

LUTHERANS

GENERAL STATEMENT¹

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

¹ 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
1926—Continued								
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	226,090	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
1916								
Total for the group.....	13,921	2,467,516	12,431	109,415,163	13,276	22,827,047	9,446	998,339
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, Etelsen 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								
Total for the group	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

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the United Lutheran Church in 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 the United Lutheran Church in America includes all baptized persons, children and adults, connected with the congregations.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	3,650	1,527	2,123	41.8	58.2
Members.....	1,214,340	816,839	397,501	67.3	32.7
Average per church.....	333	535	187		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	526,669	349,216	177,453	66.3	33.7
Female.....	644,011	440,090	203,921	68.3	31.7
Sex not reported.....	43,660	27,533	16,127	63.1	36.9
Males per 100 females.....	81.8	79.4	87.0		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	304,723	212,219	92,504	69.6	30.4
13 years and over.....	865,844	577,820	288,024	66.7	33.3
Age not reported.....	43,773	26,800	16,973	61.2	38.8
Per cent under 13 years ²	26.0	26.9	24.3		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	3,596	1,539	2,057	42.8	57.2
Value—Churches reporting.....	3,516	1,468	2,048	41.8	58.2
Amount reported.....	\$114,526,248	\$90,084,919	\$24,441,329	78.7	21.3
Average per church.....	\$32,573	\$61,366	\$11,934		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1,028	759	269	73.8	26.2
Amount reported.....	\$14,273,177	\$12,596,303	\$1,676,874	88.3	11.7
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	1,910	563	1,347	29.5	70.5
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,987	1,057	930	53.2	46.8
Amount reported.....	\$14,701,040	\$10,364,309	\$4,336,731	70.5	29.5
Debt—Churches reporting.....	445	326	119	73.3	26.7
Amount reported.....	\$1,782,443	\$1,488,769	\$293,674	83.5	16.5
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	1,223	592	631	48.4	51.6
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	3,577	1,512	2,065	42.3	57.7
Amount reported.....	\$21,162,961	\$16,220,447	\$4,942,514	76.6	23.4
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$17,509,300	\$13,471,484	\$4,037,816	76.9	23.1
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$3,641,048	\$2,741,508	\$899,540	75.3	24.7
Not classified.....	\$12,613	\$7,455	\$5,158	59.1	40.9
Average expenditure per church.....	\$5,916	\$10,728	\$2,393		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	3,415	1,479	1,936	43.3	56.7
Officers and teachers.....	62,184	36,868	25,316	59.3	40.7
Scholars.....	619,781	385,918	233,863	62.3	37.7

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.

² Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 3,650 active organizations of the United Lutheran Church in America, with 1,214,340 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 3,499 churches and the classification by age was reported by 3,450 churches, including 3,032 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 this general body for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890. For 1916 and prior censuses the statistics have been combined for the three bodies which merged in 1918 to form the United Lutheran Church, namely, the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States of America, the United Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South, and the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America. From the last-named body, however, figures for the Augustana Synod were deducted.

In connection with figures for 1916, and probably for earlier censuses as well, the membership reported for most of the churches included only the confirmed members. As a result, the membership figures for earlier censuses are somewhat too small for fair comparison with the 1926 data, which include all baptized persons on the church rolls.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

ITEM	1926	1916 ¹	1906 ¹	1890 ¹
Churches (local organizations).....	3,650	3,559	3,309	2,710
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	91	250	599	-----
Per cent.....	2.6	7.6	22.1	-----
Members	1,214,340	763,596	600,941	389,880
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	450,744	162,655	211,061	-----
Per cent.....	59.0	27.1	54.1	-----
Average membership per church.....	333	215	182	144
Church edifices:				
Number.....	3,596	3,483	3,290	2,434
Value—Churches reporting.....	3,516	3,465	3,190	-----
Amount reported.....	\$114,526,248	\$48,498,217	\$34,352,415	\$17,812,140
Average per church.....	\$32,573	\$13,997	\$10,769	-----
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1,028	991	850	-----
Amount reported.....	\$14,273,177	\$5,804,535	\$3,825,087	-----
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,987	1,478	1,216	-----
Amount reported.....	\$14,701,040	\$5,635,400	\$3,540,800	-----
Debt—Churches reporting.....	445	-----	-----	-----
Amount reported.....	\$1,782,443	-----	-----	-----
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	3,577	3,485	-----	-----
Amount reported.....	\$21,162,961	\$7,929,663	-----	-----
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$17,509,300	\$6,248,008	-----	-----
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$3,641,048	\$1,572,272	-----	-----
Not classified.....	\$12,613	\$109,383	-----	-----
Average expenditure per church.....	\$5,916	\$2,275	-----	-----
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	3,415	3,359	3,037	-----
Officers and teachers.....	62,184	57,947	49,740	-----
Scholars.....	619,781	578,238	439,979	-----

