

U.S. Congregational Life Survey Report Part 3: The Strengths Report

This multi-page report rated us on the 10 strengths of congregations, shown to be the strengths of congregations that are vital, exciting, engaging, and growing. In order to consider it a strength, though, a church would have to score in the 80th percentile. We did not score that high on any of them!

But what this report provided us was details about what the strength means, and then compared our scores with the national average, and the average for all ELCA congregations.

The strengths, and our scores, are:

	Strength 1: Growing Spiritually	
Our Congregation 45%	Average for mid-size churches 46%	Average for ELCA 41%
	Strength 2: Meaningful Worship	
Our Congregation 60%	Average for mid-size churches 60%	Average for ELCA 57%
	Strength 3: Participating in the Congregation	
Our Congregation 58%	Average for mid-size churches 59%	Average for ELCA 54%
	Strength 4: Having a Sense of Belonging	
Our Congregation 28%	Average for mid-size churches 36%	Average for ELCA 29%
	Strength 5: Caring for Young People	
Our Congregation 59%	Average for mid-size churches 55%	Average for ELCA 52%
	Strength 6: Focusing on the Community	
Our Congregation 37%	Average for mid-size churches 35%	Average for ELCA 36%
	Strength 7: Sharing Faith	
Our Congregation 20%	Average for mid-size churches 30%	Average for ELCA 20%
	Strength 8: Welcoming New Worshipers	
Our Congregation 10%	Average for mid-size churches 33%	Average for ELCA 24%
	Strength 9: Empowering Leadership	
Our Congregation 40%	Average for mid-size churches 47%	Average for ELCA 43%
	Strength 10: Looking to the Future	
Our Congregation 29%	Average for mid-size churches 42%	Average for ELCA 33%

So, we fall short of any strengths, and fall lower than averages on many. The Long-Range Planning Committee has taken this report, and all of the materials we have been given, and will start to look at ways to improve our congregation. Ideally, our dream for this congregation is: Should we take this survey again in 5 years, could we claim all 10 of these as strengths of our congregation? What can we grow to make this place the thriving heart of Benson, and reach out with Christ!?