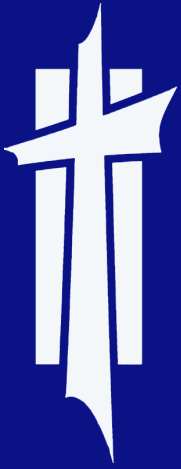




Data Analysis Of Church Survey

Lutheran Church of the Cross

May 2022

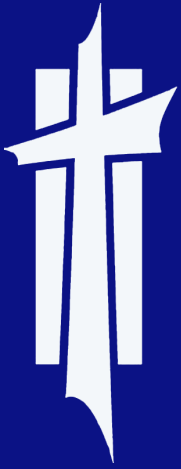


Overview

We conducted a Barna Survey and this document is a review of the results. In the Barna survey we scored as a Flourishing Church with many scores very close to a Highly Flourishing Church. This indicates that we are a church with a strong faith and poised to experience Spiritual Growth.

FLOURISHING

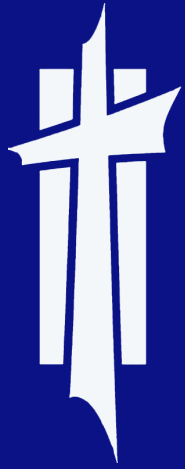
Those who score as **Flourishing** have been found to rank consistently positive across all dimensions of their personal assessment. An especially significant takeaway from this is that their faith is strong. As a matter of fact, research shows that individuals whose lives are grounded in vibrant faith—and who maintain connection to an active church community—are more likely to flourish in the assessment's remaining four dimensions: relationships, vocation, finances and health. Although none of us is ever finished growing spiritually, it is good to see how God's blessing flows into all aspects of our life when we put Him first.



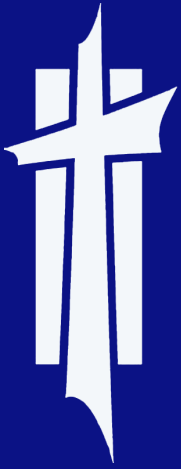
Barna Study

The main survey breaks down into two major sections, each with sub categories of measurement against national metrics.

- **Flourishing People:** Looking at people's state in five different areas, Faith, Relationships, Finances, Vocation and Health
- **Thriving Churches:** Taking an assessment of a church's ability to thrive in 11 different measures. Trusted Leaders, Bible Centered, Spiritual Formation, Prayer Culture, Worship Experience, Connected Community, Social Impact, Leadership Development, Holistic Stewardship, Serving Others and Faith Sharing

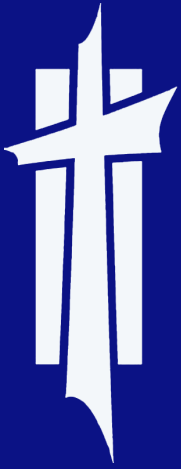


Overall Insights



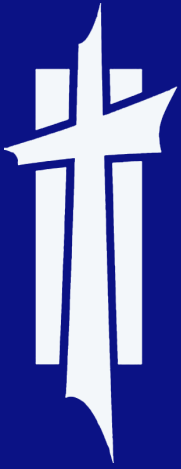
Insights

- Overall we scored very well as a church and in our programs.
- The area in which we are looking at is with the top twenty percent of all churches and we fall into the mid to higher portion of this group
- So we will look at what this survey tells us we can improve on, but know that while we will focus on what needs to improve, these areas are still better than 80% to 90% of churches.
- The initial insights offer us some real clear challenges and opportunities to make this ministry better and more impactful



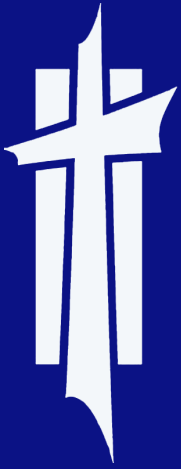
Topline Challenges

- **Trust in Leadership:** This, as you dig deeper into the background supplied by Barna, shows that this is not the Pastors but the staff and lay leadership in focus. We see that our leaders are not well informed and this can lead to an impression that our leaders aren't leading.
- **Purpose and Connection:** We have an older membership that is in a transitional point in their lives, where they may have finished a successful career and now find themselves of not having a purpose or not feeling they are really connected with the church or other members



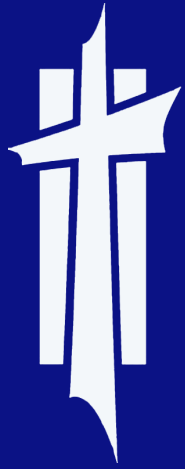
Topline Challenges

- **Relationships:** The respondents tell us that they find it hard to connect with others here at the church. While we offer several small group opportunities we also mostly promote larger all congregation events. This also may be a hold over sentiment from COVID era.
- **Spiritual Growth** While the survey tells us we have a strong Bible Study program, members feel that they don't receive a strong map for spiritual growth and discipleship.
- **Prayer Culture:** Respondents told us that they don't feel they are given the right amount of teaching and tools to build a strong prayer culture in their lives.