¹ Statistics for 1916, 1906, and 1890 include the General Synod, the United Synod in the South, and the General Council (except the Augustana Synod), which merged in 1918 to form the United Lutheran Church in America.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the United Lutheran Church in 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 censuses of 1926 and 1916, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years 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

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN 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 re- ported	Males per 100 fe- males ¹
United States.....	3, 650	1, 527	2, 123	1, 214, 340	816, 839	397, 501	526, 669	644, 011	43, 660	81. 8
New England:										
Massachusetts.....	6	5	1	1, 827	1, 743	84	806	1, 021	-----	78. 9
Connecticut.....	26	19	7	11, 393	10, 004	1, 389	5, 008	5, 934	451	84. 4
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	297	200	97	147, 508	129, 444	18, 064	61, 599	80, 548	5, 361	76. 5
New Jersey.....	111	83	28	43, 443	38, 371	5, 072	18, 057	23, 871	1, 515	75. 6
Pennsylvania.....	1, 443	508	935	551, 202	338, 462	212, 740	240, 055	290, 056	21, 091	82. 8
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	302	131	171	84, 531	62, 384	22, 147	37, 400	46, 082	1, 049	81. 2
Indiana.....	118	37	81	21, 833	11, 411	10, 422	9, 421	11, 563	849	81. 5
Illinois.....	159	90	69	55, 242	44, 484	10, 758	25, 278	29, 692	272	85. 1
Michigan.....	31	24	7	8, 242	8, 034	208	3, 622	4, 620	-----	78. 4
Wisconsin.....	49	35	14	23, 331	20, 593	2, 738	10, 818	12, 443	70	86. 9
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	30	18	12	15, 476	12, 330	3, 146	6, 868	8, 608	-----	79. 8
Iowa.....	41	23	18	14, 002	10, 856	3, 746	6, 524	8, 078	-----	80. 8
Missouri.....	19	9	10	3, 950	2, 917	1, 033	1, 710	2, 240	-----	76. 3
North Dakota.....	11	3	8	2, 361	1, 548	813	1, 023	1, 338	-----	76. 5
South Dakota.....	4	-----	4	499	-----	499	241	258	-----	93. 4
Nebraska.....	122	30	92	32, 489	15, 501	16, 988	14, 964	17, 325	200	86. 4
Kansas.....	45	14	31	9, 387	4, 168	5, 219	4, 187	5, 095	105	82. 2
South Atlantic:										
Delaware.....	3	3	-----	1, 203	1, 203	-----	412	791	-----	52. 1
Maryland.....	135	47	88	52, 693	32, 714	19, 979	21, 357	26, 893	4, 443	79. 4
District of Columbia.....	14	14	-----	5, 106	5, 106	-----	2, 093	3, 013	-----	69. 5
Virginia.....	147	21	126	19, 252	6, 139	13, 113	8, 763	10, 335	154	84. 8
West Virginia.....	43	18	25	7, 993	6, 275	1, 718	3, 171	3, 972	850	79. 8
North Carolina.....	165	46	119	34, 738	12, 577	22, 161	14, 712	16, 269	3, 757	90. 4
South Carolina.....	110	27	83	25, 756	9, 431	16, 325	11, 728	12, 962	1, 066	90. 5
Georgia.....	26	7	19	5, 759	4, 259	1, 500	1, 668	2, 125	1, 966	78. 5
Florida.....	9	7	2	1, 567	1, 483	84	696	871	-----	79. 9
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	19	12	7	4, 881	4, 088	793	2, 003	2, 878	-----	69. 6
Tennessee.....	27	10	17	3, 248	1, 884	1, 364	1, 398	1, 850	-----	76. 6
Alabama.....	2	1	1	280	118	162	120	160	-----	75. 0
Mississippi.....	13	3	10	880	152	728	420	460	-----	91. 3
West South Central:										
Oklahoma.....	5	4	1	976	799	177	461	515	-----	89. 5
Texas.....	28	5	23	5, 917	2, 021	3, 296	2, 793	2, 663	461	104. 9
Mountain:										
Montana.....	4	3	1	550	521	29	250	300	-----	83. 3
Wyoming.....	2	2	-----	263	263	-----	105	158	-----	66. 5
Colorado.....	18	12	6	2, 535	2, 151	384	1, 172	1, 363	-----	86. 0
New Mexico.....	1	1	-----	361	361	-----	126	235	-----	53. 6
Arizona.....	1	1	-----	185	185	-----	90	95	-----	-----
Pacific:										
Washington.....	17	11	6	2, 791	2, 437	354	1, 183	1, 608	-----	73. 6
Oregon.....	10	7	3	1, 312	1, 139	173	643	669	-----	96. 1
California.....	37	36	1	8, 778	8, 683	95	3, 724	5, 054	-----	75. 7

