

Sri Lanka Mission



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) church body partner

in Sri Lanka, the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC), needs funding to support, maintain and grow its ministry presence in this South Asian island nation of mostly Buddhists and Hindus. The CELC is also in the process of restoring two local Christian preschools.

Mission History in Sri Lanka

The Tamil people arrived on the island off India's east coast in the 18th century from the subcontinent of India. A German Lutheran missionary arrived to minister to the Lutheran Tamils in the northern tip of the island. In that area there was a Lutheran church as well as an orphanage. Through the years more Tamil people arrived to work in coffee, tea and rubber plantations. The missionary traveled around the island conducting Divine Services and administering the Sacraments to Lutherans.

In 1925, the first LCMS missionary began commuting in from India on the weekends to lead church services. Almost 25 years later, the first resident missionary came to work with the Tamil people in the Hill Country. Later, in the 1970s, the country became an independent republic and was renamed the Republic of Sri Lanka. During these transitions and for more than a quarter-century, missionaries lived among and served the Tamil people.



Mission Outlook Today

In subsequent decades, faithful LCMS missionaries worked in Sri Lanka amidst large Buddhist and Hindu faith traditions. Despite these challenges, there currently are more than 15 worshipping Lutheran congregations and mission stations with over 600 members. Four ordained pastors and five evangelists serve this faith community through preaching, teaching and outreach.

Mission Needs

Lutheran churches and mission stations are sprinkled around the island. Yet the lack of resources is a constant constraint: Church building repairs and supplies are needed, as well as Christian books and materials. Almost half the population in Sri Lanka exists on less than five dollars per day, creating opportunities for

mercy projects, such as basic school supplies for local students.

While the CELC seeks to achieve financial independence, her leaders and members long to reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Support for this ministry project would enable the church to thrive both physically and spiritually.

ONLINE GIVING: lcms.org/givenow/celc-gospel-ministry
PROJECT ID: LK0007-62714