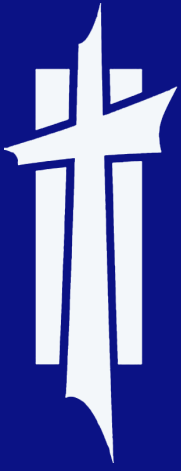


Topline Challenges

- **Raising up Leaders:** The respondents point out that we as a church do not provide a good structure to build leaders within the congregation. This is understood to mean actually that. We don't do a lot to train both spiritually and tactically for people who work as volunteers in leadership positions. This was our lowest score and is our most impactful challenge.

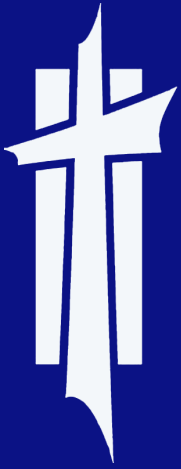


Flourishing People



Initial Insights Flourishing People

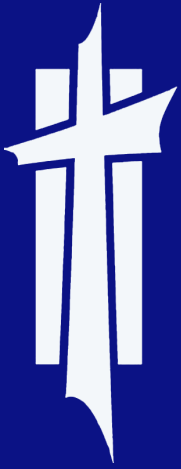
- We are located in a higher income and higher wealth community which is represented with a strong confidence in personal finance.
- Our lowest score in the people side of the survey was in our ability to build and maintain relationships
- We were slightly under high flourishing metrics on Faith and Health but these were strong scores overall.
- The respondents were strongly from our Laguna Woods Campus and the results definitely reflected this mindset.



Flourishing People

These metrics show where our church falls in the larger spectrum nationally. On the first look we seem to have fairly good scores, but not great scores.

Area	Score	High Flourishing	Difference
Health	82	84	-2
Faith	93	96	-3
Finance	88	77	11
Vocation	83	88	-5
Relationship	82	90	-8



Health

Observations:

1. **Physical Health:** This is an indication of the age of our membership which is a very good sign that we had such a majority in average or excellent health.
2. **Mental Health:** Again this may be indicative of an older more stable membership, not struggling with same issues as younger people

In general, how would you rate your **physical health?**

8 out of 10

Excellent 39%

Average 50%

Poor 11%

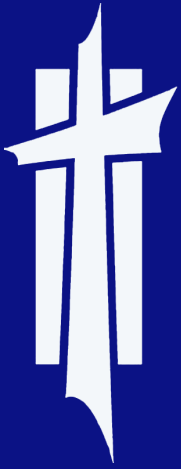
How would you rate your overall **mental health.**

9 out of 10

Excellent 65%

Average 31%

Poor 4%



Faith

Observations:

1. **Desire Jesus in Life:** we show to be a church that has a strong Jesus culture
2. **Believes Bible as Authority:** Again a strong signal that our focus on Bible Study shows a strong Belief in God's word as final authority

I desire **Jesus to be first in my life.**

9 out of 10

Agree 81%

Somewhat 18%

Disagree 2%

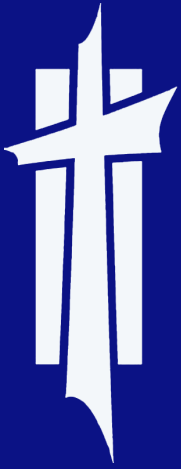
I believe the **Bible has authority over what I say and do.**

9 out of 10

Agree 81%

Somewhat 15%

Disagree 3%



Finances

Observations:

We are 11 Points higher than the national average on this metric.

1. **I worry about monthly expenses:** We seem to have a strong level of confidence in personal finance and being able to meet monthly expenses.
2. **I worry about safety, food and housing:** We have a strong level of stability in feelings of safety, food and housing in respondents.

How often do you worry about being able to meet normal monthly living expenses?

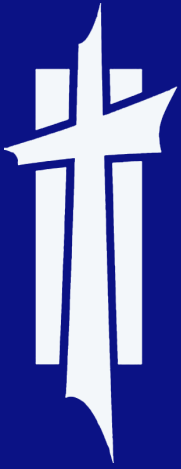
9 out of 10

Often 8%
Sometimes 23%
Never 69%

How often do you worry about safety, food, or housing?

