

CONGREGATIONAL DATA
"WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE ELCA IN THIS PLACE?"

INTRODUCTION:

The ELCA in Santa Clara County is presently composed of 25 organized congregations, one mission congregation under development, and a variety of special ministries. The 25 organized congregations are, by geographic area:

1. First, Palo Alto
2. University, Palo Alto
3. Grace, Palo Alto
4. Los Altos, Los Altos
5. Immanuel, Los Altos
6. St. Luke, Sunnyvale
7. St. John, Sunnyvale
8. Redeemer, Cupertino
9. Bethel, Cupertino
10. Hope, Santa Clara
11. Our Savior's, Santa Clara
12. Prince of Peace, Saratoga
13. Immanuel, Saratoga
14. Faith, Los Gatos
15. Zion, San Jose
16. Immanuel, San Jose
17. Holy Redeemer, San Jose
18. Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose
19. St. Timothy, San Jose
20. St. Andrew, San Jose
21. Grace, San Jose
22. Community, San Jose
23. Gloria Dei, San Jose
24. Reformation, Milpitas
25. Advent, Morgan Hill

The mission congregation under development is the Taiwanese Lutheran Mission at Immanuel, San Jose.

Special organized ministries include Correctional Institution Chaplaincies, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, Sunny View Lutheran Home, and Turning Point Women's Center.

METHODOLOGY:

To gather the required data to answer the question, "What is the nature of the ELCA in this place?" each congregation was requested to complete four data forms. These forms were distributed and discussed at a Santa Clara Valley Conference event at Immanuel Lutheran Church of San Jose, Sunday afternoon, October 1, 1990. Congregations not represented at that event were sent the forms by mail and/or were visited by one of the members of the team to explain what was needed and solicit the cooperation of the congregation.

Form #1 requested information about the age and gender makeup of the congregation. The front side of the form asked for a listing of males and females by 5-year age increments. The reverse side of the form requested that a congregational Age-Sex Pyramid be constructed.

Form #2 was a map of the Santa Clara County area. Congregations were requested to use a colored marker to indicate the approximate outer geographic boundaries of the area in which their members resided.

Form #3 requested the congregation's membership statistics over the past 30 years and a breakdown of membership statistics by Zip Code. Membership categories included baptized, confirmed, and communing members.

Form #4 sought answers to three questions:

- 1) household makeup by two-parent families, one-parent families, couples with no children, singles living together, or singles living alone;
- 2) special Ministries/Activities/Programs/Commitments, including special Lutheran ministries, such as Sunny View Lutheran Home, Turning Point, etc., in which the congregation was involved:
 - a) at the present time,
 - b) over the past 10 years, and
 - c) anticipated for the next 5 to 10 years; and
- 3) special community or human needs within the boundaries of the congregation for the same three time periods requested in the previous question.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

1. Age and Gender

- a. There was a considerable variation among the congregations reporting.
- b. The composite ELCA Age/Sex Pyramid for the county shows a rather even distribution of members from age 5 to 75, except for a decrease of both males and females in the 11-26 age range.
- c. Santa Clara County data compared to data published in *THE LUTHERAN* of February 14, 1990 shows:
 - 1) that the ELCA in Santa Clara County has a lower percentage of elderly, age 75 years and above, than does either the ELCA churchwide or the U.S. as a whole;
 - 2) that the ELCA in Santa Clara County has a higher percentage of people 40-54 years of age than does either the ELCA churchwide or the U.S. as a whole; and
 - 3) that among the congregations of the ELCA in Santa Clara County males and females are more equally distributed than they are in the ELCA churchwide.

2. Geographic Boundaries

- a. The boundaries of most congregations are not well defined and are very difficult to map.
- b. There is an uneven geographic distribution of ELCA congregations in Santa Clara County.

3. Thirty-year Membership Trends

- a. The 25 ELCA congregations in Santa Clara County were founded over a period of 90 years, from 1884 to 1973.
- b. Membership in ELCA congregations in Santa Clara County reflects the county's population changes of the past 30 years:
 - 1) the highest average congregational membership occurred from the mid-60s to the mid-70s;
 - 2) baptized membership in the average ELCA congregation in Santa Clara County is now approximately half of what it was when it was at its peak;
 - 3) the numbers of confirmed/communing members in ELCA congregations in the county have dropped somewhat over the years, but have tended to plateau during the past 10 years; and
 - 4) a few congregations have shown an increase in membership in recent years.

