



Lutheran Church–Canada
National Lutheran Open House
September 29/30 2007
Evaluation

Goal

To encourage congregations to invite members of their community, friends and family to learn the basics of the Lutheran confession of the Christian faith and explore the church facilities.

Timeline

- Announced at 2006 District Conventions
- Participation sign-up began February 1, 2007
- Monthly information or ads in *The Canadian Lutheran* (January-September)
- Posters and bulletin inserts created
- 17 updates sent between February 1 and September 28
- Weekly reports sent to mission execs

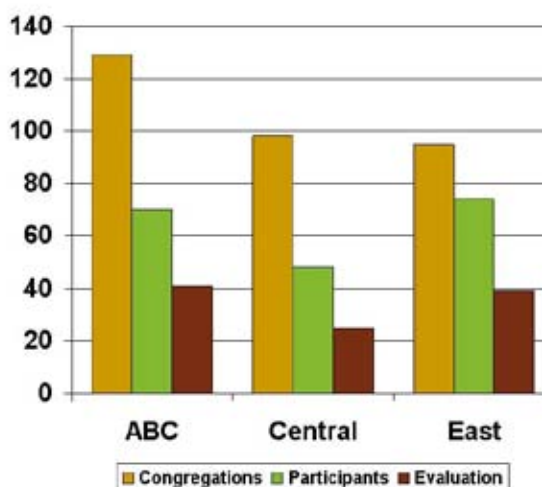
National Lutheran Open House

Participation

- National 193 (60%)
 - ABC 70 (54%)
 - Central 48 (49%)
 - East 74 (78%)

Evaluation

- National 106 (55%)
 - ABC 41 (58%)
 - Central 25 (52%)
 - East 39 (53%)

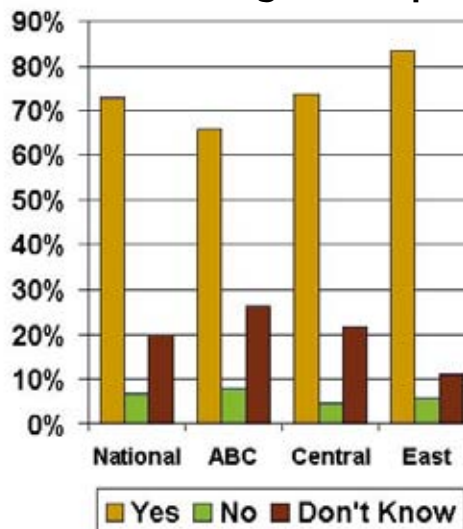


Why did you participate?

- Outreach
 - “Walking together” with synod & circuit
 - Community Awareness
 - Reinforce ongoing outreach
 - Encourage “invitation” evangelism
- “If we get at least one new person walking through our doors, it is worth it!”

Did your congregation make new connections through the Open House

- National
 - Yes 73.3%
 - No 6.9%
 - DK 20%
- ABC
 - Yes 65.8%
- Central
 - Yes 73.9%
- East
 - Yes 83.3%



What was the major achievement of your participation?

- Connection with community
 - New contacts
- Congregation outreach focus
 - Looking for ways to connect with unchurched
 - Seeing that outreach can work
- Congregation working together
 - Team spirit

What was the greatest disappointment of your participation?

- Community response
 - Few attending despite mass mailings etc
 - Saturday visitors didn't return Sunday
- Lack of congregational involvement
 - Members stayed away
 - Members didn't invite anyone

Use and effectiveness of resources developed for Open House

- Most-used resources:
 - The Story of Jesus for Children (14,400+)
 - Congregation promotion materials
 - Bulletin inserts
 - Poster
 - Jesus: Legend or Lord? (2000+)
 - Pre-printed invitations (~38,700)
- Most effective in making connections
 - Personal Invitation
 - Word-of-Mouth

East

- Newspaper
- Special event

- Overall satisfaction with:
 - Ongoing communication
 - Quality and quantity of communication
 - Quality and quantity of resources
- Would like to have had:
 - National advertising
 - Alternate graphics
 - More easily adaptable graphics

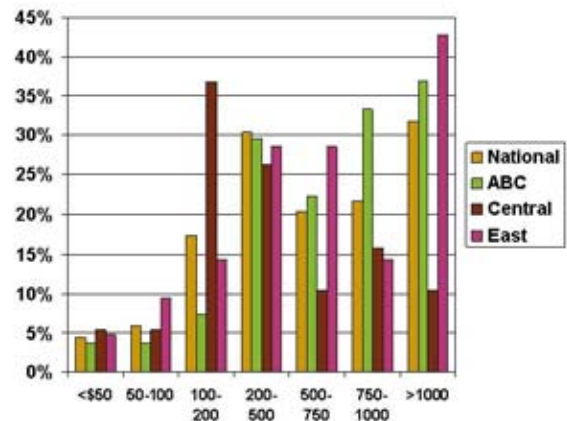
Amount spent

- Amount spent did not affect success
- Funding

Budget	75%
Fund-raising	7.1%
Donations	40 %
Grants	21.2%
Other	

- FaithLife grants
- 125 Thank Offering Grants (East District)
- Demographic research grants (ABC District)

- Lutheran Church-Canada
 - Communications budget
 - Let your light shine (booklet given to each participating congregation)
 - Supported by sales
 - Purchase of DVDs (The Story of Jesus for Children; Jesus Legend or Lord)
 - Printing of invitations
 - Production of plastic bags



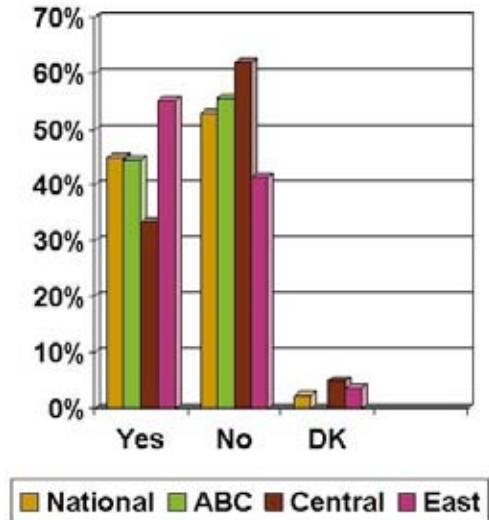
- Supported by grants
 - Art design
 - DVD distribution
 - Whatyoubelieve.ca

LWML-Canada (\$5000)
 CLMS (\$3500)
 LLL-Canada (\$5000)

Engagement

Did you believe the following entities were fully engaged in the Open House?

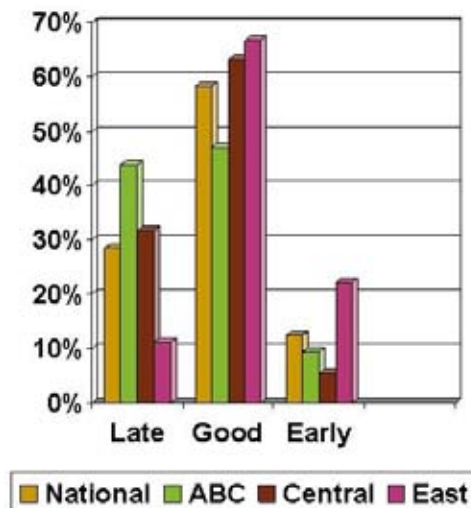
• Congregation		
National		
Yes		44.9%
No		52.8%
DK		2.3%
ABC		
Yes		44.4%
Central		
Yes		33.3%
East		
Yes		55.2%
• Circuit		
National		
Yes		28.1%
No		32.6%
DK		39.3%
ABC		
Yes		19.4%
Central		
Yes		19.1%
East		
Yes		44.8%
• District		
National		
Yes		46.1%
No		11.2%
DK		42.7%
ABC		
Yes		38.9%
Central		
Yes		14.3%
East		
Yes		75.9%



Timing

Was late September a good time for Open House?

• National		
Late		28.4%
Good		59.3%
Early		12.4%
ABC		
Good		46.9%
Central		
Good		63.2%
East		
Good		66.7%



Would your congregaiton participate if this became and annual event?

• National	Yes	54.6%
	No	8%
	Maybe	37.5%
ABC	Yes	44.1%
Central	Yes	54.6%
East	Yes	65.5%

Was the National Lutheran Open House successful?

There was no statistical benchmark established to gauge success with the Open House. Most participants made contacts they could count. However, with mass distribution of many resources, they may have made other contacts which they do not yet know about. As each congregation participated for various reasons, success was very subjective.

Based on the evaluation information we can assess the results and see various positive trends that may have a long-lasting effect on many congregations and on LCC's outreach to Canadian communities.

- New contacts made in more than 70% of congregations
- Shared 14,000 DVDs about Jesus
- Mobilized congregations for outreach
- Focused congregations outside the four walls of the church building
- Encouraged self-assessment
- Encouraged team work

Soli Deo Gloria!

1. Did you make connections within your community which previously you did not have?				
			Response Percent	Response Count
yes			73.3%	74
no			6.9%	7
don't know			19.8%	20
answered question				101
skipped question				5

2. What was the most effective means of making those connections? (1 least effective, 5 most effective, DK Don't know)							
	1	2	3	4	5	DK	Response Count
Church Sign	15.7% (13)	14.5% (12)	19.3% (16)	13.3% (11)	13.3% (11)	24.1% (20)	83
Flyers	15.2% (10)	10.6% (7)	22.7% (15)	15.2% (10)	9.1% (6)	27.3% (18)	66
Invitations (mass distribution)	17.6% (12)	10.3% (7)	16.2% (11)	19.1% (13)	10.3% (7)	26.5% (18)	68
Newspaper	17.9% (14)	12.8% (10)	15.4% (12)	14.1% (11)	12.8% (10)	26.9% (21)	78
Personal invitation (one-to-one)	6.8% (6)	9.1% (8)	12.5% (11)	19.3% (17)	38.6% (34)	13.6% (12)	88
Posters	14.5% (10)	14.5% (10)	27.5% (19)	10.1% (7)	2.9% (2)	30.4% (21)	69
Radio	15.8% (9)	8.8% (5)	17.5% (10)	3.5% (2)	10.5% (6)	43.9% (25)	57
Special event	10.2% (6)	15.3% (9)	13.6% (8)	22.0% (13)	10.2% (6)	28.8% (17)	59
TV	9.3% (5)	13.0% (7)	7.4% (4)	0.0% (0)	3.7% (2)	66.7% (36)	54
Word-of-mouth	10.5% (8)	7.9% (6)	17.1% (13)	19.7% (15)	31.6% (24)	13.2% (10)	76
Other (please specify)							8
answered question							94
skipped question							12

Effective Other (please specify)

- Community Business paper - Vancouver Courier, etc
- 250 Door hangers
- we used five of the areas from above
- we used five of the areas from above
- On two different Sundays Grace provided the members with invitations to use to help them invite someone to the open house and to Sunday services. We received 7 people, two of whom we believe were unchurched. The others came because they saw a friend's name in the by-line in the neighborhood newspaper. Two came by invitation but were already churched and two just dropped in but we don't know how they heard of the Open House.
- web site
- off the street (lots of people waving) and sandwich boards/balloons on boulevard
- inflatable "rides" visible to passers-by

3. What follow-up plans will you use or develop for those connections?		
		Response Count
		69
	<i>answered question</i>	69
	<i>skipped question</i>	37

What follow-up plans will you use or develop for those connections?

