

# Protestant between the Teutoburg Forest and the Weser River

Church of Lippe

[www.lippische-landeskirche.de](http://www.lippische-landeskirche.de)

## **Lippe: an A to Z**

**A** Altar: in the Lutheran tradition, the table from which the communion bread and wine are distributed. In the Reformed tradition it is known as the Communion Table.

**B** Brass bands have a long tradition in Lippe. Around 1,200 men and women of all ages play music together in 62 brass bands.

**C** Choir singing is an integral part of worship and concerts. There are over 60 Protestant choirs throughout Lippe, including 23 children's and youth choirs and a dozen Gospel, project and impromptu choirs.

**D** Detmold, the former County seat is now the home of the Regional Church Office

**E** Externsteine: a row of almost 40 metre high rocks near Horn, where worship services were celebrated nearly one thousand years ago. And again today.

**F** Fürstin Pauline of Lippe (1769-1820): socially committed local sovereign, still fondly remembered today.

**G** Good News of Jesus Christ spread throughout Lippe in parishes, kindergartens, schools, in our educational and counselling work and in diaconal and social welfare institutions.

**H** Hermann: under his leadership the Romans were defeated locally in the year 9 AD.

**I** International partnerships are maintained by many Christians in Lippe, for example with Hungary, Togo, Poland, Nepal, Rumania, Ghana, Lithuania, Indonesia, South Africa...

**J** Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation is an integral part of the working commitments of the Church of Lippe.

**K** Klasse is the term used for each of the 8 Church Districts in Lippe and is not to be confused with the German word for school class.

**L** Lutheran: there have been Lutherans in Lippe since as early as 1522. Today, one fifth of all members in the Regional Church are Lutheran.

**M** Music College: renowned training centre in Detmold, which enriches and contributes to the cultural life of the city.

## Protestant between the Teutoburg Forest and the Weser River

### Church: life in the parish

The historical, cultural and geographical integrity of the former Land of Lippe leads many people to identify strongly with their homeland. As the Church of Lippe, we are an integral part of this regional culture. Most people in Lippe belong to our Church.

The Church of Lippe consists of 69 parishes. The church parishes decide independently on their priorities and how they work at a local level. And so the overall picture of the Church of Lippe is characterised by rich variety. The heart of the life of the parish is **worship**. It offers the opportunity for quiet and reflection – on what sustains our lives, which standards are valid, what our hopes are and on what we can rely.

Our worship is a blend of the traditional and the new. Different services appeal to different target groups.

In **Communion**, the fellowship between man and God and between human beings is celebrated. Communion is also a celebration reminding us that Jesus died for all human beings.

Special church services guide people through the great changes and upheavals in their lives: many parents want their children to be under the protection of God's blessing and to grow up in the same tradition as they did. Through **Baptism** people are admitted into the Church.

**Confirmation**, usually at the age of 14, affirms the membership of the Christian community, which began in baptism. In lessons provided by the church, young people are prepared for their confirmation and learn about the central messages of Christian faith.

In **matrimony** two people place their marriage under God's blessing and declare that they accept each other from the hand of God and want to stay together.

In the **funeral service**, the parish bids farewell to those within their community who have died and declares that God's love is greater than death.

With its church, parish hall, its groups and festivals, the parish is a real **meeting place**.

Children, young people, women and men of all ages find a place to celebrate together, learn from each other, talk to each other, make music together and pray together. Activities are planned and projects carried out to help others and bring pleasure. Within the parish, it is possible to talk about everything affecting people's lives. This may be personal need in times of crisis, problems of bringing up children or family life, the joys and doubts of Christian faith or political controversies.

For many, the parish is a part of their living environment they can actively shape. And through this, their identification with the parish and its work grows. Others prefer to make only occasional use of our Church's services and facilities. Our parishes offer them opportunities to become involved in time-limited projects.

In many parishes in the Church of Lippe, young **children** are able to go to a Protestant kindergarten. Sunday school, playgroups, children's choirs encourage girls and boys to join in. Protestant **Youth** work is led by full-time and voluntary personnel. In open meetings, retreats and seminars, young people can experience what it means to live as a Christian in this day and age. In every parish there is at least one **women's** group or women's aid associations,

which, with much imagination and hard work, develop their fellowship and contribute to parish life.

Church choirs, brass bands and other **music** groups offer opportunities to make music together and enrich cultural life.

