

# LUTHERANS

## GENERAL STATEMENT<sup>1</sup>

*History.*—The Evangelical Lutheran Church is the organized form or expression of Biblical Christianity republished during the Reformation in the sixteenth century, under the conservative leadership of Martin Luther. The restoration was on the basis that only what was contrary to the Scriptures was to be rejected in the church. The Scriptures thus became the standard by which to judge all religious institutions and all doctrine, as well as a sufficient source of Christian truth. Since Luther's day the church which bears his name has been planted in practically every country of the world, and falls into three main groups: First, Evangelical Germany, with her neighbors—Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, France, and Holland; second, a group of other nations which have established the Lutheran Church as the state church—Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Esthonia, and Latvia; third, the United States of America and Canada. The Evangelical Lutherans in the other parts of the world bring the total of Lutheran population to between 80,000,000 and 100,000,000, with about 70,000 congregations and 49,000 pastors, thus comprising the largest confessional group in the non-Roman Evangelic Christendom.

The history of the Lutheran Church in America is largely the story of migrations from Lutheran countries, and the beginnings of the church in the Americas, North and South, bears out the statement that the "blood of the martyrs becomes the seed of the church." In South America the Welsers from Augsburg sponsored a settlement in Venezuela in 1529, one year before the Augsburg Confession, and according to Von Kloden the entire colony had accepted the Lutheran faith as early as 1532. The colony, however, went the way of Spanish conquest. Likewise, in North America, Lutherans from the French colonies under General Ribaut and General Rene de Laudonniere in the Carolinas in 1562 and 1564 met Spanish conquest under Menendez, who boasted that he had come to the Americas to hang and behead all Lutherans.

The Danes were in North America on the shores of Hudson Bay from September, 1619, until February, 1620; and here Rasmus Jensen, the first Lutheran pastor in North America, held services and was buried at his death on February 20, 1620. Among the earliest settlers on Manhattan Island were Lutherans from the Scandinavian countries, Germany, and Holland. The very man who is credited by some historians with having built in 1613 the first habitation for white men on Manhattan Island, Henrich Christiansen, from the German town of Cleve, on the lower Rhine, historical research reveals was a Lutheran. The first white child born north of Virginia was John Vinje, a Norwegian Lutheran, born on Manhattan Island in 1614. The earliest Lutherans to settle permanently in North America came from Holland to Manhattan Island in 1623. Jonas Bronck, whose name is perpetuated in Bronx Borough, is credited by historians as having been a "pious Lutheran." He arrived in 1639. For years they had great difficulty in establishing their own forms of worship because of

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<sup>1</sup> This statement, which is somewhat longer than that published in Part II on the Report of Religious Bodies, 1916, has been furnished by the Rev. J. A. Morehead, D. D., LL. D., Th. D., executive director, National Lutheran Council, who states that the body of the article was compiled by the Rev. G. L. Kieffer, D. D., Litt. D., and the section on church polity was composed by the Rev. M. G. G. Scherer, D. D.

instructions issued by the authorities of Holland to the Governor of New Amsterdam "To encourage no other doctrine in New Netherlands than the true Reformed." The Lutherans banded together in 1648 and formed a congregation of the "Unaltered Augsburg Confession of Faith." The Lutherans on Manhattan Island in October, 1653, numbered 50 families. When Stuyvesant denied them permission to call a Lutheran pastor, they appealed to the authorities overseas, but persisted in their demand and held religious services in houses without a minister. On February 1, 1656, Stuyvesant's "Ordinance against Conventicles" was posted, imposing penalties of £100 Flemish for preaching and £25 for every attendant at the service. As a result a number were cast into prison. Because of the edict and all his harsh treatment of the Lutherans, Stuyvesant was rebuked by the authorities in Holland. This resulted in the appeal to the Lutheran Consistory of Amsterdam for a minister. In July, 1657, Rev. John Ernest Gutwasser arrived to minister to the two congregations in New Amsterdam (New York) and Fort Orange (Albany). Gutwasser began to preach, although he was not allowed to assume charge of the congregations, and was finally compelled to yield and to return to Holland in 1659.

The second Lutheran pastor to arrive on Manhattan Island while the Dutch were in power was Abenius Zetskorn, whom Stuyvesant directed to the Dutch settlement of New Amstel (New Castle on the Delaware). When the Dutch, however, were called upon, in 1664, to surrender Manhattan to the English, according to the proclamation of the Duke of York, the Lutherans were granted religious liberty along with the Reformed colonists, and a charter was issued by the English on December 6, 1664, to the congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of Faith, formed in 1648. This congregation has a continued history down to the present time in the congregation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, New York City, the charter being in their possession to-day. In 1669, Jacob Fabricius was sent over by the Lutheran Consistory of Amsterdam, and, in 1671, Bernhard Arensius, to minister to the Lutherans of New York and Albany. In 1702 Pastor Rudman, a Swede from Pennsylvania, cared for these congregations, being succeeded by Justus Falckner, who was the first Lutheran minister ordained in America, November 24, 1703, in the Swedish Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Wicaco, Philadelphia, Pa.

The migration of the Germans to New York was led by Rev. Joshua Kocherthal with 51 Palatines in December, 1708. They formed a third Lutheran congregation at Quassick or Newburg, where they settled in the spring of 1709. Kocherthal returned to London in July, 1709, and came back to America in January, 1710, with a multitude of immigrants in 11 ships, 2,200 Palatines being thus settled on the Hudson at East and West Camp. The leader of this colony was John Conrad Weiser, sr., a Lutheran, who became a captain in the French and Indian Wars. His son, John Conrad Weiser, jr., became the head of the Indian bureau of the English Government in Pennsylvania in 1732, and no treaty was made with the Indians from that date until the time of his death in 1760 that did not have his signature. He was largely instrumental in causing the Iroquois nation to throw their allegiance to the English colonies in the French and Indian Wars.

The Swedish migration began with a colony founded on the Delaware River March 19, 1638. The primary consideration of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, in the founding of a colony in America was the planting of the Christian religion among the wild inhabitants of the country. While the commercial interests of his subjects and the extension of his power were elements inherent in the purpose of the King, the movement was inspired by Christian zeal and Christian humanity, as with prophetic eye, to provide an asylum for the defenseless of every land and particularly to promote the common interests of the

Protestant world, and this was one of these conceptions which did not die with the author. Finally, a ship of war and another small vessel laden with people, with provisions, and with merchandise for traffic with the Indians, and with manuals of devotion and instruction in the holy faith, set sail in August, 1637, to found a New Sweden on the banks of the Delaware. Here the first Lutheran congregation in America was assembled in Fort Christina in 1638. This was the first colony to forbid slavery in America, the edict being issued in 1638, and in 1642 they issued the first edict of religious toleration in America.

Pastor Reorus Torkillus was the second Lutheran pastor to serve in North America and the first in the United States. He arrived in the Swedish colony in 1640 and held Lutheran services in Fort Christina. His work was continued by John Campanius, who arrived in America February 16, 1643. Three years later, 1646, he dedicated the first Lutheran Church building in America at Christina (Wilmington). Campanius learned the language of the red men and became the first Protestant missionary among the North American Indians. Here he translated "Luther's Small Catechism" into the Delaware language some years before the appearance of Eliot's Indian Bible, completing the manuscript in 1646. Eliot's Bible was not printed until 1661, and Campanius' was not put into print until 1696; however, written copies were used up to that time. Campanius returned to Sweden in 1648, leaving his church of 200 people in charge of Lars Lock, who was succeeded by Jacob Fabricius. In 1669 a block church was erected by the Swedes at Wicaco, now a part of Philadelphia, and about 1694 the first English Lutheran services were held in Germantown and in Philadelphia by Heinrich Bernhard Koester. The block church at Wicaco was superseded in 1700 by Gloria Dei Church, which is still standing, as is also the Trinity Church at Wilmington, Del., the corner stone of which was laid in 1698. The Raccoon Swedish Church at Swedesboro, N. J., was also organized in 1698.

