

AMP 8-16-15 | 9:00 - 9:30am

Today's Service

- That God would draw unsaved people to our service, and into his kingdom.
- That Pastor Jon would preach in God's power as he preaches a topical series: Questioning Jesus that will cover various texts from the four Gospels and will work through the questions people ask Jesus and the questions Jesus asks people.
- That God's presence would be palpable and that all in attendance would be changed by the goodness, power, and love of God.

RPC Outreach

- That we the people of RPC would desire to be a word and deed church.
- That God would open up great and lasting opportunities of community service for RPC.
- That the congregational meeting on September 13th will be well attended. We will be voting to ordain Tom Harmon as an elder, voting to install a pastor, and voting to petition Presbytery to become a particular church of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
- BBQ&A will be held at Cunningham Park on August 16 and September 13 & 20. Pray that it would be well attended and that it would be a time of good fellowship, service, and edification for all involved. Pray for Pastor Jon's preparations for the message he gives and for his answers to the questions he receives.

Regional Church

- Pray for the other churches of our presbytery: Westminster Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Jonathan Holst (Hamden, CT); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Bohemia, Meindert Ploegman (Bohemia, NY); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Franklin Square, William Shishko (Franklin Square, NY), Trinity Church, Ben Miller (Syosset, NY), Westchester Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Dan Osborne (Mt. Vernon, NY).

Luxembourg | Basic Country Facts:

Operation World Denomination Statistics



Christians	Deno ms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	18	1.96	10,000	1.9%
Independent	9	0.19	1,000	2.8%
Anglican	1	0.12	1,000	1.8%
Catholic	1	79.31	390,000	0.1%
Orthodox	4	1.02	5,000	6.2%
Marginal	3	1.10	5,000	6.2%
Doubly affiliated		-2.07	-10,000	0.0%

Ethnic Breakdown: Luxembourger 57%, Portuguese 16.1%, French 6.1%, Italian 3.5%, Belgian 3.3%, German 2.4%, British 1.1%, other 10.5% Note: represents composition by citizenship (2011 est.)

Major Languages: Luxembourgish (official administrative language and national language (spoken vernacular)) 88.8%, French (official administrative language) 4.2%, Portuguese 2.3%, German (official administrative language) 1.1%, other 3.5% (2011 est.)

Religion: Roman Catholic 87%, other (includes Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim) 13% (2000)

Population: 570,252 (July 2015 est.)

Life Expectancy: male: 79.73 years female: 84.76 years (2015 est.)

Government: constitutional monarchy

Economic Conditions: This small, stable, high-income economy has historically featured solid growth, low inflation, and low unemployment. The industrial sector, initially dominated by steel, has become increasingly diversified to include chemicals, machinery and equipment, rubber, automotive components, and other products. The financial sector, which accounts for about 36% of GDP, is the leading sector in the economy. The economy depends on foreign and cross-border

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workers for about 39% of its labor force. The country continues to enjoy an extraordinarily high standard of living - GDP per capita ranks among the highest in the world and is the highest in the euro zone. Luxembourg has one of the highest current account surpluses as a share of GDP in the euro zone, and it maintains a healthy budgetary position and the lowest public debt levels in the region. Luxembourg has lost some of its advantage as a favorable tax location because of OECD and EU pressure.

GDP Per Capita: \$92,000 (2014 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin: agriculture: 0.3% industry: 12% services: 87.7% (2014 est.)

Education: Literacy 100%. The University of Luxembourg is the only university in the country.

State of the Church: Freedom of religion. Catholicism still predominates but other religions as well as atheism have grown rapidly of late. The major confessions have established conventions and thereby financial support.

Prayer Points:

- Luxembourg's strong Catholic heritage remains, but is slowly dwindling. Sea changes in Catholicism have had little impact here, and while the majority profess Catholicism, only a small percent regularly attend mass or practice their faith. A melange of secularism, materialism and a fuzzy personalized spirituality all weigh in heavily in shaping the prevalent worldview of this highly affluent Grand Duchy. Veneration of Mary plays a great role in cultural tradition and ritual. It is tradition more than conviction that keeps Luxembourg Catholic. Pray that people discover the power of the living Christ. (OW 1)
- The growth of other faiths presents a challenge to traditional faith. Islam, Orthodoxy, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Eastern mysticism and the multiplication of Protestant and Independent groups have transformed this small nation into a melting pot of religious expression. Pray that believers in the Lord Jesus might seek and make use of chances to share the gospel, and help shape the nation according to biblical principles. (OW 2)
- Evangelicals are a small minority, and a high proportion of them are foreigners (although almost all congregations have at least some indigenes). In the 23 evangelical churches, worship is conducted in nine different languages, and only a minority have full-time pastors. There is still a great need for more Bible teaching, more Christ-centered churches and more workers to labour in these churches. Evangelicals face several other challenges:
 - a) A negative bias on the part of government and society, with the stigma of "cults". This bias makes state recognition, public perception and the renting of buildings difficult for evangelicals.
 - b) Unity has been a major challenge. While there are still obstacles to seeing real spiritual unity (as opposed to the papery ecumenical variety), genuine progress is being made as the different churches begin to trust one another and to pray and worship together on occasion – great Kingdom potential exists as a result. Pray that old hurts will be overcome and restored relationships achieved.
 - c) Outreach is limited. Door-to-door and street evangelism is frowned upon by society and the government; gentle and creative methods are much more likely to be effective. Believers are slowly learning how to reach out and are beginning to gain more experience and interest. (OW 3)
- The Lao Evangelical Church is one of two recognized Protestant bodies (along with the SDA) wherein several groups have been forced by the government to amalgamate. It is the largest and most influential Church, and where most of the Christian growth has occurred. Pray for the LEC, in particular the pastors, that they might demonstrate unity, genuine love and humility; pray for wisdom to handle the growth and to deal with the situations in both established congregations and house churches. As the primary state approved Christian body, the LEC itself struggles with issues of accountability, transparency in finances, and healthy relationships with smaller and newer denominations. Pray that God might expose any wrongdoing among church leaders and raise up faithful, humble and authentic servant leaders in the LEC. (OW 3)
- Foreigners comprise both some of the staunchest believers and some of the least reached. The majority of expatriates are present for employment, business or EU affairs (with day commuters, Luxembourg becomes over 50% foreign!), and show little interest in spiritual things. Others, such as Muslim immigrants from the Balkans, adhere to other faiths. Pray for the vision and strategy for reaching each group, and for receptive hearts. (OW 4)
- The Lëtzebuergesch language is spoken by many as their heart language. Most are fluent in French or German (or both), but to have the Bible in Lëtzebuergesch could be helpful to opening many hearts to the good news. Various versions of the NT are in progress. Pray that they might be completed in a timely manner and with the highest standards of Bible translation principles. There is one solitary Christian bookstore in the country, but others in neighbouring countries are readily accessible. (OW 5)