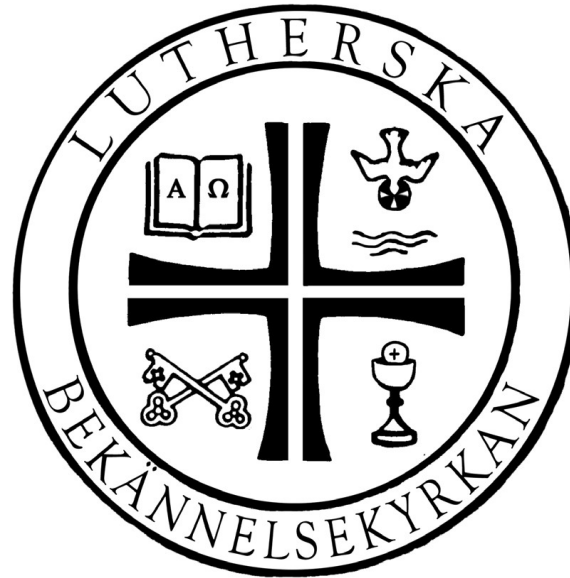


# Lutheran Confessional Church in Sweden



1974

# LBK today

## Legend

-  Congregation
-  Preaching place
-  Capital



## How it started

In October 1968 the Biblicum Foundation was established on the initiative of D.D. David Hedegård and Dean G.A. Danell. The reason was the apostasy from the Word of God at the theological faculties and inside the state church of Sweden. Seth Erlandsson was called to build up an institute for Biblical research and teaching and be its director after his theological doctor disputation in May 1970. Many were longing for true biblical teaching on a regular basis in an orthodox congregation. Through Biblicum's lectures the contrast to the mixed teachings in the pluralistic state church became evident.



*Dr Seth Erlandsson*



*Dr David Hedegård*



*To the left Biblicum's first building in Uppsala, to the right the present building in Ljungby*

For several years a group of young Christians in Uppsala gathered around Dr Hedegård for studies of the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. In the autumn 1970 the group called Dr Hedegård and docent Seth Erlandsson to conduct services for them every Sunday.

In 1972 pastor Per Jonsson in Landskrona published articles in favour of leaving the state church and establishing a free Lutheran confessional church. On his proposal Biblicum invited Dr Siegbert Becker (WELS) to Sweden in the autumn of 1972 for lectures on important Biblical doctrines.

The doctrine of church fellowship became through Becker's visit a burning issue and resulted in a split in the board of Biblicum in the beginning of 1973 when Erlandsson and Jonsson announced that they planned to leave the state church, convinced that a protest against the apostasy in the national Lutheran church was not enough.



*Dr Siegbert Becker visited Sweden several times. His many lectures have meant a lot to true Lutheranism in Scandinavia.*

The “separatistic” services in Uppsala resulted in establishing a free Lutheran congregation in September 1973 named St Matteus. One of the students, a graduate in Divinity, was called as its pastor and was ordained in the presence of two pastors from The Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

Two more congregations were established in the summer of 1974. Biblestudies in Yxenhult in the south of Sweden, led by Erlandsson, resulted in establishing St Johannes congregation in Yxenhult. After leaving the state church Per Jonsson established Vår Frälsares lutherska församling (Our Savior's Lutheran congregation) in Landskrona.

Members of the three congregations met in Uppsala and constituted LBK, Lutherska Bekännelsekyrkan (The Lutheran Confessional Church) in September 7, 1974 . During the next seven years six more congregations were established, among them two in Norway.



*Dedication of Biblicums annex building in Uppsala 1980*

### **The current status of our church**

LBK currently has seven congregations in Sweden and gathers people for services in eight cities (Öjebyn, Umeå, Uppsala, Stockholm, Västerås, Norrköping, Ljungby, Göteborg). There are six pastors and four evangelists in the LBK.

The main responsibility of the evangelists is to conduct Sunday services in the cities where there is no pastor, or when the pastor is traveling to serve another congregation. The LBK is closely connected to the independent Bible research foundation Biblicum which has an extensive theological library, and publishes a magazine devoted to biblical faith and research.

## **Theological and pastoral training**

The LBK had for a time a theological seminary of its own in cooperation with Biblicum. Financial cutbacks have forced LBK to make use of the possibility to let students study at other CELC seminaries. We are thankful for help from the seminaries in Leipzig, Mequon and Mankato. Some of our young members also have got the opportunity to study at MLC in New Ulm, Minnesota, coming back with increased desire to serve God's kingdom in our church.





Hjälmgården, rented for our summer camps



The annual church conventions/summer camps usually gather about 60% of the members and serve as an opportunity for Biblical lectures and instruction, aimed for members of all ages.



*Midsummer camp, with herring and strawberries*



*Skicamp in the north part of Sweden with pastor Peter Öman.*



### **Damlaget, Ladie´s Team in LBK**

During the summer camp in Hjälmarginen July 2012 a group of 20 women gathered to talk about how we as women in our church can support the work in the Lord´s kingdom in our country and abroad. A mail-group was started that has now more than 40 members. Biblestudies on diaconia, helping out with camps, and collecting money for different needs are examples of things that the Ladies Team is busy with. The work has been richly blessed by the Lord.

## **Special circumstances**

The liturgy in our church is very similar to that in other Lutheran churches. Only two of the congregations have their own church building. The others have to rent a place for the services or gather in homes.

All the pastors have civil jobs and take care of the church in their spare time. High taxes and no allowance of tax reduction for gifts make it hard to pay a full-time pastor.

## Contact information

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**The 40 Years Jubilee Festival of LBK on July 11-13, 2014.**



Lectures by pastors from Sweden, Norway and Finland and  
guest lectures by Prof. John Brug, WELS, Pastor Andreas Drechsler, ELFK, Pastor  
Timothy Hartwig, ELS and Pastor Artur Villares, Lutheran Church of Portugal