

**The Lutheran World Federation  
– A Communion of Churches**

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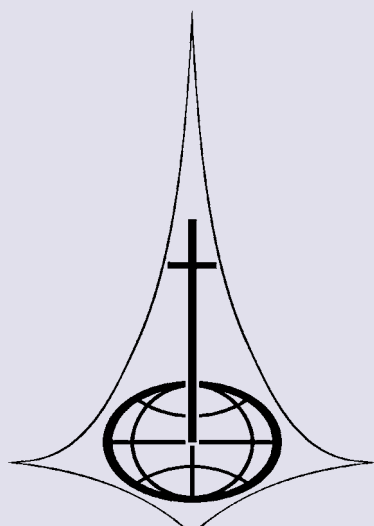
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## Slight Increase Pushes LWF Global Membership to 66.2 Million

An average global increase of over 286,000 new members puts worldwide membership in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) at 66.2 million for the period 2004–2005. The highest growth was recorded in Africa, where churches had nearly one million new members over the one-year period.

A compilation of statistical data from the 140 LWF member churches, ten congregations and one recognized council in 78 countries, puts total LWF membership at 66,214,048, up by 0.43 percent. LWF churches had 65.93 million members in 2004. In 2003, LWF membership was 62.3 million.

(See page 2 ff)

### LWF 2005 Membership Figures



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## Highlights

**Over 15 Million Lutherans in Africa.....2**

In Africa, 904,500 new members pushed the total membership in Lutheran churches there to 15,038,072, up by 6.4 percent compared to 2004. The LWF member churches on the continent registered 902,153 additional members, and a new total of 14,981,175.

**LWF President Mark Hanson's Statement on Remarks by Iranian President..... 14**

The president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Bishop Mark S. Hanson, condemned remarks by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, describing the Holocaust as a "myth" and calling for Israel to be "wiped off the map."

**FEATURE: Brazilian Lutherans Enthusiastic about World Council of Churches Assembly ..... 15**

Since March 2005, Vera Roth has been co-coordinator of a women's group, meeting once a month and "working non-stop like bees with order and peace," as aptly described in the group's name, *Colméia* (Portuguese word for beehive).

**FEATURE: Norwegian Free Church Opens Way for Women's Ordination . 17**

Fifteen years ago Katrine Bråtane was treated at Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital (SRH) in Nesodden outside Norway's capital city, Oslo. Since 16 January 2006 she is back there, but this time round as the first woman in the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway (ELFCN) to work as a hospital chaplain.

## Contents

### Communio

- 2 ..... **Slight Increase Pushes LWF Global Membership to 66.2 Million**
- 5 ..... **The Lutheran World Federation 2005 Membership Figures**
- 6 ..... **The Lutheran World Federation 2005 Membership Details**
- 14 ..... **LWF President Mark Hanson's Statement on Remarks by Iranian President**
- 15 ..... **FEATURE: Brazilian Lutherans Enthusiastic about World Council of Churches Assembly**
- 18 ..... **The Lutheran World Federation – Consultations in 2006**

### Features & Themes

- 17 ..... **FEATURE: Norwegian Free Church Opens Way for Women's Ordination**

### News in Brief

- 16 ..... **Former LWF President Krause Receives Ecumenical Award**

## Slight Increase Pushes LWF Global Membership to 66.2 Million

### Lutheran Churches in Africa Have 900,000 New Members

GENEVA, 14 February 2006 (LWI) – An average global increase of over 286,000 new members puts worldwide membership in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) at 66.2 million for the period 2004–2005. The highest growth was recorded in Africa, where churches had nearly one million new members over the one-year period.

A compilation of statistical data from the 140 LWF member churches, ten congregations and one recognized council in 78 countries, puts total LWF membership at 66,214,048, up by 0.43 percent. LWF churches had 65.93 million members in 2004. In 2003, LWF membership was 62.3 million.

In 2005 LWF member churches increased from 138 to 140, of which two have associate membership while the remaining have full membership.

The number of Lutherans worldwide rose by 229,753 to 69.76 million (69,757,570), an increase of 0.33 percent compared to 69.53 million in 2004. In 2003, there were 65.96 million Lutherans worldwide. The number of Lutherans outside the LWF membership decreased by 56,961 to 3.54 million.

### Over 15 Million Lutherans in Africa

In Africa, 904,500 new members pushed the total membership in Lutheran churches there to 15,038,072, up by 6.4 percent compared to 2004. The LWF member churches on the continent registered 902,153 additional members, and a new total of 14,981,175.

Africa's highest percentage increase, 44 percent, was recorded in the Evangelical Lutheran Church

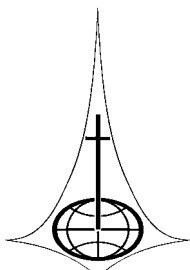
of Congo (Republic of Congo), a non-LWF member church, with 1,828 members compared to 1,268 the previous year. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya rose by 36.4 percent to 75,000. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Togo, also a non-LWF member church, recorded a 36 percent increase to reach 6,754.

With over 148,300 new members, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the largest LWF member church in Africa, had 4,312,407 members, a 3.5 percent increase compared to 2004. The second-largest LWF member church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania had half-a-million more members, an increase of 16.7 percent, pushing the current total to 3.5 million.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) increased membership by 50,000 to 350,000 members. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN) had an additional 11,913 members, pushing the total to 652,195. Membership in the German-speaking Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN-GELC) dropped by 20 percent to 5,200 members, compared to 6,500 in 2004.

A 13.2 percent increase pushed membership in the fourth largest LWF member church in Africa, the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, to 1,364,420. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Angola gained 4,000 new members and a new total of 26,000. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon went up by 13.5 percent to 195,000 members compared to 172,000 the previous year.

A decrease of 20.2 percent in the Moravian Church in South Africa gives a new total of 80,000 members.



