elementary schools and high schools. In addition, two seminaries and nine colleges and universities operate under the auspices of the LCMS.

Helping People

We recognize the importance of caring for body and soul, demonstrating the unconditional compassion and love of God in Jesus Christ through works of mercy by meeting human need. We provide domestic and international aid; disaster response and human-care services, including life and health ministries; national housing support; specialized pastoral ministry; and deaconess programs.

Stewardship

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. We focus on partnering with district leaders to train and equip pastors and other church leaders to nurture congregations and individuals in stewardship principles.

Learn more at lcms.org.



LCMS Membership

State	Baptized Members
Alabama	8,613
Alaska	3,027
Arizona	23,543
Arkansas	11,291
California	79,859
Colorado	35,211
Connecticut	8,203
Delaware	1,113
District of Columbia	423
Florida	55,923
Georgia	8,109
Hawaii	1,355
Idaho	8,417
Illinois	201,962
Indiana	98,743
Iowa	93,732
Kansas	53,078
Kentucky	5,436
Louisiana	8,592
Maine	255
Maryland	16,304
Massachusetts	4,221
Michigan	191,643
Minnesota	160,668
Mississippi	2,438
Missouri	126,993
Montana	12,789
Nebraska	108,208

State	Baptized Members
Nevada	7,511
New Hampshire	1,487
New Jersey	11,835
New Mexico	4,070
New York	53,178
North Carolina	20,259
North Dakota	20,164
Ohio	52,982
Oklahoma	18,005
Oregon	14,095
Pennsylvania	13,428
Rhode Island	846
South Carolina	3,169
South Dakota	28,832
Tennessee	13,751
Texas	124,714
Utah	2,695
Vermont	390
Virginia	15,238
Washington	24,807
West Virginia	505
Wisconsin	194,279
Wyoming	7,354
Bahamas	23
Canada	4,638
Hong Kong	237
Grand Total	1,968,641

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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