

WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED

1 Cor. 1:18-25

ROSTERS AND STATISTICS

AS OF 10/22/25

CONGREGATIONS

	2024	% OF +/- 2023
Member congregations	5,725	-0.73%
New church starts	69	-6.76%
Total	***5,794***	***-0.80%***

CONGREGATION MEMBERSHIP

	2024	% OF +/- 2023
Total baptized membership*	1,635,076	-2.34% [1]
Total confirmed membership*	1,295,632	-2.47% [2]
Average weekly attendance in all LCMS congregations*	555,717	1.55% [3]
Total membership increase**	48,733	6.81% [4]
Total membership decrease**	-58,435	-0.81% [5]
Net membership*	***-9,702***	26.98% [6]

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, AND OTHER GAINS

	2024	% OF +/- 2023
# of children baptized***	16,559	-0.49%
Junior Member confirmed****	10,268	5.55%
Junior Non-member confirmed	769	-1.03%
Adults confirmed	10,363	33.42%
Adult baptisms	3,013	7.19%
Profession of Faith	7,672	3.38%
Transfer in from Other LCMS	14,537	-2.85%
Transfer in from Other Lutheran	2,111	-2.27%
Total Gained**	***48,733***	***6.81%***

ALL LOSSES

	2024	% OF +/- 2023
Death	16,614	5.03%
Transfer Out	11,991	-5.56%
Loss Other Lutheran	1,970	-30.24%
Excommunications	802	135.19%
Moved	7,792	8.01%
Non-Lutheran	2,409	-3.60%
Other	16,857	-3.78%
Total Losses	***58,435***	***-0.81%*** *(not as much as in 2023)*

CATECHESIS*

	2024	% OF +/- 2023
# of Sunday School classes held (for adults and children)	4,034	-1.54%
Sunday School attendance (adults and children)	212,483	-1.64%
# of Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) held	2,078	1.96%
VBS attendance (adults and children)	131,609	2.46%
# of non-member children in VBS	71,202	3.03%
# of Weekday Religion Classes (WRC) held	3,777	0.13%
WRC attendance (adults and children)	137,916	2.72%
# of non-member children attending WRC	23,325	0.33%

[1] This number includes those who are confirmed. There are a total of 339,444 baptized members who are not confirmed.
[2] This number reflects the total number of baptized members who are confirmed.
[3] This number is the average weekend worship attendance and does not include Lenten, Advent, or other festival services.
[4] Membership increase is the total of adult and junior member confirmations, adult baptisms, reinstatements, profession of faith, receipt from sister congregation or other Lutheran church bodies during the reporting period. Total increase from 2023 to 2024 is 3,106 members.
[5] Membership decrease is the total number of death of confirmed members, defections, removal from the roster, release to sister congregations or other Lutheran church bodies during the reporting period. Total decrease from 2023 to 2024 is 478 members.
[6] Net membership change in 2024 shows a decrease of 9,702 members. This means we decreased 26.98% less than we did in 2023. This is slightly better than the net membership change in 2023 which showed a decrease of 13,286 members

* For this total, if a congregation did not provide data for 2024, their most recent reported number was used.
** Total of reported confirmed member gains or losses (see following tables for detail). Since not all gains and losses are reported, this is not expected to match the total change in confirmed membership.
*** Only 2,993 congregations reported at least one child baptism. Of the total 4,516 congregational statistics received, there were 1,523 who either did not report child baptisms or reported zero baptisms.
**** The number for 2023 has been corrected since the previous version of this chart was produced.
***** This total reflects gains in confirmed members, so it does not include children baptized.

CHURCH WORKERS

AS OF 08/28/2025

ORDAINED — Active

Ordained Minister	5,072
Ordained Minister – SMP	431
Total	*5,503*

PASTORS ON CANDIDATE STATUS[1]

Ordained Minister	258
Ordained Minister – SMP	15
Total	*273*

EMERITUS PASTORS (including SMP)	3,490
Total Ordained	9,266

COMMISSIONED

Dir. of Christian Education (DCE)	522
Dir. of Church Ministries (DCM)[2]	65
Dir. Christian Outreach (DCO)	17
Deaconess[3]	201
Dir. Family Life Ministries (DFLM)	30
Dir. of Parish Music (DPM)	109
Parish Assistant[4]	5
Teacher[5]	4,787
Total of Active Commissioned Ministers	*5,736*
Total Active Rostered Church Workers	**11,239**

CHURCH WORKERS (Retired)

Ordained Minister	3,431
Ordained Minister-SMP	59
Commissioned – DCE, DCM, DCO	139
Deaconess	85
Teachers[6]	4,021
Others	10
Total retired church workers	**7,745**

