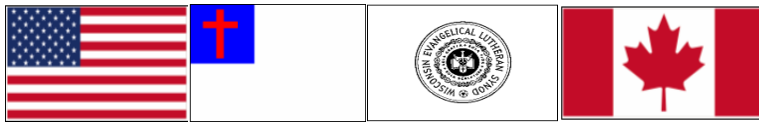


2025 LWMS Flag Presentation

WELS mission work has been going on for more than 130 years. Following God's high calling, we have taken the Good News across the globe. Through the prayers, support, and action of the members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, God's grace has given us the tremendous blessing of seeing the saving gospel at work. What follows is a procession of flags that represent countries where WELS is actively partnering in gospel outreach. This is not an event to pat ourselves on the back, but to join King David as he looked ahead to the victorious Messiah and said, *"May we shout for joy over your victory and lift up our banners in the name of our God."* Psalm 20:5

First Set: North America



Christian Flag, WELS flag, USA and Canada

The flag of the United States, the land that we love, is a reminder of the freedom we have to worship our God, as well as the many neighbors who still need to hear what God has done for our world. The Christian flag carries symbols that remind us of our faith and calling: the red of the blood Jesus shed on the cross; the blue of our heavenly home and the white of the righteousness that Jesus gives us. The flag of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod represents the 330,000 brothers and sisters that walk together in doctrine and practice as we carry out Christ's Great Commission. In 1963 mission work led us to Canada and these northern churches are now part of WELS.



Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota

The roots of the Wisconsin Synod grew from Lutheran synods started by German immigrants in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. They quickly began outreach work that reached to the Dakotas, Nebraska and nearby Native American tribes. In 1918 the three synods became a single body.



Apache and Navajo Tribes

In 1893 world mission work was begun among the Apache tribes of Arizona. WELS' first World Mission field is represented by the flags of the sovereign nations of the White Mountain and San Carlos Apache Tribes. New Native American outreach is also occurring with the Navajo tribe in the Four Corners area of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado through the [Native Christians Network](#).

Second Set: Africa



Zambia and Malawi

WELS missionaries journeyed to Africa and in 1953 established a church in the country now called Zambia. Ten years later our missionaries spread the work into the neighboring country now called Malawi. The Lutheran Church of Central Africa, with separate synods in Zambia and Malawi, is now one of our largest WELS' mission partners.



Cameroon and Nigeria

WELS is assisting existing Lutheran Synods in the West African countries of Cameroon and Nigeria. This work focuses on much needed pastoral training so that these growing Lutheran churches can thrive for years to come.



South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda

African refugees in the United States have connected the WELS One Africa Team with groups in South Sudanese refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya. WELS also partners with sister synods in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda to support seminary training and outreach in the area.



Mozambique, Liberia, Tanzania, Senegal

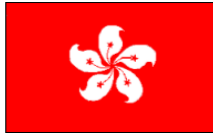
The One Africa Team is working with groups, exploring outreach, and following up on contacts identified through Multi-Language Production's TELL program in additional African countries such as Mozambique, Liberia, and Tanzania. World Missions is also exploring a new mission field in Senegal with prayers to reach the Muslim Wolof tribe, which is less than 0.01 percent Christian, with the gospel message.

Third Set: East Asia



Japan, Taiwan, South Korea

Early WELS mission efforts led us to the island nations of Japan in 1957 and Taiwan in 1968. A sister synod in South Korea (supported by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod), helps facilitate the enrollment of Korean students in Lutheran high schools across the U.S. National pastors now lead these churches as WELS missionaries visit to continue additional training and support.



Hong Kong and East Asia

Since 1964 our missionaries have been working in Hong Kong. An independent Chinese national church by the name of Southeast Asia Lutheran Evangelical Mission is established and partners with WELS World Missions as it reaches out to the lost. In 2005 Asia Lutheran Seminary began training workers for outreach and pastoral care to serve the multitudes in East Asia. East Asian pastors and visiting missionaries continue to faithfully share the gospel.

Fourth Set: Asia-Oceania



Indonesia, India

Most people in this part of the world do not believe that Jesus is the answer for now and eternity. In 1969 WELS began its mission efforts in Indonesia. WELS now partners with a sister church, Gereja Lutheran Indonesia, to reach out to the 281 million inhabitants of this largely Muslim nation. WELS mission work in India dates back to 1971. WELS assists the dozens of nationals who are already pastors or training to serve.