¹ Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

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 synod in the United Lutheran Church in 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 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1926 AND 1916, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES		NUMBER OF MEMBERS		MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916 ¹	1926	1916 ¹	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 ²
United States.....	3, 650	3, 559	1, 214, 340	763, 596	304, 723	865, 844	43, 773	26. 0
Massachusetts.....	6	4	1, 827	1, 168	261	1, 566	-----	14. 3
Connecticut.....	26	26	11, 393	7, 996	2, 729	8, 290	374	24. 8
New York.....	297	279	147, 508	90, 917	39, 127	102, 639	5, 742	27. 6
New Jersey.....	111	93	43, 443	26, 243	12, 800	29, 170	1, 473	30. 5
Pennsylvania.....	1, 443	1, 464	551, 202	361, 346	137, 584	393, 633	19, 985	25. 9
Ohio.....	302	317	84, 531	61, 577	18, 301	60, 991	5, 239	23. 1
Indiana.....	118	126	21, 833	14, 169	4, 892	16, 740	201	22. 6
Illinois.....	159	145	55, 242	28, 974	14, 399	39, 725	1, 118	26. 6
Michigan.....	31	17	8, 242	4, 312	2, 224	5, 935	83	27. 3
Wisconsin.....	49	33	23, 331	7, 282	7, 147	16, 114	70	30. 7
Minnesota.....	30	23	15, 476	5, 807	4, 835	10, 641	-----	31. 2
Iowa.....	41	36	14, 602	7, 457	3, 905	10, 611	86	26. 9
Missouri.....	19	17	3, 950	2, 375	649	3, 301	-----	16. 4
North Dakota.....	11	5	2, 361	713	790	1, 571	-----	33. 5
South Dakota.....	4	3	499	456	145	354	-----	29. 1
Nebraska.....	122	132	32, 489	18, 206	8, 861	23, 597	31	27. 3
Kansas.....	45	52	9, 387	6, 780	2, 335	6, 625	427	26. 1
Delaware.....	3	3	1, 203	1, 045	212	991	-----	17. 6
Maryland.....	135	126	52, 693	33, 555	11, 812	39, 220	1, 661	23. 1
District of Columbia.....	14	12	5, 106	3, 416	1, 067	3, 480	559	23. 5
Virginia.....	147	160	19, 252	15, 271	2, 964	16, 176	112	15. 5
West Virginia.....	43	42	7, 993	5, 983	1, 860	6, 090	43	23. 4
North Carolina.....	165	154	34, 738	19, 450	9, 560	22, 667	2, 511	29. 7
South Carolina.....	110	103	25, 756	14, 788	5, 829	18, 766	1, 161	23. 7
Georgia.....	26	26	5, 759	3, 739	1, 027	2, 748	1, 984	27. 2
Florida.....	9	4	1, 567	555	320	1, 092	155	22. 7
Kentucky.....	19	18	4, 881	3, 845	925	3, 956	-----	19. 0
Tennessee.....	27	34	3, 248	2, 808	481	2, 474	293	16. 3
Alabama.....	2	3	280	404	48	232	-----	17. 1
Mississippi.....	13	10	880	567	183	697	-----	20. 8
Oklahoma.....	5	5	976	636	252	724	-----	25. 8
Texas.....	28	12	5, 917	1, 682	1, 969	3, 948	-----	33. 3
Montana.....	4	1	550	179	223	327	-----	40. 5
Colorado.....	18	16	2, 535	1, 700	639	1, 896	-----	25. 2
New Mexico.....	1	3	361	208	135	226	-----	37. 4
Washington.....	17	13	2, 791	985	1, 157	1, 557	77	42. 6
Oregon.....	10	9	1, 312	891	437	875	-----	33. 3
California.....	37	29	8, 778	5, 865	2, 557	5, 833	388	30. 5
Other States.....	3	4	448	246	82	366	-----	18. 3

