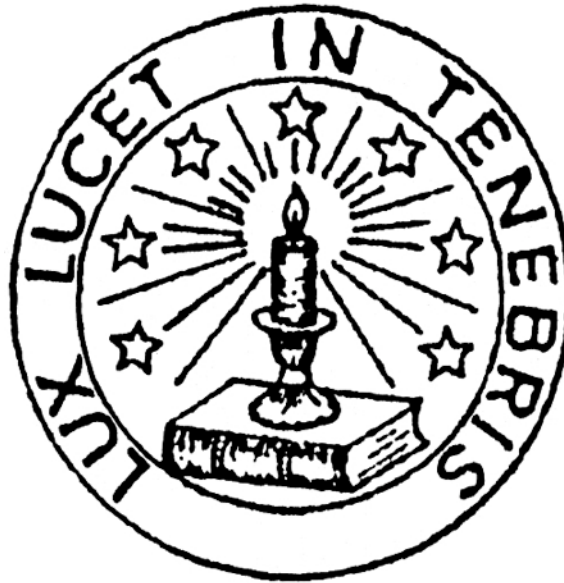


Il vincolo

CIRCOLARE
DELLA CHIESA
EVANGELICA
VALDESE DI
PINEROLO



The Waldensian Church is like a lamp standing at the light of the Gospel, even in the darkness or in times of persecution, as the Waldensians had to face in their history.

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Ciclostilato in proprio - via dei Mille 1 - Pinerolo
www.pinerolovaldese.org
www.facebook.com/Valdesi.Pinerolo

Welcome to our visitors!

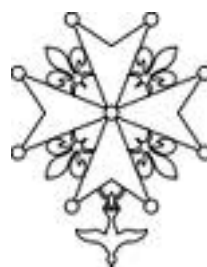
Here is a word for you, we want to tell you that your life is welcome in God's love. Theologian Karl Barth wrote that Church is the gathering of men and women whom the Lord Jesus Christ called as His witnesses. Waldensians and Methodists are Christians who belong to the family of Protestant churches. Waldensians have been present in Italy since mediaeval times: repressed by the civil and religious authorities until the mid-nineteenth century, only from then onwards were they able to express their faith throughout Italy. There are currently about 45.000 members in Italy, Switzerland and America. Ecumenism, brings different faiths towards united witness, and this has always been a distinctive feature of the Protestant world.

Come to Sunday Worship!

CHIESA EVANGELICA VALDESE

Via dei Mille 1 - 10064 Pinerolo - (Torino)
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What we believe

The Waldensian church, together with all other Christian denominations, adheres to the common confessions of faith of the **early church** ecumenical councils: The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed of Constantinople. Following the **Reformation** (1532, in Chanforan), the Protestant churches adhered to new confessions of faith which express their understanding of Christianity. The Waldensians did this in 1655 during a particularly tragic moment of their history, when French and Savoyard troops assaulted the valleys of Piedmont. The **Declaration of Faith** of 1655 was published for the first time in French in the "Relation véritable de ce qui s'est passé dans les persucutions et massacres, faites cette années, aux églises reformées de Piedmont etc".

Protestant worship (or the Service) is centred around and based on the preaching of God's Word. There is a place for singing and prayer, in relation to Bible reading and preaching. Simplicity and moderation are distinctive features of Protestant worship which has no need of a particular place or time. Besides Bible study groups, Sunday School and Catechism classes, Service takes place on **Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.** Moreover, there is nothing sacramental about the role of the preacher, but his/her particular preparation as far as Bible teaching is concerned as well as the maturity of his/her faith. Protestant worship is usually carried out as follows:



- Introit
- Confession of sin
- Bible reading
- Sermon
- Confession of faith
- Prayer of intercession

- Final prayers and benediction. Hymns are sung in-between.

The **Lord's Supper** is celebrated on various occasions, and it is usually celebrated between the Confession of faith and the prayer of intercession. The main parts are:

- the reading of the institution from the New Testament
- a prayer of thanksgiving
- invocation of the Holy Spirit
- breaking of the bread and blessing of the wine
- distribution of the bread and wine to those present. It is open to all and with baptism is a sign of the Lord's promises.

