

Progressives 1960-1981, Part 7

"Progressive" Movement in "The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod" (name change 1947)

"By the sixties Lutherans faced an identity crisis..." (Nelson p.515)

1962 Cleveland Convention -Replaced retiring Pres. Behnken with **Oliver Harms, a progressive**

– The conservatives organized politically to bring synod back and defeat Pres. Harms.

1965 Detroit Convention -

1967 New York Convention voted to dissolve the Synodical Conference

--voted "To study the question of Membership in the World Council of Churches," "To study Membership in Lutheran World Federation,"

--voted "To Refer Question of Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) to the CTCR," and "To Take Steps Toward Declaration of Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the American Lutheran Church."

--joined the LCUSA

1969 Denver Convention - Elected Jacob A.O. Preus, Jr.,

--voted to declare fellowship with the American Lutheran Church (ALC)

--all the while the resolution acknowledges that the LCMS and ALC did not have full agreement on all doctrinal matters.

1970 Strommen survey: "79 percent of LCA clergy, 62 percent of ALC clergy, and 58 percent of LCMS clergy surveyed agreed that "a merger of all Lutheran groups in the United States into one organization is desirable" (https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_in_America)

1970 - an investigation into 45 of 50 faculty members at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis (CSL)

1970 November, LCA ordained Elizabeth Platz, and in December, ALC ordained the Rev.

Barbara Andrews as a Lutheran minister

1971 Milwaukee Convention – "Sent to Reconcile"

1973 July, New Orleans – A Battle between J.A.O. Preus for the conservatives, and John H. Tietjen, President of CSL for the liberals. The liberals had hoped to elect Oswald C. J. Hoffmann (he declined to let his name stand)

-vote to reaffirm the binding nature of synodically-adopted doctrinal statements.

-referred charges against Tietjen to board of control.

-tabled a motion to declare ALC fellowship "to be in a state of suspension."

1973 Evangelical Lutherans in Mission (ELIM -a liberal caucus within LC-MS)

1973 August 18 - Board of Control voted to suspend Tietjen, but to delay implantation.

1973 September - classes started for 600 seminarians

Walkout and Seminex

1974 St. Louis Seminary walkout - Seminary-in-Exile (Seminex) - most of faculty charged with false doctrine.

LC-MS is the first major to denomination to successfully defeat an infiltration of liberalism into its church body "Today the LCMS still publicly professes a belief in the inerrancy and authority of Scripture and an adherence to the Lutheran Confessions of the 16th Century." But, in practice ... 1986 memorials contradictory

1976 Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC) a group of approximately 250 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations (100,000 members) which decided to form a new church body.

1977, 1979 fellowship in protest with ALC

1977 LCMS withdraws from LCUSA (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Lutheran-Council-in-the-United-States-of-America>)

1978 AELC joined LCUSA, issued a call for unity

1981 terminated fellowship with ALC , Elected Ralph A. Bohlmann (1981-1992)

"...contemporary though gave little emphasis to such traditional Lutheran concerns..." (Nelson, p.537)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), 1988, Part 8

1982 LCA, ALC and AELC formerly agreed to merger.

1987 Nov. **America Association of Lutheran Church (AALC)** leaves ALC before ELCA merger (2020 59 congregations, less than 16,000 members), fellowship with LCMS in 2007

1988 AELC (with 250 congregations, 672 pastors, and 103,263 members) merged with the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and the American Lutheran Church (ALC) to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

2001 **Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)** left the ELCA with 500 congregations and about 150,000 members

2009 August 21, the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis voted to allow congregations to call and ordain gays and lesbians in committed monogamous relationships to serve as clergy. It also allowed the blessing of same sex marriages.

2010 February, Lutheran CORE announced that it would secede from the ELCA and form a new denomination to be named the **North American Lutheran church (NALC)** with just under 500 congregations and about 150,000 members. Since August 2009, according to the office of the ELCA secretary, over 600 congregations have left the ELCA through January 2011.

Note: As of 2018 both LCMC and NALC reject same sex marriage and the ordination of practicing homosexuals, but they allow for the ordination of women.

2013, ELCA installs the first openly gay man to be bishop

2015, ELCA ordains the first transgender pastor

Women's Ordination

In 1970, a survey of 4,745 Lutheran adults by Strommen et al., found that 75 percent of LCA Lutherans surveyed agreed that women should be ordained, compared with 66 percent of ALC Lutherans and 45 percent of LCMS Lutherans (*Strommen, Merton P. (1972). A Study of Generations. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House.p.272.*)

1970 November, LCA ordained Elizabeth Platz, the country's first female Lutheran pastor.

1970 December, ALC ordained the Rev. Barbara Andrews as a Lutheran minister

1977 AELC ordains women from the start

Ecumenical Endeavors

Member of National Council of Churches, World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation

A Formula of Agreement (1997) - Full communion with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ.

Called to Common Mission (1999) - Full communion with The Episcopal Church.

Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion (1999) - Full communion with Moravian Church.

Confessing Our Faith Together (2009) - Full communion with the United Methodist Church.

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations/Full-Communion/History>

2013 Ethiopian Ev. Church Mekane Yesus broke fellowship with ECLC over homosexuality.

October 31, 1999, the Lutheran World Federation signed the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* with the Roman Catholic Church.

See Wiki on ELCA and Higher Criticism, 2008 Pew Survey
(https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_in_America)

ELCA Cong. 8,724, Memb. 3 million
LCMS Cong. 5,914, Memb. 1.8 million
WELS Cong. 1,264, Memb. 340,000
LCMC Cong. 970, Memb. 300,000
NALC Cong. 424, Memb. 142,000
ELS Cong. 130, Membership 19,394