Thailand, Laos, Philippines, Vietnam

United States mission work with the Hmong led to contacts in Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. WELS mission efforts continue to reach the Hmong as well as the Thai Siam people. Contacts in the Philippines are working with WELS Pastoral Studies Institute to train leaders within their church body and are partnering with WELS Multi-Language Productions to produce TELL online outreach materials in Tagalog for use throughout the country.



Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh

In 2002 WELS received requests for help from two unexpected countries. A Christian doctor in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan contacted us through the internet and helped distribute Lutheran materials to Pakistani people. While security concerns forced him to move to America, the church in Pakistan is still growing. A second church body in Pakistan has also reached out to WELS for training and support. A Christian man in Nepal made a similar request and material has been translated and distributed to use in churches and train leaders in the truths of Scripture. A contact in the United States has also opened the door to gospel outreach opportunity in Bangladesh. WELS is partnering with this man as he takes classes through the Pastoral Studies Institute to become a pastor and conducts outreach near his home in the Midwest and back in Bangladesh. Many leaders are now receiving training through Bible institutes and seminaries in all three countries.



Australia and New Zealand

Two missionaries from the Asia-Oceania Team have relocated to begin outreach based in Australia. They will be reaching out to the native Australian population alongside two existing partner churches and expanding outreach to a large Chinese population that has immigrated to the area. Members from WELS' sister church in Hong Kong have also relocated to New Zealand. WELS is assisting our sister church from Hong Kong as they foster this new mission.

Fifth Set: Latin America and the Caribbean



Puerto Rico, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, and Dominican Republic

The island of Puerto Rico was first reached by WELS missionaries in 1964. That same year, efforts in Texas and Arizona led to work with the people of Mexico. In 1973 missionaries were sent to Colombia, in 1983 to Brazil, and in 1993 to the Dominican Republic. The One Latin America Team now partners with sister synods as they continue outreach and is following up with *Academia Cristo* online contacts in these countries.



Haiti, Bolivia, Peru, and Chile

WELS mission work in Haiti began in 2010 after the devastating earthquake and subsequent support that followed. The first church planted by an *Academia Cristo* student was brought into fellowship with WELS in Bolivia in 2023. New contacts made through *Academia Cristo*'s online outreach has led to additional opportunities in Bolivia, Peru, and Chile.



Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, and Honduras

Online outreach efforts through *Academia Cristo* have led to promising contacts reaching out for continued training in these and every other Latin American country. With the Lord's blessing, these contacts will continue to learn about God's word and share Jesus with others as a church planter in their home country.



Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela, Ecuador

In addition to promising *Academia Cristo* contacts in these countries, family connections from WELS churches in Florida have opened additional doors in Paraguay and Venezuela. World Missionaries relocated to Ecuador in 2018 and Paraguay in 2019 as new hubs for work with *Academia Cristo* students across Latin America.



Antigua, Grenada

The beautiful island nations of Antigua and Grenada are served by an English-speaking missionary. The work on the islands is carried out more and more by national pastors and teachers.

Sixth Set: Europe



Russia, Sweden, Finland, Germany

The rain shower of the gospel, in many ways, has moved out of Europe. Confessional Lutheranism has been largely dissolved in this continent. However, by God's grace WELS is able to assist several independent and growing Lutheran Church bodies who are taking a stand on the continent where Luther once stood. Missionaries were first sent to Russia in 1992; and small, independent national churches in fellowship and at work with WELS support are in Sweden and Finland since 1974, and Germany since 1990.



Bulgaria, Albania, Latvia, and Czech Republic

Additional independent national churches who are at work with WELS support include Bulgaria since 1992, Albania since 1996, Latvia since 1999, and Czech Republic since 2002.



Portugal, Norway, Ukraine, and United Kingdom

Other national churches in fellowship with WELS have been working in Portugal since 2007, Norway since 2011, and Ukraine since 2013. Much WELS assistance is devoted to seminary level training for the pastors who will continue to provide the gospel tidings in churches across Europe. WELS planted a new mission in the greater London area in 2022, with the prayer that outreach will grow to span the entire United Kingdom.