4. Household Makeup

- a. There was considerable variation among the 22 congregations reporting.
- b. The traditional nuclear family, consisting of two parents and their children, does not make up the majority of households in the ELCA congregations in Santa Clara County.

5. Activities aimed at meeting community needs

- a. There was a wide range of involvement in social ministry activities reported by all congregations.
- b. Many congregational facilities are used by a variety of 12-step programs, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and support groups of many different types.
- c. Worship space is made available to many other denominations, especially various Asian groups.

6. Special community and human needs identified

- a. Affordable and available housing
- b. Changing neighborhoods with increased minority populations
- c. The challenge of how to present effectively the gospel in this time and place.

DETAILED FINDINGS:

The forms were completed with a considerable variation in quality and attention to detail. Three congregations sent in copies of work done previously for other purposes, making it very difficult or impossible to combine their information with that requested on the data forms.

1. Age and Gender Statistics

A composite Age/Sex Pyramid was constructed. It shows a fairly even distribution from age 5 to age 75. There is, however, a noticeable decrease in the numbers of both males and females in the 11-26 year age range.

In *THE LUTHERAN*, dated February 14, 1990, the ELCA Office for Research, Planning, and Evaluation published a graph comparing ELCA ages to the general population of the United States. They compared ages 11 through 75+. Children through age 10 were not included.

As one part of our Santa Clara Valley study, a bar graph was constructed to compare the Santa Clara County ELCA population with the statistics reported in *THE LUTHERAN* article. The results show that at ages 75 and above the ELCA churchwide has about 6% more elderly than Santa Clara County ELCA members and the U.S. as a whole. In the categories 65-75 years of age and 55-64, Santa Clara County ELCA members and the ELCA churchwide numbers are about equal and, at the same time, higher than in the U.S. as a whole. Santa Clara County Lutherans in the 40-54 year category are more numerous than in the ELCA churchwide or the U.S. as a whole. From ages 24-39, ELCA members in Santa Clara County and in the ELCA churchwide are less numerous than in the U.S. as a whole.

Kenneth Inskeep, Research Associate in the ELCA Office for Research, Planning, and Evaluation, reported in a telephone conversation during our study that the ELCA churchwide membership consists of 62% females and 38% males. Santa Clara County ELCA membership statistics, on the other hand, reveal 55% females and 45% males.

Summation: Although there is considerable variation among congregations, generally speaking the ELCA in Santa Clara County has fewer teenagers, young adults, baby boomers, and elderly and more middle-aged folks and males among its membership than is the norm across the church or in the U.S. as a whole.

Conclusion: As it designs its program, every congregation needs to be aware of its constituency.

2. Geographic Boundaries

Of all the parts of our study, the determination of the geographic boundaries of the existing ELCA congregations in the county was, perhaps, the most difficult of all. The study showed that the existing boundaries of most congregations are not well defined and are, therefore, extremely difficult to map.

The study also showed that there is an uneven distribution geographically of ELCA congregations in the county. This is probably the result of the fact that many congregations were "planted" by their parent church bodies prior to the days of mission strategy cooperation among predecessor church bodies. The result is that many congregations overlap the territory which they serve with one or several other congregations and there is, therefore, a duplication of services provided for a given area.

Summation: Present congregational boundaries are practically non-existent, with several congregations overlapping one another in the areas they serve, leaving other areas without an ELCA presence.

Conclusion: Congregations located in areas served by more than one ELCA congregation are encouraged to examine, with the help of synod staff and the Division for Outreach of the ELCA, their own viability with an eye to either:

- a) strengthening their existing ministry and program;
- b) cooperating with one or more neighboring congregations;
- c) merging with another congregation;
- d) relocating to an area not presently served by an ELCA congregation; or
- e) disbanding.

3. Thirty-year Membership Trends

Thirty-year membership trend information reflects population changes over the past 30 years in Santa Clara County. Membership in congregations now included in the ELCA was at its highest level in the mid 1960s to the mid 1970s. There has been a considerable drop in baptized membership from then until the present. Numbers of confirmed and communing members have dropped somewhat also, but have tended to plateau during the past 10 years. Some congregations in the county have experienced an increase in membership in recent years. As a part of our study, a computer-generated graph showing an average of the congregations' membership over the past 30 years was prepared and is a part of Appendix #3 of this report.

Summation: There has been a noticeable drop in membership in ELCA congregations in Santa Clara County over the past 30 years.

Conclusion: Unless there is a reversal of the 30-year trend, some present congregations will not be here by the year 2000. Concerted action, therefore, will need to be taken to preclude some congregations from dying.

