

2006 ELCA Youth Gathering Evaluation Summary of Youth Responses to Evaluation #2 – April/May 2007

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August 2007*

Introduction

In July 2006, over 38,000 youth and adults gathered in San Antonio, Texas, for the 2006 ELCA Youth Gathering. One follow-up survey was conducted immediately following the Gathering in August and September of 2006, with a sample of 1,070¹ youth who attended the Gathering. This immediate participant feedback has been a part of the Gathering evaluation process for at least the past three Gatherings. The responses from the youth participants who were surveyed immediately following the 2006 Gathering, and how these responses compare with youth participant feedback provided immediately after the 2003 Gathering, are detailed in a separate report.²

Immediate youth participant feedback has typically shown high levels of satisfaction with their experiences at the Gathering and a high percentage of respondents who indicate they are happy they attended. While results like these indicate the Gathering is important to the youth who attended, previous evaluations have not followed-up with youth participants a second time to assess the on-going importance or influence of the Gathering.

This evaluation was sent to youth participants approximately nine months after they attended the 2006 Gathering. The second evaluation was sent to all youth who responded to the first evaluation. The questionnaire was sent to 521³ youth participants, 200 of whom responded for a 38 percent response rate. A complete copy of this second evaluation questionnaire with the response frequencies is attached.

The response rate is not as high as we would have liked. Overall, this lower response rate raises the issue of our ability to generalize from our results. In general, respondents to both the immediate evaluation and this second evaluation were more likely to be female and to be younger than the entire population of 2006 Gathering youth participants.⁴ There is little evidence, however, that gender or age influenced how these youth responded to specific questions. Therefore, we are confident that the responses from both the immediate and the second evaluations are an accurate representation of the experiences, behaviors, and beliefs of the 2006 Gathering youth participants.

¹ There were a total of 1,092 youth participants in the sample. However, after those with undeliverable addresses were removed, the sample size was reduced to 1,070.

² *2006 ELCA Youth Gathering Evaluation, Summary of Youth and Adult Questionnaire Responses*; Victoria Flood; Research and Evaluation, ELCA; December 2006.

³ There were a total of 526 youth respondents to the immediate evaluation. However, five respondents were not identifiable and were not, therefore, included in the second evaluation.

⁴ The sample of 1,092 youth used for the immediate evaluation was fairly representative of the entire 2006 Gathering youth participant population with respect to gender and age: 59% female (compared to 58% female); 63% age 14-16 (compared to 61%) and 36% age 17-19 (compared to 38%). The 526 respondents to the immediate evaluation were 65% female; 68% age 14-16 and 32% age 17-19. The 200 respondents to the second evaluation were 68% female; 65% age 14-16 and 34% age 17-19.

This second evaluation had two purposes:

1. To determine how much influence the Gathering has continued to have on certain behaviors or activities that were encouraged or modeled during the Gathering; and
2. To learn more about ELCA Gathering respondents by comparing their responses to those of ELCA respondents to a national youth survey summarized in *Portraits of Protestant Teens*⁵, 2005.

Responses to this second evaluation indicate that the strength of the positive influence of the 2006 Gathering remains high nine months after participants attended. Doing volunteer work is one action that is clearly influenced in an ongoing way by the Gathering. In addition, this second evaluation shows that 2006 Gathering participants responded similarly to questions about their faith as did the ELCA youth respondents who were part of the *Portraits of Protestant Teens* report. In two categories, however, 2006 Gathering participants were shown to be more active than the ELCA youth respondents who were part of the *Portraits of Protestant Teens* report:

- 2006 Gathering participants were more likely to be involved in a religious youth group; and
- 2006 Gathering participants were more likely to have done organized volunteer work or community service in the last year.

Influence of the 2006 Gathering

The Gathering was an important activity for nearly all respondents. Many respondents, 79 percent, indicated that the Gathering was one of many important activities that they participated in over the past couple of years. An additional 17 percent indicated the Gathering was the most important activity they participated in during this time. There were four percent of respondents who indicated the Gathering was not very important compared to other activities they had participated in over the past couple of years.

Immediately following the Gathering, approximately 95 percent of respondents reported they could see either a “few” or “many” connections between the Gathering theme and their everyday life. Nine months following the Gathering the percentage was just as high at 94 percent. What did change is the percentage that indicated they could see “many” connections. Immediately following the Gathering, this percentage was 50 percent compared to 34 percent nine months later.

Slightly fewer than half of the respondents to the second evaluation, 43 percent, reported that they have further discussed themes or ideas that were shared during the Gathering. Respondents were given space to list what had been discussed, and 70 respondents provided comments. (Please see Attachment B for a complete list of respondent comments.) Comments were varied, with the highest number of comments about the following:

- All of it, including everything that was done and everything that was learned (15 respondents);
- How the Gathering or things learned at the Gathering relate to every day lives (8 respondents);
- The theme (7 respondents);
- World events or social issues (7 respondents); and

⁵ *Portraits of Protestant Teens*, 2005, is a report that examines the religious beliefs and practices of American Protestant teenagers using survey data from the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR).

- Presentations made to the congregation after returning (7 respondents).

Respondents were asked about four possible decisions related to their future on which the Gathering might have had a positive influence. As shown in Table 1, the percentage reporting a positive influence on one or more of these decisions ranged from a high of 33.0 percent to a low of 13.5 percent. The decision with the highest response was about whether to pursue long-term volunteer work after graduation. The decision with the lowest response was about whether to attend college.

