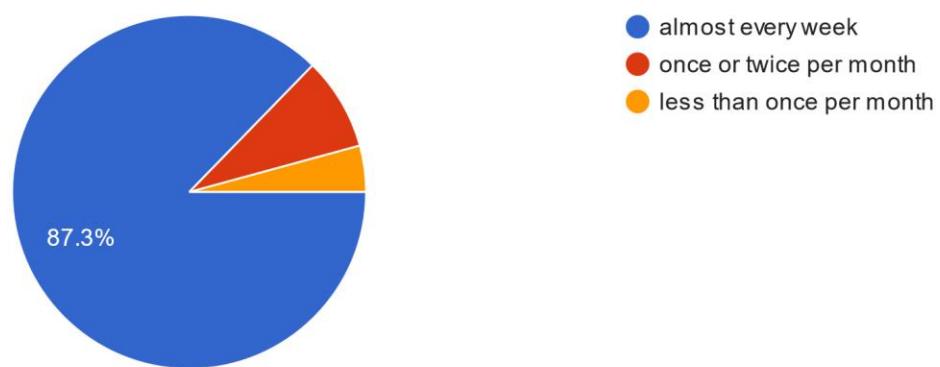




## RETURNING WITH GRACE: SURVEY RESPONSES

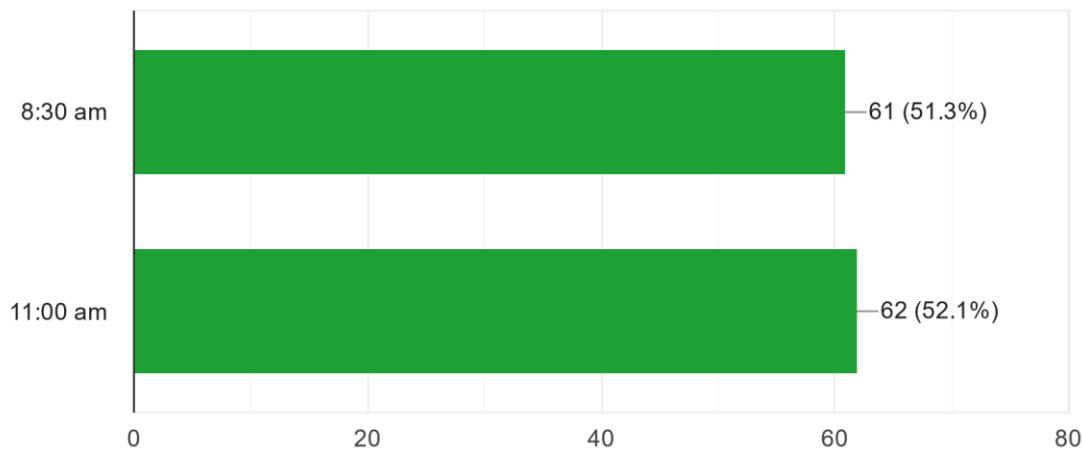
Prior to the pandemic, how often did you attend worship services at Grace?

118 responses



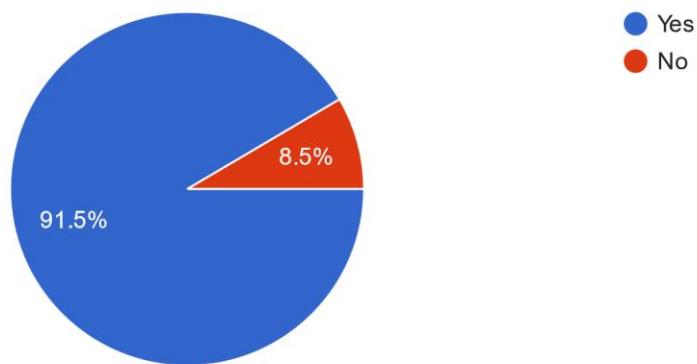
Prior to the pandemic, which worship service did you normally attend?

119 responses



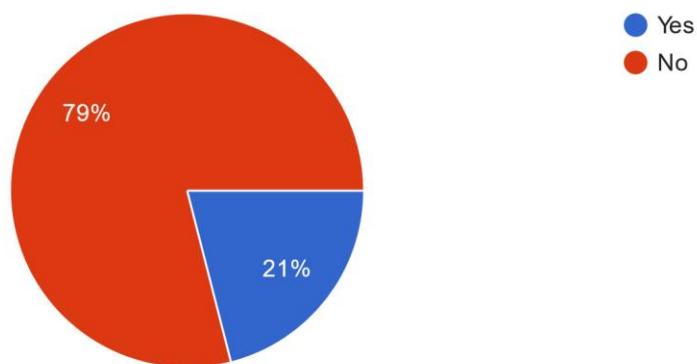
Are you vaccinated against COVID-19?

118 responses



Does your household include children who accompany you to worship?

119 responses



## Theological Question Responses

How do you think God is calling us to respond in this time of pandemic? Why?  
(To put it another way: What does being faithful look like in this time and why?)

- 1) Reaching out to our community and those in need in other places with our resources and time because that is part of our commission from Jesus, to live one another.  
2) Providing spaces where we can worship together, even if it is outdoors or in small groups, again because we are to love one another.
- Accepting change, because we get so set in the way we do things. Changing things up make us look at things in a different way.
- At first we did what was needed in response to the pandemic but I feel it is now safer to start returning to more normal services. Not only preaching God's word but experiencing it through music and fellowship as well.
- Attend church online or in person, sending cards or making calls to grace members, prayers and loving others
- Being back in church for worship and open to community events and outreach. I feel it is important to help our neighbors. The community need is great and we need to be responding to it.
- Being faithful differs much like our personalities. Each of us expresses our faith in how we live our lives and show that to others; much like setting good examples for Children.
- Being faithful during this time looks like sharing our Lutheran heritage and faith through in-person and online worship.
- Being faithful for me is attending services in our sanctuary since I have been vaccinated for some time now. I feel that God has given our world the knowledge to develop the effective vaccines and that everyone should welcome them and take advantage of them. If they do, we can get back to services with singing, communion at the communion rail, and perhaps without masks. Then we would not worry about transferring this pandemic virus to other people or having someone unknowingly infect those of us around them. Being faithful means trusting our church council and pastors to monitor the data and decide when we can safely open completely. I can see committees or small groups. beginning to meet in person in small groups to handle church programming.
- Being faithful means continuing to try my best to follow Jesus's teachings, regardless of my circumstances. To serve others, to teach my children (and everyone else) about God directly and by example, to be patient.
- Being faithful now means, for me, watching the internet service, attending the in person service, donating my time, financially and clothing and because of Covid 19 my blood plasma, and platelets.
- Being open and Caring for ALL
- Being respectful of other's opinions- masks, vaccines, political views

## **Theological Question Responses (cont.)**

How do you think God is calling us to respond in this time of pandemic? Why?  
(To put it another way: What does being faithful look like in this time and why?)

- Being supportive of one another and their choices. If someone doesn't want to get vaccinated they shouldn't feel pressured to do so, but regardless of vaccinations we all need to do our part by wearing masks and social distancing as much as possible. Provide assistance to community/church members who want a vaccination but need help scheduling. Resume face to face worship and other activities and outreach ministries for those that want to attend with precautions in place.
- Being there for others.
- Being thoughtful to all members of Grace.
- By continuing to worship Him, being faithful stewards for Him and Grace, and trying to help each other inside and outside of our congregation. Why - because God created us, loves us, sacrificed for us, is always faithful to us and is present in our lives, regardless of circumstances.
- By sharing stimulus checks when necessary.
- By understanding each other feelings and to accept them regardless how we feel
- Carefully; we need to continue to listen to what the CDC and other health care providers are saying because we need to care for each other especially during this pandemic.
- Continue being stewards of safety.
- Continue to believe in Him and His strengths in taking care of us.
- Continue to have faith in God!
- continuing to worship even though its on the internet
- Don't give in to fear. Give in to faith.
- Encourage people to come back to church
- Faith is what has carried us through the pandemic. God call us to be ministers of his word and to care for his sick.
- Faithful during this time looks the same as faithful during any time. Worshipping God and spending time with other believers.
- Fostering community while keeping our congregation safe.

## **Theological Question Responses (cont.)**

How do you think God is calling us to respond in this time of pandemic? Why?  
(To put it another way: What does being faithful look like in this time and why?)