[1] Candidate status defines individual who is eligible to perform duties of the offices of ministry but is not currently an active member or emeritus member (Bylaw 2.11.2.2).
[2] This includes Commissioned-DCE (521)and Commissioned-DCE/DCO (1).
[3] This includes Commissioned-Deaconess (199) and Deaconess/Teacher (2).
[4] This includes Commissioned-Parish Assistant (4) and Parish Assistant/DFLM (1).
[5] This includes Commissioned-Teacher (4,717), Teacher/DPM (6), Teacher/DCE/DCO (2), Teacher/DCE (62).
[6] This is total of Commissioned-Teacher (3,888) and Teacher/DCE (133).

EDUCATION



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITIES — ENROLLMENT[1]

CHURCH WORK STUDENTS** (UNDERGRADUATE)

	FALL 2025	% OF +/- FALL 2024
Concordia, Chicago	98	14.0%
Concordia, Irvine	89	8.5%
Concordia, Nebraska	277	8.2%
Concordia, St. Paul	99	2.1%
Concordia, Wisconsin/Ann Arbor	214	7.0%
Total	*777*	*7.8%*

TRADITIONAL UNDERGRAD STUDENTS*

	FALL 2025	% OF +/- FALL 2024
Concordia, Chicago	1,300	-5.0%
Concordia, Irvine	1,658	6.7%
Concordia, Nebraska	3,399	-2.3%
Concordia, St. Paul	3,604	7.2%
Concordia, Wisconsin/Ann Arbor	2,604	-18.0%
Total	*12,565*	*-2.9%*

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS (PT AND FT)

	FALL 2025	% OF +/- FALL 2024
Concordia, Chicago	3,096	-9.0%
Concordia, Irvine	2,054	-2.8%
Concordia, Nebraska	422	-11.9%
Concordia, St. Paul	2,193	-14.6%
Concordia, Wisconsin/Ann Arbor	2,601	-19.5%
Total	*10,366*	*-12.1%*

TOTAL ENROLLMENT IN ALL PROGRAMS

	FALL 2025	% OF +/- FALL 2024
Concordia, Chicago	4,396	-7.8%
Concordia, Irvine	3,712	1.2%
Concordia, Nebraska	3,821	9.8%
Concordia, St. Paul	5,797	-2.2%
Concordia, Wisconsin/Ann Arbor	5,205	-18.8%
Total	*22,931*	*-5.5%*

[1] From the 2024-2025 school year
* part-time, full-time, high school, traditional, non-traditional students
** includes a variety of church work program (family ministy, music,deaconess, outreach, education, pre-sem)

