# EVANGELICAL SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA

(FORMERLY GERMAN EVANGELICAL SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA)

### STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Evangelical Synod of North America for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

In the Evangelical Synod of North America all persons on the rolls as communicants in good standing are counted as members.

Table 1.—Summary of Statistics for Churches in Urban and Rural Territory, 1926: Evangelical Synod of North America

	mar. 2000	In urban	In rural	PER CENT OF TOTAL			
Mari	Total	territory 1	territory 1	Urban	Rural		
Churches (local organizations)	1, 287	533	754	41.4	58. 6		
Members	244	203, 663 382	110, 855 147	64, 8			
Membership by sex: Male Female Sex not reported Males per 100 females Membership by age:	162, 654 13, 361 85. 2	85, 189 107, 794 10, 680 79. 0	53, 314 54, 860 2, 681 97. 2	61, 5 66. 3 79. 9	38. 5 33. 7		
Under 13 years	314, 518	203, 663	110, 855	64.8	35.2		
Church edifices: Number. Value—Churches reporting. Amount reported. Average per church. Debt—Churches reporting. Amount reported. Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.	1, 402 1, 253 \$35, 789, 581 \$28, 563	600 519 \$27, 632, 881 \$53, 243	802 734 \$8, 156, 700 \$11, 113	42.8 41.4 77.2	57, 2 58, 6 22, 8		
	410	\$3, 603, 315	\$505, 950	68. 0 87. 7	32. 0 12. 3		
Parsonages:		223	535	29.4	70.6		
Parsonages: Value—Churches reporting Amount reported Debt—Churches reporting Amount reported Churches reporting "no debt" on	\$5, 931, 291 147	\$3, 854, 456 93 \$335, 158	\$2, 076, 835 54 \$82, 102	45. 5 65. 0 63. 3 80. 3	54. 5 35. 0 36. 7 19. 7		
parsonage	749	323	426	43, 1	56.9		
Expenditures during year: Churches reporting Amount reported Current expenses and improvements. Benevolences, missions, etc. Not classified. Average expenditure per church.	\$6,002,900 \$5,136,214 \$860,133	529 \$4, 431, 904 \$3, 813, 016 \$618, 888 \$8, 378	745 \$1, 570, 996 \$1, 323, 198 \$241, 245 \$6, 553 \$2, 109	41.5 73.8 74.2 72.0	26. 2		
Sunday schools: Churches reporting Officers and teachers Scholars	1, 146 16, 978 171, 402	503 11, 406 114, 735		43. 9 67. 2 66. 9	56. 1 32. 8 33. 1		

¹ Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.

The data given for 1926 represent 1,287 active churches of the Evangelical Synod of North America, with 314,518 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 1,255 churches, and the classification by age was reported by all of the churches, none of which, however, reported any members under 13 years of age.

Comparative data, 1890-1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

Table 2.—Comparative Summary, 1890 to 1926: Evangelical Synod of North America

Mari week porter porter period territor	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)  Increase 1 over preceding census:	1, 287	1, 331	1, 198	870
Number	-44 -3.3	133 11, 1	328 37. 7	4-2-4-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-6-
Members Increase 1 over preceding census:	314, 518	339, 853	To the Article	187, 432
Number Per cent Average membership per church	-25, 335 -7. 5 244	46, 716 15. 9 255	105, 705 56. 4 245	
Church edifices: Number Value—Churches reporting Amount reported Average per church. Debt—Churches reporting Amount reported	1, 402 1, 253 \$35, 789, 581 \$28, 563 410 \$4, 109, 265	1, 267 1, 249 \$13, 118, 273 \$10, 503 451 \$1, 492, 479	\$9,376,402 \$8,247 398 \$1,161,776	
Parsonages: Value—Churches reporting Amount reported Debt—Churches reporting Amount reported	\$5, 931, 291 147 \$417, 260		\$1, 717, 345	######################################
Expenditures during year: Churches reporting	1, 274 \$6, 002, 900 \$5, 136, 214 \$860, 133 \$6, 553 \$4, 712	1, 303 \$2, 375, 690 \$1, 902, 555 \$473, 135	din un	
Sunday schools: Churches reporting Officers and teachers Scholars	1, 146 16, 978 171, 402	1, 203 14, 234 145, 377	1, 086 12, 079 116, 106	######################################

<sup>1</sup> A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Evangelical Synod of North America by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents, for each district in the Evangelical Synod of North America, the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