- God continues to call each of us to be faithful in time, talent and possessions. Our pastors and staff have delivered an on-line worship that meets many needs. Our financial giving was spectacular in 2020 with the majority of the year having no in-person worship. Our congregation was faithful and responsive. With the vaccine numbers increasing and the Covid-19 cases decreasing, I feel it is time to return to normal as much as possible. It is time for music to return to the in-person worship services. It should be appropriate to have a soloist and cantor return in lieu of a full choir. Ushers should return ----- they could check people in at the back door and allow the pastors this time for preparation. Acolytes should return. Please let's get back to normal as much as possible. Yes, mask should still be worn if one is not vaccinated.
- God created all of us, our world and the heavens. The pandemic brought all people and issues to a standstill. It was frightening and humbling. In my lifetime nothing has touched me more spiritually. I felt God was giving me a chance to refresh and regroup. When we were forced to stop and take stock of what was really important to us, I saw more clearly how blessed I really am. I feel God is reminding me to trust that he will always be with me through all things, good and bad. I thank God everyday now for health, family, nature and peace in my heart in a different way, with clearer and stronger personal belief that he is in charge.
- God has provided us with the vaccinations. With this, comes certain ability to get together, even if we use a mask to prevent spreading the virus to people that haven't been vaccinated yet.
- God is always with us. Being faithful at this time requires that we continue to worship, participate in fellowship and church activities, committee work, etc. by Zoom and reach out to fellow members.
- God is asking us to take stock in our mortality and His gift of immortality. We are reminded of the fragile and ultimately fatal physical being. Because of this nature and that it is a temple, God calls us to take prudent care of our bodies. Hence the restrictions on mass gatherings (I believe) are within God's desire for His people. That being said, He also expects us to continue the journey towards unity with Him; to strengthen our relationship, both with one another and with Him in new and different ways than before.
- God is calling me to return to my place of worship with my church family to celebrate a full and complete worship service.
- God is calling us to be faithful followers. He expects us to respond prudently when necessary, but also expects us to trust Him and listen for the Holy Spirit's voice reminding us to step out in faith with expectation and confidence in His Blessings.
- God is calling us to be faithful to Him during this time of pandemic by joining in worship virtually, assisting our neighbors as needed and returning to in-person worship as it becomes safe for everyone involved.

## **Theological Question Responses (cont.)**

How do you think God is calling us to respond in this time of pandemic? Why?  
(To put it another way: What does being faithful look like in this time and why?)

- God is calling us to worship and not to lose faith and to meet in person as possible as our faith is strengthened through fellowship. Expressing our joy through singing had always been strong with Lutherans. Adding song makes it so much more meaningful in worship. Yet we need to manage the COVID risk appropriately, based on # vaccinated, what the health professionals say, and peoples own risk level.
- God is everywhere although it is beneficial to gather in God's name I believe during the pandemic the health of others is more important than gathering together. Pray can be done any time and any place. As Covid numbers go down I would hope that more people can safely gather together again. I believe the pandemic has helped me to appreciate all that I have and to spend time being more grateful to God.
- God is reminding us that there are many different ways to connect with Him and each other. We just have to continue to search them out, Maybe the search is faith in action.
- God wants us in church worshiping as a community
- God would probably like us to, at least, "stay in touch" with him.
- Helping your neighbors community and family. Doing what is best for all not just one's self
- I believe God is leading us to participate in in-person worship. Corporate worship is so very important. Matthew 18:20: For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.
- "I believe that God wants us to consider the health of our congregants by trusting our Grace leadership to make the informed and prayerful decisions that will protect those who wish to attend church services/activities in person.
- God is "wisdom and power". Daniel 2:20"
- I believe that we are called to continue on and forge new ways while keeping the old ways to worship as a family. Lean on him and he will get us through this.
- I believe this pandemic has given us a chance to stay faithful in a more personal way. We have been given a chance to help with projects at the church, provide meals to those in need, give to much needed charitable organizations and learn how to stay connected with church family virtually.
- I believe we are being called by God to trust him in gathering together in person to offer him worship and praise.

## **Theological Question Responses (cont.)**

How do you think God is calling us to respond in this time of pandemic? Why?  
(To put it another way: What does being faithful look like in this time and why?)

- I believe we are called to gather in person and use Communion, music and song to praise Him. I think, and hope the survey will show, that the majority of our regular attendees have been vaccinated. I believe that we can creatively worship together and in-person whether outside with a full service including singing (as other congregations have been doing) or inside with a soloist and accompanist or sing inside with a mask on.
- I do not believe there is a difference. Being faithful is the same
- I do not feel that God is calling me as a result of this pandemic. My relationship with God is not predicated on a virus. My faith remains steadfast and my relationship with God has not altered.
- I feel He is calling us to support each other and that is hard to do without in person contact. I feel a connection was lost between my family and the church during the pandemic and it could have been used to make a stronger bond and personal connection.
- I feel that God calls us to be in community even more because people's needs are even greater in times of distress. I feel our church has not lived up to this calling due to its almost total shutdown. In my opinion, being faithful might look different in a time of pandemic, but that all functions of the church body would still be vital and important. Being faithful would mean continuing with the aspects of community and outreach (especially on a personal level) although it may have to be done differently.
- I feel that God is calling us to join back together and all worship together in His house. Coming together to worship is showing the world that we have faith in our Lord.
- I really think that God would love for us to be back safely at church.
- I think being faithful during this time means doing what is right even when it isn't as much fun. It means following the advice of the scientific and medical communities. It means putting others, even those you don't know, before yourself.
- I think being faithful is continuing to worship and have fellowship (in person or virtually) while doing everything we can to keep our family members, congregation members, and anyone we come in contact with as safe as possible - mainly by wearing masks during gatherings and getting vaccinated at our first opportunity to do so if we are physically able.
- I think God calls us always to protect life; I think being faithful looks like keeping our congregation and community safe, the best ways we know how.

## **Theological Question Responses (cont.)**

How do you think God is calling us to respond in this time of pandemic? Why?  
(To put it another way: What does being faithful look like in this time and why?)

- I think God is calling us to trust even more in His promises. I especially believe that we have been given an opportunity to better understand how we do worship....How the setting is not nearly as critical as our gratitude for the opportunity which centers us to meet God and each other in a variety of places/ways. I think we will have a new found appreciation for the ability to be together under 1 roof, but to understand that we can also be together in prayer and connection however that looks. My prayer is that we will say that our faith grew during this past year.
- I think God is calling us to worship in a variety of ways (in person and virtual) so everyone can have the opportunity to worship in a way he/she is comfortable. I think in person worship should still have safety measures in place (masks and social distancing).
- I think he is saying enough is enough! Its time to return in person to my Holy house and worship with song and praise!
- I think he wants us to be safe and worship him. But I also think he wants us to comfortable and safe in the way we worship.
- I think He wants us to worship together. It strengthens the church as a family and as well as our faith
- I think I god is calling us to be there for each other and lean in each other.
- I think we should be having the full Lutheran service live streamed from the church. This should have been done last year. 4 months of this year is already gone and this is still not being done!
- I'm not alone-God is with me
- It has been a time to pause and reflect on how lucky we are. With that in mind, do what we can, physically and financially to help others in our community and beyond.
- Kindness
- Life is the most precious gift God provides. Life is the only thing that separates us from dust (Genesis 2). Life is not ours to direct (Gen 3). Life is ours to preserve (Gen 4). We respond faithfully in this time by living as fully as possible, but never at the expense of the life around us. This is to say, our living will absolutely involve some measure of risk, but we would be unfaithful to live with such reckless abandon that we spread a virus that has already taken millions of lives. Casual disregard for life around us rejects the basic responsibility God gives us, to be caretakers of life all around us. Disregarding God's gift in such a way is sin. The life of the baptized is such that we are to live as God's new creation, with a spirit like that of Christ Jesus - dead to sin, and alive to God in Christ Jesus (Romans 6).
- Looking out for each other by checking in with members by phone, e-mail, etc.

## **Theological Question Responses (cont.)**

How do you think God is calling us to respond in this time of pandemic? Why?  
(To put it another way: What does being faithful look like in this time and why?)

- Love one another. That is basically the call, pandemic or not. Being faithful is a wrestling match. We should be together as a community, but we don't want to put others at risk. Children need to be together in Sunday School to grow in faith, but we don't want to create an environment that could possibly spread the virus. We want full, normal worship, but we don't want staff that may be high risk to be exposed. The situation is very close to the point where parishioners need to have a choice to come and worship in a close to normal setting or not. That would be the best scenario, and everyone can feel loved by one another.
- Loving our neighbors means refraining from activities that can cause harm. The harm we need to avoid at this time is spreading the coronavirus in our community.
- My interpretation of what Luther said about the plague in Wittenberg is that we should remain safe, but faithful. So far Grace has done an excellent job with this. As we all become vaccinated, and as the number of cases dwindles, we should take appropriate steps to bring worship back to normal.
- Praying constantly
- Protecting others from sickness
- Provide ongoing support and guidance within the congregation and community.
- staying in contact and community with church family
- Staying in touch with others and reaching out to those in need.
- Supporting our church family and the community, safely but in a way that allows us to gather and do God's work.
- Taking care of each other. Including wearing masks and social distancing (when required) and getting the vaccine.
- That we ready to return to church . We have been raised to be faithful to our church.
- The church is in the heart, mind and soul of the believer. We continue to minister to others through giving, helping those less fortunate than ourselves and volunteering to help in any that is health safe. It may be donating food or calling to check on shut-ins.
- The Lord will guide us through. Never a doubt
- The message ""have faith, not fear"" was overused and perhaps not always appropriately used at the early days of the pandemic, but now I feel we need to forge on and come to worship together, despite some risk of sharing germs. Christians over time have worshipped in the face of adversity. Now that many folks are vaccinated, I think people will decide for themselves what level of risk they are willing to take. Make the worship a warm and pleasant experience, even if we can't all sing yet.

## **Theological Question Responses (cont.)**

How do you think God is calling us to respond in this time of pandemic? Why?  
(To put it another way: What does being faithful look like in this time and why?)

