

# LCMS Congregation Statistics – Field Definitions

## CONGREGATION MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

### **BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP**

Total Baptized Membership - This is the total baptized membership as of December 31st. This is not the number of baptisms done during the previous year. It is the total number of baptized members in your congregation, including those who are also confirmed members. This number should be greater than or equal to your confirmed membership.

Infants/Children Baptized - This is the count of infants and children who were baptized during the previous year.

Adults Baptized - This is the count of adults who were baptized during the previous year.

### **CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP**

Total Confirmed Membership - This is the total number of baptized members in your congregation who were also confirmed members as of December 31st. This is not the number of confirmations done during the previous year. This number must be less than or equal to your baptized membership.

### **GAINS**

Adults Confirmed - This is the count of adults newly confirmed during the previous year.

Juniors Confirmed (Parents Members) - This is the count of juniors newly confirmed during the previous year whose parents are also members of the congregation.

Juniors Confirmed (Parents Non-Members) - This is the count of juniors newly confirmed during the previous year whose parents are not members of the congregation

Profession of Faith - This is the count of members that have professed their faith. (In other words, a confirmed adult who was once a member of an LCMS congregation who has become inactive, and desires to be an active member of an LCMS congregation once again.)

Transfer from Other LCMS – This is the count of members that transferred from another LCMS congregation during the previous year.

Received from Other Lutheran – This is the count of members that were received from other non-LCMS Lutheran congregations during the previous year.

### **LOSSES**

Deaths – This is the count of confirmed members of the congregation who passed away during the previous year.

Transfer to Other LCMS – This is the count of confirmed members who transferred to other LCMS congregations during the previous year.

Released to Other Lutheran – This is the count of confirmed members who joined other non-LCMS Lutheran congregations during the previous year.

Join Non-Lutheran – This is the count of confirmed members who joined non-Lutheran congregations during the previous year.

Move without Transfer – This is the count of confirmed members who moved without a transfer during the previous year.

Excommunicated – This is the count of confirmed members who were excommunicated during the previous year.

Other - Other losses not due to deaths, transfers, moves, or excommunication.

## **WEEKLY ATTENDANCE**

Average Weekly Church Attendance - Enter the average weekend worship attendance. This only includes those who were physically present. Do not include online engagements. Do not include Lenten, Advent, or other festival services. This is an average per week. It is not the total attendance for the year. If your congregation could not meet during part of the year due to COVID-19 restrictions, [click here](#) for detailed instructions on how to report attendance.

On a typical Sunday, how many are not members... - Of the number entered in Average Weekly Church Attendance, please enter the number of people in attendance on a typical Sunday who are NOT members (baptized or confirmed) of your congregation. In addition to visitors, please also include regular attendees who are not yet members and even those who are members of another LCMS congregation.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **RECEIPTS**

Total Contributions – Rounded to the nearest dollar, this figure is the weekly offerings including building fund and other special contributions, which also include gifts for missions and ministries of the congregation, the District, or Synod. This income excludes subsidy, dividends, interest, rent, fees, etc.

Total Other Income - Rounded to the nearest dollar, this figure is the total of other income the congregation receives from subsidy, dividends or interest, rents, fees, and other receipts like school tuition, subscriptions, loans, endowment funds, etc. This figure will also include any loans or grants received to assist with congregational expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the Payroll Protection Program loan.

## **DISBURSEMENTS**

At Home Expenses - Rounded to the nearest dollar, this figure is the total of funds spent for salaries, benefits, operating expenses, capital expenses, debt service, school/preschool expenses, registrations, subscriptions, payment for health and pension programs, conference and convention registration, etc.

At Large District/Synod Contributions - Rounded to the nearest dollar, this figure is the total of funds contributed to the District for the unrestricted work of the district and Synod. Usually, this is the amount given to a pledge of support for district and national work of the church. It does not include gifts for use of a specific ministry.

Other at Large Contributions - Rounded to the nearest dollar, this figure is the total of funds disbursed by the congregation for missions and ministries outside of its At Home Expenses and District/Synod Contributions. It may include World Relief, colleges/seminaries, Wheat Ridge, local ministries beyond the congregation, etc.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ENROLMENT**

### **SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS ENROLLMENT**

Sunday Bible Class: Members - This is the total enrollment in Sunday Bible class(es) who are congregation members. Count everyone on the rolls. This is NOT an average attendance. Include everyone on the rolls even if you were unable to meet during the year.

Sunday Bible Class: Non-Members - This is the total enrollment in Sunday Bible class(es) who are not congregation members. Count everyone on the rolls. This is NOT an average attendance. Include everyone on the rolls even if you were unable to meet during the year.

### **WEEKDAY BIBLE CLASS ENROLLMENT**

Weekday Classes: Members - This is the total enrollment in weekday Bible class(es) who are congregation members. Count everyone on the rolls. This is NOT an average attendance. Include everyone on the rolls even if you were unable to meet during the year.

Weekday Classes: Non-Members - This is the total enrollment in weekday Bible class(es) who are not congregation members. Count everyone on the rolls. This is NOT an average attendance. Include everyone on the rolls even if you were unable to meet during the year.

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS ENROLLMENT**

Confirmation Class - On each line in this column, place the total enrollment in confirmation classes in the corresponding age/grade level. Include everyone on the rolls even if you were unable to meet during the year.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Vacation Bible School (Members) – This is the total enrollment of children in Vacation Bible School who are congregation members. Include all children who participated in person and online.

Vacation Bible School (Non-Members) - This is the total enrollment of children in Vacation Bible School who are not congregation members. Include all children who participated in person and online.

## MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS.

Estimate the percentage of your total\* membership by age: - For each group listed, please enter the percent of all baptized (including confirmed) members in your congregation who are of that age. Calculate each percentage by counting the total number of members in an age group, and then dividing that by the total number of members in the congregation. If you do not know the exact ages of your members, please estimate as accurately as possible. **Please ensure that the total of all numbers entered adds to 100%.**