Open-Ended Response

- Personal letter to each family who attended our family movie night and/or worship service. Invitations to subsequent events and worship.
- No plans.
- Only one person came to the open house who was not a regular member. We have visited her and she has attended once after. We will continue to shepherd her.
- We are hoping that our blitz of newspaper ads, door knockers, and posters around town helped raise the visibility of our church (so that at least they know we're here) ... I am toying with the idea of running newspaper ads every 6 months or year, just to keep us in their consciousness.
- Personal invitations from the pastors and congregation to return were sent.
- None at this time as we only had 2 guests for our open house and both are members of other churches. My children however brought 2 friends and we pick them up for Sunday school each week. In our congregation it would appear that the children take mission work much more to heart than the adults.
- Send a letter to those visitors who signed the guest book and left an address. Invite them to a service.
- One family registered their children for Sunday School and although they haven't shown up yet, we will follow up with a personal contact.
- Give to our visitors the Vox-Media DVDs that tell of what Lutherans believe. The DVD was not yet available at the time of our Block Party.
- Personal contact from Pastor or members
- Contact for upcoming events
- We will have another Open House, maybe in the Spring. Our weather was rainy so it may have affected our turnout.
- We will have another Open House, maybe in the Spring. Our weather was rainy so it may have affected our turnout.
- We are in the process of contacting (phone and/or personal visit) all those who indicated that they wished to know more about our church when they attended our Community BBQ or our Friendship Sunday service.
- Letters, phone calls, enrollment of children in Sunday School,
- Phone calls and visits for visitors.
- A "How Did We Do?" was provided for use as an evaluation. No one filled one out although they were asked to verbally by the people at the registration table. Follow-up will be challenging since one individual did not fill in the personal information on the registration form. The other person will be called and sent information on future activities and special services at Grace. If possible (if the person agrees), a personal visit will be made.
- A month's encouragement to have members bring their friends and relatives. Challenged to fill the Sanctuary...reminded to consider and invite friends and relatives. We have been doing Open Houses here since 2003. I have encouraged them and lead them for 30 years, 2-4 each year. We had no visitors Sunday. Too embarrassed to even ask for the introduction of guests that we do each and every Sunday. Open House was used as an encouragement, education and reminder to bring the Gospel to those without Christ. Will plan two more (Open Houses) this year as usual. From the Trenches
- Contact those who did sign in. However, we only had 8 visitors during the Saturday session - Less in the Sunday session.

- Eight week Discovery Series using "Jesus: Legend or Lord"; we gave away 45 to Sunday worshippers and visitors. Telephone Call and visit to those who registered as visitors. We also gave out our Thanksgiving Newsletter with announcement of special service on Oct.7.
- Pop-in-Bags Personal contacts Telephone Calls
- Some of the people who attended come to our Lutheran School and we'll most likely see them at another event where we'll be able to speak again.
- Invitations to seminars on specific subjects: how to properly motivate children, child psychology?, etc.
- Unfortunately we made no new connections with people from this event.
- Follow-up contact from Sunday School where necessary, welcome note from pastor to all visitors (as per usual custom) watch for repeat visitors and visit them as necessary
- have contact information for each visitor; have distributed DVD to each, explaining the Lutheran faith; will invite to future classes/events
- The pastor will visit the couple who came as a result of garage sale type open house signs that were set up at key intersections.
- The evangelism committee will look into it in the coming meetings
- personal visit by the pastor
- We will make evangelism call
- personal visits with visitors asap ; visitor packets were handed out after the Sunday service . . .DVD, congregations history, "Who are Lutherans?" booklets, etc.- hopefully with stir up conversation
- No follow-up organized at this time. Will welcome any new members into the congregation.
- more personal invitations to special events
- Encourage members to wear name tags each Sunday to get to know one another and practice friendliness. Invite people to other special events. Continue to hand out CD and DVDs
- Prayer and friendly conversation, and invitations to future events.
- Letters sent out and a phone call and then hopefully a visit from pastor or elder.
- 1) Visitation and the telephone 2) Invitations to Kids church, youth group, small groups, Dobson's parenting DVD'S 3) Everything we do is evangelism, with the outsider in mind so we welcome
- We have three people who came to the worship service - the plan is to call and/or follow up with a letter
- We will make more use of radio ads in the future for church promotion.
- personal visits, one child already registered for confirmation
- For the special events we planned for Saturday, there was only one visitor from outside the congregation. He attended because of the invitation received in the mail.
- Maintain contact with people who expressed interest in the church.
- initial follow-up letter
- Evangelism call and possibly visit of meeting.
- We are following up by inviting the community to our Advent/Christmas Services by means of a mass mailing.
- None planned as we had only two adults who were non-members come and one was already attending another church.
- visitors were phoned and/or visited
- through members who made the initial contact - consistent connection.
- continual contact through personal and phone visits members strengthened through time together
- We had people sign our guest register with names and addresses. Mailed follow-up letter
- personal invitation to return strengthen connection through members (one couple came - curiosity, members at Christian Church
- Make better usage of church signage Encourage members to invite friends to a friendship Sunday or event.
- personal contact with those that left a name and telephone number or e-mail
- To pray for all the visitors, to get in touch with them individually, expressing our thankfulness and inviting them for other activities.
- Those who expressed interest will be visited, though many of our contacts that came were from other denominations, they simply wanted to see our church building.
- The committee has yet to meet to discuss specific follow-up. We will report to the Voter's at the Annual Meeting. Results will be reported in the Monthly newsletter.
- Special thank you cards are being hand written by myself (pastor). DVD (vox visuals and Jesus for Kids DVD) were already given. Encourage them to watch. 10 left their phone number.

- None at present
- Individual contact reconnecting with some former members.
- We are offering both Roadblocks to Faith, a Bible study for seekers in the weeks following the Open House, as well as Adult Instruction Classes for those interested in learning more about the Christian faith as confessed by the Lutheran Church in particular.
- Mission committee will call each person who gave us a phone number or contact information.
- Letters of invite; visits if possible
- Unfortunately, we had a hard time getting contact information from the visitors, so we will have to rely on them returning. One of our events can become a weekly event, so we've planned a follow up event for next weekend, in order to encourage repeat attendance.
- The connections were with members of the community who already attend a church. In this case there will be no follow-up. We will continue to be open to their visits and encourage their friends within our membership to remain faithful to them.
- Mail invitations to our Hallelujah Party (our Christian alternative to Halloween) to the families' addresses we received.
- Pastor to visit the visitors.
- We will follow-up by sending a note of thank you for visiting and then follow that up by a phone call that will hopefully end up with a personal visit.
- Following up with a thank you card to those who provided their address information. Will also contact these people repeatedly over the next 6-9 months invited them to our seasonal services.
- Didn't make any connections nobody came (even with tv, newspaper, banner on busy street, door to door invitations, personal invitations, food it may have been a wasted effort

4. On a scale of 0-5, please rate the value to you of the resources made available for the Open House (0 least valuable; 5 most valuable; NA did not use)]								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	NA	Response Count
E-mail updates	2.3% (2)	2.3% (2)	9.1% (8)	14.8% (13)	25.0% (22)	43.2% (38)	3.4% (3)	88
Open House Website	2.3% (2)	3.4% (3)	8.0% (7)	22.7% (20)	20.5% (18)	42.0% (37)	1.1% (1)	88
Online Outreach resources	2.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	3.4% (3)	17.2% (15)	24.1% (21)	40.2% (35)	12.6% (11)	87
Online Publicity resources	1.2% (1)	2.3% (2)	3.5% (3)	19.8% (17)	27.9% (24)	34.9% (30)	10.5% (9)	86
Online Congregation resources	1.2% (1)	4.7% (4)	7.0% (6)	17.4% (15)	22.1% (19)	33.7% (29)	14.0% (12)	86
	answered question							90
	skipped question							16

5. Which resources did you use?		
	USED	Response Count
Banner	100.0% (13)	13
Bible study	100.0% (10)	10
Bulletin covers	100.0% (31)	31
Community information gathering resources (survey, demographics)	100.0% (5)	5
Congregational promotion Bulletin Inserts	100.0% (69)	69
Congregational promotion Posters	100.0% (57)	57
Event planning resources	100.0% (42)	42
Follow-up resources	100.0% (8)	8
Jesus-Legend or Lord DVD	100.0% (43)	43
Narrative service/service explanation	100.0% (22)	22
News release	100.0% (33)	33
Online survey information updates	100.0% (17)	17
PDF Newspaper Advertisements	100.0% (29)	29
PDF bulletin insert	100.0% (48)	48
PDF door hanger	100.0% (11)	11
PDF Flyer	100.0% (31)	31
PDF Invitations	100.0% (34)	34
PDF Poster	100.0% (39)	39
Plastic bags	100.0% (28)	28
Prayer resources (vigil, walk, Litany)	100.0% (27)	27
Pre-printed invitations	100.0% (40)	40
Radio spots	100.0% (20)	20
Sermon notes	100.0% (9)	9
The Story of Jesus for Children DVD	100.0% (64)	64
Unaddressed admail	100.0% (18)	18
Welcome brochure	100.0% (32)	32
	Other (please specify)	19
	answered question	91
	skipped question	15

Other resources (please specify)

- "What Lutherans Believe" brochure from LHM
- The church Adm. Asst. was not able to get the posters off the internet so Grace information could be added. So, the committee made up its own posters and took them to businesses in the area and asked if we could post them.
- Greeters Videos
- Preschool newsletter, Congregational newsletter, on website
- LCC mission pamphlets
- DVD: The Lutheran Faith from Vox Video
- Guest Book
- Open House Sign
- Church Newsletter
- Newspaper advertising with picture of our church in real estate section
- Made own flyers, Pocket New Testaments
- Our own Welcome Package and the Lutheran Service information included in one of the Updates.
- Local cable TV interview
- LLL Material
- LWML devotions for Community Celebration Series we developed
- DVD (Vox Visuals) "A Mighty Fortress"
- waving posters at the corner like people do for carwashes
- Vox Visuals - A Mighty Fortress
- gift bags with tracts,bookmarks

6. What resources were not developed or available nationally which you would like to have used?		
		Response Count
		25
<i>answered question</i>		25
<i>skipped question</i>		81

What resources were not developed or available nationally which you would like to have used?

Open-Ended Response

- There were plenty available.
- None
- I expected national television ads that we could have tagged locally.
- I thought there was going to be national TV advertising
- children's crafts; material aimed at youth;
- There seemed to be a problem with our registration. We were not on the web site so I re-registered so we got the materials almost too late.
- Can't think of anything. You did a great job in what was supplied.
- An order of service for Friendship Sunday following the Open House.
- none. Most of the un-churched internationals are drawn to our preschool because of the location and their interest this provided service. They are not really looking for an LCC preschool, just a preschool within walking distance or only a 10 minute drive away. A DVD or picture book for children under 7 would have been helpful to show that we are interested in families that have preschool children.
- community information gathering
- Nothing to our knowledge.
- No matter how much I looked I never saw the following: Banner, Bible study, or a news release.
- We could not print the information on the invitations or on the posters before printing off the computer. Surely there must be a way that would be less time consuming than the way it was available. Keep in mind we have three congregations in our parish. We had three sets of invitations and posters to make up the hard way.

- It would have been nice to see some national advertising but I know that is expensive.
- None that we can think of.
- Possibly invitations that were a bit more flexible in use and that could be reproduced better in black and white.
- Other than the LLL "What Lutherans Believe" more resources on the teaching of the Lutheran Church would have been helpful
- can't think of anything that was lacking
- Some resources in other languages: Spanish, Korean etc
- You guys and gals were pretty thorough. Good job! A Friendship Sunday service might have been a good resource. We had others that we called upon.
- black & white images of open house theme to be used in bulletins etc. of our own making.
- - Alternative graphic/invitation presentation that could be used throughout - Online "details" about the two DVDs (to refer to online or to get "content" from for local descriptions) - "Stock" (and alternate) basic web page that can be locally configured and added to local website
- An open house sign to post on the church property.
- none
- A national TV Ad on CBC or CTV

7. What resources did your congregation develop for your Open House?		
		Response Count
		58
<i>answered question</i>		58
<i>skipped question</i>		48

What resources did your congregation develop for your Open House?

Open-Ended Response

- Invitations to a family movie night that were given to our church families and those affiliated with church programs, such as the preschool and Tae Kwon Do classes, so they could give to friends and neighbours. Also, an invitation to our Thanksgiving worship.
- Bulletin inserts, Church announcements, brochures, newspaper ads, signs, flyers distributed to the community schools.
- We mostly used the ones provided on LCC Website.
- None
- Brochures from Lutheran Hour ministries on 'What do Lutherans believe' and DVD from Vox Ministries on 'Lutherans' and 'Baptism'.
- For the actual service, we slowed things down to explain the history and meaning behind the parts of the liturgy.
- Re-vamped our Church brochure.
- Our own brochure
- A flyer featuring our church and what it believes.
- street signs
- Invitations Activities and crafts for children Scavenger hunt Lutheran Hour table with brochures Parachute games Tent for eating and visiting Made our own signs
- Guest book pages with appropriate columns; t-shirts for volunteers to wear; children's crafts;
- Posters, handbills, our sign outside, emailed the local paper and Shaw cable, meetings and plans.
- We used the examples from the national website to create our own door hangers and personal invitations, bulletin inserts and newspaper ads.
- We developed a poster and flyers for our Block Party. We developed a 5-minute DVD which showed how our congregation loves God and loves our neighbours - inside and outside the church We used a Friendship Sunday theme - developed 'in-house.'
- We made a slide show short movie telling about our church, our faith in Christ and inviting our guests to join us again.