- Other than worship experience, we need to all remember the poor, widows, and other less fortunate. Reach out to our neighbors and check on our seniors. ""Be the church."""
- to be mindful of others and try to get back in the habit of attending church
- To be more generous for those in need. To show our Christian love to each other, to respect others with whom we might be different from or who we disagree with; (especially in this time of political divisiveness). To Love our neighbors as ourselves should be every Christian's response.
- We should also be bold in our faithful actions. Protecting the weak and old among us was a necessary step, but not a permanent status. Going to church is an active demonstration of faith we should return to."
- To be responsible for our actions and respect other people's opinion. We all came into this pandemic from different needs and those may or may not have changed, but either way we should be willing to listen to other opinions and try to compromise where it's necessary for us to be able to come back to worship in person at Grace. We all need to have more understanding of others.
- To have our services online that will enable us to continue worshipping together even if we can't be together physically.
- To make meaningful worship available to all, whether in person or online (which has been done so well during the pandemic). I can only hope that the online option continues after the pandemic to make worship available to those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend in-person worship, whether temporarily or due to permanent inability to go to church on Sunday mornings.
- To provide and continue weekly on-line worship for members who cannot attend in person for whatever reason. Also, for those who found Grace's on-line service wherever they may be.
- To trust the science, verify and care for others.
- Treating others as you would like to be treated. Showing love to all people, be gracious and kind.
- Understanding and accepting that god is control. Importance of family. Love one another even when we disagree.
- We need to trust in God and continue to worship him. Only he can control the world events happening today.
- We should be concerned and responsible the health and well-being of ourselves and others by following the guidelines of the CDC, the ELCA and the SC Synod.

## **Theological Question Responses (cont.)**

How do you think God is calling us to respond in this time of pandemic? Why?  
(To put it another way: What does being faithful look like in this time and why?)

- We should be doing everything in our power to open the Church back to normal operations as soon as possible. Everyone needs to feel the love of fellowship!
- We should be in Church with masks and no hand shaking. It is time.
- We should try to get back to worship as soon as we get the vaccine and feel we are able to do so safely. However, the worship from home has been wonderful when we weren't able to get out. The point is that we worship every Sunday.
- While I think it is good to be cautious. Most of the congregation is over 50 and should have been vaccinated. I have been away from Church for almost a year and a half. No one.....not one person has called or checked on me. I have watched some videos of the service, but it is just not the same. Honestly, I think I will be looking for another place to worship. While I don't believe that God requires us to be in a building.....I do think he wants us to be with others and care about others.

## **Online Worship Question Responses**

What would make you more likely to participate in online worship? Or, if you are already participating in online worship, what might enhance your experience?

- don't see myself in that roll
- ?
- Already do, but not regularly
- being able to see
- better lighting and camera quality; consistent camera angle that shows the sanctuary, but focuses on the pastors and worship assistants, so I can feel like I am with them
- Can't think of anything - I attend online regularly and I have found it to be a fantastic experience in the way it is presented now.
- Clearer audio from the pulpit! Sound is muffled from the microphone on your clothing.
- Currently not participating in online. Currently visiting churches that have in person worship.
- Currently satisfied with the online but patiently waiting for in-person with music.
- Do not like it
- Embedded links to specific moments of the service (e.g. sermon) to allow for personalized viewing.
- Fewer performance solos.

## Online Worship Question Responses (cont.)

What would make you more likely to participate in online worship? Or, if you are already participating in online worship, what might enhance your experience?

- Full service format!
- Getting vaccinated is vital to allowing you to participate more fully.
- I already participate regularly in online worship. For the future, seeing/viewing liturgists reading from the pulpit, soloists or choir singing.
- I already worship online most every Sunday. I would like to see more people volunteer to read the scriptures and prayers. Perhaps having a small group singing the hymns at church. Also having the choir record the anthem safely in the sanctuary. Thank you for showing the Altar this week.
- I am currently enjoying the online service very much and can't think of anything that would improve on it at this time. Having all of the music is important and we've been able to have that.
- I am fine with the current online service except that I miss the more contemporary music used in the early service and I wish more people would volunteer to do readings.
- I am not a computer person and don't enjoy spending a lot of time at a computer, so I don't think there is anything more that can be done to enhance my experience of online worship. (I do appreciate the worship services being available online.)
- I am not a fan of online worship. It is good to have that option if in-person worship is not possible, but it does not take the place of communing together in God's house.
- I am not interested in online worship, I will just go to another church
- I am tiring of online worship.
- I am very pleased with my participation..
- I attend online when I feel the need, online is too convenient to say I'll do it later
- I do not enjoy the online worship and rarely watch. So there is nothing that would make me more likely to participate in an online worship.
- I enjoy online worship as it is. Everyone has done a great job with this.
- I give an A+ to present online worship!
- I have been participating in the online worship regularly. Online can be good option for those who can't get out.
- I have not participated, and have no reason why. A church service with communion has always been special to me.

## Online Worship Question Responses (cont.)

What would make you more likely to participate in online worship? Or, if you are already participating in online worship, what might enhance your experience?

- I have participated and will be a part of the service in the future. More participation by more people would make it even better.
- I have participated in several online experiences and nothing replaces being in the presence of others and enjoying that "REAL" experience.
- I have started to attend church services and feel that it's safe. We were doing online service weekly prior to in person attending.
- I like that I can worship at any time my schedule permits. I am fellowship more on line.
- I like the changes with the cameras today.
- I like the online worship
- I like the online worship a lot the way it is.
- I love the online because when I out of town i can still see it. The coffee hour is great because listening to others comment make you really think about it sometimes in another way.
- I participate every week. I wish more people would participate.
- I participate in online worship now. I enjoy the Facebook coffee hour, seeing church members reading the lessons from their homes, and the virtual choir. I wish the online service and coffee hour were earlier like it was prior to the return of in-person worship.
- I prefer being in Gods house to worship. On line worship in real time with the church service.
- I prefer in person
- I prefer live worship.
- I prefer worship in the sanctuary, but until now I have participated in online worship. I would like to see our choir singing as a group from their usual places in the chancel area and readers being recorded in the church. I look forward to live streaming as apposed to pre-taping.
- I really like the online service.
- I think the online worship is already beyond expectations
- I think the online worship is fantastic as it is!
- I think the way it is being done is great and believe we don't need anything changed

## Online Worship Question Responses (cont.)

What would make you more likely to participate in online worship? Or, if you are already participating in online worship, what might enhance your experience?

- I think you're doing a great job with online worship as it is.
- I was most faithful watching the online versions of worship when they were available at 8:30 am. It was a pleasant and meaningful way to start my day with a cup of coffee and the worship service. Once online service was not available until 11, I found myself getting involved in something else and not stopping to listen to the worship service until later in day or in the week. (I understand and appreciate why it wasn't available until 11 am but had to share my honest answer). Also, I'm just tired of looking at a screen for any purpose. I'm more likely to walk and listen to the service on my air pods. I appreciate all of the efforts put into creating the online videos. There was a sharp learning curve, but my how well you have done!
- I watch the online service every week! Posting the words of the songs the choir sings on the bottom of screen.
- I went to early service in person because that is a time that worked for me. If I have to wait to watch service late in the day I won't watch it. I often times go back during the week and watch early in the morning the last Sunday.
- I would like to see the choir's members singing in the Sanctuary to enhance my online worship experience.
- I would participate only if I was unable to attend an in person service anywhere
- I would prefer to worship in person with a full service than online, I feel that online church makes it easier for me to have reasons to not participate in worship.....it's hard to make a connection with the video platform.
- I would rather attend Church services in person.
- I(We) already find everything satisfactory in/with the online services.
- I'm one of those old school guys. Live service or nothing .
- If I am not able to attend in person, I would watch online worship. It would be wonderful if we could live-stream the service. I understand this is a goal.
- It is a new and different (sometimes very fulfilling) way of worship for me. I would need more time to reflect on this.
- It is very difficult to participate virtually with small children at home in their normal play setting. We miss in-person church.
- It's been well done but I'm ready for in person worship
- It's fine

## Online Worship Question Responses (cont.)

What would make you more likely to participate in online worship? Or, if you are already participating in online worship, what might enhance your experience?

- It's fine.
- Lately (2021) I have found it difficult to connect with the recordings in such a way that I am worshiping with the online worship services. I think I would prefer to see sermons, anthems, and occasional hymns as videos that stand alone. I would recommend that we stop posting entire worship services until we are able to record worship that takes place in the Sanctuary from start to finish (whether there is singing or not, music or not).
- "Live Streaming - 1. Money was left over from budget 2020 - none used for live streaming 2. Money in 2021 budget for live streaming - still no response from those planning. There is a new congregation in Baxter Village that meets in the YMCA and they have been live streaming since March 2020."
- More live music.
- More of the same
- music and safety
- No answer
- No mask as I have a heart and lung disease and I do not get enough oxygen wearing a mask.
- Not impressed with the virtual choir. All participants should be in robes and the recording should be done in the church.
- not sure as have been attending another on-line church from another faith
- Nothing
- Nothing, I am pleased with the way Grace has answered this call for worship.
- Online worship is a good alternative. But in person is best
- Online is not a good option for us. We prefer in person so we can also receive communion. Even coming to services now, I feel like online is the priority and the congregation in person is a second thought.
- Online worship has been excellent and gets better and better as new features are added. Having a soloist sing each hymn would be a good addition.
- Online worship is certainly convenient, but cannot replace full participation.
- Online worship is great. It is so good that the push to get back to full, normal, in person worship is not as great. I'm not sure I would change anything.

