

# Who we are

“Our centre is in any case the message of Jesus Christ. We want our faith to permeate everyday life and to help shape it. We also want to strengthen the cooperation of parishes, groups, and individuals on all levels of church life. That takes imagination, ideas, and courage...”

When the members of the two synods of the founding churches met for the first time 2003 in Halle they wrote this letter to the congregation. This intention and spirit influenced the new constitution for the Evangelical Church in Central Germany: The EKM draws from the experience of Christians in the GDR as a disadvantaged minority. We experienced how Christian faith could influence even an opposing society and how in the fall of 1989 people took to the Church as a place of freedom, trust and reconciliation. We, the EKM, define ourselves by our history as well as by our constitution a Church on

the way towards justice and peace. We raise our voice in society for the poor and marginalized, for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. The EKM is part of a society in which less than 30 percent of the population belong to a Christian church. We look for new ways of being church with an unchurched generation. We invite unbaptized to take part in church life and care for people who quit their membership in a pastoral way. The EKM consists of 3,000 congregations in 37 church districts. We value the different traditions and encourage local and regional levels to find ways of being church that fit the context. We foster congregational life in special contexts and situations of life. The EKM is a communion in witness and service. In all forms and levels of leadership, organization and proclamation lay and ordained, paid

and unpaid members work together in an ordered way and in a fraternal spirit. The EKM is part of the ecumenical movement and is called to proclaim the gospel of Christ with all Christianity. We bear witness to God's faithfulness to the covenant with Israel. The EKM is member of the Association of Christian Churches (ACK), of the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europa (CPCE), of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the World Council of Churches (WCC).



MAP | HISTORY | PORTRAIT

# The Evangelical Church in Central Germany

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## Mission and task of the Church Article 2 of the Constitution of the EKM (excerpt)

- 1.) The Evangelical Church in Central Germany fulfills its function in commitment to the mission of its Lord Jesus Christ and in the freedom that results from it.
- 2.) It is alive through listening to God's word, in the celebration of the sacraments, and in the service to its people. The common worship is the centre of all church activities.
- 3.) It bears witness to the Gospel through proclamation, mission, pastoral care, diaconia, and education. As a church for others it performs its tasks through service in public life.
- 5.) It takes particular care of people in situations of affliction and conflict. It approaches them in active charity and it works on uncovering and remedying the causes for suffering.
- 6.) Placing its trust in God's promise, it stands up for the preservation of God's Creation and for the shaping of life in justice and peace.
- 7.) It encourages and helps to build the ecumenical community on the local level and on the worldwide horizon.
- 8.) It encourages the Christian-Jewish dialogue. It reminds of the complexity of the Church in social exclusion and destruction of Jewish life. It also works towards the reconciliation with the Jewish people and opposes any kind of anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism.
- 9.) It actively seeks the dialogue with other religions.
- 10.) It stands for the protection of human dignity, the respect for human rights and for the coexistence of people that is based on equality. It opposes all forms of discrimination and hostility against people.

## The EKM in numbers

Area:	35.000 km²
Church members:	615.855
Parishers:	3.114
Provost districts:	2
Church districts:	37
Numbers of male and female pastors:	875
Volunteers:	33.757
Churches and chapels:	3.791
Property:	87.500 ha
Services per annum:	50.646
Baptisms p.a.:	3.810
Confirmands p.a.:	3.995
Marriages p.a.:	583
Funerals p.a.:	9.305
Numbers of leaving the church p.a.:	9.666
Numbers of people re-entering the church p.a.:	321
Institutions of the diakonia of Central Germany	
Hospitals:	20
Welfare centres:	112
Playschools:	366
Nursing homes (including outpatient centres):	107
Institutions of the disabled:	284
Counseling centres:	160
Accredited evangelical and diaconal schools:	97
Date:	31.5.2023

## EKM – now and then



On 1 January 2009 the Evangelical Church in Central Germany (EKM) was founded. Today there are about 700,000 members in 3,000 parishes in 37 church districts. Local church life is led by about 1,800 parish councils. The parishes worship in 4,000 churches and chapels. Many of them are of historical value and richly equipped with historic organs, bells and interior. Like all other Regional Churches in Germany, the EKM is synodically constituted. The EKM Synod consisting of 84 members meets twice a year in order to decide on fundamental matters of the life and development of the Church. They vote on laws, the budget and the staff appointment scheme. In-between

the synod sessions the 23 members of the Regional Church Council meet. They pass regulations, take conceptual decisions and speak on behalf of the Regional Church. The council is led by the Bishop of EKM, Friedrich Kramer. The Regional Church Office coordinates the administrative work for the Regional Church, e. g. financial resources, staff, legal questions. It supports the work and development of the EKM in areas like liturgy, pastoral care, congregational development, ecumenism as well as education in church, school and society. The Regional Church Office is situated in the Collegium Maius, the old university of Erfurt, where Martin Luther studied. The Bishop's see is Magdeburg. The Evangelical Church in Central Germany is a church of the Lutheran reformation and has its special characteristics in the ecclesial communion with the Reformed congregations in its area.