- Post card mail out
- Posters as explained above. One of our members is a realtor and we used her signs that said Open House and covered the name of the business and name of realtor. We added balloons to the signs to attract attention. The Open House had been announced on the sign board outside the front of the church.
- Skits aimed to encourage members to invite people to the open house. Developed our own brochure Placed a notice in a local newspaper Developed displays for different groups Choir - day long practice, encouraging all to participate
- invitations, short video for visitors, grab bag for visitors
- We developed our own posters and flyers so that we could include more personal information on them.
- special event - carwash on Sat to publicize the open house on Sunday.
- We had a banner made up using the logo of the four people holding hands.
- Congregational brochure Invitations
- We printed up colour brochures summarizing what we believe and included a list of the various study, service and fellowship organizations in our congregation. We incorporated the explanations of the parts of the service directly into the service outline in the bulletin.
- We had certain members give a guided tour of the church building and some information about the 25th anniversary of the construction of the building. There was a kid's fair in a tent on the parking lot with games, face painting and other activities.
- we gave a free souvenir coffee cup to our visitors.
- put together our own "Visitor packet" and display We hosted a "Harvest Lunch" after service . . . had about 130 attendees (more than we anticipated . . . thanks be to God!)
- We printed our own invitations, designed our own self-guided tour of the sanctuary, put together several display tables and made our own signs and ads.
- Did the printing of our own invitations. Self-guided tour booklet. Open House realty signs. Display table posters.
- In a small community 'personalized church creativity' is critical. Expanded VBS and connections into the community through already existing community resources and events.
- We had a potluck lunch, and I made signs to identify the various parts of the church from the narthex to the sanctuary.
- We had 8 permanent visitor parking signs and 5 handicap parking signs put up. We expanded our church parking lot and also had a new church sign ordered which did not arrive in time. We displayed a new LHM brochure rack for our guests and installed a TV monitor in the cry room which allows the worship service to be seen there.
- Local information brochures on the congregation and Lutherans in Canada.
- some brochures: "Church Etiquette", "Why do we do it that way?", a sheet listing our programs
- -History of Lutheran Church and local church -Children's activities
- We put together a visitor welcome bag to give out at the Saturday events with a welcome letter, DVD, microwave popcorn, pen, bookmark, and devotional booklet. We added specific information to the posters and put them up in the community.
- Various posters, flyers and other handouts.
- Membership/Visitor Directory, What is a Lutheran Brochure, other handouts on teachings of the Lutheran Church or "position" of the Lutheran Church on various issues.
- A new professionally printed Church Brochure
- prepared flyers "This is Redeemer -- A Silent Witness" and "This is Redeemer -- A Visitor's Guide to What we Are" to be handed out to all visitors
- puppet plays
- Both my congregations had done nothing to prepare for the open house although I was given the impression they were working on it. I only started two weeks before open house leaving little time to do anything other than distribute some flyers close to the churches and change the newspaper ads to include the open house info.
- Printed own flyers
- made our own brochures, invitations, posters, gift bags, purchased and made copies of the "The Lutheran Faith: A Mighty Fortress" DVD, purchased and distributed copies of "Luther's Small Catechism With Explanation".
- We developed our own flyer about our church

- A "Feature Sheet" to be handed out at the Open House Event A large mobile sign
- Displays for 11 of our ministries Invitation distribution for our members' neighborhoods.
- We developed a Community Celebration Series of Messages from the Parables in Luke's Gospel and orders of service hi-lighting different aspects of our community. We invited leaders within the community to come and talk to us. We also further developed the Prayer Walk materials by supplying prayers to be prayed (read) and the 12 Prayer Vigil by scanning materials you gave as well as prayers from LSB and Portals of Prayer
- Stick-on DVD Label (for personalized "A Mighty Fortress") featuring a collage of member's faces over which the words were written (I can send you digital picture if you would like to see it). A follow-up DVD (V.V.) may follow on baptism.
- A church sign
- A map of our church building to aid people in their tour of it.
- Information fliers; combination of LCC materials with local info; posters, special ads for children
 - our own version of invitation flyer: "Come on over -- and meet your Lutheran neighbours!"
 - our own local open house web page - our own "alternate" graphic - event feedback forms to share with members and visitors alike - we made our own "proclaiming his faithfulness" banner (again didn't like the one proposed)
- We developed our own invitations and community posters because we did not feel the design of those you made available communicated our Christian and Lutheran identity. We are about more than community spirit.
- We made our own cds of church activities (pictures of what we do)and added that to our giveaway bag; palced "What Lutherans Believe" brochures in bag; invitations to Sunday School and Hallelujah party were in the bag.
- We adapted the door hanger and the Vox Visuals DVD cover.
- none

8. Why did your congregation participate in National Lutheran Open House? (What did you expect to achieve?)		Response Count
		86
	<i>answered question</i>	86
	<i>skipped question</i>	20

Why did your congregation participate in National Lutheran Open House? (What did you expect to achieve?)

Open-Ended Response

- to achieve stronger fellowship and relationships within the congregation by focussing in on a single task together, 2) to achieve more awareness and thus participation in outreach 3) to bring people to hear the Gospel
- We already had a "Cornerstone Fundraiser" in place for Nov. 3rd so we tried to bring it up a notch by including the open house concept on that same day. Hoped to welcome the community by showing them that God's message of love is for everyone.
- Have people touring the church, meeting church members, interact, get to know about the love of Jesus and our congregation's programs.
- Reach out to community. Many lost souls in High Prairie. Teach us to share our faith, and invite people to church.
- We actually had our open house on Oct 14/07 and we hope to achieve awareness in the community, and hopefully some outreach to the community.
- We hoped to raise our level of exposure (we are dubbed "the little German church up on the hill") by many of those who actually know we exist.
- WE hoped to reach some of the unchurched or under-churched people in our community.
- We participated for the simple reason of obeying God and spreading the gospel to people who may not know the good news. I expected to have had a bigger impact on our congrigation and have more participation.

- To make people aware of who we were and what we believed.
- To help raise awareness of our Church in the local community.
- We hoped to raise community awareness for our church and our programs with the view to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the unchurched or underchurched.
- We esteem the importance of outreach and evangelism, but this synod initiative gave our church something to commit to, and on the flip side, the resources were made available for us to use.
- It was during our vacancy, and we wanted our neighbors to know that our church is still active
- To welcome the community and make known our presence. We also wanted to make contact with prospects and encourage inactive members.
- It was during our vacancy and we wanted our neighbors to know we were still an active church with much to offer
- Exposure in the community; unite the church members in working towards 1 common goal; giving the members the opportunity to do something significant for their Church / God.
- We wanted to carry out Christ's exhortation to evangelise. We wanted to entice the families in the area around the church to come inside the building.
- It was a natural outgrowth from an extensive refocusing process our congregation recently completed.
- To reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people in the buildings surrounding our church. To acquaint ourselves with our 'neighbours.' To inform the 'neighbours' of our work inside and outside of the church. To support the LCC initiative.
- We wanted to encourage our people to invite friends to our church. In one of the congregations of our parish we also wanted to show appreciation to members of the Anglican-United Church whose building we use for worship.
- Excellent LCC event, Our Church is growing, and this was another opportunity to reach out to the local community.
- Two things: 1. that our members would embrace the opportunity to invite people to the Open House and to church with them. 2. that residents from the surrounding high rise condos, where some of our members live, would come. Each member living in a condo was given posters to post if the condo association allowed such posting.
- We (I) believe that the Open House concept is the easiest way to bring one's friends and relatives to hear about Jesus.
- To hopefully make the community aware of our presence; to make our church (and Christians in general) less threatening to them; to make them more receptive to our presence and our message.
- Evangelism is the main focus of our efforts this year. We felt that we could benefit from the help of national LCC resources in reaching out to our community.
- To inform the local residents of who we are.
- The preschool participated since the congregation was going to participate. This is the wrong time of year for a preschool open house, since we are full with a waiting list and registrations for fall 2008 don't start for another 4 months, but it was prudent for the preschool to be part of what our congregation could show to offer those in our neighborhood who may have come because of congregational advertising.
- We were hoping to reach out to those in the surrounding areas since we have a large rural community and city within a few minutes of our Church/School. The hope was to have people come to the free movie on Sat. and then come back on Sun. for service. We had hoped that complimentary babysitting would have been a drawing card for those with small children (who wanted to view the movie)
- Walk with synod, and making some connections with the neighbourhood.
- It was a good idea.
- We had hope to encourage members of the community to come check us out and see what we are about with the hope they would desire to know more about Christ.
- We participated for the simple reason of spreading the gospel, as we have noticed that the churches around us are building bigger churches but their numbers seem to be dropping. If a new church building isn't working for the congregations around us, then we must try something new.
- Our congregation has always had a relatively strong mission focus. We are based in a transient community and the Open House provided an opportunity to develop connections with new families to the community as well as a rallying point for members of the congregation
- sense of community among LCC congregations; opportunity to increase awareness re: LCC; obviously, to make contacts and share Christ

- The main goal was to encourage the congregation around a project that everyone could participate in to create a better sense of working together. The second goal was to encourage members of the congregation to talk to friends, neighbours and acquaintances with the understanding that the ministry of a congregation to a community takes place most effectively on this level when it comes to outreach. The third goal was to make contact with people from outside the church doors on a congregational level. Another goal was to inform our members about what the congregation is doing and how active we really are in Bible study and in participation in fellowship and service groups.
- To help reach out to the community with the message of Jesus with some helpful resources from the Synod.
- awareness of our church
- Opportunity for outreach to community and expected to get some new members.
- to "walk together" with the rest of the Synod and fulfill our purpose as a confessional, evangelical church that has a passion to reach out into our communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In faith we knew that God would bless our Synod's efforts.
- To let our neighbours know who we are and what we believe.
- To let our neighbours and community know who we are and what we are about.
- Because we knew that we had to extend our outreach beyond our traditional boundaries and comfort zone.
- Outreach to the community Getting our members activated and excited Making guests feel welcome
- We hope to reach out to our community with the message of salvation through Jesus and give people hope.
- make the congregation more visible to the community and try to make it less threatening to check out.
- Our hope was that we would introduce ourselves to our community. That neighbours would "pop" in to meet us. Use as an outreach tool. Fellowship with our own congregational family.
- We wanted to reach our friends, neighbors, relatives with the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Mostly because I asked them to, as their pastor.
- Let our neighbours know more about us. Give our members a chance to invite people to something at the church other than a church service.
- -because I liked the idea and wanted to support Synod's initiative to encourage outreach/evangelism
- We expected to welcome visitors to the church service and encouraged members to invite friends. By my estimate only about a half dozen newcomers attended the service and the overall attendance was the same as usual. An excellent breakfast Sunday morning was lightly attended mainly by regulars.
- Raise awareness of church in the community and to make new contacts.
- To have members of the community feel welcomed by our congregation and to have them attend the events of the weekend.
- For outreach purposes; To participate in a national program for LCC
- We participated in order to boost the profile of the church and to reach out to our community with the Gospel. Expectations were mixed as to whether anyone would come.
- We hoped to raise awareness of our congregation in our county.
- We had hoped to have non-churched people from our church neighbourhood come to see what we are all about.
- Introduce,Exposure,Educate those that see the building but do not know what takes place inside.
- I'm thankful that LC-C "suggested" it. Without their strong backing, our congregation would never have thought of it or participated in an event like this.
- I really don't know since they did not prepare anything in advance
- We hoped to make contacts with the unchurched or Christians who are currently without a church home
- Let our neighbours know we exist & invite them into the church for a tour or our churches 75th anniversary celebration the following day.
- As a way to emphasize to the people of the congregation the importance of personally inviting to church their friends, neighbours, co-workers, or relatives
- our hope was to reach out in the community and revitalize passive members
- Because we liked the challenge and the idea. We expected to receive more non-Lutheran visitors.
- We hoped to bring in members of the neighbourhood to just take a look around our facility