## Online Worship Question Responses (cont.)

What would make you more likely to participate in online worship? Or, if you are already participating in online worship, what might enhance your experience?

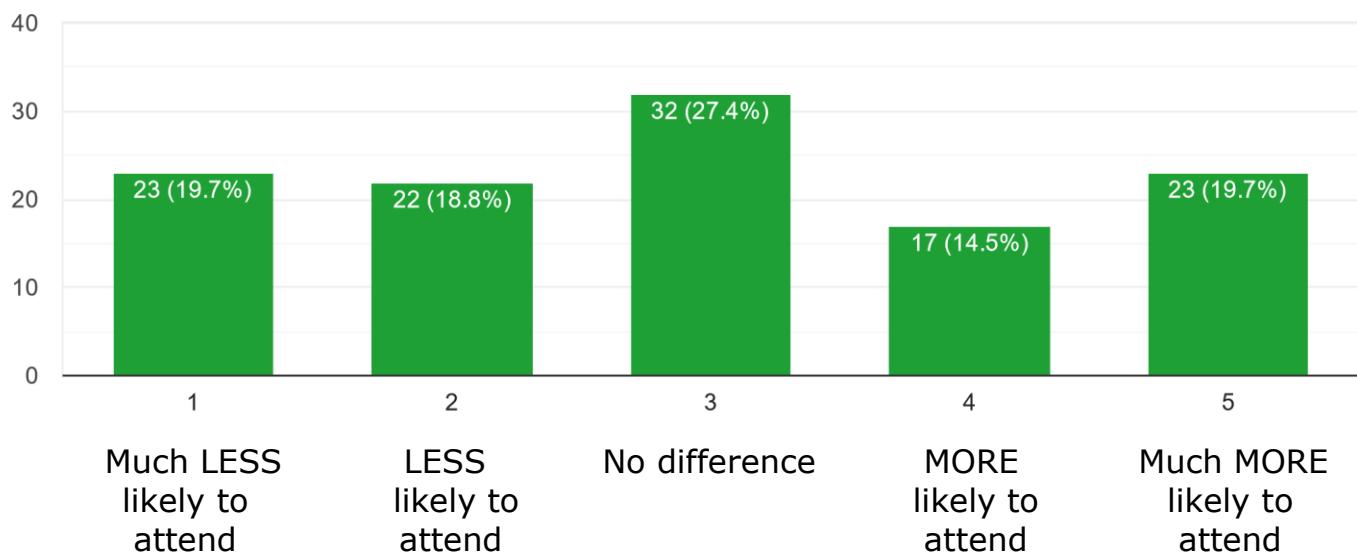
- Online worship isn't working for me and my family. The need to be present in God's Holy house is the correct way for us to worship.
- Online worship needs to become a livestream of our Sunday morning worship service. It has lost touch with our Lutheran liturgy.
- Personally I am vaccinated and going to attend in person.
- Rather than concentrating on offering a robust online worship program, we should be concentrating on safely gathering in-person with music.
- Some type of communion. Children singing or youth being a part of the worship service
- The music has been good but I would love to hear more contemporary music.
- The online worship is wonderful and I can't think of any way to improve it!
- The online worship right now has lost the point that it is a time of worshipping God. It is no longer representative of a Lutheran worship service.
- The service is wonderful and I can't think of any way that it can be enhanced.
- There is nothing you can do.
- This has been acceptable and I am glad singing has been incorporated, but it is time to get back to in person. I feel we are late in doing so.
- Unsure
- Viewing a livestream worship service from the sanctuary should be a viable immediate option. Livestreaming a worship service in the sanctuary would remove the necessity for the current staged format. Participation in the 8:30 in-person service should not feel like one is an audience member at a taping for a show. Rather the online viewer should experience the in-person service.
- We already participate and it is fine. We prefer when there are several choir members singing.
- We are enjoying the online worship.
- We attend in person. And watch online. Love online service in case we are not able to attend.
- We attended in person now and rarely watch the online service. If watching from home, live streaming would be better and more meaningful

## In-Person Worship Question Responses

The next several charts represent responses to the questions that asked about specific factors and limitations that might affect the respondent's participation.

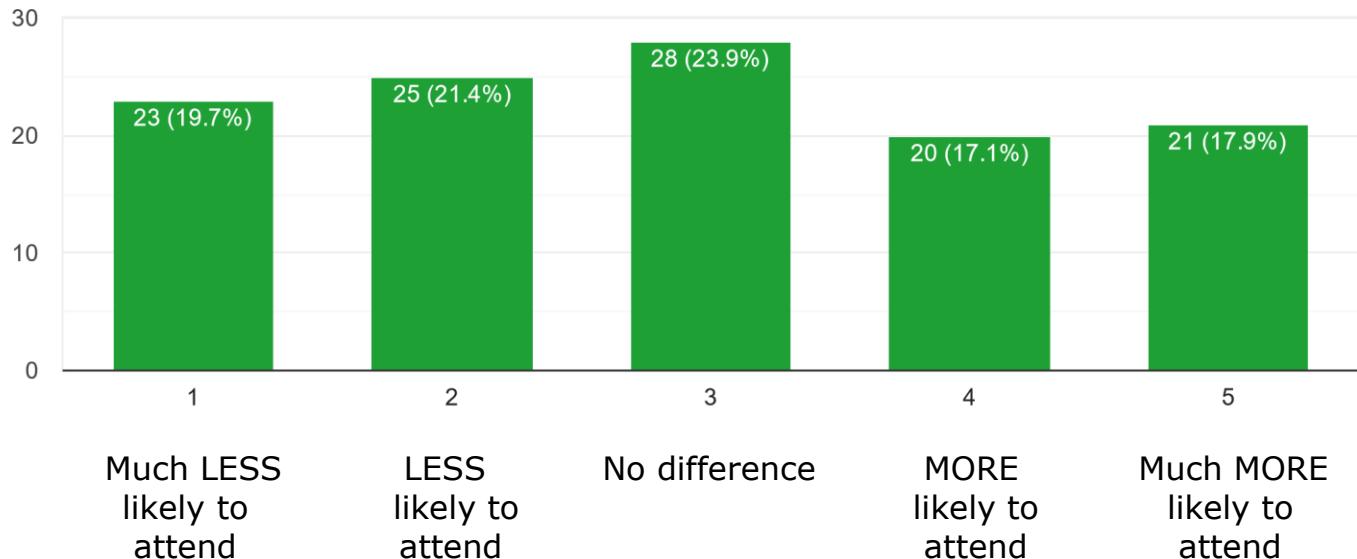
If we spoke the words of the liturgy and hymns, would you be

