



Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) of India

It is in joining hands with our global companions and missionaries that we are all strengthened for mission.

Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Director of ELCA Global Mission

We in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod are joining hands with our Companion Synod, the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

By walking hand in hand with our Companion Synod, we are practicing accompaniment – a way of seeing the world and engaging one another in global mission that places mutual relationship at its core. In this relationship, we experience the persistence and resilience of our brothers and sisters in Andhra Pradesh. Gifted local leaders carry out the programs and ministries the ELCA helps support. Together, we Lutherans in northwest Minnesota and in Andhra Pradesh are reshaping the manner in which we **engage in global mission** ventures.

Stats & Facts

Our companion synod includes:

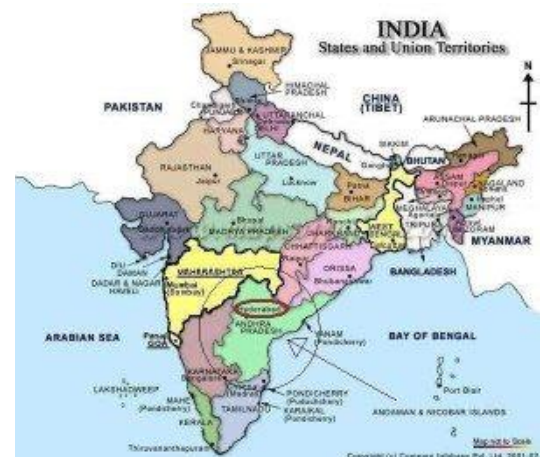
- Over 800,000 baptized members
- Over 5000 congregations
- 600 ordained pastors and a large number of lay workers

Like Our Synod...

- Like the folks in our synod, about 80% of the members are from **rural backgrounds**.
- Like the members of our synod, residents of Andhra Pradesh **regularly battle overland flooding** when monsoon rains spread across the flat fields. They reached out to us with funds for flood relief in 2009.
- Like our synod, the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church serves people through **educational, medical, and social ministries** and does evangelical outreach.
- Like the women's ministry we have in our church, the AELC has a small group of women church workers, the Bible Women, who reach out to other women with the Good News.
- Like the institutions of our church, the AELC operates a **college of education**, 24 primary and secondary **schools**, two **seminaries**, vocational training schools, a Bible school, two hospitals, a nursing school, and health clinics which fight against communicable diseases.

Unlike Our Synod...

- Andhra Pradesh has **76 million people** and is in the tropics.
- The predominant language is Telugu.
- A little less than **90% of the residents are Hindu**, a little less than 10% are Muslim, and about 3% are Christians.
- It's an agricultural area where rice, sugar cane, tobacco, and oilseeds are grown.
- **Coal and iron ore** are mined, and electronics are manufactured.





We know that communities across Asia are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

Lutheran World Relief finds solutions specific to the needs of each community so families can lift themselves out of poverty and better prepare for the next unexpected challenge.

Lutheran World Relief works alongside communities to help farming families replace decades-old farming methods with climate-smart sustainable solutions, so they can improve crop yields and grow more and nutritious foods.

And in the aftermath of a disaster, Lutheran World Relief provides immediate aid — like clean water, shelter and household essentials — and supports communities for long-term recovery by helping them develop disaster risk management plans and rebuild stronger.

Lutheran World Relief's Work in India

Lutheran World Relief has been working in India since the 1950s, and today operates in three of India's poorest states, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkland, where farming is a primary means of income for families. Our programs in agriculture and food security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and emergency response break the cycle of poverty for rural, marginalized populations, including tribals, women and Dalits.

Emergency Operations

In the aftermath of a disaster, Lutheran World Relief provides immediate aid — like food, water, household essentials, shelter construction materials and support for livelihood recovery. We are committed to international standards of quality and accountability in emergency operations and believe strongly that those affected by disasters have a right to life with dignity, the right to receive humanitarian assistance, and the right to protection and security, in line with the Humanitarian Charter. Therefore, Lutheran World Relief provides appropriate and effective services to the communities we serve and is accountable to these populations, as well as donors funding our work. In India, Lutheran World Relief and our partners responded to families affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the 2008 and 2017 Bihar floods.

Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction

India is vulnerable to frequent natural disasters, including flash foods, landslides and earthquakes. And poor, rural communities have few resources to prepare for or mitigate the effects of these hazards and even fewer resources to recover. To reduce the impact of these hazards, Lutheran World Relief helps communities develop disaster risk management plans and form village-level Disaster Management Committees. We also partner with local universities to provide flood-tolerant rice and wheat seed varieties to farmers, which can survive up to 14 days submerged in water. Additionally, we are helping farmers purchase insurance to financially protect their families and livelihoods in case of a disaster.