The German migration to the Middle Atlantic States began in the last quarter of the seventeenth century and continued through the eighteenth century. Various congregations were organized in and around Philadelphia, with here and there an organization in New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland from 1643 to 1710. The earliest ministers who visited the Germans in Pennsylvania were the Swedish pastors on the Delaware. The first Lutheran service held in Pennsylvania was held in Wicaco (Philadelphia) June 9, 1667. Among the pioneer German ministers working in Pennsylvania was Daniel Falckner. He labored in Pennsylvania from 1700 to 1708, organizing in 1703 the Lutheran congregation at New Hanover, Pa., this being the first point of record where permanent organization was formed among the German Lutherans in Pennsylvania. Another pioneer in Pennsylvania was Anthony Jacob Henkel, who came to America in 1717. He is supposed to have traveled on horseback to the Germans in Virginia and also to have visited all the Lutheran settlements near his home in New Hanover.

Pastor Henkel was succeeded by John Casper Stoever, sr., and John Casper Stoever, jr. To the latter most of the missionary work is attributed. He was in America 14 years before Muhlenberg came.

In the South the Saltzburger migration to Georgia occurred, and the German migration to Virginia and the Carolinas, and there was a second migration of Germans to these colonies from the Middle Atlantic colonies. In Georgia the Lutheran Church was planted by a group of 1,200 Saltzburgers, who landed at Savannah March 10, 1734. This colony was led by Pastors John Martin Bolzius and Israel Christian Gronau. Governor Oglethorpe led the immigrants 23 miles northwest of Savannah, where they erected a monument of stones where now stands the Ebenezer Church. In 1736 the first orphanage in America was established by the Lutheran Saltzburgers in Georgia. Five years later, in 1741, the

Jerusalem Church of Effingham County was built. The descendants of these Saltzburgers still maintain flourishing churches in that county. In the Carolinas and Virginia the descendants of the German colonists in the early eighteenth century also maintain flourishing congregations to this day.

Up to the middle and, indeed, the latter part of the eighteenth century, the history of the Lutherans in America is not alone the history of migration of peoples but the history of the individual congregations and pastors primarily. Even before the middle of the eighteenth century steps were taken looking toward the organization of pastors and churches into conferences and synods.

John Christian Schultz arrived in America in 1732 and as a pastor showed his organizing ability and business-like methods of doing his work. In some respects he did more to prepare the way for Muhlenberg than any one else. As the result of letters written by the congregations at Philadelphia, New Providence, and New Hanover, Pastor Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was called to America, arriving September 23, 1742. He landed at Charleston and visited Bolzius and the Saltzburgers at Ebenezer and arrived in Philadelphia November 25, 1742. His name is linked forever with the beginning of organized Lutheranism in America; in fact, he became the patriarch of Lutheranism in America. He brought the primitive congregations into order, infused into them a strong piety and true church life, provided them with good pastors, introduced schools for the education of children, and established and preserved the Christian home. Muhlenberg's activities included the Lutheran churches in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. By the middle of the eighteenth century, Pennsylvania contained about 60,000 Lutherans, four-fifths being German and one-fifth Swedes. On August 26, 1748, Muhlenberg, with six other ministers and lay delegates of three organizations, organized the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States (now a constituent synod in the United Lutheran Church in America), the first Lutheran synod in this country. This was the most important event in the history of American Lutheranism in the eighteenth century. It was followed by the organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of the State of New York and Adjoining States and Lands in 1786 and the Synod of North Carolina in 1803, both of which are now constituent synods in the United Lutheran Church.

The extraordinary growth of the Lutherans in America must be attributed largely to Lutheran immigration and to the effort on the part of the different synods to reach all Lutheran immigrants. During the nineteenth century these immigrants in large numbers came to America, forming German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Icelandic, Finnish, and other language settlements, largely in the central, northwestern, and western parts of America. At the same time they established their churches and schools for religious instruction and worship. A number of synods were formed, each adapted to the peculiar conditions of language, previous ecclesiastical relation, and geographical location. However, as the churches came into a closer fellowship the distinctive features tended to fade out and the small synods became absorbed in others. The movements for union have resulted in the organization of (1) the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America at St. Paul, in 1917, by the merger of the United Norwegian Church in America (organized in 1890), Hauge's Evangelical Lutheran Synod (organized in 1875), and the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (organized in 1853); (2) the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and other States, in 1917, by the merger of the Joint Synod of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and other States (organized in 1892), the German Synod of Minnesota and other States (organized in 1860), the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Michigan and other States (organized in 1860), and the District Synod of Nebraska (organized in 1904); (3) the United Lutheran Church in America, in New York, in 1918, by

the merger of the General Synod (organized at Hagerstown, Md., in 1920), the General Council (organized at Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1867), and the United Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South (organized in 1886). Definite steps have also been taken toward organic union of the Joint Ohio, Iowa, and Buffalo Synods, full doctrinal agreement having been reached subsequent to the report for 1926; a similar movement has been instituted in regard to the Norwegian Lutheran Church and the United Danish Church.

Unity of faith and work of the Lutheran Church in America has further manifested itself in the organization of (1) the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America at Milwaukee, Wis., in 1872, a federation now in effect of the following general Lutheran church bodies or synods: The Missouri Synod, the Joint Wisconsin Synod, the Slovak Synod, and the Norwegian Synod—organized to meet for discussion and to carry on common work, such as Negro missions, foreign missions, inner missions, etc.; (2) the National Lutheran Commission for Soldiers and Sailors' Welfare in 1917, by all of the general Lutheran church bodies—organized to coordinate the many Lutheran efforts to serve the "men with the colors" during the World War; (3) the National Lutheran Council—organized in 1918 as an agency for general Lutheran church bodies for regular work of representation, statistical and reference library service, publicity service, and emergency work of European relief and foreign mission relief; (4) the Lutheran World Convention movement at Eisenach, Germany, in 1923, representing the Lutheran Church in all the countries of the world.

The Immanuel Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of North America, organized in 1885, has disbanded since 1916, most of the pastors and congregations uniting with other general Lutheran church bodies. The Evangelical Lutheran Jehovah Conference, which was reported for 1926, subsequently went out of existence.

The Lutheran Church in the United States and Canada in 1926 expresses itself through the following general Lutheran church bodies or synods, the date of organization being given in parentheses: United Lutheran Church in America (1918); Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America (1860); Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States (1847); Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States (1850); Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the United States of America (1902); Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church (1918); Norwegian Lutheran Church of America (1917); Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States; (1818); Lutheran Synod of Buffalo (1845); Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Eielsen Synod) (1846); Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and Other States (1854); Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (1872); Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod in North America (1885); Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, or Suomi Synod (1890); Lutheran Free Church (1897); United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (1896); Finnish Evangelical Lutheran National Church of America (1900); Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church (1872); Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America (1900); Evangelical Lutheran Jehovah Conference (1893); Independent Lutheran Congregations.

*Doctrine.*—The Lutherans of the United States and Canada receive and hold the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and as the only infallible rule and standard of faith and practice. They accept the three ecumenical creeds—namely, the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian. They receive and hold the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a correct exposition of the faith and doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, founded upon the Word of God. All of the bodies accept and use Luther's Small Catechism. None reject any of the other symbolical books of the Evangelical

Lutheran Church—namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord. Many accept all of these.

The cardinal doctrine of the Lutheran system is justification by faith alone in Jesus Christ. It acknowledges the Word of God as the only source and the infallible norm of all church teaching and practice. The Word of God reaches man through preaching the law and the Gospel, which begets daily repentance and faith, the true marks of a Christian life. The sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are not regarded as mere signs and memorials, but as channels through which God bestows His grace. The Lutheran faith does not center in the doctrine of the sovereignty of God or in the church, but it centers in the Gospel of Christ for fallen men. The Lutheran Church is conservative in spirit and holds to all the teachings and customs of the ancient church which are not in conflict with the Scriptures. The church's unity is a unity of doctrine, and its independence is an independence in regard to government. Organic unity in the church is a secondary matter to Lutherans, since the true unity is that of the true church, to which belong all in every land and church who are true believers, and these are known to God alone. The visible church exists in its work and office and for the defense of the truth, but not as an object in itself. Lutherans reject both transubstantiation, as held by the Roman Catholic Church, and consubstantiation, as attributed to them by some writers. Lutherans believe that the real body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ are present in, with, and under the earthly elements in the Lord's Supper, and that these are received sacramentally and supernaturally. The Lutheran Church believes in infant baptism, and baptized persons are regarded as having received from the Holy Spirit the potential gift of regeneration, and are members of the church, though active membership follows confirmation. To the Lutherans the mode of baptism is considered of secondary importance. The Lutheran Church emphasizes Christian education, thorough catechetical instruction preparatory to confirmation being the custom.

