

**Lift Questionnaire**  
 Research and Evaluation  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 April, 2010

Please take 15 to 20 minutes to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will help the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Task Force better understand your perspective on this church as they help this church plan for the future.

1. Please agree or disagree with the following statements.

	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u>
a. If I had to change my membership to another congregation, I would feel a great sense of loss .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. The congregation I am a member of has helped me grow as a Christian .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. It is important for me to be a member of a Lutheran church .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. It is important for me to be a member of a congregation that is part of the ELCA .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Think for a moment about the reasons why you attend an ELCA congregation. How important is each of the following?

	<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Not</u> <u>Sure</u>
a. my appreciation of the people who attend my congregation .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. my appreciation of Lutheran forms of worship .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. my agreement with the theology and teachings of the ELCA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. an ELCA congregation was most convenient when I first became active in church .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. the fact that my closest friends attend my congregation .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. the fact that my parents are/were Lutheran .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. the fact that my spouse is/was a Lutheran .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. my association with persons in my congregation who are also important contacts in the local community .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. my appreciation of the relationship an ELCA congregation has with the wider church .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. In your opinion, is there anything unique about ELCA Lutherans which distinguishes them from other Christians?

- not sure
- no
- yes → Please indicate what it is that distinguishes ELCA Lutherans from other Christians. Please be as specific as possible.

4. Think about what you hope for and expect from being part of a larger group of ELCA Lutherans who share a theological point of view, worship in similar ways, and who work together in 65 synods and through a national office (the churchwide office in Chicago) to accomplish God’s mission in the world.

In the context of the wider church, how important is each of the following to you personally?

	Very <u>Important</u>	<u>Important</u>	Not <u>Important</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>
a. a strong system of higher education through ELCA colleges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. strong positive relationships among ELCA congregations in the synod .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. being a church focused on sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. a strong system of theological education for new pastors .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. traditional teaching of the Bible .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. being a church dedicated to feeding the hungry .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. strong public advocacy in behalf of the poor .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. strong ecumenical contacts and agreements .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. significant involvement of laity in ministry .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. the theology of justification by grace through faith .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. liturgical worship .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. starting new congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. providing worship and education resources for congregations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. strong national coordination and involvement in global mission .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. the Lutheran Confessions .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. reaching out to other ethnic/racial groups .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. How connected do you feel to this wider church?

not connected <u>at all</u>					very strongly <u>connected</u>	not <u>sure</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Indicate the extent to which you believe the following have contributed to your sense of connectedness.

	Not <u>at all</u>				Quite a Bit
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
a. common forms of worship and music .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. our congregation’s use of “ELCA” in its name, documents, Website, etc. ....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. a shared ELCA theology .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. a shared Northern European Lutheran ethnic heritage .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. having pastors trained in ELCA seminaries .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. a relationship or experience with the synod or churchwide bishop .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Indicate the extent to which you believe the following have contributed to your sense of connectedness.  
(Continued)

	Not <u>at all</u>				Quite a <u>Bit</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
g. a shared common purpose within the synod .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. the congregation's financial support shared with the synod and churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. financial support received from the wider church (loans, grants, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. participation with other ELCA Lutherans in shared local ministry (food pantries, Habitat for Humanity, youth programs, etc.) .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. participation with other ELCA Lutherans in synod or churchwide ministries (outdoor or campus ministry, advocacy, Lutheran social ministries, World Hunger, disaster response, companion synods, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. attending a synod or churchwide assembly .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. a shared ELCA stand on social issues (social statements) .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. participation on ELCA agency or church boards, committees, task forces, etc., outside your congregation .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. reading <i>The Lutheran</i> or other ELCA publications .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. engaging in social networking with other ELCA Lutherans .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q. other (please specify):					

7. What, if anything, makes you feel less part of the wider church?

8. Please agree or disagree with the following statements

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>
a. I'm proud to be part of the ELCA .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. I am hopeful about the future of the ELCA .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. I frequently talk with other people about my faith .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Most of my friends are ELCA Lutherans .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Most of my friends go to church regularly .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. My congregation is thriving .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. My congregation is stronger because it is part of a wider church ..	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. The world needs the message that ELCA Lutheran's bring .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. My congregation has strong ties to the synod .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. My congregation has strong ties to the wider church .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Have the following impacted your congregation over the past few years?