Diverse styles of church music are useful alternative ways to proclaim the Good News, encourage the participation of the congregation and communicate the message of God's love in a distinctive way.

### **Further services and facilities**

The diverse tasks in the parish are supported and augmented by the specialist departments in the Regional Church: The **marriage, family and individual counselling** services provide sympathetic discussion partners to help with questions and conflict arising in marriages and family life, in pregnancy and bringing up children. Advice is given free of charge. Regardless of religious or church affiliation. And, of course, bound by the vow of silence.

We address the questions of people experiencing personal crises and help them seek new directions and future prospects.

The **Protestant Adult Education** services invite all who are interested to explore questions relating to existence and faith.

Confirmation reaffirms membership of the parish. In preparatory lessons 12 to 14 year olds learn the basics of the Christian faith that affects their lives.

One important objective is living together responsibly in society. Passing on knowledge, discussions and the diverse ways of dynamic learning are typical of what is on offer. "Learning to live as family" is the motto of the **Protestant Adult Education** services. In courses and guided groups, women, men and children learn to develop and nurture loving, respectful relationships and to cope with everyday life. Also, people in situations of mourning, separation, serious illness and other stages of life are able to find help.

The **Protestant Work for and with Women**, of which the Regional Church's Association of Women's Aid in Lippe is a member, maintains close contact with women's groups in the parishes through visits and providing further training for leaders. Seminars, women's festivals and women's days strengthen the bonds and commitment of the women to church and society.

We spread the Good News of Jesus Christ: clearly and convincingly. This is done in parishes, in Kindergartens, in schools, in the educational and counselling work shared by parishes, in diaconal and social welfare institutions, and in particular areas of pastoral responsibility.

In cooperation with the parishes, the **Protestant Youth Work** offers holiday retreats for children and young people. Further training courses pass on specialist knowledge and information to full-time and voluntary staff and new ideas for children's and youth work. The **Public Relations Office** informs media about current church topics and events.

## **Social welfare work – help for the weak**

Many people in psychological, spiritual, physical or material need turn to the Church. Pastoral care is one of our strengths. Social welfare work is a quintessential part of church life. It can help where no one and nothing else can. It is there for everyone, regardless of their attachment to the church or faith. Both pastoral care and social welfare work takes place in the parish, in diaconal institutions and services and in other areas.

Social welfare work, service to one's neighbour is, from the outset, an integral part of Christian life and the essential nature of the Church. Christians, who are grateful for the love of God and pass on this love to their neighbours, are acting diaconically.

Social welfare work is highly diverse. Visiting the elderly or sick, kindergartens and play groups, neighbourhood help and assistance for refugees – all these are as much part of social welfare work as the work in homes for people with disabilities, old people's homes, home help, help for addicts or support for the terminally ill.

Social welfare work, in other words, is performed not only in every parish, but also through the work of special institutions. These are members of the nationwide Social Welfare Agency (Diakonisches Werk) of the Regional Church of Lippe. As an umbrella organisation, it advises and supports other welfare institutions as well as providing social services directly.

## **Ecumenism – Partners, relations**

The Church of Lippe is part of the worldwide ecumenical community of Christian Churches. Ecumenism (Greek for "inhabited world") means the co-operation of Christian Churches across the divisions separating peoples and denominations. Partnership means mutual learning and giving, while at the same time retaining one's own identity. Looking beyond the confines of one's own church and nation enriches both the church and individual private life as well as expanding horizons. This also applies to ecumenism in the neighbourhood, the contacts with the Catholic Church and Protestant Free Churches in Lippe. The Church of Lippe is one of 22 member churches of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD).

*We reinforce ecumenical relations that bridge national and international borders. Our partnerships, for example with churches in Eastern Europe and Africa, help us to achieve this.*

There are partnerships with Churches in Eastern Germany, Eastern Europe and Africa. The Church of Lippe works together with the North German Mission (Bremen), The United Evangelical Mission (Wuppertal) and the Gossner Mission (Berlin), in keeping its overseas partnerships alive.

## Structure, leadership, administration

Our Constitution presupposes the active participation of Church members. The parishes have substantial autonomy in making decisions on local Church life. Through directly-elected Church Boards they are represented at Synod, the Church's highest decision-making body. Leadership of the Church, at all levels, is a communal task.

