

The Protestant Church in Germany

A Communion of 20 Lutheran, Reformed, and United Protestant Churches



EKD

Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland

www.ekd.de/en

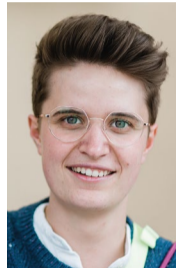


‘The church is a place of faith, hope, and community. As followers of Christ, we are committed to justice and active compassion.’



Bishop Kirsten Fehrs, Chair of the EKD Council

‘Our church encourages involvement: people come together, live their faith, talk about it and that way create community.’



Anna-Nicole Heinrich, President of the EKD Synod

The religious life of Christians in Germany takes place predominantly in local congregations. However, for the Protestant Church in Germany (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland – EKD), it goes even further since our faith motivates us, as Christians, to take responsibility for our society. This commitment extends beyond our congregations into the manifold activities of the institutions and agencies of the regional churches and the EKD. This flyer offers information about the organisation and structure of our church.

You can contact the regional churches via the corresponding websites:

- Protestant Church of Anhalt www.landeskirche-anhalts.de
- Protestant Church in Baden www.ekiba.de
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria www.bayern-evangelisch.de
- Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia www.ekbo.de
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick www.landeskirche-braunschweig.de
- Evangelical Church of Bremen www.kirche-bremen.de
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover www.landeskirche-hannovers.de
- Protestant Church in Hessen and Nassau www.ekhn.de
- Evangelical Church of Kurhessen-Waldeck www.ekkw.de
- Church of Lippe www.lippische-landeskirche.de
- Evangelical Church in Central Germany www.ekmd.de
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany www.nordkirche.de
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg www.kirche-oldenburg.de
- Evangelical Church of the Palatinate www.evkirchepfalz.de
- Evangelical Reformed Church www.reformiert.de
- Evangelical Church in the Rhineland www.ekir.de
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony www.landeskirche-sachsen.de
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe www.landeskirche-schaumburg-lippe.de
- Evangelical Church of Westphalia www.evangelisch-in-westfalen.de
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg www.elk-wue.de

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Find out more from the info-graph inside.



The EKD ...

-  is founded on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
-  is a communion of regional churches with different denominational backgrounds.
-  is part of worldwide Christianity.
-  represents the communion of its member churches as they relate to the German federal government, the federal states, the EU and civil society.

Fields of Action

-  Proclamation of the Gospel and Theological Reflection
-  Social Service and Development Assistance
-  Pastoral Care and Advice
-  Education
-  Social Responsibility
-  Ecumenical Relations and Ministries Abroad
-  Interfaith Relations
-  Communication and Digital Transformation

Theological Work

The Bible should be comprehensible for the people of today, and yet its linguistic force needs to be maintained. Both are important for the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD) which – amongst other responsibilities – cares for the preservation of Martin Luther’s Bible translation, the Evangelical hymnbook and the Bible lectionary. In cooperation with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD) and the Union of Protestant Churches in the Protestant Church in Germany (UEK), the EKD also has a responsibility to undertake theological work, to be accountable to the public for ethical insights and to engage in the educational ministry of the church.

Ecumenical Relations and Ministries Abroad

As part of Christianity worldwide, the EKD maintains a variety of ecumenical relations. It has bilateral relations with partner churches all over the world and is a member of several associations such as the Council of Christian Churches in Germany (ACK), the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE), the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC). The nearly two million German-speaking Protestant Christians who live abroad are able to find a spiritual home in about 100 congregations associated with the EKD.

Education

The EKD co-ordinates and is active in a number of fields relating to education and training. You can find more information at:

www.evangelischer-bildungsserver.de

www.evangelische-schulen-in-deutschland.de

www.beruf-trifft-kirche.de

Social Service and Development

Diakonie is the social welfare organisation of Germany’s Protestant churches. Alongside active assistance, those involved in diaconal ministry see themselves as advocates of vulnerable and disadvantaged persons, and publicly name the causes of social deprivation to policy-makers and society. *Bread for the World* is the development agency of the Protestant churches that is actively engaged all over the world. With partners across the globe, *Bread for the World* helps people who are poor and marginalised and works to overcome hunger, poverty and injustice.

www.diakonie.de

www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de

The Church and Money

Approximately 18 million people belong to the Protestant Church. Church members financially support their church with a membership donation which is individually determined according to financial ability and levied as church tax. With it the Protestant Church can offer a wide range of services that benefit greater society alongside regular church services and occasional offices (i.e. baptism, confirmation or funerals). Some examples are counselling centres, Protestant schools (nursery through high school), family educational facilities, youth camps, social welfare work both international and local, and cultural and musical events.