	Negative <u>Impact</u>		No <u>Impact</u>		Positive <u>Impact</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
a. ethnic/racial changes in the local community .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. economic changes in the local community .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. other demographic changes in the local community (people moving in or out of the community, young people coming or going) ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. changes in the religious climate or culture of American society .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. changes in the culture of American society in general .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. competition from other local congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. changes in patterns of participation among lay leaders .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. changes in the quality of pastoral leadership of the church .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. conflict in the congregation .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Churchwide Assembly action on the sexuality statement and policy changes .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. commitment to evangelism or outreach .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. The hope from the beginning of the ELCA was that the three expressions of the church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—would be “interdependent.” In this context, we would like to know how involved you believe each expression of the church should be in each of the items listed below. (For each of the following fill in one circle per line for congregations, the synods, and the churchwide organization.)

a. Ensure that worship provides a meaningful experience of God	Very <u>Involved</u>		Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Ensure that children and youth receive Christian education	Very <u>Involved</u>		Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Ensure that adults continue to grow in knowledge and faith	Very <u>Involved</u>		Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Share the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched	Very <u>Involved</u>		Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

e. Plan for and conduct the global mission of the church	Very <u>Involved</u>	<u>Involved</u>	Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Provide charity and service to people in need	Very <u>Involved</u>	<u>Involved</u>	Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Encourage members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues	Very <u>Involved</u>	<u>Involved</u>	Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Start new congregations	Very <u>Involved</u>	<u>Involved</u>	Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Provide for the education of new pastors	Very <u>Involved</u>	<u>Involved</u>	Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Assist congregations in finding a new pastor	Very <u>Involved</u>	<u>Involved</u>	Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Assist congregations in times of conflict	Very <u>Involved</u>	<u>Involved</u>	Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Provide direction by setting priorities for the mission of the church	Very <u>Involved</u>	<u>Involved</u>	Not <u>Involved</u>
• congregations .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the synods .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• the churchwide organization .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- |   |                         |                       |                        |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| m. Be responsible for the ecumenical relationships of this church | Very<br><u>Involved</u> | <u>Involved</u>       | Not<br><u>Involved</u> |
| • congregations .....   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  |
| • the synods .....  | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  |
| • the churchwide organization .....                               | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  |
- 
- |  |                         |                       |                        |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| n. Advocate with government agencies in behalf of the poor | Very<br><u>Involved</u> | <u>Involved</u>       | Not<br><u>Involved</u> |
| • congregations .....                                      | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  |
| • the synods .....   | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  |
| • the churchwide organization .....                        | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  |

11. What do you believe should be the **top three priorities** for congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization? (**In the congregation column**, fill in a circle next to the **three** items you believe should be the top three priorities for congregations. Fill in three for synods **in the synod column** and three for the churchwide organization **in the churchwide organization column**.)

- |  | <u>Congre-<br/>gations</u> | <u>Synods</u>         | <u>Church-<br/>wide</u> |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| a. ensure worship provides a meaningful experience of God .....  | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| b. ensure that children and youth receive Christian education .....  | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| c. ensure that adults continue to grow in knowledge and faith .....  | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| d. share the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched .....   | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| e. plan for and conduct the global mission of the church .....   | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| f. provide charity and service to people in need .....   | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| g. encourage members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues ..... | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| h. start new congregations .....   | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| i. provide for the education of new pastors .....  | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| j. assist congregations in finding a new pastor .....  | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| k. assist congregations in times of conflict .....   | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| l. provide directions by setting priorities for the mission of the church .....  | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| m. be responsible for the ecumenical relationships of this church .....  | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |
| n. advocate with government agencies in behalf of the poor. ....   | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>   |

12. What is your gender?

- female  
 male

13. Were you baptized in a Lutheran church?

- yes  
 no

14. How long have you been a member of an ELCA congregation?

- |  |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> less than 1 year | <input type="radio"/> 3 to 5 years  | <input type="radio"/> 11 to 20 years   |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 to 2 years     | <input type="radio"/> 6 to 10 years | <input type="radio"/> 21 or more years |

15. What is your age?

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 18 or younger | <input type="radio"/> 45 to 64    |
| <input type="radio"/> 19 to 24      | <input type="radio"/> 65 to 74    |
| <input type="radio"/> 25 to 44      | <input type="radio"/> 75 or older |

Please return to RE-ELCA, 8765  
W. Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL  
60631