LCMS Data and Trends

10/22/2025

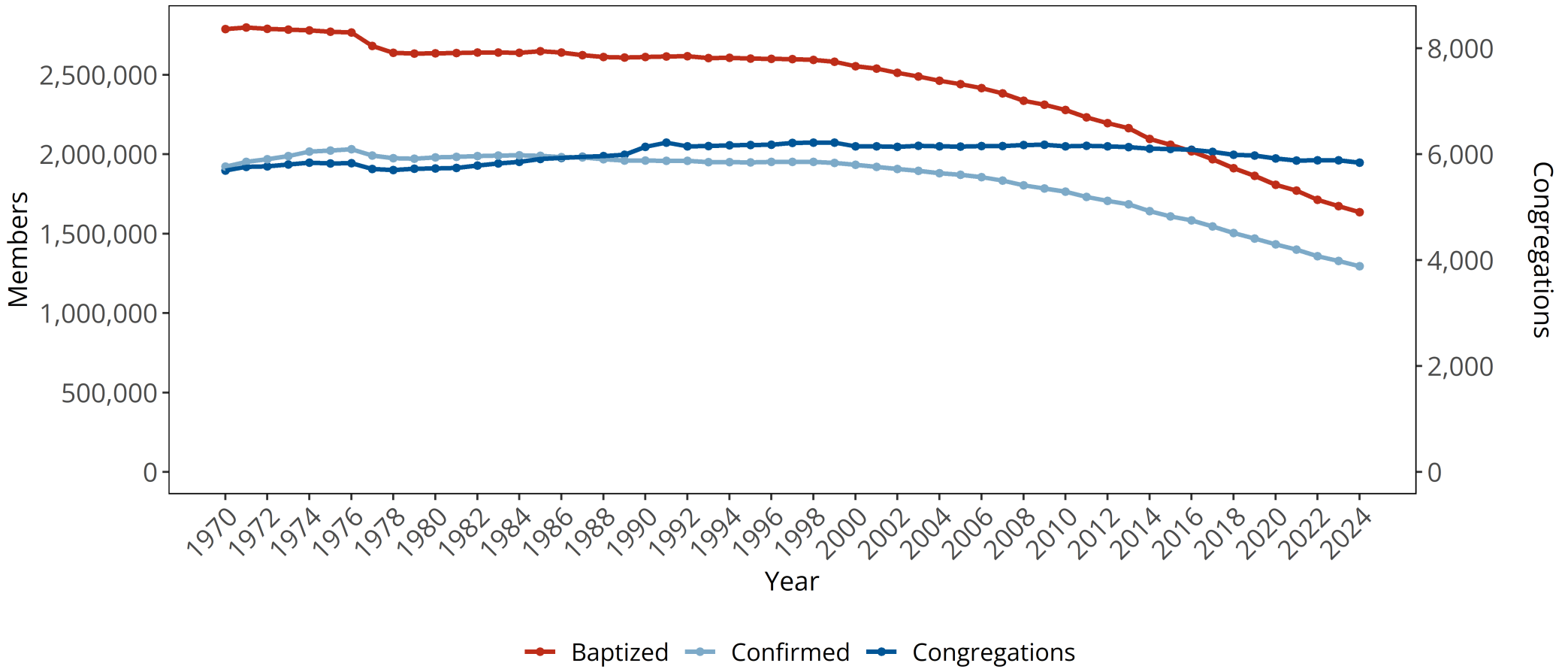
About The Data in This Report

The following statistics were compiled from *The Lutheran Annual (1970-2024)*, and from the Lutheran Information Support Network (LISN) database managed by the Office of Rosters, Statistics, and Research Services.