¹ Statistics for 1916 include the General Synod, the United Synod in the South, and the General Council (except the Augustana Synod).
² Based on membership with age classification reported.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN 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..	3,650	3,596	3,516	\$114,526,248	1,028	\$14,273,177	1,987	\$14,701,040	445	\$1,782,443
Massachusetts.....	6	6	6	151,000	1	2,000	(1)			
Connecticut.....	28	25	23	1,067,500	14	148,550	19	160,000	7	20,100
New York.....	297	294	279	17,057,281	123	1,969,850	196	2,036,500	46	238,275
New Jersey.....	111	103	99	3,886,500	60	672,322	78	736,900	34	130,437
Pennsylvania.....	1,443	1,458	1,422	48,325,334	334	5,010,364	734	5,960,355	143	640,659
Ohio.....	302	303	298	9,827,100	80	933,794	159	1,055,870	37	137,149
Indiana.....	118	116	115	2,483,175	27	397,100	64	241,200	4	5,480
Illinois.....	159	157	155	5,293,055	65	1,052,400	98	688,950	25	107,500
Michigan.....	31	28	27	1,145,200	16	357,192	15	116,300	6	21,020
Wisconsin.....	49	45	43	2,488,000	28	702,860	32	248,500	13	53,700
Minnesota.....	30	28	28	1,258,000	20	380,300	14	91,700	7	17,450
Iowa.....	41	41	41	1,015,210	22	211,345	30	184,500	8	29,820
Missouri.....	19	16	16	616,650	5	156,000	11	89,500	6	25,550
North Dakota.....	11	7	7	108,100	5	28,000	3	12,000	1	900
South Dakota.....	4	3	3	15,000			3	10,700	1	1,000
Nebraska.....	122	124	121	1,843,396	29	203,460	89	378,578	16	22,550
Kansas.....	45	46	44	846,600	10	92,135	33	154,900	5	8,850
Delaware.....	3	3	3	199,000	2	20,250	(1)			
Maryland.....	135	134	130	4,235,450	36	441,450	79	649,350	18	73,696
Dist. of Columbia..	14	13	13	1,844,000	6	180,500	9	141,000	5	30,000
Virginia.....	147	140	140	1,424,550	12	111,630	58	376,390	6	9,275
West Virginia.....	43	40	40	1,034,600	9	179,706	20	137,250	7	52,400
North Carolina.....	165	157	156	2,372,879	29	201,020	82	418,597	15	43,429
South Carolina.....	110	109	108	1,451,150	14	84,625	53	242,300	11	28,328
Georgia.....	26	24	24	520,000	7	94,000	12	58,500	1	4,000
Florida.....	9	6	6	309,000	2	62,000	6	63,800	2	16,000
Kentucky.....	19	19	19	607,978	7	93,900	15	115,500	3	12,000
Tennessee.....	27	26	26	518,400	3	25,100	13	46,850	1	1,000
Mississippi.....	13	12	12	42,400	5	5,200	3	3,800		
Oklahoma.....	5	5	5	122,400	2	3,700	4	19,700	2	10,000
Texas.....	28	23	23	138,000	7	8,375	14	42,500	2	3,800
Colorado.....	18	17	16	334,100	6	117,700	7	24,900	2	11,500
Washington.....	17	15	15	205,300	12	81,864	6	31,800	3	8,775
Oregon.....	10	10	10	140,500	4	18,900	5	31,000	1	2,360
California.....	37	35	35	1,403,450	19	145,285	14	85,650	6	15,000
Other States ²	10	8	8	195,900	7	80,300	9	45,700	1	500

¹ Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

² The figures for value of parsonages include data for 3 churches in Massachusetts and Delaware.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

HISTORY

The United Lutheran Church in America, appearing by this name for the first time in the Report on Religious Bodies, is new, however, only as regards organization. It is direct successor and heir to three of the Lutheran bodies reported in 1916—the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States of America, the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America, and the United Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South. These three bodies were merged into the United Lutheran Church in America in 1918.

¹ This statement, which is in part the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. M. G. G. Scherer, secretary, the United Lutheran Church in America, and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN 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..	3,650	3,577	\$21,162,961	\$17,509,300	\$3,641,048	\$12,613	3,415	62,184	619,781
Massachusetts.....	6	6	24,354	21,085	3,269	-----	4	30	185
Connecticut.....	26	24	180,188	146,816	33,372	-----	22	364	2,861
New York.....	297	292	3,115,347	2,667,071	448,276	-----	271	5,507	50,333
New Jersey.....	111	109	614,467	530,339	84,128	-----	104	1,877	17,695
Pennsylvania.....	1,443	1,433	8,635,153	7,117,272	1,514,873	3,008	1,385	28,909	301,735
Ohio.....	302	299	1,596,706	1,242,317	349,389	5,000	287	5,264	51,765
Indiana.....	118	117	386,038	317,395	68,643	-----	109	1,554	13,120
Illinois.....	159	158	1,137,696	893,426	244,270	-----	150	2,874	28,944
Michigan.....	31	27	198,350	180,930	17,270	150	25	381	3,482
Wisconsin.....	49	48	360,034	304,868	55,166	-----	43	945	7,948
Minnesota.....	30	30	349,991	321,054	28,937	-----	30	559	5,453
Iowa.....	41	41	216,963	189,005	25,558	2,400	39	653	6,434
Missouri.....	19	18	155,830	143,596	12,234	-----	17	259	2,621
North Dakota.....	11	11	24,291	20,093	4,198	-----	11	107	985
South Dakota.....	4	4	4,759	4,464	295	-----	3	16	154
Nebraska.....	122	122	434,232	350,928	83,304	-----	110	1,316	11,663
Kansas.....	45	44	191,146	162,101	29,045	-----	42	582	4,698
Delaware.....	3	3	40,097	35,649	4,448	-----	3	78	689
Maryland.....	135	134	824,650	671,106	153,544	-----	132	3,077	31,528
District of Columbia.....	14	14	135,408	108,676	26,732	-----	14	340	2,995
Virginia.....	147	137	258,422	188,524	69,898	-----	121	1,394	13,037
West Virginia.....	43	35	252,792	225,408	27,384	-----	34	553	4,736
North Carolina.....	165	156	715,651	577,895	135,701	2,055	154	2,006	23,888
South Carolina.....	110	107	311,473	233,966	77,507	-----	105	1,306	14,088
Georgia.....	26	22	109,541	79,820	29,721	-----	20	301	2,513
Florida.....	9	9	87,706	80,324	7,382	-----	9	90	883
Kentucky.....	19	19	134,864	113,381	21,483	-----	17	315	3,101
Tennessee.....	27	25	39,540	32,250	7,290	-----	21	208	1,944
Mississippi.....	13	12	9,222	7,688	1,534	-----	10	59	385
Oklahoma.....	5	5	19,987	17,519	2,468	-----	5	53	386
Texas.....	28	26	46,301	39,677	6,624	-----	28	205	1,693
Montana.....	4	4	13,763	12,352	1,411	-----	3	32	199
Colorado.....	18	17	186,903	178,212	8,691	-----	17	159	1,185
Washington.....	17	16	77,992	71,096	6,896	-----	17	173	1,450
Oregon.....	10	10	21,870	17,868	4,002	-----	10	101	681
California.....	37	37	203,996	165,715	38,281	-----	37	457	3,679
Other States.....	6	6	47,238	39,414	7,824	-----	6	80	665

