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 preservation 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 (UER), 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 has various 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 Europe, the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches. The WCC will hold its next general assembly in 2023 for the first time in Germany (Karlsruhe). The nearly two million German-speaking Lutherans abroad are able to find a spiritual home in about 100 congregations associated with the EKD.

**Eduction**
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](http://www.evangelischer-bildungsserver.de)
- [www.evangelische-schulen-in-deutschland.de](http://www.evangelische-schulen-in-deutschland.de)
- [www.religion-studieren.de](http://www.religion-studieren.de)
- [www.das-volle-leben.de](http://www.das-volle-leben.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 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**
Approximately 21.5 million people belong to the Evangelical Church in Germany. 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 Evangelical 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](http://www.kirchenfinanzen.de)
- [www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de](http://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de)
The Evangelical Church in Germany

A Church for Active Participation

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 20 Evangelical regional churches which together constitute the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). Altogether 22.1 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).

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. In 1994, they joined the World Council of Churches and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, an Churches, World Council of Churches and European Churches. The Evangelical Church in Germany is an active member of the community of Protestant Churches in Europe, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

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 ministry, mission, education and cooperation with other churches. Rooted in the Gospel, the EKD publicly comments on contemporary 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.

One of 1.1 million volunteers
One of more than 275,000 participants in children’s and youth groups
One of more than 734,000 people attending services each Sunday
One of 21,000 pastoral
One of 241,000 staff members/officials of the constitutional church

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