Updated: 10/22/2025

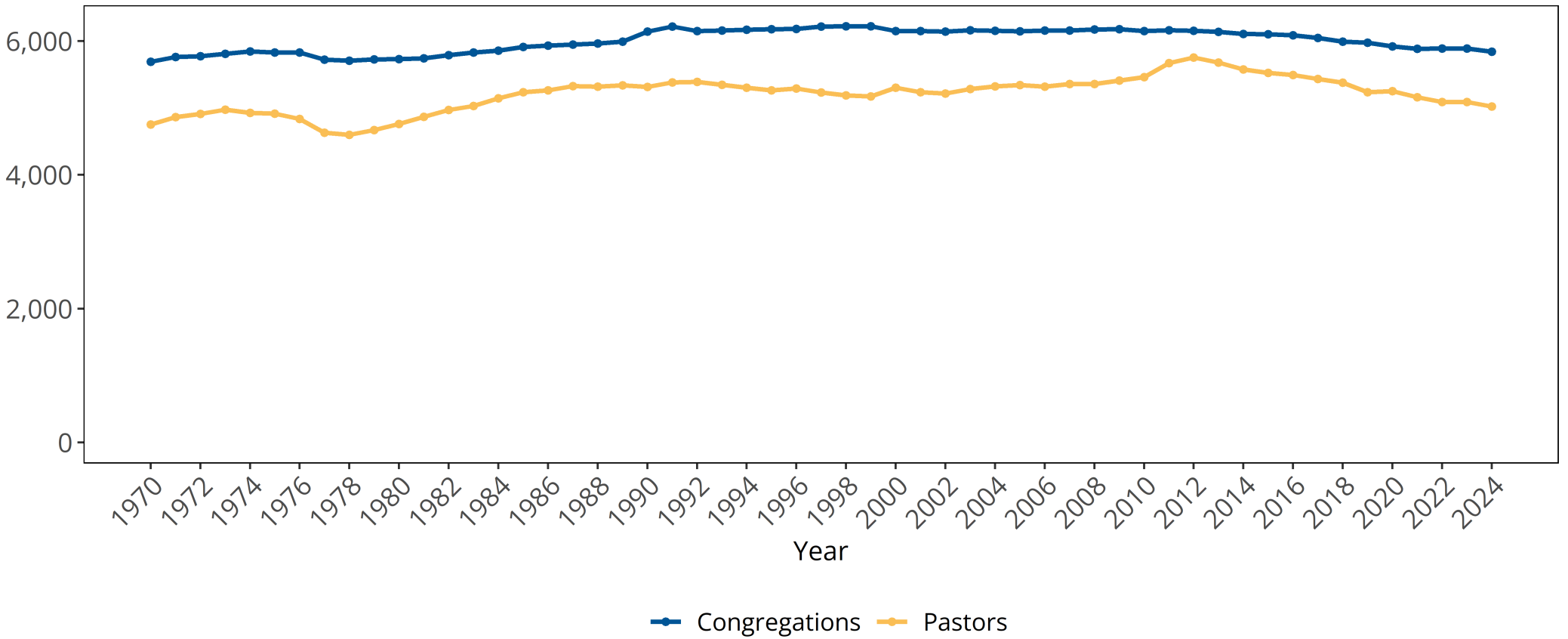
Fifty+ Years of Trends

Congregations and Total Membership



- While the total number of congregations has consistently stayed near 6,000 since the 1990s (declining slightly in recent years), baptized and confirmed membership numbers have notably decreased.
- Also notable, the gap between confirmed and baptized membership is also closing. This gap is typically an indication of children (they have been baptized but not yet confirmed), and as these lines draw closer, it indicates fewer young children.

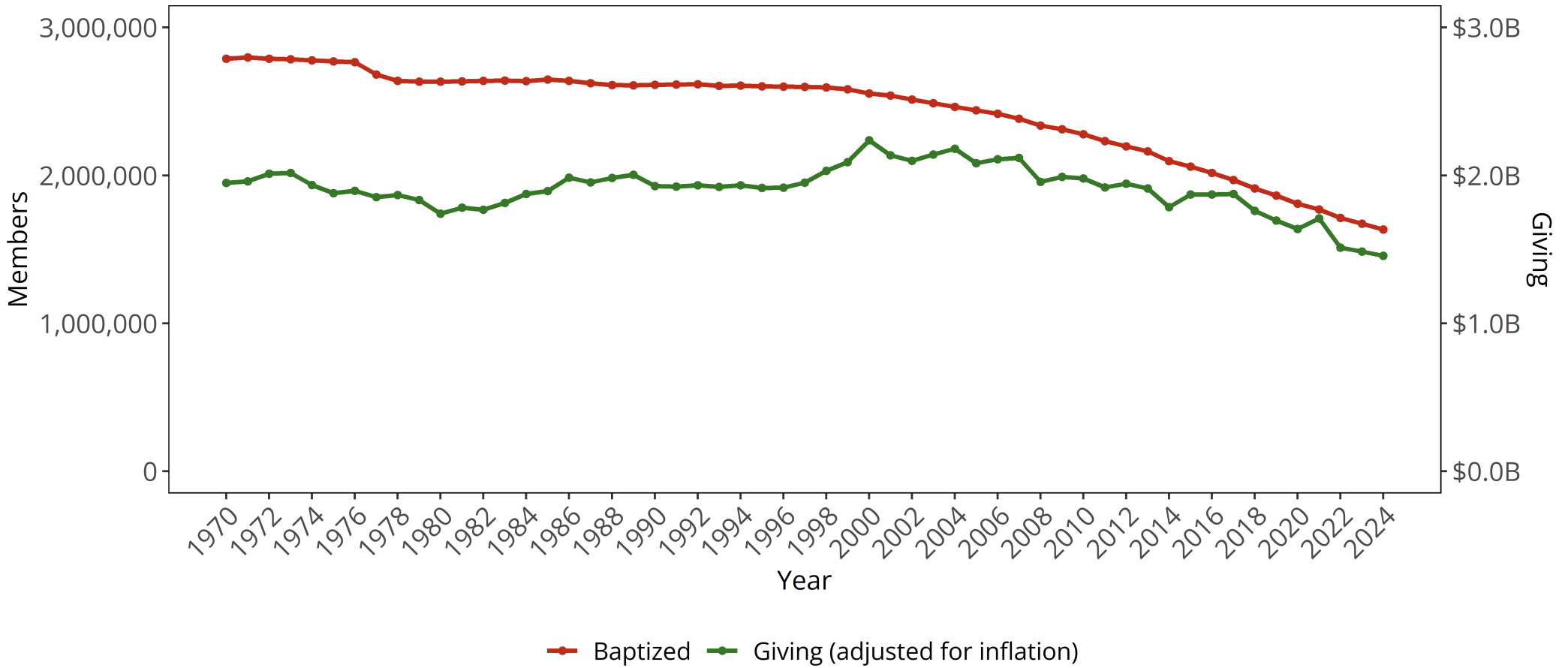
Congregations and Number of Parish Pastors



Here, pastors only includes ordained ministers installed in congregations in a pastoral call; it does not include all active ordained.

