
Congregations 2000



A Survey of Congregations

in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Conducted by the Department for Research and Evaluation
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In Association With The Lilly Funded
Cooperative Congregational Studies Project

Please complete the questionnaire by filling in one circle (●) for each question unless otherwise noted. Please do not use a ✓ or ✗ in or on top of the circles. If you have any questions, feel free to call Andrew Burow at 1-800-638-3522, extension 2423. Thanks!

I. CONGREGATIONAL IDENTITY AND WORSHIP

1. How well does each of the following statements describe your congregation?

	<u>Very Well</u>	<u>Quite Well</u>	<u>Some-What</u>	<u>Slightly</u>	<u>Hardly At All</u>
a. Our congregation feels like a large, close-knit family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Our congregation is spiritually vital and alive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Our congregation is working for social justice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Our congregation helps members deepen their relationships with God	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Our congregation is trying to increase its racial/ethnic diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Our congregation clearly expresses its Lutheran heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Our congregation is a moral beacon in the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Our congregation welcomes innovation and change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Our congregation deals openly with disagreements and conflict	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Our congregation encourages the public expression of speaking in tongues <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Our congregation has a strong racial/ethnic or national heritage that it is trying to preserve	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Members are excited about the future of our congregation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. New people are easily incorporated into the life of the church	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Our congregation has a clear sense of mission and purpose	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Our congregation's worship services are spiritually uplifting and inspiring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. Our congregation's programs and activities are well organized	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q. Our congregation's programs and activities strengthen personal relationships among our members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Worship Services

If your congregation holds worship services less than once a week please fill in this circle → and respond to services.

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday AM	Sunday PM
a. How many worship services does your congregation have on each of the following days/times on a typical weekend?	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. What is the total attendance for all services held on this day/time on a typical weekend?	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. If you typically hold more than one service on the weekend, are these services: (fill in one circle):				
<input type="radio"/> Very similar in style (other than the language used) <input type="radio"/> One or more is somewhat different in style from the rest <input type="radio"/> One or more is very different in style from the rest				
d. Please list all the languages in which your congregation conducts worship services on a typical weekend:				

3. How often does the sermon in your worship focus on . . .

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Some- times</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>
a. God's love and care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Practical advice for daily living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Personal spiritual growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Social justice or social action	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. How often does the sermon in your worship include a lot of . . .

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Some- times</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>
a. Personal stories or first-hand experiences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Literary or scholarly references	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Illustrations from contemporary media (e.g., magazines, newspapers, TV)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Detailed explanations of scripture or doctrine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. During your congregation's BEST attended WEEKLY worship service, how often are the following included as part of the service?

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Some- times</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>
a. Reading/recitation of creeds or statements of faith	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. A time for lay persons to testify about their faith	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. A time during worship for people to greet each other or pass the peace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The use of visual projection equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Incense or candles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Dance or drama	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Kneeling by the congregation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Does your congregation's BEST attended WEEKLY worship service include music? If yes, how often are the following used? If no, skip to number 7.

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Some- times</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>
a. Organ or piano	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Electric key board or synthesizer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Electric guitar/bass	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Non-electric string or wind instruments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Drums or other percussion instruments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Recorded music (tapes, compact discs, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. In comparison to the style of your congregation's **PRIMARY** worship service 5 years ago, would you say the style of your current **PRIMARY** worship service . . .

- Our congregation did not exist in 1995
- Is basically the same
- Changed a little
- Changed a great deal

8. How important are the following sources of authority in the worship and teaching of your congregation?

	<u>Absolutely Foundational</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Little or No Importance</u>
a. Sacred Scripture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Historic creeds, doctrines, and tradition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. The Holy Spirit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Human reason and understanding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Personal experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

f. Now please write the letter of the **ONE** source of authority that is most important in your congregation's worship and teaching, as difficult as this choice may be, in this box →

II. HISTORY, LOCATION AND BUILDING

1. In approximately what year did this congregation begin worshiping at its current location? _____

2. How would you describe the place where your congregation's primary worship building is located?

- Rural or open country (Go to question 3)
- Town or village of less than 10,000 (Go to question 3)
- In or around a city of 10,000-49,999 (Please answer questions 2a and 2b)
- In or around a city of 50,000-249,999 (Please answer questions 2a and 2b)
- In a around a city of 250,000+ (Please answer questions 2a and 2b)