Table 1: Decisions about the Future and Gathering Influence

Type of Decision	Percentage Reporting a Positive Influence by the Gathering
Whether to pursue long-term volunteer work after graduation	33.0%
Which career to pursue	31.5%
Whether to apply to an ELCA college	18.5%
Whether to attend college	13.5%

Another way that respondents indicated the level of influence that the Gathering had was through the use of a rating scale for six items about various relationships, activities, or issues. Respondents could choose '1' through '5' with '1' representing 'little to no influence' by the Gathering and '5' representing a 'high level of influence' by the Gathering. As shown in Table 2, in general, respondents reported that the Gathering had a moderate amount of influence for most items. The exception was with the issue on how to spend their money, for which the average rating of influence was 2.6.

Table 2: Gathering Influence Based on Average Rating

Relationship / Activity / Issue	Average Rating of Gathering Influence*
Relationship with God	3.8
Involvement within your congregation	3.5
Awareness of international social issues	3.4
Relationships with family	3.2
Relationships with friends	3.2
Decisions on how to spend money	2.6

*Based on a five-point scale with '1' representing 'little to no influence' by the Gathering and '5' representing a 'high level of influence' by the Gathering

Listed in both the immediate survey following the Gathering and this second evaluation were 19 behaviors or activities that were encouraged or modeled as part of the Gathering. Respondents were asked in the survey immediately following the Gathering to indicate which of these they were doing more often because of their attendance at the Gathering. For the second evaluation, respondents were provided with the list of activities and asked to indicate a) the frequency they do them compared to one year ago, and b) the level of influence the Gathering has had on this frequency.

Table 3 provides the results for the second evaluation. The percentages in the column labeled “Percentage for all 200 Respondents from Evaluation #2” are a **combination** of two responses for each activity: a) all those who responded they do the activity “more often” than one year ago, **and** b) all those who indicated that the Gathering had “some” or “a lot” of influence on the fact that they do this activity more often.⁶ Table 3 also makes comparisons to the first survey that immediately followed the Gathering. The first comparison is for the same 200 respondents as responded to the second evaluation; the second comparison is for all 526 respondents to the immediate evaluation.

Table 3: Activities Undertaken More Often and Positive Gathering Influence

Activity	Percentage for all 200 Respondents from Evaluation #2	Comparison Percentage for same 200 Respondents from Evaluation #1	Comparison Percentage for all 526 Respondents from Evaluation #1
Feel proud to be Lutheran	64.3%	76.8%	75.3%
Look at world events through other people’s perspectives	61.5%	57.6%	58.4%
Understand who Jesus is	39.7%	40.9%	42.0%
Participate in my congregation	39.5%	18.7%	22.4%
Feel comfortable passing the peace in worship	36.2%	30.8%	30.4%
Talk about faith with a friend(s)	33.5%	46.0%	45.1%
Volunteer within my community	31.3%	15.2%	16.0%
Feel God’s presence during Holy Communion	30.1%	35.9%	31.6%
Pray	29.7%	39.4%	41.1%
Learn more about places of ELCA ministry in the world, such as Bosnia or the Middle East	25.1%	27.3%	29.8%
Attend worship service(s)	23.2%	18.7%	18.6%
Make the sign of the cross	22.8%	15.7%	16.5%
Change my spending habits	20.6%	16.2%	15.8%
Invite someone to come to church with me	20.5%	16.2%	16.0%
Try news ways to pray	18.8%	28.3%	27.9%
Donate money to ministries outside of my congregation	17.0%	5.1%	6.1%
Read the Bible	15.9%	13.1%	14.4%
Donate money to my congregation	15.0%	6.6%	6.8%
Think about full-time ministry as a vocation	11.9%	7.1%	7.0%

⁶ For example, 130 respondents, or 66.0%, indicated they feel proud to be Lutheran ‘more often’ than they did one year ago. In a separate response, 169 respondents, or 85.3% indicated the Gathering had ‘some’ or ‘a lot’ of influence on how often they feel proud to be Lutheran. However, it was 126 respondents, or 64.3% (the percentage shown in Table 3), who indicated that they feel proud to be Lutheran ‘more often’ AND they think the Gathering had ‘some’ or ‘a lot’ of influence on this.

Using these respondents as the best approximation we have for the over 28,000 Gathering youth participants, these results show that over 10 percent, or 2,800 youth, report doing each of the 19 activities more frequently in the past year and indicate that the Gathering has had at least some influence on this. In fact, 12 of the activities have a range of 20 to 40 percent of respondents who report doing the activity more frequently in the past year and indicate that the Gathering has had at least some influence on this. This could mean 5,600 to 11,200 youth. Finally, there are two activities for which over 60 percent of respondents reported a higher frequency in the past year due at least in part to the Gathering. This could mean 16,800 youth. These activities are:

- Feeling proud to be Lutheran, and
- Looking at world events through other people's perspectives.

Comparisons between responses from the second evaluation and immediate evaluation show changes in respondent behaviors as some of the activities have a lower percentage and some of the activities have a higher percentage with respect to frequency and the influence of the Gathering. Those activities with at least a 10 percent decrease in the percentage of respondents indicating more frequency due at least in part to the Gathering are as follows:

- Talking about faith with a friend(s);
- Praying;
- Feeling proud to be Lutheran; and
- Trying new ways to pray.

This may indicate that the Gathering has a stronger short-term influence on these activities than it does a long-term influence. However, as noted, the response percentage for those feeling proud to be Lutheran remains high.