*Organization.*—In order to understand the polity of the Lutheran Church it is necessary to keep in mind the definition of what the church is: "The church is the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the sacraments rightly administered." Among Lutherans the distinction between the laity and the clergy or ministry rests solely upon the orderly exercise of a function which is necessary to the being and continuing life of the church—namely, the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments. This is committed to the ministry, and in reference to the exercise of this function all ministers are equals; and besides this there is no power which the minister as such can claim the right to exercise, whether he be called bishop, priest, minister, or pastor. All of these are designations of office, not of necessary orders in the ministry or among the faithful.

In Europe, Lutheran Church polity has followed more or less definitely the forms of political government in the several countries, and that not always freely. Accordingly, organization has hitherto functioned through the exercise of authority from the head downward; that is, through bishops, general superintendents, and the like. With the establishment of more democratic forms of government the process has been in many instances reversed.

In the United States and Canada the Church has its own free life, independent of the State. Nevertheless, organization has taken place in all Lutheran bodies, whatever the parent country whence they came, along lines having at least general resemblance to the arrangements adopted for the conduct of political government. There are (1) congregations, corresponding to the local or municipal government; (2) synods, corresponding to the State government (in some in-

stances called districts and in still others conferences); and (3) general organizations variously named, corresponding to the National Government.

The congregation is composed of the people and the pastor. The pastor is elected and called by the voting members of the congregation, usually without any time limit. The congregation has the power, however, to terminate the relationship, but it may not depose the pastor from the ministry of the church.

In the Lutheran Church ordination to the ministry is, as a rule, an act of the synod at its annual meeting. It is done with prayer and the laying on of hands by the president of the synod, other ministers usually assisting in the rite. In exceptional cases it may be done at another time and place by a committee appointed by the synod for the purpose. It follows examination of the candidate by a committee of the synod, which covers his scholastic attainments, his fitness for the office, and his loyalty to the Lutheran confessions, particularly the Augsburg Confession. Each minister is a member of the synod which ordained him or of the synod in which he is a pastor, and is subject to its discipline.

In practically every Lutheran Church body in America the congregation is acknowledged as the primary body and the unit of organization. All authority belongs to the congregation together with the pastor, except such as is delegated by constitutional covenant to the larger organization. The internal affairs of the congregation are administered by a church council consisting of the pastor and lay officers. These officers are elected by the congregation, and in many instances a number of them are called elders and others deacons; where this is the case the elders together with the pastor have charge of the spiritual concerns and the deacons of the temporal affairs of the church. In other cases there are no elders, but deacons only. There is a growing tendency toward this form. There are also trustees who have charge of the property. These are usually laymen and may or may not be members of the church council.

To every congregation belongs inherently the right of representation and also the right of entering into relations with other congregations one with it in faith for the purpose of promoting common interests and activities. From these principles result wider organizations.

Organization above the congregation assumes various forms in the several church bodies. In some cases the next higher judicatory is the synod. The synods are composed of the pastors of the congregations and of lay representatives, one for each congregation or each pastoral charge, and they have only such powers as are delegated to them by the congregations under the provisions of the synodical constitution. In other cases there are districts or conferences which are territorial, which are similarly composed and exercise within their respective bounds the rights and duties constitutionally assigned to them. Some of these have limited powers of legislation, while others are chiefly consultative and advisory.

Still more comprehensive than these intermediate organizations are the general bodies which are national or international in scope. These general organizations are variously named, as church, synod, or conference. The authority exercised by these bodies also varies; some have legislative authority committed to them, and their actions within constitutional limitations are recognized as authoritative by the constituent synods, districts, or conferences, and by the congregations. Others have little or no such authority, but are simply conferences of synods or of congregations for purposes of consultation. The interests entrusted mainly to the general bodies are those pertaining to worship, education, publication, and to eleemosynary and missionary activities.

There is general agreement that the seat of authority and power is primarily in the congregation. The differences which are found as between the districts of the several bodies and as between the general bodies themselves in regard to the

powers exercised by them are to be explained, in part at least, by the processes of organization. In some cases the intermediate organizations (synods, districts, conferences) were first organized and later the general bodies, the process being from below upward; in such cases the powers of the intermediate bodies are relatively larger. In other instances the general bodies were organized with a small beginning, and as they grew were divided, thus forming the intermediate organizations from above downward. In instances of this kind the powers of the intermediate organizations are relatively less. Congregations meet in business session at least annually; constituent synods, districts, and conferences in convention, annually; general bodies, annually, biennially, or triennially.

The Lutheran churches have a liturgical form of worship and observe the various general festivals of the Christian church year.

*Statistics.*—The bodies grouped under the name Lutherans in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed in the table below with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. The most important organic changes since 1916 have already been noted.

The 1926 figures for membership, including all baptized members, must be considered as not entirely comparable with those of earlier censuses, when communicants only were reported by the great majority of churches.

The movement which has gained considerable headway in other evangelical bodies, toward the federation of local churches, has not gained any great importance among the Lutherans; the membership figures reported, however, are exclusive of six federated churches, each consisting of a Lutheran unit combined more or less closely with a unit of some other denomination. These six federated churches reported in 1926 a total membership of 882, of whom somewhat more than one-third were Lutherans.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE LUTHERANS, 1926, 1916, AND 1906

LUTHERAN BODY AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group.....	15,102	3,966,003	13,400	\$273,409,748	14,721	\$59,500,845	11,472	1,249,998
United Lutheran Church in America.....	3,650	1,214,340	3,516	114,526,248	3,577	21,162,961	3,415	619,781
Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America.....	1,180	311,425	1,118	22,781,698	1,165	5,369,446	1,036	100,775
Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of America.....	4,752	1,292,620	3,878	78,755,894	4,601	19,487,432	3,028	212,071
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States.....	3,917	1,040,275	3,148	65,318,781	3,789	16,350,315	2,485	179,868
Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States.....	709	229,242	631	11,828,013	695	2,743,164	490	28,948
Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the United States of America.....	55	14,759	43	1,083,000	53	285,341	24	1,826
Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church.....	71	8,344	55	526,100	64	108,612	29	1,429
Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.....	2,554	496,707	2,278	24,822,215	2,497	5,786,977	1,660	131,147
Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States.....	872	247,783	832	15,646,708	865	3,702,259	769	88,822
Lutheran Synod of Buffalo.....	41	9,267	41	873,500	40	143,726	34	2,649
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Eielsen Synod).....	15	1,087	10	42,500	14	6,415	10	217
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and Other States.....	873	217,873	799	8,657,486	867	2,223,888	778	50,878



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE LUTHERANS, 1926, 1916, AND 1906—Contd.

LUTHERAN BODY AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
<b>1926—Continued</b>								
Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.....	96	18,921	84	\$728,200	95	\$178,222	69	3,362
Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod in North America.....	14	2,186	14	56,475	14	14,157	11	458
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, or Suomi Synod.....	185	32,071	126	1,018,021	183	234,139	134	9,028
Lutheran Free Church.....	303	46,366	336	2,303,365	377	528,993	236	12,849
United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.....	190	29,198	172	1,491,348	185	382,344	162	10,556
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran National Church of America.....	70	7,788	48	220,050	64	28,316	39	1,414
Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church.....	138	24,016	78	228,090	100	39,728	35	1,924
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America.....	26	1,700	21	102,100	24	37,889	19	929
Evangelical Lutheran Jehovah Conference.....	3	851	3	31,000	3	6,602	3	368
Independent Lutheran Congregations.....	50	11,804	46	1,126,250	50	169,351	34	2,770
<b>1916</b>								
<b>Total for the group.....</b>	<b>13,921</b>	<b>2,467,516</b>	<b>12,431</b>	<b>109,415,163</b>	<b>13,276</b>	<b>22,827,047</b>	<b>9,446</b>	<b>998,339</b>
General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States of America.....	1,846	370,715	1,811	24,271,797	1,810	4,342,251	1,766	311,501
United Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South.....	492	56,656	485	2,572,245	467	446,283	438	43,697
General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America.....	2,336	540,642	2,274	32,108,091	2,343	5,630,234	2,179	307,595
Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of America.....	3,620	777,701	3,151	25,973,538	3,339	6,721,599	1,370	110,300
Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.....	2,740	318,650	2,259	11,501,919	2,579	2,539,552	1,504	82,366
Hauge's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod.....	362	29,893	253	1,128,488	284	270,914	269	14,011
Synod for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.....	987	112,673	798	4,383,151	939	836,923	429	24,313
United Norwegian Lutheran Church in America.....	1,391	176,084	1,208	5,990,280	1,356	1,431,715	806	44,042
Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States.....	826	164,968	776	5,718,462	806	1,258,673	687	66,773
Lutheran Synod of Buffalo.....	42	6,128	39	244,163	41	68,952	23	1,524
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Eielson Synod.....	20	1,206	8	23,500	15	7,030	10	245
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and Other States.....	977	130,793	847	4,057,635	957	1,080,874	769	38,120
Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.....	101	14,544	90	394,809	97	105,356	65	2,981
Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod in North America.....	14	1,830	12	35,450	12	4,720	10	435
Immanuel Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America.....	15	2,978	8	78,000	13	13,905	9	669
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, or Suomi Synod.....	134	18,881	89	368,771	128	73,977	112	9,752
Lutheran Free Church (Norwegian).....	376	28,180	309	1,116,780	361	287,986	243	10,285
United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.....	192	17,324	173	696,780	186	193,593	165	7,777
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran National Church.....	64	7,933	41	125,091	59	15,017	49	2,077
Apostolic Lutheran Church (Finnish).....	47	6,664	34	64,942	36	8,459	23	1,109
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America (Norwegian).....	23	892	19	45,410	21	14,837	20	641
Evangelical Lutheran Jehovah Conference.....	6	831	6	17,800	6	6,749	4	462