117 responses



If we hummed along to the music for the liturgy and hymns, would you be

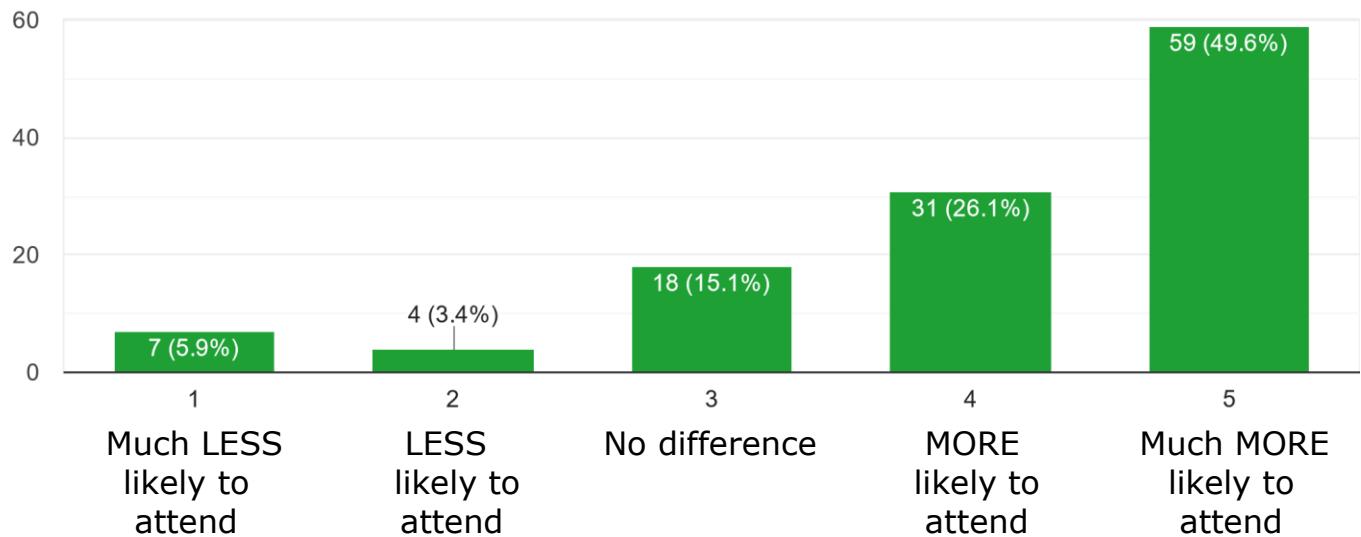
117 responses



## In-Person Worship Question Responses (cont.)

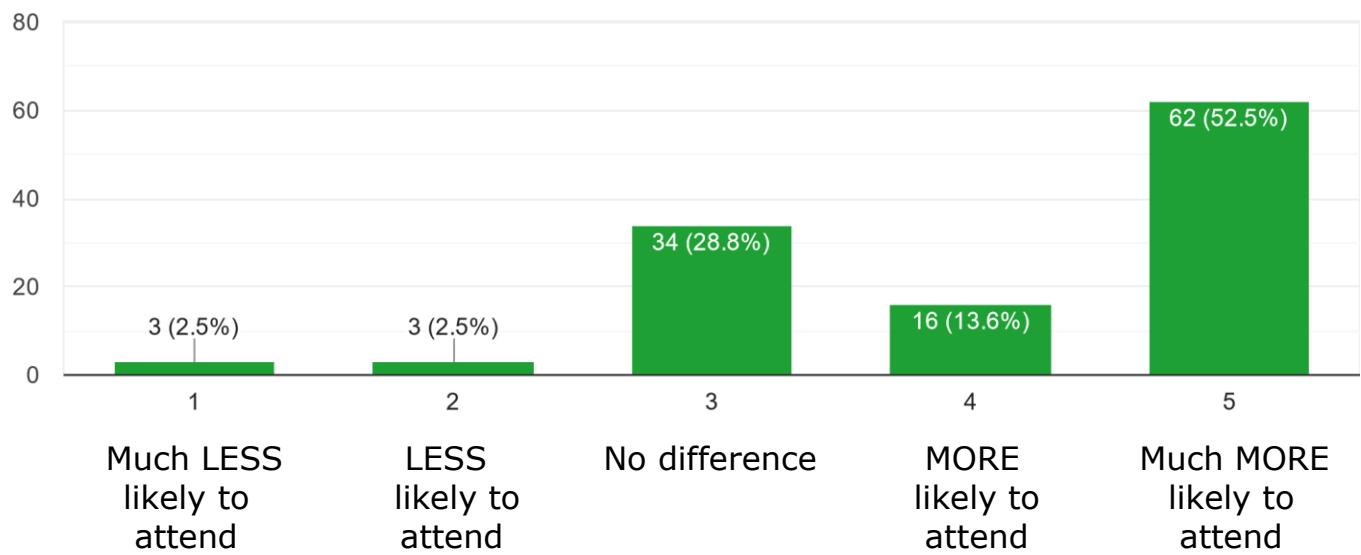
If our liturgy and hymns were led by a soloist (or small ensemble), singing from the choir area, would you be

119 responses



If we communed in the Sanctuary, would you be

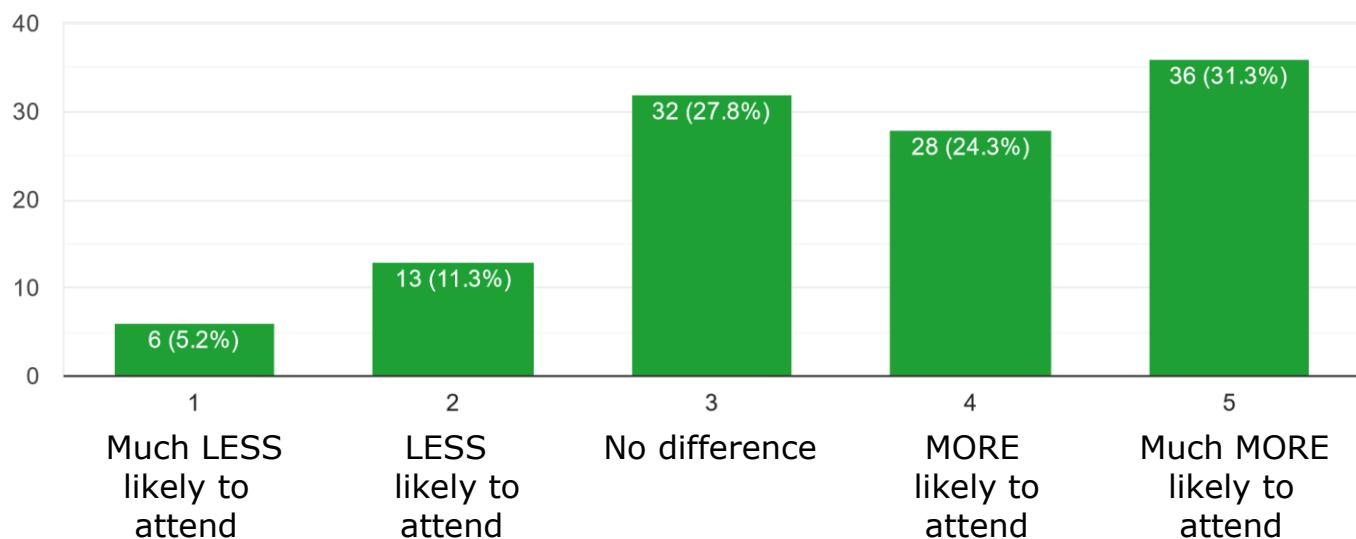
118 responses



## In-Person Worship Question Responses (cont.)

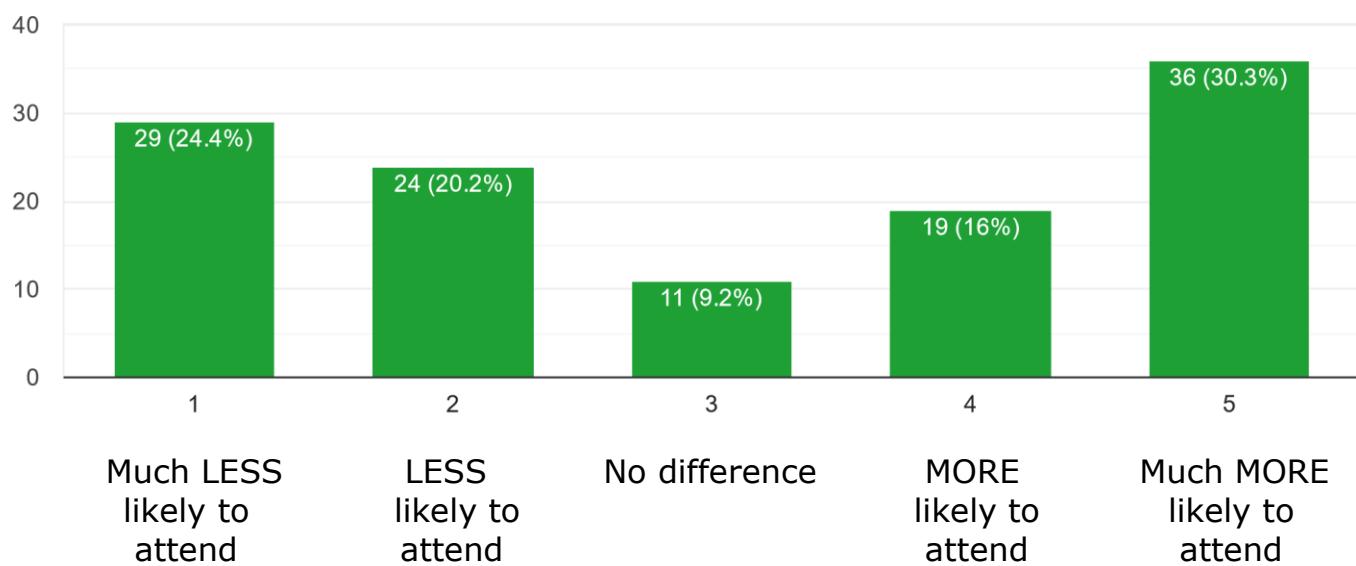
If we decreased social distancing in the pews, but continued to require that all people wear masks, would you be

115 responses



If we decreased social distancing in the pews, and made it optional to wear a mask, would you be

119 responses



## In-Person Worship Question Responses

We are considering these options and others, too. Is there anything else that would make you more likely to attend worship in-person? Please share your thoughts.

- A large part of Lutheran services is hymns/singing. I want services to allow that again.
- Adding as much music and full service as possible.
- After a year of worshipping at home, I am not inclined to do in person worship due to age, less driving and health issues. Would like to see virtual continue even if in-person returns.
- At this point - I know we need to move forward. There are no right answers.
- At this time, no matter how the in person service is conducted, I will be attending. I would like to have some form of music, we are Lutherans.
- Eliminate the sign up sheet. I think it's an obstacle for people to come to church. I understand why we needed it for some period of time but now it doesn't feel welcoming. Some weeks I honestly do not know which service I will go to (for some factors beyond my control) and thus, signing up doesn't allow for that flexibility.
- More music, in some form or fashion, needs to be added back to the worship experience in some form or fashion. Soloist, instrumentalist, recording, etc. ""Make a joyful noise to the Lord.""
- The early social distancing seating was good, but I think it could be readjusted to a closer seating so that people feel connected. Right now it all feels very sterile. It's not warm and welcoming. We have to be smart, but we shouldn't be sterile. We have been in this pandemic long enough for people know and understand the risks and be able to assess their risk tolerance. As a church, we don't have to protect people from themselves. We need to worship as a people together.
- Idea: Masked people who are mobile and want extra protections could be directed to the balcony area or the side area near the baptismal font for seating.
- We need to get people back in the church soon, as I fear it will be harder and harder to get people back into the habit of Sunday morning worship. And perhaps the video production shouldn't be "so good" (because it IS really good, so maybe just basic) when we get closer to full in person worship.
- Everyone attending was vaccinated
- Everyone getting and having their shots. Wearing mask.
- For now, I will not be attending any worship services held indoors in which masks are optional. I would recommend an outdoor midweek service held in the prayer garden for those who do not wish to wear a mask for worship.
- Get things back to normal

## **In-Person Worship Question Responses (cont.)**

We are considering these options and others, too. Is there anything else that would make you more likely to attend worship in-person? Please share your thoughts.