- It was a good event to let the community know that we exist, as well as a great opportunity for members to invite friends and family to their church in a low-key event. It gave us an opportunity to tell others what we believe as Lutherans in contrast to the other churches around us.
- To remind the community that we are here.
- The Great Commission
- We wanted to be able to share God's Word, the love of God in Christ Jesus with people in the community whom we don't normally have contact with. We wanted to provide our people an opportunity to invite their friends and neighbours. We wanted to change the community's perception of our church that we aren't community minded to showing them that we have something to contribute to the community.
- Needed to let our neighbours know what we do in this building.
- To reach people in our community who don't come to church and encourage those who are contacts of the church to come along to worship. To encourage members to invite friends and neighbours to church.
- To provide an evangelism tool for our congregation
- Out reach and a project to motivate our people
- to walk with Synod
- As our Board of Evangelism put it: "If we get at least one new person walking through our doors, it is worth it."
- More awareness within the community about our congregation. Contact with people interested in joining our congregation
- Give members something to invite friends/neighbours to. Give inactive members an opportunity to come back. Increased exposure in the community
- Higher visibility; contact with neighbours
 - increase visibility of our physical church - increase awareness of what goes on inside (beliefs, customs) - attract church-less Lutherans in area to seek out contact with us - help new contacts/prospects within the community to find our congregation, particularly among unchurched - encourage churchless within the community to hold to the Word more faithfully - encourage our own members to use what they already have and know to reach out into their surroundings - allow our members who are not normally involved in outreach to participate in it this time
- We communicated to be an active part of our synod. We also hoped that we would be a more visible and open presence in our community.
- more contacts with our community
- An excuse to get the congregation to do what they are encouraged to do every week: to call neighbours, relatives, friends to receive God's gifts.
- We wanted to have a reason for inviting people to our church - friend, community and even relapsed members
- To support the efforts of our circuit in a local initiative.
- Meet neighbours in the community let people have a 'no pressure' exposure to the church

9. What was the major achievement of your participation?		Response Count
		80
	<i>answered question</i>	80
	<i>skipped question</i>	26

What was the major achievement of your participation?

Open-Ended Response

- realizing where our congregation's strength's and weaknesses lie when it comes to outreach and the process of making it happen on a frequent, on-going basis.
- We sold and packed over 400 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse and completed our congregation's commitment to the Cornerstone Building Fund for Concordia University. We handed out "goodie bags" and 25 DVD's (The Story of Jesus) and pray that God will open hearts and see the need we all have for a Savior.
- The large group of faithful members of my congregation in prayer, support and presence for the occasion of the Open House.
- Entire community is aware that we exist. Many members invited others to church.
- I think we achieved some outreach and awareness.
- We pulled together as a team to make it happen. Our members enjoyed the Sat open house tour and Sun service--expressing that they learned to appreciate diff aspects of our service/culture.
- We did reach many in our community. We had an attendance of over 150 at our special musical event on a Thursday evening following the Open House Sunday.
- none that I can see at this point.
- Honed organizational skills.
- Getting members of our congregation to work together.
- We had a great outreach team that pulled together and planned a great event.
- Increased our church's presence and exposure within the community. It also increased the awareness for church members - of the importance of outreach.
- Participation and enthusiam of our own members
- The development of community cooperation and achievement among the members. Camaraderie from working together.
- participation and enthusiam of our own members
- The sense of accomplishment & camaraderie as a "people of God"
- We had about twenty people come to see us. We had quilting going on and displays from the LWML and Sunday School and old photos on display.
- We made contact with about 200 members of our community that we probably would not have reached with our church services alone.
- We had another contact with (service to) some of our preschool families. We had first contact with 6 - 10 neighbours. We had one VBS child come to Sunday School for the first time, and to worship with her mother - both for the first time.
- Our people did invite friends and quite a few came.
- There was wonderful cooperation of all the members who were asked to participate in the Open House with a specific task. On Sat., since we had such little activity from the community, they visited with one another and got to know each other well. There was an up-beat feeling all day. Even with the few visitors, comments were made like, "We don't know how the Lord is going to use what happened today." "When someone is hurting, they mad seek out Grace because they read a poster or got an invitation and will seek help from Grace/pastors." The second was that 2 unchurched people came.
- Reminder that something is amiss in our strategies.
- We did not have hordes of people. Perhaps about 35 people. But, it was a blessing to our own people who participated in organizing the Open House. It helped us refocus on our mission. It developed a deeper friendship among our OWN people.

- Stronger bond between those that spent hours organizing the Open House.
- We did press/news releases to 2 newspapers, 3 radio stations and 1 tv station
- One of my high needs students, who was withdrawing to take advantage of a vacancy that became available in a local program specifically designed for high needs children was able to stop by and say "good-bye".
- Our Sunday service had a large amount of people attend.
- A couple of new families did come to the open house and without the open house, it would not have happened.
- There were about 50 people who visited our church that were non members
- connection with some new families, reconnection with some families who have become inactive.
- developed and kicked off use of a package of resources for guests and visitors that will be used on an ongoing basis (printed and electronic information effectively packaged in the what you believe.ca bags)
- We had some visitors that we otherwise may not have had, and some of the members of the congregation learned things about our liturgy and our congregational organizations that they didn't know before.
- The people who came to the come and go tea and tour on Saturday were satisfied and thankful we provided this for them.
- congregational awareness of outreach possibilities
- Visibility in the community and fellowship with other members.
- a greater community connection and awareness of our presence, but even more, we hope that our love and concern for our neighbours was evident
- It got our members excited and involved ... thinking about who we are, and how we can focus on those outside of our congregation!
- That we were able to interest those people outside of our congregation to see who and what we are.
- Seeing how interested people were in hearing of Jesus--how readily they accepted the DVD's about the story of Jesus.
- Making our name known in the community
- Not giving up and trying again. Over two days, five people came.
- We had several people/families attend. One family of 6 is returning already. They were very blessed with the Bible studies/Sunday School and worship service. They were aboriginals.
- Fellowship with those of our own congregational family.
- Because it was a LCC endorsed outreach to the community more of our people were open to participating. 2) It was a great seed planting event even though many who were invited did not attend. 3) It was a great joy to see the people who did attend because they were invited and enjoy themselves.
- 1ST - NEW PEOPLE OR VISITORS OR CURIOUS 2ND - TO AND MAYBE MORE IMPORTANT, OR JUST AS IMPORTANT, TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL OUTREACH
- Good publicity in community.
- -one member invited several family members, which is the one thing we achieved -I got a few projects pushed forward (one person ordered fairtrade products from CLWR--I'd like to get the church using fairtrade coffee) (made a visitors packet of informational brochures) -I played a board game with some members at the open house and now a few people are interested in a board game night (increased fellowship opportunities are one thing we could use both to introduce people to church and strengthen connections within the church)
- Perhaps helping members to be more aware of the need to reach out to the community.
- Previous contact attended worship
- Events were well planned and well advertised. The coordinator for the weekend did a great job.
- Contacts for future follow up.
- Though not high in numbers we had about 12 people come to the open house that likely would not have otherwise. Of those four were in service on Sunday, one was visiting family that had moved here 3-4 months ago (two that were church shopping) and one other has already indicated an interest in joining the congregation.
- We had a great time visiting with our friends and neighbours -- many families had never been inside our sanctuary before.
- A renewed appreciation by some of our members for our church building, traditions, mission and social outreach and various activities which are on-going, as well as the rich resources available.

- It was a sharpening of our congregational focus on outreach and prayer. We held weekly prayer services during the month of September in preparation for the event.
- One family with whom I continue to follow up attended at one congregation
- We have contacts which we can follow up on.
- Many people in our neighbourhood got to hear about our church (4000 flyers were distributed by hand) and about 15 new people visited our church.
- ???????
- we achieved our goal in that community members came as well as some passive members. Some of our active members welcomed the chance to visit with other members and visitors. It also gave us a sense of appreciation of our church family and church
- We received 5 visitors, and one of them was the editor of a local Spanish newspaper, where we announce our activities in monthly ads. He enjoyed the service, and as a result, he decided that we would have the ad for free from now on!
- Fellowship for our own members
- Congregational unity and celebration
- Internal fellowship and awareness of our church's ministries
- We shared God's Word. As pastor I saw many people who normally aren't involved in the typical operations of the church get involved on the Prayer Walk, during the 12 Hour Prayer Vigil and asking their friends and neighbours to the events. One person invited seven people and they all came. Learning all the different ways to share the gospel, like over the TV that are available in our community that we aren't making use of.
- The Lord was with us! Just "doing it" together with Him... the youth/adult car wash, the displays, BBQ, excitement among old and young as "walk-ins" and those whose cars were washed came in. Personally, I spoke with 17 adults who came for the Saturday event. The greeting teams (young mothers; retired folks; teenagers; kid's corner crafts) all found someone to engage as well. One mother and her child stayed over an hour and played at the craft table. A Muslim family came in and asked questions about a daycare center for their son. An evangelist "hippie" stayed for 45 minutes. Some disadvantaged families came for the food and got a warm welcome. A 15 year old teenage boy on our street came out of his house to see what was going on and met the youth, helped with the car wash (power washer !!!) and came back for the service the next day. Praise God.
- We had ten guests attend worship, a couple of these had never been here for worship before.
- Participation by our congregation
- involvement
- Encouraging all members to reach out with the Gospel and invite. Turn our attention to glorify God and love our neighbours.
- We had four new people come and visit.
- About 50 people unconnected with our congregation came to our event. And about 30 members of our congregation worked together on our open house event.
- some Members actually invited friends/neighbours.
- We believe that 125-150 people stopped to share in our block party. It was good for the people involved; many did say they didn't know much about Lutherans
 - accomplished small but significant gains in all the areas mentioned above - between our three events, we had 6 visitors and two other enquiries (perhaps 4 more serious prospects), and we are sure that we created much more than that in terms of impact
- The major achievement was working together to have a fun and relaxed day open to visitors.
- two prospective families with a few more for future follow-up
- To get a some members to go out and distribute door hangers and pray for God's will to be done.
- Our congregation learned what the focus of our worship is. We had members inviting friends to church. People stayed and talked at length during and after the luncheon which was held after the service. We were perceived to be alive!
- We had a good lunch

10. What was the greatest disappointment of your participation?		
		Response Count
		81
		<i>answered question</i> 81
		<i>skipped question</i> 25

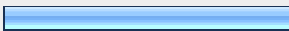


What was the greatest disappointment of your participation?

Open-Ended Response

- in focussing on families who did not attend church but did attend our preschool and Tae Kwon Do classes, we did not focus enough effort in reaching out to inactive members
- Probably the greatest disappointment is the number of core members from our congregation that do the work, attend the function and clean up afterwards. I don't see the outreach part really happening to our less active members or to the community. Most visitors already attend another Church and come to support the mission.
- Not a great response from the community around the church - as we had prepared for and expected.
- We has hoped (and prayed)for a greater response.
- We did hope that more people would come out and see what things are like and maybe they would come out for services.
- Only 2 visitors appeared for the Sat Open House (already churched, but curious). And no visitors on Sun as a result of advertising.
- Not attracting a large number of unchurched.
- My personal disappointment is the lack of participation and service with in our congregation when it comes to outreach and bible education. It seems that everyone is to busy to take part in evagelism events.
- Very few people showed up and from our Congregation, only those that had volunteered.
- The weather.
- The event we planned was an outdoor block party. The weather at the end of September was rainy and cold. We also competed with a number of other high profile community events.
- None.
- Week-end chosen, re youth board of directors meeting planned for the same weekend
- Not as many people as we had hoped
- weekend chosen ,our church worker had to attend another meeting in Edmonton
- Community participation wasn't as high as we had hoped.
- The weather and the low numbers that came.
- As this was our first open house we used up a lot of energy just getting the community event organized--our follow up team hasn't the energy we hoped to 'spring into action' right after the open house. We are following up, but at a slower rate than we hoped.
- Conservative guesses predicted attendance of 40 'neighbours' at our Block Party. We had about 25. We also had fewer church members participate, thus detracting somewhat from a party atmosphere. (We are, however, already considering making the Block Party an annual event.)
- That only 7 people responded to the Open House and that only 2 appeared to be unchurched and we may not be able to follow-up, especially with the one person who left no personal information. However, even in disappointment, there were positive and encouraging remarks from those who helped on Sat. (See note above.)
- Perhaps the lack of recognition or awareness or responsibility that nobody was brought on Open House Sunday.
- NONE. We have no regrets and no disappointments.
- The turn out. We will be very interested to see how the rest of the country did in reaching out and having folks participate
- Only had 20 to 25 people show up. Time of year could have been better [weather wise]
- Member students and their families did not pop in to visit, welcome or get to know those families who were not members.

