

LIFT/Ecology Discussion Questions

(Select and discuss at least one question in each section.)

Being Lutheran

1. There are Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, Baptists, and Roman Catholics (just to name a few religious groups). Why should there be Lutherans?
2. What, if anything, is most important about being a Lutheran to you personally?

Congregations

3. What internal and external changes over the past few years have most impacted your congregation?
4. What are your hopes for the future of your congregation? What most needs to happen for these hopes to be realized?
5. Congregations are expected to share their financial resources with the synod and the churchwide organization (through the synod). How has your congregation viewed that expectation in the past and how do you expect to view it in the future?

Beyond the Congregation

6. Think about your congregation's relationships with other ELCA Lutheran congregations, your synod, and the churchwide organization in Chicago. Think about your congregation's relationships with other groups in your community, the nation, or around the world. These other relationships may be ecumenical relationships, connections to for-profit or non-profit organizations, other ministries, etc. Tell us, of all these relationships, which are most important to your congregation and why. Tell us, what, if anything, you would like to change about the nature of these relationships.
7. In the context of God's mission, what do you believe the ELCA as a whole does well? What do you believe this church needs to do better?
8. What is God calling the ELCA to do and be over the next 10 years?

Print these questions and talk about them with others in your congregation or ministry. Write a summary of your conversation on the next page then share it with us by fax 773.380.2932, by going online and typing your responses at <http://archive.elca.org/cgi-bin/rws/rws5.pl?FORM=LiftDiscuss> or mailing it to RE-ELCA, 8765 W. Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631

LIFT Discussion Question Response

Being Lutheran (Please note which questions you are addressing.)

Congregations (Please note which questions you are addressing.)

Beyond the Congregation (Please note which questions you are addressing.)

How many were in the discussion group?

- 2 to 5
- 6 to 10
- 11 to 20
- 21 or more

Please provide the following information about the congregation.

Congregation's Name: _____

ZIP code in which congregation is located: _____