## Asia: Small Increase Overall, Significant Growth in Taiwan

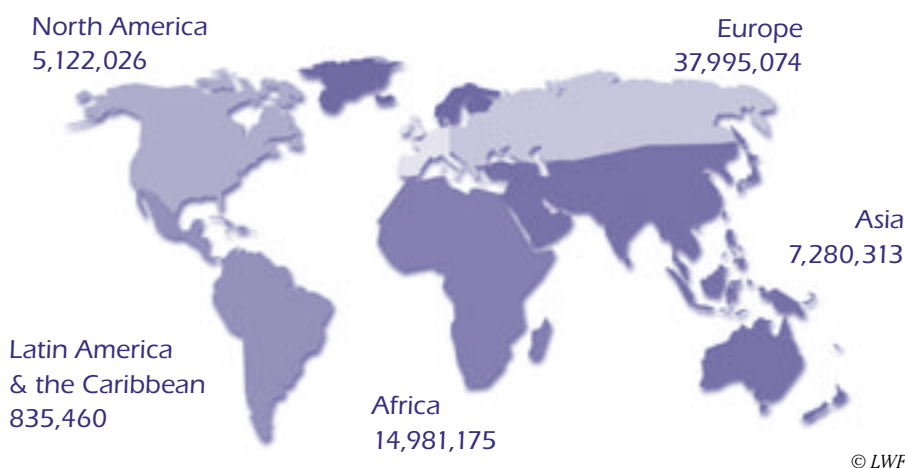
The number of Lutherans in Asia increased by 25,890 during the one-year period under review. Out of the total 7,416,992 Lutheran church members in Asia, 7,280,313 belonged to LWF churches, an increase of around 0.7 percent compared to 2004.

The Taiwan Lutheran Church recorded a 46.5 percent increase, the highest percentage in the region with a new total of 12,029 compared to 8,220 in 2004. The Bangladesh Lutheran Church gained 1,000 new members pushing the total membership to 4,000. An increase of 12.8 percent, pushed membership in the Pakpak Dairi Christian Protestant Church (Indonesia) to

cent less than the 7.2 million recorded in 2004. The third-largest LWF member church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, showed a slight decrease in membership with 4,572,611 compared to 4,586,414 in 2004. Figures in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, the fourth largest LWF member church, remained unchanged at 4,499,501 members. The Church of Norway recorded 8,681 new members, pushing the total to 3,930,946. Membership figures in the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway fell by 997 to 21,818.

The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria had 3,108 additional members and a new total of 325,429, whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania had 32,500 members, an

### LWF 2005 Membership Figures



34,384 members. The Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore had 7,644 members, up by 10.8 percent.

In India, membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam rose by 5.2 percent to 400,000, whereas the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church, with 80,000 members registered a decrease of 5.9 percent.

Membership in the Protestant Christian Batak Church (Indonesia), the largest Lutheran church in Asia, remained unchanged with three million members.

## Europe: Figures Drop by over Half-a-Million

In 2005, membership in Lutheran churches in Europe dropped by nearly 600,000 to 38,035,928. Membership in LWF member churches in the region fell by 599,479 to a total 37,995,074 members. In 2004, there was a sharp increase of 2.6 million, representing 7.3 percent, when the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN) joined the LWF.

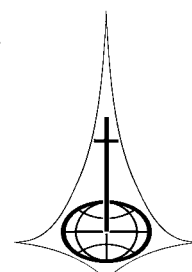
The Church of Sweden, the largest Lutheran church in the world, had 6,995,000 members in 2005, 3.1 per-

cent increase over the previous year's. A 25 percent increase in the Malagasy Protestant Church in France gave a new total of 10,000 members.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (ELCROS) had 75,000 members, following large-scale emigration by Russian Germans. Until recently ELCROS had given its membership figures as 250,000. Last year, membership in the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland fell by 3.1 percent to 77,500 members. The Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic recorded a 12.5 percent decrease to 35,000 members.

## Germany Has Fewer Lutherans

The 12,912,101 Lutherans in Germany, the country with the highest number of Lutherans in the world, represented a decrease of 191,845 compared to the previous year. In 2004, Lutheran churches in Germany had 13.1 million members, and 13.26 million members in 2003. A 37.5 percent decline in the 25,000-member Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad was the highest percentage decrease recorded in the country.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover, the largest Lutheran church in Germany, had 3,072,622 members, down by 1.7 percent over the 3.13 million recorded in 2004. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria remained unchanged at 2.7 million, while the North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church had 2,129,100 members, around one percent lower than in 2004.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony recorded a 5.78 percent drop in 2005 with 843,296 members. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia fell by 17,500 to 459,000 members, whereas that of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg went down to 212,455, a decrease of 5.6 percent. With 106,587 members, the Evangelical Church of Pomerania had a 7.3 percent decline.

A 1.7 percent decline in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick pushed the membership figures to 410,500, while the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden had 3,500 members, 5.5 percent less than in 2004. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe had 1,615 less members, bringing its total down to 62,300. The Church of Lippe (Lutheran Section) had 32,000 members, down by 1.8 percent.

Membership figures remained unchanged for the Evangelical Church in Württemberg with 2,346,879 members, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg, with 470,471 members.

### Minimal Changes in Latin America, More Lutherans in Argentina, Nicaragua

A slight decline in membership among the Latin American and Caribbean region Lutheran churches pushed the figures there down by 4,966 to a new total of 1,111,947 members. The 835,460 total recorded for LWF member churches was 6,636 lower than the previous year.

Membership in the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, the largest Lutheran church in the region, rose by around 0.27 percent to 711,935. Some 3,000 new members in the Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope, pushed the total to 7,000.

A 57 percent membership increase in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (Argentina) gave a new total of 11,000. With 25,300 members in 2005, the Evangelical Church of the River Plate (Argentina) had 44 percent fewer members compared to 2004.

Membership in the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church rose by 22.2 percent to 22,000 members. An increase of 10 percent in the Lutheran Costarican Church pushed the total membership to 1,249 members, while the Christian Lutheran Church of Hondu-

ras recorded a 20 percent increase for a new total of 1,200. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela fell by 13 percent to 1,950.

### Overall Decrease in North America

Lutheran membership in North American churches decreased by 1.16 percent down to a total of 8,154,631 compared to 8,250,658 recorded for the period ending 2004. In 2005, the region had 5,122,026 Lutherans belonging to LWF member churches compared to 5,182,002 in 2004.

The second-largest LWF member church in the world, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, had 4,930,429 members, a decline of 1.1 percent over the previous year. Membership in the Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Diaspora (USA) fell by 3.3 percent to 2,900.

Non-LWF member church, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (USA and Canada) had 2,463,747 members, a one percent decrease over the previous year's figures. The non-LWF Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America, with 8,860 members had registered a 38.2 percent decline in membership.

Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada remained unchanged at 182,077 members. The Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (Canada) recorded a 45 percent decline, pushing figures down to 6,620. The Lutheran Church – Canada, a non-LWF member church had 76,100 members, 6.6 percent fewer than the previous year.

