

LCMS Congregation Survey

The following responses are from a survey conducted by Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM), with the help of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). It was directed to LCMS congregational leaders to get their perspectives on the purpose and scope of their women's ministries. In our survey distribution, we asked that only one survey be completed per congregation. A total of 690 congregations completed this survey.

This survey was distributed using many resources. Lutheran Hour Ministries distributed the surveys via e-newsletters to church workers, LCMS laymen, and volunteers. It was also publicized in LHM's daily devotions as well as in the **Men's NetWork** and **Woman to Woman** blogs. Volunteers from LHM and LWML were also asked to disseminate the survey in their congregations and beyond.

One of the ways LHM has used this survey information was to include an outreach training article in the **Equipping to Share** newsletter. The article was entitled, "Reaching Today's Woman ... Wherever She Is." You can read the article by visiting www.lhm.org/equipping/newsletter.asp?date=20100106#ETS1650.

If you have any questions, please contact Faith Spelbring, manager of United States Ministry Program Research and Development, via e-mail at faith.spelbring@lhm.org, or call her at 1-800-944-3450, ext. 4209.

NOTES:

Numbers: These figures reflect the total number of people who selected a specific answer. If these numbers do not add up to 2300, then some respondents skipped the question.

Percentages: These reflect the total percent of people who answered that question. If individuals skipped the questions, they are not included in the percentage.

Tagged Results: Since no anecdotal answers are shared in this report in order to protect respondent privacy, answers to open-ended questions have been categorized by common topics. Questions in the grey boxes below indicate how often each topic was mentioned in that particular question. Tagged Result percentages will not equal 100% as many answers included multiple topics.

1. How many women's ministry groups do you have in your congregation?

0	28	4%
1	182	28%
2	175	27%
3	126	19%
4 or more	147	22%
Total	658	100%

2. What women's ministries do you already have in your congregation? (Please check all that apply.)

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)	559	84%
Women's Bible study	451	68%
Mom's group	134	20%
We do not have a women's ministry (skip to question #6)	24	4%
Other, please list:	230	35%

3. What is the purpose of your women's ministry?

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Tagged results for question 3: What is the purpose of your women's ministry?

Theme	Number of answers	Percentage
Support Each Other	294	53%
Deepen Faith	312	57%
Service	228	41%
Mission	146	26%
Other	61	11%

4. Who is the target audience for your women's ministry? (Please check all that apply.)

Women in our congregation	625	99%
Christian women who are not members of our church	245	39%
Unchurched women	221	35%

5. Who attends your women's ministry activities? (Please check all that apply.)

Women in our congregation	636	99%
Christian women who are not members of our church	288	45%
Unchurched women	133	21%

6. What percent of women in your congregation are involved in active service to the church (altar guild, Ladies' Aid, LWML, Sunday school teacher, VBS, etc.)?

Less than 25%	249	38%
25-50%	281	43%
50-75%	110	17%
More than 75%	20	3%
Total	660	100%

7. What percent of women in your congregation are involved in spiritually enriching women's activities for personal growth (women's Bible studies, women's retreats, etc.)?

Less than 25%	442	67%
25-50%	179	27%
50-75%	33	5%
More than 75%	7	1%
Total	661	100%

8. Do you see a need for a different kind of women's ministry in your church? Why or why not?

Yes	415	68%
No	197	32%
Total	612	100%

9. To what extent do you agree with these statements?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Our congregation's leaders know the needs of its female members.	53 8%	229 35%	295 45%	69 11%	6 1%
Our congregation's leaders know how to meet the needs of the women in our church.	72 11%	312 48%	220 34%	46 7%	5 1%
Our women's ministry is effective.	39 6%	203 31%	318 49%	77 12%	18 3%
Our women's ministry is an outreach to lost and/or struggling women.	156 24%	290 44%	139 21%	44 7%	27 4%
Young women are interested in joining our women's groups.	177 27%	310 48%	115 18%	26 4%	18 3%
Most of our mothers of young children are involved in our church's activities.	147 22%	300 46%	155 24%	37 6%	17 3%
Older women in our church are recognized as having gifts and given opportunities to use them.	15 2%	81 12%	340 52%	216 33%	5 1%
Our women's ministry groups have a clearly defined purpose for meeting.	43 7%	130 20%	328 50%	130 20%	19 3%
The women in our church do not need a specific ministry.	296 45%	245 38%	57 9%	34 5%	19 3%

10. Is there anything you wish your congregation could offer women that it currently does not?

Yes	460	72%
No, we're all set (skip question #11)	179	28%
Total	639	100%

11. If you answered yes to question #10, what would you like your congregation to offer for women that it currently does not?

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Tagged results for question 11: If you answered yes to question #10, what would you like your congregation to offer for women that it currently does not?

Theme	Number of answers	Percentage
Study	148	34%
Young	127	29%
Moms	140	32%
Outreach	65	15%
Fellowship	53	12%
Singles	36	8%
Working	32	7%
Service	31	7%
Activities	48	11%
LWML	15	3%
Personal Growth	22	5%
Topics	16	4%
Other	72	17%

12. If an LCMS organization offered effective women's ministry tools, how likely is it that you would use them in your congregation?

Not at all	25	4%
Maybe	265	40%
Probably	256	39%
Surely	109	17%
Total	655	100%

13. The purpose of this survey is to investigate whether or not there is a need for additional women's ministry tools to be offered to congregations. Are there other areas of ministry that you would like to see researched and potentially developed to help congregations share the Gospel?

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14. In what Region is your congregation located?

New England (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT)	7	1%
Mid-Atlantic (NY, PA, NJ)	33	5%
East North Central (WI, MI, IL, IN, OH)	174	26%
West North Central (ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO)	167	25%
South Atlantic (DE, MD, DC, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL)	71	11%
East South Central (KY, TN, MS, AL)	12	2%
West South Central (OK, TX, AR, LA)	74	11%
Mountain (ID, MT, WY, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM)	49	7%
Pacific (AK, WA, OR, CA, HI)	72	11%
Total	659	100%

15. What category best fits your congregation's setting?

Urban	169	26%
Rural	182	28%
Suburban	309	47%
Total	660	100%

16. What is your congregation's weekly worship attendance?

Under 50	69	10%
50-100	130	20%
101-200	216	33%
201-500	165	25%
501-1000	61	9%
1001-2000	21	3%
More than 2000	1	0%
Total	663	100%

17. Besides the senior pastor, how many called church workers does your congregation (not including school staff) employ?

None	326	49%
1-2	201	30%
3 or more	135	20%
Total	662	100%

18. Does your church have a school (check all that apply)?

Yes - Daycare center	148	22%
Yes - Preschool	347	52%
Yes - Elementary school	192	29%
Yes - Middle school	122	18%
Yes - High school	24	4%
No, but we used to	89	13%
No, we never have	187	28%

19. Which of the following best describes the individual completing this survey?

Ordained	250	38%
Commissioned (DCE, DCO, deaconess...)	52	8%
Commissioned (teacher)	53	8%
Lay	256	39%
Committee	45	7%
Total	656	100%