

1 **OVERTURE 1-02 Concerning the Lack of Use of the Name Lutheran by Congregations of**
2 **the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**
3

4 WHEREAS, At its 1995 Convention the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod passed
5 Resolution 3-13A stating

6 *“Whereas, We have been called Lutheran since the formation of our Synod*
7 *(and since Reformation times) and are thankful for our doctrinal background*
8 *and heritage; and*

9 *Whereas, The name Lutheran clearly identifies what the member*
10 *congregations and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believe, teach*
11 *and confess; and*

12 *Whereas, Basic Christian honesty and integrity require that no deception of*
13 *any sort be used in declaring the truth of the Gospel before all the world, as*
14 *St. Paul declares: “Rather we have renounced secret and shameful ways;*
15 *we do not use deception, nor do we distort the Word of God. On the contrary,*
16 *by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s*
17 *conscience in the sight of God” (2 Cor. 4:2); therefore be it*

18 *Resolved, That all congregations and mission stations in our Synod boldly*
19 *profess in their official title and/or name that they are “Lutheran”; and be it*
20 *further*

21 *Resolved, That all congregations and mission stations of our Synod state in*
22 *their materials (bulletins, newsletters, etc.) that they belong to The Lutheran*
23 *Church—Missouri Synod; and be it finally*

24 *Resolved, That all LCMS congregations gladly proclaim our great doctrinal*
25 *heritage to a world that needs the clear proclamation of the truth.” and*

26
27 WHEREAS, CFW Walther wrote, “Concerning the Name Lutheran” (*Der Lutheraner* 1,
28 1844, translated by Mark Nispel) concluding,

29
30 “1 - It was Luther and no other through whom God in these last times has
31 brought the pure clear doctrine of the Word of God together with the right
32 use of the Sacraments again into the day and onto the plain and,

33 2 - The communion of those who have confessed this pure doctrine of the
34 Word of God with heart and mouth is therefore named and known by every

1 Lutheran by this name; we can only confess the faith which is in our hearts
2 purely and completely with the name Lutheran.

3 If we would get rid of the name Lutheran the highest suspicion would be
4 aroused that either we are ashamed of the old Lutheran doctrine, or that we
5 no longer consider it to be the only true doctrine agreeing with God's clear
6 Word and that a new false doctrine is in our hearts. As dear, therefore, as
7 the truth is to us, as dear as God's honor and the salvation of our souls is
8 to us, so little can we, especially in this time of widespread error, give up the
9 name Lutheran. By this name we separate ourselves from all the
10 unorthodox of all times and publicly confess the right faith of all time.

11 Because of this, the most serious accusation is made against us that by
12 doing this we tear apart the body of Christ, disassociate ourselves from
13 brothers, wield the sword against heirs of the same inheritance, and declare
14 them to be our enemies. But those who say this are wrong. We disassociate
15 ourselves only from the errors in which so many of our brothers are
16 captured. And we would act without love towards them if we would not loudly
17 witness against that which keeps them in such danger of souls. It is and
18 remains impossible that this action which is in accordance with God's
19 express command can lead to the ruin of God's kingdom. This fact can and
20 must cancel out all other thoughts for a Christian, when it is asked what he
21 should do in any particular circumstance.

22 But the divine command stands clear that we must not just keep our faith in
23 our heart but must confess it also with the mouth. And so, St. Paul says in
24 Rom. 10:10: "One believes with the heart, and becomes righteous; and one
25 confesses with his mouth and is saved." And so says Christ: "He who
26 confesses me before men, he will I confess before my Father in heaven."
27 Matt. 10:32-33. So, if we have the Lutheran faith in our hearts, so we must,
28 if we want to be saved and not be eternally damned, confess it with our
29 mouths." and

30

31 WHEREAS, There are several member congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri
32 Synod who are out of compliance with 1995 Resolution 3-13A, and the spirit and letter of
33 Dr. Walther's argument in retaining the name Lutheran, calling themselves such names
34 as Pathfinder, The Grove, SoulThirst, The Edge, and others; therefore be it

35

36 *Resolved*, That the Southern Illinois District Convention reaffirm 1995 Resolution 3-13A;
37 and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Southern Illinois District meeting in convention agrees with Dr.
2 Walther's statement that,

3

4 "1 - It was Luther and no other through whom God in these last times has
5 brought the pure clear doctrine of the Word of God together with the right
6 use of the Sacraments again into the day and onto the plain and,

7 2 - The communion of those who have confessed this pure doctrine of the
8 Word of God with heart and mouth is therefore named and known by every
9 Lutheran by this name; we can only confess the faith which is in our hearts
10 purely and completely with the name Lutheran.