*The LWF membership statistics are based on information received from the LWF member churches, recognized congregations and council, as well as from other Lutheran churches, organizations, mission bodies and congregations. The figures recorded for the year ending 2004 were used for churches that did not indicate any changes by the end of January 2006. (1,637 words)*

**A one-page summary of the 2005 LWF Statistics is posted in PDF format on the LWF Web site under: [www.lutheranworld.org/LWF\\_Documents/LWF-Statistics-01-2005.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF-Statistics-01-2005.pdf). Full details can be found under: [www.lutheranworld.org/LWF\\_Documents/LWF-Statistics-2005.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF-Statistics-2005.pdf).**

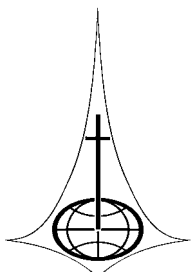
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# The Lutheran World Federation 2005 Membership Figures

## Summary

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

### General Summary 2005

140 LWF member churches, 10 recognized congregations and one recognized council .....	66,214,048
Lutherans outside LWF constituency .....	3,543,522
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>69,757,570</b>

Continent	All Lutherans	LWF Membership	Other Churches
<b>Africa</b>	15,038,072	14,981,175	56,897
<b>Asia</b>	7,416,992	7,280,313	136,679
<b>Europe</b>	38,035,928	37,995,074	40,854
<b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</b>	1,111,947	835,460	276,487
<b>North America</b>	8,154,631	5,122,026	3,032,605
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,757,570</b>	<b>66,214,048</b>	<b>3,543,522</b>

### Countries with more than half a million Lutherans

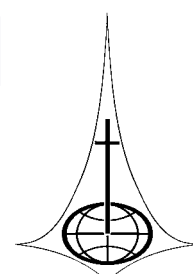
<b>Germany*</b>	12,912,101	<b>Madagascar</b>	3,000,000
<b>USA*</b>	7,889,834	<b>Netherlands</b>	2,530,000
<b>Sweden</b>	6,995,000	<b>India</b>	1,829,183
<b>Finland</b>	4,572,611	<b>Nigeria</b>	1,501,445
<b>Denmark</b>	4,499,611	<b>Namibia</b>	1,007,395
<b>Ethiopia</b>	4,312,407	<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	954,188
<b>Indonesia</b>	4,309,317	<b>Brazil</b>	937,508
<b>Norway</b>	3,952,764	<b>South Africa</b>	706,023
<b>Tanzania</b>	3,500,000		

\* These figures include the membership of the Baltic churches abroad.

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

<b>Church of Sweden</b>	6,995,000	<b>Evangelical Church in Württemberg</b>	2,346,879
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</b>	4,930,429	<b>North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>	2,129,100
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland</b>	4,572,611	<b>The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria</b>	1,364,420
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark</b>	4,499,501	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony</b>	843,296
<b>The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus</b>	4,312,407	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea</b>	815,000
<b>Church of Norway</b>	3,930,946	<b>Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>	800,000
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania</b>	3,500,000	<b>Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil</b>	711,935
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover</b>	3,072,622	<b>The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN)</b>	652,195
<b>Malagasy Lutheran Church</b>	3,000,000	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in South-ern Africa</b>	589,502
<b>Protestant Christian Batak Church</b>	3,000,000		
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria</b>	2,700,000		
<b>Protestant Church in the Netherlands</b>	2,530,000		
<b>Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**</b>	2,463,747		

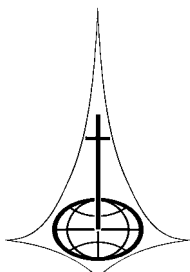
\*\* Not an LWF member church



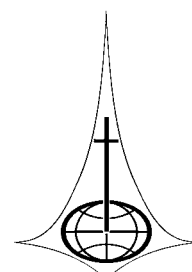
## The Lutheran World Federation 2005 Membership Details

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

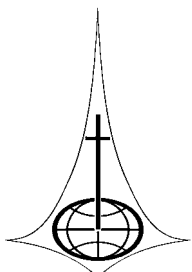
Africa	Individual Churches	National Total
<b>Angola</b> .....		<b>26,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Angola (M).....	26,000	
<b>Botswana</b> .....		<b>21,110</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (M).....	21,110	
<b>Cameroon</b> .....		<b>305,352</b>
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Cameroon (M).....	105,994	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (M).....	195,000	
The Lutheran Church of Cameroon (C).....	4,358	
<b>Central African Republic</b> .....		<b>55,000</b>
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 (C).....	1,828	
<b>Eritrea</b> .....		<b>12,000</b>
The Evangelical Church of Eritrea (M).....	12,000	
<b>Ethiopia</b> .....		<b>4,312,407</b>
The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (M).....	4,312,407	
<b>Ghana</b> .....		<b>26,400</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (M).....	26,400	
<b>Kenya</b> .....		<b>105,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (M).....	75,000	
Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	30,000	
<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>50,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (M).....	50,000	



	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Mozambique</b> .....		<b>5,987</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique (M) .....	5,987	
<b>Namibia</b> .....		<b>1,007,395</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN-GELC) (M) .....	5,200	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) (M) .....	350,000	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN) (M).....	652,195	
<b>Nigeria</b> .....		<b>1,501,445</b>
The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (M).....	1,364,420	
The Lutheran Church of Nigeria (M).....	137,025	
<b>Rwanda</b> .....		<b>20,000</b>
Lutheran Church of Rwanda (M) .....	20,000	
<b>Senegal</b> .....		<b>3,687</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal (C).....	no data	
The Lutheran Church of Senegal (M) .....	3,687	
<b>Sierra Leone</b> .....		<b>2,500</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (M).....	2,500	
<b>South Africa</b> .....		<b>706,023</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church) (M).....	4,099	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (M) .....	589,502	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (N-T) (M).....	9,770	
Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (C).....	2,652	
Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (C) .....	20,000	
Moravian Church in South Africa (M).....	80,000	
<b>Tanzania</b> .....		<b>3,500,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (M) .....	3,500,000	
<b>Togo</b> .....		<b>6,754</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Togo (C).....	6,754	
<b>Zambia</b> .....		<b>5,683</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (M) .....	5,683	
<b>Zimbabwe</b> .....		<b>135,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (M).....	135,000	
<b>Asia</b>		
<b>Australia</b> .....		<b>75,000</b>
Lutheran Church of Australia (AM).....	75,000	
<b>Bangladesh</b> .....		<b>12,884</b>
Bangladesh Lutheran Church (M) .....	4,000	
Bangladesh Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	8,884	
<b>Hong Kong (China)</b> .....		<b>47,534</b>
Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,470	
Lutheran Church, Hong Kong Synod (C) .....	8,300	

