

M2073

STATISTICS OF CONGREGATIONS OF LUTHERAN SYNODS, 1890

Compiled by Claire Prechtel-Klusken

Funds for this microfilm publication were provided by the  
National Institute on Genealogical Research Alumni Association.

The National Institute on Genealogical Research Alumni Association  
and the  
National Archives and Records Administration  
1996

## INTRODUCTION

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M2073, are reproduced statistics on congregations of Lutheran Synods, 1890. These records are part of the Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group (RG) 29, and are designated as Entry 107 in Preliminary Inventory No. 161, *Records of the Bureau of the Census* (Washington, DC: National Archives, 1964).

## **Background**

Following transfer of census taking responsibilities from the Department of State to the Department of the Interior, a Census Office was formally established in 1850. The Office, however, was temporary, established only for each decennial census and disbanded when work on that census was complete. Effective July 1, 1902 (5 Stat. 51), the Census Office became permanent, but the terms Census Bureau and Census Office continued to be used interchangeably for some time. The name Bureau of the Census was applied to the permanent office by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor in 1903 but was not formally fixed by legislation until 1954. For the Eleventh Census, the Census Office had an elaborate organization consisting of 25 divisions, each with responsibility for a specific subject area. The sixth division was responsible for "church statistics."

## **Records Description**

These records consist of a single bound volume containing a list of each Lutheran church or local organization. This information was compiled by the Census Office from schedules submitted by Lutheran officials. The records are arranged by synod, thereunder by State, thereunder by locality. For each church or local organization, the following information is given in seven columns: (1) town or city, (2) county, (3) name of organization, (4) number or type of church edifice, (5) seating capacity, (6) value of church property, and (7) number of members. The column providing information about the church edifice indicates the number of buildings used or owned by the church, or the type of building in which the church meets. The type of building used is frequently indicated as "rented," "h" (probably "house"), or "sh" (probably "schoolhouse").

## **Related Records**

Similar records for other denominations are not extant. However, detailed statistical information about all denominations can be found in Henry K. Carroll, *Report on Statistics of Churches in the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1894), which is reproduced on roll 34 of National Archives Microfilm Publication T825, *Publications of the Bureau of the Census*.