

Christmas Greetings from our Confessional Lutheran Family* Worldwide

Lutheran Church-Canada (62.649 Baptized members in 304 Congregations) President Reverend Dr Robert Bugbee: "With these lines I send you sincere greetings from Winnipeg, the coldest English-speaking major city on the face of the earth. Fortunately, the Lord is giving us some December days that are milder than usual, a little bit more like civilized western Europe! These lines come not from me alone, but from our approximately 300 congregations in Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC), as well as from our pastors and deacons. We are not a large group, but we are spread over a vast area: It is 6327 kilometres from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia (on the Atlantic) to Grace Lutheran Church, Port Alberni, Vancouver Island, British Columbia (close to the Pacific). The rest of our Canadian Lutheran family is somewhere in between. May God pour out His Spirit on your pastors and on all those who will have a part in hosting and leading the services of Christmas. In the Person of Jesus, the true God came down and took His place next to us in this dark world so that we one day could take our place beside Him on high and sing His praises forever. May God give you the heart and the words to hold out this Christ to people who come to worship with you this Christmas. Sincere greetings and love in Christ our Lord."

Portuguese Evangelical Lutheran Church (95 Baptized members in 3 Congregations) President Reverend Adalberto Hiller: "Queridos irmãos. "E o anjo lhes disse: Eis aqui vos trago novas de grande alegria, que o será para todo o povo. Hoje na cidade de David vos nasceu o Salvador." (Lc 2,10+11) Com este verso nós desejamos a todos vós um Feliz Natal e a benção deste Salvador em vossas vidas. Feliz Ano Novo! Cumprimentos de vossos irmãos Portugueses." (Dear Brothers. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you". (Lk 2, 10+11) With this verse we will wish to all of you a Merry Christmas and the blessing of this Savior in your life. Happy New Year! Greetings from your Portuguese Brothers

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (1.000 Baptized members in 14 Congregations) Chairman Reverend Jon Ehlers: "May God's peace and joy be yours this Christmas as we sing joy to the world, Lord is come. From your Brothers and Sisters in Christ."

Independent Evangelical—Lutheran Church (Germany) (34,542 Baptized members in 187 Congregations) Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt: "At the Feast of the Nativity of our Saviour Christ Jesus and for the New Year 2018 we wish you contemplation, quietude and blessing."

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium (150 Baptized members in 2 Congregations) President Gijbertus van Hattem: "To all the Lutherans in the world we wish a blessed Christmas and 'Anno Domini' 2018."