For extensive information on financing church activity see:

www.ekd.de/finanzen

The Protestant church acts responsibly with the money entrusted to it. Based on Christian values, its goal is to invest in a manner that is socially responsible, ecological and generationally just. The ‘Guideline for ethically sustainable investments’ gives answers to many questions on this topic. It can be downloaded free of charge at:

www.ekd.de/en/Texts-802.htm

The Protestant Church in Germany

A Church for Active Participation

The conversation about God and the world, saying grace before meals, choir rehearsal: faith and life belong together. This connection begins in the family and continues in the churches. Even outside of the Sunday morning service, they are a meeting place in everyday life and are the starting point of many activities and opportunities for involvement in civil society. It is this which is the very foundation of the Protestant Church. Each congregation belongs to one of the 20 Evangelical regional churches which together constitute the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD). Altogether approximately 18 million people are members of the EKD. Depending upon their regional church, most congregations are organised into regional bodies (i. e. church districts and deaneries).



12,000 CHURCH COMMUNITIES

CHURCH GROUPS 92,000 regular church groups in congregations	MUSIC 145 church music events across Germany each day	PROTESTANT DAY CARE CENTRES AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE* 663,804 spots 138,684 employees
EVENTS MARKING STAGES OF LIFE baptism, confirmation, wedding, funeral	ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE 40 events each day ranging from ecumenical celebrations on the feast of St. Martin to pilgrimages and church fairs	

Further statistical information can be found here: www.ekd.de/statistik

Regional Churches

The regional churches support the ministry of local congregations in worship services, church music and other activities. In addition, they are involved with local social processes and regional developments. They offer ethical orientation concerning current political issues, are engaged in peace-building initiatives and education, are active in diaconal ministry, work with refugees, are committed to the environment and ecumenism. Every regional church is governed by its synod, through the theologians who are elected by them (most have the official title of Bishop) and through regional church offices and other governing bodies. Synods consist of staff members and volunteers. They make decisions relating to all areas of church life within the regional church.

20 REGIONAL CHURCHES

On account of the structures which have evolved historically, in some areas there is a considerable difference between the boundaries of regional churches and federal states.

The regional churches maintain diverse relations with other churches, both in Germany and throughout the world.

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIETY

- Social Service
- Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (emergency aid organisation)
- Bread for the World
- Protestant educational institutions
- Protestant media relations



In 1945, the regional churches merged to form the Protestant Church in Germany. They are the member churches of the EKD.

A Church for Everyone

At federal state level, the EKD supports the regional churches in fulfilling their responsibilities. It promotes activities which are important for the entire Protestant Church, for instance diaconal ministry, mission, education and cooperation with other churches. Rooted in the Gospel, the EKD publicly comments on contemporary issues which are being debated in society.

THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN GERMANY (EKD)

THE SYNOD elects	THE COUNCIL OF THE EKD ← elects	CHURCH CONFERENCE
convenes once a year consists of 128 members; 100 are delegates of the member churches, 28 are appointed by the Council elections are held every 6 years is headed by a governing body of seven people chaired by the President advises and makes decisions about church laws and the budget of the EKD specifies guidelines concerning matters of contemporary life within church and society and passes resolutions contributes to the election of the Council and has a right of initiative in legislation	convenes once a month consists of 15 members; the President of the Synod is a member ex officio elections are held every 6 years the Chair of the Council is the legal representative of the EKD and is elected by the Synod and Church Conference. heads and manages the EKD consists of ordained and lay representatives publicly comments on questions concerning matters of contemporary life within church and society	convenes 4 times a year consists of the leading clergy and legal experts of the member churches discusses the work of the EKD and shared concerns of the member churches forwards proposals or suggestions to the Synod and Council contributes to the elections of the Council and has a right of initiative in legislation
CHURCH OFFICE located in Hanover		The Church Office is the EKD's administrative headquarters. It provides management services for the governing bodies, and for advisory and other commission work, preparing documents for decision and implementing them after adoption.

The EKD is involved in European and global ecumenical organisations (Conference of European Churches, World Council of Churches and Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe, and others).



*Source: Federal Office for Statistics. All other data: EKD