

Tanzania

Church of the Lutheran Confession in Tanzania (CLCT)

STATUS

In Fellowship

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>34</u>	Congregations	<u>39</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>12</u>	Preaching stations	<u>18</u>



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The CLC-Tanzania has recently submitted their constitution to the Tanzania government for approval and official registration. This registration will enable them to do more outreach and place signs for their congregations along the road.

Pastors Godson Mshana and Michael Gondwe have developed a series of contacts with pastors and evangelists on the small island of Zanzibar off the east coast of Tanzania. This island is heavily populated by Muslims. These men are being challenged daily in their ministry and desire more in depth theological training. The CLC Board of Missions recently funded a formal visitation with these men in March of 2017. The meetings went well, and the men are eager to learn more. If things progress in a God-pleasing way with these men, Missionary Ohlmann will visit them the next time he visits Tanzania in 2019.

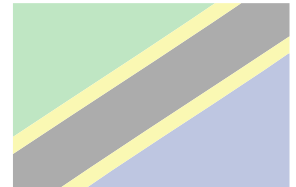
New areas of outreach among the Maasai tribes has begun and continues to grow.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Our work in East Africa began not unlike our own beginning in the CLC, as it was formed out of already existing Lutheran Churches that were forced to leave their fellowship because of false teaching. Only one third of the population of Tanzania considers themselves Christian, with Islam being slightly more than a third and animism being slightly less than a third. Even among those that call themselves Christian, most have only a cursory understanding of the work of Christ and many believe that the God of Christianity and the god of Islam are one and the same. There is much to do in the work of explaining the truth of God's Word.

From the very beginning these Tanzanian churches had a strong desire to reach out to those who were lost in unbelief. Each of the districts work among the Maasai tribe (largely animistic). Over the years the Lord has blessed the efforts of our Tanzanian churches among this African tribe and many Christian (Lutheran) congregations have been formed among the Maasai.

With the growth of Islam throughout East Africa, many of our congregations have also become actively involved in outreach to Muslims as well.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The first contact between Lutheran churches in Tanzania and the CLC took place in April of 2000, through Pastor Angowi of the Lutheran Church in East Africa (LCEA). Missionary David Koenig met with the leaders of that church body to discuss doctrine and fellowship. The initial meeting went well. Two years later a second meeting was held in Tanzania and after more doctrinal discussions, fellowship was requested by the LCEA. In June 2002 the CLC Convention declared fellowship with the Tanzanian church body. Over the coming year work was begun on starting a seminary in Himo, Tanzania. This was accomplished through funding from the MDF and the help of several CLC mission helpers who worked to prepare the newly purchased building and property. The seminary opened in May 2003, with five instructors and nine students. In 2004, a second Tanzanian church body was formed out of the LCEA, the Church of the Lutheran Confession in East Africa (CLCEA). While these church bodies were distinct from each other, an understanding was reached that both bodies would work together with one another and with the CLC. In 2008, the seminary graduated its first class of eight men for the pastoral ministry. In 2009, there was a rupture in the LCEA over fellowship with the LCMS. Fellowship was broken with Pastor Angowi in February 2010. Many pastors and congregations of the LCEA joined the CLCEA and remained in fellowship with the CLC. As a result of the rupture the seminary in Himo was closed down and ownership of the seminary property was disputed. In 2010, the CLCEA reorganized into districts under the name Church of the Lutheran Confession in Tanzania (CLCT). Districts are formed in Arusha, Moshi, and Tanga areas. In 2013, a fourth district was formed in the Makanya area. While there has been much turmoil in our sister churches in Tanzania, the Lord continues to bless the proclamation of His Word of Truth through faithful pastors and congregations. Thanks be to God!

PERSONNEL

Each of the four districts is led by a trained pastor:

Pastor Jeremiah Issangya leads the Arusha District. He has several well trained and capable men working with him.

Pastor Ebenezer Malyi is the leader of the Moshi District near Mt. Kilimanjaro with several trained pastors at his side.

Pastor Godson Mshana leads the Pare district. Under his leadership the churches are growing and expanding.

Pastor Pascal, who currently works with a small number of pastors in towns and villages along the northern coast of Tanzania, is in charge of the Tanga District.

FUTURE PLANS

Plans for a new pastoral training school are being developed. The school will be called the Wartburg Lutheran Theological Seminary. A three year program of study is being planned. A proposal and a request for funding to the CLC to assist in this effort has been presented to the Board of Missions. Twelve students are interested in attending.