

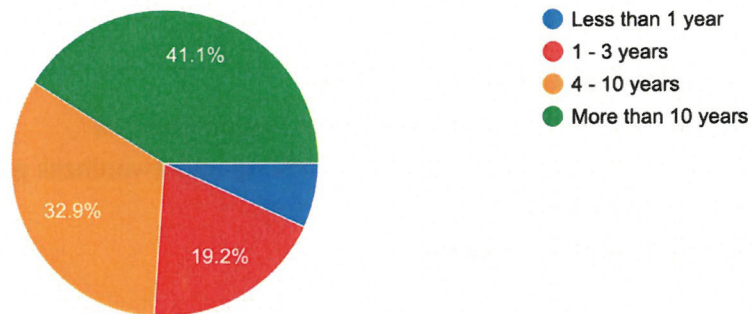
Church of the Holy Comforter Survey

Spring 2026

Respondent Demographics

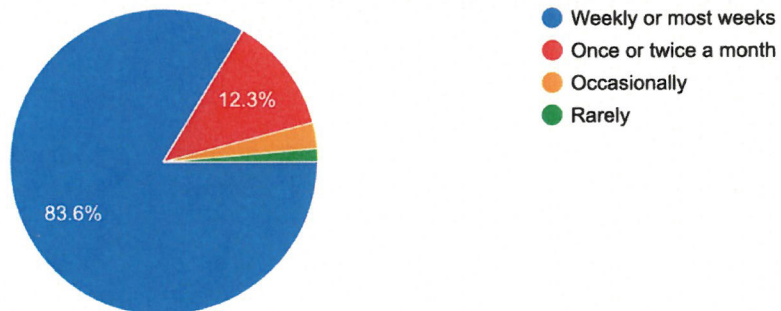
How long have you been part of Holy Comforter?

73 responses



How often do you typically attend worship at Holy Comforter?

73 responses



Executive Summary

Strengths

The church has a clear, consistent identity across all data.

1. Authentic, welcoming community (“all are welcome”)
2. Meaningful worship and spiritual grounding
3. High trust in clergy and leadership
4. Strong outreach identity (service seen as where God is most active)

Challenges

1. Aging congregation / lack of young families
2. Engagement gap – same people carrying most responsibilities
3. Communication & transparency – decision-making and awareness gaps
4. Financial sustainability concerns
5. Future leadership transition anxiety

Opportunities

1. Attract and retain young families (critical for sustainability)
2. Expand participation pathways (especially for working adults)
3. Improve communication systems and transparency
4. Use facilities (e.g., kitchen) to enable ministry and connection
5. Increase community visibility and engagement

Strategic Priorities

Capital priorities, in order:

1. Kitchen renovations
2. Sanctuary lighting / Other
3. Labyrinth

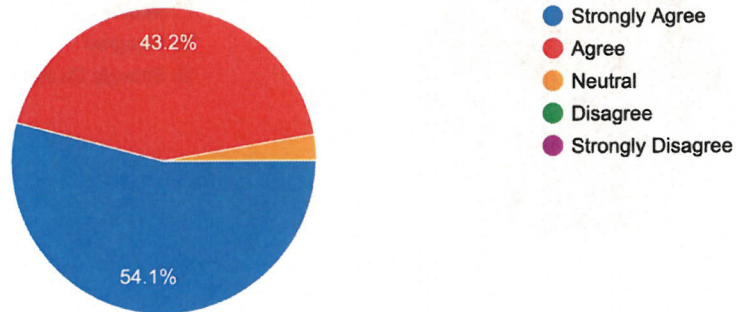
Most selected ministry priorities were:

- Worship & spiritual life
- Outreach & service
- Children & youth ministry
- Stewardship & sustainability

Quantitative Item Results

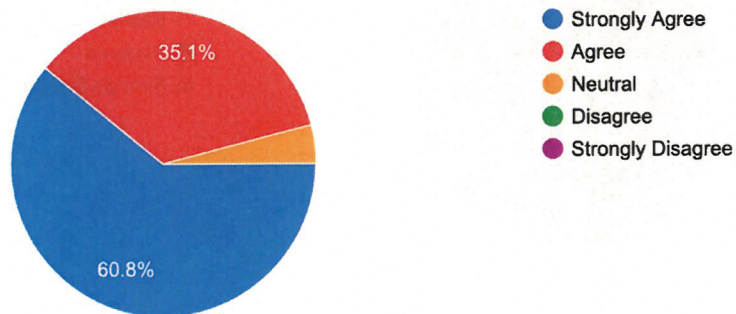
Overall, I feel good about the life of our church.