Conversely, those activities with a higher percentage of respondents from the second evaluation reporting more frequency due at least in part to the Gathering may be an indication of the types of activities on which the Gathering has a more lasting influence. Those activities with at least a 10 percent increase are as follows:

- Participating in my congregation;
- Volunteering within my community; and
- Donating money to ministries outside of my congregation.

Overall, 22 percent of respondents to the second evaluation indicated ever having considered full-time ministry. This is a slightly higher percent than those who reported that they have considered full-time ministry more often in the past year due at least in part to the Gathering. As shown in Table 3, this was 12 percent of respondents.

Overall, 52 percent of respondents to the second evaluation indicated they give an offering of money to their congregation either 'a few times a month' or 'about once a week'. As shown in Table 3, 15 percent of respondents reported they have donated money to their congregation more frequently in the past year due at least in part to the Gathering.

Finally, respondents were also asked about six organizations or opportunities that they had a chance to learn something about during the Gathering. Table 4 shows that of these six organizations or opportunities, the highest percentage of respondents reported learning about the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO). The lowest percentage of respondents reported learning about Advocacy in the ELCA.

Table 4: Organizations and Opportunities to Learn About During the Gathering

Organization or Opportunity	Percentage of Respondents Learning Something about the Organization or Opportunity
Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO)	51.5%
ELCA colleges and seminaries	38.5%
Young Adult Global Mission opportunities	32.0%
Outdoor Ministries in the ELCA	24.5%
Women of the ELCA*	16.0%*
Advocacy in the ELCA	12.5%

*Note: A higher percentage of female respondents than male respondents reported learning about Women of the ELCA

Comparison to *Portraits of Protestant Teens*

As noted, ELCA youth were part of the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR) that examined the religious beliefs and practices of American Protestant teenagers. To further explore what we know about ELCA youth who attended the 2006 Gathering, second evaluation respondents were asked some similar questions to those asked as part of the NSYR and reported in *Portraits of Protestant Teens (PPT)*, 2005.⁷

What follows is a summary of the second evaluation responses and the responses reported in the *PPT*. For each question, there are the responses for all the respondents and the responses for those who are considered “regular attendees” in worship. Regular attendees are those who reported attending worship service(s) at least two to three times a month.

Most of the responses appear similar, which seems to indicate that 2006 Gathering respondents are similar to the ELCA youth respondents in the NSYR. In turn, this means we can be fairly confident about saying we know these things about youth in the ELCA. There are two questions for which 2006 Gathering respondents seem different from the ELCA youth respondents in the NSYR. First, 2006 Gathering respondents seem more likely currently to be involved in a religious youth group. Since youth generally attend the Gathering as part of a youth group, this finding is probably not surprising. Second, 2006 Gathering respondents seem more likely to have done organized volunteer work or community service in the last year.

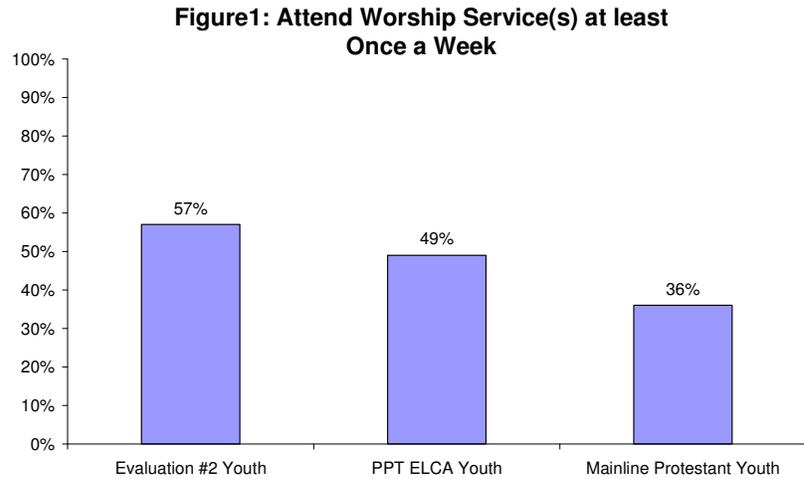
⁷ Although the wording was exactly the same for questions asked as part of the second evaluation and questions asked as part of the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR), it is difficult to make comparisons based on statistical significance between the responses because of the following reasons:

1. The sample size of ELCA youth as part of the NSYR is small with 50 respondents;
2. Approximately 50 percent of the NSYR ELCA respondents indicated they had ever participated in a religious youth retreat, conference, rally, or congress, compared to 100 percent of the second evaluation respondents having attended the 2006 Gathering; and
3. The NSYR study was conducted via telephone and the second evaluation questionnaire was sent out via paper.

At the same time, we believe it is instructive to make substantive comparisons between these two studies.

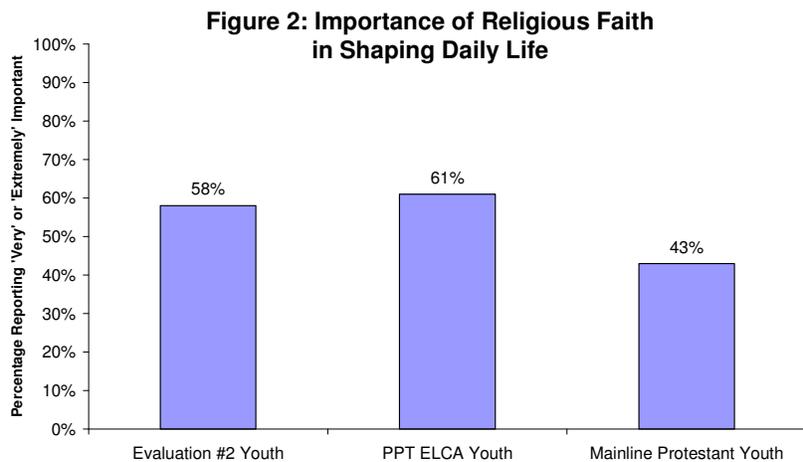
Worship Attendance

A high percentage of respondents to the second evaluation, 93 percent, report attending worship service(s) at least once a month. As part of the *PPT* report, 49 percent of ELCA youth reported attending worship service(s) at least once a week. As shown in Figure 1, a slightly higher percentage of second evaluation respondents, 57 percent, reported attending worship service(s) at least once a week. According to the *PPT*, more ELCA youth attend worship service(s) at least once a week than all mainline Protestant youth. The *PPT* reports 36 percent of all mainline Protestant youth attend worship service(s) at least once a week.