Table 3.—Number and Membership of Churches in Urban and Rural Territory, and Total Membership by Sex, by States, 1926: Evangelical Synod of North America

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE		UMBER O		NUMBE	ER OF ME	EMBERS	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX				
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	females (1)	
United States	1, 287	533	754	314, 518	203, 663	110, 855	138, 503	162, 654	13, 361	85, 2	
Middle Atlantic:  New York  New Jersey  Pennsylvania	66 8 21	46 7 17	20 1 4	23, 592 1, 405 7, 703	21, 698 1, 310 7, 038	1,894 95 665	10, 083 637 2, 713	12, 254 768 3, 587	1, 255	82. 3 82. 9 75. 6	
East North Central: Ohio Indiana Illinois Michigan Wisconsin	128 90 234 68 106	65 32 91 36 39	63 58 143 32 67	40, 487 24, 909 65, 584 19, 295 24, 511	30, 028 16, 657 38, 960 14, 384 16, 446	10, 459 8, 252 26, 624 4, 911 8, 065	17, 164 11, 259 29, 237 8, 592 11, 096	21, 008 12, 845 34, 204 9, 897 12, 768	2, 143 806 647	81. 7 87. 7 85. 5 86. 8 86. 9	
West North Central: Minnesota Iowa Missouri North Dakota South Dakota Nebraska Kansas	8	17 15 53 1 6 7	56 58 107 7 6 27 23	10, 769 12, 367 34, 382 2, 202 273 5, 178 3, 134	4, 085 3, 270 19, 137 37 1, 708 739	6, 684 9, 097 15, 245 2, 165 273 3, 470 2, 395	5, 137 5, 588 15, 814 365 128 2, 505 1, 494	5, 294 6, 155 18, 476 397 145 2, 673 1, 640	338 624 92 1,440	97. 0 90. 8 85. 6 91. 9 88. 3 93. 7 91. 1	
South Atlantic: Maryland District of Columbia Virginia West Virginia Georgia Florida East South Central:	1 3 1	13 1 1 2 1 2	1 2 1 2	5, 616 372 686 1, 206 156 318	5, 552 372 686 1, 150 156 225	64 56 93	1, 918 147 306 485 77 142	2, 555 225 380 721 79 176	1, 143		
Kentucky Alabama Mississippi	2	19 1 1	1	8, 294 469 90	7, 762 204 90	532 265	3, 422 208 40	4, 522 261 50	350	75. 7 79. 7	
West South Central: Arkansas Louisiana Oklahoma Texas	7 12	1 7 6 12	1 6 48	365 3, 573 656 11, 137	350 3, 573 234 3, 652	15 422 7, 485	155 1,444 314 5,385	210 2, 129 342 5, 752		73. 8 67. 8 91. 8 93. 5	
Mountain:  Montana Idaho Wyoming Colorado Arizona	3 3 15	1 11	6 3 2 4 1	391 175 453 2, 305 22	308 1, 547	391 175 145 758 22	195 89 203 1, 104 12	196 86 250 1, 201 10	016113	99. 5 81. 2 91. 9	
Pacific: Washington Oregon California	3	4 2 16	1 2	325 296 1,822	325 217 1, 763	79 59	147 146 752	178 150 1,070		82. 6 97. 3 70. 3	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

Table 4.—Number and Membership of Churches, 1906 to 1926, by States: Evangelical Synod of North America

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

20 Tend BEDLEOUALLY	10 3000 P		NUMBE	R OF CH	URCHES	NUMBER OF MEMBERS				
STATE			1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906		
United Sta	1,287	1, 331	1, 198	314, 518	339,853	293, 137				
New York New Jersey Pennsylvania		66 8 21	65 8 22	64 7 18	23, 592 1, 405 7, 703	26, 342 2, 453 10, 776	26, 183 2, 305 6, 871			
Indiana Illinois Michigan	1882 1881		128 90 234 68 106	126 94 227 76 112	108 90 219 68 97	40, 487 24, 909 65, 584 19, 295 24, 511	40, 458 25, 403 71, 274 22, 483 29, 136	35, 138 21, 624 59, 973 20, 436 19, 861		
Minnesota				68 85 160 11 5 36 39	67 81 162 8 6 28 35	10, 769 12, 367 34, 382 2, 202 273 5, 178 3, 134	11, 353 13, 353 37, 374 2, 676 339 5, 456 4, 182	9, 183 11, 681 32, 715 1, 655 325 3, 882 3, 617		
Maryland West Virginia Florida				13 2 3	17 2	5, 616 1, 206 318	4, 790 840 96	8, 384 95		
Kentucky Arkansas Louisiana Oklahoma Texas			21 2 7 12 60	23 6 6 16 64	19 3 4 17 50	8, 294 365 3, 573 656 11, 137	8, 773 309 4, 009 784 10, 363	12, 189 250 4, 353 630 7, 745		
Montana Idaho. Wyoming Colorado				10 8 1 12		391 175 453 2,305	319 377 150 1,845	125 833		
Washington Oregon California				4 2 20	14	325 296 1,822	376 193 1, 843	1, 221		
Other States	(0, 000	97	7	7	7	1, 795	1,728	1, 863		

# HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION 1

# DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The Evangelical Synod of North America traces its origin to six ministers, representing the union of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches, who met and organized a synod at Gravois Settlement, Mo., in 1840. Four of these were missionaries, two sent by the Rhenish Missionary Society and two sent by the Missionary Society of Basel; while two were independent, one coming from Bremen and one from Strassburg. During subsequent years several similar organizations were effected, including the Evangelical Synod of the North West, the German Evangelical Society of Ohio, the United Evangelical Society of the East, and some others; and in the year 1877 these organizations, holding as they did, the same doctrines and governed by the same ecclesiastical principles, united in the present organization, known to-day as The Evangelical Synod of North America. The Synod is a constituent member of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. Gustave Fischer, general secretary of the Evangelical Synod of North America, and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 5 .- VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: EVANGELICAL SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	number of hurches ber of church edifices			E OF CHURCH	DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES			ALUE OF RSONAGES	DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
	Total number churches	Number of edifice	Churches	Amount	Churches	Amount	Churches	Amount	Churches	Amount
United States	1,287	1,402	1, 253	\$35, 789, 581	410	\$4, 109, 265	982	\$5,931,291	147	\$417,260
New York New Jersey Pennsylvania	66 8 21	70 11 23	66 7 21	3, 353, 000 301, 000 1, 039, 500	31 5 9	473, 944 74, 600 25, 250	45 5 18	380, 200 47, 000 183, 200	12 2 8	56, 900 5, 100 42, 300
Ohio	128 90 234 68 106	142 104 263 77 109	127 89 226 67 101	5, 511, 889 2, 696, 310 7, 522, 730 2, 445, 200 1, 857, 292	44 23 74 29 34	689, 445 194, 499 924, 639 241, 897 223, 304	92 73 198 55 75	727, 250 392, 275 1, 282, 900 421, 700 358, 686	14 4 21 3 9	56, 600 10, 400 51, 100 12, 500 10, 350
Minnesota Iowa Missouri North Dakota South Dakota Nebraska Kansas	73 73 160 8 6 33 30	78 76 172 9 6 33 31	72 72 153 8 6 32 30	753, 400 928, 350 4, 016, 194 96, 000 18, 000 334, 200 349, 100	10 11 42 2 1 6 7	38, 758 51, 122 501, 903 1, 000 350 43, 235 38, 559	46 66 124 8 3 23 24	208, 100 292, 280 689, 300 23, 300 6, 500 98, 500 71, 300	7 10 12 2 2	15, 000 23, 524 25, 625 1, 656 1, 188
Maryland West Virginia Florida	15 3 4	18 3 4	15 3 4	889, 500 203, 000 83, 250	9 1 1	231, 101 25, 000 8, 800	13	119, 800 (1) 19, 500	32	16,030
Kentucky Louisiana Oklahoma Texas	21 7 12 60	24 8 11 68	19 7 11 57	1, 334, 500 338, 500 81, 300 748, 300	12 5 3 17	101, 100 60, 475 9, 440 27, 700	19 5 9 39	174, 000 57, 500 18, 400 160, 000	4 1 1 8	15, 501 3, 155 600 16, 134
Montana		6 3 3 14	. 6 3 3 14	13, 000 12, 000 27, 400 110, 400	5 1 3 9	3, 958 1, 900 8, 000 14, 267	3 8	(1) (1) 10, 400 24, 200	1 7	(1) 2, 000 11, 262
Washington Oregon California	3	5 3 18	4 3 18	28, 000 7, 500 247, 666	2	4, 150 50, 909	3 3 13	10, 000 15, 000 67, 400	1 3 7	4, 500 7, 225 22, 330
Other States 2	9	10	9	443, 100	4	39, 960	9	72, 600	3	4, 900

Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual

churches.