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE LUTHERANS, 1926, 1916, AND 1906—Contd.

LUTHERAN BODY AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1906								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	12,642	2,112,494	10,768	\$74,826,389			8,682	782,786
General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States of America.....	1,734	270,221	1,680	16,875,429			1,628	225,948
United Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South.....	449	47,747	429	1,509,760			380	30,039
General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America.....	2,133	462,177	2,008	22,394,618			1,914	254,882
Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of America.....	3,284	648,529	2,731	18,916,407			1,434	94,009
United Norwegian Lutheran Church in America.....	1,167	185,027	956	3,668,588			842	43,714
Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States.....	772	123,408	694	3,606,285			601	47,609
Lutheran Synod of Buffalo.....	33	5,270	32	130,000			13	626
Hauge's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod.....	265	33,268	222	682,135			194	8,995
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Eielsen Synod.....	26	1,013	6	15,900			6	112
German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas.....	24	2,440	18	30,050			17	808
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and Other States.....	828	110,254	676	2,327,093			614	27,642
Synod for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.....	917	107,712	648	2,469,713			370	18,714
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Michigan and Other States.....	55	9,697	49	184,700			38	2,462
Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.....	92	12,541	66	248,700			58	2,983
Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod in North America.....	14	2,101	14	32,350			12	498
Immanuel Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of North America.....	11	3,275	11	89,300			11	1,125
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, or Suomi Synod.....	105	12,907	44	151,345			77	4,515
Norwegian Lutheran Free Church.....	317	26,928	219	660,310			211	7,479
United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.....	198	16,340	138	418,450			142	6,116
Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America.....	59	12,141	31	219,300			12	585
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran National Church.....	66	10,111	43	95,150			62	2,144
Apostolic Lutheran Church (Finnish).....	68	8,170	35	62,856			22	1,038
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America (Norwegian).....	16	482	10	16,400			15	393
Evangelical Lutheran Jehovah Conference.....	9	735	8	21,550			9	350

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNODICAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICA

## STATISTICS

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

The membership of each of the constituent bodies in the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference includes all baptized members of the local churches, both adults and infants, under pastoral care.

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNODICAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICA**

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	4,752	1,537	3,215	32.3	67.7
Members.....	1,292,620	692,307	600,313	53.6	46.4
Average per church.....	272	450	187		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	571,602	285,695	285,907	50.0	50.0
Female.....	621,261	395,692	225,569	54.0	46.0
Sex not reported.....	99,757	70,920	28,837	71.1	28.9
Males per 100 females.....	92.0	85.1	100.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	370,685	193,869	176,816	52.3	47.7
13 years and over.....	860,021	456,881	403,140	53.1	46.9
Age not reported.....	61,914	41,557	20,357	67.1	32.9
Per cent under 13 years <sup>2</sup> .....	30.1	29.8	30.5		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	4,003	1,354	2,649	33.8	66.2
Value—Churches reporting.....	3,878	1,278	2,600	33.0	67.0
Amount reported.....	\$78,755,894	\$53,088,523	\$25,667,371	67.4	32.6
Average per church.....	\$20,308	\$41,540	\$9,872		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1,226	667	559	54.4	45.6
Amount reported.....	\$9,920,128	\$8,333,826	\$1,586,302	84.0	16.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	2,450	551	1,899	22.5	77.5
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	2,833	1,010	1,823	35.7	64.3
Amount reported.....	\$15,520,237	\$8,294,187	\$7,226,050	53.4	46.6
Debt—Churches reporting.....	581	282	299	48.5	51.5
Amount reported.....	\$1,545,542	\$1,027,044	\$518,498	66.5	33.5
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	2,081	667	1,414	32.1	67.9
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	4,601	1,488	3,113	32.3	67.7
Amount reported.....	\$19,487,432	\$12,367,383	\$7,120,049	63.5	36.5
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$16,071,756	\$10,382,267	\$5,689,489	64.0	35.4
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$3,409,866	\$1,982,635	\$1,427,231	58.1	41.9
Not classified.....	\$5,810	\$2,481	\$3,329	42.7	57.3
Average expenditure per church.....	\$4,235	\$8,311	\$2,287		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	3,028	1,260	1,768	41.6	58.4
Officers and teachers.....	21,432	14,576	6,856	68.0	32.0
Scholars.....	212,071	144,112	67,959	68.0	32.0

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported.

This body represents the federation of four separate synods, namely, the Evangelical Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States, the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the United States of America, and the Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The data given for 1926 represent 4,752 active organizations of the Synodical Conference, with 1,292,620 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 4,546 churches and the classification by age was reported by 4,555 churches, including 4,405 which reported 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 the combined general bodies for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890. In connection with the 1916 census, and probably for earlier censuses as well, the membership reported for most of the churches, particularly of the Missouri Synod, included only the confirmed members. As a result the membership figures for earlier censuses are somewhat too small for fair comparison with the 1926 figures, which include all baptized persons on the church rolls.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNODICAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICA

ITEM	1926	1916	1906 <sup>1</sup>	1890
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	4,752	3,620	3,398	1,999
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	1,132	222	1,399	
Per cent.....	31.3	6.5	70.0	
<b>Members</b> .....	1,292,620	777,701	670,367	368,635
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	514,919	107,334	301,732	
Per cent.....	66.2	16.1	82.1	
Average membership per church.....	272	215	197	184
<b>Church edifices:</b>				
Number.....	4,003	3,301	2,952	1,584
Value—Churches reporting.....	3,878	3,151	2,811	
Amount reported.....	\$78,755,894	\$25,973,538	\$19,320,407	\$7,969,083
Average per church.....	\$20,308	\$8,243	\$6,873	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1,226	1,078	901	
Amount reported.....	\$9,920,128	\$3,261,637	\$2,424,141	
<b>Parsonages:</b>				
Value—Churches reporting.....	2,833	2,220	1,858	
Amount reported.....	\$15,520,237	\$5,792,672	\$3,671,910	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	581			
Amount reported.....	\$1,545,542			
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	4,601	3,339		
Amount reported.....	\$19,487,432	\$6,721,599		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$16,071,756	\$5,206,267		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$3,409,866	\$1,219,229		
Not classified.....	\$5,810	\$296,103		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$4,235	\$2,013		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	3,028	1,370	1,484	
Officers and teachers.....	21,432	10,237	6,420	
Scholars.....	212,071	110,300	97,056	

<sup>1</sup> Statistics for 1906 include data for the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Michigan and Other States reported separately for that year.

