

CONGREGATIONAL PULSE SURVEY

A BIT ABOUT YOU

We appreciate being able to break our pulse surveys down by different groups within your congregation. For example, you might find that Baby Boomers think that a certain ministry is very strong, but that your twenty somethings don't feel the same.

Q.1 Please provide your name: _____

Q.2 To which demographic do you belong?

- 13-17 years old 18-24 years old 25-34 years old
 35-44 years old 45-54 years old 55-64 years old 65+

Q.3 You Are

- male female

Q.4 How long have you been a member of this congregation?

- less than six months between six months and one year
 between one and two years between two and five years
 between five and ten years more than ten years

Q.5 Have you served the church or school as a volunteer leader, on staff, or in some elected or appointed official capacity in the past two years?

- yes no

If you checked "yes" please do page 2. Otherwise skip to page 3.

SERVICE

If you are seeing these questions, it is because on the "about me" page you indicated that you have served in some elected/appointed public capacity in the past two years. Therefore, we would love a bit more insight from you. Thank you!

Q.6 In what position did you serve? _____

Q.7 What type of training did you receive for your position?

- None. I just learned as I went along.
- I received a bit of training.
- I was well trained for my position of service.

Q.8 Did the group on which you served have written plan with goals for the year?

For example, if you served on the church council, did you have an action plan with items to be done each month? If you served on the Board of Elders, did you have a "process" that was followed? (E.g. After four weeks absent, a member would get a "we miss you" phone call.) If you were on the Evangelism Committee, did you have it mapped out what you wanted to accomplish during the year?

- Yes. We had/have a written plan with goals.
- No. We did not have a written plan.

Q.9 When your group met, how efficient were the meetings?

- We talked but never really seemed to accomplish much. Lacking follow-through.
- They were very efficient. Every meeting we would "work the plan" in our efforts to reach our annual goals.
- We got some things done, but at times seemed to get bogged down.
- Other:

PULSE QUESTIONS - MULTIPLE CHOICE

Pick the answer that you feel best answers the question.

Q.10 How do you feel about the fellowship and group life of our congregation?

This question pertains to the "connectedness" of the congregation. A congregation wants her members to grow together as a Christian family to share joys and burdens.

- It is not meeting our needs.
- It is barely passing in meeting our needs.
- It is meeting our needs adequately.
- It is very efficient in meeting our needs.

Q.11 What potential does our congregation have for growth?

Here we are talking about "growing" in the sense of pulling people from our community who need the Gospel into our congregation.

- Poor
- Limited
- Good
- Excellent

Q.12 I find the worship services at our congregation...

Please understand that the message of the Gospel is NEVER dull or routine. But it could be presented in a dull or routine manner. A far-flung example: Weekly worship consisted of simply reading Scripture, in a monotone voice, for 60 minutes. No sermon. No singing. The presentation of the Gospel, because it was dull, might make it more difficult to pay attention to.

- somewhat dull. It touches neither my head nor my heart very deeply.
- routine. It seems somewhat the same message presented the same way every week.
- helpful. It gives me the assurance and strength to face the week.
- inspiring. Worship is one of the highlights of my week.
- Other:

Q.13 How do you feel about our congregation's program of Christian education for children?

- It is not meeting needs.
- It is barely passing in meeting needs.
- It is meeting needs.
- It is very efficient at meeting needs.

Q.14 How do you feel about our congregation's program of spiritual growth for youth?

By youth we mean ages 14 to 22.

- It is not meeting the needs of our youth.
- It is barely passing in meeting the needs of our youth.
- It is meeting the needs of our youth.
- It is very efficient in meeting the needs of our youth.

Q.15 How do you feel about our congregation's program of spiritual growth for adults?

- It is not meeting the needs of our people.
- It is barely passing in meeting the needs of our people.
- It is meeting the needs of our people.
- It is very efficient in meeting the needs of our people.

Q.16 How do you feel about the outreach efforts of our congregation in the community?

By outreach we mean any effort to build bridges into our community (postcards, canvassing, etc.) so that we have opportunities to share the Gospel with them (which is evangelism).

- I do not believe we have any congregational evangelism efforts.
- I believe we do very little evangelism.
- I believe our evangelism efforts are adequate.
- I believe our evangelism efforts are aggressive.

Q.17 Church activities for me are...

- something to avoid. a necessary duty.
 somewhat satisfying. a major source of satisfaction.

Q.18 All in all, do you feel you "fit in" and are part of the church family?

- generally, no at times usually very much so

Q.19 Do you feel that you have a part in the decision-making in our congregation?

- no to a small degree sometimes yes

Q.20 How would you rate your attempts to verbally share your faith with others?

- I don't try doing that. I don't feel comfortable.
 Once or twice a year I might talk about Jesus with someone.
 I try to share my faith regularly, but don't feel very confident.
 I enjoy sharing my faith and look for opportunities to do so.
 Other:

Q.21 I make financial contributions to the church...