2a. **If in or around a city**, is your building located:

- In the central or downtown area of the city
- In another area of the city
- In an older suburb around the city
- In a newer suburb around the city

2b. **If in or around a city**, is your building located in a:

- Residential area
- Mixed residential and commercial area
- Commercial or industrial area

3. How would you describe the **size** of the following relative to the current needs of your congregation?

	<u>Much More</u> <u>Than We Need</u>	<u>Slightly More</u> <u>Than We Need</u>	<u>Just About</u> <u>Right</u>	<u>Slightly Less</u> <u>Than We Need</u>	<u>Much Less</u> <u>Than We Need</u>
a. Your worship space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Educational space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Fellowship space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Space for parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. How would you describe the overall **physical condition** of your congregation's building(s)?

- Excellent
- Needs improvement
- Good
- In serious need of improvement and repairs

5. Do any other congregations use your building space for worship?

- Yes
- No

III. CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMS

1. How much does your congregation, in its worship and education, emphasize the following **home and personal practices**?

	<u>A Great</u> <u>Deal</u>	<u>Quite</u> <u>a Bit</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>A</u> <u>Little</u>	<u>Hardly</u> <u>At All</u>
a. Personal prayer, scripture study, devotions or other spiritual practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Family devotions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Fasting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Observing dietary restrictions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Abstinence from alcohol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Observing dietary or activity restrictions on Sunday	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Displaying religious objects, symbols, statuary, icons or pictures in the home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Abstaining from premarital sex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Does your congregation have a Sunday school that meets regularly?

- Yes (Please answer question 2a and 2b)
- No (Please go to question 3)

2a. What is the typical, total weekly attendance of adults (18 and over)? _____

2b. What is the typical, total weekly attendance of children and teens (17 and under)? _____

3. During the past 12 months, did your congregation have any of the following programs or activities in **ADDITION TO YOUR REGULAR WEEKEND ACTIVITIES**? If **YES**, please indicate the duration of the program.

- A one-time, short-term or occasional event
- On-going during a particular season
- On-going throughout the year

Fill in ALL The "YES" Circles That Apply

		----- YES -----			
		<u>One-Time, Short-Term</u>	<u>On-going</u>	<u>On-going Thru</u>	
		<u>or Occasional</u>	<u>During A Season</u>	<u>Church Year</u>	
		NO			
a.	Bible/Scripture study (other than Sunday School)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b.	Theological or doctrinal study	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c.	Prayer or meditation groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d.	Spiritual retreats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e.	Community service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f.	Parenting or marriage enrichment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g.	Choirs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h.	Other performing arts (e.g. dance, drama)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i.	Groups that discuss books/contemporary issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j.	Self-help or personal growth groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k.	Exercise, fitness or weight loss groups or classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l.	Sports teams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m.	Youth or teen activities and programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n.	Young adult or singles activities and programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Did your congregation do any of the following to reach out to new or inactive participants, or to make your congregation better known in your community during the past 12 months?

If **No**, is the item: **A)** Something that probably **would not be resisted** by most members if you tried it; or **B)** Something that probably would be resisted by most members.

		YES	----- NO -----	
		<u>Done in Last</u>	<u>But Wouldn't</u>	<u>And Would</u>
		<u>12 Months</u>	<u>Be Resisted</u>	<u>Be Resisted</u>
a.	Newspaper advertisements and stories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b.	Radio or television advertisements and stories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c.	Direct mail promotions to area residents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d.	Growth or evangelistic campaign/program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e.	Focused efforts to identify and contact people who have recently moved into your congregation's area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f.	Stressing in your congregation's preaching and teaching the importance of witnessing to others about one's faith	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g.	Special worship services intended to attract unchurched or non-members (e.g., "Bring a friend" services, seeker services, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h.	Special programs (e.g., parenting classes, young single nights, art festivals, street ministries) especially intended to attract unchurched or non-members in your community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i.	Phone calls or personal visits by the pastor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j.	Phone calls or personal visits by laity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. In the past 12 months, did your congregation directly provide, or cooperate in providing, any of the following services for your own members or for people in the community? "Cooperation" includes financial contributions, volunteer time by congregational members, space in your building, material donations, etc.

