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Published by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.  
Please direct queries to  
[journaloflutheranmission@lcms.org](mailto:journaloflutheranmission@lcms.org).  
This journal may also be found at  
[www.lcms.org/journaloflutheranmission](http://www.lcms.org/journaloflutheranmission).  
Find the *Journal of Lutheran Mission* on Facebook.

Editorial office:  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road,  
St. Louis, MO 63122-7294,  
314-996-1202

Member: Associated Church Press Evangelical Press Association (ISSN 2334-1998). Indexed in ATLA Religion Database. A periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Offices of National and International Mission.



When it comes to confessional, creedal churches, the LCMS is in good company.

# INTERCHURCH RELATIONSHIPS OF THE LCMS

by Albert B. Collver III and Darin Storkson

**I**NTERCHURCH RELATIONSHIPS OF THE LCMS have been growing by leaps and bounds in the last triennium. In addition to our growing family of official “Partner Church” bodies with whom the LCMS is in altar and pulpit fellowship, the LCMS also has a growing number of “Allied Church” bodies with whom we collaborate in various ways but with which we do not yet have altar and pulpit fellowship. We presently have thirty-six official partnerships that have already been recognized by the LCMS in convention as well as good relationships with an additional twenty-three Allied Church bodies, many of whom are in various stages of fellowship talks with the LCMS.

In addition, the LCMS also has six “Emerging Relationships” with Lutheran church bodies that we are getting to know but with whom we do not yet have a formal relationship. Most of these have approached the LCMS out of a desire to share our solid, biblical theology.

These various relationships make for a total of seventy-five Lutheran church relationships in a total of fifty-six countries! This represents more than twenty-one million people.

Lastly, the LCMS also has a growing number of “Ecumenical Relationships” with non-Lutheran church bodies for the sake of dialogue and *cooperatio in externis*.

\*Indicates a member of the International Lutheran Council (ILC).

## **Partner Churches (already recognized by the LCMS in convention)**

1. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina\*
2. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil\*
3. Lutheran Church—Canada\*
4. Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark\*
5. Evangelical Lutheran Church—Synod of France\*
6. Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (Germany)\*
7. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana\*

8. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti \*
9. Lutheran Church — Hong Kong Synod\*
10. India Evangelical Lutheran Church\*
11. Japan Lutheran Church\*
12. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya\*
13. Lutheran Church in Korea\*
14. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia
15. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia
16. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lithuania
17. Lutheran Synod of Mexico\*
18. Lutheran Church of Nigeria\*
19. Lutheran Church in Norway
20. Gutnius Lutheran Church (Papua New Guinea)\*
21. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay\*
22. Lutheran Church in the Philippines\*
23. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria (Russia)\*
24. Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (Russia)\*
25. Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (South Africa)\*
26. Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa\*
27. Lanka Lutheran Church (Sri Lanka)\*
28. China Evangelical Lutheran Church (Taiwan)\*
29. Lutheran Church of Togo
30. Lutheran Church of Uruguay
31. Lutheran Church of Venezuela\*
32. Evangelical Lutheran Church of England \*
33. The American Association of Lutheran Churches (USA)\*

## **Allied Churches**

1. Lutheran Church of Australia\*
2. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium\*
3. Evangelical Christian Lutheran Church of Bolivia\*
4. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia

5. Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic
6. Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (Czech Republic)
7. Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
8. Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland
9. Indonesian Lutheran Christian Church
10. Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Kazakhstan
11. Malagasy Lutheran Church (Madagascar)
12. Lutheran Church Synod of Nicaragua\*
13. Evangelical Lutheran Diocese in Norway
14. Evangelical Lutheran Church — Peru\*
15. Portugese Evangelical Lutheran Church\*
16. Lutheran Mission in Africa — Synod of Thousand Hills (Rwanda)
17. Confessional Lutheran Church of South Africa
18. Mission Province in Sweden
19. Lutheran Church of East Africa (Tanzania)
20. Istanbul Lutheran Church (Turkey)
21. German Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Ukraine (DELKU)
22. The Lutheran Ministerium and Synod — USA\*
23. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan/Sudan

3. Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)
4. Anglican Church of South Sudan
5. Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)
6. Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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### **Emerging Relationships**

1. Myanmar Lutheran Church (Burma)
2. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia
3. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Norway (DELK)
4. Norwegian Lutheran Mission
5. Lutheran Church in Singapore
6. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania — Southeast Lake Victoria Diocese
7. South Sudan Evangelical Lutheran Church
8. Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church (EELC)
9. Lutheran Church of Colombia
10. Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Ukraine (SELCU)

### **Ecumenical Relationships**

1. Roman Catholic Church (The Vatican)
2. North American Lutheran Church (NALC)