11 If we would get rid of the name Lutheran the highest suspicion would be
12 aroused that either we are ashamed of the old Lutheran doctrine, or that we
13 no longer consider it to be the only true doctrine agreeing with God's clear
14 Word and that a new false doctrine is in our hearts. As dear, therefore, as
15 the truth is to us, as dear as God's honor and the salvation of our souls is
16 to us, so little can we, especially in this time of widespread error, give up the
17 name Lutheran. By this name we separate ourselves from all the
18 unorthodox of all times and publicly confess the right faith of all time"

19 and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the President and District Presidents of the LCMS enforce 1995
21 Resolution 3-13A and exercise appropriate ecclesiastical supervision for those out of
22 compliance, encouraging those who are unwilling to comply to leave our Lutheran Synod
23 in their own freedom; and be it finally

24 *Resolved*, That the Southern Illinois District send this resolution to the 2026 LCMS
25 convention.

26

27 Submitted by:

28 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hamel, IL

29

30 Ken Moehle
31 *Chairman*

32 Lynn Poletti
33 *Recording Secretary*



Saint Paul Lutheran Church

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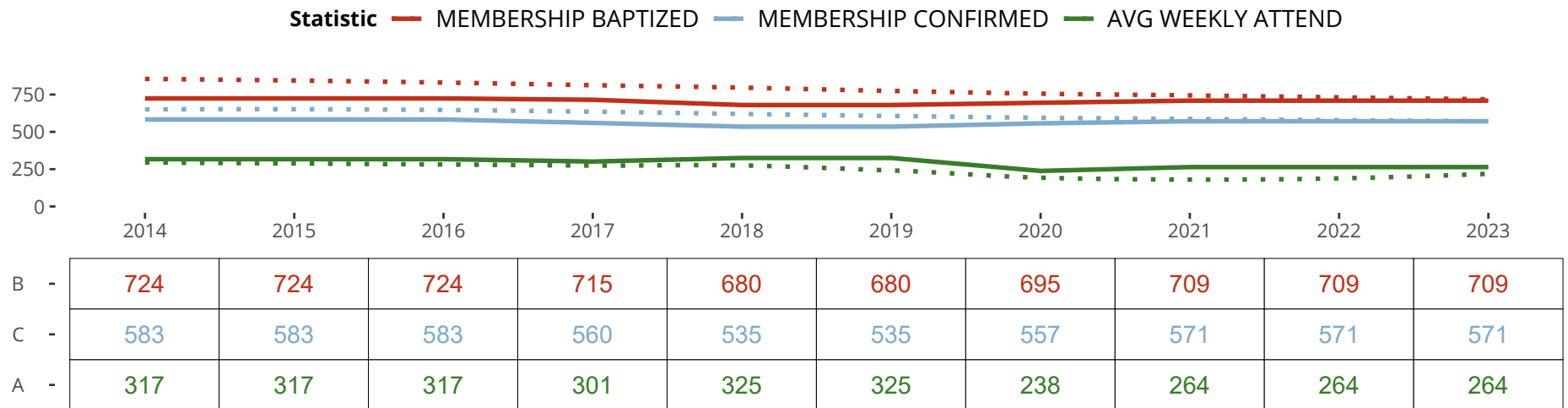
» Pastor-Assistant