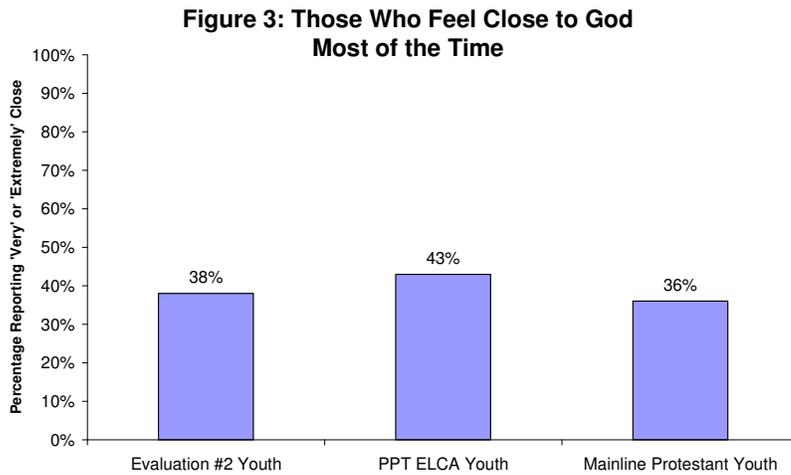


Importance of Faith

Respondents were asked about how important religious faith is in shaping how they live their daily life. There were six percent of respondents to the second evaluation who indicated religious faith is not important in shaping their daily life. As shown in Figure 2, there were 58 percent who indicated responses of 'very' or 'extremely' important. This is similar to the percentage for all *PPT* ELCA respondents at 61 percent. However, Figure 2 shows that ELCA youth seem to place more importance on this than do all mainline Protestant youth whose percentage for 'very' or 'extremely' important was 43 percent.



Closeness to God



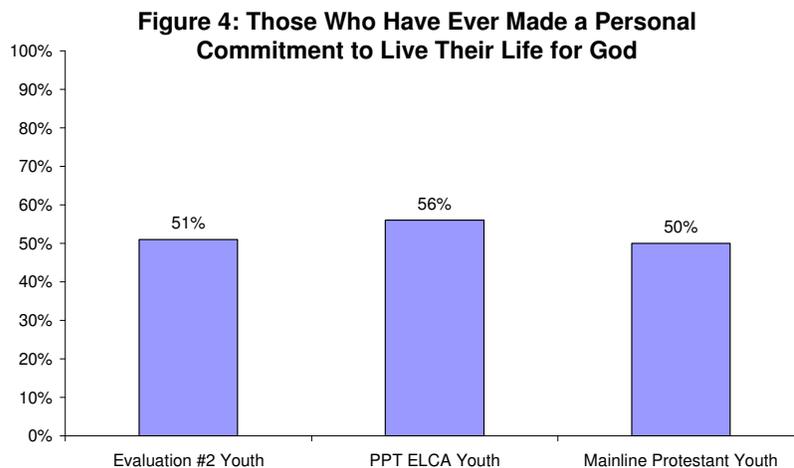
Respondents were asked about how close they feel to God most of the time. There were five percent of respondents to the second evaluation who indicated feeling 'very' or 'extremely' distant to God most of the time. Figure 3 shows there were 38 percent of respondents who indicated feeling 'very' or 'extremely' close to God most of the time. This is a similar percentage as among all *PPT ELCA*

respondents who reported 43 percent and all mainline Protestant youth who reported 36 percent.

Personal Commitment

Respondents were asked if they had ever made a personal commitment to live their life for God. For those responding to the second evaluation, 51 percent said 'yes', 19 percent said 'no', and 30 percent said 'I am not sure'. This relatively high percent for 'I am not sure' may not be surprising since 'making a personal commitment to live life for God' is not language often used within the ELCA.

Figure 4 shows there were similar percentages among respondents to the second evaluation and all *PPT ELCA* respondents with 'yes' responses ranging from 51 to 56 percent. According to the *PPT*, these responses are similar to all mainline Protestant youth who reported 50 percent ever making a personal commitment to live their life for God.