The EKM evolved out of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia and the Church Province of Saxony. Both Churches had been moving towards each other over the period of a decade until they finally merged. Thus, they concentrated their personnel and financial resources to fulfil their task as Church together. The Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Thuringia was established in 1921 when the eight evangelical churches of the eight Thuringian principalities merged to form one Evangelical-Lutheran Church. The Evangelical Church of the Church Province of Saxony covered most of Saxony-Anhalt and parts of Thuringia. It was originally part of the Church of the Prussian Union which originated in the administrative church union of 1817. An important impact had the admission of reformed religious refugees from France and the Palatinate. Today their descendants live in the reformed congregations of EKM.



Evangelical Church in Central Germany (EKM)  
www.ekmd.de

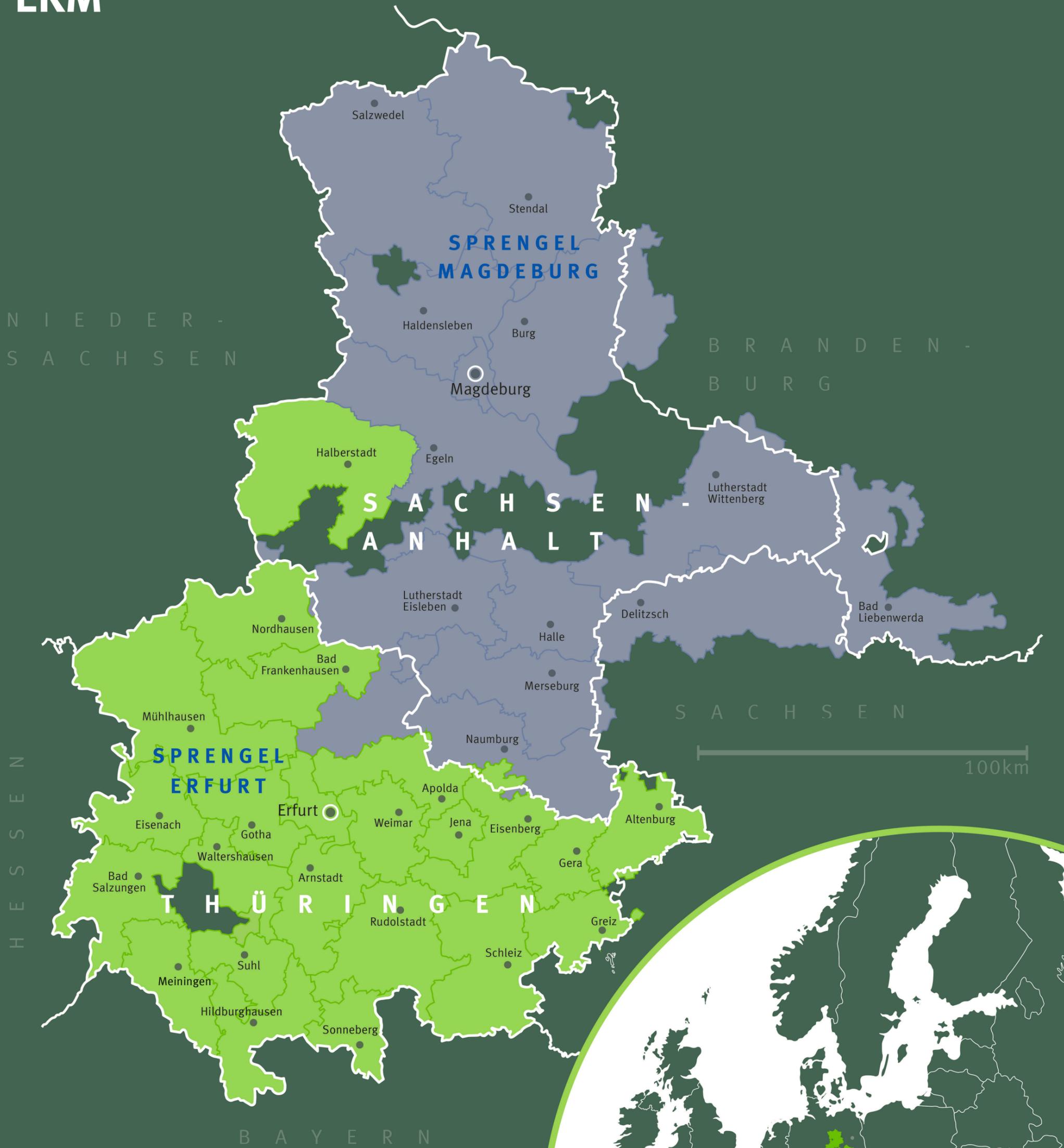
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# The Protestant Church of Central Germany

## EKM



EVANGELISCHE KIRCHE  
IN MITTELDEUTSCHLAND

