

# The Lutheran World Federation 2008 Membership Figures

## Summary

The following figures give the membership of the 140 LWF member churches (M), including two associate member churches (AM), 10 recognized churches and congregations and one recognized council (R), as well as other Lutheran churches, bodies or congregations (C).

### General Summary 2008

140 LWF member churches, 10 recognized churches and congregations and one recognized council .....68,464,091  
Lutherans outside LWF constituency..... 3,509,479  
**Total ..... 71,973,570**

Continent	All Lutherans	LWF Membership	Other Churches
Africa	17,341,492	17,287,277	54,215
Asia	8,728,400	8,545,479	182,921
Europe	36,954,216	36,914,349	39,867
Latin America & the Caribbean	1,123,270	837,890	285,380
North America	7,826,192	4,879,096	2,947,096
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,973,570</b>	<b>68,464,091</b>	<b>3,509,479</b>

### Countries with more than half a million Lutherans

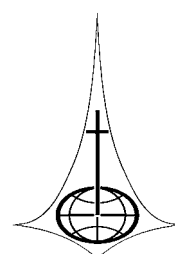
Germany*	12,543,179	Madagascar	3,000,000
USA	7,581,300	Netherlands	2,300,000
Sweden	6,820,161	India	1,889,472
Indonesia	5,450,328	Nigeria	1,880,050
Ethiopia	5,012,486	Papua New Guinea	1,049,455
Tanzania	4,632,480	Namibia	1,028,429
Finland	4,514,359	Brazil	951,466
Denmark	4,494,684	South Africa	666,892
Norway	3,890,718		

\* This figure includes the membership of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad.

### Lutheran churches with more than half a million members

Church of Sweden	6,820,161	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg	2,286,893
Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus	5,012,486	North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church	2,076,628
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	4,709,954	Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria	1,745,050
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania	4,632,480	Evangelical Lutheran Church	900,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	4,514,359	of Papua New Guinea	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark	4,494,589	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony	810,558
Protestant Christian Batak Church	4,000,000	Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church	800,000
Church of Norway	3,868,943	Evangelical Church of the Lutheran	717,000
Malagasy Lutheran Church	3,000,000	Confession in Brazil	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover	2,981,313	Evangelical Lutheran Church	673,229
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria	2,632,000	in Namibia (ELCIN)	
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod**	2,383,084	Evangelical Lutheran Church	580,377
Protestant Church in the Netherlands	2,300,000	in Southern Africa	

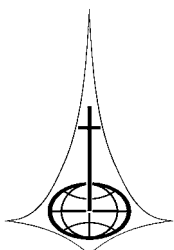
\*\* Not an LWF member church



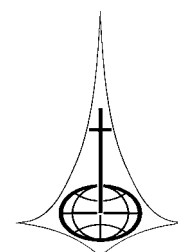
## 2008 World Lutheran Membership Details

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

<b>Africa</b>	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Angola</b> .....		<b>29,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Angola (M) .....	29,000	
<b>Botswana</b> .....		<b>18,650</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (M) .....	18,650	
<b>Cameroon</b> .....		<b>330,367</b>
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Cameroon (M) .....	105,994	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (M) .....	220,015	
Lutheran Church of Cameroon (C) .....	4,358	
<b>Central African Republic</b> .....		<b>55,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (M) .....	55,000	
<b>Chad</b> .....		<b>21,305</b>
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Chad (C) .....	21,305	
<b>Congo, Democratic Republic</b> .....		<b>136,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (M) .....	136,000	
<b>Congo, Republic</b> .....		<b>1,828</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo (M) .....	1,828	
<b>Eritrea</b> .....		<b>11,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (M) .....	11,000	
<b>Ethiopia</b> .....		<b>5,012,486</b>
Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (M) .....	5,012,486	
<b>Ghana</b> .....		<b>27,521</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (M) .....	27,521	
<b>Kenya</b> .....		<b>144,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (M) .....	100,000	
Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	44,000	
<b>Liberia</b> .....		<b>71,196</b>
Lutheran Church in Liberia (M) .....	71,196	
<b>Madagascar</b> .....		<b>3,000,000</b>
Malagasy Lutheran Church (M) .....	3,000,000	
<b>Malawi</b> .....		<b>60,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (M) .....	60,000	
<b>Mozambique</b> .....		<b>6,482</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique (M) .....	6,482	
<b>Namibia</b> .....		<b>1,028,429</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN-GELC) (M) .....	5,200	