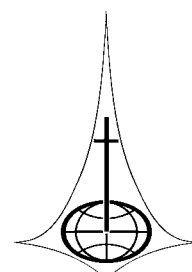


	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
The Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (M) .....	14,000	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (M) .....	14,264	
Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong (M).....	8,500	
<b>India.....</b>		<b>1,829,183</b>
Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	800,000	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh (M).....	15,825	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Himalayan States (M) .....	24,750	
Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	9,837	
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam (M) .....	400,000	
India Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	56,493	
Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	133,000	
North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	106,778	
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	80,000	
<i>(see Nepal)</i>		
South Andhra Lutheran Church (M).....	45,500	
The Arcot Lutheran Church (M) .....	37,000	
The Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	120,000	
<b>Indonesia .....</b>		<b>4,309,317</b>
Batak Christian Community Church (M).....	20,000	
Christian Communion of Indonesia Church in Nias (Gereja AMIN) (M).....	18,561	
Christian Protestant Angkola Church (M).....	27,986	
Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia (M).....	255,601	
Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (M).....	16,895	
Pakpak Dairi Christian Protestant Church (M) .....	34,384	
Protestant Christian Batak Church (M).....	3,000,000	
Protestant Christian Church in Mentawai (M).....	38,907	
Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (M) .....	198,479	
The Indonesian Christian Church (M) .....	350,000	
The Protestant Christian Church (M) .....	338,504	
The United Protestant Church (M).....	10,000	
<b>Israel .....</b>		<b>130</b>
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission – Shalhevetyah Christian Center and Congregation (C).....	80	
Lutheran Church in Israel (Immanuel Church) (C) .....	50	
<b>Japan .....</b>		<b>32,568</b>
Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	22,027	
Japan Lutheran Brethren Church (C).....	1,219	
Japan Lutheran Church (AM) .....	2,880	
Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,742	
West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C).....	3,700	
<b>Jordan .....</b>		<b>3,000</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land (M) .....	3,000	
<b>Korea, Republic .....</b>		<b>4,698</b>
Lutheran Church in Korea (M).....	4,698	
<b>Malaysia .....</b>		<b>91,516</b>
Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (M) .....	48,000	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (M).....	3,000	
Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (M).....	7,644	
The Protestant Church in Sabah (M) .....	32,872	

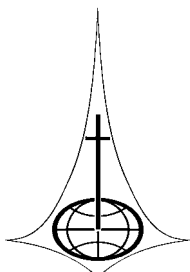




	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Myanmar</b> .....		<b>1,860</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (Lutheran Bethlehem Church) (M) .....	1,860	
<b>Nepal</b>		
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) ( <i>see India</i> )		
<b>New Zealand</b> .....		<b>1,001</b>
Lutheran Church of New Zealand (C) .....	1,001	
<i>(a district of the Lutheran Church of Australia)</i>		
<b>Papua New Guinea</b> .....		<b>954,188</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (M) .....	815,000	
Gutnius Lutheran Church – Papua New Guinea (M) .....	139,188	
<b>Philippines</b> .....		<b>27,000</b>
Lutheran Church in the Philippines (M) .....	27,000	
<b>Singapore</b> .....		<b>4,056</b>
Lutheran Church in Singapore (M) .....	4,056	
<b>Sri Lanka</b> .....		<b>1,200</b>
Lanka Lutheran Church (M) .....	1,200	
<b>Taiwan</b> .....		<b>19,357</b>
China Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	2,621	
China Lutheran Gospel Church (C) .....	225	
Chinese Lutheran Brethren Church (C) .....	1,668	
Taiwan Lutheran Church (M) .....	12,029	
The Lutheran Church of Taiwan (Republic of China) (M) .....	1,614	
The Lutheran Church of the Republic of China (C) .....	1,200	
<b>Thailand</b> .....		<b>2,500</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (M) .....	2,500	
<i>(including the Lutheran Mission in Thailand)</i>		
<b>Europe</b>		
<b>Austria</b> .....		<b>325,429</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria (M) .....	325,429	
<b>Belgium</b> .....		<b>812</b>
Lutheran Church of Belgium: Arlon and Christian Mission (R) .....	812	
<b>Croatia</b> .....		<b>3,500</b>
Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia (M) .....	3,500	
<b>Czech Republic</b> .....		<b>149,445</b>
Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (M) .....	114,445	
Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (M) .....	35,000	
<b>Denmark</b> ( <i>including Faroe Islands and Greenland</i> ) .....		<b>4,499,611</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) .....	4,499,501	
The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark (C) .....	110	



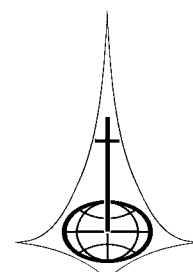
<b>Estonia</b> .....	<b>200,000</b>
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	200,000
 <b>Faroe Islands</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) ( <i>see Denmark</i> )	
<b>Finland</b> .....	<b>4,572,611</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (M) .....	4,572,611
<i>(including ELCF members abroad)</i>	
<b>France</b> .....	<b>260,600</b>
Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine (M).....	210,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church – Synod of France and Belgium (C) .....	600
Evangelical Lutheran Church of France (M) .....	40,000
Malagasy Protestant Church in France (M) .....	10,000
<b>Germany</b> .....	<b>12,912,101</b>
Church of Lippe [Lutheran Section] (M) .....	32,000
Evangelical Church in Württemberg (M).....	2,346,879
Evangelical Church of Pomerania (M) .....	106,587
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden (M) .....	3,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (M).....	2,700,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick (M).....	410,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg (M).....	470,471
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia (M) .....	459,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover (M) .....	3,072,622
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg (M) .....	212,455
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony (M) .....	843,296
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe (M).....	62,300
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany (C) .....	1,470
Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	36,921
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M) .....	25,000
North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,129,100
 <b>Greenland</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) ( <i>see Denmark</i> )	
<b>Hungary</b> .....	<b>305,000</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary (M) .....	305,000
<b>Iceland</b> .....	<b>250,661</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (M).....	250,661
<b>Ireland</b> .....	<b>3,500</b>
The Lutheran Church in Ireland (R) .....	3,500
<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
 <b>Liechtenstein</b>	
Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) ( <i>see Switzerland</i> )	



