

FACTS AND FIGURES

Concerning the
**Lutheran
Church**

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by
**The National Lutheran
Council**

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A CENTURY OF PROGRESS
CHICAGO
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EARLY BEGINNINGS

Lutherans have been identified with the history of America from its earliest Settlement. The first Lutheran pastor to set foot upon American soil was Rasmus Jensen, who accompanied the Danish expedition under Jens Munk to Hudson Bay in 1619, where the first Lutheran services on this continent were held.

As early as 1623 a permanent settlement of Lutherans came from Holland to Manhattan Island and later settled in what is now "The Bronx" which was named after one of their leaders, Jonas Bronck.

In 1638 a Swedish colony was settled on the banks of the Delaware River, founding in the same year the first Lutheran congregation in America. Pastor Reorus Torkillus, the first Lutheran pastor in the United States, came to the colony in 1640. Under the leadership of Pastor Campanius, who arrived in 1643, the first Lutheran Church was dedicated in 1646 in Fort Christina, now Wilmington, Delaware. Campanius learned the language of the Delaware Indians, became the first Protestant missionary to the Redman and translated Luther's Small Catechism into their language.

In 1708 to 1710 several thousand Palatines under the leadership of Rev. Joshua Kocherthal and John Conrad Weiser, Sr., settled along the banks of the Hudson River.

Led by Pastors Bolzius and Gronau twelve hundred Salburgers landed at Savannah, Georgia, March 10, 1734. Two years later, in 1736, the first orphanage in America was established by these Lutherans in Georgia.

THE FIRST SYNOD

The organization of the Lutheran Church in America really begins with the coming of Pastor Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg in 1742. Muhlenberg organized the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, the first Lutheran Synod in this country, in 1748. Since that time a great many synods have been formed but

they have been gradually amalgamated into the larger groupings of today.

The following consolidations indicate the progress which has been made toward unification: The General Synod, North, 1820; The General Synod, South, 1862; The General Council 1867; Synodical Conference, 1872; United Synod, South, 1886; United Danish Church, 1896; Norwegian Lutheran Church, 1917; Joint Wisconsin Synod, 1917; United Lutheran Church in America, 1918; American Lutheran Church, 1930; American Lutheran Conference, 1930.

DOCTRINE

Lutherans accept the canonical books of the Old and the New Testament as the inspired word of God and as the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and practice. They believe and teach that man is saved by grace through faith, not of himself but as the gift of God. Eph. 2:8. The Lutheran faith does not center in the doctrine of the sovereignty of God, or in the Church, but in the Gospel of Christ for fallen men. Biblical in doctrine, reverent in worship, free in form, missionary in spirit and loyal to civil order, the Lutheran Church continues to proclaim her unchanging faith that Jesus Christ died for all.

ORGANIZATION

Counting world totals all but three per cent of the Lutherans with headquarters in the United States are found in three almost co-equal groups:

United Lutheran Church in America organized in 1918.

Baptized	Membership	--	1,642,265
Churches	-----		5,566
Pastors	-----		3,540

American Lutheran Conference composed of the American Lutheran Church, the Augustana Synod, the Norwegian Lutheran Church, the

Lutheran Free Church and the United Danish Synod, organized in 1930.

Baptized	Membership	--	1,501,205
Churches	-----		6,877
Pastors	-----		4,399

Synodical Conference composed of the Missouri Synod, the Joint Wisconsin Synod, the Slovak Synod and the Norwegian Synod, organized in 1872.

Baptized	Membership	--	1,461,217
Churches	-----		6,005
Pastors	-----		4,398
(Includes Colored Missions)			

THE EXHIBIT

The interpretation of the story of the Lutheran Church is built around the great mural 32 feet long and 8 feet wide in which the portrait of Christ is the focal point. He is inviting with outstretched hands people of every nation to come to Him. The crown of thorns symbolizes His suffering for mankind and the palm branches His victory. The Lutheran Church holds fast to the old Gospel of salvation through faith in Christ alone.

Facing the picture at the right is the portrayal of the great ministry of mercy and love of the Church as it expresses itself in the care of orphans, homeless children, the sick, the poor, the infirm, the aged, the blind and the helpless, under the direction and care of consecrated nurses and deaconesses. At the extreme right is depicted the great work of Christian education and training. The ministry of the Word and Sacraments is set forth by the clergyman in the background.

At the left the great enterprise of missions at home and abroad is beautifully illustrated in the characters which represent the field of missionary endeavor. Beginning at the extreme left will be found in successive order representatives of New Guinea, India, Japan, China, Africa and America. In the last mentioned group are found city and country folk, Negroes, Indians and Mexicans. The missionary is represented in the rear at the extreme left.

The altar in the center indicates the prominence of worship, while the Bible and cross represent the two major principles of the Reformation respectively:

(a) The Word of God as the supreme authority in all matters of faith and life.

(b) Justification by faith alone.

The outline sketches at the top of the mural are of buildings and institutions used by the Church to carry out the various activities.

The mural at the right end depicts the work of the Sunday School and of the Luther League and the musical activity of the Church. The two automatic stereopticons give more particular information of the work of the Lutheran Church under twenty classified subjects of seven slides each.

At the left end is found a special display of Lutheran Publication Houses, illustrating the service which this branch of the Church renders.

One of the interesting features of the exhibit is the display of Luther's catechism in 122 translations found in one of the cases, also the painting of the Old Trappe Church, the oldest Lutheran Church in this country built in 1743 and still in use.

STATISTICS

Total in the world:

Membership -----	82,186,000
Congregations -----	79,000
Pastors -----	50,000
Languages used -----	150
Foreign mission and Bible societies -----	220

Total for United States:

Baptized members -----	4,315,311
Confirmed members -----	2,917,358
Congregations -----	15,315
Pastors -----	11,711
Institutions -----	660
Church School Pupils -----	1,791,291
Property -----	\$525,000,000

EXHIBITORS

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
AUGUSTANA SYNOD
LUTHERAN FREE CHURCH
UNITED DANISH CHURCH
ICELANDIC SYNOD

By their common agency

THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL,
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