Where Is God Calling Us? Where is the Holy Spirit Moving? How Does Jesus' Love Dwell Within Us?

C.A.T. (Congregational Assessment Tool) Results

#9 – Hospitality

The Hospitality Index seeks to measure the degree to which members perceive that the congregation is engaged in offering themselves and their resources to folks who are new, different, or in need. Persons generally expect that churches will be inviting and supportive communities. However, church communities have decidedly different "temperatures" to those who enter them. Some churches feel cold. Others feel warm. It can be difficult for members to gauge this accurately since some may have a network of relationships that others do not. Zion Redeemer members responded to the following statements:

I sense an atmosphere of genuine care and concern a<u>mong our</u> members in time of personal need.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
0.0%	2.0%	2.0%	33.3%	35.3%	27.5%

A friendly atmosphere prevails <u>among the members</u> of our church.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1.0%	2.0%	2.9%	33.3%	35.3%	25.5%

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Members in our church have been prepared to personally welcome guests in worship services.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
0.0%	10.9%	14.1%	21.7%	44.6%	8.7%

Being part of this church community has given new meaning to my life.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
3.1%	3.1%	14.3%	32.7%	34.7%	12.2%

Takeaways:

While members of the parish tend to feel cared for and welcomed in this church community, they don't necessarily find meaning to their lives from relationships in the parish. In today's culture, people find meaning and strong relationships in other activities such as youth sports, service organizations, social clubs, etc.

About half of the respondents stated that they felt somewhat unprepared to welcome guests in worship services.

In the East Central Synod of Wisconsin's "Holy Conversation" Guidebook questions to consider include: Are we experiencing the presence of first-time visitors on a regular basis? Do they return for a second or third visit? Do 20-25% of our first-time visitors eventually join the congregation?

Hospitality is about genuine and authentic relationship-building. How are you building relationships? How are you discovering what God is up to in the lives of neighbors, strangers, and the person sitting next to you in the pew?

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