

LCMS Women's 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 the women of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) with the goal of discovering what these women's churches are doing to specifically engage females. A total of 2300 women 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. A Facebook advertisement was also used, particularly geared to LCMS women ranging in age from their 20s to 40s.

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. Put the following items in order of priority, where number 1 is the most important to you, etc.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Exercise	23 1%	42 2%	86 5%	161 9%	248 14%	292 16%	303 17%	313 17%	339 19%
Family	688 42%	355 21%	208 13%	267 16%	33 2%	27 2%	17 1%	19 1%	43 3%
Friends	11 1%	184 11%	189 11%	234 14%	450 26%	278 16%	203 12%	132 8%	29 2%
Hobbies	24 1%	42 2%	98 5%	131 7%	164 9%	224 12%	292 16%	393 22%	451 25%
Prayer	449 27%	408 25%	314 19%	175 11%	95 6%	76 5%	71 4%	45 3%	25 2%
Bible reading	145 8%	261 15%	319 19%	275 16%	232 13%	176 10%	130 8%	110 6%	76 4%
Resting	18 1%	83 4%	132 7%	174 9%	212 11%	289 15%	383 20%	348 18%	273 14%
Work	45 2%	220 11%	254 12%	242 12%	289 14%	281 13%	241 12%	229 11%	292 14%
Worship	707 32%	439 20%	361 16%	237 11%	168 8%	72 3%	71 3%	58 3%	80 4%

2. About how much time do you spend on the following activities in a given week?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	1-3 hours	3-5 hours	5-10 hours	10-20 hours	More than 20 hours	N/A
Family	188 8%	243 11%	392 18%	415 19%	957 43%	44 2%
Friends	863 38%	722 32%	436 19%	157 7%	32 1%	32 1%
Commuting	856 38%	345 15%	245 11%	91 4%	24 1%	666 30%
Spiritual life	397 18%	728 33%	687 31%	286 13%	135 6%	3 0%
Personal time/hobbies	799 36%	607 27%	466 21%	219 10%	74 3%	60 3%
Exercising	1042 47%	646 29%	307 14%	55 2%	23 1%	150 7%
Household activities (shopping, cleaning)	256 11%	608 27%	723 32%	459 21%	184 8%	6 0%
Volunteering	832 38%	487 22%	391 18%	197 9%	92 4%	216 10%

3. On average, how many hours of sleep do you get each night?

Less than 4	8	0%
4	18	1%
5	131	6%
6	529	23%
7	915	41%
8	583	26%
9 or more	68	3%
Total	2252	100%

4. How much do you worry about the following things?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	No worries	A little worry	Often worry	Huge stressor
Advancing your career	1628 73%	457 20%	117 5%	32 1%
Physical health	316 14%	1385 62%	447 20%	99 4%
Mental health	1044 47%	921 41%	216 10%	63 3%
Addictions	1977 88%	215 10%	35 2%	15 1%
Children	374 17%	889 40%	732 33%	248 11%
Finances	447 20%	1042 47%	449 20%	299 13%
Politics	742 33%	952 42%	429 19%	122 5%
Caring for your parents	1218 56%	579 27%	265 12%	118 5%
Romantic relationships	1393 64%	549 25%	171 8%	79 4%
The environment	967 44%	1053 48%	168 8%	21 1%
Your purpose in life	986 45%	761 34%	360 16%	99 4%

5. If the things that worry you are not listed in question 4, please list them here:

421 Responses

Tagged results for question 5: If the things that worry you are not listed in question 4, please list them here:

Theme	Number of answers	Percentage
Relationships	140	52%
Work	45	17%
Mission	43	16%
Stress	7	3%
Age	20	7%
Church	45	17%
Country	23	9%
Other	14	5%
Health	52	19%
My Faith	14	5%
Finances	9	3%

6. What or who is the greatest source of encouragement in your life?

2065 Responses

Tagged results for question 6: What or who is the greatest source of encouragement in your life?

Theme	Number of answers	Percentage
Spiritual Life	1234	60%
Family	1147	56%
Friends	489	24%
Other	79	4%

7. Generally speaking, to what extent do you agree or disagree 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
I am happy with my marriage.	58 3%	106 5%	531 24%	1070 48%	483 21%
I think I am a good mother.	16 1%	43 2%	1096 49%	774 34%	319 14%
I lead a balanced life.	69 3%	487 22%	1373 61%	304 14%	4 0%
I am happy with my physical appearance.	202 9%	891 40%	1006 45%	143 6%	1 0%
My mind is at peace most of the time.	81 4%	467 21%	1346 60%	356 16%	1 0%
I like who I am.	42 2%	258 12%	1501 67%	436 19%	0 0%
I know what I need to have a good life.	35 2%	149 7%	1301 58%	735 33%	12 1%
There are very few things I would change about myself.	82 4%	592 26%	1321 59%	236 11%	5 0%
I enjoy life.	30 1%	150 7%	1213 54%	833 37%	2 0%

8. What do you like best about yourself?

1980 Responses

Tagged results for question 8: What do you like best about yourself?