----- **YES, Fill In All That Apply** -----

		<u>Provided Directly</u>	<u>Cooperated With</u>
	NO	<u>By Your</u>	<u>Another Congregation,</u>
		<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Agency or Organization</u>
a. Food pantry or soup kitchen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Cash assistance to families or individuals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Thrift store or thrift store donations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Elderly, emergency or affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Counseling services or "hot line"	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Substance abuse programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Day care, pre-school, before/after-school programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Tutoring or literacy programs for children and teens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Voter registration or voter education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
→ j. Organized social issue advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Employment counseling, placement or training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Health programs/clinics/health education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Hospitals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Nursing homes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Senior citizen programs (other than housing)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. Program for migrants or immigrants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q. Prison or jail ministry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
r. Community organizing or neighborhood associations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. In a typical month, about how many people do you estimate are served through the community services your congregation directly provides? _____

IV. LEADERSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

1. Which of the following best describes the situation in your congregation?
 - We do not have any problem getting people to accept volunteer leadership roles.
 - Recruiting volunteer leaders is a continual challenge, but we eventually find enough willing people.
 - We can not find enough people who are willing to serve.
2. How many pastors, including the current one, have served your congregation during the past ten years? _____ (number of pastors)
3. How many years did the previous pastor serve your congregation? _____(number of years)
4. How many **paid** ministerial and program staff does your congregation have?
 - a. Number of full time, paid _____ (number)
 - b. Number of part time, paid _____ (number)

5. Please describe the current senior or sole pastor in charge of the congregation by filling in all of the circles that apply or by filling in the requested information.

If you have co-pastors, please fill in this circle → and answer the following for the **OLDER** of your co-pastors. If you don't currently have a pastor, please fill in this circle → and skip to question 6.

- a. Age _____
- b. Is this position . . . Paid Volunteer
- c. Is this position . . . Full time
 Full time, supplemented by outside employment
 Part time → **If part time** does she/he also . . .
 1. Serve another congregation Yes No
 2. Work a secular job Yes No
- d. Is this person . . . Female Male
- e. Is the call a . . . Regular Call Temporary/Interim

(Fill in one circle for both question 2f and question 2g.)

- f. Highest level of education overall . . . → High school diploma or less
 Some college or technical
 College Bachelors degree
 Masters degree
 Doctoral degree
- g. Highest level of **MINISTERIAL** education . . .
 None (formal)
 Certificate or correspondence program
 Bible college or some seminary
 Seminary Masters degree (e.g., M. Div.)
 Post-Masters, Seminary degree (e.g., D. Min.)
- h. Race/Ethnicity
 American Indian/Alaska Native
 Asian
 Black or African American
 Hispanic or Latino
 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
 White
 Other _____
- i. This person became your pastor in what year? _____ (year)

6. During the last 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following types of inter-congregational, ecumenical or interfaith activities?

----- **YES, Fill In All That Apply** -----

	NO	<u>With other</u> <u>ELCA</u>	<u>Presbyterians,</u> <u>RCA, UCC</u>	<u>Other Christian</u> <u>Denominations</u>	<u>Other Faith</u> <u>Groups</u>
a. Joint worship services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Joint celebrations or programs other than worship . . .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Joint social outreach or social projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Councils of churches or ministerial associations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. When your congregation purchases worship, educational, stewardship, evangelism, etc. materials or supplies does it purchase them:

- Exclusively from within the ELCA/Augsburg Fortress
- Primarily from within the ELCA/Augsburg Fortress
- Primarily from outside the ELCA/Augsburg Fortress
- Exclusively from outside the ELCA/Augsburg Fortress
- From a pretty even balance between denominational and non-denominational sources

8. During the last **FIVE YEARS**, has your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflicts in the following areas?

		----- YES, And It Was -----		
	NO	<u>Very</u> <u>Serious</u>	<u>Moderately</u> <u>Serious</u>	<u>Not Very</u> <u>Serious</u>
a. Theology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Money/Finances/Budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. How worship is conducted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Program/Mission priorities or emphasis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Who should make a decision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Pastor's leadership style	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Pastor's personal behavior	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Member's personal behavior	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Other: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Which one of the following three statements best describes your congregation?
- Our congregation has definite expectations for members that are strictly enforced.
 - Our congregation has fairly clear expectations for members, but the enforcement of these expectations is not very strict.
 - Our congregation has only implicit/vague expectations for members that are seldom, if ever, enforced.