The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 4 churches in West Virginia, Montana, and Idaho.

### DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

The Synod accepts the Bible as the ultimate rule of life and faith, and for interpretation it recognizes the symbolic books of both Lutheran and Reformed churches. Wherever these symbols do not agree, liberty is allowed in the interpretation of the Scripture passages in question.

The church is divided into districts, 20 in number, which correspond closely to the self-governing States in the Federal Government, and there is a general conference, meeting once every four years, which represents the whole church. This conference is composed of the presidents of the districts, clerical delegates. in the proportion of 1 to every 12 ministers, and lay delegates in the proportion of 1 to every 12 churches.

Table 6.—Church Expenditures and Sunday Schools, by States, 1926: Evangelical Synod of North America

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures

PARTOR BART	er of		EXPEND	ITURES DURIN	NG YEAR		st	SUNDAY SCHOOLS			
STATE	Total number of churches	Churches	Total amount	For current expenses and im- provements	For benevo- lences, missions, etc.	Not classi- fied	Churches	Officers and teachers	Scholars		
United States	1, 287	1, 274	\$6,002,900	\$5, 136, 214	\$860, 133	\$6,553	1, 146	16, 978	171, 402		
New York	66	66	443, 917	373, 311	70, 606		56	1, 225	12, 038		
New Jersey	8	8	47, 573	44, 598	2, 975		8	140	1, 212		
Pennsylvania	21	21	178, 631	161, 321	17, 310		19	412	3, 987		
Ohio	128	127	902, 925	801, 347	101, 578	101-111	118	2, 461	26, 470		
Indiana	90	90	421, 401	351, 809	69, 592		85	1, 449	16, 095		
Illinois	234	232	1, 115, 956	941, 117	174, 839		212	3, 392	33, 823		
Michigan	68	68	379, 684	334, 717	44, 967		61	808	7, 561		
Wisconsin	106	105	364, 342	319, 636	44, 706		93	955	8, 778		
Minnesota	73	72	131, 767	112, 741	19, 026		58	321	3, 205		
Iowa	73	72	-170, 041	133, 490	36, 551		63	646	6, 231		
Missouri	160	156	850, 465	702, 856	147, 609		142	2,323	22, 843		
North Dakota	8	8	17, 378	13, 845	3, 533		6	73	794		
South Dakota	6	6	3, 418	2, 963	455		4	11	105		
Nebraska	33	31	116, 128	104, 839	11, 289		26	226	2, 386		
Kansas	30	30	64, 846	55, 489	9, 357		27	277	2, 758		
Maryland	15	15	140, 115	126, 877	13, 238		15	- 387	3, 976		
West Virginia	3	3	26, 570	23, 306	3, 264		3	63	682		
Florida	4	4	16, 106	15, 073	1, 033		4	24	168		
Kentucky	21	21	243, 586	208, 049	35, 537	6, 553	21	601	6, 804		
Louisiana	7	7	55, 686	45, 558	10, 128		7	279	2, 473		
Oklahoma	12	12	24, 779	22, 264	2, 515		8	52	505		
Texas	60	60	102, 095	78, 321	17, 221		55	403	4, 472		
Montana	6 3 3 15	6 3 3 15	2, 502 1, 444 4, 022 30, 737	2, 027 1, 235 3, 686 25, 950	475 209 336 4,787		4 3 3 14	12 9 17 103	109 110 264 1, 139		
Washington	4	4	6, 934	6, 391	543		4	29	194		
Oregon	3	3	7, 955	5, 609	2, 346		3	34	246		
California	18	18	65, 278	58, 660	6, 618		16	109	814		
Other States	9	8	66, 619	59, 129	7, 490		8	137	1, 160		

## WORK

The general activities of the churches are under the direct control of the Synod through central or district boards.

The boards for home missions seek to gather into the Synod those congregations which naturally belong to it, organizing them and supplying them with preachers and with the sacraments. In close affiliation with these boards is the board of extension, which assists in the erection of church buildings and parsonages. The report for 1927 shows 107 missionaries employed in home work, 143 churches and missions aided, and contributions amounting to \$102,695.