- Very few people from our congregation actually attended on the Saturday, and we had only 3 families from our school come out that day, too. On Sunday, we had a larger turnout due to the fact the K-6 school children were participating in the service; however, many did not stay after for the cake which was served.
- Perhaps the rainy weather - but that is not a disappointment for me personally.
- The weather did not help as it was raining VERY hard.
- Almost no attendance.
- My personal disappointment was the fact that all of us had a real hard time inviting unchurched friends and family. The fear of rejection and ridicule is still so strong in our hearts.
- Little response to invitations sent to unchurched VBS families as well as to families in our congregation's nursery school.
- that it was not total across LCC
- Our congregation has a habit of staying away from services if something special is going on, like Confirmation, where there may be a possibility of strangers coming, or where the church might be full. We hyped the open house so enthusiastically, especially with the invitation for everyone to come and bring a friend, that we had the lowest worship attendance of the year. Many people stayed away because they felt embarrassed with the thought of coming without a friend.
- The attendance on Sunday did not include any members from the community without a connection to the congregation.
- greater attendance from our own members
- Perhaps less numbers than hoped for. Although we were realistic in our expectation.
- Lack of attracting people in the community
- That more of our members had been involved in the planning of the events. Pastor and three lay members formed the committee and did the majority of the work .
- We hoped for a greater interest from the general public (but are still very grateful for those who did come!)
- With all the ads we hoped for greater participation from the general public.
- lack of interest on the part of the congregation in general
- We expected more people to attend the Saturday Block Party. Many of our own members did not come, and only a few from the community. It was a bright sunny fall day, and many were home with their yard work.
- The low level of interest from community and congregation.
- That more people from the community did not come out and that more of the congregation did not invite.
- No Neighbourhood visitors.
- there were no disappointments
- The Brandon Sun did not publish the news release as it was written - but it did make 2nd page. Also I had hoped for more people, i.e. Visitors or curious.
- Very few visitors actually came to the event. Our own members participated in hosting things but very few actually brought people to the Open House.
- -we didn't plan it well -in our community people do not come out unless they have a personal invitation, and food is a helpful enticement/reason to come -other than 10 extended family members invited by one member, we only had two other visitors
- I was expecting a higher attendance especially in the light of hiring a rather well known string ensemble to accompany hymns in the service. Admittedly, we skimmed on some of the advertising in the newspaper due to budget restraints. We had just completed a successful 50 th Anniversary Celebration 2 weeks before so that may have been a factor.
- No Saturday visitors or new contacts either day.
- The level of participation by the members of the congregation was dismal. The Saturday events were very poorly attended by our own members.
- Really nothing of any significance.
- The low numbers that attended. However, there was a lot of other things going on in the community this weekend. I don't think the congregation did as much personal inviting as I had hoped would take place.
- None
- There was no response to 2000 postcard invitations delivered in our immediate neighbourhood.
- lack of response from a big part of our congregation and lack of response from our neighbourhood community

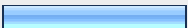
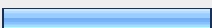
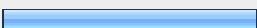
- no other guests attended other than two friends from my home congregation who would have come Sept 30 whether the open house or not.
- The number of contacts didn't meet expectations.
- We did not get too many members of our church excited about this event and not many personal invitations were made.
- "There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Lk. 15:10)
- even though we did have visitors, we planned for more and would have liked to see all our Welcome Packages gone
- Our own attendance (our members).
- We did not bring in anyone that did not already have a connection with a Lutheran Church.
- Some of the media helps were less than desirable. The postcard mailing handout wrongly portrayed the Church as a community of people without any mention of Jesus Christ at all. We are Lutherans of a proud theological heritage and that was not promoted in any of the materials from Synod.
- More visitors did not come
- 1 guest (who had volunteered to make a digital recording of the event and came only for that purpose).
- Not knowing how to use the paper. We planned a whole week of seven consecutive evenings with a community leader speaking, the pastor speaking and local music and the article that was written for the paper didn't get printed. I think we didn't meet their requirements or something. This is one area we will follow-up on.
- That our member families did not seem to invite their OWN friends and family. I know of 3 adults who came as a result of a personal invitation. The rest were by flyers (2 styles were delivered the same day), car wash attendees, and walk-ins.
- Many people invited friends who were unable to come to open church Sunday.
- turnout from the community
- people staying home because they had not invited anyone!!!
- We would have loved to have more new visitors, yet our own people very much enjoyed the opportunity to see the various activities that go on in our church.
- We would have liked to have more people from our church's neighbourhood come out to the event.
- not enough member participation
- No immediate response from people; hard to motivate or mobilize the whole congregation
- - many didn't seem to even invite anyone to the Sunday morning service (but I shouldn't stand in judgement like that -- I know it's discouraging to ask and be told no, and intimidating to ask when you don't know what the answer will be -- so we preach Christ who is strong when we are weak, and that is the whole point!)
- didn't quite reach the 10-1 ratio (ie. 1000 postcards sent out; only 78 people came; 2 families looking for a church home); but having said that we were ecstatic at the people who did come + the increased unity within our own congregation's members as they worked together
- 1. The fact that our congregation stayed away from church on Open House day as shy teenagers who locked in the room when there are guests in the house. Our attendance was 50% of the usual Sunday. 2. The absolute lack of community response. One couple and one lady showed up. In both cases, they said they were coming to church anyway.
- Our greatest disappointment was that not many in the community came.
- Nobody came

11. Do you believe your congregation was fully engaged in the Open House?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		44.9%	40
No		52.8%	47
Don't know		2.3%	2
Comment			47
answered question			89
skipped question			17

Comments on congregation engagement

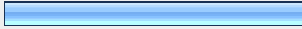

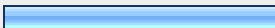
- As a congregation, we united to focus on this commission, but I don't think we utilized as many gifts and talents in the congregation as we have available, but we will try to improve on that by developing a better process going forward.
- Fully engaged is putting it strongly. We still have a ways to go.
- As mentioned, it brought many of us together with the same goal - to try to connect with people outside the church.
- Though we could have gone "all out" with a barbeque, face-painting, etc instead of our "coffee, tea, and dainties" tour
- Only a few people were willing to get involved or even help out.
- More people participated than we expected.
- We were so focused on inviting our neighbors that we neglected to involve our own membership and encourage them to come to the block party.
- The event required considerable commitment from all members to make it work & they were there.
- The same people that do all the work helped.
- We had some 40 or so people from our congregation participate in the Block Party, and less than one handful invited friends to our Sunday Friendship Service.
- We had some very good participation, but of course, we could have had greater participation in some of our congregations.
- The members seem to listen but not respond as if it is their individual responsibility. Having said that, I really don't know how many invited someone but was turned down.
- More than for most things we do.
- Although there was a significant effort made by Pastor and the organizing committee, I'm not sure that many folks actually took the time or effort to invite people
- Only a handful were dedicated to seeing this succeed
- I should have done more as a coordinator in order to foster a feeling of excitement.
- Perhaps not everyone was "sold" on the open house but that is understandable and unavoidable.
- I never believe our Congregation is ever FULLY engaged it is always a core group involved in the planning.
- The people who are normally active were enthused but the attention seemed to have the opposite effect on everyone else. The Pastor was very enthusiastic and supportive of the idea and put in many, many hours of work into it.
- Although some skepticism from some.
- We had a great turn out from our members, and a high level of enthusiasm from all.
- Every member very enthusiastic and eager to participate in the 2-day event.
- It was all spearheaded by a small committee of 3 who tried to educate the others about what was going on
- Even though I advertised it in the bulletin and made announcements after the service and made requests for people to participate in it people would say they didn't know what was going on.
- only a few
- It was difficult generating full participation over the summer months.

- It was foreign to them, and i required much effort on my part.
- I talked it up in the congregation, but there was only ever one person who seemed to get excited about it.
- Many congregational members did not participate or attend.
- Events planned were poorly attended by the congregation despite extensive advertising and encouraging to participate.
- There ended up being plenty of involvement.
- There were a minority of holdouts. I think they have been won over.
- Only one member attended with his family other than the volunteers who helped with displays etc.
- only a small percentage was serious about it and participated
- we were late committing to this and could have used more time to promote in-house as well as out in the community
- Maybe not totally, as was expected.
- We chose to do the event on a small scale because we did not commit to involvement until May.
- As much as in any event (the ?? people were there)
- You can't force people to get involved especially since most of these activities were new. But we can report on them and perhaps use them again and have those who participated talk them up because they aren't a mystery to them anymore.
- There were approximately 18 adults and 12 teenagers active during the 4 hours. The Sunday Service saw three new guests as compared to the Saturday event during which we washed 17 non-member cars (12 drivers/families came into the church for the tour/BBQ) and about 15 individuals came in from the street.
- Some just did what they do each Sunday.
- If you mean by fully engaged, that everyone actively participated by prayer, work or other involvement, no. However we have a wonderful involvement of many peoples in the planning, promotion and carrying out of our open house which included a Tea Room by our LWML Group (with a display about their activities), face painting, ping pong and Foosball by our youth, crafts for kids by our Sunday School team, games by our VBS superintendent, a free lemonade stand for walk by, bike by and drive by traffic hosted by our pastor, head trustee and various Sunday School kids, concerts by our brass choir, organist and contemporary group, a demonstration by our Braille group, The Story of Jesus DVD showings, and an information and give away centre. About 100 DVD were distributed by our members over the weekend.
- More so at this event than in any event in the past 5 years
- Some were engaged. While many were not.
- - estimated about 30% involvement, apart from Sunday morning - commitment to helping in advance of events was about 1-2 people (fortunately more showed up and helped)
- we used the bulletin inserts to prepare everyone; used the litany to pray for the event; had a blast putting our event on, and hope to do it again
- Some were engaged and active but not as many as I had hoped

12. Do you believe your circuit was fully engaged in the Open House?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			28.1%	25
No			32.6%	29
Don't Know			39.3%	35
			Comment	25



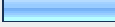

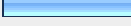
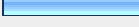
Comment on circuit engagement




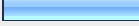
- little to no co-ordination between churches in the preparation stage. I would have liked to see at least joint prayer services leading up to the open house.
- WE could have done better had we met more times together to discuss, plan and act on the subject.
- I feel the circuit did a wonderful job!
- Almost every Congregation in the circuit took part.
- We participated only as individual congregations.
- Our parish was the only one participating.
- There were several meetings prior to the Open House to share what each congregation was planning and to share costs of radio announcements. Three congregations out of 10 were present at the first meeting and I believe only the same were at the other two meetings.
- Circuit announced, promoted and even formed a committee for the event. Paid for radio advertising. Several congregations made the Open House a two-day event.
- I believe most congregations in the circuit participated in some way.
- Some churches participated, others did not
- Only some of the congregations participated.
- Most were from what I understand.
- Some were involved
- We are so short of pastors that not many congregations got involved.
- I believe some were closed to the idea and opportunity
- A number of congregations participated which is better than usual.
- Each church had events for the weekend, and participated in a joint newspaper ad.
- Some circuit congregations did not participate. About 1/2 did.
- Our local churches did a great job. It was fun being part of a "group effort".
- all the circuit congregations as far as I know participated in some way. The intensity of the initiative was different in every place though.
- A little slow on the uptake but great once they got going
- Every congregation in the circuit signed up. That is unique!
- We are too far away to have benefited from anything else going on in the circuit anyway.
- we're geographically removed from the rest of our circuit so don't know how it went for them, or what they were doing
- There's no interest in engaging with other congregations. That's been my greatest disappointment with LCC since I entered the ministry. People don't want to leave their comfort zone, and pastors either don't want to spend energy in changing that or clearly oppose any such attempt.