9 out of 10

Often 6%
Sometimes 17%
Never 77%



Vocation

Observations:

This is more about what you feel called to do as opposed to your job. We rank -5 against the national high flourishing metric

1. **I understand my purpose:** We are split on this question. May reflect an older group not knowing what their life means when they are older.
2. **I feel what I do is worthwhile:** Again with an older audience majority we may be facing a membership needing to find things to do that can give purpose to their life

I understand my purpose in life.

8 out of 10

Agree 50%

Somewhat 40%

Disagree 10%

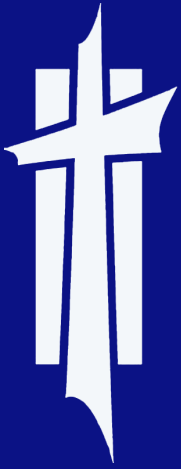
Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?

8 out of 10

Agree 48%

Somewhat 48%

Disagree 4%



Relationships

Observations:

We scored -8 below average High Flourishing. This is a low score with a majority of people over 55 years it would seem. A secondary question would be is do you find it easy to make friends at church

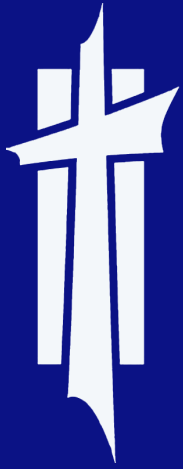
1. **I am content in Relationships:** This could be because many of their friends have died or are homebound leaving them with fewer opportunities.
2. **I am satisfied in my relationships:** Same reasons could lead to some level of dissatisfaction.

I am content with my friendships and relationships.

8 out of 10
Content 53%
Somewhat 40%
Not Content 6%

My relationships are as satisfying as I would want them to be.

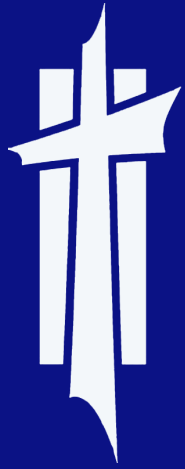
8 out of 10
Agree 48%
Somewhat 48%
Disagree 4%



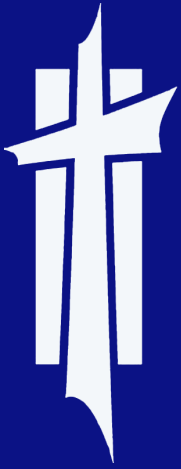
Thoughts on Flourishing Church

1. We scored very higher on income but a lower in the personal areas where people can be hurting like Relationship and Connection.
2. Most people when asked about vocation satisfaction are not positive in the majority. But since have such a higher level of people above 65 years and most likely retired, this is may be a natural part of this stage in life. This gives a great opportunity to explore more ways for people to engage giving them an outlet and purpose in their life. I would cite the success of the senior food program as an example

We have a great opportunity to elevate the churches role in helping people to find and fulfill their vocation, and find a fulfilling purpose.

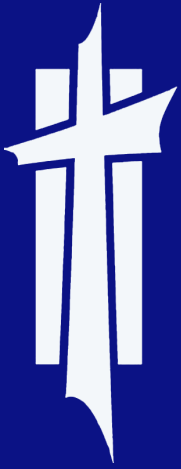


Thriving Churches



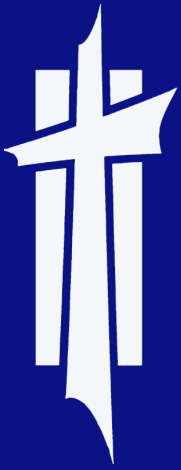
Initial Insights Thriving Churches

- If we believe this study we show to have stronger membership metrics than the health of our programs.
- Our lowest score in the entire survey was on our perceived ability to create and maintain relationships as a connected community.
- We have room to grow on our programs to help people...
 - Gain trust in leadership and develop new leaders from within the church
 - Grow in spiritual depth and growing in discipleship
 - Create a strong prayer culture
 - Foster a strong relational connection and community culture
 - Support Social Injustices (not sure about this)
 - Focus on outward expressions of faith, in stewardship, service and witnessing
- We have a 50/50 split on people who volunteer. However, only 36% volunteer weekly to monthly, Most others are ad hoc in frequency.



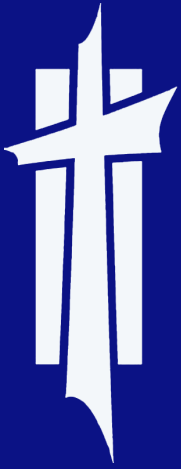
Thriving Churches

Area	Score	High Flourishing	Difference
Trusted Leaders	83	94	-11
Bible Centered	84	93	-9
Spiritual Formation	76	91	-15
Prayer Culture	81	94	-13
Worship Experience	85	93	-8
Connected Community	73	91	-18
Social Impact	76	87	-11



Thriving Churches

Area	Score	High Flourishing	Difference
Leadership Development	64	89	-25
Holistic Stewardship	75	90	-15
Serving Others	77	88	-11
Faith Sharing	79	89	-10



Trusted Leaders

Observations:

1. **Trust in leaders:** We have a strong support of the pastoral staff, so do not know what to read into this other than we do not equip our staff and lay leaders with enough information to help in communicating with the greater church. Too much is discussed at a small group and not at the larger level.
2. **Communication are Clear:** This shows that what we do communicate seems to be clear and adequate. However there is room to grow.