For the General Synod the figures for 1916 were as follows: 1,846 organizations, 370,715 members, 1,232 ministers from whom schedules were received, and 1,514 ministers reported on the rolls of the body. For the General Council in 1916 there were 2,389 organizations, 540,642 members, 1,327 ministers from whom schedules were received, and 1,664 ministers reported on the rolls of the body. For the United Synod in the South there were 492 organizations, 56,656 members, 189 ministers from whom schedules were received, and 259 ministers reported on the rolls of the body. Immediately prior to the merger in 1918 the Augustana Synod, with 1,167 organizations, 204,417 members, and 720 ministers reported on the rolls, withdrew from the General Council. Thus the totals for the United Lutheran Church at its first convention were as follows: 3,560 organizations, 763,596 members, and 2,717 ministers reported on the rolls (1916). No account has been taken here of the gains made by the merging bodies between 1916 and 1918.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY SYNODS, 1926: UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

SYNOD	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.....	3,650	1,214,340	3,516	\$114,526,248	1,028	\$14,273,177	3,577	\$21,162,961	3,415	619,781
Alleghany.....	144	35,660	144	3,073,150	23	247,750	144	604,247	135	25,416
California.....	38	8,963	36	1,412,450	19	145,285	38	208,616	38	3,799
East Pennsylvania.....	153	60,306	150	7,452,485	61	1,083,424	152	1,650,416	149	39,701
Georgia.....	37	7,606	32	899,900	11	195,800	33	203,357	31	3,541
German Nebraska.....	96	19,755	93	644,660	15	30,900	96	184,197	88	5,233
Illinois.....	140	44,669	136	4,832,855	56	1,033,700	138	1,045,378	134	26,690
Indiana.....	77	13,937	74	1,529,853	20	181,300	75	301,321	69	9,024
Iowa.....	32	10,337	32	836,510	18	190,195	32	170,017	31	5,358
Kansas.....	45	9,456	43	1,283,100	12	191,635	44	307,711	42	5,630
Manitoba and Other Provinces.....	2	183	1	800	-----	-----	2	1,537	2	30
Maryland.....	141	58,441	135	6,034,950	40	544,350	140	969,826	140	35,413
Michigan.....	83	17,840	80	2,657,400	26	647,292	79	397,334	75	9,877
Mississippi.....	13	880	12	42,400	5	5,200	12	9,222	10	385
Nebraska.....	55	17,412	54	1,342,436	19	176,960	55	290,815	49	7,789
New York.....	155	52,197	148	6,152,775	61	853,025	151	1,226,785	139	21,039
Ministerium of New York.....	147	87,114	137	9,087,800	62	761,550	144	1,345,349	132	23,917
New York and New England.....	82	47,453	74	5,511,206	47	895,955	81	1,119,299	81	18,881
North Carolina.....	165	34,738	156	2,372,879	29	201,020	156	715,651	154	23,888
North West.....	79	38,424	69	3,749,890	54	1,118,660	78	703,384	76	13,584
Ohio.....	284	77,407	280	9,403,100	71	882,844	282	1,512,248	272	49,654
Pacific.....	27	4,103	25	345,800	16	100,764	26	99,862	27	2,131
Ministerium of Pennsylvania.....	584	272,024	569	21,291,880	157	2,009,508	580	3,275,846	559	120,004
Pittsburgh.....	313	104,637	305	10,130,639	91	1,423,624	309	1,911,982	297	52,417
Rocky Mountain.....	16	2,824	15	405,800	7	146,200	15	220,938	15	1,469
Slovak "Zion".....	27	11,627	23	604,350	11	66,300	27	102,396	12	1,094
South Carolina.....	110	25,756	108	1,451,150	14	84,625	107	311,473	105	14,068
Susquehanna Synod of Central Pennsylvania.....	166	46,904	165	4,286,475	19	426,300	163	837,190	161	32,323
Texas.....	25	5,538	20	113,500	7	8,375	23	41,738	25	1,529
Virginia.....	173	21,958	164	1,814,450	15	136,730	160	297,445	141	14,895
Wartburg.....	49	18,748	46	916,050	16	79,950	49	200,715	43	5,788
West Pennsylvania.....	163	51,170	153	4,108,355	20	290,000	163	772,412	153	41,745
West Virginia.....	39	6,333	37	737,200	6	113,956	33	124,254	30	3,469