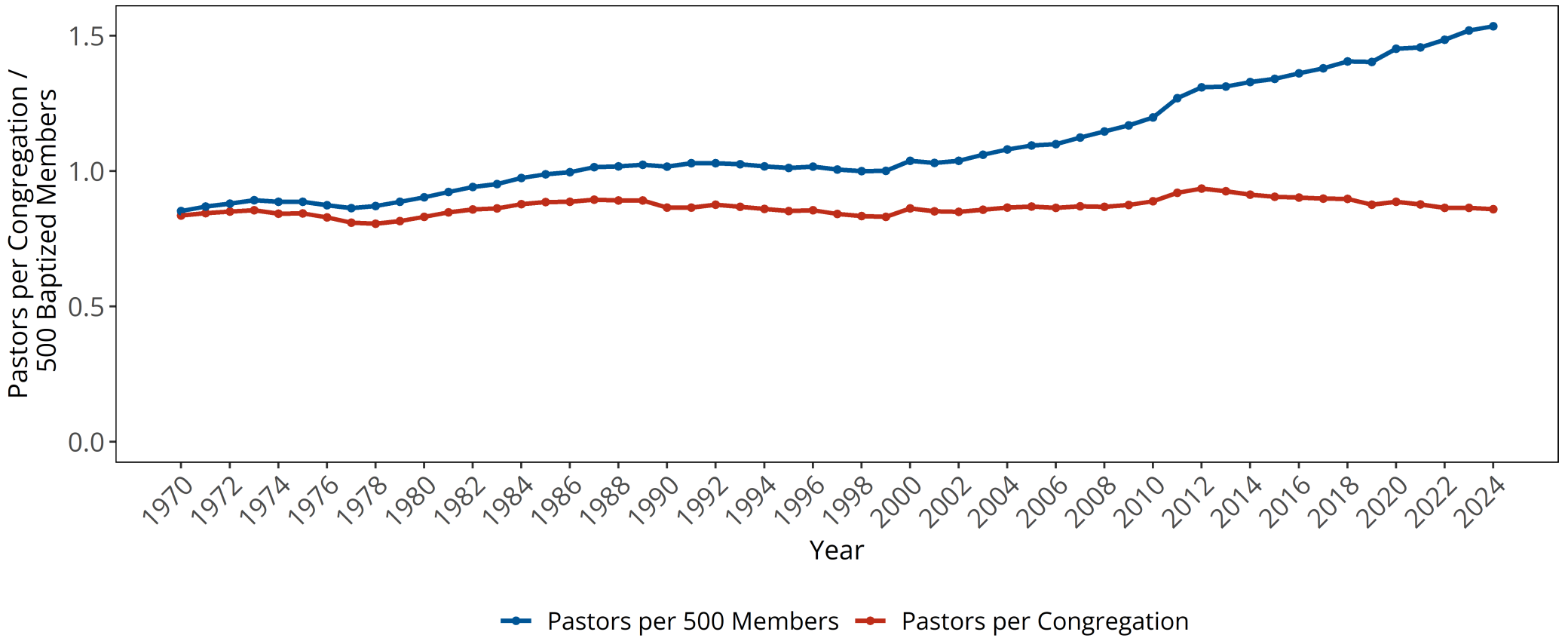
- Over the past 50 years, there has always been fewer parish pastors than congregations.
- After reaching a peak around 2012, the total number of parish pastors (ordained ministers installed at congregations as a pastor) has begun to decline and pull further short of the total number of member congregations.
- Despite the recent decline in total pastors, there are still more serving today than in the 1970s.

Membership and Giving



- While baptized and confirmed (not shown) membership numbers have been decreasing since the 1970s, regular giving to churches has remained remarkably resilient.
- The average gift per member has increased (even after adjusting for inflation). This likely means that individual gifts have increased, but it also suggests that members who have dropped off rolls were people who were not giving or not giving as much.