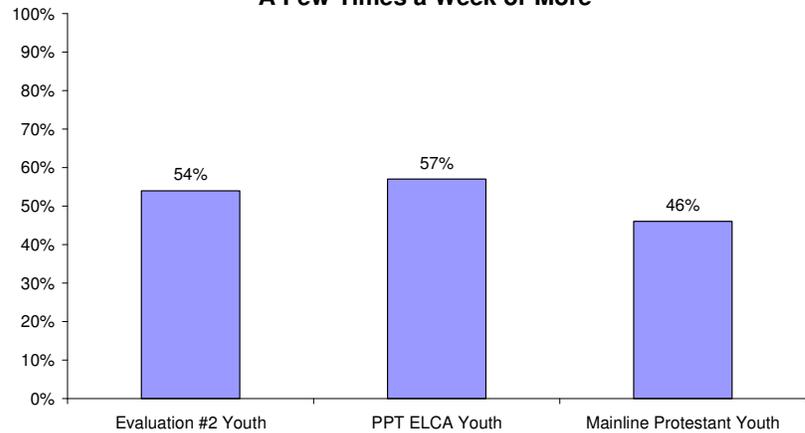


Prayer

Respondents were asked how often they pray by themselves, alone. There were 11 percent of the second evaluation respondents who indicated ‘less than once a month’ or ‘never’. There were 21 percent of respondents who indicated ‘one to two times a month’. This means that the majority of second evaluation respondents pray by themselves, alone, at least once a week: 35 percent indicated ‘once’ or ‘a few times’ a week, and 33 percent indicated ‘once’ or ‘many times’ a day.

Figure 5 shows there were similar percentages among the respondents to the second evaluation and all *PPT* ELCA respondents with responses for ‘a few times a week’ or more ranging from 54 to 57 percent. According to the *PPT*, a slightly smaller percent, 46 percent, of all mainline Protestant youth reported praying by themselves, alone, ‘a few times a week’ or more.

**Figure 5: Those Who Pray By Themselves
A Few Times a Week or More**



Reading the Bible

Respondents were asked how often they read the Bible by themselves, alone. There were 65 percent of the second evaluation respondents who indicated ‘less than once a month’ or ‘never’. There were 18 percent of respondents who indicated ‘one to two times a month’. The remainder of respondents, 17 percent, indicated ‘once a week’ or more, including 6 percent reporting ‘once a day’ or more.

**Figure 6: Those Who Read the Bible By Themselves
Once a Week or More**

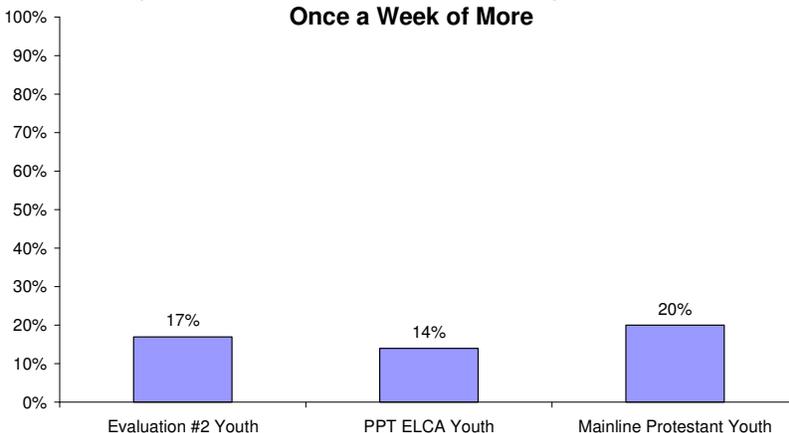


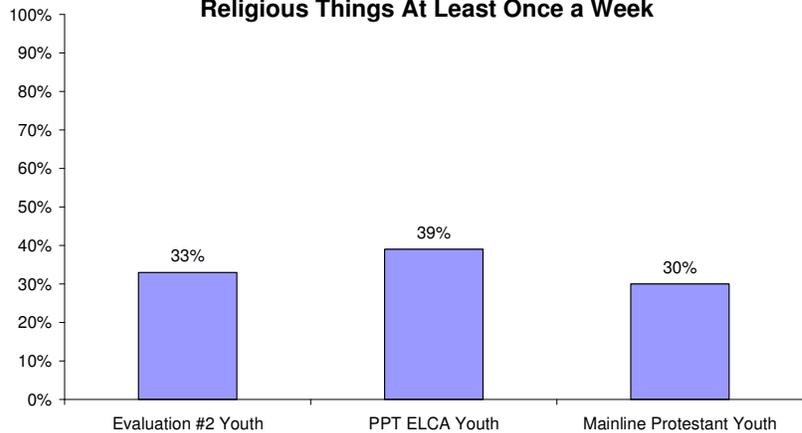
Figure 6 shows there were similar percentages among the respondents to the second evaluation and all *PPT* ELCA respondents with responses for ‘once a week’ or more ranging from 14 to 17 percent. According to the *PPT*, these responses were similar to those of all mainline Protestant youth, with 20 percent who reported reading the Bible by themselves, alone, ‘once a week’ or more.

Talking with Family

Respondents were asked how often their family talks together about God, the Scriptures, prayer, or other religious or spiritual things. There were 44 percent of second evaluation respondents who reported ‘never’ or ‘a few times a year’. There were 24 percent of respondents who indicated ‘a few times a month’. The remainder of respondents, 33 percent, indicated ‘once a week’ or more, including 8 percent reporting ‘every day’.

Figure 7 shows a slightly higher percentage among all *PPT* ELCA respondents than for the respondents to the second evaluation, with responses for ‘once a week’ or more at 39 percent for the *PPT* respondents compared to 33 percent for the second evaluation respondents. According to the *PPT*, 30 percent of all mainline Protestant youth reported talking together with their family about religious or spiritual things ‘once a week’ or more.