4. Household Makeup

Santa Clara County ELCA data showed a considerable amount of variation in the makeup of households among the 22 congregations that reported. For example, the membership of newer congregations in growing areas is made up of a larger percentage of two-parent households than is that of many older congregations.

Summation: The traditional nuclear family is not present in large numbers in existing ELCA congregations in this county.

Conclusion: Programming in ELCA congregations in Santa Clara County needs to be cognizant of the existence of non-traditional families.

5. Activities aimed at meeting community needs

ELCA congregations of Santa Clara County are involved in a wide range of activities in an effort to meet the needs of those in the community. Many are involved with programs for the homeless. Involvement includes financial support, serving as volunteers at the San Jose Family Shelter, serving meals at the Julian Street Inn, and opening church facilities for overnight use. Many congregations also support hunger programs, both locally and churchwide.

Most congregations also reported opening their facilities for use by various 12-step programs, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and support groups of many different types. Several congregations provide space for other denominations to worship, especially various Asian groups. One congregation provides space for an Adult Day Care Center, and others offer preschool. Two operate grade schools. Several congregations support Sunny View Lutheran Home and Turning Point in various ways.

Prison ministry for incarcerated adults and youth is a concern of several congregations. Other programs include ministry to the hearing impaired, blood donor drives, youth ministry, seniors' ministry, and various health programs, including support for those with AIDS.

Some congregations reported that their facilities are in need of capital improvements at this point in their lives. This is an additional budgetary concern.

Several congregations reported that their involvement in the community has increased considerably during the past 10 years. These efforts may not have resulted in an increased membership. Nevertheless, ELCA congregations in Santa Clara County are striving to meet the needs of people in the community.

Summation: There is a great deal of energy and resources available in ELCA congregations in Santa Clara County for meeting human need.

Conclusion: Congregations need to be encouraged and supported in their increased efforts to meet human need.

6. Special community and human needs identified

The final question, requesting congregations to identify special community and human needs, brought a variety of responses.

A major concern of everyone in the area is that of increased housing costs and other high costs of living. Many young families are forced to move out of the area. A limited amount of new housing is being constructed, except in the southern portion of the county. Most families require two incomes. Stress and a fast pace of life are problems faced by all.

There has been an increase in minority populations, with an increase in the variety of cultures living in the area. One congregation mentioned that this is a time of transition, a new era; the founding Swedish families are no longer the backbone of the congregation. New people, often without a history of Lutheranism, are coming into the congregation, and many traditional customs are being challenged.

Drug abuse and other kinds of abuse are a concern for some congregations. Several offer support groups.

Many people are unchurched in Santa Clara County and do not know what the church has to offer. At the same time, members of the ELCA in the county struggle with the question of how to share most effectively the Good News of God in Jesus Christ in word and deed in this place.

Summation: The lack of affordable housing and an increase in minority populations constitute the biggest challenges facing ELCA congregations in Santa Clara County.

Conclusion: Congregations need to take seriously the changing demographics of their neighborhoods.

MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDANCE, CURRENT EXPENSE & BENEVOLENCE DATA:
 According to the 1990 Yearbook of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the total baptized membership of the ELCA congregations in Santa Clara County, as of December 31, 1988, was 11,775. This represents less than 1% of the population of the county. It does, however, represent 14% of the membership of the Sierra Pacific Synod, even though only 11% of the congregations of the synod are located in the county.

The same yearbook shows that the average baptized membership of the 25 ELCA congregations in the county, as of December 31, 1988, was 471, compared to 383 for the synod and 447 for all of the ELCA congregations in Region 2. The average worship attendance was 160, compared to 136 for the synod. The average current expense outlay was \$157,056. And the average benevolence contribution was \$30,645.

The median baptized membership of the 25 ELCA congregations in the county in 1988 was 377, the median attendance 123, the median percentage of attendance to baptized membership 37%, the median current expense outlay \$108,965, the median ratio of current expenses to baptized membership \$307, the median ratio of current expenses to average attendance \$932, the median benevolence contribution \$27,570, and the median percentage of benevolence as a percentage of total regular income 14%.