Statistical Profile for: Saint Paul Lutheran Church

**Based on annual statistics reported by the congregation.*

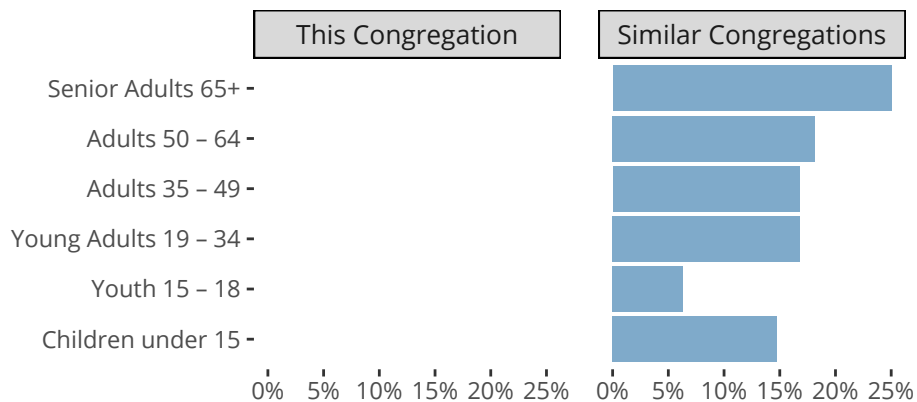
Worden, IL | Southern Illinois District | Last Reporting Year: 2021

Ten Year Trends for the Congregation in Membership and Attendance



The dotted lines represent the average statistics of congregations with similar Confirmed Membership today.

Comparing Age Demographics of Members



Attendance and Annual Gains

	Congregation	Similar
Attendance		
Weekly Average -	264	213
Weekly Visitors -	5	18
Percent Visitors -	1.9%	7.8%
Gains		
Child Baptisms -	6	9
Junior Confirmations -	5	6
Adult Confirmations -	0	5

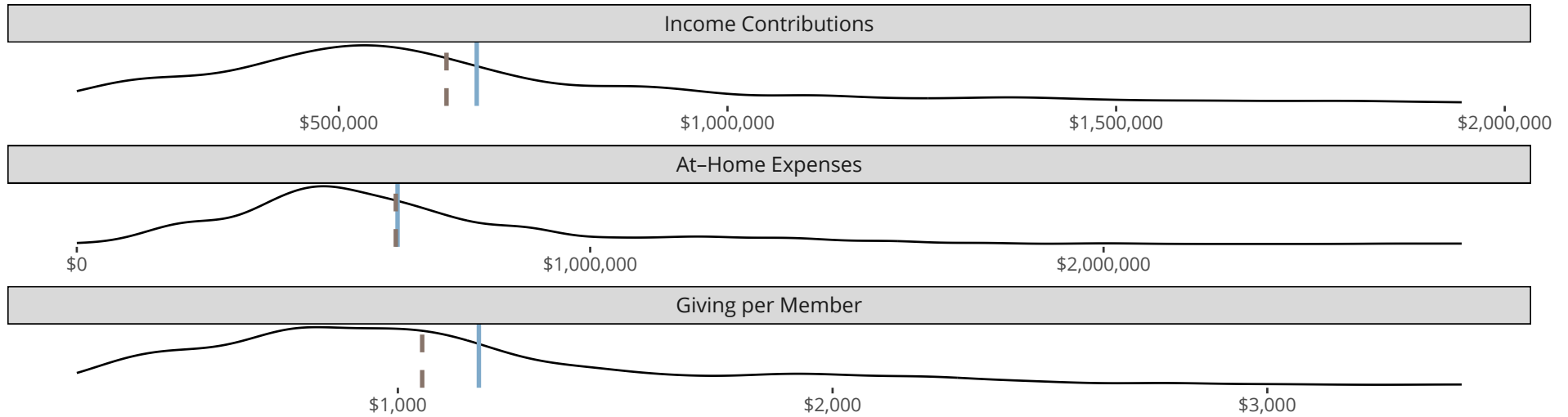
Similar congregations are other LCMS congregations with similar Confirmed Membership to this congregation.

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Financial Comparison with Similar Size Congregations



*The curve represents the distribution of congregations with similar Confirmed Membership.
 The solid blue line represents the value of this congregation's current statistic.
 The dashed gray line represents the average value among similar congregations.*

Statistical Comparison With District and Synod

	Value	Percentile District	Percentile Synod		Value	Percentile District	Percentile Synod
People				Financials			
Baptized Membership -	709	85%	91%	Contributions -	\$677,413	91%	89%
Confirmed Membership -	571	85%	92%	Contribs per Cnf. Member -	\$1,186	78%	47%
Worship Attendance -	264	93%	93%	At-Home Expenses -	\$624,715	82%	83%
Attendance : Baptized Ratio -	37%	74%	47%	Expenses per Bpt. Member -	\$881	62%	38%

Percentile is the congregation's rank as a percentage of the whole (e.g. 50% would be the middle ranking and 99% would be the highest).

If any data on this report is missing, it most likely means the data was not reported for the given year.