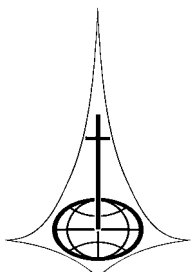
	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Lithuania</b> .....		<b>21,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania (M) .....	21,000	
<b>Netherlands</b> .....		<b>2,530,000</b>
Protestant Church in the Netherlands (M) .....	2,530,000	
<b>Norway</b> .....		<b>3,952,764</b>
Church of Norway (M).....	3,930,946	
The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway (M) .....	21,818	
<b>Poland</b> .....		<b>77,500</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (M).....	77,500	
<b>Romania</b> .....		<b>46,960</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania (M) .....	14,460	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania (M).....	32,500	
<b>Russian Federation</b> .....		<b>91,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) .....	75,000	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (M).....	16,000	
<b>Serbia-Montenegro</b> .....		<b>49,000</b>
Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia and Montenegro (M) ...	49,000	
<b>Slovak Republic</b> .....		<b>372,858</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic (M) .....	372,858	
<b>Slovenia</b> .....		<b>20,000</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia (M) .....	20,000	
<b>Sweden</b> .....		<b>6,995,000</b>
Church of Sweden (M).....	6,995,000	
<b>Switzerland</b> (including Liechtenstein) .....		<b>4,853</b>
Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) .....	4,853	
<b>United Kingdom</b> .....		<b>134,723</b>
Lutheran Church in Great Britain (M) .....	2,370	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (C) .....	1,753	
The Lutheran Council of Great Britain (R) .....	130,600	

## Latin America & the Caribbean

<b>Argentina</b> .....		<b>72,260</b>
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) .....	25,300	
<i>(see Paraguay, Uruguay)</i>		
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C).....	30,000	
<i>(see Chile, Uruguay)</i>		
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	



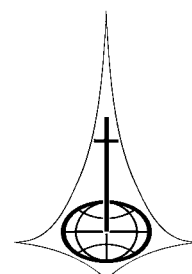
	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Bolivia</b> .....		<b>24,400</b>
Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	22,000	
Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia (C) .....	700	
German-Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Bolivia (R) .....	1,000	
Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Bolivia (C) .....	700	
<b>Brazil</b> .....		<b>937,508</b>
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C) .....	1,050	
Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (M) .....	711,935	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (C) .....	224,523	
<b>Chile</b> .....		<b>14,970</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) .....	11,800	
<b>Colombia</b> .....		<b>3,596</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (M) .....	3,100	
St Martin's Congregation (R) .....	160	
St Matthew's Congregation (R) .....	336	
<b>Costa Rica</b> .....		<b>1,849</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Costa Rica (R) .....	600	
Lutheran Costarican Church (M) .....	1,249	
<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 Synod (M) .....	12,000	
<b>Guatemala</b> .....		<b>200</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation La Epifanía (R) .....	200	
Lutheran Church of Guatemala (C) .....	no data	
<b>Guyana</b> .....		<b>11,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (M) .....	11,000	
<b>Haiti</b> .....		<b>no data</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (C) .....	no data	
<b>Honduras Republic</b> .....		<b>1,200</b>
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (M) .....	1,200	
<b>Mexico</b> .....		<b>9,179</b>
All Saints' Lutheran Church (C) .....	191	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico (C) .....	3,000	
German-Speaking Evangelical Congregation in Mexico (R) .....	3,110	
Lutheran Synod of Mexico (C) .....	1,211	
Mexican Lutheran Church (M) .....	1,500	
The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (C) .....	167	



	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Nicaragua</b> .....		<b>7,000</b>
The Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope (M).....	7,000	
<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>3,660</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru (R).....	400	
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>264,797</b>
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M) .....	6,620	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (M) .....	182,077	
Lutheran Church – Canada (C).....	76,100	
<b>USA</b> .....		<b>7,889,834</b>
Apostolic Lutheran Church of America (C) .....	7,707	
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C).....	39,319	
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) .....	4,930,429	
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C).....	24,000	
Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Diaspora (M) .....	2,900	
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (C) .....	2,463,747	
Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (C).....	1,500	
The Protestant Conference [Lutheran] (C).....	1,125	
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C).....	400,622	

*These statistics are based on data received by 31 January 2006. Compiled by Janet Bond-Nash (LWF/OCS)*

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## LWF President Mark Hanson's Statement on Remarks by Iranian President

Emphasis on Lutherans' Commitment to Open, Honest Relationship  
with Jewish Community

CHICAGO, United States of America/GENEVA, 20 December 2005 (LWI) – The president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Bishop Mark S. Hanson, condemned remarks by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, describing the Holocaust as a “myth” and calling for Israel to be “wiped off the map.”

In a statement dated 19 December 2005, Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), affirmed the historical record of the Holocaust under legal and scholarly scrutiny. “We know and grieve the awful truth of the Shoah. No reasonable person can stand by while any nation’s leader makes such outrageous and unacceptable claims,” he noted.

The LWF president said Ahmadinejad’s remarks, quoted widely in international media, represented a sadly different path for Iran, which in 2001 initiated the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations at the United Nations.

Hanson stated Lutherans’ commitment to an open and honest relationship with the Jewish

community. He cited the presence of the former General Secretary of the World Jewish Congress, Gerhard Riegner at the 1984 LWF Seventh Assembly in Hungary, as a signal to a new start in the dialogue between Jews and Lutherans at the global level, “addressing the lamentable reality of Martin Luther’s anti-Judaic writings and the tragedy of the Shoah.”

In a 1994 document, Hanson added, the ELCA itself acknowledges the pain caused by Luther’s anti-Judaic diatribes and his violent recommendations against the Jews.

The LWF president stressed Lutherans will continue to work with the Jewish people, Palestinian people, and all other people of good will in the Middle East in an ongoing “quest for mutual respect, hope, and peace for all people in this world.”

(294 words)

The full text of the statement by Bishop Mark S. Hanson follows:

### LWF President Mark Hanson's Statement on Remarks by Iranian President

In recent days, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran, has been widely quoted as saying the Holocaust is a “myth,” and that the State of Israel should be relocated to Europe, Canada, or Alaska. Earlier, he was quoted as saying Israel should be “wiped off the map.”

I join with other religious leaders in condemning these remarks. The historical record of the Holocaust is clear and has stood up under legal and scholarly scrutiny. We have listened carefully to the eyewitnesses, many of whom have lived among us for the last half century. We know and grieve the awful truth of the Shoah. No reasonable person can stand by while any nation’s leader makes such outrageous and unacceptable claims. The remarks represent a sadly different path for Iran, which in 2001 initiated the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations at the United Nations.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran World Federation have worked tirelessly to promote a just and lasting peace in the Middle East for all people. Our efforts have involved conversations with Israeli and Palestinian leaders as well as with Jewish, Muslim, and Christian leaders. We shall not cease our work to seek balanced and reasonable solutions that ensure peace, safety, and security for all people in that troubled land.