13. Do you believe your district was fully engaged in the Open House?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			46.1%	41
No			11.2%	10
Don't Know			42.7%	38
			Comment	15
			answered question	89
			skipped question	17

Comment on district engagement


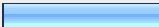
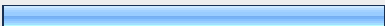
- We were approached re: radio advertising which we declined. #1 we had ours on a different date. #2 I believe personal invitation is the best if we can only motivate people to do it...PRAY
- I found the district to be very helpful and informative!
- I'm not sure what "fully engaged" means but there were announcements, encouragement in the "Co-Worker" published for church workers, and the Exec. responsible for outreach set-up the circuit meetings and sent emails.
- The ones engaged participated with full and eager hearts. the effort to invite was strong.
- We didn't really communicate with other churches- but we should have.
- I would hope so.
- Fully would not be the word, but we are aware that there was a fair participation.
- I'm sure there could have been more congregations involved.
- I heard very little from District about it, other than an encouragement from the DP to the circuit counselors to be involved
- I think only about 1/2 of our congregations were involved. Part of the reason may be due to the large number of vacancies among small, declining congregations. Our District administration was certainly supportive, however.
- Definitely!
- Not sure what else you could have done.
- It was reported that the East District congregations were well represented. Though the district prayer that we had to get the month underway and covered in prayer was well done, I was expecting more leaders from the district to participate.
- The district was a great encourager
- - I suppose, though I now realize that I don't really know

14. How much did your congregation spend on Open House?			Response Percent	Response Count
\$1-\$50			4.4%	3
\$50-\$100			5.8%	4
\$100-200			17.4%	12
\$200-\$500			30.4%	21
\$500-\$750			20.3%	14
\$750-\$1000			21.7%	15
			More than \$1000 (specific amount)	22
			answered question	69
			skipped question	37

15. How did you fund your Open House? (Multiple answer if necessary)			Response Percent	Response Count
Budget			75.3%	64
Fund-raising			7.1%	6
Donations			40.0%	34
Grants			21.2%	18
			Other (please specify)	13
			answered question	85

Other funding

- Church's general budget or fund
- We spent money ear-marked for evangelism
- We may have to do fund raising; that waits to be seen
- from evangelism budget
- Plus other monies in church treasury
- Ev. Bd. juggled its budget and some members just paid for things that they purchases, therefore, the donations. Also, Pastor asked certain members to help pay for radio ads.
- Took money out of church extension fund
- By dipping into other budget items
- FaithLife
- East District 125 Thank Offering Helped
- Faith Life matching funds
- expense was covered by the congregation
- line item for local outreach



16. If you did an Open House again, would you spend...			Response Percent	Response Count
More			16.9%	14
Less			24.1%	20
The same			59.0%	49
			Comment	38
			answered question	83
			skipped question	23

Comment on amount spent

- We purchased 3000 "The Story of Jesus for Children" DVDs not only for events leading up to the open house, but of course for on-going outreach, so that was a major part of our expenses.
- We could improve our service with the same amount of money, and even increasing the number of volunteers.
- Would depend on grants available
- The door hangers were very costly (colour, cardboard stock, die-cut hole)... I would do a black and white text on coloured paper for the mailbox next time.
- Wouldn't advertise on the radio, newspapers were more effective.
- It depends. Our church is presently struggling financially, thereby, it's hard to say for next year. We will try to make it a budget item for 2008.
- We are a small church with many seniors.
- Around the same amount, but costs may be higher due to inflation. Next year we would look at including open house costs in our annual church budget.
- Our challenge is how to publicize the event in five 'closed' buildings - condos and apartments. We would probably spend the same in publicity, but might hope to spend more on food, expecting more people to attend.
- Perhaps more, if the event was held at a different time of year
- More would be budgeted.
- Congregations I have served have spent oodles of dollars and have spent nothing extraordinary. Throwing money and effort does NOT increase response. Non-churched people attend congregational events because they TRUST the people inviting them. Building up those relationships do not cost any money.
- I'm not sure, but I don't think the radio and newspaper ads were very cost effective.
- Difficult to say: I think we need to find out why the response was so poor. We would look to the National LCC to help identify why some areas had good turnouts, while others did not
- I think we'd mail out invitations rather than relying on congregation members to deliver flyers in their communities.
- May be spend funds differently.
- Money was spent out of the Evangelism budget and most went towards the free BBQ hotdogs and hamburgers.
- We might look at doing more resources in house (colour copying is nice but very expensive)
- it would be part of our ongoing efforts to make Christ known in our community; and to increase awareness about our congregation
- The open house became a good goal to reach to complete renovations of about \$20,000 by that date. We probably would have dragged that work on until Christmas otherwise.
- The amount of money is not as important I believe as where the money is spent to receive the best use of the money available.
- We would not want to overspend to have to charge.
- It would also depend on at the time if I felt it would accomplish something better.

- Less would be spent if held the same time of year. If held again, would consider a similar budget if held in conjunction with for eg. VBS
- To do radio and direct mail would certainly cost more
- I don't believe money is the key - somehow members need to catch the vision.
- We would use less expensive ways to advertise, and perhaps send out fewer invitations.
- With the number of free options available for advertising we would likely not need to increase our budget.
- Probably about the same, but we would approach it in a different manner
- Both congregations are in a position where funding anything is difficult, therefore would have to depend more on word of mouth advertising, i.e. member invite friend.
- would plan for less Welcome Packages based on this event
- What we need to spend is human capital not financial. We need to find ways to involve the uninvolved.
- We would take time to establish a budget for the committee to work with and then also rely on the donations of God's people
- Probably would not do the radio ads again (10 ads each for two days; Thursday/Friday before the Open House). Cost \$550 plus tax. People did hear them but no one said they came because of the radio ad. Maybe the next one will strike a memory chord and some WILL respond?
- It's hard to say. It would depend on what we did. We would definitely change in that we would have a main draw that would bring the community in.
- maybe a little bit more
- - assuming we could find a similar amount of funds
- We would not have one

17. The Open House concept was introduced at the 2006 district conventions. The first information for sign-up was sent February 1, 2007. Did you have enough time to adequately prepare for the September Open House?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		88.2%	75
No		11.8%	10
Comment			23
answered question			85
skipped question			21

Comment on timing

- With new boards installed this year in June/July and then the summer lag, September was very tight...but focussed. However, a few more months would have helped. If we had the same boards, it may have been okay.
- The concept and dynamics of the O.H. wasn't immediately grasped by members of the congregation, the Council or Elders, or committies - which was unfortunate, even with all the information provided in advance. But there is hope and room for improvement.
- I think we would have but we decided to do some work in our church basement and that ended up being pretty stressful for planning and preparing, because we were not able to get into the basement until the Friday before our Open House.
- The only reason I say 'No' is because I was (as the pastor) the only one pushing this event. For years to come, I need to get others more directly involved.
- We didn't actually get planning until June 2007. It was a very tight time line for us getting ready for the September Open House. We hope to set a date for next year's open house soon and start planning this fall.
- One of our leaders became ill at a crucial point in the preparations, so we struggled somewhat in our work.
- I would have preferred that info was received in Sep, the year before the Open House. It still allows time include costs in the church's Work Program.
- Lots of time, lots of good communication, lots of available resources...workers for the harvest??????
- We had time, but it was rushed since most work was done in September. They took-off the months of July and August. Perhaps a little later in October would be better.
- We were without a Pastor at the beginning and I didn't really have any direction until after he arrived at our congregation. Although he was very good at encouraging me, I was busy with other big commitments at the time and didn't have much energy left to dedicate to this project. I actually felt really overwhelmed.
- Yes and no. If it was longer - people may lose steam.
- our only real struggle was the fact that our 25th anniversary was the same day and we have such a young, small congregation
- . We felt by time we got going it was ome what ruced. But not too bad
- I had difficulty motivating the congregation . . .
- Maybe the time was adequate, but the information because it was a new concept was not. Maybe more interest will come from the congregation if it is done again.
- We probably would have had enough time if we had started before September (ha, ha)and had more volunteers, but we did accomplish what we had planned in the short time we gave ourselves.
- Unfortunately, we didn't really get serious about it until late summer/early fall. Deadlines are motivating!
- Only because of earlier comment that I only arrived two weeks before the event and nothing had been planned.
- our church didn't commit until June so due to the summer holidays we were short of time.

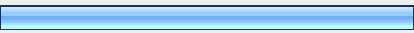

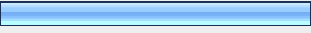
- Our board of Evangelism had a new director and many new members that took office in May. It wasn't until then that we became aware and made plans to participate. It was too late to do anything large scale.
- The problem was we didn't get going till August.
- WQe had enough time but the summer months for us are a bad time to plan and work.
- - there was enough time... that doesn't mean that we didn't start only at the beginning of September anyway. :-/ - we took it as an exercise in how much could be done as simply and painlessly as possible, so really we didn't need that much time to prepare it (it would be different if we planned other sorts of events)

18. How would you rate the September 29/30 timing of the Open House?			Response Percent	Response Count
too late in the calendar year			28.4%	23
good timing			59.3%	48
too early in the church activity year			12.4%	10
			Comment	45
			answered question	81
			skipped question	25

Comment on timing

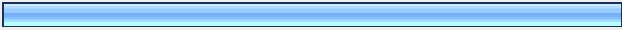

- Although any time of the year would probably be the same, our congregation has found Feb/March to be great for us to have larger events.
- We have many who are involved in farming so this is prime harvest time and back to school is packed for families. Also we are just coming off of VBS the 3rd week of August.
- As I said we did ours on Oct 14, as a personal preference because some of our members were still holidaying on the 29/30
- Unless you were a Circuit Counselor being whisked off to Edmonton immediately prior to the event (yes, I'm whining)
- Would like to have it early and we could link it with other function[s]
- The weather was very bad, it would have been better to hold it the first weekend after Labour Day.
- If we do another Block Party (which we may) we will plan it for a week or two earlier in September. Chances are - Alberta weather would cooperate better.
- It depends on weather, some areas are different than others, especially when it comes to outdoor activities.
- Good weather is too slim a possibility at that time of year.
- Maybe earlier in September would be good.
- Spring with nice weather would be good. A week before the 20th of the month when the Welfare cheques come out then food is running low. We offered free hot dogs and ice cream to tempt people.
- The weather was doubtful at the end of September. We may be setting the weekend after Labour Day for next year's Open House.
- If we do host another Block Party next year, we may move a week or two earlier in September. Ours was a predominantly outdoor event, and the weather would be warmer in early September.
- It was a push to be ready right after the summer, and hard to communicate with folks over the summer, but I'm not sure there is a perfect time.
- Timing was off for our Community. All of the emails came during the summer, while many people that eventually did help out with the event were away on vacation. This made planning very challenging
- No later than the first weekend in OCT. Other times of the year may be risky weather, although it could have been bad on 29-30 SEP this year. It was absolutely beautiful.
- Good as any other time
- I understand some farmers were in the middle of harvest.