<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN) (M) .....	673,229
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) (M) .....	350,000
<b>Nigeria .....</b>	<b>1,880,050</b>
Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (M) .....	1,745,050
Lutheran Church of Nigeria (M) .....	135,000
<b>Rwanda .....</b>	<b>40,000</b>
Lutheran Church of Rwanda (M) .....	40,000
<b>Senegal.....</b>	<b>4,053</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal (C) .....	no data
Lutheran Church of Senegal (M) .....	4,053
<b>Sierra Leone.....</b>	<b>3,150</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (M) .....	3,150
<b>South Africa.....</b>	<b>666,892</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (M) .....	580,377
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church) (M) .....	4,083
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Natal-Transvaal) (M) .....	9,800
Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (C) .....	2,632
Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (C) .....	20,000
Moravian Church in South Africa (M) .....	50,000
<b>Tanzania.....</b>	<b>4,632,480</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (M) .....	4,632,480
<b>Togo .....</b>	<b>5,920</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Togo (C) .....	5,920
<b>Zambia .....</b>	<b>5,683</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (M) .....	5,683
<b>Zimbabwe.....</b>	<b>150,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (M) .....	150,000
<b>Asia</b>	
<b>Australia.....</b>	<b>75,000</b>
Lutheran Church of Australia (AM) .....	75,000
<b>Bangladesh.....</b>	<b>14,800</b>
Bangladesh Lutheran Church (M) .....	4,800
Bangladesh Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	10,000
<b>Georgia</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ( <i>see Russian Federation</i> )	
<b>Hong Kong, China .....</b>	<b>49,333</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (M) .....	15,531
Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,097
Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod (C) .....	8,300
Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (M) .....	14,000
Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong (M) .....	9,405
<b>India.....</b>	<b>1,889,472</b>
Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	800,000



## Individual Churches National Total

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh (M) .....	16,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Himalayan States (M) .....	24,750
Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	50,168
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam (M) .....	400,503
India Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	80,000
Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	133,500
North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	110,301
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	85,000
<i>(see Nepal)</i>	
South Andhra Lutheran Church (M) .....	45,500
Arcot Lutheran Church (M) .....	35,000
Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	108,250

### Indonesia ..... 5,450,328

Batak Christian Community Church (M) .....	20,000
Christian Communion of Indonesia Church in Nias (Gereja AMIN) (M) .....	18,561
Christian Protestant Angkola Church (M) .....	27,810
Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia (M) .....	360,000
Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (M) .....	23,000
Pakpak Dairi Christian Protestant Church (M) .....	35,798
Protestant Christian Batak Church (M) .....	4,000,000
Protestant Christian Church in Mentawai (M) .....	38,907
Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (M) .....	211,383
Indonesian Christian Church (M) .....	355,000
Protestant Christian Church (M) .....	348,689
United Protestant Church (M) .....	11,180

### Israel ..... 140

Lutheran Church in Israel Immanuel Church (C) .....	60
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission - Shalhevetyah Christian Center & Cong. (C) .....	80
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (M) <i>(see Jordan and Palestinian Territories)</i>	

### Japan ..... 32,495

Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	22,056
Japan Lutheran Brethren Church (C) .....	1,219
Japan Lutheran Church (AM) .....	2,613
Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,771
West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	3,836

### Jordan ..... 3,000

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land (M) .....	3,000
<i>(see Israel and Palestinian Territories)</i>	

### Kazakhstan

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) <i>(see Russian Federation)</i>	
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### Korea, Republic ..... 5,060

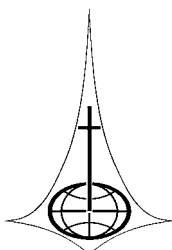
Lutheran Church in Korea (M) .....	5,060
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### Kyrgyzstan

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) <i>(see Russian Federation)</i>	
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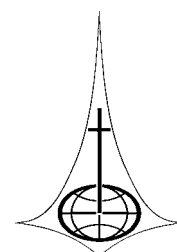
### Malaysia ..... 101,942

Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (M) .....	58,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (M) .....	3,000
Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (M) .....	8,942
Protestant Church in Sabah (M) .....	32,000



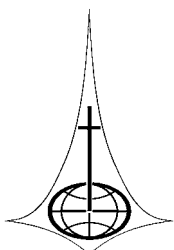
## Individual Churches    National Total