I have great trust in the leaders of this church.:

8 out of 10

Agree 65%

Somewhat Agree 25%

Disagree 10%

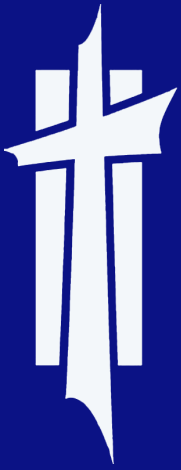
“Communication from this church is clear.”

8 out of 10

Agree 55%

Somewhat Agree 36%

Disagree 9%



Bible Centered

Observations:

Life Application Teaching: The fact that we have this as one of our main focuses to be in the 80th percentile in cause for some assessment on our Bible Studies Program.

We show that we are stronger in helping to build spiritual strength and less in life application of Biblical Principles.

This church **helps me live out the teachings** of the Bible in my everyday life:

8 out of 10

Agree 50%

Somewhat Agree 37%

Disagree 13%

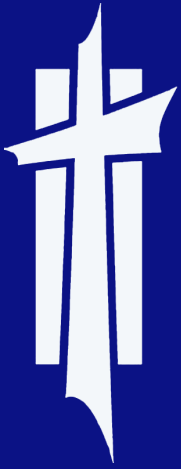
How well does this church support your spiritual growth through helping you **understand the basic foundations of the Bible:**

9 out of 10

Very Well 60%

Somewhat 32%

Not well 7%



Spiritual Formation

Observations:

What this seems to show is that we as a church have room to grow in providing personal spiritual growth at an individual level and in providing more education for people to know more of what to expect and to have examples in how to continue in their walk of spiritual growth.

We should look at what is available as programs that help churches grow in this area

This church is an essential partner in my spiritual formation.:

8 out of 10

Agree 58%

Somewhat Agree 30%

Disagree 12%

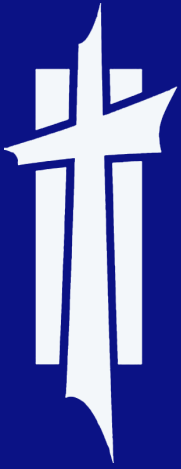
My next steps for spiritual growth at this church are clear to me.

7 out of 10

Agree 26%

Somewhat Agree 47%

Disagree 27%



Prayer Culture

Observations:

One of, if not the most powerful thing God has provided to us is the access to Him through prayer. This study shows we don't in the majority offer to people the skills of a healthy prayer habit.

With a -13 points below the average, this could pose one of the areas where we would gain a maximum of impact in energy and engagement of the church is to focus on a strong prayer culture. *(Note very few in meetings are willing to pray and always look to Pastors to pray)*

I have seen the **power of prayer** through this church.

8 out of 10

Agree 56%

Somewhat Agree 33%

Disagree 11%

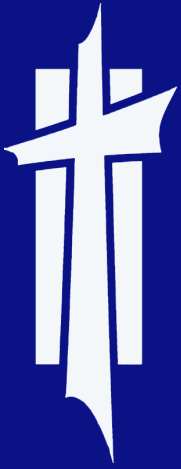
This church helps me **develop habits of prayer** that better connect me with God.

8 out of 10

Agree 44%

Somewhat Agree 41%

Disagree 15%



Worship Experience

Observations:

We show to be stronger in our worship experience. Since most of the respondents were from Laguna Woods, this might be that respondents are familiar with our worship style and connect well with it.

This may change as we grow and we bring in a younger generational group of members.

How often do you leave this church's worship service **feeling you have connected with God** or personally experienced the presence of God?

8 out of 10

Frequently 64%

Sometimes 29%

Rarely / Never 17%

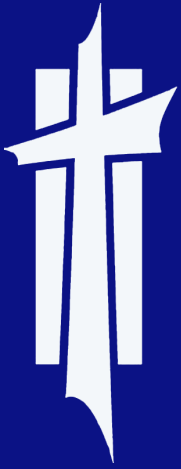
I feel closer to God through the main worship service at this church.

8 out of 10

Agree 55%

Somewhat 37%

Disagree 8%



Connected Community

Observations:

Connection is a key element in creating a thriving church and to create strong relationships and friendships. This is mainly, if not, always done through small groups ministry.