- ??
- Weather was starting to turn
- For the most part, people are finished camping by this date; however, many are involved in sports finals and this may have contributed to the lack of support at our church.
- And because of this I think that the weather affected our turnout.
- Next year we might look at having the open house a week or two sooner in September.
- Much later and the Advent-Christmas cycle would have been a factor. This date made the open house the first real special event of the season, giving it more attention and energy than it might otherwise have had.
- The timing of an event like this is difficult for farming in many communities is unpredictable. There are other factors in non-farming areas that affect timing. I have found there is no good time. It might be better to let each congregation set a time with a national framework time.
- Although we were lucky with weather?
- Would have preferred it a little earlier . . . prior to the start-up of Sunday School, etc.
- We would prefer earlier in the month of September. (Weather starts to become an issue this late in the year ... planning outside events is next to impossible)
- It's hard to rate that. It poured for two days here and our outdoor activity was canceled and that was the main way to reach the community. I was hoping to go out to the people who would not come to the church but the rain dampened that idea.
- the weather here in Saskatoon was rainy and very cold. It would have to be held in a warmer season. Perhaps tying in with another celebration.
- Harvest was late this year and good weather affected the response negatively. Rural church!
- Don't know why people did not attend - perhaps timing is bad as school activities and sports are starting up again; there were three football games on TV that Saturday
- Fall fairs are occurring all over. We had our major county fair on the same day. This certainly hurt attendance even from our own members.
- Any earlier would have gotten in the way of summer absences and VBS and any later would have interfered with LWML Sunday, Thanksgiving and Harvest Day.
- It was difficult getting things off the ground because so many of our people were still away at their cottages, etc. (Mind you, it's November now and they are still not back.)
- there were, however, a number of other church bodies engaged in the same activity at that time
- Summer might be better
- A community event which draws big interfered with the time
- way too early for us.
- We won't use this date again as it conflicts with too many other community events we are involved with.
- This weekend coincides in our area with a major festival that draws people to the downtown area of our church, which makes it a challenge to draw folks to the north end where we are. There are also some traditional family events such as a parade that many of our families sacrificed so that they could help out.
- seems a bit too early coming off summer. Our attendance was down in September and member attendance on Open House day was not what it could be.
- Local activities (Homecoming at UWO) did make for some competition.
- - there are always going to be conflicts (and there were this year)
- people were energized from the summer "lay-off" and there was enough time to get them revved up again

19. Who took responsibility for Open House in your congregation? (Multiple answer if necessary)			Response Percent	Response Count
Pastor		64.6%	53	
special committee		37.8%	31	
evangelism/outreach committee		48.8%	40	
Other (please specify)			23	
			answered question	82
			skipped question	24


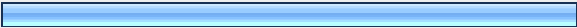


Responsibility for event Other (please specify)

- our preschool teachers also did a wonderful job in reaching and inviting new families
- Chairman
- We are a small congregation with a new pastor, so we all took responsibility for the event.
- individuals who either volunteered or were designated to handle specific tasks.
- Elders
- one person organized it and the meetings
- We had a team of two pastors, a congregation leader, and others working on various aspects of the project.
- Of course, the pastors gave suggestions but, basically let the Ev. Bd. "run with it". The Bd. of Fellowship took over the food provision and the Dir. of Chr. Ed. was "on board" but her SS staff was not.
- the preschool teacher/administrator
- interested members
- The Pastor and the special committee worked closely together.
- pastor and the elders
- 4 people
- The committee was one person.
- Our Director of Christian Outreach and the elders
- Worship elder.
- Our pastor really supported this Open House and he encouraged participation by congregation members
- & Outreach worker
- Ladies group were extremely valuable for the appetizers and snacks.
- Many groups within the church
- Church Council
- Elders; LWML
- Pastor did but I think this effort should have been spearheaded by a committee. Not sure we really supported our pastor enough to consider this event a success.

20. Was ongoing information about Open House and resources made available to organizers in a timely manner?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			96.5%	83
No			3.5%	3
			Comment	11
			answered question	86
			skipped question	20



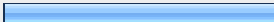
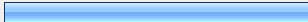

Comment on resource timing

- Some was. However, some of the ideas / resources came too late for us to use as it had been necessary to develop them to meet deadlines (power point; more, but I don't remember what they are)
- because we got it too late
- Very good resources and wonderful timing!
- From the reaction of the congregation I don't think they read it.
- WOW! THANK YOU SO MUCH IAN FOR ALL THE WORK - THAT WAS A SUPER RESOURCE
- Pastor was the main supporter
- Open House updates were forwarded to all board members and the coordinator
- I think information was out there in enough time. We just didn't get involved early on.
- The people didn't know much about it besides the announcements being sent out until August. They had no knowledge of the resources that were available until August.
- LCC Internet bulletins were great... forwarded to church leaders to keep them informed.
- summer got in the way of good communication. People away for long periods at different times.

21. How would you rate the QUANTITY of resources			Response Percent	Response Count
not enough			1.2%	1
sufficient			89.5%	77
too much			2.3%	2
don't know			7.0%	6
			Comment	10





Comment on resource quantity

- Abounding! Wonderfully done! Usable!
- Pastor liked the brochures about the service.
- We basically took the idea and ran in a different direction - the Block Party. (We felt Open House was a concept that wouldn't really engage our target group.)
- I don't remember, were all the resources listed early in the emails sent from LCC. It seemed to me that they were added through later emails. My memory isn't always good. :-)
- The one thing that may have helped would have been the National LCC to have perhaps kicked in for advertising (radio, TV, newspapers) As a single church, we couldn't afford this, and other churches in our area did not want to participate with us
- For the events we planned we didn't need much of what was available.
- For what we planned we did not need all the resources.
- I received all of the e-mails, and shared some of the materials with our board of evangelism
- would have liked some sample "friendship" sermons.
- - as stated above, just a few more resources would have been good, especially to give alternatives to eg. the basic Christ-less graphic on the invitations, etc. There was nothing about it that cover that couldn't have been Muslim or some other religion, except they would never avoid their main point. - I get the "campaign theme", I really do -- it's just that it only emphasizes the surface malady, without anything but a seemingly baseless promise of resolution. I honestly could not explain what the equation was supposed to mean in a Biblical framework. If I received such an invitation in the mail, I'd be wary of cultishness (they prey on the need for community, but keep their "point" under wraps until it's too late). It's not a matter of it being a bad direction -- it certainly points to a serious need in our communities! -- it's just that it was not "enough", too afraid of offending (but the Gospel is going to be offensive to some anyway). Certainly not useful in introducing the community to the Lutherans where people already don't know anything about us and are wary.

22. How would you rate the overall QUALITY of resources			Response Percent	Response Count
poor			1.2%	1
fair			8.1%	7
good			42.5%	37
excellent			47.1%	41
don't know			1.2%	1
			Comment	17
			answered question	87
			skipped question	19


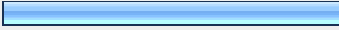


Comment on resource quality

- High quality. Highly elaborated. Welcoming!
- We were unable to edit PDF files.
- A lot of it would have been too expensive to use (ie. bulletin covers; plastic bags; etc.)
- PDF files were the only frustration because they didn't allow for customization.
- The ones that we used. Should the color stand out more due to all the other "stuff" that is on bulletin boards in grocery stores, etc.? That first poster to the congregation was excellent, vibrant color and a face you couldn't forget.
- The Jesus DVD for children is not at the right age level for my students. It is more appropriate for children ages 7 - 12. There was not anything to send home with my preschool students.
- An Open House Visitor friendly service should have been supplied along with a sermon and power point resources if possible. We had to create our own based on the parable of the prodigal son.
- Resources were excellent although the postage costs were high.
- The DVD's were a great resource for allowing others to view the truth of God's Word succinctly. However, the postcard and other resources could center on our theology more. We have the truth of Christ's love embedded in our theology, yet we seem to be afraid to tell it straight up!
- The welcome brochures were great quality and will be used even beyond the NLOH. The explanation of the service too is a great resource though we didn't use it.
- The graphics do not clearly represent our congregation as Christians in LCC.
- well done!
- I wasn't taken with the poster.
- - except for the main invitation graphic (broken record, I know) - more theological meat for the congregation on evangelism would have been helpful (but understandably difficult at a synodical level -- we are having unity problems on that point) - please keep "policing" the resources you make available -- don't put anything up that isn't great (I thought for the most part you did a fine job at this here!) -- don't let it turn into a hodge-podge of gems among the mediocre, or it won't be worth looking through.
- The synod logo and invitations were devoid of any Christian message or content.
- Some of the pdf material had typos (e.g. the Divine Service explanation) and other problems, and could not be easily edited. True, I confess I did not ask for an editable or corrected version. But I believe materials should be editable and customizable. We spent a lot of time customizing the door hanger.
- Brochure on What Lutheran's Believe needs to be updated in terms of design/wording but not in content.

23. How would you rate the QUANTITY of ongoing communication?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
not enough		2.3%	2
sufficient		86.4%	76
too much		10.2%	9
don't know		1.1%	1
		Comment	9
		answered question	88

Comment on communication quantity

- I'm not sure whether this is fair, but it did seem a bit overwhelming to receive so much information, but then too much information is better than not enough.
- Although they were all good, I must confess with all the other things that I do, I don't always check my email every day and there was lots to read and further places to check. It was a little overwhelming for me.
- It was sort of information overload for a while. More concise suggestions on a game plan might have helped.
- I tend to get snowed under by constant information overload. Weekly updates were sufficient.
- Too many updates - hard to keep up with all the information
- the constant updates were helpful, especially the details about what some congregations were planning
- I think the ongoing communication kept people thinking about the event and persuaded the undecided that it wasn't too late to start. It also made sure people knew about the resources that were available.
- very good and helpful.
- Excellent job with the updates. They never let us forget about the open house.

24. How would you rate the QUALITY of ongoing communication?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
poor		0.0%	0
fair		5.8%	5
good		52.9%	46
excellent		40.2%	35
don't know		1.2%	1
Comment			4
answered question			87
skipped question			19

Comment on communication quality

- The website was a bit difficult to use. Sometimes it was difficult to find certain resources you knew where there but the link / location wasn't always obvious. Site map would have been good
- Good to hear of ideas from other churches - we used some for our weekend.
- There was some repetition that didn't seem necessary.
- - great job, great use of internet! keep up the good work! - thanks for the whatyoubelieve.ca website (only thing I don't like is the url name -- should have been "whatDOyoubelieve.ca", which is available btw!)

25. What changes would you make to the overall Open House initiative?		Response Count
		54
	<i>answered question</i>	54
	<i>skipped question</i>	52

What changes would you make to the overall Open House initiative?

Open-Ended Response

- I'm just glad it finally got off the ground! Now we can run with it.
- We need to spend more time in prayer asking God for clear direction. We need to motivate our own people. The community ("world") has their own agenda and many of them don't want to hear from God.
- Start bringing it first to Circuit and District forums with special request to pass it on to pastors, congregations and committies - and have follow ups. To be energetic in the spirit of the mission goal of our church in reaching out to the world with the Gospel. What an opportunity!!! First, to work together on an action plan as God's people together with One Lord, One Gospel, One Unified Vision and One Action in reaching out into our communities building friendship for heaven's sake.
- Probably none.
- Not sure, idea is excellent
- None at this time.
- I would spend money on National Television ads that could be tagged locally
- None at the moment. I was really quite pleased with it all.
- Probably not quite as ambitious. More publicity.
- perhaps emphasise that it doesn't need to be an Open House. It could be another activity. The churches need the encouragement to get on and do something. They could be at different days to suit the other activities going on in the area.
- Share some of the ideas that sprung up across the country, and make those options available another time.
- Ask for input from congregation prior to selecting a date.
- 1. Make the invitations, posters, etc. with bolder colors. 2. Provide short prayers that can be given to the members to take home on Sun. to pray everyday. 3. Start the email info earlier and stretch it out a little more rather than, it seemed, so many came so close together.
- Our understanding and strategic philosophy needs to be rethought. The intention and effort is fine... but use of resouces in the present way of using them is not good stewardship.
- Have more National LCC funding regarding advertising the event.
- Possibly run t with another program to spread the cost out
- I would schedule it at the end of January since this is when families begin to register preschool students for the fall.
- Perhaps it should only be one day and not a whole weekend. I know that we had the option of participating on one day only, but I understand that the idea is to encourage those attending on Sat. to come back for service on Sun. I think that a whole weekend just seemed a little overwhelming (long)- especially with a limited number of volunteers or participants.
- If it was earlier in the calendar year, more can be done outside and better weather (perhaps), and more time and resources could be devoted to publicity and outdoor activities.
- I would like to see invitations and other publicity material with at least some reference to Christ. consider making resources available in more formats -- Word, Publisher, etc. pdfs are good for looking at what is availble, but not for making material specific to the congregation
- Emphasize the value of using it as a start date for ongoing outreach and raising of congregational profile within communities; an "all the eggs on one basket" approach by emphasizing only one date can set up a congregation for disappointment
- The initiative itself is fine, operating on principles that are quite reasonable-- the idea that outreach is a call to every member of the congregation and not just a committee or the Pastor.
- I don't know at this point