<b>Myanmar</b> .....	<b>1,900</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (Lutheran Bethlehem Church) (M) .....1,900	
<b>Nepal</b>	
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) ( <i>see India</i> )	
<b>New Zealand</b> .....	<b>1,065</b>
Lutheran Church of New Zealand (C) .....1,065 ( <i>a district of the Lutheran Church of Australia</i> )	
<b>Palestinian Territories</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (M) ( <i>see Israel and Jordan</i> )	
<b>Papua New Guinea</b> .....	<b>1,049,455</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (M) ..... 900,000 Gutnius Lutheran Church - Papua New Guinea (M) ..... 149,455	
<b>Philippines</b> .....	<b>18,000</b>
Lutheran Church in the Philippines (M) ..... 18,000	
<b>Singapore</b> .....	<b>3,485</b>
Lutheran Church in Singapore (M) .....3,485	
<b>Sri Lanka</b> .....	<b>5,324</b>
Lanka Lutheran Church (M) .....5,324	
<b>Taiwan</b> .....	<b>24,594</b>
China Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....2,621 China Lutheran Gospel Church (C) .....225 Chinese Lutheran Brethren Victory Church (C) .....3,846 Taiwan Lutheran Church (M) .....15,088 Lutheran Church of Taiwan (Republic of China) (M) .....1,614 Lutheran Church of the Republic of China (C) ..... 1,200	
<b>Thailand</b> .....	<b>3,007</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (M) .....3,007 ( <i>including the Lutheran Mission in Thailand</i> )	
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ( <i>see Russian Federation</i> )	
<b>Europe</b>	
<b>Austria</b> .....	<b>312,883</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria (M) .....312,883	
<b>Belarus</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ( <i>see Russian Federation</i> )	
<b>Belgium</b> .....	<b>974</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium (C) .....160 Lutheran Church of Belgium: Arlon and Christian Mission (R) ..... 814	
<b>Croatia</b> .....	<b>3,329</b>
Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia (M) .....3,329	



## Individual Churches National Total

<b>Czech Republic</b> .....	<b>132,166</b>
Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (M) .....	102,166
Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (M) .....	30,000
<b>Denmark (including Greenland)</b> .....	<b>4,494,684</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) .....	4,494,589
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark (C) .....	95
<b>Estonia</b> .....	<b>162,000</b>
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	162,000
<b>Finland</b> .....	<b>4,514,359</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (M) .....	4,514,359
<i>(including ELCF members abroad)</i>	
<b>France</b> .....	<b>239,900</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church - Synod of France (C) .....	1,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of France (M) .....	10,400
Malagasy Protestant Church in France (M) .....	8,500
Protestant Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine (M) .....	220,000
<b>Germany</b> .....	<b>12,543,179</b>
Church of Lippe (Lutheran Section) (M) .....	32,000
Evangelical Church of Pomerania (M) .....	100,385
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden (M) .....	3,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (M) .....	2,632,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick (M) .....	400,315
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg (M) .....	463,448
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia (M) .....	431,467
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg (M) .....	2,286,893
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover (M) .....	2,981,313
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg (M) .....	201,740
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony (M) .....	810,558
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe (M) .....	60,800
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany (C) .....	1,470
Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	35,642
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M) .....	25,020
North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,076,628
<b>Greenland</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) <i>(see Denmark)</i>	
<b>Hungary</b> .....	<b>213,125</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary (M) .....	213,125
<b>Iceland</b> .....	<b>252,234</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (M) .....	252,234
<b>Ireland</b> .....	<b>256</b>
Lutheran Church in Ireland (R) .....	256
<b>Italy</b> .....	<b>7,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy (M) .....	7,000
<b>Latvia</b> .....	<b>250,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (M) .....	250,000



## Individual Churches    National Total

### Liechtenstein

Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) *(see Switzerland)*

**Lithuania** ..... **20,000**

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania (M) ..... 20,000

**Netherlands** ..... **2,300,000**

Protestant Church in the Netherlands (M) ..... 2,300,000

**Norway** ..... **3,890,718**

Church of Norway (M) ..... 3,868,943

Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway (M) ..... 21,775

**Poland** ..... **75,000**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (M) ..... 75,000

**Romania** ..... **44,675**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania (M) ..... 13,675

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania (M) ..... 31,000

**Russian Federation** ..... **95,000**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ..... 80,000

*(see Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan)*

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (M) ..... 15,000

**Serbia** ..... **49,500**

Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia (M) ..... 49,500

**Slovak Republic** ..... **372,858**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic (M) ..... 372,858

**Slovenia** ..... **20,000**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia (M) ..... 20,000

**Sweden** ..... **6,820,161**

Church of Sweden (M) ..... 6,820,161

**Switzerland** ..... **5,370**

Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) ..... 5,370

*(see Liechtenstein)*

### Ukraine

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

**United Kingdom** ..... **134,845**

Lutheran Church in Great Britain (M) ..... 2,745

Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (C) ..... 1,500

Lutheran Council of Great Britain (R) ..... 130,600

## Latin America & Caribbean

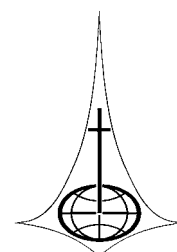
**Argentina** ..... **72,160**

Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) ..... 25,200

*(see Paraguay, Uruguay)*

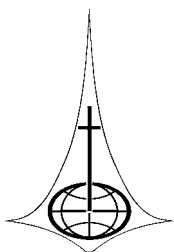
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) ..... 30,000

