

**Written Comments**  
**CLC Survey #1**  
**Congregational Current and Future Directions**

**#49 I am excited about the congregation's:**

- Diversity
- Family Express service
- Like second family
- Young families and youth presence. Older members presence as our “grandparents of the church” and examples to emulate.
- Friendly environment meals offered, social time between services
- Seems to be very welcoming to all, especially young families
- Chance to find a pastor that can appeal to the young adults and families, 20's and 30's so our faith can survive and thrive.
- Options for various activities
- Keeping Pastor Scott on to do what he can physically do. He is a blessing to our congregation. Continue to use his talents as long as he is able.
- Congregations activity for all ages.
- Variety of ages, willingness to help, spirit
- Openness to new people (illegible) faith in God, sharing His love in our community
- Ability to attract youth
- Youth and family. We need to cater to elementary, high school, church members and their families.
- Chance to come together for all. A pastor all can agree on.
- Welcome attitude
- Involvement with the senior citizens and the community
- Young membership and the active youth group. Ability to interact with those in different demographics
- Change in spiritual leadership. Potential for small groups and prayer
- Future
- Warm welcoming ways.
- Ability to adapt to the younger generation.
- Growth of younger families.
- Family Express – growth of young families.
- Continued emphasis on worship that incorporates all age levels.
- Socially just focus. Everyone belongs. (New 5/31/18)

**#50 What are we here for and what are we excited about right now?**

- Promote Christ in everyday life for all. Appeal to community for just Lutherans
- Paying off our mortgage and continuing to spread God's word and using our beautiful church to its full capability.
- Bring the word of the Lord to all of us, all ages
- Create excitement about the teachings and how we can help others/give back/connect
- Excited about upcoming mission trip, Ladies Night Out for local community gift
- Worship and praise. Fellowship, in that order.
- Chose a pastor that has experience with all kinds of peoples' needs
- Being a light and a comfortable place for our community
- Sharing the love of God with others. Participate in ELCA events. "God's Work Our Hands", National Youth Gathering (not available at CLC)
- To share God's word
- Support Christian life/The change in personnel
- Paying membership
- Getting a new pastor to help Pastor Paula
- Learning about God in a "modern" way
- God's working within us and its outward manifestations
- Spread word of God
- To spread God's good news. We are the Gospel message that non- Christians will ever see in their lives.
- To learn and spread of the Lord.
- Family involvement.
- Share the word.
- God's love
- Community and social justice.
- Community.
- The search for a new pastor.
- We have a great church community. I feel at ease at Christ Lutheran and people really respond well to that comfort level. Friendly and accommodating, non judgmental.
- I love the family express option! (New 5/31/18)

**#51 What should our top three mission priorities be?**

- Diversity and including all, regardless of denominations. Sermons that always include how does this message apply today.
- Continue the ones we are currently supporting
- Build congregation outreach. Create/continue interest, Keep up the wonderful activities of helping/youth/etc.
- Community/Within the US/World
- Praise the Lord, Missions local (youth to elderly), interracial, GLB, all people, strangers. Caring for each other and others less fortunate

- Experience with Lutheran service
- Build community. Teach and share God's love
- Contact members that Pastor Scott removed from membership, Increase financial support for the Synod, Motivate members to take part in the CLC, Update Annual Congregational Report to the ELCA.
- Local outreach for food and shelter, support seniors, support those in need throughout the world.
- Community, Synod/National Church, world
- Expand economic base
- Our church, serve and help the needy, our children, Sunday School etc.
- Commitment to God, Commitment to others, helping youth understand God without overwhelming them so they turn away from the church
- Serving needs within Stoughton Area School District, serving needs within our Synod, serving needs within the ELCA global missions.
- Help/grow faith/love
- Instill in our youth that God loves them even though we aren't perfect, helping families when they are in "trouble", a community of people who pray for others and needs.
- Educate the public about Christian values and how they tend to promote inclusion, provide a safe and welcoming environment
- Youth
- Continue children, youth and parents ministries, continue Senior Citizen ministry, introduce some new programs, ministries and worship experiences.
- Stoughton/Community around us. Not far away.
- Reach out and support local organizations helping those in need.
- Continue Lutheran World Relief drives.
- Helping children who suffer from poverty.
- Night services are great.
- Elderly, Food Pantry, Youth.
- Local/ State/ International
- Incorporating all ages
- Helping others less fortunate.
- Spiritual growth - this happens in different ways for each individual (New 5/31/18)
- Serve the community - give back (New 5/31/18)
- Educate our youth on Christianity focusing on the importance of being a decent human being (New 5/31/18)

#### **#52 What gifts and talents does our congregation have?**

- Attracting young families. Having programs for Seniors
- Music. Education
- Music. Socializing