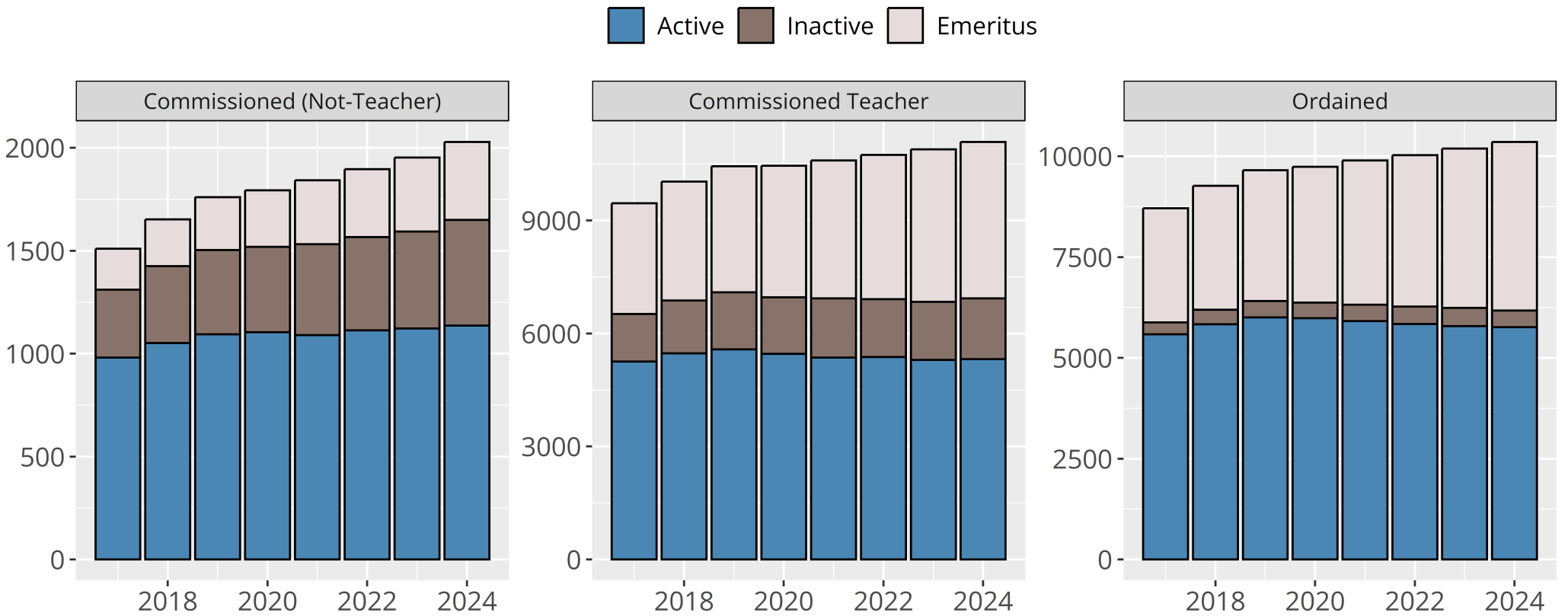
Number of Pastors per Congregation and per Every 500 Baptized Members



Pastors are just those installed in congregations in a pastoral call, and does not include all active ordained.

- While an earlier chart showed the total number of parish pastors (which has declined in the past ten years), this chart shows how the number of parish pastors relates to the number of congregations and baptized members.
- While there is still less than one pastor per congregation, the ratio has held steady for fifty years.
- As the number of members decrease, the ratio of parish pastors has increased from 1 to 1.5 pastors for every 500 members.