74 responses



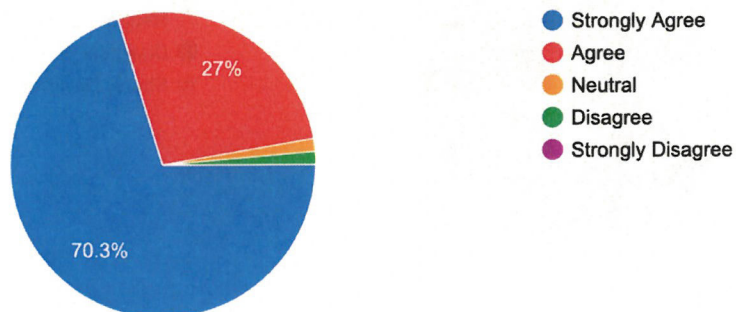
Our worship is meaningful and spiritually nourishing for me.

74 responses



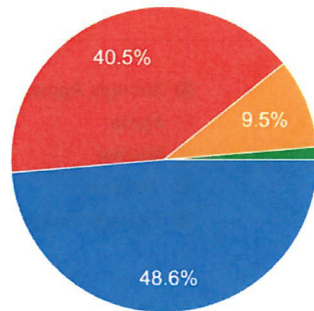
I trust the church leadership (clergy and lay leaders).

74 responses



Communication in our church is clear and timely.

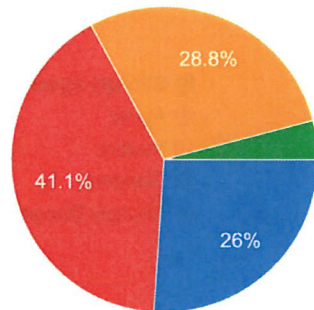
74 responses



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

I understand how decisions are made in our church.

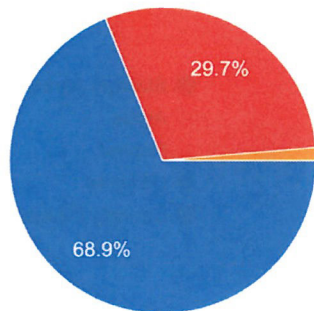
73 responses



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

I feel that I belong in this church community.

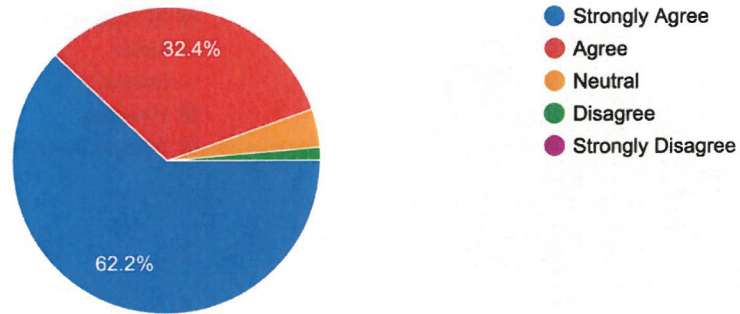
74 responses



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

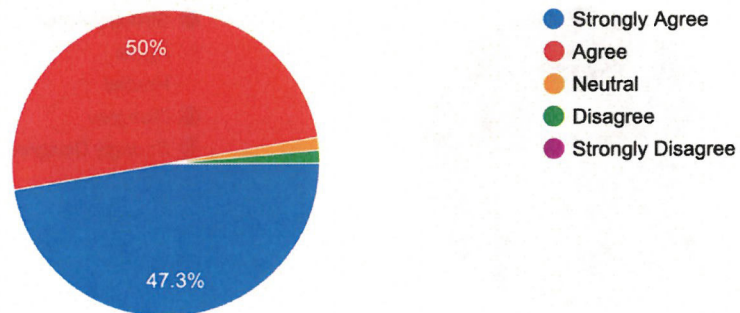
I feel encouraged to share my gifts and time.