Foreign missionary work under the care of the Board of Foreign Missions is carried on in the Central Province of India and in Honduras, the services being conducted in the native languages. The report for 1927 shows 9 main stations occupied by 42 American missionaries and 313 native helpers. There were 9 churches with 4,020 members, 61 schools with 3,975 pupils, 5 hospitals and dispensaries treating about 16,105 patients, 5 orphanages with 405 orphans, and 2 leper asylums with 386 inmates; the total value of property under the care of the mission board is estimated at \$75,000 with an endowment of \$43,320, and the amount contributed for the work during the year was \$157,775.

Table 7.—Number and Membership of Churches, Value of Edifices, Debt, Expenditures, and Sunday Schools, by Districts, 1926: Evangelical Synod of North America

DISTRICT	Total number of churches	number	number	number	number	number	ы	ы	ы	ы	nembers		ALUE OF CH EDIFICES		DEBT CHURCH DIFICES		ENDITURES ING YEAR		DAY
							Number of members	Churches	Amount	Churches	Amount	Churches	Amount	Churches	Num- ber of schol- ars				
Total	1, 287	314, 518	1, 253	\$35, 789, 581	410	\$4, 109, 265	1, 274	\$6,002,900	1, 146	171, 402									
Atlantic Colorado Indiana Iowa Kansas	17	12, 225 2, 659 38, 797 14, 145 3, 917	41 16 115 80 43	2, 039, 500 130, 900 5, 214, 610 1, 127, 350 437, 400	22 11 46 13 10	369, 370 19, 267 508, 649 92, 952 47, 999	42 17 117 80 44	330, 115 31, 429 878, 421 194, 574 94, 295	39 16 109 71 37	7, 748 1, 289 27, 038 7, 512 3, 318									
Michigan Minnesota Missouri Nebraska New York	92 126	24, 501 13, 617 27, 392 5, 067 23, 009	88 90 119 30 61	2, 886, 400 894, 700 3, 138, 194 330, 200 3, 304, 500	32 14 32 6 29	252, 847 45, 958 405, 253 43, 235 435, 125	89 90 121 29 61	460, 106 157, 369 580, 525 113, 628 431, 872	82 72 109 24 53	11, 061 4, 294 17, 507 2, 326 11, 653									
North Illinois Ohio Pacific Pennsylvania Southern	78 19	40, 858 26, 217 1, 844 7, 976 4, 606	122 78 19 31 15	5, 337, 600 3, 434, 287 251, 166 890, 600 554, 750	52 25 11 6 7	639, 802 414, 945 51, 869 41, 700 71, 275	127 78 19 31 15	812, 927 536, 063 65, 750 149, 854 84, 186	120 75 17 27 15	21, 217 16, 855 829 4, 643 3, 245									
South Illinois Texas West Missouri Wisconsin	60	24, 096 11, 137 7, 032 24, 153	100 57 34 97	2, 243, 130 748, 300 916, 600 1, 844, 994	23 17 11 34	291, 007 27, 700 119, 650 217, 654	102 60 34 101	327, 272 102, 095 272, 468 359, 956	89 55 32 89	11, 808 4, 472 5, 231 8, 578									
Washington Mission Montana Mission	8 9	687 583	8 9	41, 500 22, 900	2 7	4, 150 8, 858	8 9	15, 839 4, 156	8 7	470 308									

The educational work of the Synod was represented in 1926 by the preparatory school and college at Elmhurst, Ill., a theological seminary at St. Louis, Mo., an academy at Robinson, Tex., and a training school, Oakwood Institute, at Cincinnati, Ohio. There were also 66 vacation and Saturday schools with a total attendance of 11,759 pupils. The total amount contributed through the year was \$221,000. The property value was given as \$1,315,000 and the amount of endowment is \$206,000.

There are 21 philanthropic institutions, including 13 hospitals or deaconess homes, 5 homes for the aged, 4 orphan homes, 1 pastor's home, and 2 asylums for the epileptic and feeble-minded. Together, they had during the year 10,515 patients and inmates. The entire value of the property is estimated at \$1,275,000, and the amount contributed toward the institutions in 1926 was \$217,565.

The Sunday schools with an enrollment of approximately 173,000 during 1926, contributed \$203,000 for their own support; \$51,000 for missions, and \$23,800 for other benevolent purposes.

The various societies for young people are combined in a Young People's Union, representing 811 young people's societies, with 29,977 members. There are 1,272 Ladies Aid societies with 90,282 members, 423 Brotherhoods with 25,325 members, 140 Mission societies with 6,600 members, and 520 S. S. Workers societies with 11,649 members.