Total Rostered Church Workers by Year

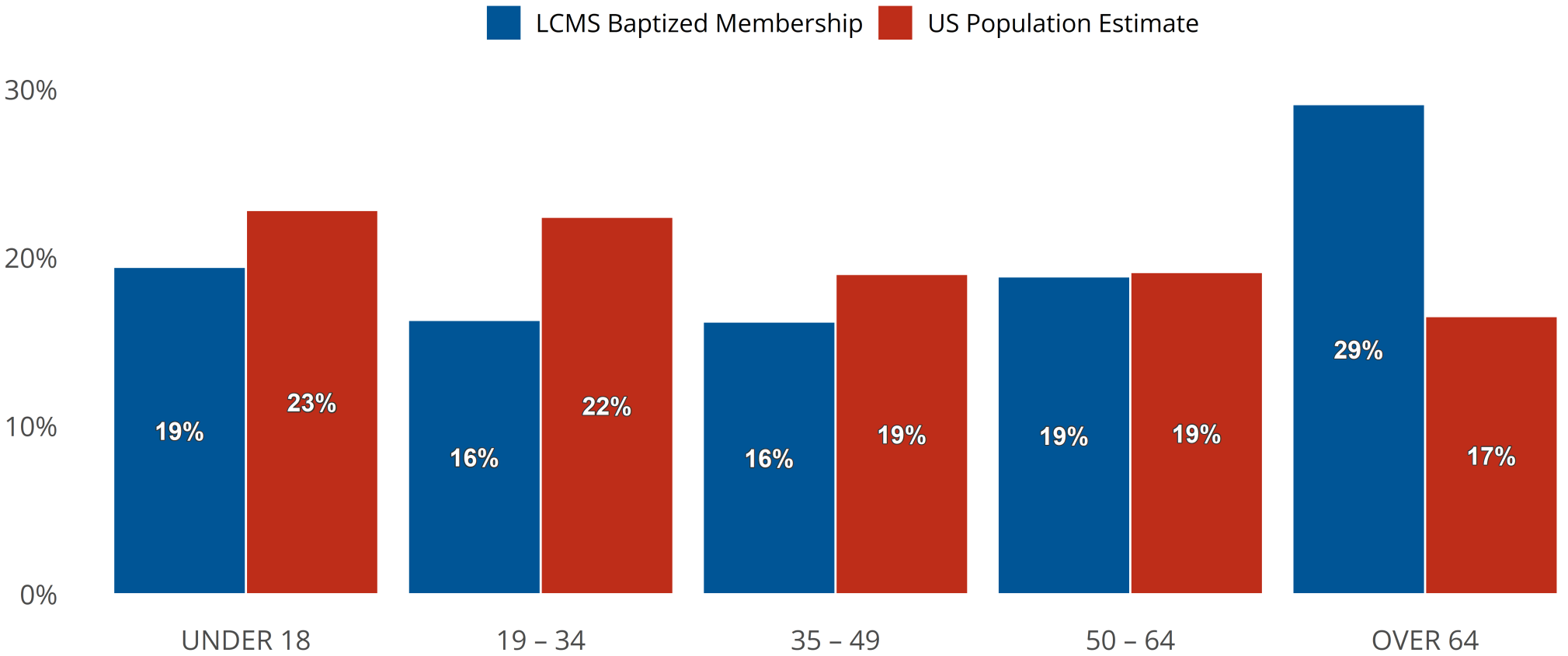


Numbers present a snapshot of the total number workers with the given status as of the close of the calendar year.
Scales are different for each group; there are much fewer non-teacher commissioned workers.

- While there is change in the number of active church workers workers from year to year, overall, totals have remained consistent.
- In this chart, ordained is the total of all ordained ministers, while previous charts only showed ordained ministers serving as parish pastors.
- There is a large proportion of inactive commissioned workers (nearly 30% of non-retired commissioned). The current available data does not yet explain why so many are inactive.

Current Data (Not Trends)