V. PARTICIPANTS (We know you may have to estimate or take an educated guess at the answers to several of the questions in this section and the next section. That is O.K.)

1. Approximately how many persons are associated **in any way** with the religious life of your congregation? (Counting both adults and children, both regular and irregular participants, both official or registered members and also participating members.) _____ (number)
2. Approximately how many persons—both adults and children—would you say **regularly participate** in the religious life of your congregation—whether or not they are officially members of your congregation?
_____ (number)
3. Since 1995, has the above number of regularly participating adults:

<input type="radio"/> The congregation did not exist in 1995.	<input type="radio"/> Stayed about the same (increased or decreased up to 4%)
<input type="radio"/> Increased 10% or more	<input type="radio"/> Decreased 5% to 9%
<input type="radio"/> Increased 5% to 9%	<input type="radio"/> Decreased 10% or more
4. Of your total number of regularly participating adults, what percent would you estimate are:

American Indian or Alaska Native	_____ %
Asian	_____ %
Black or African American	_____ %
Hispanic or Latino	_____ %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	_____ %
White	_____ %
Other	_____ %
Total	<u>100%</u>
- 4a. Within these racial/ethnic groups, are there any **significant** national sub-groups (e.g., German, Korean, Irish, Mexican, Caribbean, etc.)?
 - No
 - Yes → Please list them: _____

5. Of your total number of adult participants, how many would you estimate are involved in:

	<u>Almost</u>				<u>Hardly</u>
	<u>All</u>	<u>Most</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Few</u>	<u>Any</u>
a. Recruiting new members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Activities outside of worship that strengthen their faith	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Expressing their faith through helping others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	<u>Almost</u>				<u>Hardly</u>
	<u>All</u>	<u>Most</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Few</u>	<u>Any</u>
6. How many of the high school age children of your adult participants would you estimate are involved in the religious life and activities of your congregation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Of the total number of **regularly participating adults**, what percent would you estimate are:

	<u>None</u>	<u>Hardly</u>					<u>All or</u>
	<u>0%</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Few</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Many</u>	<u>Most</u>	<u>Nearly All</u>
		<u>1-10%</u>	<u>11-20%</u>	<u>21-40%</u>	<u>41-60%</u>	<u>61-80%</u>	<u>81-100%</u>
a. Female	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Not high school graduates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. College graduates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Age 35 or younger	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Over 60 years old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Married	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Life long ELCA members (or former ALC, AELC, or LCA)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. New to your congregation in the last 5 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Living in the immediate area around your church building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Commuting more than 15 minutes to get to your worship services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Currently holding volunteer leadership roles in your congregation, like serving on committees, or teaching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. In households with incomes below \$20,000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. In households with children under age 18	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

VI. FINANCES

We can obtain much of the information we need on the congregation's finances from the congregation's 1999 Annual Report. However, we do not know about the overall financial health of the congregation or about staff salaries and benefits. Both of these questions are key to our research and will help us gain a much better understanding of what is happening with all congregations in the U.S.

1. How would you describe your congregation's financial health currently and 5 years ago (1995)?
 (If the congregation did not exist in 1995, fill out this circle → and go on to question 2.)

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Tight, But Manageable</u>	<u>In Some Difficulty</u>	<u>In Serious Difficulty</u>
a. Currently	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. In 1995	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Approximately how much money did your congregation spend in 1999 on all staff salaries and benefits?
\$ _____
3. During the past 12 months, what methods did your congregation use to encourage financial giving among members?
Indicate all that apply.
- Sermons on stewardship or religiously validated appeals
 - Appeals or testimonies from lay participants during worship services
 - Special fund raisers (fairs, bingo, bake sales, etc)
 - Appeals based on specific, concrete and special needs
 - Distribution of promotional material
 - Canvassing members by phone or in person (e.g., member visitation)
 - Pledge or commitment cards
 - Member dues
 - Teaching that a 10% tithe belongs to God, is due God and should be given to God
 - Teaching that giving a proportion of one's income, not tithing per se, is sufficient

Feel free to comment on any of the above matters.

Thanks for completing the survey. Please return the questionnaire to:
Department for Research and Evaluation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 W Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631.