

UKRAINE



Mission Overview

In 1991, the Ukraine claimed independence from the Soviet Union and the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC) declared fellowship with WELS. The Ukrainian Lutheran Church continues to face increasingly difficult challenges and an uncertain future in a social climate where the majority of Ukrainians are heavily influenced by the Eastern Orthodox Church and traditions from Slavic mythology. While Lutheranism has a long history in Ukraine, the ULC in its present form had its origins in the efforts of Thoughts of Faith, a mission organization affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. In spite of challenges, the ULC continues to work faithfully to proclaim the saving gospel and to be a voice for confessional Lutheranism in Ukraine. Learn more about WELS mission history in Ukraine.

Today, WELS is the primary ministry partner of the ULC, as a result of an agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. WELS World Missions provides financial support and has offered to help with establishing evangelism programs, outlining ways to encourage member retention, stewardship, encouraging male leadership, and helping with VBS programs. Various WELS pastors have had workshops with ULC pastors, which has been a great encouragement for them. Plans are being made to build and renovate facilities to provide more permanent places of worship for the various congregations. We pray for God's blessing on these efforts.

Fast Facts

- 700 baptized members
- 17 congregations
- 11 national pastors

Praying for Ukraine

The political climate in Ukraine continues to deteriorate as recently won religious freedom is once again being taken away. Please pray for our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Ukraine as they proclaim an even more precious freedom—the freedom from sin, death, and hell brought by our Savior.