Each parish is led by a parish council. Hence, responsibility for the leadership of the parish lies jointly with the church elders and the parish minister. The parish council ensures that within the parish the Good News of God's love is passed on in an unadulterated and contemporary way. It also represents the parish in legal terms, for example as employer to its staff.

The 69 parishes are divided into eight districts, called classes. In each district, a Superintendent acts as direct superior to the parish ministers. As the decision-making body of the district, the district synod deliberates on church life in the region and other important matters concerning the Regional Church. The Synod has the right to issue regulations relating to and the supreme supervision over the leadership, finances and administration of the Regional Church. As a "Parliament" it debates and makes decisions on fundamental questions and contemporary issues.

As representative for the Synod, the Regional Church Council leads the Church of Lippe. It consists of the Präses (chairperson) and three further members of the Synod as well as the three individuals leading the Regional Church Office: the Moderator together with the Juristic and Theological Church Officials. The Regional Church Office is also responsible for the day-to-day administration and other services.

The rich diversity of skills and talents lies at the heart of the Church's structures and regulations: individuals complement and need one another. In decision-making committees all members have an equal voice. Decision-making competence is always shared out among many individuals to help achieve a broad foundation and the greatest level of consensus.

## Income and Expenditure

We use the financial resources entrusted to us with great care and publicly account for this.

### The Budget of the Regional Church

Church taxes, the major source of income, account for nine percent of a member's income tax. These taxes, deducted at source by the tax authorities, are paid directly to the Regional Church, which then pays three percent of church tax revenue to the tax authorities for its services. One particular form of church tax is the special church funding *Kirchgeld*, which, since 2001 has been collected from church members whose spouses are the sole or principal wage earners in the household and are not members of a tax-raising religious community. The Church of Lippe receives state funding, for example, for ministers, who, on behalf of the state, give religious instruction. The state subsidises the Church in carrying out specific functions, which it would normally perform itself. These include particular areas of social and youth work, education and cultural services.

Collections, donations, legacies and gifts are normally earmarked. Some of this type of income is used for Regional Church tasks, for example in its youth work or in assisting partner churches in Eastern Europe. And some is channelled into supra-regional organisations, institutions and projects such as "Bread for the World" or specific mission societies.

Other sources of income include diverse service charges, participation fees, ground rent etc.

The total budget for 2010 is approximately 37 million Euros. 38 percent of church taxes are made available for use by the parishes. This pays for the wages, for example, of church caretakers, secretaries and church musicians, overhead costs and the provision of additional support for various projects. Ministers, like other Regional Church employees, are paid directly from the Regional Church budget. About two-thirds of its budget is spent on its personnel. Discussions, worship, educational courses, youth work – all these are done with and for human beings.

### **The parish budget**

In each of the 69 parishes in Lippe, budget plans and annual expenditure are drawn up by the Parish Council. The size of the budget and its priorities differ according to the size and individual needs of each parish.

### **From the pages of history**

We are Protestant. We live together as Reformed or Lutheran Christians in one Regional Church. Our Church's confessions of faith bind us together, and help us to understand faith and bear witness to it with passion – in word and deed. Hence, we experience diversity in unity and unity in diversity.

**From 1522** The teachings of Martin Luther spread within the County of Lippe

**1538** Church Constitution as the first expression of Reformed doctrine

**1571** Church Constitution, still shaping today's Lutheran parishes

**1605** Graf Simon VI introduces the Reformed Confession of Faith; Lemgo remains Lutheran

**1618** The Heidelberg Catechism introduced in Reformed parishes

**1684** "Christian Church Constitution for the County of Lippe"

**From the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century:** National and teacher education gains in importance

**1811** With the support of Fürstin Pauline of Lippe, the "Guide to Religious Instruction in Schools", with its stress on reason, written by Ferdinand Weerth was introduced, replacing the Heidelberg Catechism

**1854** Catholics were awarded the right to establish parishes and build churches. Lutherans were put on a par with Reformed Protestants

**1856** Under the influence of the revivalist movement, the Heidelberg Catechism was reintroduced

**1877** Synodal system introduced, but with little significance initially

**1918** The Regional Church Council takes over leadership responsibilities from the sovereign

**1931** Present Constitution comes into force

**Up to 1945** The Church of Lippe admits ministers and theologians persecuted by the Nazis from other Regional Churches

**From 1950** Numerous parishes founded and industrious rebuilding undertaken

**1957** The Parish Constitution Law introduced

**From 1960** The Regional Church assumes overall responsibility for diverse tasks, especially in the areas of social welfare, education and ecumenical relations

**2003** Publication of the pamphlet "Ways and Horizons – an understanding of the essential nature, way and mission of the Church of Lippe"

### **Most recent Regional Church Superintendents**

1959-1970 D. Udo Smidt, 1970-1979 Dr Fritz Viering,

1980-1996 Dr Ako Haarbeck, since 1996 Gerrit Noltensmeier

The *Folk church* tradition and structure are a precious legacy, which we nurture and pass on to future generations. In many parishes the Church is at the very centre of the village – both as a physical structure and as the heart of public and private life.