The United Lutheran Church in America not only brought together three general bodies, each of which had its historical beginnings far back in colonial times, but it restored the organic union between the Lutherans of the North and South which had been broken by the War between the States.

There is a native bent among Lutherans for unity. They are not unionists, seeking to make the unity of the Church manifest in external organization, where real inner unity does not exist. They put unity in the faith first, and where this is found to exist the desire to unite finds expression in one organization upon a common confession or doctrinal basis.

Out of this deep concern for the faith and unity therein came several free Lutheran diets and general conferences, looking to complete understanding and harmonious cooperation between these three general bodies and extending over the period from 1877 to 1902. Committees and commissions were appointed for the purpose of arranging for the conduct of home mission enterprises, without

friction or interference with one another, and for cooperation in liturgical reforms. Especially noteworthy among these was the joint committee to prepare "A Common Service for all English-speaking Lutherans." Through the work of this committee "The Common Service" was completed in 1887 and was adopted by each of the three bodies. The Hymnal was finished in 1917 and published in the Common Service Book of the Lutheran Church. This Common Service Book was authorized by the United Lutheran Church in America at the time of its organization in 1918. The work of this joint committee had much to do with preparing the way for the merger of the three constituent bodies.

The third important cooperative undertaking which contributed directly and most effectually to the same end was the establishment of a joint committee with authority to arrange for a proper general celebration in 1917 of the four hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. At the first meeting, September 1, 1914, the suggestion was made that the celebration should be marked by the union of the three bodies in the year 1917, and such a consummation was never lost sight of. At a meeting of the committee in Philadelphia on April 18, 1917, a resolution adopted the night before by a gathering of prominent laymen was read and considered. This resolution requested the committee "to arrange a general meeting of Lutherans to formulate plans for the unification of the Lutheran Church in America." The joint committee thereupon adopted the following: "Believing that the time has come for the more complete organization of the Lutheran Church in this country, we propose that the General Synod, the General Council, and the United Synod in the South, together with all other bodies one with us in our Lutheran faith, be united as soon as possible in one general organization, to be known as the United Lutheran Church in America."

The presidents of the three general bodies named in the resolution met promptly the next day and took the necessary first steps. The joint committee on constitution, appointed by them, held two meetings and completed the task assigned them. Each of the presidents assumed the responsibility of introducing the constitution and the proposed merger on the basis of it to the next convention of his own general body.

The constitution was approved by the General Synod in June, 1917, by the General Council in October, and by the United Synod in the South in November. It was submitted by each of the three bodies to its district synods, and in each case was ratified by all of them, except by one of the synods composing the General Council—namely, the Augustana Synod—which declined to enter the merger and formally withdrew from the Council, November 12, 1918.

By action of the several bodies at their conventions in 1917 there was established a joint committee on ways and means. This committee was charged with the duty of inquiring into the legality of the whole procedure, and was clothed with authority to perfect the arrangements for the merger. A detailed report of the work of this committee may be read in the Minutes of the First Convention of the United Lutheran Church in America. This convention was held in the city of New York November 14–18, 1918.

At this convention there were present, from churches in Canada as well as the United States, 542 delegates—289 clerical and 253 lay delegates. These represented 43 constituent synods, 24 of which belonged to the General Synod, 13 to the General Council, and 8 to the United Synod in the South. Two district synods of the General Council were not represented. At this convention officers—president, secretary, and treasurer—were elected; the report of the joint committee on ways and means was heard and acted upon; the constitution and by-laws were adopted; a certificate of incorporation under the laws of the State of

New York was secured and filed with the Secretary of State; papers of conveyance and transfer of property and rights to the United Lutheran Church in America, severally signed by the president and secretary of each of the merging bodies, were read; and the United Lutheran Church by resolution accepted "the execution of the trusts relating to any property conveyed or to be conveyed under the action reported by the General Synod, the General Council, and the United Synod in the South." Boards were elected, among them an executive board, which was authorized and instructed to complete the work of merging.