This is an great opportunity for growth to create a Thriving small group community.

This church helps me develop relationships that encourage accountability.

7 out of 10

Agree 30%

Somewhat Agree 44%

Disagree 27%

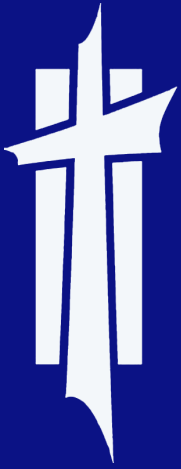
This church provides a community where I feel connected.

8 out of 10

Agree 37%

Somewhat Agree 45%

Disagree 18%



Social Impact

Observations:

This answer doesn't make sense since we have so many opportunities to help people in need through programs, offerings and volunteer events.

If this means political positions then we are better in having a low number here.

This church **helps me live out the teachings** of the Bible in my everyday life:

8 out of 10

Frequently 47%

Sometimes 43%

Rarely / Never 10%

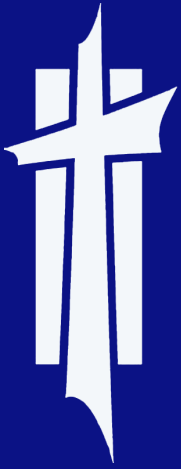
This church is involved in **addressing injustices in society**.

7 out of 10

Agree 34%

Somewhat 41%

Disagree 25%



Leadership Development

Observations:

This is our worst score in the whole survey. And our greatest opportunity.

We need to make this a major focus at all age levels from youth to adult.

This church empowers young people to become leaders.

6 out of 10

Agree 22%

Somewhat Agree 38%

Disagree 40%

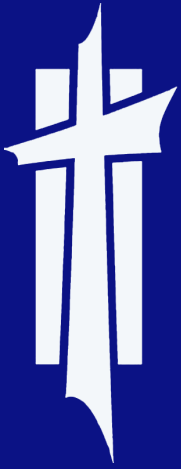
There is a clear training pathway for developing leaders in this church."

6 out of 10

Agree 23%

Somewhat Agree 38%

Disagree 39%



Holistic Stewardship

Observations:

At LCOTC we generally have difficulty in getting volunteers and tend to rely on a small list of people.

There is opportunity here but also a tremendous benefit to be gained by the membership if we work to create a stronger culture of building disciples.

This church has helped me embrace **my calling in life**.

7 out of 10

Agree 33%

Somewhat Agree 42%

Disagree 25%

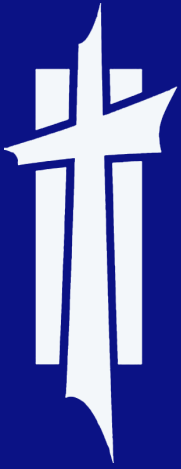
This church helps me **find ways to use all of my gifts** (time, skills, and financial resources) to honor God or serve others.

8 out of 10

Agree 48%

Somewhat Agree 37%

Disagree 15%



Serving Others

Observations:

We have talked a lot about stewardship in the form of tithes and offerings.

This survey shows we are -11 points off the thriving church metric and we have proof that our engagement levels are low.

This poses a great opportunity where increase our discussion to include more about giving of talent and time.

To best do this however, we need more organization and process development in making these opportunities worth more.

I give away my time to serve and help others in my community.

8 out of 10

Agree 40%

Somewhat Agree 41%

Disagree 19%

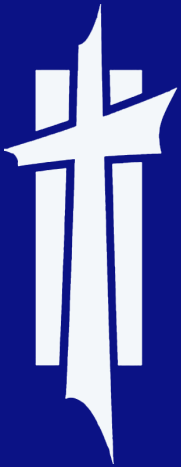
This church empowers me to make an impact in the lives of others.