**State tables.**—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Synodical Conference 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, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNODICAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICA

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females <sup>(1)</sup>
United States..	4,752	1,537	3,215	1,292,620	692,307	600,313	571,602	621,261	99,757	92.0
North England:										
Maine.....	2	1	1	178	156	22	77	101	-----	76.2
New Hampshire.....	1	1	-----	129	129	-----	47	82	-----	-----
Massachusetts.....	19	17	2	7,190	7,118	72	2,834	3,506	850	80.8
Rhode Island.....	5	3	2	932	842	90	360	572	-----	62.9
Connecticut.....	29	21	8	9,609	8,086	1,523	3,537	4,101	1,971	86.2
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	170	114	56	61,248	50,341	10,907	25,238	30,875	5,135	81.7
New Jersey.....	47	36	11	13,254	10,707	2,547	5,495	7,096	663	77.4
Pennsylvania.....	72	59	13	20,027	18,563	1,464	8,141	9,453	2,433	86.1
North Central:										
Ohio.....	122	74	48	48,231	38,157	10,074	21,381	23,891	2,959	89.5
Indiana.....	132	63	69	55,797	39,206	16,591	25,553	27,008	3,236	94.6
Illinois.....	417	184	233	186,722	123,292	63,430	78,991	87,493	20,238	90.3
Michigan.....	329	130	199	111,743	69,762	41,981	51,928	56,203	3,612	92.4
Wisconsin.....	751	168	583	271,956	141,279	130,677	118,076	124,841	29,039	94.6
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	549	81	468	139,454	42,127	97,327	62,474	65,687	11,293	95.1
Iowa.....	218	40	178	51,706	11,563	40,143	24,044	24,840	2,822	96.8
Missouri.....	228	83	145	74,520	41,361	33,159	34,646	38,074	1,800	91.0
North Dakota.....	166	10	156	17,385	1,310	16,075	8,487	8,185	713	103.7
South Dakota.....	204	10	194	24,131	1,970	22,161	11,544	11,407	1,180	101.2
Nebraska.....	265	34	231	57,473	11,572	45,901	26,804	27,071	3,598	99.0
Kansas.....	153	38	115	25,308	6,517	18,791	12,221	12,367	720	98.8
South Atlantic:										
Delaware.....	2	1	1	71	50	21	42	29	-----	-----
Maryland.....	29	15	14	9,083	7,164	1,919	3,127	3,933	2,023	79.5
Dist. Columbia.....	2	2	-----	916	916	-----	398	518	-----	76.8
Virginia.....	16	6	10	1,729	987	742	828	901	-----	91.9
West Virginia.....	2	1	1	87	75	12	41	46	-----	-----
North Carolina.....	38	17	21	4,653	1,959	2,694	1,767	2,078	808	85.0
South Carolina.....	1	1	-----	95	95	-----	44	51	-----	-----
Georgia.....	2	2	-----	77	77	-----	32	45	-----	-----
Florida.....	13	7	6	1,521	1,249	272	757	764	-----	99.1
South Central:										
Kentucky.....	8	8	-----	1,451	1,451	-----	645	806	-----	80.0
Tennessee.....	11	7	4	1,763	1,387	376	748	1,015	-----	73.7
Alabama.....	38	7	31	3,533	1,127	2,406	1,645	1,823	65	90.2
Mississippi.....	5	4	1	307	295	12	133	174	-----	76.4
West Central:										
Kansas.....	24	9	15	3,551	2,014	1,537	1,544	1,764	243	87.5
Louisiana.....	41	30	11	10,519	9,945	574	4,141	6,378	-----	64.9
Oklahoma.....	63	25	38	7,016	2,662	4,354	3,119	3,111	786	100.3
Texas.....	143	45	98	22,339	6,515	15,824	10,524	11,064	751	95.1
Mountain:										
Montana.....	92	12	80	6,267	2,100	4,167	2,613	2,974	680	87.9
Idaho.....	20	9	11	1,686	667	1,019	844	842	-----	100.2
Wyoming.....	19	4	15	1,941	646	1,295	950	991	-----	95.9
Colorado.....	65	23	42	6,616	3,658	2,958	3,010	3,606	-----	83.5
New Mexico.....	10	4	6	397	265	132	180	217	-----	82.9
Arizona.....	11	3	8	920	376	544	416	504	-----	82.5
Nevada.....	1	1	-----	250	250	-----	100	150	-----	66.7
Utah.....	2	1	1	497	94	403	247	250	-----	98.8
North West:										
Washington.....	66	28	38	6,789	4,441	2,348	3,023	3,406	360	88.8
Oregon.....	44	21	23	4,637	3,027	1,610	2,199	2,438	-----	90.2
California.....	105	77	28	16,916	14,757	2,159	6,607	8,530	1,779	77.5

<sup>(1)</sup> Not shown where number of females is less than 100.

of age and 13 years of age and over. 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.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNODICAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICA

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

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906 <sup>1</sup>	1926	1916	1906 <sup>1</sup>	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 <sup>2</sup>
United States.....	4,752	3,620	3,398	1,292,620	777,701	670,367	370,685	860,021	61,914	30.1
Massachusetts.....	19	17	19	7,190	4,971	3,966	2,090	4,250	850	33.0
Rhode Island.....	5	3	2	932	487	357	209	723	-----	22.4
Connecticut.....	29	21	21	9,609	5,588	4,981	2,806	6,173	630	31.3
New York.....	170	131	130	61,248	36,819	32,723	18,261	37,279	5,708	32.9
New Jersey.....	47	31	20	13,254	5,616	2,895	4,357	8,039	858	35.1
Pennsylvania.....	72	59	84	20,027	14,490	16,890	6,126	11,916	1,985	34.0
Ohio.....	122	96	90	48,231	30,233	27,106	13,354	31,564	3,313	29.7
Indiana.....	132	123	124	55,797	33,309	34,105	15,339	37,742	2,716	28.9
Illinois.....	417	366	344	186,722	121,342	115,304	53,864	128,146	4,712	29.6
Michigan.....	329	261	257	111,743	67,001	57,832	32,389	74,202	5,152	30.4
Wisconsin.....	751	654	610	271,956	177,547	153,753	70,422	186,625	14,909	27.4
Minnesota.....	549	403	371	139,454	75,726	61,630	41,040	91,059	7,355	31.1
Iowa.....	218	178	163	51,706	27,550	25,528	15,016	34,827	1,863	30.1
Missouri.....	228	184	178	74,520	45,313	41,508	20,508	51,176	2,836	28.6
North Dakota.....	166	118	95	17,385	8,972	5,854	6,142	10,458	785	37.0
South Dakota.....	204	132	123	24,131	11,544	8,285	7,845	15,202	1,084	34.0
Nebraska.....	265	239	206	57,473	31,234	25,730	17,292	38,128	2,053	31.2
Kansas.....	153	118	117	25,308	15,081	12,036	7,961	17,041	306	31.8
Maryland.....	29	28	20	9,083	4,792	4,062	3,422	5,402	259	38.8
Virginia.....	16	13	12	1,729	1,117	860	544	1,185	-----	31.5
West Virginia.....	2	5	6	87	239	286	11	76	-----	-----
North Carolina.....	38	32	32	4,653	2,558	1,966	1,306	2,411	846	36.7
Florida.....	13	6	7	1,521	590	372	430	1,091	-----	28.3
Kentucky.....	8	6	6	1,451	1,381	1,511	347	1,104	-----	23.9
Tennessee.....	11	5	5	1,763	733	725	604	1,159	-----	34.3
Alabama.....	38	12	15	3,533	1,334	895	1,165	2,368	-----	33.0
Mississippi.....	5	1	8	307	211	198	93	214	-----	30.3
Arkansas.....	24	17	22	3,551	2,516	1,886	1,177	2,374	-----	33.1
Louisiana.....	41	25	22	10,519	7,429	5,253	3,070	7,436	13	29.2
Oklahoma.....	63	52	72	7,016	3,899	2,907	2,012	4,754	250	29.7
Texas.....	143	87	81	22,339	10,294	7,983	7,346	14,046	947	34.3
Montana.....	92	32	7	6,267	4,033	690	1,937	3,634	696	34.8
Idaho.....	20	12	12	1,686	902	206	562	1,124	-----	33.3
Wyoming.....	19	10	4	1,941	704	172	757	1,184	-----	39.0
Colorado.....	65	26	26	6,616	2,738	1,651	2,008	4,608	-----	30.4
New Mexico.....	10	2	-----	397	301	-----	132	265	-----	33.2
Arizona.....	11	2	-----	920	96	-----	208	712	-----	22.6
Washington.....	66	30	19	6,789	2,740	1,060	1,966	4,463	360	30.6
Oregon.....	44	16	15	4,637	2,337	1,080	1,323	3,314	-----	28.5
California.....	105	57	46	16,916	7,582	5,247	4,437	11,051	1,428	28.6
Other States.....	13	10	7	2,213	1,352	879	717	1,496	-----	32.4

<sup>1</sup> Includes figures for the Slovak and Michigan Synods.