74 responses



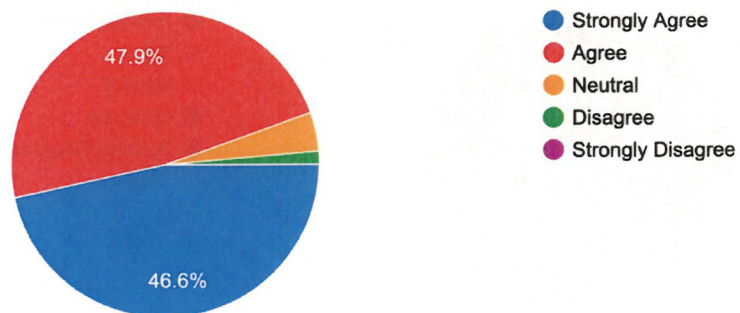
There are realistic and meaningful ways for me to be involved.

74 responses



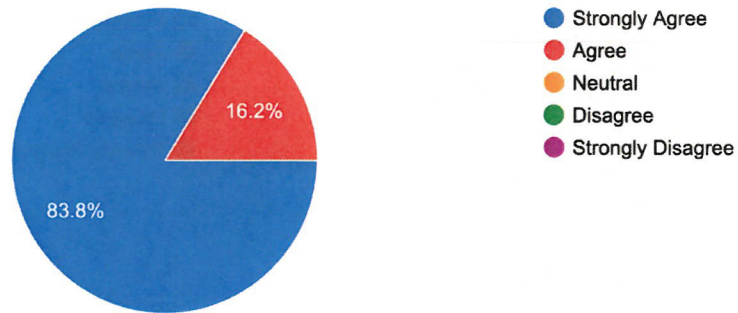
I feel connected to others in the church beyond Sunday worship.

73 responses



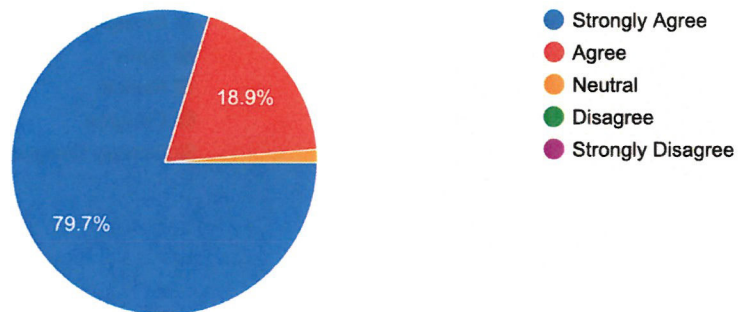
Our church is welcoming to newcomers and visitors.

74 responses



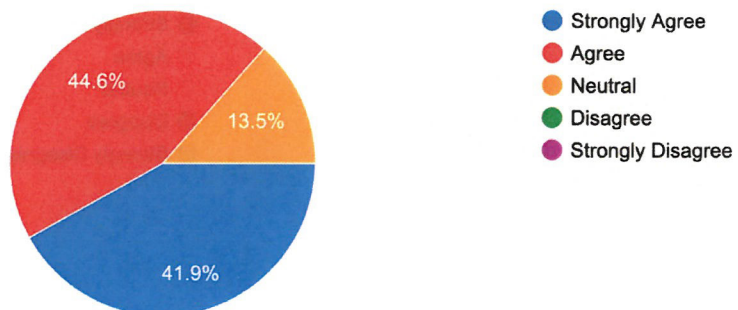
People in our church treat one another with kindness and respect.

74 responses



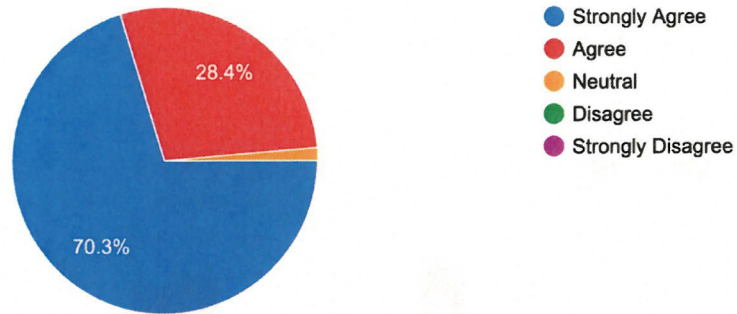
Differences are handled honestly and with care.