8 out of 10

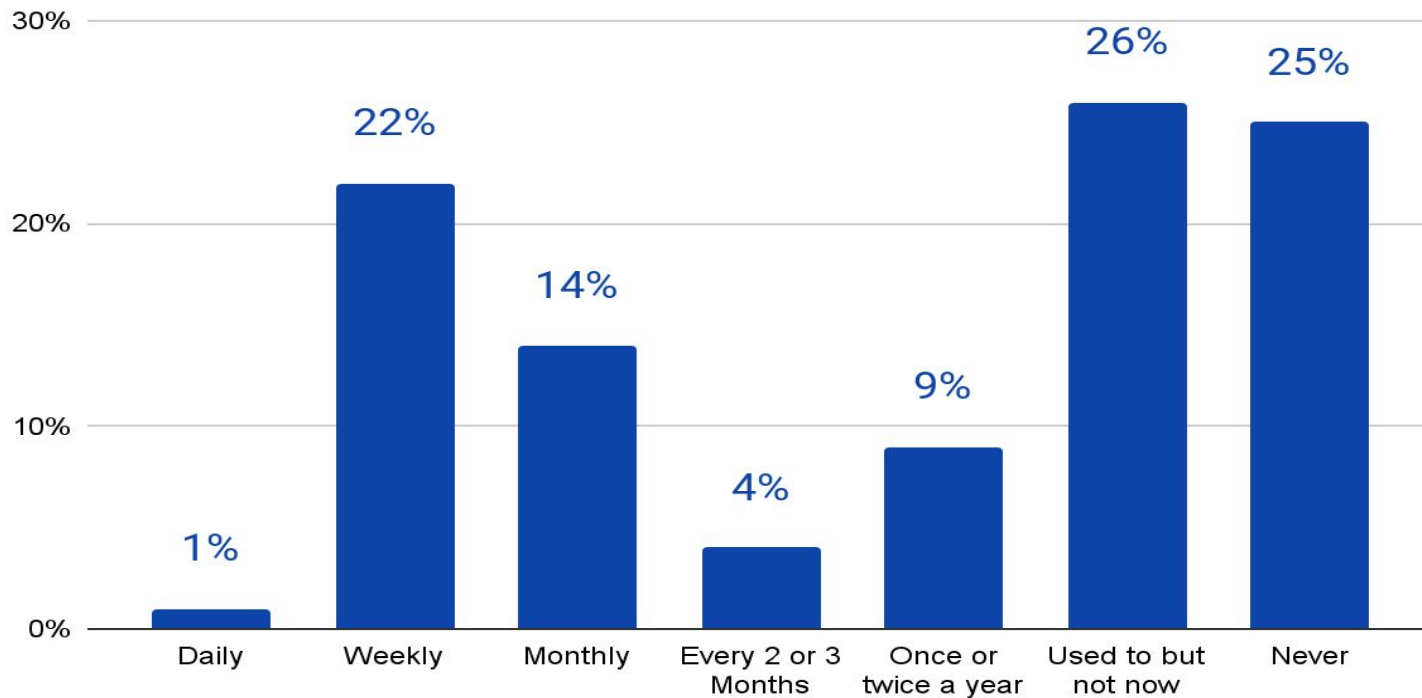
Agree 42%

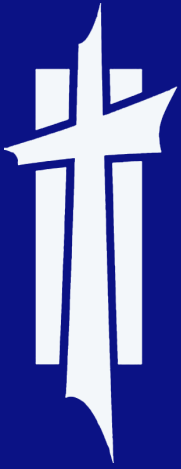
Somewhat Agree 45%

Disagree 13%



How often do you serve or volunteer at this church, if at all?





Faith Sharing

Observations:

Again we scored below the national average by -10 points.

This is most likely the most critical measurement of a church to have a culture of giving witness.

This will be one of our most challenging tasks that we can take on to create a spirit of witness and sharing the good news.

The congregation is **encouraged to talk about their faith** in Jesus with others.

9 out of 10

Agree 67%

Somewhat Agree 26%

Disagree 7%

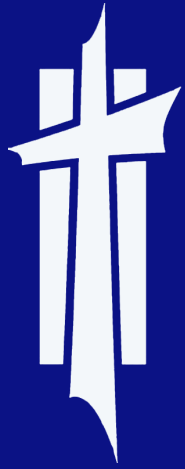
I feel fully equipped to share my faith with people who do not attend church.

7 out of 10

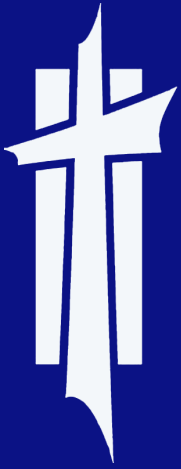
Agree 24%

Somewhat Agree 56%

Disagree 20%



Additional Questions

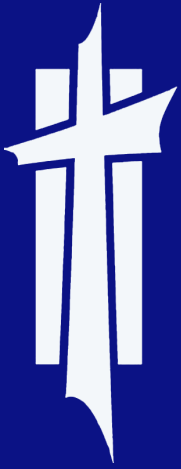


In one word describe what membership at LCOTC means to you?