A breakdown of membership, attendance, current expense and benevolence data by congregations follows:

Baptized Membership

88 - University, Palo Alto ✓
 121 - Holy Redeemer, San Jose
 134 - Redeemer, Cupertino
 134 - Community San Jose
 215 - St. Andrew, San Jose
 233 - First, Palo Alto ✓
 237 - Reformation, Milpitas ✓
 249 - St. John, Sunnyvale
 262 - Zion, San Jose
 323 - Faith, Los Gatos
 326 - Grace, San Jose
 377 - Immanuel, Los Altos
 377 - Gloria Dei, San Jose
 427 - St. Luke, Sunnyvale
 454 - Immanuel, San Jose
 459 - Los Altos, Los Altos
 482 - Our Savior's, Santa Clara
 504 - Advent, Morgan Hill
 543 - Prince of Peace, Saratoga
 569 - Hope, Santa Clara
 708 - Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose
 956 - St. Timothy, San Jose
 968 - Immanuel, Saratoga
 978 - Grace, Palo Alto ✓
 1,651 - Bethel, Cupertino

Baptized Membership Summary

Of the 25 ELCA congregations in the county:

- 4 congregations have less than 200 baptized members
- 5 congregations have between 200 and 299 baptized members
- 4 congregations have between 300 and 399 baptized members
- 4 congregations have between 400 and 499 baptized members
- 3 congregations have between 500 and 599 baptized members
- 5 congregations have more than 600 baptized members.

Average Attendance

- 58 - Redeemer, Cupertino
- 61 - Zion, San Jose
- 63 - University, Palo Alto
- 65 - Community, San Jose
- 67 - Holy Redeemer, San Jose
- 75 - Our Savior's, Santa Clara
- 78 - Reformation, Milpitas
- 90 - St. Andrew, San Jose
- 101 - St. John, Sunnyvale
- 112 - Faith, Los Gatos
- 117 - First, Palo Alto
- 122 - St. Luke, Sunnyvale
- 123 - Grace, San Jose
- 130 - Immanuel, San Jose
- 165 - Hope, Santa Clara
- 181 - Gloria Dei, San Jose
- 181 - Advent, Morgan Hill
- 185 - Immanuel, Los Altos
- 206 - Los Altos, Los Altos
- 210 - Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose
- 220 - Prince of Peace, Saratoga
- 266 - Grace, Palo Alto
- 357 - Immanuel, Saratoga
- 358 - St. Timothy, San Jose
- 405 - Bethel, Cupertino

Average Attendance Summary

Of the 25 ELCA congregations in the county:

- 8 congregations average less than 100 people in attendance
- 6 congregations average between 100 and 149 in attendance
- 4 congregations average between 150 and 199 in attendance
- 4 congregations average between 200 and 299 in attendance
- 3 congregations average more than 300 people in attendance.

Percentage of average attendance to baptized membership

- 16% - Our Savior's, Santa Clara
- 23% - Zion, San Jose
- 25% - Bethel, Cupertino
- 27% - Grace, Palo Alto
- 29% - St. Luke, Sunnyvale
- 29% - Hope, Santa Clara
- 29% - Immanuel, San Jose
- 30% - Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose
- 33% - Reformation, Milpitas
- 35% - Faith, Los Gatos
- 36% - Advent, Morgan Hill

37% - Immanuel, Saratoga
 37% - St. Timothy, San Jose
 38% - Grace, San Jose
 41% - St. John, Sunnyvale
 41% - Prince of Peace, Saratoga
 42% - St. Andrew, San Jose
 43% - Redeemer, Cupertino
 45% - Los Altos, Los Altos
 48% - Gloria Dei, San Jose
 49% - Immanuel, Los Altos
 49% - Community, San Jose
 50% - First, Palo Alto
 55% - Holy Redeemer, San Jose
 72% - University, Palo Alto

Average attendance to baptized membership summary

Of the 25 ELCA congregations in the county:

1 averages less than 20% of its baptized members attending
 6 average between 20% and 29% in attendance
 7 average between 30% and 39% in attendance
 8 average between 40% and 49% in attendance
 3 average 50% or more of their baptized members attending

Current Expenses

\$ 41,075 - Community, San Jose
 \$ 49,894 - Zion, San Jose
 \$ 57,221 - Redeemer, Cupertino
 \$ 69,256 - Reformation, Milpitas
 \$ 69,655 - St. Andrew, San Jose
 \$ 72,001 - University, Palo Alto
 \$ 72,875 - St. John, Sunnyvale
 \$ 81,694 - Grace, San Jose
 \$ 84,084 - Our Savior's, Santa Clara
 \$ 84,411 - Holy Redeemer, San Jose
 \$106,613 - Faith, Los Gatos
 \$108,072 - Advent, Morgan Hill
 \$108,965 - First, Palo Alto
 \$127,912 - Immanuel, San Jose
 \$137,984 - Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose
 \$142,977 - Hope, Santa Clara
 \$193,530 - St. Luke, Sunnyvale
 \$205,144 - Prince of Peace, Saratoga
 \$206,277 - Los Altos, Los Altos
 \$207,582 - Immanuel, Los Altos
 \$210,768 - Gloria Dei, San Jose
 \$250,572 - Grace, Palo Alto
 \$254,803 - St. Timothy, San Jose
 \$275,000 - Immanuel, Saratoga
 \$592,097 - Bethel, Cupertino