Conventions have since been held biennially in October, as follows: Washington, D. C., 1920; Buffalo, N. Y., 1922; Chicago, Ill., 1924; and Richmond, Va., 1926. The mergers of constituent synods of the three bodies which have taken place, and the organization of one new synod, resulted in the following changes: One synod was formed from the two Pittsburgh synods November 18, 1919; the Michigan Synod was formed from the Northern Indiana Synod and parts of the Chicago Synod overlapping in northern Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, and the Illinois Synod was formed from four synods in the State of Illinois June 10, 1920; the Indiana Synod was formed from two synods in southern Indiana June 24, 1920; the Synod of Ohio was formed from four synods in Ohio November 4, 1920; the United Synod of North Carolina was formed from two synods in North Carolina March 2, 1921; the Lutheran Synod of Virginia was formed from two synods in Virginia and one in Tennessee March 17, 1922; the Synod of South Carolina was formed from two synods in South Carolina November, 1922; the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Central Pennsylvania and the Susquehanna Synod became the Susquehanna Synod of Central Pennsylvania May 22, 1924; the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Canada was formed from two synods in Canada June 12, 1925; the Lutheran Slovak "Zion" Synod was organized June 10, 1919, and received into the United Lutheran Church in 1920. In 1926 there were in the United States but 31 constituent synods instead of 41. In most cases the merging synods belonged to different general bodies before they entered the United Lutheran Church.

Each of the three general bodies had its own boards and other agencies. The merging of these began also at the first convention in 1918, with the result that, besides the executive board, there are now 8 instead of 15. There is also one woman's missionary society instead of three, and one recognized young people's organization, the Luther League of America.

DOCTRINE

The doctrinal basis of the United Lutheran Church in America is given in its constitution, as follows:

SECTION 1. The United Lutheran Church in America receives and holds 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, according to which all doctrines and teachers are to be judged.

SECTION 2. The United Lutheran Church in America accepts the three ecumenical creeds—namely, the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian—as important testimonies drawn from the Holy Scriptures, and rejects all errors which they condemn.

SECTION 3. The United Lutheran Church in America receives and holds the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a correct exhibition of the faith and doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, founded upon the Word of God, and acknowledges all churches that sincerely hold and faithfully confess the doctrines of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be entitled to the name of Evangelical Lutheran.

SECTION 4. The United Lutheran Church in America recognizes the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalkald Articles, the Large and Small Catechisms of Luther and the Formula of Concord as in the harmony of one and the same pure scriptural faith.

ORGANIZATION

The polity of the United Lutheran Church in America, like that of other Lutheran bodies, is not fixed and essential. Forms of government and modes of worship are regarded as of secondary importance, not as essential principles. At the same time it holds that those forms and customs which have been handed down from earlier Christian ages are not to be lightly cast aside, nor is the church to go "back to Christ" and the apostles or to the early Councils in any such way as to cut off all intervening history. What the church has handed down is to be retained, unless it is condemned by Scripture or is obstructive of the efficiency of the church. The synodical and congregational polity has thus varied somewhat in type in different communities.

The Lutheran Church in America is for the first time in its history working out in its polity, unhindered by any state connections, the democratic spiritual principles to which it owes its origin in the Reformation.

The congregation is the primary body, composed of the people and the pastor. Its internal affairs are administered by a church council composed of lay elders and deacons, or elders, deacons, and trustees, or deacons alone, and the pastor. For their administration, except the pastor as to his spiritual office, they are generally accountable to the congregation. The congregation possesses the right of representation, and the representatives convened in the synod have, within constitutional limitations, the powers of the congregations themselves. The judgments of the synod are the judgments of the church. The synods are subdivided into smaller geographic districts called conferences, and the president of the synod and the presidents of the conferences, elected by their respective bodies, exercise the office of oversight.

WORK

The work of home missions has been carried on since 1918 through five different boards in the interest of peoples of different languages and racial groups. In 1926 these boards were consolidated into one, the Board of American Missions. This board operates in the United States, Alaska, Canada, the West Indies, and Latin America. It is giving aid to 777 congregations, which are grouped in 638 parishes. In order to care for its work, it pays, in full or in part, 509 pastors and 32 general workers. It also employs 7 unordained men, 23 women missionaries, and 6 deaconesses; it assists in the support of 7 theological professors and aids 25 students preparing for the ministry. While the majority of the congregations are ministered to in English or German, there are also congregations, which are supplied with pastors using their own language, among the Letts, Slovaks, Hungarians, Italians, Assyrians, Spanish, Finnish, Wendish, and Esthonians, and in ministering to Jews the Yiddish language is used. There is also work maintained among Negroes. The board spent for salaries and mission purposes \$487,553 and for the purchase of real estate, erection of buildings, and other equipment, \$286,640.