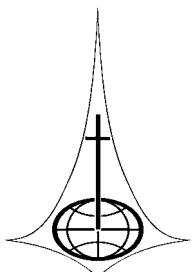
In the United States, I have joined with Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders in a 12-point plan for

Middle East peace. The plan emphasizes a two-state solution, and it calls on the government of the United States to do more to promote a lasting peace in the Middle East. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2005 implemented a Middle East strategy that calls for peace with justice between Israelis and Palestinians.

Moreover, we as Lutherans are committed to a relationship with the Jewish community that is open and honest. At the 1984 Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, held in Budapest, the presence of Dr. Gerhard Riegner, then retired General Secretary of the World Jewish Congress, signaled a new start in the dialogue between Jews and Lutherans at the global level, addressing the lamentable reality of Martin Luther’s anti-Judaic writings and the tragedy of the Shoah. At that time, we jointly affirmed the integrity and dignity of both faith communities and pledged to work together against all forms of racial prejudice.

In its 1994 document, “Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Jewish Community,” the ELCA acknowledged the pain caused by Luther’s anti-Judaic diatribes and his violent recommendations against the Jews. The ELCA expressed its “deep and abiding sorrow” over the tragic effects of these writings on subsequent generations.

In the declaration the ELCA said that “we express our urgent desire to live out our faith in Jesus Christ with



love and respect for the Jewish people. We recognize in anti-Semitism a contradiction and an affront to the Gospel, a violation of our hope and calling, and we pledge this church to oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us. Finally we pray for the continued blessing of the Blessed One upon the increasing cooperation and understanding between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community.”

Nothing can be gained by condemning or showing disrespect for any person, much less an entire people.

As Lutherans, we will continue to work with the Jewish people, we will work with the Palestinian people, and we will work with all other people of good will in the Middle East. Together we will continue our quest for mutual respect, hope, and peace for all people in this world.

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson  
 Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 in America  
 President, The Lutheran World Federation

## FEATURE: Brazilian Lutherans Enthusiastic about World Council of Churches Assembly

IECLB President Altmann: “This Will Strengthen Ecumenism in Our Church and Country”

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil/GENEVA, 10 February 2006 (LWI) – Since March 2005, Vera Roth has been co-coordinator of a women’s group, meeting once a month and “working non-stop like bees with order and peace,” as aptly described in the group’s name, *Colméia* (Portuguese word for beehive). The ten-member inter-religious voluntary team including fellow Lutheran, Elaine Neuenfeldt, is one of several working groups that have been getting ready to receive participants in the 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) to be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, 14–23 February 2006.

“God in your grace, transform the world,” is the theme of the assembly bringing together around 3,700 participants from churches all over the world. It is the first time since the WCC’s 1948 founding that a meeting of its highest governing body is taking place in Latin America.

At the assembly, *Colméia* will be the name of a women’s space to allow delegates, Brazilian and other women visitors to meet with women coming to the Assembly, discuss Brazilian and Latin American women’s concerns and link these to global ones, or simply to rest and be silent. “Active participation” has been the group’s motto since its formation, and during a pre-assembly meeting of Portuguese-speaking women, held 12–16 August 2005 in São Leopoldo, Rio Grande do Sul State, with around 50 participants from Angola, Brazil, Mozambique and Portugal.

### Honored to Co-Host Assembly

Roth and Neuenfeldt are members of the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (IECLB), which has been working alongside other WCC member churches in hosting the assembly under the auspices of the Brazilian National Council of Christian Churches (CONIC).

IECLB president, Rev. Dr Walter Altmann is enthusiastic about the “unprecedented anticipation for this



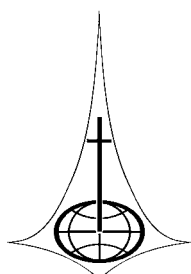
The *Colméia* group co-coordinator, Ms Vera Roth.  
 © Ricardo Figenbaum

ecumenical event, the biggest of its kind ever to take place in Latin America.”

“We feel honored and happy that the assembly will be held in the city of Porto Alegre, where the IECLB has its headquarters, and in the [southern] region that is home to the largest number of Lutherans in Brazil,” he stresses. The IECLB, with a membership of around 720,000 is the largest member church of both the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and WCC in Latin America.

### Ecumenical Progress, Commitment

Altmann speaks of the steady ecumenical progress and commitment which is reflected in the church’s constitution. “The WCC Assembly will be an unparalleled opportunity for Lutheran congregations and members to meet with church representatives from all over the world. It will be a chance to encounter other churches, their theologies, practices and ecumenical efforts. In turn they will see how the IECLB and other churches demonstrate their faith in Brazil. This will certainly strengthen ecumenism in our church and



country,” says the Lutheran leader, a member of the LWF Executive Committee.

The IECLB president is quick to point out the challenges the ecumenical movement must encounter in what he defines as an important transition period worldwide. “While growing religious pluralism proves the importance of religion in people’s lives, it can, however, test the credibility of the statement of faith when it manifests itself as mutual competition, rivalry and even conflict. Given the current global circumstances, we hope this assembly will be a strong and convincing assertion of the ecumenical commitment of member churches, and that it will open new paths for ecumenical cooperation,” he adds.

As well as the active participation of Lutherans in 18 voluntary assembly working groups, the Lutheran School of Theology will lead an important meeting on ecumenical theology, bringing together theologians mainly from Latin America but also some from other continents. “These events will undoubtedly have long-term positive effects on the IECLB’s ecumenical life,” according to Altmann.

## Unique Opportunity to Encounter Different Traditions

Voluntary group supervisor, Rev. Kurt Rieck, deputy pastor of Rio dos Sinos Synod, one of the 18 IECLB synods, describes the WCC event as “a unique opportunity for Lutherans and members of other churches in Brazil to encounter different cultures, ethnic groups and traditions.”



IECLB president, Rev. Dr. Walter Altmann.  
© LWF/H. Putsman

Roth, who has worked over several years with IECLB women’s groups echoes this sentiment. “The Assembly is an important moment in my worship life and the work of my church,” she says. “Ecumenism is part of the Lutheran faith. I wouldn’t consider myself Lutheran without the ecumenical side.”

Other IECLB-related organizations that will be involved in the ecumenical partnership program during the event itself include the Lutheran Diakonia Foundation; Support Center for Small-Scale Farmers; Mission among Indigenous Commission—a commission focusing on issues of land, health, education and indigenous rights; Lutheran People’s Ministry; Evangelical Center for Diaconal Ministry and the National Youth Ministry.