<sup>2</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported; not shown where base is less than 100.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNODICAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICA

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

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States.....	4,752	4,003	3,878	\$78,755,894	1,226	\$9,920,128	2,833	\$15,520,237	581	\$1,545,542
Massachusetts.....	19	17	16	533,500	3	55,200	11	81,500	5	18,780
Connecticut.....	29	22	21	712,500	12	109,825	16	121,700	4	16,100
New York.....	170	153	147	7,011,088	70	1,246,531	103	960,650	27	154,560
New Jersey.....	47	37	36	1,332,688	25	345,885	31	355,479	17	92,767
Pennsylvania.....	72	61	61	2,105,500	23	165,672	41	397,100	9	36,135
Illinois.....	122	110	107	4,008,913	40	667,115	76	592,400	13	60,916
Indiana.....	132	129	124	4,449,100	39	419,294	104	645,050	17	42,670
Ohio.....	417	393	384	13,366,800	133	1,574,965	334	2,341,800	56	187,565
Michigan.....	329	305	294	6,765,705	96	974,794	216	1,258,323	42	133,720
Wisconsin.....	751	725	664	13,868,807	190	1,479,221	466	2,796,038	100	255,670
Minnesota.....	549	453	443	5,722,547	122	618,591	318	1,483,200	69	149,073
Missouri.....	218	200	197	2,541,700	54	218,244	151	696,922	21	32,602
North Dakota.....	228	213	209	4,686,409	71	716,215	160	834,850	37	92,135
South Dakota.....	166	117	115	517,820	35	55,050	69	197,825	18	23,646
Nebraska.....	204	145	144	736,480	34	46,200	86	294,050	22	25,407
Montana.....	265	234	234	2,844,935	48	234,760	194	742,360	22	39,688
Wyoming.....	153	118	116	965,262	23	104,425	97	331,265	10	16,600
Florida.....	29	28	27	797,800	12	119,830	20	135,500	3	4,800
Georgia.....	16	12	11	174,000	3	15,500	8	43,500	3	17,140
North Carolina.....	38	35	34	210,550	4	19,000	10	37,300	2	2,675
Virginia.....	13	9	9	287,800	3	53,810	5	47,000	-----	-----
Tennessee.....	8	5	5	108,500	1	1,800	4	33,500	-----	-----
Alabama.....	11	8	8	130,240	3	10,730	4	28,000	-----	-----
Arkansas.....	38	26	26	187,150	2	6,300	14	41,700	2	4,500
Louisiana.....	24	22	22	196,100	2	4,970	12	42,600	3	5,540
Mississippi.....	41	31	30	426,700	11	40,416	16	73,900	4	11,200
Alabama.....	63	45	45	375,100	10	44,184	37	84,600	4	5,950
Alabama.....	143	107	107	803,500	38	147,274	86	240,300	22	32,935
Alabama.....	92	23	23	136,400	10	13,380	11	41,200	2	4,000
Alabama.....	20	11	11	48,550	7	14,500	8	17,375	4	2,478
Alabama.....	19	11	11	50,900	6	8,286	5	16,800	3	5,880
Alabama.....	65	30	30	233,040	18	31,935	21	77,100	10	14,410
Alabama.....	10	4	4	15,500	1	1,750	3	7,500	1	2,000
Alabama.....	11	9	9	52,800	-----	-----	7	28,700	1	1,000
Alabama.....	66	42	41	275,150	17	53,413	23	64,000	6	13,175
Alabama.....	44	24	24	193,500	14	31,480	16	41,800	4	5,100
Alabama.....	105	72	72	1,526,300	38	244,653	39	210,350	14	26,335
Alabama.....	25	17	17	356,600	8	24,930	11	77,000	4	8,390

## HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION <sup>1</sup>

### HISTORY

The early history of the Lutheran Church in America was marked by the organization of numerous independent synods. In the sixties, however, efforts were made to unite various synods into larger bodies. One of these organizations was the General Council, organized in 1866. The synods holding the stricter doctrine and close adherence to the historical confessions of the Lutheran Church, although invited to the new union, could not accept the position of the new body.

<sup>1</sup> This statement was furnished by Dr. E. Eckhardt, statistician, Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of America.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNODICAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICA

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

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS			
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	4,752	4,601	\$19,487,432	\$16,071,756	\$3,409,866	\$5,810	3,028	21,432	212,071
Massachusetts.....	19	17	88,585	69,101	19,484	-----	16	223	1,464
Rhode Island.....	5	5	7,775	5,890	1,885	-----	3	21	176
Connecticut.....	29	25	208,712	191,218	17,494	-----	24	177	1,698
New York.....	170	166	1,291,222	1,108,440	182,618	164	141	1,744	16,908
New Jersey.....	47	47	441,307	412,894	28,263	150	39	500	4,250
Pennsylvania.....	72	69	330,532	281,801	48,731	-----	57	535	5,842
Ohio.....	122	119	848,659	680,272	168,295	92	87	996	10,259
Indiana.....	132	128	1,019,661	791,609	227,992	-----	79	741	8,425
Illinois.....	417	412	3,321,950	2,771,875	549,613	462	287	3,115	31,100
Michigan.....	329	316	1,683,786	1,361,597	322,087	102	214	1,502	16,417
Wisconsin.....	751	736	3,091,205	2,555,740	534,257	1,208	421	2,579	28,122
Minnesota.....	549	518	1,658,815	1,386,657	272,158	-----	319	1,783	17,171
Iowa.....	218	218	774,054	605,108	168,946	-----	143	732	6,733
Missouri.....	228	227	1,202,253	946,726	255,527	-----	145	1,783	15,240
North Dakota.....	166	157	159,860	132,934	26,676	250	99	308	2,663
South Dakota.....	204	200	242,750	194,843	47,907	-----	150	438	4,202
Nebraska.....	265	263	814,058	641,364	172,694	-----	145	643	6,466
Kansas.....	153	152	409,713	327,042	82,671	-----	89	398	4,109
Maryland.....	29	29	227,702	203,135	24,567	-----	23	410	3,695
Virginia.....	16	15	63,447	57,680	5,767	-----	9	60	542
North Carolina.....	38	36	27,266	21,673	4,558	1,035	31	184	2,370
Florida.....	13	13	127,607	121,326	6,252	29	10	63	576
Kentucky.....	8	8	35,258	29,300	5,958	-----	3	27	304
Tennessee.....	11	11	33,233	29,162	4,071	-----	10	71	814
Alabama.....	38	37	39,524	32,902	5,468	1,154	34	129	1,745
Mississippi.....	5	5	4,719	4,346	373	-----	4	12	83
Arkansas.....	24	23	60,207	50,039	10,168	-----	12	74	789
Louisiana.....	41	37	89,070	77,054	12,016	-----	31	269	2,558
Oklahoma.....	63	58	145,195	127,837	17,358	-----	38	160	1,649
Texas.....	143	136	314,995	252,001	62,994	-----	83	378	4,008
Montana.....	92	87	44,355	37,112	7,243	-----	34	127	1,157
Idaho.....	20	20	30,662	25,852	4,810	-----	15	53	368
Wyoming.....	19	19	15,224	12,852	2,372	-----	12	38	456
Colorado.....	65	58	81,569	64,734	16,835	-----	42	147	1,260
New Mexico.....	10	10	5,693	4,785	908	-----	3	12	95
Arizona.....	11	9	20,053	18,659	1,394	-----	6	16	339
Washington.....	66	59	80,595	67,569	13,026	-----	47	201	1,738
Oregon.....	44	41	59,135	47,496	10,475	1,164	27	112	988
California.....	105	102	356,972	297,104	59,868	-----	86	588	4,557
Other States.....	15	13	30,054	23,967	6,087	-----	10	83	735

The next few years emphasized anew the advantage of some form of union, and in 1872, in Milwaukee, Wis., the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of America was formed. Representatives of the Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, the Synod of Ohio, the Synod of Wisconsin, the Synod of Minnesota, the Synod of Illinois, and the Norwegian Synod were present and effected the organization. The Synod of Illinois was later absorbed by the Missouri Synod; the Synod of Ohio and the Norwegian Synod withdrew in 1881, because of doctrinal differences; but two other synods were added, so that at present the Synodical Conference comprises the Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States—by far the largest and strongest of the Conference—the Synod of Wisconsin and Other States (which now includes the former Synods of Michigan, Minnesota,



and Nebraska), the Slovak Synod, and the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Each one of these synods conducts its own synodical and church work independently of the others. Their basis of union is not so much a matter of a common ecclesiastical organization as of a common church life, and particularly of doctrinal purity.