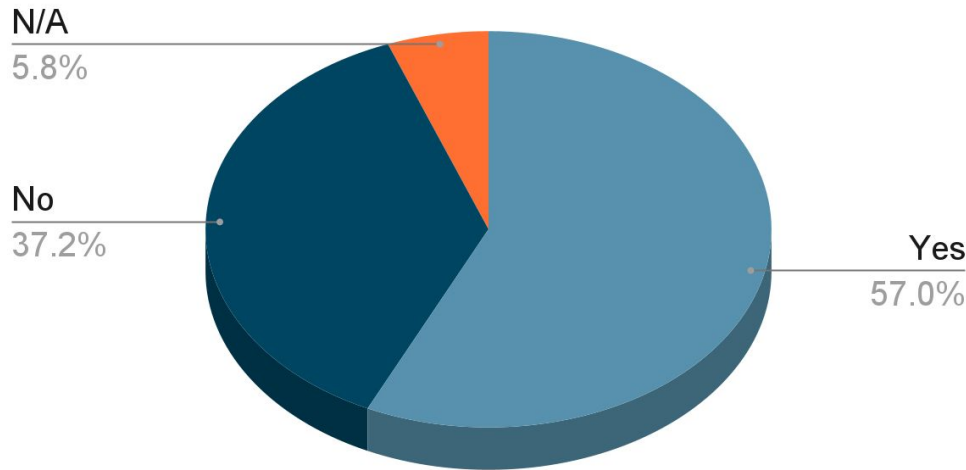
Top Five Answers From 124

- | | | |
|----|------------|----|
| 1. | Family | 11 |
| 2. | Community | 7 |
| 3. | Faith | 6 |
| 4. | Connection | 6 |
| 5. | Belonging | 6 |

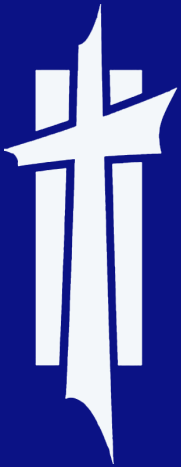




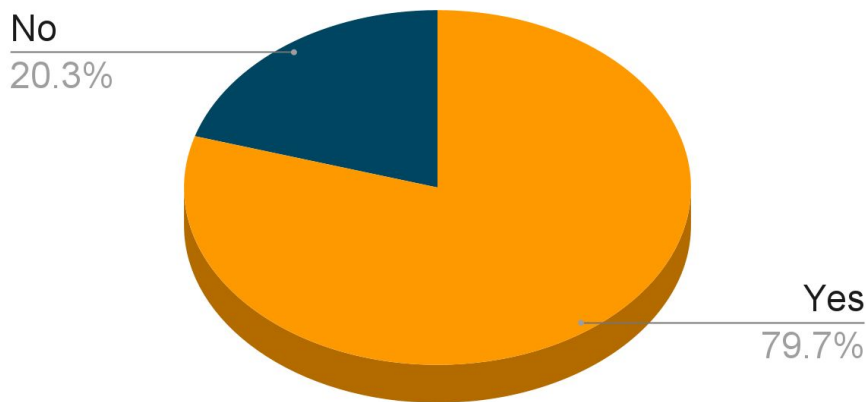
Do you find the programs at LCOTC applicable to your life?



- 57% of respondents felt that LCOTC programs are applicable to their life
- Most of the respondents came from LW campus
- 10% of the respondents felt that program were too focused on senior community



Would you recommend LCOTC to people you know?"



Verbatims

Yes

"It is a loving, caring church with a positive attitude."

"It is a church grounded in God's Word."

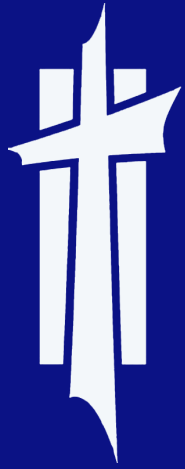
"Community where you will feel loved through the people"

No

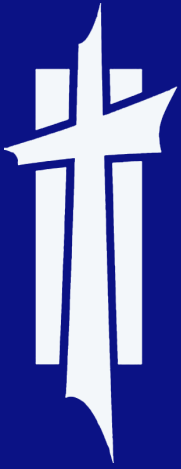
"because I am struggling being connected."

"Not families. We dont' have enough younger kids at our church."

"Sermons need to be more relevant to today."



Demographics



Which campus/service do you regularly attend the most?

Laguna Woods

Saturday 5:00 pm 25%

Sunday 7:45 am 6%

Sunday 9:00 am 19%

Sunday 11:00 am 28%

Aliso Viejo

Sunday 9:45 am 10%

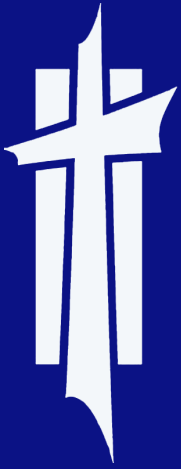
ONLINE

Laguna Woods 9%

Aliso Viejo 0%

No Answer/Prefer Not to Answer 4%

Out of 124 response



Where do we invite the most?