- Getting back to safe and normal conditions.
- Getting music into the in person service, be it soloist, congregation, or recorded choir singing (never thought I'd be saying that) will get people back. Signing up ahead of time is an issue. I have immediate thoughts that can pop up and I feel guilty if I sign up and can't attend. I sign up when I know I can come and sometimes that's after the sheet has been printed by the Pastors. Not a terrible burden, but it is an obstacle
- Go back to using the individual small cups for communion.
- Have a separate service where no masks no distancing and singing would be done
- Honestly getting back to pre Covid should be our only option.
- I am not likely to attend worship as long as there is no music/singing.
- I am very comfortable in going back to full in person worship in phases providing people have chosen to be vaccinated. Those who have not been vaccinated may need to continue with online worship.
- I am waiting for directions from the CDC when it will be safe. Meanwhile I am thankful for virtual worship each week.
- I await the time of full return to worship.
- I can only speak for myself, not Dee, but things will have to be getting pretty much back to the "old normal" for me to return to an "at church-in church" service.
- I do not believe there is anything more the church could do to encourage me to worship in-person. I have just finished the 2 week time period after my second shot and my husband and I are thinking about attending in-person services soon.
- I hate that we are divided on the vaccine issue, this seems to be the direct path back
- I really need music
- I think music is vital to bring back into the in person services as it is a part of worship that allows us to really reflect and celebrate God! Many churches have brought this back to services with no issues.
- I think we should explore an outside service at least one time a month, weather permitting.
- I will be thrilled to attend in-person worship when my whole household is vaccinated. Right now this looks like late July or August (the 15 year old will turn 16 in June and be eligible for the vaccine)

## **In-Person Worship Question Responses (cont.)**

We are considering these options and others, too. Is there anything else that would make you more likely to attend worship in-person? Please share your thoughts.

- I will stick with the online service until there is live music. I am vaccinated but my children are not. Protecting them is my concern now when it comes to wearing masks and distancing.
- I wonder if outdoor worship in the parking lot is possible. I would feel comfortable even singing as a congregation outside.
- I would more likely to attend if we had the full traditional Lutheran worship with music, communion in church, and the organist, choir members and Pastors in full robe. That those participating in worship service should stay for the entire service and not be going in and out.
- When 2 people sit on one end of pew, and 2 sit on the other end of pew, there is not 6 feet between them.
- All people attending should wear masks and social distance.
- If you offered a totally back to normal service as an option to those of us who are not scared
- I'm going to attend no matter with.
- I'm just looking forward to being in the sanctuary and participating in everything; singing, communion...all of it. Without any music, singing liturgy and hymns, it doesn't feel like "church" to me.
- I'm ready for the sheep to be able to come back into the fold to be part of the flock.
- It's time to go back to the prior normal.
- IT's time to go back to a normal Church service
- Know that the vast majority of our congregation has been vaccinated.
- Make it available without the need for reservations. It's time!
- Maybe we should go back to all wearing our name tags, and there could be a sticker we put on them (like a green dot?) that indicates if we've been fully vaccinated. It wouldn't be required, but it could signal to people that they are safe to be around?
- Music, hymns and less distancing would be preferable.
- no
- No
- No masks

## **In-Person Worship Question Responses (cont.)**

We are considering these options and others, too. Is there anything else that would make you more likely to attend worship in-person? Please share your thoughts.

- Offering a worship opportunity outside the Sanctuary.
- Open the church up and let the church members decide how they wish to sit, sing and worship. If they want to social distance then they are free to do so. If they do not want to social distance then they should be allowed this option.
- Play musical liturgy and hymns even if humming is not allowed.
- providing better air flow with open doors throughout the sanctuary might also be an encouragement to others.
- regular traditional worship with opportunity to socialize with church members
- Remove the requirement to register. Seat people every other row (or closer as comfortable) and allow family groups to sit together on two rows together if more space is needed. Recommit to a more contemporary service and music at 8:30 (no organ). Music throughout the service rather than just a welcome hymn like Easter (recorded if necessary). Allow singing with masks on.
- Resuming the liturgical Service and discontinuing Service of the Word.
- Saturday evening service
- Shorted service for a few months by only having one hymn.
- Simple, just resume normal church activities with no mandated restrictions!
- Since both of us are fully vaccinated, I am less concerned about in-person worship. However, not everyone is fully vaccinated, so I think there are still some appropriate precautions, such as wearing masks.
- Singing hymns and liturgy!
- Singing softly. Returning to the liturgical service where the music is included...even if only sung softly or hummed. Return ping communion to its normal place in the service. We are skipping over the music while in the sanctuary. Those at home could skip over the communion.
- The option of not wearing a mask might be more apoptosis for those who are fully vaccinated, already may have immunity from prior COVID infection. That could be an option yet if others wearing mask are not aware of the reasons others are not wearing masks (and consider themselves and others to be safe), those with mask could be uncomfortable attending in church.

## **In-Person Worship Question Responses (cont.)**

We are considering these options and others, too. Is there anything else that would make you more likely to attend worship in-person? Please share your thoughts.

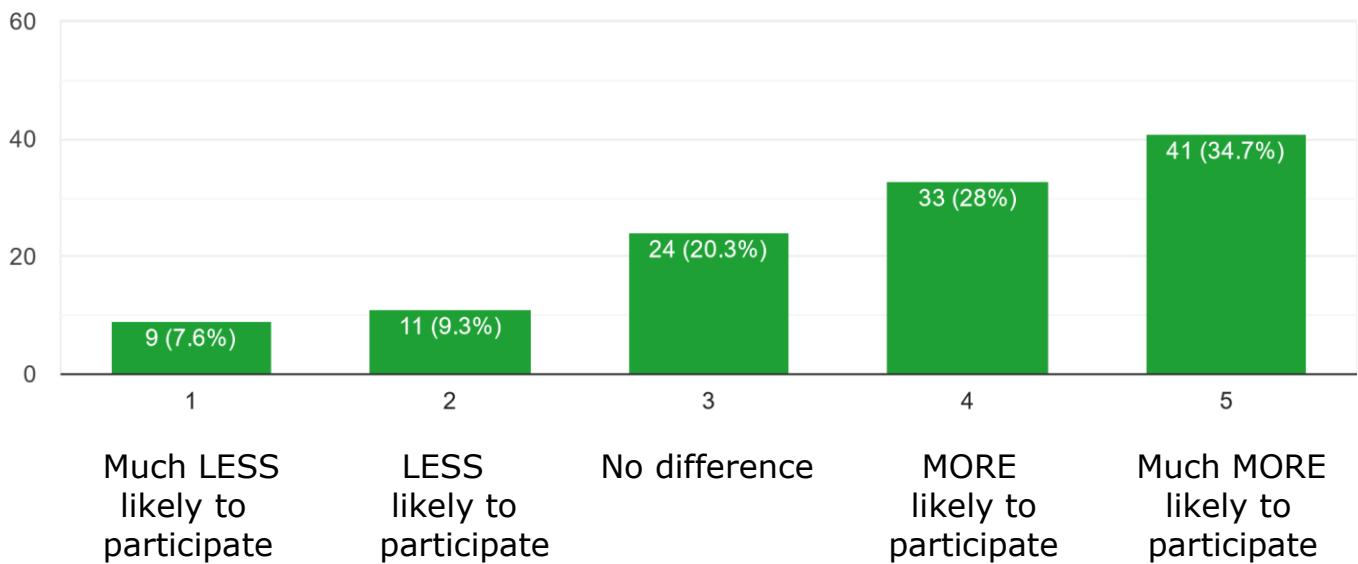
- There is and has been no reason not to have music throughout our worship service. Beginning with Easter Sunday, we should be singing softly while wearing masks, or at least humming. The ban on music for both hymns and liturgy during the service has been unnecessary.
- Time to get back to church. I was that are not vaccinated at this point are probably choosing not to be so they should attend anything at their own risk
- Time to open it up with a goal of getting it to 100% of where we were before the pandemic .
- To add the children sermon in a safe way
- We are getting to the point where covid is not the big bad it was, and more like the regular flu, or cold. Many and most will soon be vaccinated. Individuals can use their best judgement to wear masks or attend as their health concerns dictate.
- We have been attending.
- We just have to get the vaccine, as soon as that happens, assuming there are no significant new issues (new strain, etc) we would be more open to in-person.
- We would be much more likely to return to in-person worship when the choir is able to sing; however it must be safe before this could happen.
- what about an outdoor worship?
- When you have 2 people on each end of the pew, there are not 6 feet between. It's closer to 3 or 4 feet.
- Social distancing and require that all people wear masks should continue.
- with the weather more pleasant have you considered outside services? possibly use the back parking lot?
- You need to go by the CDC regulations and guidelines before considering a full return to normal.
- You've hit the high spots.

## Small Groups and Fellowship Questions

The next several charts represent responses to the questions that asked about specific factors and limitations that might affect the respondent's participation.