Separate statistics for 1926 are given in the following pages for each of the separated bodies united in the Synodical Conference. The Synod of Missouri, which includes the Negro mission, is much the largest. Comparable data for earlier censuses are not available for these four bodies, by reason of numerous changes in organization within themselves.

#### WORK

The home missionary work of the Synodical Conference is conducted by the Board of Colored Missions, which is doing successful work in the Southern States among the colored people. In 1926 it had 63 organized congregations and 8 mission stations, served by 14 white and 19 colored pastors; 65 Sunday schools, with 3,396 scholars; 2 colleges; and 51 parochial schools, with 3,103 scholars. The amount expended for this work was \$211,431. Two colleges are controlled by the Synodical Conference, the Immanuel Lutheran College at Greensboro, N. C., and the Alabama Luther College at Selma, Ala.

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN JOINT SYNOD OF WISCONSIN AND OTHER STATES

## STATISTICS

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL  
TERRITORY, 1926: EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN JOINT SYNOD OF WISCONSIN AND  
OTHER STATES**

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	
				Urban	Rural
<b>Churches</b> (local organizations).....	709	152	557	21.4	78.6
<b>Members</b> .....	229,242	109,956	119,286	48.0	52.0
Average per church.....	323	723	214		
<b>Membership by sex:</b>					
Male.....	102,538	47,340	55,198	46.2	53.8
Female.....	107,771	53,064	54,707	49.2	50.8
Sex not reported.....	18,933	9,552	9,381	50.5	49.5
Males per 100 females.....	95.1	89.2	100.9		
<b>Membership by age:</b>					
Under 13 years.....	60,378	27,973	32,405	46.3	53.7
13 years and over.....	157,787	77,665	80,122	49.2	50.8
Age not reported.....	11,077	4,318	6,759	39.0	61.0
Per cent under 13 years <sup>3</sup> .....	27.7	26.5	28.8		
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	704	177	527	25.1	74.9
Value—Churches reporting.....	631	146	485	23.1	76.9
Amount reported.....	\$11,828,013	\$6,488,760	\$5,339,253	54.9	45.1
Average per church.....	\$18,745	\$44,444	\$11,009		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	176	78	98	44.3	55.7
Amount reported.....	\$1,096,883	\$810,732	\$286,151	73.9	26.1
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	426	64	362	15.0	85.0
<b>Parsonages:</b>					
Value—Churches reporting.....	455	134	321	29.5	70.5
Amount reported.....	\$2,640,363	\$1,095,750	\$1,544,613	41.5	58.5
Debt—Churches reporting.....	93	32	61		
Amount reported.....	\$228,807	\$118,250	\$110,557	51.7	48.3
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	339	97	242	28.6	71.4
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	695	149	546	21.4	78.6
Amount reported.....	\$2,743,164	\$1,484,209	\$1,258,955	54.1	45.9
Current expenses and improvements	\$2,318,329	\$1,288,420	\$1,029,909	55.6	44.4
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$423,643	\$195,789	\$227,854	46.2	53.8
Not classified.....	\$1,192		\$1,192		100.0
Average expenditure per church.....	\$3,947	\$9,961	\$2,306		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	490	135	355	27.6	72.4
Officers and teachers.....	2,741	1,433	1,308	52.3	47.7
Scholars.....	28,948	15,634	13,314	54.0	46.0

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

<sup>3</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported.

**TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN JOINT SYNOD OF WISCONSIN AND OTHER STATES**

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>709</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>229,242</b>	<b>109,956</b>	<b>119,286</b>	<b>102,538</b>	<b>107,771</b>	<b>18,933</b>	<b>95.1</b>
<b>East North Central:</b>										
Ohio.....	3	2	1	1,688	1,133	555	411	427	850	96.3
Illinois.....	7	2	5	2,387	1,014	1,373	1,167	1,220	391	95.7
Michigan.....	78	32	46	20,314	12,330	7,984	9,760	10,103	391	96.0
Wisconsin.....	371	84	287	146,373	73,093	73,280	65,207	67,930	13,236	96.0
<b>West North Central:</b>										
Minnesota.....	116	21	95	43,504	19,509	23,995	19,013	20,898	3,593	91.0
Iowa.....	3	1	2	378	150	228	183	195	448	93.8
North Dakota.....	15	1	15	868	—	868	445	423	—	105.2
South Dakota.....	67	2	65	7,318	791	6,527	3,458	3,415	415	100.4
Nebraska.....	19	2	17	4,076	955	3,121	1,799	1,829	448	98.4
<b>Mountain:</b>										
Montana.....	7	—	7	334	—	334	173	161	—	107.5
Arizona.....	11	3	8	920	376	544	416	504	—	82.5
<b>Pacific:</b>										
Washington.....	12	3	9	1,082	605	477	506	576	—	87.8

**TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, BY STATES, 1926: EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN JOINT SYNOD OF WISCONSIN AND OTHER STATES**

STATE	Number of churches	Number of members	MEMBERSHIP BY AGE			
			Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 <sup>1</sup>
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>709</b>	<b>229,242</b>	<b>60,378</b>	<b>157,787</b>	<b>11,077</b>	<b>27.7</b>
Ohio.....	3	1,688	541	1,147	—	32.0
Illinois.....	7	2,387	721	1,666	—	30.2
Michigan.....	78	20,314	5,542	14,772	—	27.3
Wisconsin.....	371	146,373	36,909	101,652	7,812	26.6
Minnesota.....	116	43,504	12,301	29,605	1,598	29.4
Iowa.....	3	378	155	223	—	41.0
North Dakota.....	15	868	373	495	—	43.0
South Dakota.....	67	7,318	2,431	4,568	319	34.7
Nebraska.....	19	4,076	767	1,961	1,348	28.1
Montana.....	7	334	145	189	—	43.4
Arizona.....	11	920	208	712	—	22.6
Washington.....	12	1,082	285	797	—	26.3

<sup>1</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported.

**HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION<sup>1</sup>**

**HISTORY**

Lutheranism in the United States is not a uniform development. Its beginnings go back into early colonial times, and even then it was in every instance an organism fostered and stimulated for each racial group by the homeland. A measure of organization was effected in the original States after 1748; but,

<sup>1</sup> This statement was furnished by Rev. G. E. Bergemann, president, Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States.

TABLE 4.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN JOINT SYNOD OF WISCONSIN AND OTHER STATES

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

STATE	Total number of churches		VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States.....	709	704	631	\$11,828,013	176	\$1,096,883	455	\$2,640,363	93	\$228,807
Ohio.....	3	3	3	251,000	2	31,250	3	19,000	2	5,500
Illinois.....	7	7	7	148,000	2	25,400	6	63,000	12	29,300
Michigan.....	78	77	71	1,460,450	26	153,868	53	295,200	49	135,575
Wisconsin.....	371	404	350	7,758,407	95	715,396	248	1,604,563	14	37,211
Minnesota.....	116	119	110	1,704,286	27	136,084	86	447,400	2	3,696
North Dakota.....	15	11	9	35,220	4	8,120	6	19,300	10	13,325
South Dakota.....	67	47	46	177,200	16	21,815	26	89,200	2	2,500
Nebraska.....	19	15	15	173,050	-----	-----	15	58,000	-----	-----
Arizona.....	11	9	9	52,800	-----	-----	7	28,700	1	1,000
Washington.....	12	10	9	62,100	3	3,950	4	12,500	-----	-----
Other States.....	10	2	2	5,500	1	1,000	1	3,500	1	700

TABLE 5.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN JOINT SYNOD OF WISCONSIN AND OTHER STATES

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS			
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	709	695	\$2,743,164	\$2,318,329	\$423,643	\$1,192	490	2,741	28,948
Ohio.....	3	3	30,783	25,206	5,577	-----	3	46	462
Illinois.....	7	7	30,535	26,472	4,063	-----	6	70	676
Michigan.....	78	76	331,470	290,975	40,495	-----	57	305	3,331
Wisconsin.....	371	366	1,624,508	1,365,492	257,819	1,192	244	1,424	15,533
Minnesota.....	116	113	568,996	483,694	85,302	-----	81	569	5,907
Iowa.....	3	3	4,381	3,905	476	-----	3	19	167
North Dakota.....	15	14	10,907	9,318	1,589	-----	11	20	208
South Dakota.....	67	66	60,943	46,778	14,165	-----	59	187	1,677
Nebraska.....	19	19	48,469	37,689	10,780	-----	7	33	236
Montana.....	7	7	340	80	260	-----	1	1	25
Arizona.....	11	9	20,053	18,659	1,394	-----	6	16	339
Washington.....	12	12	11,784	10,061	1,723	-----	12	51	387

by the time the western Territories were opened to the great influx of immigration in the first half of the nineteenth century, the eastern Lutherans were neither strong enough nor interested enough to establish immediate contact with the new Lutheran elements that arrived from central and northern Europe, even if these newcomers had been willing to join them in their spiritual communion.