### **Lutheran – Reformed: differences**

After the Bible, the basic text for Lutheran confirmation instruction is the Short Catechism of Martin Luther. In Reformed parishes, it is the Heidelberg Catechism. Obvious differences have developed between the two Protestant traditions. Lutherans regard church building as an expression of the sacred. Pictures, candles and flowers also appeal to the different senses. In contrast, the Reformed tradition is much more sober. It takes the Old Testament prohibition of graven images very seriously. That is why an open Bible alone lies open on the communion table, and why there is no cross in many Reformed churches.

### **Lippe: an A to Z**

**N** News is easily spread in Lippe: everyone knows one another, meets up for a chat...

**O** Oikoumene (Greek for ecumenism) practised throughout the world (see page 15), and locally together with Catholics and Protestant Free Churches.

**P** Pickert is loved by some, unloved by others. The regional dish in Lippe is a kind of pancake made from potatoes and yeast.

**Q** Quarrelsome people are also apparently to be found in Lippe. In any case, independence is something that has always been greatly valued in the region.

**R** Reformed: Most people in Lippe were reformed 400 years ago. That was largely thanks to the local sovereigns (see page 20).

**S** Simon VI was much influenced by the theologians Zwingli and Calvin and introduced the Reformed Confession of Faith in his kingdom in 1605.

**T** Teutoburg Forest: a low, forested mountain range of outstanding beauty, which entered the pages of history through the battle named after it. See also H.

**U** Ur-Lipper *or native of Lippe*: a status achieved, at the earliest, after the fourth generation. But newcomers, too, should feel at home here between the Teutoburg Forest and the Weser River

**V** Vogelpark: a small aviary for all kinds of our feathered friends in Detmold-Heiligenkirchen, worth a visit, especially by children.

**W** World Day of Prayer: on the first Friday in March each year women from different denominations throughout the world and especially in Lippe issue an invitation to prayer. Men, of course, are also welcome.

**X** victim of the proverbial miserliness (German *Geiz*) for which the people of Lippe are unfairly known. In fact, widespread poverty in earlier years led to the need for thrift.

**Y** Youth work is carried out throughout the Church of Lippe in a rich variety of imaginative, lively ways, not without a problem or two and differently to past years.

**Z** Ziegler or *brick-makers* were itinerant workers, who had to work outside the region in order to feed their families. The Westphalian Industrial Museum, Ziegelei Lage, recalls their craftsmanship and culture.

### **Who we are and what we hope**

We are part of a history that shapes the life of the people in our region.

We offer the people of Lippe a home.

We are a Church that arises out of the life of the parishes.

We are part of the Evangelical Church in Germany.

Our worship is richly varied.

We face up to the diverse ways of believing and living.

We offer people orientation.

We give people help and stability, comfort and support.

We combine a wide range of experience, competence and knowledge.

We work for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.

Principles taken from “Ways and Horizons”, June 2003

### **Further information:**

Lippisches Landeskirchenamt, Öffentlichkeitsarbeit  
Leopoldstraße 27 – 32756 Detmold  
Phone: 05231/976-767  
Email: [oeff@lippische-landeskirche.de](mailto:oeff@lippische-landeskirche.de)  
Postbox: Postfach 2153 – 32711 Detmold

---

## **Statistics**

(Some figures rounded up or down)

**190,000** parishioners

159.000 of them Reformed

33.000 Lutheran

**69** parishes

**8** districts

**907** church elders

407 of them women

500 men

**138** ministers

114 of them parish ministers

**3.030** full-time and auxiliary employees

e.g. church caretakers, parish secretaries,  
church musicians, kindergarten teachers or  
youth workers

**50** church choirs

**64** brass bands

Every year there are:

**5,300** worship services

**1,700** baptisms

**2,250** confirmations

**400** weddings

**2,600** funerals