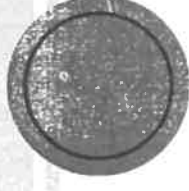


OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH TRENDS AND STATISTICS

November 20, 2022



ELCA NATIONAL TRENDS

- In 1968, the predecessor bodies of the ELCA (LCA and ALC) had 6 million members.
- Twenty years later, in 1988, when the ELCA was established, membership was down to 5 million.
- Today, less than 3 million members belong to the ELCA.
- These trends are the same across all mainline Protestant denominations.
- Overall U.S. population grew by more than 36% during this same time.
- 40% of ELCA congregations have weekly worship attendance of 50 or less.
- The ELCA is losing 70,000 people a year...the size of the average synod.

MONTANA SYNOD TRENDS

- In 2012, there were 128 congregations, 39,000 members, and an average weekly attendance of 9,000. a 28% decrease.
- In 2019, there were 123 congregations, 31,000 members and an average weekly attendance of 7,100.
- This is a 28% decrease in members and a 29% decrease in weekly attendance.
- In the aftermath of Covid, attendance in nearly all congregations in Montana has declined an additional 25 to 30%.
- Prior to Covid, 64% of congregations had an average weekly worship attendance of 50 or less.
- Prior to Covid, only 5 congregations in Montana had an average weekly worship attendance of 200 or more.
- From 2012 to 2019, the annual child baptisms decreased by 39 percent, from 394 to 284.
- There are significantly fewer people, especially young people, in ELCA congregations. In a recent survey of Montana Synod congregations, half no longer have children or young people in their churches.



OUR REDEEMER'S TRENDS

- In 2019, the average weekly attendance at ORLC was 267, the highest in the Montana Synod.
- In Fall 2022, the total average attendance of ORLC's three weekly services and online views is 292.
- In 2019, Our Redeemer's had 10 baptisms (2nd most in the Montana Synod), and so far, in 2022, Our Redeemer's had 8 baptisms, with an additional 3 scheduled before the end of the year.
- Thus far in 2022, Our Redeemer's welcomed 29 new members, with another large new member class scheduled for December.
- Our Redeemer's has 50+ children and youth regularly participating in Sunday School, Confirmation, and High School programming.
- In nearly every statistical category tracked by the ELCA, both nationally and in the Montana Synod, Our Redeemer's contradicts trends and establishes new visions for ministry, participation, and outreach.



Proposed Spending Plan Summary - 11/14/22

	2023 Proposed Spending Plan	2022 Spending Plan	2022 Expenses Thru October
Payroll, Taxes & Benefits	414,905.02	432,079.28	320,184.32
Facilities Administration	134,786.96	126,331.85	92,372.88
Benevolence	27,977.00	33,372.63	13,128.34
Office Administration	36,939.00	34,309.00	27,668.49
Christian Education	28,400.89	17,663.89	6,332.35
Staff Development	3,540.00	15,085.00	3,855.40
Worship & Music	11,976.04	6,711.00	6,789.53
Committees	29,360.00	2,860.00	1,498.39
Total Expenses	687,884.91	668,412.65	471,829.70

Payroll, Taxes & Benefits includes 6% COLA to staff salaries and 6 months of salary and benefits for a new Associate Pastor starting in July 2023.

Facilities Administration increase is due to increased costs for insurance, gas and electric, maintenance, supplies, custodial services and property taxes.

Benevolence continues our 4% contribution to the Synod and supports Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp with a \$500 donation. We have not included benevolence for our local partners in 2023 considering the many other ways we support them.

Office Administration increase includes the replacement of two computers.

Christian Education now includes budget for VBS and two Confirmation Retreats.

Staff Development decrease due to reallocation of Lead Pastor moving expenses to Committees

Worship & Music increase is due to adding guest musicians and supply preaching.

Committees increase includes budget for a neighborhood picnic and costs associated with the call process (interview travel and moving expenses).