74 responses



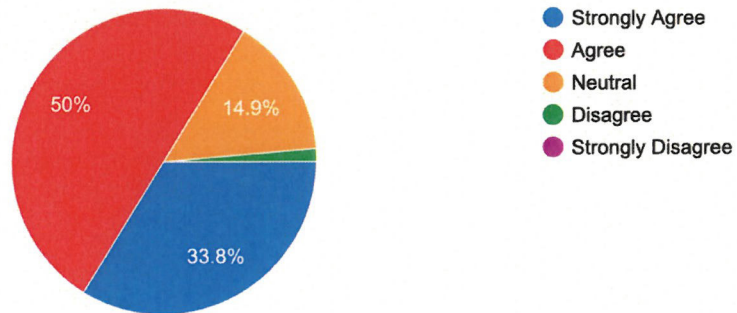
Our church feels spiritually grounded and prayerful.

74 responses



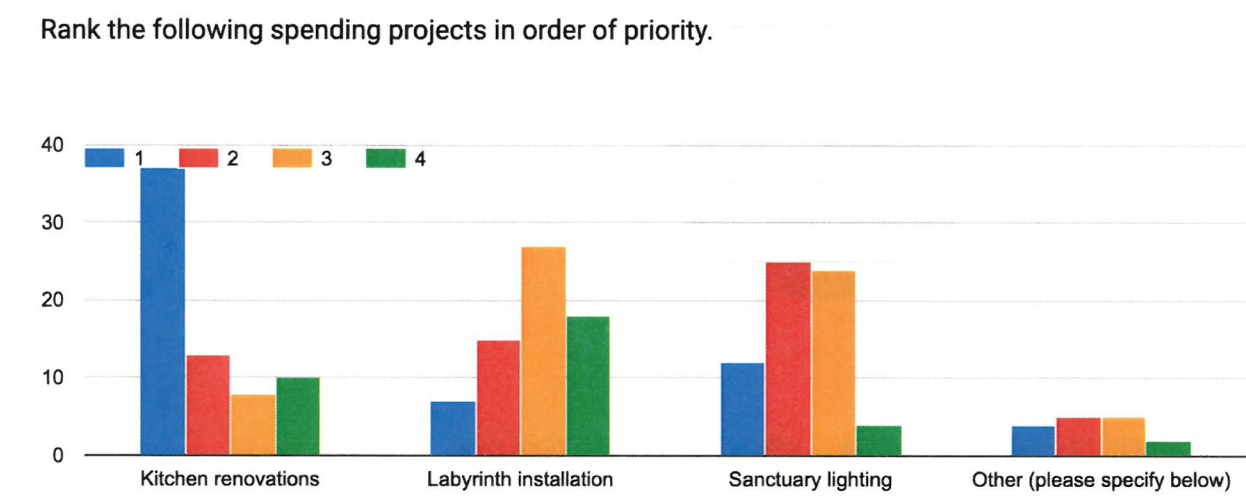
Our church has a clear sense of what matters most right now.

74 responses



Strategic Priorities

Capital Priorities



Project	Avg Rank
Kitchen renovations	1.87
Sanctuary lighting	2.31
Other (custom ideas)	2.31
Labyrinth installation	2.84

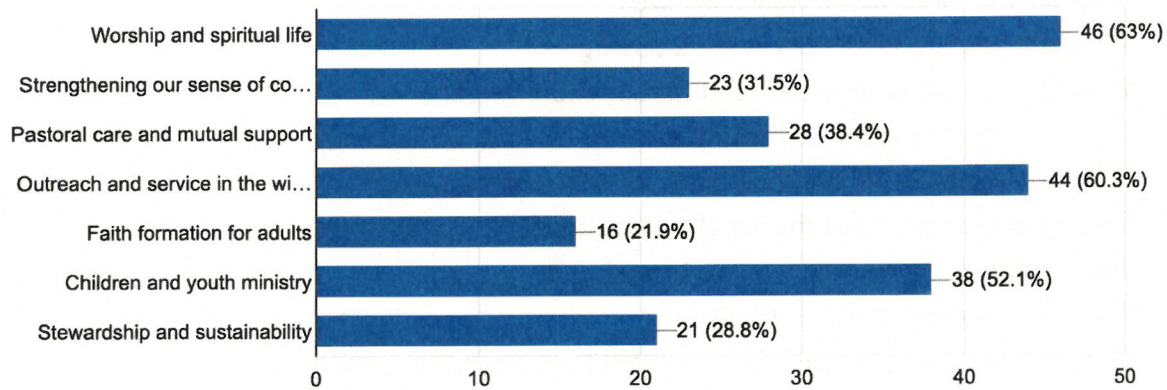
Custom write-ins suggest:

