

**What is your congregation celebrating?**

growth in activity  
outreach and mission  
nothing under the surface/communicate  
more younger families  
our (Lutheran) heritage  
growing staff, outreach  
Missional River 2.0  
peace in congregation and future possibilities  
131 years of being a congregation  
baptisms  
new members - January  
old people - birthday party  
creativity - quilting  
confirmations  
celebration in Feb. to founding of church council  
131 years ago  
baptism, new members, confirmation  
surviving the last 2 years and re-setting toward mission  
thankfulness for continued opportunity for mission  
growth (numerical)  
diversity  
potential and risk taking  
call new senior pastor (almost)  
getting through transition process  
500th anniversary of Reformation-working with 2 other Lutheran churches  
our graduating seniors (HS/college)  
baptisms  
confirmation  
celebrate our kids going to Camp Chrysalis and Ebert and hosting VBS/Day Camp in July  
sending individuals out to serve others  
one young adult in global mission  
our fifth seminarian  
growth  
the addition of young children within our congregation  
this week the congregation is celebrating the birth of a healthy baby boy to a young couple  
53 years of ministry  
“fresh meat” in council  
community and community activities  
uptick in attendance  
new/different ways to celebrate worship service and sacraments

**With what is your congregation struggling?**

benevolence  
time  
aging facilities  
lack of participation (younger folks)  
focus, direction  
members leaving - change not good for them  
fewer children and young families  
what to do with large bequests  
bringing the old line members into the 21st century  
large bequests  
continued relationship with the ELCA  
calling a pastor  
coming to terms with new normal of membership in mission support  
how to?  
what to do about physical space  
needing to make a plan and see it through-continuity  
who we are and where we're headed  
moving forward and getting out into the community  
aging congregation  
decline in membership although have seen steady attendance at services  
building repairs/renovation  
offerings - meeting on-going budget needs  
expectations (re:attendance and offerings)  
do we need a building  
funding to the degree that would be ideal  
low attendance - both Sunday School and church  
to have more families and individuals to participate in the congregation  
volunteerism

*Written responses received at Cibolo Creek Conference Pre-Assembly Assembly, 3/26/17*

**What is one thing you think the synod does well and should continue to do?**

clergy collegiality

camping ministry

call process was excellent on synod level

dwelling in the word

e-news-synod newsletter

clergy collegiality

Vista

timely response to disasters

communication thru internet, Vista

camping ministry

Dwelling in the Book

Developing a realistic view of mission situation

cooperation among ministries

The Assembly - need more people exposed

Healthy Congregations

supporting call process

supporting the call process

cross trails ministry - camps and retreats

meeting

support campus ministry

support global mission

getting information to the congregation regarding things in the synod

the synod communicates well with the people and the congregations

support call process

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**Please finish this sentence: I hope that 5 years from now the Southwestern Texas Synod is ...**

not afraid

still vital and healthy

alive and well

healthy and strong

focused on gospel and sacrament ministry

more reflective of the church in terms of leadership - more Latino and women

showing signs of growth in congregations

working on resettlement

staffing a full-time youth and young adult leader for the synod

alive and well

still around