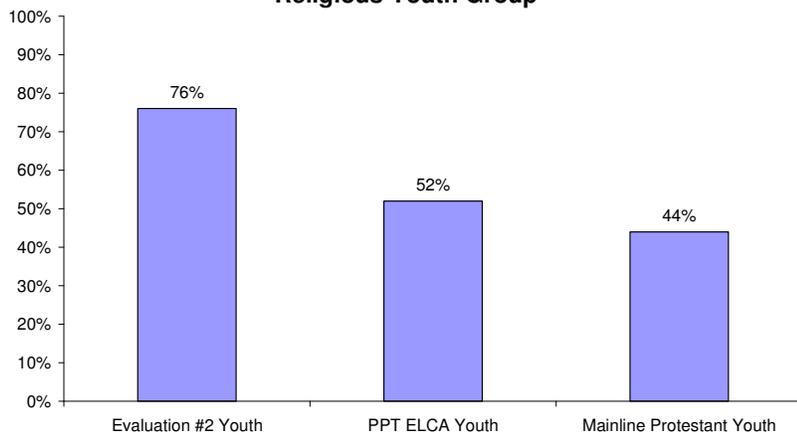
Figure 7: Those Whose Families Talk Together about Religious Things At Least Once a Week



Involved in Youth Group

Just over three-fourths of second evaluation respondents indicated they are currently involved in a religious youth group (76 percent). As shown in Figure 8, this percentage is higher than for all ELCA youth respondents reported in the *PPT*, which was 52 percent. Second evaluation respondents also have a higher involvement than for all mainline Protestant youth. According to the *PPT*, 44 percent of all mainline Protestant youth report being involved in a religious youth group.

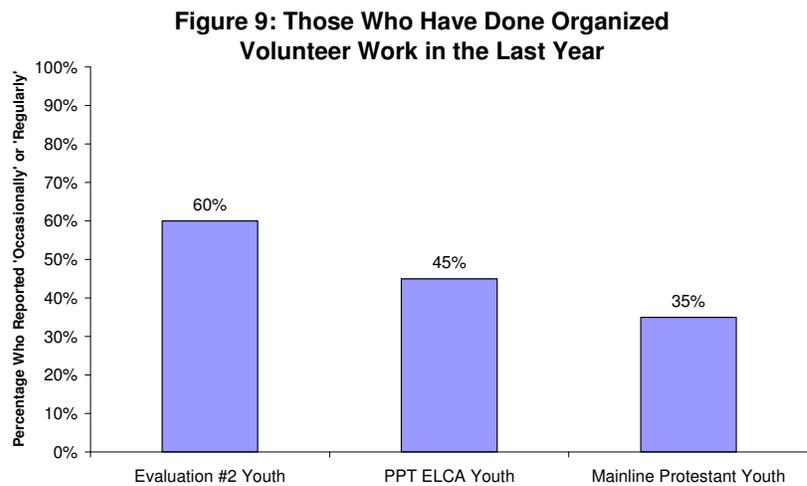
Figure 8: Currently Involved in any Religious Youth Group



Volunteer Work

Similar to the results for involvement in a religious youth group, second evaluation respondents have a higher percentage who report doing volunteer work or community service ‘occasionally’ or ‘regularly’ in the last year. Figure 9 shows that the percentage for all second evaluation respondents is 60 percent compared to 45 percent for ELCA youth reported in the *PPT*. Second

evaluation respondents also have a higher involvement in volunteer work than for all mainline Protestant youth. According to the *PPT*, 35 percent of all mainline Protestant youth report being involved in volunteer work at least occasionally in the last year.



Conclusions

The 2006 Gathering continues to positively influence youth participants in many ways nine months after the Gathering. As shown, over 60 percent of respondents reported feeling proud to be a Lutheran and reported looking at world events through other people’s perspectives more frequently in the last year due at least in part to the Gathering. In addition, over 10 percent of respondents (at least 2,800 of the over 28,000 2006 Gathering youth participants) reported doing each of the activities encouraged or modeled by the Gathering more frequently in the last year due at least in part to the Gathering.

Youth actions related to volunteer work seem to be one of the items over which the Gathering has the most influence. For example, one-third of respondents indicated the Gathering positively influenced their decision of whether to pursue long-term volunteer work after graduation. Also, there were nearly double the percentage of respondents nine months after the Gathering who reported volunteering within their community more frequently due at least in part to the Gathering: 16 percent of respondents immediately after the Gathering compared to 31 percent nine months after the Gathering. Finally, a comparison of Gathering second evaluation youth respondents to ELCA youth respondents to the National Survey of Youth and Religion (NSYR) shows Gathering participants are more likely to answer that they have done organized volunteer work or community service in the last year.

Comparisons between Gathering second evaluation youth respondents and ELCA youth respondents as part of the NSYR show that in most cases—with the exception of volunteer work—the responses are similar. This indicates that we can be fairly confident that ELCA youth are accurately described by these responses. The NSYR also allows for comparisons to all mainline Protestant youth. These comparisons show that ELCA youth attend worship service(s) more frequently, place a higher

importance on religious faith shaping their daily life, and pray by themselves slightly more often than all mainline Protestant youth.

2006 ELCA Youth Gathering
Evaluation #2 – Post Gathering Experiences
Youth Participant Questionnaire
April/May 2007

Thank you for completing the first evaluation of the 2006 ELCA Youth Gathering that was sent out last August! This second evaluation focuses more in depth on your experiences since the 2006 Gathering. If you would like to complete the questionnaire on-line, go to www.elca.org/research, and click on “2006 ELCA Youth Gathering Evaluation #2.” If you have questions, please contact Victoria Flood at Victoria.Flood@elca.org, or Dann Taylor at Daniel.Taylor@elca.org or 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2990.

***We are looking for your complete honesty –
there are no “right” or “wrong” answers!***

Of the 521 surveys sent, there were 200 completed responses for a response rate of 38 percent.