- Great music. Linda does an excellent job. Beautiful building and landscaping. Circles for funerals.
- Music. Creativity (quilting etc.) Operation of technology
- Time and talented people. A beautiful handicapped facility to worship in. A giving and concerned congregation.
- Music. Singing. Young interest.
- Welcomes everyone and makes people feel at home
- Friendly. We have been here awhile I may be biased (may need outside our walls), Caring for each other
- We should have more music with dedicated choir membership every Sunday instead of only occasional. Maybe people need encouragement to participate in music. Also use of string instruments and various horns when applicable.
- Music. Open spirit
- Gifts of each other through small groups. We need lots of prayers during the change in Pastors.
- Musical talent, cooking skills, host/hostess skills, stewardship, teaching, political leadership, secretarial
- Youth musical talent
- Music. Speaking.
- Friendly. Always doing extra things.
- Pastoral leadership/music. Harmony within paid staff positions. Lay participation.
- Too many to list
- Friendliness and joyful fellowship
- Musically gifted. Generally welcoming to outsiders. Lutefisk dinner and other outreach
- Joy, energy, dedication, commitment.
- Very friendly and active group for all ages.
- Youth program is strong
- In our congregation we need new people serving at all levels. A lot of our talented and gifted people have been doing what they do for a long time. A young millennial age pastor could help with this.
- We are welcoming to everyone. The youth group is what brought our family to Christ Lutheran. It is the strength.
- Music/organizational/theatrical
- Utilize lay ministry more
- I think we are a “action” bunch. We plant a seed in our confirmation students. We may not see them after confirmation, but that seed is planted.
- Our pastors, many talented musicians and singers, great support staff.
- Music, outreach, education.
- To build community and to help the community.
- Warm and welcoming.
- Singers, artists, IT, mechanics, healthcare, business, support- too many to name!!

- World relief efforts and strong interests in mission work. (New 5/31/18)
- An eye for family - particularly those with young children (New 5/31/18)
- Active in service work (New 5/31/18)

**#53 Provide additional comments here:**

- We love CLC. Thank you for being a comfortable place for us to be every weekend. We love all the young families that we have met.
- I'm not convinced that there needs to be three services every Sunday morning, especially because the 10:30 service has so few attendees.
- I hope this reflection on the feedback from the congregation results in true introspection and gives opportunity to implement change for growth. Everyone will have to be willing to be uncomfortable in order to grow from these efforts.
- It seems the mortgage is in good shape. I wonder/worry that when the mortgage is paid off, some may reduce their giving. With that in mind I'd suggest we consider only paying the necessary mortgage payment and put any remaining funds towards other stewardship programs. When the mortgage is paid off, even if giving is reduced, we should still be able to further expand other programs and giving.
- Younger to middle aged adults should be able to integrate with more fellowship after the children are grown.
- I would love a Bible study group for working women that are not home during the day. I also think we need to keep sending people from our church especially our youth on mission trips so they can appreciate what they have.
- Church group for new empty nesters-Bible study. 10ish service should be for those between Kids Express and Traditional. Those who went out on Saturday night and want to sleep in and still go to church.
- We need to expand our contemporary worship experiences and focus on keeping families engaged throughout their life cycles. We are great at catering to young families but we miss offering a spiritual experience to adults that goes beyond the child bearing years.
- Mission trips for youth. They are important. I enjoy participating in their fundraisers. However I strongly feel there should be NO budgeted money used to pay for these trips. Parents should pick up the cost.
- most visitors see our church as very traditional and conservative. I hope that continues to change to a less formal route.
- Use the hymnals more instead of printing hymns and Kyries etc. in the bulletin. I would guess hay this would save on money for printing. Saturday evening service year round.
- I would like organ used I time a month in Express Service. More traditional.
- Mission trips every 3 years.
- Keep up the good work. Could communicate better (example: mortgage drive results. Never appears in Ambassador.)
- Update the "Annual Congregational Report" which is requested/required annually. The ELCA has CLC with 1546 members baptized and confirmed with attendance of 297. The CLC Annual Report has 1054 members in 409 households with 118 pledges.

- Expand appeal of church to grow paying membership. There is more to a church than paying off a mortgage exclusively.
- I think Pastor Scott and Paula have done a wonderful job in the church.
- Excellent church facility. Beautiful grounds. Good parking BUT we need arrows to facilitate more prudent entry/exit. At times there are youngsters darting in and out and a “free for all”. ‘We need a safe playground with safe equipment.
- Fantastic church because of our Pastors.
- I would like to see more opportunity for adult education/Bible studies. Possibly Adult Christian Book Club.
- Pastor Scott’s candor and “informalness” need to be echoed. He was great at connecting with members.
- Before eliminating people from church membership, It would be beneficial to make a home visit and see if the decision could be reversed. Not a phone call...a visit!
- I believe our Sunday School program needs improvement. Not enough lesson being taught. Coloring a picture and playing a game is not what I expected from the program. Older kids should have some memorization, younger should be learning simple lessons. They should be memorizing the Lords Prayer by saying it after every class.
- Enjoy Saturday evening service, use hymnals instead of printing them in the bulletin. Put the hymn numbers for the service in the wooden rack near the front of the church like was used on the past.
- We must become more contemporary and less traditional. Seniors will always come, young won’t unless relevant. Also emphasize Christian values and not only Lutheran. We don’t need more divisiveness.
- Mission trips should be closer to home eg. Milwaukee, Twin Cities, Appalachia so not so much time and energy is spent for fundraising.
- #32 *I will increase my 2019 pledge so a second pastor can be called.* Parishioners have been supporting two pastors. May consider increase depending on our income.
- It will be difficult to fill Pastor Scott's shoes.
- I think one of the most important things a new pastor needs to have is the ability to give an engaging sermon to all ages as the current pastors do so well.
- Our church is very family-friendly and I feel that’s very important.
- Consider two services – one traditional and one contemporary.
- We will miss Scott’s preaching.
- I think CLC does a great job with making everyone feel welcome. We have always felt right at home here.