Current Expense Summary

Of the 25 ELCA congregations in the county:

10 congregations have less than \$100,000 in current expenses
 7 congregations have between \$100,000 and \$199,999
 7 congregations have between \$200,000 and \$299,999
 1 congregation has over \$300,000 in current expenses

Ratio of Current Expenses to Baptized Membership

\$174 per baptized member - Our Savior's, Santa Clara
 \$190 per baptized member - Zion, San Jose
 \$195 per baptized member - Christ Good Shepherd, San Jose
 \$214 per baptized member - Advent, Morgan Hill
 \$251 per baptized member - Grace, San Jose
 \$251 per baptized member - Hope, Santa Clara
 \$256 per baptized member - Grace, Palo Alto
 \$267 per baptized member - St. Timothy, San Jose
 \$282 per baptized member - Immanuel, San Jose
 \$284 per baptized member - Immanuel, Saratoga
 \$292 per baptized member - Reformation, Milpitas
 \$292 per baptized member - St. John, Sunnyvale
 \$307 per baptized member - Community, San Jose
 \$324 per baptized member - St. Andrew, San Jose
 \$330 per baptized member - Faith, Los Gatos
 \$359 per baptized member - Bethel, Cupertino
 \$378 per baptized member - Prince of Peace, Saratoga
 \$427 per baptized member - Redeemer, Cupertino
 \$449 per baptized member - Los Altos, Los Altos
 \$453 per baptized member - St. Luke, Sunnyvale
 \$468 per baptized member - First, Palo Alto
 \$551 per baptized member - Immanuel, Los Altos
 \$559 per baptized member - Gloria Dei, San Jose
 \$698 per baptized member - Holy Redeemer, San Jose
 \$818 per baptized member - University, Palo Alto

Ratio of Current Expenses to Baptized Membership Summary

Of the 25 ELCA congregations in the county:

3 congregations spend less than \$200 per baptized member
 9 congregations spend between \$200 and \$299
 5 congregations spend between \$300 and \$399
 4 congregations spend between \$400 and \$499
 4 congregations spend more than \$500 per baptized member

Ratio of Current Expenses to Average Attendance

\$ 597 per attendee - Advent, Morgan Hill
 \$ 632 per attendee - Community, San Jose
 \$ 657 per attendee - Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose
 \$ 664 per attendee - Grace, San Jose
 \$ 712 per attendee - St. Timothy, San Jose
 \$ 721 per attendee - St. John, Sunnyvale
 \$ 770 per attendee - Immanuel, Saratoga
 \$ 774 per attendee - St. Andrew, San Jose
 \$ 818 per attendee - Zion, San Jose
 \$ 867 per attendee - Hope, Santa Clara
 \$ 888 per attendee - Reformation, Milpitas
 \$ 931 per attendee - First, Palo Alto
 \$ 932 per attendee - Prince of Peace, Saratoga
 \$ 942 per attendee - Grace, Palo Alto
 \$ 952 per attendee - First, Los Gatos
 \$ 984 per attendee - Immanuel, San Jose
 \$ 987 per attendee - Redeemer, Cupertino
 \$ 1,001 per attendee - Los Altos, Los Altos
 \$ 1,121 per attendee - Our Savior's, Santa Clara
 \$ 1,122 per attendee - Immanuel, Los Altos

\$ 1,143 per attendee - University, Palo Alto
 \$ 1,164 per attendee - Gloria Dei, San Jose
 \$ 1,260 per attendee - Holy Redeemer, San Jose
 \$ 1,461 per attendee - Bethel, Cupertino
 \$ 1,586 per attendee - St. Luke, Sunnyvale

Ratio of Current Expenses to Average Attendance Summary

Of the 25 ELCA congregations in the county:

4 congregations spend less than \$700 per worship attendee
 4 congregations spend between \$700 and \$799
 3 congregations spend between \$800 and \$899
 6 congregations spend between \$900 and \$999
 1 congregation spends between \$1,000 and \$1,099
 4 congregations spend between \$1,100 and \$1,199
 3 congregations spend more than \$1,200 per worship attendee