A number of congregations and parishes in Porto Alegre and nearby cities in Rio Grande do Sul are preparing to receive the WCC Assembly participants for Sunday worship, February 19. In addition to communal worship, congregation members and Assembly participants will share lunch together.

The WCC is a fellowship of over 340 Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, and united and other churches in over 100 countries representing more than 550 million Christians.

Nearly half of the 140 LWF member churches worldwide are affiliated to the WCC.

The LWF’s delegated representatives to the 9<sup>th</sup> WCC Assembly are General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko, and Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs, Rev. Sven Oppegaard.

(893 words)

(Contributed by Susanne Buchweitz, press advisor, Lutheran Diakonia Foundation.)



Rev. Kurt Rieck, deputy pastor, IECLB Rio dos Sinos Synod. © Cláudio Kupka

## Former LWF President Krause Receives Ecumenical Award

The Focolare Movement has conferred the 2006 Klaus Hemmerle Award on Bishop emeritus Dr Christian Krause, a former president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), for his dedication to the ecumenical movement.

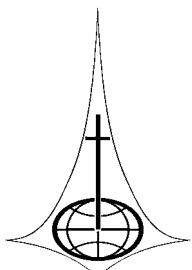
The award commemorates Roman Catholic Bishop of Aachen, Klaus Hemmerle (1929–1994), a pioneer of ecumenical life in Germany, and renowned theologian with ties to the Focolare Movement.

In his tribute to Krause during the January 20 ceremony in Aachen, Germany, Münster theologian Dr Wilfried Hagemann, particularly praised Krause’s commitment to the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. The declaration was signed in October 1999 by representatives of the LWF and the Roman Catholic Church in Augsburg, Germany.

Hagemann described Krause as a bridge builder. “Today we are honoring a Christian who devotes all his energy to the unity of the church.” Krause, LWF president, 1997–2003, was bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick, Germany.

The non-remunerated award recognizes individual commitment to promoting unity and dialogue in church and public life. This was the second time the award was conferred this year. Jewish professor Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich from Basel, Switzerland, was the first recipient.

Established in 1943 in Trient, Italy, the Focolare Movement is a Roman Catholic lay movement currently represented in more than 180 countries worldwide. In addition to ecumenical engagement, the movement is particularly committed to promoting dialogue between religions. (231 words)





# FEATURE: Norwegian Free Church Opens Way for Women's Ordination

## Hospital Chaplain Katrine Bråtane Begins Her Dream Job

OSLO, Norway/GENEVA, 24 January 2006 (LWI) – Fifteen years ago Katrine Bråtane was treated at Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital (SRH) in Nesodden outside Norway's capital city, Oslo. Since 16 January 2006 she is back there, but this time round as the first woman in the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway (ELFCN) to work as a hospital chaplain.

"I've been dreaming of a job like this for a long time and I'm so grateful for this opportunity. In this line of work you meet people in a very fragile period of their lives, and you can show them that there is hope," 26-year-old Bråtane told *Budbæren*, the ELFCN bi-weekly newspaper.

Her January 22 ordination in Oslo was significant in the ELFCN, which amended its constitution in July 2005 to allow the church and its congregations to call women for ordination as pastors or elders. On January 15, Bjørg Rødland, 45, was ordained as an elder of the Vågsbygd congregation, near Kristiansand in the south. Four to five women's ordinations are expected in the first half of 2006.

The ELFCN with nearly 22,000 members holds full membership in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) since September 2005. It was an associate LWF member church since 1997.

### Strengthening Diaconal Ministry

"I was surprised when the synod board contacted me with the job offer, but it's great that the Free Church also focuses on diaconal ministry now," Bråtane said of the call to serve in part-time position at the hospital, where she also spent four weeks as an intern during her theological studies.

The synod board was unanimous about hiring Bråtane, a member of Kraftverket congregation. "For a long time we have wanted to strengthen our diaconal ministry," said ELFCN Synod President, Rev. Arnfinn Løyning. "Bråtane is an amazing gift to our church. It was exciting to present her with the opportunity to work as a hospital chaplain—talk about fitting right in. We really feel that she does," added Løyning, who led the ordination service.

At the age of eleven, Bråtane was paralyzed from the shoulders down after she was hit by a truck while horse riding. In 2002, she won a historic victory in the case against her insurance company,



Rev. Katrine Bråtane. © ELFCN/Ole Angell

enabling her to meet financial requirements for the help she needs on a daily basis.

The SRH chaplain feels her situation—getting around in a wheelchair, needing assistance with everything—might be an advantage in her new workplace. "I have had my share of hardships, and therefore I think I have an advantage. People can see that I haven't just cruised through life without problems. But as a pastor I have to consider each individual and see how I can help them," she added.

As hospital chaplain, Bråtane's responsibilities include patient counseling, and being available for patients who want to talk about their situation.

Established in 1954 as a university hospital for rehabilitation, the SRH is a 128-bed specialized health institution providing different kinds of comprehensive and multidisciplinary rehabilitation programs for patients who have suffered complex injuries following accidents, or after strokes.

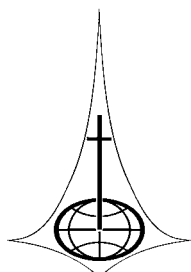
(511 words)

(By Ingunn O. Mercer, ELFCN information department)

**\*This article is part of the ongoing LWI Features on Healing focusing on the LWF Tenth Assembly theme, "For the Healing of the World."**



During the ordination of Katrine Bråtane (middle), from left to right, ELFCN president, Rev. Arnfinn Løyning; vice-president Leif Gunnar Sandvand (partly hidden); Kraftverket congregation trainee pastor Eli Stokka; and other congregation members and friends. © ELFCN/Ole Angell



# The Lutheran World Federation

## Consultations 2006

The consultations listed below are currently planned and will take place providing funding has been procured.