- seldom or never. several times a year. fairly often.
 regularly. I give a planned percentage of my income.

Q.22 How would you rate your devotional life (personal Bible reading and prayer)?

- non-existent on-again, off-again most of the time regularly

Q.23 How would you assess our congregation's efforts to offer you training in financial stewardship?

Note that "financial stewardship" is not the same thing as offerings. God calls us not to give a portion of our income to his service, but to use ALL of our income to his glory. Offerings are but one small way we do that.

- I have not received any training in financial stewardship.
- I will hear about financial stewardship from time to time in the sermon. But that is it.
- We have a program (such as a stewardship Sunday) every year to address financial stewardship.
- We have a program to address financial stewardship. In addition, I hear it brought up regularly in sermons.
- Other:

Q.24 If given the opportunity to participate in training for outreach ministry, I would...

- run the other way.
- be cautiously interested.
- be available if asked.
- sign up eagerly.

Q.25 How well do you feel you are using your God-given gifts and talents in the work of our congregation?

- I don't know what my gifts are.
- I would like to use my gifts. No one has asked me to yet.
- I have identified my gifts and am using them.
- Other:

Q.26 If a guest (non member) walks into your church on a Sunday morning, what do you think will happen?

- Other than people saying "good morning" no one will talk to him.
- A few people might greet him.
- He would be welcomed warmly before and after the service.

PULSE QUESTIONS - SWOT ANALYSIS

SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

When we assess strengths and weaknesses, we are talking about things within our congregation. A strength is something within our congregation that is helpful in fulfilling our mission to proclaim the Gospel. A weakness is something within our congregation that hinders that mission. (It could be something that is lacked. Example: "We don't have an evangelism committee.")

When we assess opportunities and threats, we are talking about things outside our church, i.e. things in our community. An opportunity is something happening in your community that may give us more chances to share the Gospel. Example: A new factory is going to be built, bringing 1000 new jobs into your area. A threat is something in your community which may challenge your goal of connecting people to your church, a place where the Word is heard in truth and purity. Example: A mega-church opens next to you.

Q.27 What are some of the strengths of your worship services?

Some examples of answers that might be possible: great Law/Gospel preaching, a wonderful choir, etc.

Q.28 What are some of the weaknesses of your worship services?

Some examples of answers that might be possible: inadequate sound system makes it hard to hear the pastor, lack of liturgical variety, etc.

Q.29 What are some of the strengths of your outreach/evangelism program?

Some examples of possible answers: willing volunteers to canvass, an aggressive worship-visitor follow up strategy, etc.

Q.30 What are some of the weaknesses of your outreach/evangelism program at church and school?

Some examples of possible answers: lack of evangelism training for members, no follow-up on visitors, etc.

Q.31 What are some of the strengths of your discipleship program?

Discipleship includes ANYTHING that pertains to connecting people to the means of grace so that they might grow in grace and godly living. Thus discipleship includes things like Bible study, Elder work, stewardship of finances, stewardship of time, etc. Some examples of possible answers: quick follow up on delinquents, time-and-talent survey of new members taken and used, etc.

Q.32 What are some of the weaknesses of your discipleship program?

Some examples of possible answers: lack of stewardship training, hard to get willing volunteers, etc.

Q.33 What are some of the strengths of your youth ministry?

Youth ministry would include everything from Sunday school to preschool to elementary school to youth group. Some examples of possible answers: high member participation in Sunday school, good number of prospects in preschool, etc.

Q.34 What are some of the weaknesses of your youth ministry?

Some examples of possible answers: no harvest strategy for how to turn preschool prospect families into members, lack of fellowship activities for teens, etc.

Q.35 What are some strengths of your facilities?

Facility can be a huge blessing to ministry. It can also hold it back (for example, if it is too small). Your facility can make a good first impression... or one that isn't so good. Some examples of possible answers: great location in our community, well maintained landscaping, etc.

Q.36 What are some weaknesses of your facilities?

Some examples of possible answers: cluttered, unattractive entry area; not enough space for fellowship; etc.

Q.37 What are some opportunities the Lord has set before your congregation?

Again, these are things that are in your community which might create more opportunities for you to proclaim the Gospel. Some examples of possible answers: there is a need for preschools in your town, the church is in a developing area with lots of new homes going in, etc.

Q.38 What are some threats that are facing your congregation?

These are challenges to ministry that exist within your community. Some examples of possible answers: your community population is declining, "competition" from other churches, etc.

PULSE PURPOSE & PRIORITIES

In this portion of the survey, we ask you about the purpose of your congregation. We also ask you to prioritize various aspects of ministry.

This can be the most challenging portion of the pulse survey. You are forced to pick between goals that are ALL good! You might find two that you think are equally important. Just do your best to arrange them in order. We are simply trying to see if certain goals will rise to the top.