The Waldensian Church of Pinerolo is part of the **Waldensian Church** : www.chiesavaldese.org

The Freedom Week

Individual freedom and independence from State power has always been central to the Waldensian faith. The "Freedom Week" recalls the 17th February 1848, when the Civil Rights Bill was issued. Since then we are called to remember and fight for religious freedom, freedom of conscience which is always in the making: freedom for all, not just for some, and in larger contexts of society.

Our organization

The Waldensian churches are organized according to the **presbyterian-synodal system**: presbyterian, because the governing of the congregation is not entrusted to a bishop but to a **council of elders** (New Testament term), called Session; synodal because the **Synod** is the governing assembly of every part of the life of the church as a whole: doctrinal, disciplinary, administrative.

A hierarchy of assemblies

The organization of church life is governed by **assemblies**. Every church has its own assembly which elects the council of elders responsible for the handling of local issues. A number of these who are entrusted with the task of preaching and teaching, are called pastors although there are also lay preachers who help with the preaching and catechists who help with the teaching. The pastors, men and women, are allowed to marry.

Jesu Christ is the head of the Church which is the body.

How you can help

Waldensians have put into practice what Cavour considered to be the most suitable relationship between religion and politics: a free Church in a free State.

It follows that all activities carried on are **totally self-funded through free donations** by local and foreign friends and by registered church members who take care of the current needs.

Some income is also produced through own properties' rental.



In 1993 the Synod voted to access to the law **otto per mille IRPEF** (a percentage of Income Tax funds if covenanted by tax payer). In making this decision, however, the Synod stated that the received sum would not be used for ecclesiastical purposes, that is to say, for the maintenance of pastors or related church activities, but only for social aid, humanitarian and cultural projects - in Italy and abroad - to be carried out in co-operation with religious or lay organizations.

Our main mission

Our mission is evangelization, that is witness of the Gospel, as stated by the Synod in 2013: our congregation is a place of faith, hope and love - even though we are still sinners - but we keep on as written in the Bible: "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2).

We are grateful for having a **Faculty of Theology** based in Rome.

We are members of the **World Council of Churches**

(WCC) In brief, our main mission is in three spheres:

- worship,
- teaching,
- social aid.



I believe, why? Becoming Waldensian, why?

Let us try to share our common faith. Here are some witnesses gathered during the "Evangelization Week" that took place at Pinerolo, in May 2014.

- "I believe and I wonder why"
- "I believe in Jesus Christ and in Resurrection"
- "I believe that faith is hope"
- "I believe because God makes me graciously believe"
- "I believe because God consoles and supports me every day"
- "I believe that Jesus Christ is the secret of my life and of living on earth"
- "I believe for finding the words to witness and to say my joy in Jesus Christ"
- "I believe in Christ Resurrection, He is living among us"
- "I believe to announce the Kingdom of God and grow in faith"



Main group activities in our congregation



- Worship every Sunday morning, at 10 a.m.
- Sunday School, every Saturday afternoon, at 3 p.m.
- Precatechism and catechism
- Women's Union, every Thursday afternoon, twice a month, at 3 p.m.
- Choir, every Wednesday, at 8.45 p.m.
- Bible Study Groups on a monthly basis
- Waldensian Youth Group with YouTube Channel

Council of Elders: Paolo Bor (presidente), Flora Rolfo (vicepresidente), Annalisa Bosio (vicepresidente), Vanda Talmon (archivista), Gianni Genre (pastore), Milena Boccassini, Marina Bounous, Gustavo Fiorillo, Paola Geymonat, Franco Godino, Lidia Longo, Silvia Pastore, Paola Schellenbaum, Fiordalisa Travers, Paola Travers (membri).

How you can help: The Waldensian Church of Pinerolo is grateful for all donations and offers received by friends and members, in Italy and abroad. To make your offers, please send to:

Concistoro Chiesa evangelica valdese di Pinerolo

IBAN: IT 91 D 03359 01600 100000118442

You can also give by hand to the pastor, to the deacon or to the elders of the council.
THANK YOU!