- Don't know
- see prior notes
- We liked the idea, and the way it came together for us, but we would like to see it earlier in September.
- No changes except earlier in Sept.. WE like the outreach initiative.
- Praying for better weather didn't help. I really don't know what would work here.
- none
- National advertising (if it is to be a National Open House on a particular date), announcing that a church in "Your" area is having an open house. I think that the idea is good, and would be better for our area if it was timed to warmer weather. Or, it it was timed to a celebration with our particular congregation
- none
- Spend less money, and just have the Sunday service rather than a Saturday event, and earlier in the month of September
- I'm not sure that the idea of an Open House really resonates in our culture anymore, unless people are interested in buying a property. In a sense, this is a sales pitch (opportunity to proclaim the Gospel), and the only way to create such opportunities is by invitation (extending invitations to people). It might be helpful to have a short (one page) guide about how to plan an event. (Not just about how to prepare your church building.) I believe that personal invitation from members needs to be emphasized. I also think it would be useful to think through in each community what kind of events your members like to invite friends too, and what kinds of events people like to go to.
- -later in the year
- Don't know since we don't know what reponse other churches had
- We would likely not include the Jesus, Legend or Lord DVD as a possible giveaway DVD to be distributed. The children's DVD was much better as well as much cheaper.
- Can't think of any
- Is national advertizing from LCC possible?
- ???
- The idea is good, but we would have to consider whether or not to do this every year.
- In our case, maybe only to offer some resources in other languages where we still serve the Lord at LCC (ethnic missions or congregations).
- I think it would be easier to answer this after feedback is given about effectiveness of the events. It seems that it was a lot of work at the National Level office.
- It should not be yearly. Once every 5 years maybe. Highlight our distinct and Biblical doctrine. There are far too many denominations which teach no doctrine at all, and many of them allow their congregants to believe anything about God. We have something special for all Christians and it is time we tell it to the world and not try to be just another generic protestant/evangelical choice. We are the Christian Church in our doctrinal stance. Let's get it out there!
- I think that if it is to be run again, there should be a larger presence in media advertising by each district or at least circuit. Also, the timing and purpose of the open hose needs to be re-examined now that we have some experience.
- I'm not sure I'd make any changes.
- Thought it was great. The Lord moved our people to reach out with radio, flyers (2 styles), multiple community newspapers, signs, and personal invitations. Thanks for all the ideas and check lists.
- later in the season. Mid October or early November.
- I would love to see us try something either in Epiphany, as a lead in to Lent and Easter or in the spring after Easter that could be used as a jump off into VBS.
- Theme was a bit too generic. Something a bit more cross focused/Christ centered would be better.
- I know that the "old way" included more worship activities; I don't know if that would be helpful, but it is something that we should consider
- A better logo that doesn't hide our confession of faith.
- none; it worked the way it was supposed to - at least for us
- I think it was very flexible and allowed for local decisions to be made. There's little to change the overall iniciative, which was a very good one.
- Encourage more churches to participate.

26. Would your congregation participate if this became an annual national event?			Response Percent	Response Count
yes			54.6%	48
no			8.0%	7
maybe			37.5%	33
			Comment	42
			answered question	88
			skipped question	18

Open House as an annual event

Comment

- Some say no it is too much wind and dust and no rain and others say yes where there is breath there is hope.
- A huge groundbreaking work needs yet to be done, because "we aren't used to this kind" - but by God's grace everything is possible.
- As long as I could get the lay involvement/support to make it happen.
- I found it very hard to get anyone motivated for this event.....I'm not even sure if anyone handed out the invitations they were given.
- Can only say yes as long as I am Chairperson of the Council
- We are considering holding an Open House in the Spring as well as the Fall.
- We conduct one or two Friendship Sundays every year and a block party/pancake breakfast to kick off our program year in fall. The national event would be optional
- Although we want to make it a personal/individual venture of each members of congregation: each one bring a friend. this method seems to work better. We had organized a previous event - spring time - and brought more people than this time. This time we had only 2 guests, out of 2000 flyers distributed. The previous event we distributed 100 personal invitation cards and brought about 60 new people, most of them unchurched, others inactive members.
- Bi-annual would be better
- We are looking at setting our own date for an annual open house.
- I'm not sure we would do it every year.
- I would hope this event could be scheduled at a different time of year.
- Probably not due to the amount of \$ spent and the little response from the neighbors. People more easily look to these kinds of things rather than what the Lord might be doing in a person's life who walks through the door. With the experience this year, I think it would be difficult to get the necessary volunteers that are needed. Of course, having been through this Open House, I realize that we could do with a smaller number of volunteers. Only one SS teacher volunteered to host the SS so, the Dir. of the Chr. Ed. Comm. came in the morning but called the volunteer teacher and told her not to come since we had so few visitors. I'm certain that there would be no help from them next year.
- Already is and will continue doing so
- We would definitely do it again, but not necessarily every year.
- We grew as a church family. I think we need more than to simply open our doors and say come in. We need to offer folks tangible reasons that they can relate to for them to come through the doors. Techniques used by Missions (find a need and satisfy it) may be a better approach.
- Would depend on the time of year. Would have to do some fund raising next time
- Few families with children attending our preschool attend because it is an LCC preschool. They are attracted by the location and word of mouth from former pleased parents. Stressing the LCC connection is not really relevant for them.
- I know our Pastor would like to continue. As for myself, I'm not sure right now. I might not be the right person for heading this up. It's all in God's timing sometimes and I might not be the one who was needed in this position at this time.

- The greatest strength in the program was that it was something new and different having so many congregations try to do the same thing on the same weekend. The moment it becomes an annual event, it loses that freshness.
- Most likely
- I would certainly hope so. We would need a greater percentage to catch the passion so that more could be done.
- But we feel annually would be too often for our congregation.
- I don't think they would do it every year, but maybe every two or three years.
- as above
- We do several major outreach events throughout the year so the Open House may not fit in for us every year.
- THAT WOULD BE MY HOPE
- Annual might be a little too frequent.
- We would have to retool what we did, and find someone interested in chairing it.
- I would like to know what the experience of other congregations was and their success rate. It may be hard to motivate those who put in considerable effort to do it again.
- There was little congregational interest and poor results - it might be hard to convince people to try again.
- May participate if we spend less money -perhaps make up our own flyers and posters rather than order from LCC
- An annual event might make it too "usual" and therefore reduce the effectiveness of it.
- there was little enthusiasm from my congregations despite the fact they both want to grow?!
- it would probably be better to do something like this every other year, less it becomes too familiar, repetitious, costly, etc.
- perhaps not on such a grand scale annually
- I think annual is too often.
- Once every 5 years maybe, but not every year. If this is Canada wide, it would be watered down in importance.
- As a congregation, we tend to want to be involved in the initiatives if LCC
- I think we would perhaps not with as aggressive a program as we put together next time but we would definitely participate.
- A yearly event might be too much. Holding it in years where this is not a convention for district or synod, possibly as a replacement for circuit convocations might be an idea.
- - most likely, that is (though perhaps with variations) - As was done with the Story of Jesus DVD, I'd like to see similar resources developed on reusable themes (eg historical anniversaries, etc) -
 - these could be archived so that congregations can use them in future years (eg. Bach or Luther anniversary; church history day; world missions fair; teen event; reading the Bible to your kids event; god-parents' fair; congregational anniversary; etc.) - ie. give them something to come for, something good for the members anyway (that way not discouraging if no guests come, and introduces Lutherans doing Lutheran things if they do), as well as just the invitation to come and visit

27. Additional comments		Response Count
		27
	<i>answered question</i>	27
	<i>skipped question</i>	79

Additional comments

Open-Ended Response

- We really felt that the resources developed and distributed nationally were likely a much better use of finances than if every congregation went at it alone. We do plan on continuing to utilize these resources, especially such things as the unaddressed admail rate, etc.
- Love the concept that the Lutheran Church is reaching out and becoming visible outside of its walls. We need more of that and not resort to our "holy huddle".
- And we as God's people are called to be there where God's loving heart beats for those who are in need of His salvation. The Open House was one more avenue in showing people where to find The Friend Jesus Christ and where to strengthen friendship with HIS friends as well. Final comments: A) We had several "OPEN HOUSE" signs around the church for several months, and ended up receiving several note pads, phone numbers from realtors offering their service in selling the property for us. Amazing! B) My special thanks to Ian Adnams and his helpers for such a tremendous effort on behalf of God's mission. Congratulations! and may the Lord bless you always.
- Thank you for being bold and thinking "outside of the box."
- They might participate in an extremely scaled back event. We had a 2 day affair with lots of activities. It might be better to concentrate on a different age group each year and focus the publicity that way.
- Thank you for your efforts to help our congregations in their outreach. I hope the resources will remain available in the future on the website.
- Blue and yellow balloons were used as decoration at the registration, mission display tables in the gym, on the stage, and on the Open House signs. We had a display of almost all the missions that Grace supports and the Golden Agers had a display, as well. The Open House was an excellent idea, it is just difficult for us. I would like to hear what other city churches did for the O.H. and how their's turned out.
- Thank you for all of the resources and encouragement. I personally felt a little overwhelmed at times when I saw how much other congregations were doing. I found myself comparing our (my) efforts to others, but the truth is, we just didn't have the resources (financially) in order to do something huge. In saying this, truthfully, I'm not sure that going big would have changed our attendance any great amount.
- Thanks for all the work by LCC. The resources were excellent and the encouragement toward involvement was presented well.
- One of the main reasons that our congregation participated, at least on the level of leadership, was that the Open House underscored the idea of the Synod being a family of congregations.
- We feel once every 5 years
- Pray for us!
- Our council gave us what we on the committee considered a very generous budget of \$1900.00 for the size of our congregation. Being the first time for this type of event, if done again, we would have a better idea of how to organize it. 5 months was spent planning and would not take as much time in the future. It definitely would have to be in a warmer season and likely combined with another event.
- It was fun participating in a National event in synod while staying right at home.
- We are interested in hearing what worked in various places.
- In general, I think the concept is good and prompts us as pastors and congregations to get serious about outreach.

- There was very little community interest in this event. Personal invitations were made and people were non-committal. Even people who said they would attend did not make an appearance. To date there have been no inquiries or comments or questions.
- Our congregation planned a Clothing Giveaway in conjunction with the Open House on Saturday. We thought it important to have something that would bring people in, besides simply inviting them to come see our church. As it turned out, the majority of people who attended (around 150) did so for the Clothing Giveaway. We may not have had many attend had we not included that. We we also had displays set up, and a giant inflatable slide outside for kids to attract attention, but most attendees came for the free clothes, which was what we expected. Overall, a great event! Thanks!
- Thank you, LCC, for the great job you did in promoting this national event!!
- concern over using gimmicks, etc. to try to attract people, rather than simply inviting people to hear the fundamentals of the Christian faith
- The Open House made us think about what kind of events would actually bring in in-churched people from our neighbourhood. We are continually exploring the most effective ways to do community outreach. This gave us another opportunity to try another approach.
- While on the surface, this event appeared to many to be a failure, I think it holds the seeds of future advancement of the Good News that we are saved through grace by faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- I just want to thank the staff of our synodical office and everyone involved there for putting together quality resources that we can all use. Some said that the math equation on the invitations and what it said on the back wasn't overtly Christian. I said that Christian or non-Christian would identify and wouldn't disagree with what was said. It was our job to invite the people and once the people got there to show and tell the Christian faith. I personally thought the invitations were very well done.
- Many thanks to your team Ian and for all your great administrative skills. By the way... the Canadian Lutheran came as a double mailing in September and the extras were handed out to our visitors (if that was planned it was a great idea and resource!)
- Definitely worthwhile. Great job in putting it all together.
- - some congregations have committees of 2-3 people who would like to do something. Make sure there are options that can be "pulled off" by such small groups also. - then some of these options also become resources for doing the same events in other locations in the future for offsite evangelism!
- We took information about a Lutheran worship service from Dr. A. Barry's article. We used that as part of the opening/welcome to introduce what was happening- a Christ centered worship where God gives us His gifts. Even our regular members got a chance to be reminded of what is truly happening and then we let it happen.