1. How important was participating in the Gathering relative to other activities in your life over the past couple of years?

- 3.5% The Gathering was not very important compared to other activities I have participated in over the past couple of years.
- 79.3% The Gathering was one of many important activities that I have participated in over the past couple of years
- 17.2% The Gathering was the most important activity I have participated in over the past couple of years

2. How relevant has the Gathering theme been to your everyday life? (Cruzando: Journey with Jesus)

- 34.0% I see many connections between the Gathering theme and my everyday life
- 60.4% I see a few connections between the Gathering theme and my everyday life
- 5.6% I do not see any connections between the Gathering theme and my everyday life

3. How much influence would you say your participation in the Gathering has had on the following...

	<u>Little to No Influence</u>				<u>A High Level Influence</u>	<u>mean</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	
a. your relationships with your friends?	5.5%	23.6%	27.6%	32.2%	11.1%	3.2
b. your relationships with your family?	7.5%	20.1%	29.6%	32.7%	10.1%	3.2
c. your involvement within your congregation?	4.0%	14.1%	29.1%	34.2%	18.6%	3.5
d. your decisions on how to spend your money?	19.6%	28.1%	28.1%	17.6%	6.5%	2.6
e. your awareness of international social issues?	9.0%	11.6%	28.6%	33.7%	17.1%	3.4
f. your relationship with God?	5.0%	5.5%	23.1%	33.2%	33.2%	3.8

(continued on the next page)

4. Are you currently involved in any religious youth group?

76.4% Yes 20.1% No 3.5% I am not sure

5. Have you further discussed (in your youth group or in other settings) themes or ideas that were shared during the Gathering?

42.9% Yes 40.9% No 16.2% I am not sure

If so, what have you discussed?

6. About how often do you usually attend worship service(s)? *(choose the best answer)*

4.5% Few times a year 2.5% Many times a year
9.5% Once a month 26.6% Two to three times a month
47.7% Once a week 9.0% More than once a week

7. How important or unimportant is religious faith in shaping how you live your daily life? *(choose the best answer)*

1.0% Not important at all 4.5% Not very important
36.2% Somewhat important 41.7% Very important
16.6% Extremely important

8. Have you ever made a personal commitment to live your life for God?

51.0% Yes 18.7% No 30.3% I am not sure

9. How distant or close do you feel to God most of the time? *(choose the best answer)*

3.6% Extremely distant 1.5% Very distant
15.2% Somewhat distant 41.6% Somewhat close
29.9% Very close 8.1% Extremely close

10. How often, if ever, do you pray by yourself alone? *(choose the best answer)*

4.0% Never 7.0% Less than once a month
21.1% One to two times a month 13.6% About once a week
21.1% A few times a week 23.1% About once a day
10.1% Many times a day

11. How often, if ever, do you read from the Bible to yourself alone? *(choose the best answer)*

36.7% Never	28.6% Less than once a month
17.6% One to two times a month	6.5% About once a week
4.5% A few times a week	4.0% About once a day
2.0% Many times a day	

12. How often, if ever, does your family talk about God, the Scriptures, prayer, or other religious or spiritual things together? *(choose the best answer)*

15.6% Never	28.1% A few times a year
23.6% A few times a month	11.1% About once a week
14.1% A few times a week	7.5% Every day

13. Have you ever considered full-time ministry, someday?

21.6% Yes	69.3% No	9.0% I am not sure
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14. How often do you give an offering of money to your congregation? *(choose the best answer)*

14.6% Never	33.2% A few times a year
30.2% A few times a month	22.1% About once a week

15. In the last year, how much, if at all, have you done organized volunteer work or community service? *(choose the best answer)*

5.5% Never	34.7% A few times
32.2% Occasionally	27.6% Regularly

16. On which of the following decisions, if any, would you say your participation in the Gathering has had a positive influence? *(choose all that apply)*

13.5% Whether to attend college	18.5% Whether to apply to an ELCA college
31.5% Which career to pursue	33.0% Whether to pursue long-term volunteer work after graduation

17. Which, if any, of the following organizations or opportunities did you learn something about during the Gathering? *(choose all that apply)*

24.5% Outdoor Ministries in the ELCA	32.0% Young Adult Global Mission opportunities
38.5% ELCA colleges and seminaries	16.0% Women of the ELCA
12.5% Advocacy in the ELCA	51.5% Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO)

(continued on the next page)

18. For each of the following activities, please indicate whether you do them more or less or about the same as you did them a year ago. Then, indicate what influence you think the Gathering has had on how often you do these activities.