Benevolence Contributions

\$ 0 - Community, San Jose
 \$ 5,212 - Redeemer, Cupertino
 \$ 6,766 - Holy Redeemer, San Jose
 \$ 7,656 - Zion, San Jose
 \$ 8,899 - Grace, San Jose
 \$ 8,960 - St. Andrew, San Jose
 \$ 11,684 - St. John, Sunnyvale
 \$ 12,135 - Gloria Dei, San Jose
 \$ 12,197 - Our Savior's, Santa Clara
 \$ 14,996 - Immanuel, San Jose
 \$ 20,107 - Reformation, Milpitas
 \$ 21,331 - St. Luke, Sunnyvale
 \$ 27,570 - Hope, Santa Clara
 \$ 27,631 - Faith, Los Gatos
 \$ 29,745 - Immanuel, Los Altos
 \$ 30,953 - Advent, Morgan Hill
 \$ 35,384 - University, Palo Alto
 \$ 36,272 - Prince of Peace, Saratoga
 \$ 37,432 - First, Palo Alto
 \$ 39,697 - Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose
 \$ 47,351 - St. Timothy, San Jose
 \$ 52,530 - Bethel, Cupertino
 \$ 54,997 - Los Altos, Los Altos
 \$ 67,966 - Grace, Palo Alto
 \$118,000 - Immanuel, Saratoga

Benevolence Contributions Summary

Of the 25 ELCA congregations in the county:

6 congregations give less than \$10,000 to benevolence
 4 congregations give between \$10,000 and \$19,999
 5 congregations give between \$20,000 and \$29,999
 5 congregations give between \$30,000 and \$39,999
 5 congregations give more than \$40,000 to benevolence

Benevolence as a percentage of total regular income

0% - Community, San Jose
 5% - Gloria Dei, San Jose
 7% - Holy Redeemer, San Jose
 8% - Redeemer, Cupertino

8% - Bethel, Cupertino
 10% - St. Luke, Sunnyvale
 10% - Immanuel, San Jose
 10% - Grace, San Jose
 11% - St. Andrew, San Jose
 13% - Immanuel, Los Altos
 13% - Our Savior's, Santa Clara
 13% - Zion, San Jose
 14% - St. John, Sunnyvale
 15% - Prince of Peace, Saratoga
 16% - Hope, Santa Clara
 16% - St. Timothy, San Jose
 21% - Grace, Palo Alto
 21% - Los Altos, Los Altos
 21% - Faith, Los Gatos
 22% - Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose
 22% - Advent, Morgan Hill
 23% - Reformation, Milpitas
 26% - First, Palo Alto
 30% - Immanuel, Saratoga
 33% - University, Palo Alto

Benevolence as a percentage of total regular income summary

Of the 25 ELCA congregations in the county:

5 give less than 10% of their regular income to benevolence
 8 give between 10% and 14%
 3 give between 15% and 19%
 6 give between 20% and 25%
 3 give more than 25% of their regular income to benevolence

Summations

1. There is no correlation between the size of an ELCA congregation in Santa Clara County and its average attendance. Both small and large congregations have a high % of attendance; both small and large congregations have a low % of attendance.
2. There is no correlation between the size of an ELCA congregation in Santa Clara County and its ratio of current expenses to its baptized membership. Both small and large congregations have a high ratio of current expenses to baptized membership; both small and large congregations have a low ratio of current expenses to baptized membership.
3. There is no correlation between the size of an ELCA congregation in Santa Clara County and its ratio of current expenses to its average attendance. Both small and large congregations have a high ratio of current expenses to average attendance; both small and large congregations have a low ratio of current expenses to average attendance.
4. There is no correlation between the size of an ELCA congregation in Santa Clara County and the percentage of its income it gives to benevolence. Both small and

large congregations give a high percentage of their income to benevolence; both small & large congregations give a low percentage of their income to benevolence.

Conclusion

A congregation's viability is not determined by its size. Instead, there are a number of intangibles at work:

- 1) the spirit that is present in a congregation;
- 2) the level of commitment of a congregation's members;
- 3) the quality of leadership a congregation has; and
- 4) the sense of mission or of purpose that a congregation has.

Each congregation is, therefore, encouraged to examine itself in regard to its effective use of the resources that it has and, with the help of synod staff, to chart its future course in cooperation with the other congregations of the parish.