**Quick Facts about New Jersey**

Source: <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/SBO001212/34>

***Did you know that…***

…in July 2015, 8,958,013 people lived in New Jersey? Did you know that in 2010 the population was 8,791,936?

…in 2015, 22.3% of New Jersey’s population was under age 18? Did you know that 15% of the population was over age 65?

…in 2015, 51.2% of the population identified as female?

…in 2015, 72.6% of the population identified themselves as White, non-Hispanic (68.6% in 2010)?

…in 2015, 14.8% of the population identified as Black/African American (non-Hispanic (13.7 in 2010)?

…in 2015, 9.7% of the population identified as Asian (8.3% in 2010)?

…in 2015, 2.1% of the population identified as being from 2 or more races (2.7% in 2010)?

…19.5% of the population identified as Hispanic or Latino (17.7% in 2010)?

…between 2010 and 2014, 21.5% of New Jersey’s population identified as foreign born?

…the median value of a New Jersey home in 2015 was $319,900, with a median mortgage of $2,428.00? Did you know that the median rent in 2015 was $972.00?

…in 2015 there were 3,188,498 households in New Jersey?

…that 30.3% of New Jersey’s population speaks a language other than English at home?

…that 88.4% of New Jersey residents over age 25 are high school graduates? Did you know that 36.4% of residents over age 25 hold a Bachelor degree or higher?

…that 66.2% of New Jersey’s population over age 16 was part of the workforce?

…that 11.1% of New Jersey’s population lived in poverty?

…that the median New Jersey household income was $72,062.00?

If you find these statistics interesting, check out these fascinating maps showing the racial breakdown for New Jersey: <http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2015/10/this_map_shows_a_racial_breakdown_of_every_person.html>

With these figures and maps, what does sharing the Good News about Jesus Christ look like in New Jersey? How do our faith communities reflect the diversity of our neighborhoods? What are the possibilities for Lutheran Christianity in the future in New Jersey?

*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mt. 28:18-20, NRSV)*