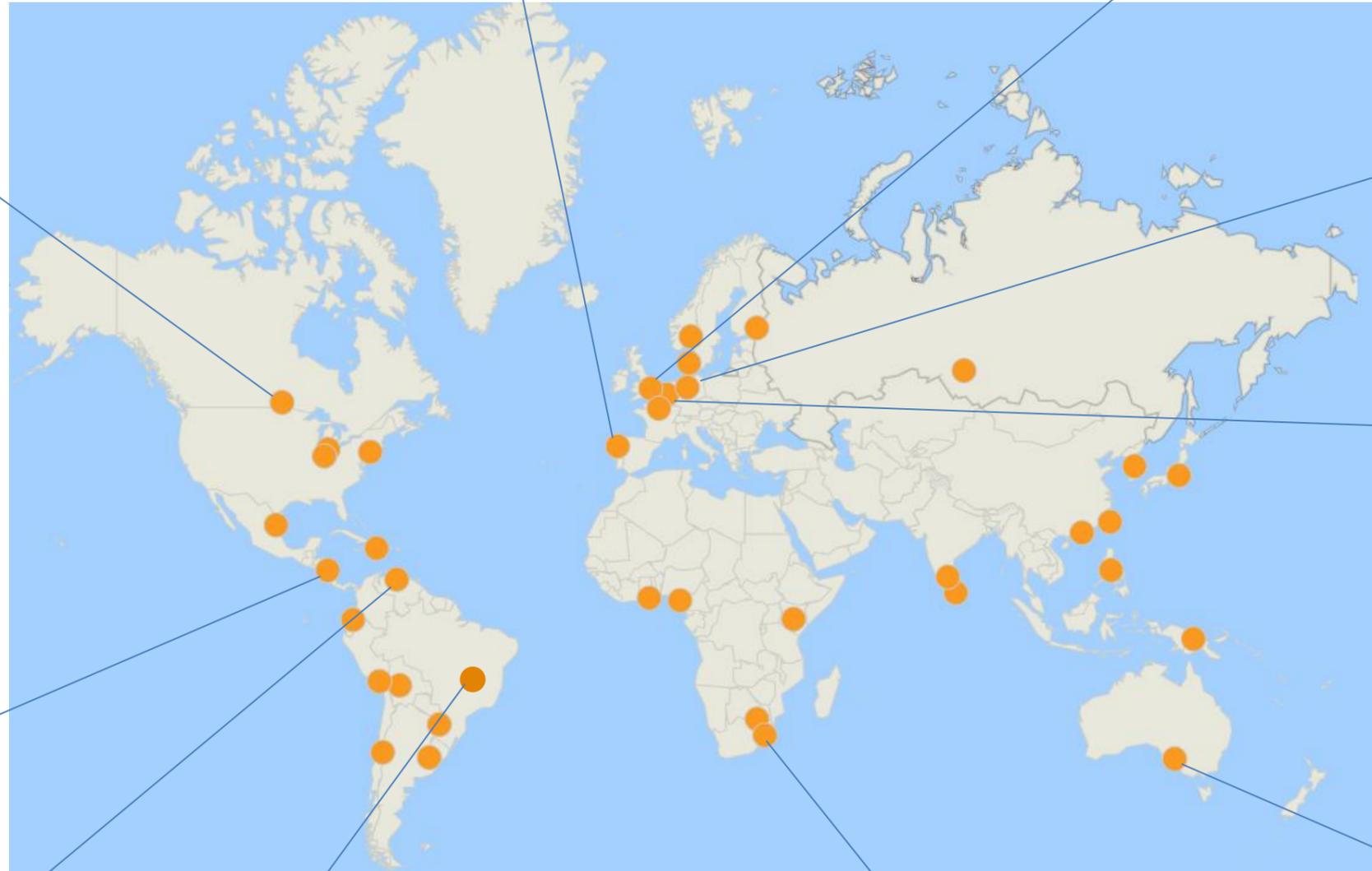
Lutheran Church Synod of Nicaragua (1.800 Baptized members in 23 Congregations) President Reverend Marvin Donaire: "Hola hermanos en el Señor Jesus el Cristo feliz navidad que Dios los bendiga."

Lutheran Church of Venezuela (1.607 Baptized members in 15 Congregations) Pastor Miguelángel Pérez: "Saludos en el nombre de nuestro Señor encarnado Cristo Jesús, sus hermanos de Venezuela les desean una feliz navidad y un crecimiento constante en su fe bautismal. Unidos en Cristo." (Greetings in the name of our Lord incarnate Christ Jesus, your brothers in Venezuela wish you a merry Christmas and a constant growth in your baptismal faith.)

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (243.093 Baptized members in more than 2.600 Congregations and Mission stations) President Reverend Egon Kopereck: "Desejo-lhes um feliz e abençoado Natal, na alegria da vinda do nosso Salvador Jesus, e um próspero ano novo." (I wish you a happy and blessed Christmas, in the joy of the coming of our Saviour Jesus, and a prosperous new year.)

Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (2.827 Baptized members in 17 Congregations) Bishop Dr Dieter Reinstorf: "I am writing to you from South Africa, where we will be celebrating Christmas in the middle of Summer. But irrespective of where God has placed us in the world, his word remains unchanged and his mercy reaches out to all of us. [...] God came in a quiet, inconspicuous way born as a child and laid in a manger. The heavens opened, but there was no earthquake, no lightning that made the mountains tremble. Instead on the field of Bethlehem and angelic choir sang a song: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests" (Lk 2:14). That is the Christmas message: God has come to us, but he has come to bring peace and forgiveness. He comes in humility and weakness, reaching out to our heart. I pray that we will all share in God's peace and be witnesses of God's mercy and love to others."

Lutheran Church of Australia (49.600 Baptized members in more than 466 Congregations) Bishop John Henderson: "May the miracle of the first Christmas fill your hearts with joy. The Lord be with you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour."



* According to the International Lutheran Council (ILC). Image, contact details and information about the churches taken from ilc-online.org/members/ created by Pastor Johannes Reitze-Landau, Brussels/Belgium