I invited a non-attending friend or family member...

to watch our online services.	23%
to attend a weekend church service.	40%
to a Christmas service.	23%
to a social event at LCOTC.	27%
to serve with me. (Food, missions, etc.).	5%
No Answer/Prefer Not to Answer	35%

Out of 124 responses



Age Breakdown of Respondents

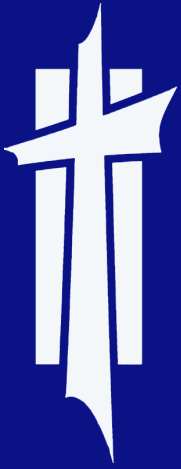
1999 - 2004 (Gen Z)	(18-23)	1%
1984 - 1998 (Millennial)	(24-38)	2%
1965 - 1983 (Gen X)	(39-57)	15%
1946 - 1964 (Boomer)	(58-76)	52%
1925 - 1945 (Elder)	(77-97)	31%

Out of 124 responses

83% of respondents are 58 years or older

17% of respondents are 24 to 56 years

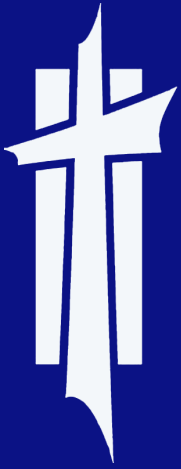
We represent a Boomer Church



Employment Breakdown of Respondents

Full-time employment	20%
Part-time employment	6%
Self-employed	5%
Home-maker	5%
Military	0%
Full-time Student	0%
Unemployed and looking for work	2%
Unemployed but not currently looking for work	1%
Unable to work / disabled	1%
Retired	58%
Prefer not to answer	3%

Out of 124 responses

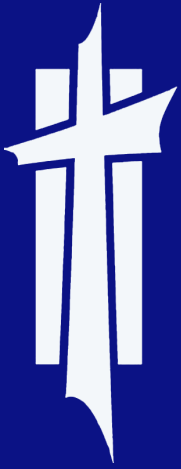


Employment Breakdown of Respondents

Yes, children under 18 at home	8%
Do not have children	16%
Children are grown and/or not living at my home	72%
Prefer not to answer	4%

Out of 124 responses

Only 8% of respondents have Children at Home

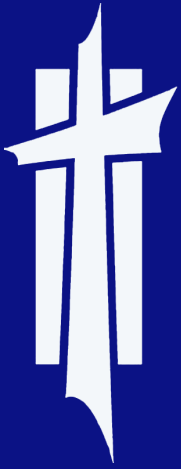


Relationship Breakdown of Respondents

Now Married	56%
Widowed	14%
Divorced	15%
Separated	1%
Single - Never Married	9%
Prefer not to answer	5%

Out of 124 responses

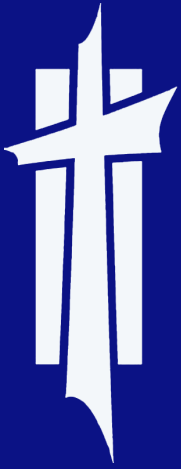
Majority of respondents are married



Diversity Breakdown of Respondents

White and not Hispanic	88%
Black or African American	0%
Hispanic or Latino(a)	2%
Asian or Asian American	0%
Native American or Pacific Islander	0%
Other ethnic group	0%
Two or more ethnic groups	0%
Prefer not to answer	10%

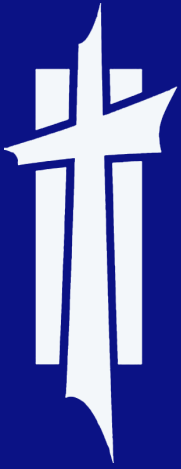
Out of 124 responses



Attendance Frequency Breakdown of Respondents

None, I did not attend	7%
I recently began attending	1%
Once or twice a year	5%
Once every 2-3 months	7%
One time per month	2%
Two times per month	13%
Three times per month	14%
I rarely miss a week	51%

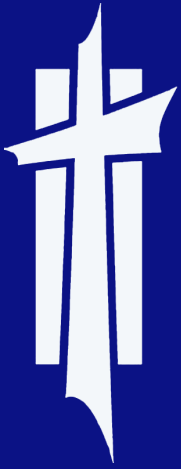
Out of 124 responses



Education Breakdown of Respondents

Completed some high school	1%
Completed high school/G.E.D.	10%
Currently in college/some college	11%
Completed Associate's degree	9%
Completed Bachelor's degree	34%
Currently in post-graduate or professional school	2%
Completed post-graduate or professional degree	27%
Prefer not to answer	6%

Out of 124 responses



Time of Membership / Breakdown of Respondents

I have visited one or two times	1%
Less than a year	5%
1-2 years	4%
3-5 years	15%
6-10 years	23%
More than 10 years	52%

Out of 124 responses

Majority of Respondents have been members for more than 10 years