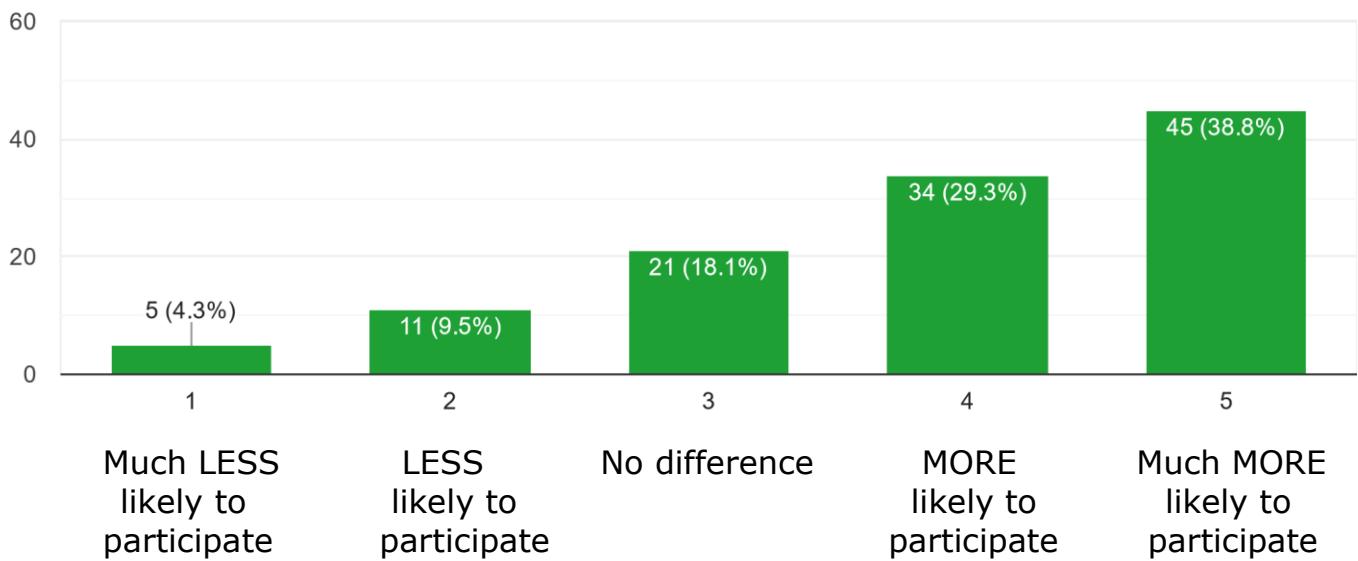
If we allowed worshipers to gather in the Fellowship Hall for a time following the worship services - provided that everyone wears a mask - would you be

118 responses



If we began to allow small groups such as committees to meet indoors for their meetings and projects (less than 12 people, masked), would you be

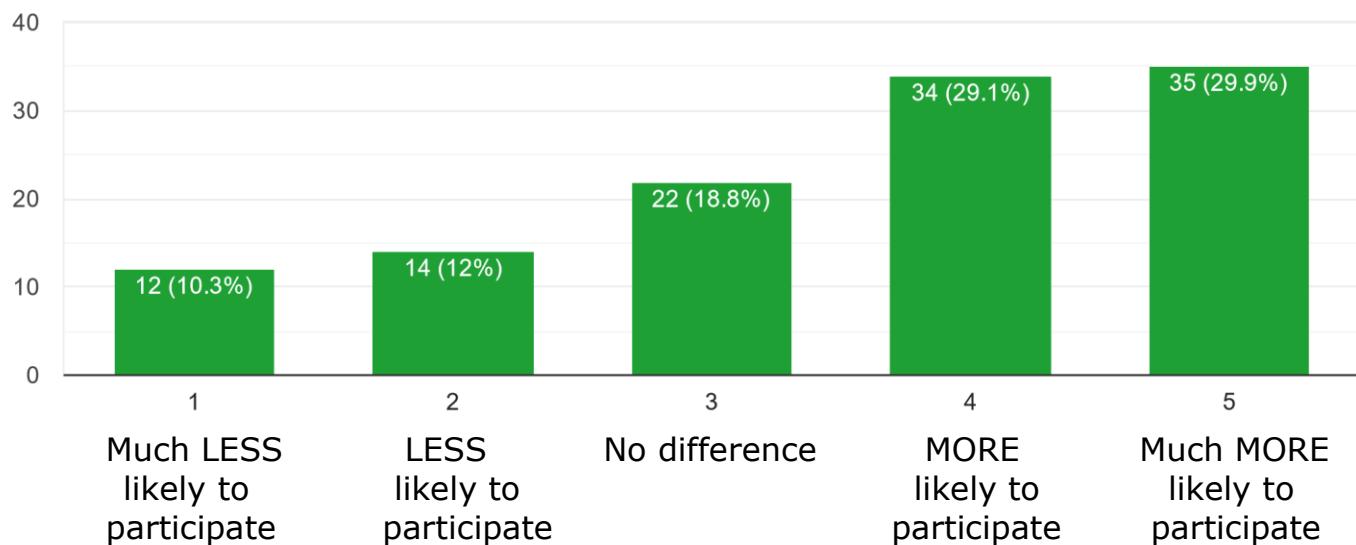
116 responses



## Small Groups and Fellowship Questions (cont.)

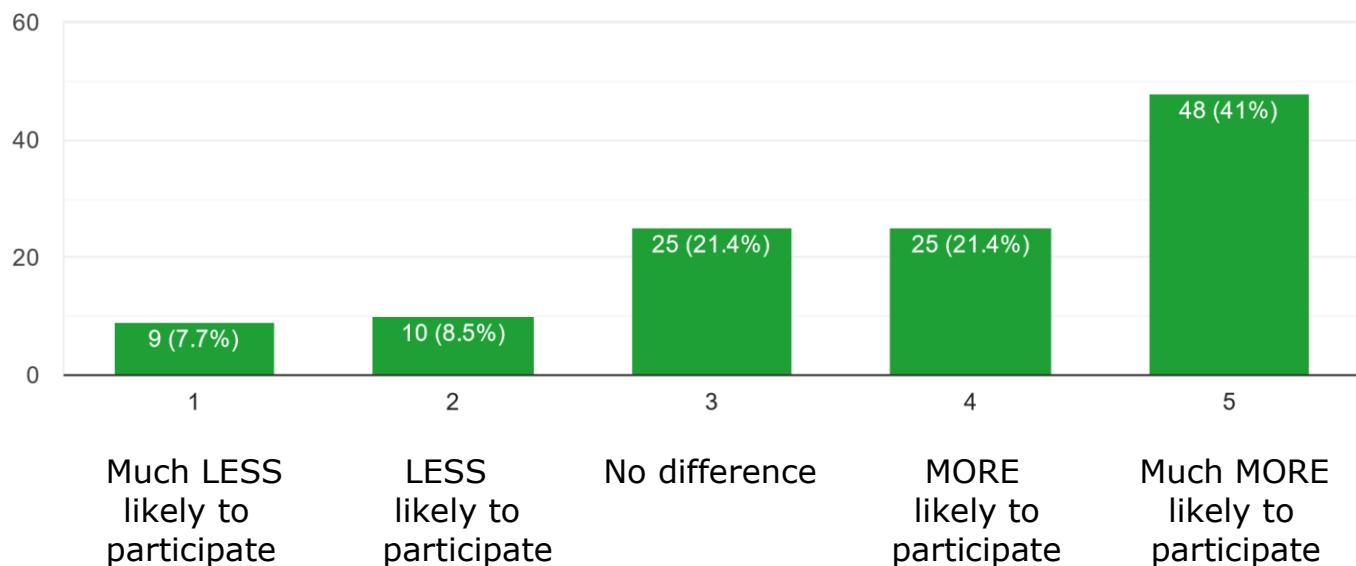
If we began to allow larger groups such as committees to meet indoors for meetings and projects (less than 50 people, masked), would you be

117 responses



If we began to organize outdoor fellowship events (masks optional, no limit for number of participants), would you be

117 responses



## Final Comments

Council is asking for specific feedback in much of this survey to help us discern the way forward in the coming weeks and months. We also want to hear from you regarding anything else that might not have been requested by this point. If you have any other comments/suggestions, please share them.

- Committees should meet on one night to keep the costs down for sextons and cleaners (disinfecting)- most likely on Sunday evenings; otherwise, use ZOOM meetings or Google meet meetings. Please adhere to the CDC guidelines for groups gathering. Not comfortable with returning to a church that does not adhere to the guidelines for group gathering. The US is not "out of the woods" yet on COVID-19 and there are members/churches that have become too complacent. All it takes is one gathering with one infected person to spread this deadly virus. Does the church use HEPPA filters? This might be helpful in a return to the sanctuary.
- Are we going to put our trust in God to lead us forward to the day when we will all be able to worship as we did before the pandemic? It won't happen soon enough for me.
- At communion time we could continue to stand , and not kneel at first , as we are doing now.
- Bring back the music during in-person worship. Remove the need to pre-register for worship. If there is apprehension singing in the sanctuary, consider a full worship service outside at 8:30 during the summer with no registration necessary. Then, you can continue spoken indoor worship at 11:00 with registration. We need to re-establish the expectation that we will gather in-person to worship for our children's sake and for the mental health of the adults.
- Council has been diligent in its discernment thus far, clearly weighing its options in light of a pandemic that affects all of us. I am grateful for the serious way Council appears to consider this complicated, difficult issue we all face. I am proud to be a member of a congregation that is not easily swayed by public opinion and looks instead to the direction of Holy Spirit.
- Given this time we would be open to alternate worship days and times (evening) to support smaller in person worship once school is out for summer
- Great survey questions...it's about time
- I believe that more attention should be given to home visitation by the pastors to members not proficient at using the internet, provided everyone involved has been properly vaccinated.
- I feel comfortable interacting with people only when they are wearing masks and are fully vaccinated.
- I feel disconnected with church the way it is now.
- I feel safe attending church as it has been. I would hope that we could slowly allow life to go back to normal as long as Covid numbers keep decreasing and vaccinations seem to be working.