DMD	=	Department for Mission and Development
DTS	=	Department for Theology and Studies
DWS	=	Department for World Service
OCS	=	Office for Communication Services
OGS	=	Office of the General Secretary
OEA	=	Office for Ecumenical Affairs
OFA	=	Office for Finance and Administration
OIAHR	=	Office for International Affairs and Human Rights

### January

Date	Unit	Place	Title
12-18	DTS	Berlin, Germany	International Consultation on Spiritualism as a Global Challenge to the Church
13-19	OEA	Moshi, Tanzania	Anglican-Lutheran International Commission

### February

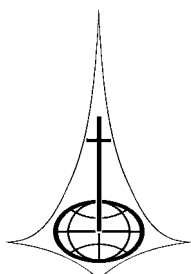
Date	Unit	Place	Title
01-06	DTS	Warsaw, Poland	Global Meeting: The Authority of the Bible in the Life of the Church
06-10	DMD	Nairobi, Kenya	Africa Regional HIV/AIDS Workshop on Skills and Capacity Enhancement
16-17	DWS	Uppsala, Sweden	DWS Strategic Planning Consultation with Nordic Agencies

### March

Date	Unit	Place	Title
02-03	DWS	Stuttgart, Germany	DWS Strategic Planning Consultation with Related Agencies
09-11	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	Executive Committee
13-17	DWS	Kigali, Rwanda	North, East and West Africa Regional Consultation
23-24	OFA	Geneva, Switzerland	Endowment Fund Board

### April

Date	Unit	Place	Title
07-08	LFIR	Strasbourg, France	Board Meeting: Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research (LFIR)
17-25	OCS/DMD	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Asia Regional Meeting: LWF Youth Leadership Training in Communication Program
17-22	DMD	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	“Stirring the Waters:” Asia Regional Consultation
24-25	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	Annual Forum
24-27	OCS/DMD	San José, Costa Rica	Latin America & Caribbean Regional Meeting: LWF Youth Leadership Training in Communication Program
24-28	DMD	San José, Costa Rica	Latin America Church Leadership Conference
24.04-06.05	DMD	La Paz, Bolivia	Capacity Building Workshop
26-27	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	Standing Committee for World Service
Undetermined	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	Second Meeting of the LWF Task Force on Family, Marriage and Sexuality



## May

Date	Unit	Place	Title
05	OFA	Geneva, Switzerland	Pension Fund Board
09-12	DMD	Bangkok, Thailand	Third Consultation: Mekong Mission Partners
15-20	DMD	Johannesburg, South Africa	Pastoral and Leadership Seminars for Lutheran Communion in Southern – LUCSA
22-26	DWS	Tuzla, Bosnia	DWS Regional Consultation
30.05-01.06	DMD	Montreux, Switzerland	Project Committee Meeting

## June

Date	Unit	Place	Title
05-09	OEA	Strasbourg, France	Lutheran-Mennonite International Study Commission
06-12	DMD	Nairobi, Kenya	Nairobi + 4: Follow-up of LWF HIV/AIDS Campaign
06-13	OCS/DMD	Nairobi, Kenya	Africa Regional Meeting: LWF Youth Leadership Training in Communication Program
07-13	OCS/OIAHR	Nairobi, Kenya	Interfaith Media Seminar
13-19	DMD	Vienna, Austria	International Roundtable for Youth Leaders
23-27	DMD	Sao Leopoldo, Brazil	Latin America Regional Meeting on Gender and Power
27-30	DMD	Medan, Indonesia	Asia Regional “Seminar on Dialogue in Life”

## July

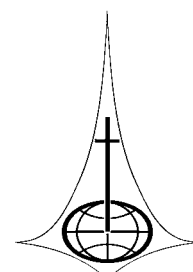
Date	Unit	Place	Title
01-07	OEA	Netherlands (to be determined)	Lutheran-Reformed Joint Commission
03-07	DMD	Undetermined	Regional Core Group Meeting: “Sustainability in the Communion”
20-24	DMD	Bangkok, Thailand	Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinators’ Meeting

## August

Date	Unit	Place	Title
20-26	OCS/DMD	Chicago, USA	North America Regional Meeting: LWF Youth Leadership Training in Communication Program
28.08-02.09	DMD	Chennai, India	Meeting of the Advisory Committee for Theological Education in Asia – ACTEAS Meeting of the Advisory Committee for Coordination of Regional Expression in Asia – ACCREA

## September

Date	Unit	Place	Title
02-03	DMD	Arusha, Tanzania	Women and Youth Strategic Meeting: Churches Say “NO” to Violence Against Women
04-09	DMD	Arusha, Tanzania	Consultation on Poverty and the Mission of the Church in Africa
18-23	DMD	St Petersburg, Russia	Sub-regional Capacity Building Workshop
23-27	DMD	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	Roundtable Meetings
25-28	DMD	Nairobi, Kenya	Pastoral and Leadership Seminars for Lutheran Communion in Central and Eastern Africa – LUCCEA
Undetermined	DMD	Europe (to be determined)	Europe Regional Follow-up Consultation on LWF HIV/AIDS Campaign



## October

Date	Unit	Place	Title
09-10	DMD	Slovak Republic or Czech Republic (to be determined)	European Sub-regional Consultation: Analysis of Church-State Relationships in Transition
16-20	DMD	Undetermined	Regional Diakonia Network Meeting: Microcredits as a Tool for Development

## November

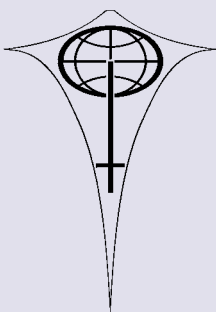
Date	Unit	Place	Title
01-04	DMD	Undetermined	Pastoral and Leadership Seminars for Lutheran Communion in Western Africa – LUCWA
02-09	OEA	Bratislava, Slovak Republic	Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission
13-17	DMD	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Capacity Building Workshop
17-18	DMD	Tallinn, Estonia	Regional Meeting: LWF Member Churches in the Baltic States and Russia
20-24	DWS	India (to be determined)	Standing Committee for World Service
22-23 or 25-26 (to be confirmed)	DWS	Bangladesh (to be determined)	RDRS (Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service) 10 <sup>th</sup> Partners Consultation
23-25	DMD	Greifswald, Germany	Preparatory Group: 2007 European Church Leadership Consultation

## December

Date	Unit	Place	Title
04-12 (to be confirmed)	OCS/DWS	San Salvador, El Salvador	DWS Latin America and Caribbean Regional Communication Training Workshop
Undetermined	OEA	Geneva, Switzerland (to be confirmed)	LWF-ILC Meeting

## Undetermined

Date	Unit	Place	Title
Undetermined	OCS/OIAHR	Nairobi, Kenya	Interfaith Youth Consultation "Africa's Image Today"
Undetermined	OCS/OIAHR	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	IFAPA (Inter-Faith Action for Peace in Africa) Commission for Africa
Undetermined	OIAHR	Karasjok, Norway	Consultation on Indigenous Issues
Undetermined	OCS/DMD	Undetermined	European Regional Meeting: LWF Youth Leadership Training in Communication Program



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