It was left for the pioneers in the North Central States to work out their religious establishments as best they could on their own initiative. Many parallel formations went on within these States among the Lutherans. The

**TABLE 6.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY DISTRICTS, 1926: EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN JOINT SYNOD OF WISCONSIN AND OTHER STATES**

DISTRICT	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total.....	709	229,242	631	\$11,828,013	176	\$1,096,883	695	\$2,743,164	490	28,948
Dakota-Montana.....	80	8,406	52	204,520	17	23,235	77	68,848	64	1,871
Michigan.....	63	19,472	60	1,567,650	26	175,893	61	340,979	45	3,256
Minnesota.....	118	40,345	110	1,525,286	30	129,084	116	539,699	82	5,575
Nebraska.....	34	5,330	23	200,450	3	6,700	34	58,503	19	506
Northern Wisconsin.....	143	47,027	133	2,344,432	26	190,915	142	548,240	88	4,702
Pacific Northwest.....	12	1,082	9	62,100	3	3,950	12	11,784	12	387
Southeastern Wisconsin.....	103	54,355	100	3,395,600	39	453,611	101	657,984	78	7,579
Western Wisconsin.....	156	53,225	144	2,527,975	32	113,495	152	517,118	102	5,072

European stock of Lutherans that was most numerous during the earlier years of western settlement was the German. Even among them there was no united effort for a single organization; different groups formed separate smaller bodies according to their narrower racial origins and according to their particular historical antecedents. Those who came to America to escape certain religious disabilities were likely to form a closed Lutheran group after they got here, especially if they came as colonizing groups.

Others came who were not primarily interested in religious liberty but were rather searching for economic independence. To them the formation of organized churches was not so urgent a matter at first, though the bulk of the immigrant church members of the early decades were of this type. To many the name Lutheran came naturally, and they would so designate themselves, though they were not always clear as to the confessional significance of the term and were likely to be satisfied with any form of Protestant Christianity that did not offend their habits and customs too much. Lutheran missionaries being rare, many of the early settlers of Lutheran antecedents found their way into Methodist and Reformed churches before Lutheran churches could be organized.

In Wisconsin several Lutheran elements were at work in the forties, notably the Buffalo and the Missouri Synods. It was not until 1846 that, upon appeal from a farmer near Milwaukee, the Langenberg Missionary Society sent one of its "gospel heralds" to Wisconsin. This pioneer, Weinmann, kept in touch with other Langenberger men who had been sent to the eastern United States by the same society, and he inspired John Muehlhaeuser, pastor of a German church in Rochester, N. Y., where he had been for 10 years, to come to Wisconsin. There was much work in gathering the ever-increasing numbers of German immigrants that were collecting in the fast-growing cities and settling on farms. In May, 1850, five pastors of this particular group were representing 18 congregations and were ready to organize a synod. The first organization and the direct precursor of the present Joint Synod of Wisconsin denominated itself "The First German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin."

The youthful but ambitious body depended on German missionary societies for men to do its work for more than 10 years; then the founders realized that little could be accomplished unless pastors were trained in America. In 1863

a college and theological seminary were established at Watertown, Wis., and by 1870 the pastoral membership of the synod had grown to 52. For 20 years more—until about 1890—there was a small stream of pastors trained by the missionary societies of Germany that reinforced the more numerous pastorate trained in America. But as immigration ceased, in the nineties, the synod was able to keep up with the demands made upon it from its own resources of men.

The first missionary wave had covered southeastern Wisconsin and the larger cities of the State; after 1870 the rural communities were searched and organized into congregations, though the work of the Wisconsin Synod never, at this time, went beyond the limits of the State, especially since the neighboring State of Minnesota had begun a synodical existence of its own in 1860 and had cultivated friendly relations with Wisconsin, taking many Wisconsin men into its service. This community of interests and the relationship of the personnel of the two synods led to an organic union of the two in 1892. This union, to which the Synod of Michigan also adhered, bears the name of Joint Synod and has endured ever since, subject to some minor rearrangements of internal administration.

In the years that followed the establishment of its own theological seminary a number of highly trained university men from Germany were found, who placed the academic standard of the synodical schools on a high plane. Since then virtually all pastors of the synod have full college training, besides three years' work in theology.

Beginning in 1881 work was done among the German Lutherans of Nebraska, which field continues to enjoy a healthy, normal growth. In the nineties the far Northwest was chosen as a field for work, and though progress there is slower there is a noticeable advance in the territory comprising the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

Being in its origin purely German, the Joint Synod of Wisconsin confined its work until about 1900 to those speaking the German tongue. From the beginning it had fostered parish schools where, usually, German was taught. As the second and third generations of parishioners grew up the American-trained pastorate introduced the use of the English language more and more, with the result that to-day there are some congregations that use only English, while many more have reached the point where congregational work is done fully as much in English as in German; services are conducted in both languages as the particular needs of the congregation require. Confirmations in the German language have all but disappeared. The trend is unmistakable toward the adoption of English throughout.

Since the language question was not the real reason for the existence of the parish school, the recent change in languages does not affect the principle of maintaining parish schools wherever possible. This school system is intended to lead through Lutheran academies, a number of which are being maintained, to Lutheran colleges and seminaries. Parish school teachers are being trained in a teachers' college maintained since 1892 in New Ulm, Minn.

#### DOCTRINE

The doctrinal standard of the Joint Synod of Wisconsin is in no way different from the standard to which Lutherans the world over charge their pastors. If anything characterizes the Joint Synod in distinction from other Lutheran bodies, it is in its staunch and firm adherence to the confessional declarations laid down in the Book of Concord of 1580. Within the body a liberalist-fundamentalist controversy is not well possible, because any deviation from that standard of teaching and preaching would constitute a defection from the synod.

**ORGANIZATION**

In 1872 the then Wisconsin Synod joined with the much larger Missouri Synod and several other bodies in forming the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference, which perhaps is acknowledged to stand at the extreme right in strict observance of Lutheran doctrine. This union still holds, though there has been a shift in the membership. The Wisconsin Synod in 1892, together with the Synods of Minnesota and Michigan, formed the Joint Synod of Wisconsin. In 1917 a reorganization within the limits of the Joint Synod resulted in the breaking up of the original territorial distribution of the three constituent synods into eight units, called districts. The eight districts are Southeastern Wisconsin, North Wisconsin, West Wisconsin, Minnesota, Dakota-Montana, Michigan, Nebraska, and Pacific Northwest. Each district has its own officers and meets in the even years, while the Joint Synod meets in the odd years. At the district meetings pastors, professors, and parish school teachers meet in their full strength; the congregations are represented by elected lay delegates. At the Joint Synod meeting all elements of the synod are represented by delegates appointed and certified to by the conferences, which are the smaller neighborhood groups into which the districts are subdivided. The synod is not strictly a governing body, for it has only advisory and supervisory powers; the congregation is autonomous. But since the Joint Synod holds all the common property certain financial matters are decided in the usual parliamentary fashion.

Of the organized congregations only 488 have voting membership in the synod, though official membership in the synod body is optional. Voting members of the individual congregations are usually limited by rule to males over 21 years of age. Many congregations have a way of counting separately women members who have been regularly received.

**WORK**

The faculties of the synodical colleges and seminaries are composed of 35 professors. The parish schools are taught by 259 teachers, of which number 122 are men. Besides upholding the synodical institutions for the complete training of pastors and teachers, the synod maintains and supports in part about 100 pastors whose work is in the new fields for inner missions scattered throughout the territory covered by the synod. There is also an extensive mission among the Apaches in Arizona, begun in 1893. As a member of the Synodical Conference the Joint Synod cooperates with the other synods of that body in the colored missions of the South.