The Board of Foreign Missions does work in India, Africa, Japan, Argentina, British Guiana, and China. The total number of stations is 35, served by 184 missionaries, including wives of missionaries. Disbursements of the board for the year ended June 30, 1926, were reported as \$1,059,096, of which the Women's Missionary Society contributed \$348,738. The schools in India are 1 college, 3 high schools for boys, 1 high school for girls, and 982 schools of all grades. Other institutions in India include a leper asylum, industrial homes, homes for Christian widows, a school for blind, a farm industrial school, 2 print shops, and 1 carpenter shop. In Africa there are 8 schools of all grades; in Japan 1 middle school for boys, 1 middle school for girls, and 8 schools of all grades. There is a "Colony of Mercy" at Kumamoto and an old people's home and widows' home in Tokyo.

In Argentina they have 1 high school for boys and 11 schools of all grades; in British Guiana, 6 schools of all grades; and in China, 1 middle school for boys, 2 middle schools for girls, and 41 schools of all grades. In India there are 3 general hospitals for women and children; in Liberia, 1 general hospital; and in China, 1 hospital.

In India there is one general organization, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Andhra Country, with two synods, Guntur and Rajahmundry. In Japan there is an organization known as the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Each mission has an organization of missionaries, generally called council or conference.

There is a board of education, whose work is to promote the general educational interests of the church; to conserve the religious life of the students in the educational institutions of the church, State universities, and in other schools; to stimulate the supply of candidates for the ministry; to administer the work of ministerial education in cooperating synods; and to render financial aid to educational institutions. This board reports for the United Lutheran Church 14 theological seminaries, with a property value of \$2,739,319, an endowment of \$1,849,089, and 458 students; 15 colleges, with property valued at \$7,207,741, endowment of \$5,459,417, and 3,688 students; 4 junior colleges, with property valued at \$670,000, endowment of \$20,000, and 462 students; 12 academies, with property valued at \$910,079, and endowment of \$1,127.

There is a parish and church school board, organized for the purpose of developing and executing systems of literature for use in the home and in the parish school; to organize schools for the week-day Christian training; plan methods of school administration; recommend books for libraries; outline programs for summer assemblies, Sunday school conventions, and all the normal and festival occasions of the church; to prepare hymnals; and to have oversight and control of everything that pertains to the best interests of the parish and church school.

The publication interests are conducted by the board of publication, with headquarters at the United Lutheran Publication House, 1228-1234 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pa. This house, known as the Muhlenberg Building, was completed January 20, 1924, the cost of ground and building being \$674,521. There are branches at Columbia, S. C., valued at \$43,007, and in Chicago, Ill., valued at \$66,121; the net business of the board of publication for the year ended June 30, 1926, was reported as \$688,945.

The Luther League of America is the official organization or league for the coordination and stimulation of its young people's societies. It publishes the Luther League Review, issues programs for league meetings, and takes an active part in the support of mission work.

The board of ministerial pensions and relief reported 202 ministers under its care, receiving \$60,600; 416 widows of ministers, receiving \$83,200; 89 children of ministers, under 16 years of age, receiving \$4,450. In addition to the above the board expended \$15,980 for relief in special cases.

The inner mission work of the church, which means active Christian service for the relief of all kinds of need in the spirit of the gospel, is carried on under the general direction of the board of inner mission. This board endeavors to stimulate the interest in this particular kind of work in all the congregations of the church. It also seeks to promote the establishment of local inner mission societies where needed and serves in an advisory capacity with regard to the establishment of institutions of mercy, taking in consideration especially territorial needs. It interests itself also in the training of Christian workers for both congregational and institutional inner mission work. The board issues a publication, *The Message for the Day*, providing a message for each Sunday of the year, especially for the shut-ins. Under the general head of inner mission work there are connected with the United Lutheran Church, 2 deaconess mother houses, one of

which, the Mary J. Drexel Home and Motherhouse, Philadelphia, Pa., with 95 sisters, has property valued at \$550,000, an endowment of \$685,000, and annual expenses amounting to \$95,752. The other is the Baltimore Motherhouse, with 63 sisters, property valued at \$245,000, an endowment of \$13,500, and annual expenses amounting to \$42,251. There are 4 hospices, which have a total property value of \$297,500, and total annual expense amounting to \$48,535; 10 old people's homes, with property value of \$625,000, endowments aggregating \$277,472; 277 guests during the year, and annual expense of \$68,035; 8 orphans' homes, with property value of \$2,225,850, endowment of \$266,850; 836 children cared for, and annual expense of \$305,490; 2 orphans' and old people's homes, with property value of \$530,972, endowment of \$2,000; 278 guests during the year, and annual expense of \$38,602; and there are 10 miscellaneous institutions, having property valued at \$397,000, caring for 80,856 guests during the year at an annual expense of \$75,869.