Responses of 599 randomly selected ELCA attendees

Your Values

These questions are designed to let us compare the views of worshipers to those of people in the wider community on a variety of issues.

1. Do you favor or oppose each of the following in ***public schools***?

	Favor	Oppose
Allowing schools to post the Ten Commandments	75.3	24.7
Teaching creation ***along with*** evolution	74.7	25.3
Teaching creation ***instead of*** evolution	29.9	70.1
Allowing students to say prayers at graduation ceremonies as part of the official program . .	91.0	9.0
Making facilities available after school hours for use by student religious groups	86.1	13.9
Using the Bible in literature classes	75.6	24.4
Allowing daily prayer to be spoken in classroom .	73.7	26.3

2. Do you think the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?
   - 62.6% More strict
   - 4.7 Less strict
   - 25.1 Kept as they are now
   - 7.5 Not sure

3. Under what circumstances do you think abortion should be legal? (Mark ***all*** that should be legal.)
   - 80.8% Woman's life is in danger
   - 56.4 Woman's physical health is in danger
   - 42.6 Woman's mental health is in danger
   - 69.4 Pregnancy caused by rape or incest
   - 31.6 Evidence the baby is mentally-impaired
   - 27.9 Evidence the baby is physically-impaired
   - 12.9 Woman or family cannot afford the baby
   - 15.7 Woman does not want the baby
   - 9.7 Abortion should ***never*** be legal

4. Are there any cases in which you believe persons convicted of murder should receive the death penalty?
   - 14.7% No, we should ***never*** use the death penalty
   - 60.9 Yes, ***in some extreme cases*** those convicted of murder should receive the death penalty
   - 12.1 Yes, ***all*** persons convicted of murder should receive the death penalty
   - 12.3 Not sure

5. Do you think a person has the right to end his or her own life if this person . . .

	Yes	No
Has an incurable life-threatening disease?	46.9	53.1
Is in chronic pain?	37.6	62.4
Is tired of living and ready to die?	18.6	81.4

6. Are there any circumstances in which competent doctors should be allowed by law to end a patient's life through mercy killing or euthanasia?
   - 38.1% Yes
   - 33.0 No
   - 28.9 Not sure

7. Do you agree or disagree: "Homosexuals should have the right to marry one another"?
   - 7.3% Strongly agree
   - 11.7 Agree
   - 22.2 Neutral or unsure
   - 25.9 Disagree
   - 33.0 Strongly disagree

8. Should homosexuals be allowed to be ordained as ministers, pastors, or priests within your own faith or denomination?
   - 23.2% Yes, under any circumstances
   - 9.8 Yes, only if they are ***not*** sexually active
   - 41.0 No
   - 23.8 Not sure
   - 2.3 We do not ordain people to the ministry

9. Do you agree or disagree: "Gay partners living in a committed relationship should be entitled to the same rights and benefits as couples in traditional marriages"?
   - 10.2% Strongly agree
   - 17.7 Agree
   - 23.9 Neutral or unsure
   - 27.0 Disagree
   - 21.3 Strongly disagree

10. Do you agree or disagree: "Homosexuality should be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle"?
    - 9.2% Strongly agree
    - 18.0 Agree
    - 28.6 Neutral or unsure
    - 22.1 Disagree
    - 22.1 Strongly disagree

11. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?
    - 47.8% Republican
    - 30.5 Democrat
    - 20.7 Independent
    - 0.9 Other (specify):_____

12. Do you think it is wrong or not wrong for a man and woman to have sexual relations before marriage?
    - 31.6% Always wrong
    - 20.0 Usually wrong
    - 19.7 Sometimes wrong
    - 14.7 Not wrong at all
    - 14.0 Not sure

13. Do you think it is wrong or not wrong for a married person to have sexual relations with someone other than his or her husband or wife?
    - 89.2% Always wrong
    - 7.1 Usually wrong
    - 1.8 Sometimes wrong
    - 0.5 Not wrong at all
    - 1.4 Not sure

14. In general, what is your opinion of legalized gambling or betting?
    - 17.8% Approve
    - 44.6 Mixed feeling–both approve and disapprove
    - 32.3 Disapprove
    - 5.3 Unsure

15. Should women be allowed to be ordained as ministers, pastors, or priests within your own faith or denomination?
    - 92.4% Yes
    - 2.6 No
    - 4.9 Not sure
    - 0.0 We do not ordain people to the ministry