- Practical infrastructure (parking lot lighting, roads, sound)
- Financial prudence (paying off piano, reserves)
- Ministry-supporting upgrades (kitchen, gathering space)

Ministry Priorities

Which ministry priorities should receive the most attention? Select up to 3.

73 responses



Most frequently selected priorities:

Top Tier

- Worship & spiritual life
- Outreach & community service

Second Tier

- Children & youth ministry
- Stewardship & sustainability

Third Tier

- Community building
- Pastoral care

Qualitative Item Thematic Analysis

Questions included:

- What do you most value about our church?
- What do you think we do especially well?
- Where do you see God most at work among us?
- What feels challenging or difficult for our church right now?
- Where do you see opportunities for growth, healing, or renewal?
- What do you think we could do better or differently?
- What hopes do you have for our church's future?
- What concerns do you carry as we look ahead?
- What new ministries could we pursue?
- How do you sense God calling our church to serve in this season?
- Is there anything else you would like church leadership to know?

Core Strengths

1) Deep sense of community & belonging

- “Welcoming,” “family,” “kindness,” and “acceptance” appear repeatedly
- People feel safe, known, and spiritually supported
- Strong emphasis on inclusivity (“all are welcome”)

2) Worship & spiritual grounding

- Worship described as:
 - meaningful
 - peaceful
 - traditional but accessible
- Clergy leadership (especially current rector) is highly valued

3) Outreach & service identity

- A defining strength:
 - Golden Harvest, Byllesby Center, Threads of Comfort, etc.
- Many see this as where “God is most at work”

4) Authentic culture

- Words like “real,” “non-judgmental,” “honest,” and “loving” recur
 - People value being able to “be themselves”
-

Key Challenges

1) Aging congregation / lack of young families

- Most dominant concern by far
- Repeated in nearly every section:
 - “Too few children”
 - “Need younger families”
 - “Aging population”

2) Engagement & participation gaps

- Same people doing most of the work
- Limited involvement opportunities for:
 - Working professionals
 - Newer members
- Timing issues (weekday vs evening/weekend)

3) Communication & transparency

- Decision-making clarity (e.g., piano purchase)
- Visibility into leadership actions
- Awareness of opportunities

4) Financial sustainability concerns

- Church feels “full but coffers are not”
- Concerns about:
 - Funding ministries
 - Avoiding debt
 - Capital spending priorities

5) Transition anxiety

- Widespread concern about:
 - Eventual clergy transition
 - Maintaining identity after change
-

Opportunities for Growth

1) Young families & youth ministry

- Youth programming (age-specific)
- Family-oriented events
- Evening/weekend offerings
- Visible, active youth presence

2) Expanded community engagement

- More public-facing events
- Partnerships with local organizations
- Greater visibility (social media, outreach presence)

3) Small groups & connection spaces

- Small gatherings, dinners, and Bible studies, especially for:
 - Working adults
 - Singles
 - Newcomers

4) Facility improvements tied to ministry

- Kitchen/fellowship space seen as ministry enabler
- Not just a building improvement

5) Better volunteer pathways

- Clear sign-ups and communication
 - Broader participation vs core group burnout
-

Summary

1. Holy Comforter has a very strong foundation
 - Culture, mission clarity, and identity are clear strengths
 - This is not a “fix broken things” situation, it’s a “scale what works” moment
2. Programming, facilities, communication, and scheduling connect to the higher-level desire to attract and integrate younger generations.
3. Facilities decisions should be ministry driven. People support capital spending when it:
 - Enables connection
 - Supports outreach
 - Builds community
4. Engagement is the hidden bottleneck
 - There is a strong mission and there are willing members
 - The gap is clearer pathways to participation and broader involvement
5. Leadership transition needs proactive planning
 - Strong trust now, but underlying concern about continuity