## Final Comments (cont.)

- I feel very strongly that we are at a point in this pandemic that we can begin bringing some normalcy back to church and worship. There is no reason we can't have music, small gatherings, and even in person Sunday school while taking g precautions. Children are successfully going to school 5 days a week and adults have returned to work so it is time for us to begin transitioning back to a more normal church experience.
- I have never felt more disconnected from Grace and am ready for a more normal worship experience including Sunday School. My fear is that some beloved Grace friends won't be back.
- I just want to say Thank You to everyone who is working to keep the church going. I appreciate all the hard work going on behind the scenes.
- I particularly liked the idea of music during the service with a soloist especially if people are reminded not to sing out loud but that humming is aloud.
- I really appreciate all the time and efforts put into having our online services. I commend all of those who helped and know it was a blessing to all!
- I really miss my Sunday school. I would love regular small group interaction either in person or on Zoom.
- I see no reason that communion can not be inside the church. It should not be held on the porch or on the Fellowship Hall.
- I think we need to commend those who have participating in the online services. Some sort of celebratory event.
- I will be getting my second shot tomorrow so I'll be fully vaccinated soon, but not everyone in my household is. My level of comfort for my family's attendance at worship or fellowship events with that in mind is still small groups, preferably outside, masks for everyone. I am currently comfortable with my attendance at small group committee meetings or Youth activities indoors or out as long as everyone is masked. When my household is fully vaccinated, I anticipate we will return to in-person worship and fellowship activities, following whatever level of precautions that are prescribed by Grace at that time.
- If one is fully vaccinated, why should one have to wear a mask?
- If the outside fellowship refers to the church service, I would be unlikely to attend. I don't want to bring a chair and contend with insects and the weather. If you are referring to something like our annual picnic, I would be very likely to attend.
- In deciding on how the worship service should look, we must be concerned with the health and well being of the total community of Grace Lutheran. The "Golden Rule" should be the main consideration. I will continue to worship my God as an individual daily and be thankful for whatever form of community worship that Grace Lutheran Church provides during this time.

## Final Comments (cont.)

- What we have been doing for Sunday services are not all that bad. We have people worshipping and financially supporting our congregation that have never set foot inside our church. We need to count our blessings and continue to determine what will be best for Grace. Streaming maybe another step in the growth of worship, but even then there will be areas that will fall short and lead to people complaining about it. For that matter before the pandemic struck and we were worshipping as we wished we could now, many of the same people that are not satisfied with our current form of worship were complaining about one thing or another with the worship service then.
- Thank God that He loves us.
- It is time to get back to normal, as much as possible. I want our senior adults to feel safe in worship and hope they will feel comfortable coming back.
- It is time to offer normal services to those that feel comfortable. Those that are still not comfortable can continue to participate in online services. I miss our church. I miss bringing my son. I want him raised in the church I grew up in but right now, this is not it.
- It is time. We do not take this lightly nor selfishly as has been suggested. We are made to worship our Gracious God through corporate fellowship. Worshiping the Triune God for His faithfulness and mercies should be the focus!
- It's time to open back up completely!
- Like the YouTube platform.
- Many are ready to open the church to pre pandemic activities with CDC precautions. There is quite a bit of evidence that this can be done and not become a COVID spreading source. There will be no zero risk environment, but many are ready to assume moderate to low risk to attend.
- No reservations for worship, music, and masks will make it more likely for me to attend worship in person. Also don't put so much distance between pews - one pew between groups should be sufficient.
- Now that I/we (my husband and I) are fully immunized I feel it is fairly safe for us to attend church events and services. However, I am concerned about those who are not vaccinated and don't wish to get vaccinated. I feel the church should not bar unvaccinated people from church events/services, so it seems the only logical option is to keep wearing/requiring mask.
- Open church as before COVID with no restrictions providing people have proof of both vaccines
- other congregations have returned to regular worship and fellowship, that's what I want
- would be nice if we had singing again ourt church

## Final Comments (cont.)

- Pastoral care is greatly needed. There would be no need for this survey if the pastors were tending their flock. People need personal contact. For example - Communion. People were to make an appointment for communion as they do for a doctors appointment or dentist appointment. It would have been better if you call each member and ask if you could bring private communion to them.
- Please return all music (hymns and liturgy) to in-person services. Utilizing instrumental music and soft singing does not compromise safety guidelines at this time. Too much emphasis is given to music in online format compared to no music in sanctuary worship. Why?
- Sadly by all accounts that I have seen through my friends and social media, our church leadership seems to be lagging behind getting back to some sort of normal in person worship service. Almost to a point of looking elsewhere to worship. I hate it has come to this, but I grew up in this church and to see where it is now makes my heart hurt. If we cant get back to pre Covid worshiping, I feel that the church will lose many members, if it hasnt already.
- Singing with masks and continued appropriate distancing. To allow singing in outdoor services as long as everyone wears masks and distances. Perhaps do a special service monthly outdoors during the summer or fall when weather permits.
- Some people may never be vaccinated therefore it's either because they feel their risk is low and will be open to attend in person while some may not trust the vaccine since it hasn't been fully vetted by FDA and those may stay away for a long time. At some point the capacity will need to increase in worship and must decide what conditions will allow this. What are the decision points? At some point we cannot continue to do the high level of online worship production and a higher level of in person worship. Right now the in person is being limited by the restrictions placed by posting the online worship.
- Staying safe is the key, doing whatever we need to do to keep ourselves healthy and happy!
- Streaming the worship service would allow for those who prefer to worship virtually to do so without overburdening the pastors and music director. Singing softly or humming the liturgy and hymns would greatly enhance the service and encourage more members to return. I think resuming communion would also be important.
- Thank you for how you all have handled this!
- Thank you to everyone who spent many hours assessing how to navigate this pandemic. No answers were ever clear, but we all did the best we could. We have been grateful not to have any outbreaks related to church activities, but now it is time to resume and expand what we are doing and how we are doing it.
- the CDC has come with rules/guidelines and they are divided vaccinated and unvaccinated, -at present I feel more comfortable with those vaccinated. I realize any practices/rules with those divisions would be difficult.

## Final Comments (cont.)

- The continued requirement for the wearing of masks is a placebo. The CDC has determined that cloth masks do very little in preventing the spread of any virus. Facts state that a cloth mask can not filter any particle below 3 microns. A virus particle is .1 micron. The fallacy of wearing a mask is easy to see. We visit restaurants and dine while sitting with dozens of people not wearing masks. We shop and work and socialize everyday without masks. The number of people vaccinated is increasing on a daily base. If you chose to wear a mask, that is your choice. But I strongly protest to the requirement or mandate to wear a mask.<sup>1</sup>
- Return to our full worship service with no mandated restrictions and I will happily return to join in on celebration.
- The first thing to do is return to our liturgical worship service. Immediate changes to worship should be implemented: brief prelude, three hymns softly sung or hummed, all parts of liturgy sung, sanctuary communion, our familiar worship while safely distancing and masking. Later, other activities on page 5 along with distancing and masking changes can slowly be implemented. There is no valid reason to take a return to music and liturgy slowly. Instrumental music and liturgy should have never been denied us during this pandemic. Also, please stop the use of the vee sign for sharing the peace. Nods, smiling eyes, waves, etc. would be much preferred. The secular vee is both political and sports oriented and therefore distasteful during worship. Holding up an index finger representing "This Little Light of Mine" while that song is shared instrumentally is much more relevant in worship. We are there to reflect God's Light in our lives.
- The online services have been wonderfully done! Sincere thanks for all the efforts!
- This survey implies gradual implementation I want faster rather than slower. If some folks are not ready then they can continue to do what they are doing
- Unfortunately, in my opinion, it is still too early to be in large groups and/or be without masks due to the many mutations of the virus. The next few months will have more clarification on this issue.
- Vaccination is key. I know there are some who have chosen not to receive the vaccine for medical reasons and I understand however I feel those who have chosen not to take the vaccine for other reasons need to respect the health of our members.
- We can sing hymns with music led by a single leader much like we do with the online version. The liturgy could be sung by one person, as in online version. (Not permanently, of course, but as we incrementally make our way back to normal!) I prefer online service with music to in-person service with no music!
- We must remain cautious, but we must come out and be an active citizen.
- What I miss most right now is in person communion.

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<sup>1</sup> While it is true that cloth masks do not filter all particles, masks are effective because they successfully filter respiratory droplets and significantly reduce the aerosols that transport the virus. For more information about the science behind the efficacy of masks, [click here](#) to explore a diverse and thorough collection compiled by the CDC. For more general information about masks and what the CDC recommends, [click here](#). Those who refuse to wear masks are invited to join us for worship online at this time.