

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MOZAMBIQUE - IELM

History of the church

After the liberation war of Mozambique 1975, the president Samora Machel requested that the Lutheran World Federation "LWF" continue to give humanitarian support for the Mozambicans. In some places people who were Lutherans or wanted to be Lutherans were already gathering together. These places were: Maputo, Chimoio, Tete, Beira, Nampula. At a certain point the representative of the LFM in Maputo in coordination with a "Joint Mission Board" introduced the Evangelical Lutheran Church into Mozambique in the year of 1988.

The church today

The IELM today is found in the Provinces of the North, Center, and South of the country. It has 12.500 members in the 14 parishes. The IELM is a partner in the Christian Council of Mozambique "CCM" and of a Lutheran family at the level of SADEC called LUCSA (Lutheran Community in Southern Africa) which represents the Lutheran World Federation in Southern Africa. On the 1st of May of 2012 for the first time a bishop was ordained to be leader of the national church. His name: Jose Mabasso. He is one of the two first Mozambican pastors who were ordained after the foundation of the church.

The challenges

The growth in the last years demands much work in the areas of:

- education of members and workers
- construction of chapels and other buildings to serve the congregations.

Special programs

In these years the church has been participating in a large program of the LUCSA to combat Malaria.