Q.39 Does your church have a mission/purpose statement?

- Yes. No. I'm not sure.

Q.40 Purposes of our congregation

All of these are important aspects of church ministry. We are simply trying to gauge how the congregation views these. So write a "1" what you think is the most important purpose of the congregation. Write a "2" in front of what you think is the second most important purpose, and so on and so forth, until you have ranked them all.

- ___ Outreach to Non-Christians
- ___ Equipping members for work service
- ___ Regaining those who stray from the faith
- ___ Provide a fellowship of mutual love, comfort, and admonition
- ___ Spiritual growth of members through Bible Study
- ___ Nurturing children with God's Word
- ___ To offer God's gifts through Word and Sacrament
- ___ Spiritual care of members through visitation and counseling

Q.41 The pastor's time in ministry

The following are all important pastoral tasks in Gospel ministry. We are simply trying to gauge how the congregation views these. So write a "1" what you think is the most important purpose of the congregation. Write a "2" in front of what you think is the second most important purpose, and so on and so forth, until you have ranked them all.

- _____ Administering the Sacraments
- _____ Teaching children
- _____ Efficient administration and communication of church programs
- _____ Personal (Spiritual) and professional growth through study
- _____ Preaching sermons in truth and purity
- _____ Counseling troubled members
- _____ Planning
- _____ Visiting inactive members
- _____ Teaching and training adults
- _____ Visiting unchurched prospects

PULSE SURVEY - WHAT I BELIEVE

In this final portion of the survey, we want to get a snapshot of the theological beliefs of the church. Please do not be nervous about giving a wrong answer. Growth in knowledge of Scriptural truths is a life-long process. We study the Bible, but because of our sinful nature we sometimes forget what we studied. Therefore, "missing" some of these answers does NOT mean you are not Christian. It simply means you have not yet achieved the perfection you will have in the resurrection on the Last Day. In fact, more often than not what this portion of the survey indicates is a remarkable amount of unanimity of beliefs among members.

Thus, the purpose of this portion of the pulse survey is simply to allow us to identify trends which might suggest areas for future Bible study. Ultimately, the backbone of a healthy church is a laity that is well-grounded in the Scriptures.

Q42. Only those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior will go to heaven.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.43 A child is sinful from the moment it is conceived.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.44 A person can be a healthy Christian even if he/she does not go to church.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.45 God is satisfied if a person lives the best life he or she can.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q. 46 Premarital sex is always a sin.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.47 Homosexual relationships are always sinful.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.48 The best indicator of what is right for you to do or wrong for you to do is your own conscience.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.49 The Bible was written by the Holy Spirit through the prophets and apostles. Therefore, the Bible contains no mistakes or errors.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q. 50 God literally created the world in six 24-hour days.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.51 Although there are many different religions in the world, most of them lead to the same God.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.52. In Baptism the Holy Spirit creates saving faith even in little infants.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.53. In the Lord's Supper the bread and wine are symbols that represent Christ's body and blood to help us remember his sacrifice.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.54 The main purpose of the Bible is to give us rules for right living.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.55 There is only one God, but he exists as three distinct persons.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.56 I can relive my baptism every day; therefore, it has ongoing value.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.57 There is nothing I can do to earn my salvation. God saves me entirely by grace - a free gift.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.58 As part of the Universal Priesthood, lay members have the privilege and responsibility to do privately what pastors do publicly: proclaim the Word, pray for others, assure the repentant that they are forgiven, etc.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q. 59 Abortion is always sinful. The sole exception is when it is done to save the life of the mother.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q60. Just as it is God's will that I hear his word and give him worship and offer up prayers, it is God's will that I share my faith (evangelism) with anyone that I can.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q61. We should allow anyone - member or guest - who wants to attend the Lord's Supper to attend. Ultimately, whether or not someone is prepared to receive the Lord's Supper is only between God and that person. It is not our business.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.62 Christian churches of different denominations (WELS Lutheran, LCMS Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, etc.) could accomplish more good if they would work together in carrying out Gospel ministry.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.63 The Bible teaches that since position of pastor is one of great authority over both men and women, only men should be pastors.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.64 Some of the principles that the Bible teaches are outdated and cannot be applied to modern day life.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.65 The Church is commanded by Jesus Christ to confront members who are living in habitual sin and, if they do not repent, ultimately to excommunicate them (i.e. remove them from membership).

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.66 All people will be raised from the dead on Judgment Day. Their physical bodies and their souls will be reunited.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.67 There are two Biblically justifiable reasons for divorce. The first is when the husband or wife commits adultery. The second is when the husband or wife deserts the marriage.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Q.68 At the end of the world there will be a time of terrible evil. True believers will disappear in a rapture to be with Jesus. Jesus will then establish a thousand-year reign on earth.

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree