

Nigeria

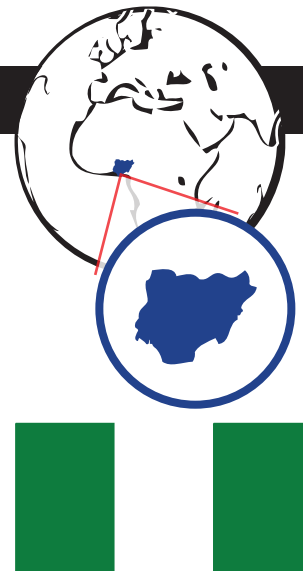
Nigerian Church of the Lutheran Confession (NCLC)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>12</u>	Congregations	<u>16</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>3</u>	Preaching stations	<u>0</u>



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In the wake of the Islamic terrorism in northern Nigeria the Ministry of Child and Women Welfare of Nigeria increased security standards for orphanages and schools. Due to these new requirements, KINSHIP funding was sent in 2017 and 2018 to make the necessary improvement to the Nigerian Children's Home of the NCLC.

One student graduated from the Martin Luther Bible Institute in 2018. Three students are currently enrolled.

FUTURE PLANS

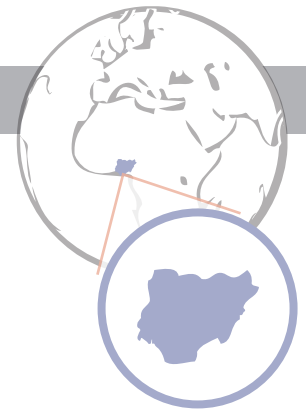
Plans are being made to build a multipurpose building at the new semi-nary site that will serve as classrooms, computer room, library, and office for the Martin Luther Bible Institute.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

The commitment to conservative Lutheran practices has been a unique feature of the NCLC from the beginning. Under the leadership of Pastor Essien the NCLC has historically grasped the importance of solid biblical teaching and practice against the new wave of enthusiasm that is sweeping the churches of the world.

The hub and center of the NCLC is located in Efa Etinan, a village in the far south eastern part of Nigeria. But the NCLC has also greatly desired to expand and fill their home country. Especially as the pastors see more and more of the younger generation moving to the big cities, they are trying to reach out and provide for these and others. To this end they have established missionary congregations in many of the larger cities throughout Nigeria, including Port Harcourt and Lagos. The NCLC is unique among our sister churches overseas, in having a full five year college and seminary, in which Hebrew and Greek are taught.





HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

In the early 1970's, Oscar Erpenstein of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church of San Francisco, CA, came into contact with certain Nigerian students schooling in the US. When they returned to Nigeria, Oscar continued to correspond with them and their friends in Nigeria on the basic teachings of Christianity.

In January of 1974, Pastors Carl Thurow and Norbert Reim traveled to Nigeria and visited these churches and individuals. They began calling themselves the Nigerian Church of the Lutheran Confession.

In April of 1974, Pastor E. E. Essien and several stations that he served inquired about the CLC. Pastor Essien had been trained in Lutheran doctrine at the old school in Obit Idim. Later in 1974, Patrick Udo along with his wife and infant daughter arrived in the US to begin studies at Immanuel Lutheran College.

Throughout the next decade numerous problems began to manifest themselves in the NCLC. A split occurred dividing these churches. It became apparent that correspondence with these churches was not enough; instead it was of great importance to have a missionary in the field.

In September of 1986, when it seemed that Missionary David Koenig would be unable to get into India, he arrived instead in Nigeria. At this point there were 12 congregations and preaching stations left as part of the NCLC.

In January of 1987, classes were begun in the Lutheran Bible Institute in Efa Etinan. Pastors E. E. Essien, Missionary David Koenig, and Pastor Patrick Udo taught at the school.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Ufot Umoren is the newly elected President of the NCLC. He has already served faithfully for many years as the treasurer of the NCLC.

Pastor Edwin Ukoh is vice president of the NCLC and the lead teacher at the Bible Institute. Pastor Edwin has taught at the Bible Institute for many years since the retirement of Pastor E. E. Essien.

Pastor Bassey Udofa is one of the teachers at the NCLC Bible Institute. He is also pastor in Efa, and a member of the NCLC Board.

Pastor Godwin Akpan is the third teacher at the Bible Institute. He oversees the children's home, and is a member of the board of trustees.

The Lord has also blessed the church through the talents and leadership of Pastor E. E. Essien's sons. Although none of them has been given to the ministry, many of them dedicate much of their time and resources to the Lord. Mike Essien has been instrumental in establishing and supporting the mission in Lagos. Martin Essien has recently built a beautiful new church in Badagari and has also served in various lay leadership roles in the church. Alfred Essien helps and supports the church in Port Harcourt and serves as treasurer of the NCLC.