*(see Chile, Uruguay)*



## Individual Churches National Total

Protestant Congregation in Tandil (C) .....	160
Protestant Society in Southern Argentina - Lutheran Church (C) .....	3,800
Protestant Society of the South-East (C) .....	2,000
United Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	11,000
<b>Bolivia .....</b>	<b>24,400</b>
Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	22,000
Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia (C) .....	700
German-Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Bolivia (R) .....	1,000
Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Bolivia (C) .....	700
<b>Brazil .....</b>	<b>951,466</b>
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C) .....	1,050
Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (M) .....	717,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (C) .....	233,416
<b>Chile .....</b>	<b>13,450</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (M) .....	3,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) ( <i>see Argentina</i> ) .....	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile (C) .....	170
Lutheran Church in Chile (M) .....	10,280
<b>Colombia .....</b>	<b>3,479</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (M) .....	3,000
St Martin's Congregation (R) .....	160
St Matthew's Lutheran Church (R) .....	319
<b>Costa Rica .....</b>	<b>1,544</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Costa Rica (R) .....	220
Lutheran Costa Rican Church (M) .....	1,324
<b>Ecuador .....</b>	<b>2,020</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ecuador (R) .....	520
<i>(including the El Adviento Evangelical Lutheran Church in Quito, and The Savior Church in Guayaquil)</i>	
Evangelical Lutheran Indigenous Church of Ecuador (C) .....	1,500
<b>El Salvador .....</b>	<b>12,000</b>
Salvadoran Lutheran Church (M) .....	12,000
<b>Guatemala .....</b>	<b>211</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation "La Epifania" (R) .....	211
Lutheran Church of Guatemala (C) .....	no data
<b>Guyana .....</b>	<b>13,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (M) .....	13,000
<b>Haiti .....</b>	<b>no data</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (C) .....	no data
<b>Honduras .....</b>	<b>1,200</b>
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (M) .....	1,200
<b>Mexico .....</b>	<b>6,705</b>
All Saints' Lutheran Church (C) .....	191
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico (C) .....	3,000
German-Speaking Evangelical Congregation in Mexico (R) .....	636
Lutheran Synod of Mexico (C) .....	1,211
Mexican Lutheran Church (M) .....	1,500



<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (C) .....	167
<b>Nicaragua</b> .....	<b>7,050</b>
Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope (M) .....	7,050
<b>Panama</b> .....	<b>no data</b>
Brotherhood of Popular Pastoral Action - Lutheran Coordination (C) .....	no data
<b>Paraguay</b> .....	<b>3,981</b>
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) <i>(see Argentina)</i>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay (C) .....	3,981
<b>Peru</b> .....	<b>3,480</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru (R) .....	220
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation Cristo Rey (C) .....	100
Norwegian Lutheran Mission (C) .....	2,060
Peruvian Lutheran Evangelical Church (M) .....	1,100
<b>Suriname</b> .....	<b>4,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (M) .....	4,000
<b>Uruguay</b> .....	<b>190</b>
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) <i>(see Argentina)</i>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Uruguay (C) .....	190
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) <i>(see Argentina)</i>	
<b>Venezuela</b> .....	<b>2,934</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (M) .....	1,950
Lutheran Church of Venezuela (C) .....	984
 <b>North America</b>	
<b>Canada</b> .....	<b>244,892</b>
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M) .....	8,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (M) .....	161,142
Lutheran Church - Canada (C) .....	75,750
<b>USA</b> .....	<b>7,581,300</b>
Apostolic Lutheran Church of America (C) .....	7,707
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C) .....	44,000
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America (C) .....	8,860
Church of the Lutheran Confession (C) .....	8,631
Conservative Lutheran Association (C) .....	994
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (M) .....	4,709,954
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C) .....	19,945
Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (C) .....	2,000
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (C) .....	2,383,084
Protestant Conference [Lutheran] (C) .....	1,125
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C) .....	395,000

*These statistics are based on data received by 31 January 2009. Compiled by Colette Muanda (LWF/OCS)*

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