



TRINITY

EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
A house of prayer for all people

The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 27, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome: *If you are a visitor, we are grateful that you have joined us and hope that you find space here to come close to God. We welcome all who seek the Holy, no matter your background. At Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, we pray, celebrate, and share our gifts with each other, our neighbors, and our community, as we serve God and represent the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas. We'd love to connect with you about how to make this church your home. To do so, please **fill out a of the visitor card** in front of you and drop it in the offertory plate.*

Infants and Toddlers: *Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers up to 4 years old. Children's engagement materials can be found near the bell tower doors. The bell tower has a speaker that allows you to hear the service if you need to step out with your child. Ask an usher or greeter for directions to either location.*

Portions of our service during the first half of Ordinary Time come from Enriching Our Worship, a resource provided by the Episcopal Church.

Hymns are found in the red hymnal.

HOLY BAPTISM

THE PRELUDE

VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, BWV 682

Johann Sebastian Bach

VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, BWV 683

(Our Father, who art in heaven)

HYMN 47

ON THIS DAY, THE FIRST OF DAYS

Gott sei Dank

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

THE FIRST READING

GENESIS 18:20-32

The LORD said to Abraham, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

*I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;*

*For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.*

*When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.*

*All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.*

*They will sing of the ways of the LORD, *
that great is the glory of the LORD.*

*Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.*

*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.*

*The LORD will make good his purpose for me; *
O LORD, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.*

THE SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 2:6-15

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 615

“THY KINGDOM COME!” ON BENDED KNEE

St. Flavian

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 11:1-13

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The congregation remains seated.

Priest The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents **I present Billie Louise Parkey to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**
I present Boyd Clemmer Parkey to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.
I present Bradley Reynolds Parkey to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Priest Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents **I will, with God's help.**

The Priest asks the following questions of the candidates or of the parents and godparents.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer **I do.**

The congregation stands. The Priest addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Priest Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Priest Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Priest Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Priest Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

The Priest then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

The Deacon leads the following petitions

Deacon Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Open their heart to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Priest says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Priest blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Priest We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Priest touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE BAPTISM

Each candidate is presented by name to the Priest, who then pours water upon the candidate, saying

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying to each one

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.
Amen.

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

When all have been baptized, the Priest says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Priest and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

THE PEACE

The people stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then all may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*During the Offertory Hymn, ushers collect an offering from the congregation.
Use the QR code to make a plate offering.*



***Please stand** for the Offertory Hymn. Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread, wine, money, and other gifts to the Celebrant.*

HYMN 410

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN

Lauda anima

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - PRAYER I

FROM *ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

THE SANCTUS

HYMNAL S-127

The people stand or kneel.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

HYMNAL S-154

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Ushers will direct you to the altar rail. Please let an usher know if you need Holy Communion brought to you.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

MOTET

LOCUS ISTE

Anton Bruckner

*Locus iste a Deo factus est,
inaestimabile sacramentum,
irreprehensibilis est.*

This place was made by God,
a priceless mystery;
it is without reproof.

Text: Gradual of the Mass for the Dedication of a Church

HYMN 674

“FORGIVE OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE”

Detroit

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

If people are being sent to take the Bread and Wine to those who are absent, the Deacon says

Deacon In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one, because we all share one bread and one cup. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

HYMN 388

O WORSHIP THE KING, ALL GLORIOUS ABOVE!

Hanover

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

CHORALE PRELUDE ON 'HANOVER'

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

✠ ALTAR GIFTS ✠

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN GRATEFUL THANKSGIVING FOR THE BIRTHDAY OF
TAYLOR LEA
BY LUCY, NEAL, AND NAT LEA

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN GRATEFUL THANKSGIVING FOR THE BAPTISMS OF
BILLIE LOUISE PARKEY, BOYD CLEMMER PARKEY, AND BRADLEY REYNOLDS PARKEY

Words on the Words: This summer, our liturgy at the 10:30 a.m. celebration of the Holy Eucharist comes from *Enriching Our Worship*, a liturgy approved by the Episcopal Church in 1997. This liturgy offers us fresh and faithful ways to pray, drawing upon the words of scripture and early Christian tradition, while using language that reflects the full dignity of all people. It helps us name and praise God with imagery that is expansive, inclusive, and spiritually resonant for our time. We will return to Eucharistic prayers A, B, C, and D from the Book of Common Prayer in the Fall. I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Notes on the Notes: This morning's prelude consists of two chorale preludes on Luther's hymn translation of the Our Father, chosen for their relation to today's Gospel, in which Jesus institutes the Lord's Prayer. The acerbic first prelude is the most rhythmically complex piece Bach wrote for organ, as well as a tour de force of contrapuntal wizardry. The piece begins as a trio sonata, but then the chorale tune appears in canon, increasing the texture to five voices. The distinctive rhythmic feature of this piece is the short-long rhythm, called a Lombard.

This morning's postlude is a wonderfully triumphant chorale prelude based on our final hymn, I. It consists of an introduction, two statements of the hymn tune (the first of which makes me wish that I were left-handed), and a coda.

LITURGICAL LEADERS

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Danny Schieffler, <i>Interim Vicar</i>
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. Susan Sims Smith
<i>Baptism Presider</i>	The Rev. Thomas Alexander, <i>Curate</i>
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Dr. Susan Loy Lyon
<i>Assisting Clergy</i>	The Rev. Susan Payne, <i>Priest Associate</i>
<i>Lectors</i>	Ellen Fennell, Myra Kinnebrew
<i>Lay Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Christy Kalder-Jameson, Debbie Kincaid
<i>Music</i>	Dr. Colin MacKnight, <i>Director of Music</i> Trinity Cathedral Choir Trinity Cathedral Ringing Society
<i>Ushers</i>	Herschel Cast, Harold Joyner, Ann Morledge, George Morledge
<i>Docent</i>	Scott Whitfield

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for lemonade and cookies after the service in the courtyard hosted this week by the Daughters of the King.

