The religious life of Christians in Germany takes place predominantly in local congregations. However, for the Evangelical 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. It is apparent that 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.

**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 Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) who - amongst other responsibilities - cares for the reservation of Martin Luther’s Bible translation, the Evangelical hymnbook and the Bible lectionary. In cooperation with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (VELKD) and the Union of Evangelical Churches in the Evangelical 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.

**Eccumenical Relations and Ministries Abroad**

As part of Christianity worldwide, the EKD has various eccumenical 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, the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches. - The WCC will hold its next general assembly in 2021 for the first time in Germany (Karlsruhe). - The nearly two million German-speaking protestants support, via their state church, Protestant Churches in Europe, the Conference of European Churches and works to overcome hunger, poverty and injustice.

**Social Service and Development**

Diakonie is the social welfare organisation of Germany’s Protestant churches. Alongside active assistance, those involved in diocesan ministry see themselves as advocates of those who are weak and disadvantaged, and publicly name the causes of social deprivation to those in politics 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.

**The Church and Money**

The Church acts responsibly with the money entrusted to them. 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” (Leitfaden für ethisch nachhaltige Geldanlage) gives answers to many questions on this topic. It can be downloaded free of charge at:

www.kirchenfinanzen.de

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Educational Institutions

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.religion-studieren.de
www.das-volle-leben.de

You can contact the regional churches via the corresponding websites:

Evangelical Church of Anhalt: www.landeskirche-anhalts.de
Evangelical Church in Baden: www.ekb-a.de
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria: www.bayern-evangelisch.de
Evangelical Church Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia: www.ekblu.de
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Braunschweig: www.landeskirche-braunschweig.de
Evangelical Church of Bremen: www.kirche-bremen.de
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover: www.landeskirche-hannovers.de
Evangelical Church of Hesse and Nassau: www.ekhn.de
Evangelical Church of Hesse-Rotenburg-Waldeck: www.ekrw.de
Church of Lippe: www.lippekirche-landeskirche.de
Evangelical Church in Central Germany: www.ekdmd.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.eokirchepalatinate.de
Evangelical-Reformed Church: www.reformiert.de
Evangelical Church in the Rhineland: www.ukr.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 Church in Württemberg: www.elk-wue.de
The Evangelical Church in Germany

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.

In 1945, the regional churches merged to form the Evangelical 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 Evangelical Church, for instance diaconal 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.

The conversation about God and the world, daily grace prayed before meals, choir rehearsal 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 Evangelical Church.

Each congregation belongs to one of the 22 Evangelical regional churches which together constitute the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). Altogether 22.3 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).

The EKD is involved in European and global ecumenical alliances (Conference of European Churches, World Council of Churches and Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, as well as others).

The Church Office is the administrative organ of the EKD; it is the relevant agency for the governing bodies, departments and commissions, and is responsible for the groundwork for decision-making as well as, once a resolution has been approved, for its execution.