	<i>Frequency Compared to One Year Ago</i>			<i>Influence of the Gathering</i>		
	<u>More Often</u>	<u>The Same</u>	<u>Less Often</u>	<u>Little to No Influence</u>	<u>Some Influence</u>	<u>A lot of Influence</u>
a. Pray.	32.0%	60.4%	7.6%	22.8%	56.9%	20.3%
b. Try new ways to pray.	20.4%	61.2%	18.4%	45.1%	40.0%	14.9%
c. Look at world events through other people's perspectives.	67.0%	29.9%	3.0%	16.2%	40.6%	43.1%
d. Understand who Jesus is.	43.7%	53.3%	3.0%	23.0%	49.5%	27.6%
e. Read the Bible.	19.9%	66.3%	13.8%	52.0%	37.4%	10.6%
f. Change my spending habits.	25.0%	65.3%	9.7%	53.3%	38.6%	8.1%
g. Talk about faith with a friend(s).	35.5%	54.8%	9.6%	35.2%	45.9%	18.9%
h. Invite someone to come to church with me	28.4%	59.9%	11.7%	50.3%	36.0%	13.7%
i. Attend worship service(s).	26.5%	63.8%	9.7%	34.2%	42.9%	23.0%
j. Participate in my congregation.	41.1%	49.2%	9.6%	27.9%	43.1%	28.9%
k. Volunteer within my community.	34.2%	60.2%	5.6%	37.1%	43.8%	19.1%
l. Think about full-time ministry as a vocation	14.2%	50.3%	35.5%	64.8%	22.4%	12.8%
m. Donate money to my congregation.	17.3%	77.6%	5.1%	45.9%	42.3%	11.7%
n. Feel comfortable passing the peace in worship.	41.1%	57.4%	1.5%	33.5%	42.1%	24.4%
o. Feel proud to be Lutheran.	66.0%	28.4%	5.6%	14.6%	31.3%	54.0%
p. Make the sign of the cross.	24.4%	68.5%	7.1%	46.7%	33.3%	20.0%
q. Feel God's presence during Holy Communion.	32.8%	64.6%	2.6%	32.0%	47.2%	20.8%
r. Donate money to ministries outside of my congregation.	18.8%	71.6%	9.6%	49.0%	39.8%	11.2%
s. Learn more about places of ELCA ministry in the world, such as Bosnia or the Middle East.	26.9%	61.9%	11.2%	38.1%	37.1%	24.9%

Thank you for your time!

*Please return this questionnaire in the envelope provided, or send to:
ELCA Research and Evaluation, 8765 W Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631*

Attachment B – All Comments to Question #5

Have you further discussed (in your youth group or in other settings) themes or ideas that were shared during the Gathering? If so, what have you discussed?

The theme Cruzando and we did a presentation to the congregation to tell them all about our experience.

Just what the gathering theme meant to us and how it affected us in our daily lives.

We went to Forest Home and we talked about carrying our luggage and that Jesus is there to help us.

The event was a catalyst for general theological thought discussed amongst myself and other friends, beyond those who joined me in San Antonio.

what we did and learned while we were there.

We discussed how the Gathering will influence us every day, and we had a big discussion about it in the hotel room the third night we were there. There was some friction between the members of the youth group, and we used the Gathering as a way to sort things out. It helped a lot actually.

We really liked the Cruzando theme, so we tend to bring it up from time to time or randomly break out singing the songs

We have discussed further into the meaning of the theme of the gathering and how to relate and see relations to the theme in everyday life.

just the whole gathering

we talked about how we need to be more aware of what goes on in the world and ways that we can help.

Our LYO board took some of the ideas one step further and made "Breaking Down Barriers, Building New Bridges" our theme for the year.

we talked about how much the gathering could have an impact on our everyday life

this year we used a curriculum called it's the journey

We discussed getting involved with some of the projects such as the water wells in Haiti.

going to visit our blind date group in st. louis

What we did at the gathering and how it effected us

Everything that happened there

The speakers that appeared at the gathering.

Everything about it

Service

We did a slide show during a sermon

We did a follow-up service for the congregation which was pretty powerful as far as showing the adults that we are capable of taking on more responsibility within the congregation and of being inspired by God, no matter what our age.

being aware of other people's challenges and their trust in God

Our walk with God and Jesus and how we need to be involved.

Allowing other people in so we can do a great mission. Going to Mississippi for Hurricane Relief

That God has to be involved in every decision we make every day. We have to allow him to come with us on our journey with Christ.

The story of Emanuel Yeboah

We did a follow up congregational information service after the gathering

about helping and doing something to help the children in Africa (Darfur); discussed many other international issues, ex. Virginia Tech school shootings

The gathering as a whole when preparing our church service.

We discussed our trip in the congregation.

To follow God's path because he always wants you to trust him and know that he will lead you through life

How the theme has changed our lives and how we use it daily.

The fun times

About the bonds and the connections you feel with God.

lots of stuff

Many things.

giving out quarters

worship, praising God through song

we have watched videos of the speakers, and discussed them

Everything

We put on a power point presentation and told our congregation what we did. And, discussed the speakers and other things

helping others (world vision)

When the gathering was over we discussed the whole gathering, what people liked the most and least. No one thing in particular.

How it has affected our lives

The everyday importance of connecting with God

Every night after the nightly gathering in the Alamodome, my group would gather in the lobby of our hotel and discuss the day and the things we saw and heard. We would discuss what the speakers said and how we thought the musicians were.

Most everything

Songs

Equal rights issues and their intersections with Christianity

Our experiences; what we took from the trip

I've discussed the message that we (the youth) can and will affect the future. If we focus on helping others as best we can, we can change the world.

how important relationships with God; how fortunate we are in the U.S.

We have talked more in depth about the meaning of Cruzando, and we often tie Sunday School lessons with something from the trip.

The importance of fellowship and being involved in the Christian community. Also the difficulties everyone faces in their journey and how the battles change with time

Journey with God

We discussed every speaker and band at the end of each day.

In depth about where our journey with Jesus was and what we needed to improve. Also, we went in depth about what the songs were saying and really connected to the music!

Many things about the way we view social issues and problems in our society.

Our youth group has become much more service oriented.

Everything that happened those few days.

prayers, speakers, music, people we met

journey with Jesus; influence of gathering; reactions to gathering

same as in Texas, just expanded on them more

Journey with God doing what he wants us to do

Almost everything has come up again.

poverty around the world

Helping poorer countries, sending money to under developed countries to help with need children

How it affected us, and what we got out of it. Like if we plan on helping with issues like poverty.

relationships with Christ