If you would like to know about the Cathedral building and its history, a docent-led tour is available following the service. The tour starts in the baptistery at the back of the church.

EVENTS AND INFORMATION

This week at and around the Cathedral

Today	11:45 a.m., Canterbury Pilgrimage info meeting
Monday	8:30 a.m., Morning Prayer 5:30 p.m., Dean Search Committee 7 p.m., Clavier-Übung III: The Pinnacle of the Complete Bach Organ Series
Tuesday	8:30 a.m., Morning Prayer
Wednesday	8:30 a.m., Morning Prayer 5 p.m., Trinity Ringing Society Practice 5:30 p.m., Eucharist with Healing Prayers
Thursday	8:30 a.m., Morning Prayer 5:15 p.m., Evening Prayer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interest Meeting for Parish Pilgrimage to Canterbury 2026

*Today immediately after the 10:30 am service
Pierce Chapel*

The Trinity Cathedral choir has accepted an invitation to be the choir-in-residence at Canterbury Cathedral in southeast England in Summer 2026, leading their daily services of Choral Evensong and Holy Eucharist. Alongside the choir tour, the Rev. Thomas Alexander will lead a pilgrimage for parishioners of all ages. Not only will pilgrims have the opportunity to worship daily with the Trinity Cathedral choir in the historic setting of Canterbury Cathedral, but they will also have a chance to study and experience all that Canterbury and the surrounding area have to teach us. Pilgrims will depart from Little Rock on Saturday, July 25, 2026 and arrive back home on Monday, August 3, 2026. Join the Rev. Thomas Alexander for an interest meeting today in Pierce Chapel immediately following the 10:30 am service to learn more.

Clavier-Übung III: The Pinnacle of the Complete Bach Organ Series

Monday, July 28th (the exact 275th anniversary of Bach's death) at 7 pm

Totaling about 100 minutes, “Clav III” is Bach’s largest, most complex, and most difficult organ work. Reception to follow.

Education for Ministry Cohort Forming

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a program for lay-people administered by the University of the South. Traditionally, this has been a four year program (Old Testament, New Testament, History, Theology/Ethics). This program is ongoing with new revisions. With the new curriculum, Sewanee has also added a one-year survey option. Either way, we meet every Sunday afternoon to discuss our readings and reflect on what we are learning. EfM is a great way to dig deeper into the Bible, our traditions, our faith, and to come closer to God in a small group setting.

If you have any questions or wish to join, please come to an information session following the 10:30 am service on Sunday, August 3, or contact Missy McCain (missy@arkansas.anglican.org) or Greg Albert (albertgw@gmail.com).

Adult Formation in the Summer, Nicaea: 1700 years later

Sundays, August 3 – August 31 at 9:15 a.m.

Conference Room in Keller House

Join the Rev. Thomas Alexander for a five-week-long series on the Council of Nicaea, its history, and its legacy today. This summer marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council. We will closely study the greatest of this first ecumenical Council’s decisions—the Nicene Creed—but we will also study some of the other, lesser-known decisions of Nicaea.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ECEP Sunday & Backpack Blessings

We will pray for ECEP and bless our backpacks before school starts on Monday, August 11.
Can't wait to see you there!

More Dates in August

Make sure to get these dates on your calendar.

August 9: Playground Hangout

August 10: ECEP Sunday & Backpack Blessings

August 17: Children's Liturgy (Chapel during church) resumes!

August 24: Youth Back-to-School Bowling

Dean and Rector Search/Recruitment Update

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered at Trinity Cathedral Parish. 998 persons were invited to participate; of these, 185 persons responded. A response from every member is not required to provide valid results.

Overall, approximately 50% of your members are clearly satisfied with things in the church. This, along with other information, indicates that the church has opportunities which include growth, expansion, replication, and external impact. Whether any of these will be realized depends on the choices made.

Not every question is of equal importance to members. When asked how satisfied they are, members tend to focus on the issues addressed in the questions below. When they feel more positive in these areas, they tend to feel more positive overall.

- Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership.
- I sense an atmosphere of genuine care and concern among our members in time of personal need.
- Our church provides opportunities for members to engage in active ministry within the church and to the world.
- Our church provides opportunities for education and formation in a variety of ways so that I can find one that fits my complex lifestyle.
- The whole spirit in our congregation makes people want to get as involved as possible.

Conversely, when your members feel less positive about the areas above, they tend to feel less satisfied with their experience in the church overall.

Every church exhibits patterns in its life that contain strengths and potential weaknesses. Our church has potential strengths related to openness and structure of religious practice. Potential weaknesses include a tendency to become tradition-bound and overwhelmed with needs.

As members look to the future, their top four goals are

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc).
- Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.

In comparison to other churches, three goals that are unusually strong for our church are

- Enlarge or improve the physical facilities of the church to expand or enhance our ministries.
- Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society. (i.e. homeless, immigrant, transient persons)
- Strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people in times of need (emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, etc.).

These may warrant attention from the leadership even if they are mid-level priorities.

All the information in this report should be explored and validated in further conversation.

Survey data is not the end of a conversation but the beginning.

Search Process Timeline