Theme	Number of answers	Percentage
Spiritual	462	23%
Attributes	861	43%
Relationships	442	22%
Work	68	3%
Negative	20	1%
Other	524	26%

9. What would you change about yourself if you could?

1988 Responses

Tagged results for question 9: What would you change about yourself if you could?

Theme	Number of answers	Percentage
Body Image	752	38%
Attributes	428	22%
Circumstance	276	14%
Other	727	37%

10. Do you feel like you are who you are supposed to be? If not, why?

Yes	1776	82%
No	392	18%
Total	2168	100%

11. What specifically do you need to live a happy life?

2074 Responses

Tagged results for question 11: What specifically do you need to live a happy life?

Theme	Number of answers	Percentage
Friends	489	24%
Family	995	48%
God	1318	64%
Topics	619	30%
Other	265	13%

12. Do you feel like the needs you listed in question 11 are being met?

Yes	1531	77%
No	451	23%
Total	1982	100%

13. Do you want anything more out of life than what you already have? If so, what?

Yes	1195	61%
No	777	39%
Total	1972	100%

14. Do the ministries of your congregation meet your spiritual needs?

Yes	1531	72%
No	605	28%
Total	2136	100%

15. Do you believe that your church can provide answers from Scripture for the struggles you face?

Yes	1986	92%
No	174	8%
Total	2160	100%

16. 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.	212 10%	765 35%	1011 46%	161 7%	65 3%
Our congregation's leaders know how to meet the needs of the women in our church.	224 10%	924 42%	865 39%	134 6%	73 3%
Our women's ministry is effective.	192 9%	814 37%	898 41%	163 7%	146 7%
Our women's ministry is an outreach to lost and/or struggling women.	385 17%	1029 47%	526 24%	91 4%	177 8%
Young women are interested in joining our women's groups.	641 29%	1032 47%	327 15%	48 2%	160 7%
Most of our mothers of young children are involved in our church's activities.	430 20%	962 44%	568 26%	67 3%	172 8%
Older women in our church are recognized as having gifts and are given opportunities to use them.	101 5%	338 15%	1304 59%	407 18%	73 3%
Our women's ministry groups have a clearly defined purpose for meeting.	155 7%	494 22%	1111 51%	240 11%	196 9%
The women in our church do not need a specific ministry.	841 39%	948 43%	201 9%	62 3%	132 6%

17. Is there anything you wish your church would offer the women in your congregation that it currently does not?

Yes	1354	64%
No, we're all set (skip question #18)	751	36%
Total	2105	100%

18. If you answered "yes" to question #17, what would you like your congregation to offer for women that it currently does not?

1313 Responses

Tagged results for question 18: If you answered "yes" to question #17, what would you like your congregation to offer for women that it currently does not?

Theme	Number of answers	Percentage
Young	368	29%
Mom	267	21%
LWML	96	7%
Outreach Programing	117	9%
Program Ideas	323	25%
Other	519	40%

19. Have you ever been involved in an effective women's ministry? If so, please use the box provided to tell us about it and what made it so effective.

Yes	1051	51%
No	1019	49%
Total	2070	100%

20. Next to the activities listed below, check the column that pertains to you. If you want to click both 1 and 2 for a specific activity, please click 2.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Have participated	Would be interested	Neither
Book clubs	466 21%	882 40%	869 39%
Common interest groups	675 31%	1139 52%	389 18%
Women's weekend	768 35%	910 41%	531 24%
Group physical activity/team sports	484 22%	661 30%	1054 48%
Online discussion groups	148 7%	572 26%	1471 67%
Personal counseling	406 19%	516 24%	1263 58%
In-person support groups	345 16%	748 34%	1091 50%
Online support groups	85 4%	485 23%	1584 74%
Meditation	381 18%	792 37%	990 46%

21. In what age category do you fit?

Younger than 20	5	0%
20s	107	5%
30s	201	9%
40s	335	15%
50s	591	26%
60s	626	28%
70+	380	17%
Total	2245	100%

22. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

High school diploma	577	26%
Associate's degree	405	18%
Bachelor's degree	580	26%
Some graduate school	288	13%
Master's degree	334	15%
Doctorate	47	2%
Total	2231	100%

23. Check the description below that best describes you:

Full-time student	35	2%
Part-time student	8	0%
Stay-at-home mom	198	9%
Work part time	322	14%
Work full time	726	32%
Own my own business	118	5%
Retired	774	35%
Unemployed	62	3%
Total	2243	100%

24. If you have a job outside of the home, how many hours do you spend working each week?

1-10	124	6%
10-20	159	8%
20-30	177	9%
30-40	274	13%
40-50	417	20%
More than 50	119	6%
NA	794	38%
Total	2064	100%

25. Marital status:

Single, never married	153	7%
Married	1738	78%
Divorced	143	6%
Widowed	208	9%
Total	2242	100%

26. How many children do you have at home?

0	1469	66%
1	278	12%
2	262	12%
3	157	7%
4 or more	70	3%
Total	2236	100%

27. Which of the following best describes you?

African American	19	1%
American Indian	5	0%
Asian	7	0%
Caucasian	2158	97%
Hispanic or Latina	13	1%
Other, please specify:	31	1%
Total	2233	100%