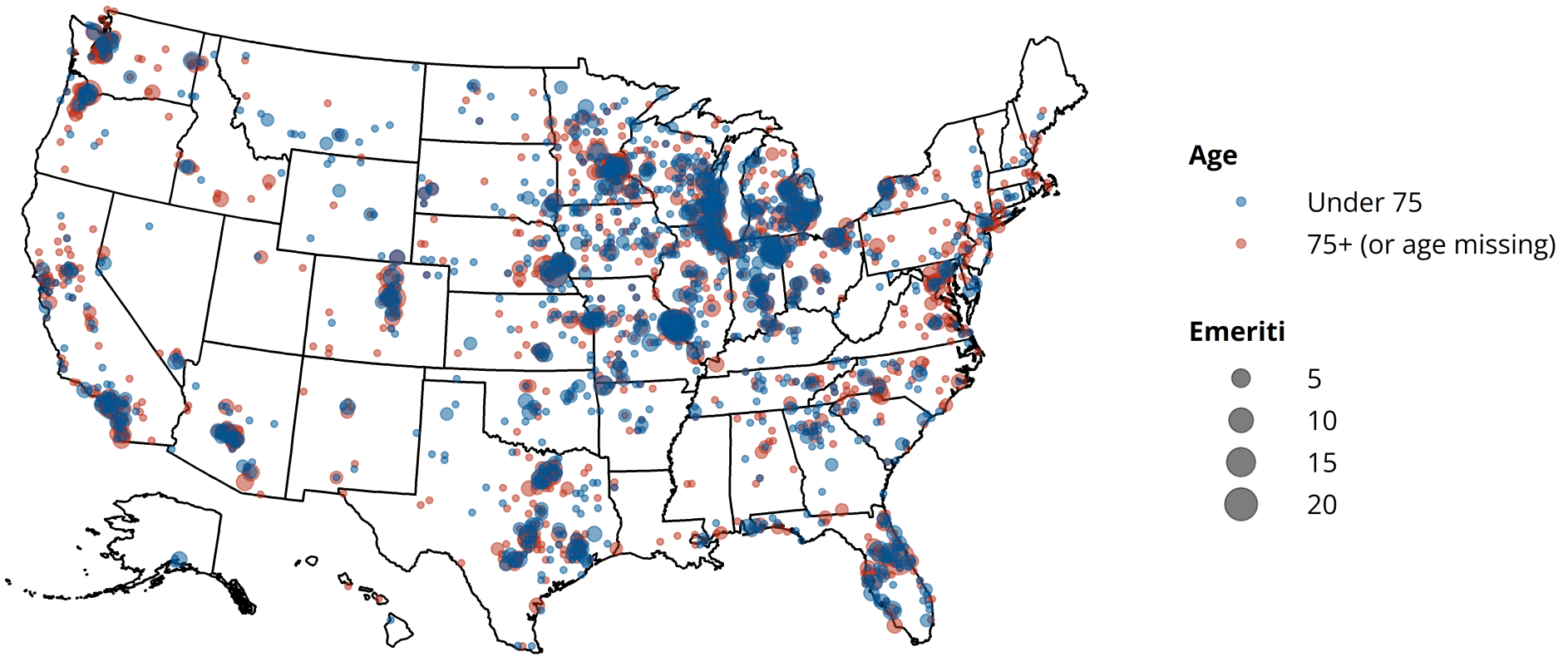
Ages of Baptized Members



US Population data source: American Community Survey 2022 (https://data.census.gov/)

- In recent years, LCMS congregations have begun reporting the age breakdown of their baptized membership with their annual statistics.
- Though this effort is relatively new, it is too soon to track trends, but it provides a statistically valid snapshot of the current baptized membership and can be compared with data on the American population.

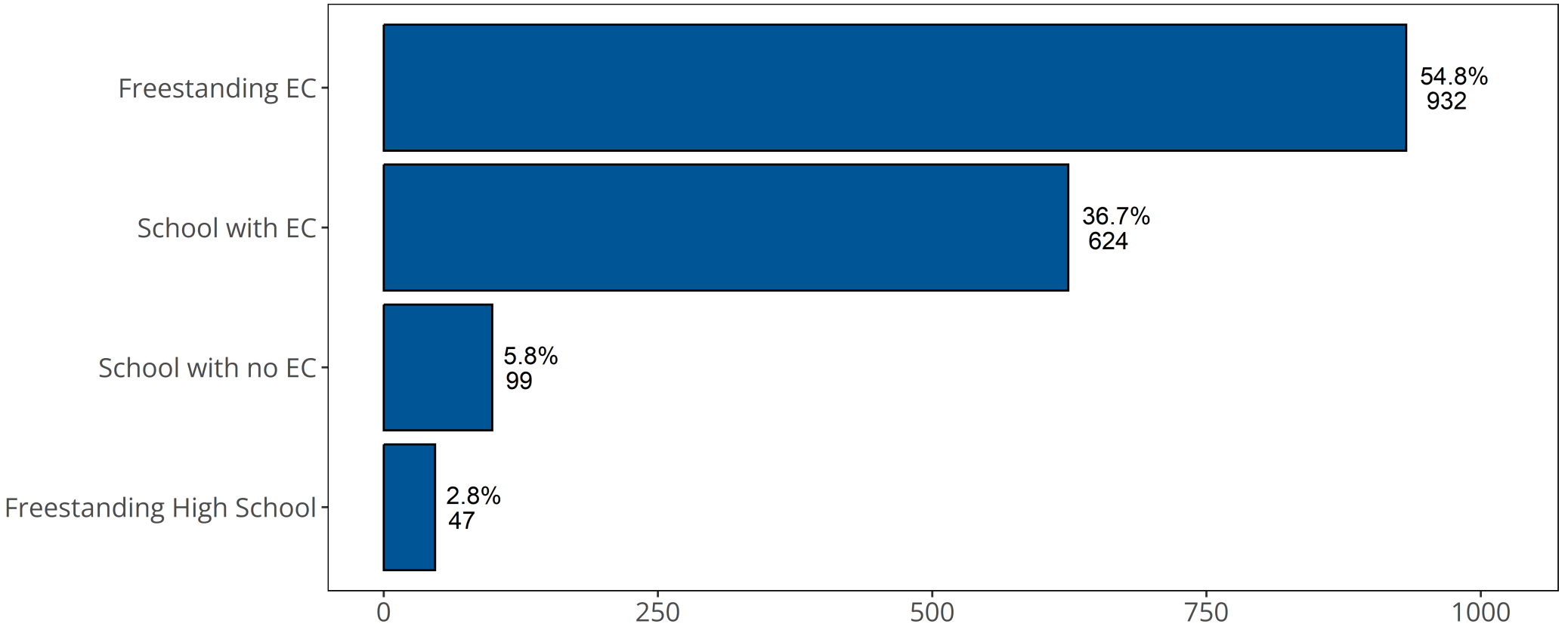
Current Locations of Emeriti Pastors



- The above map indicates where there are pockets of retired ordained ministers. Multiple retired pastors live in nearly every state, though they are often clustered in urban centers.
- There are also large clusters in southern states, such as Texas and Florida.
- In order to be considered emeritus, these men have retired from active ministry and not serving as an installed pastor - but many are still ministering to congregations in some capacity.

LCMS Schools Data

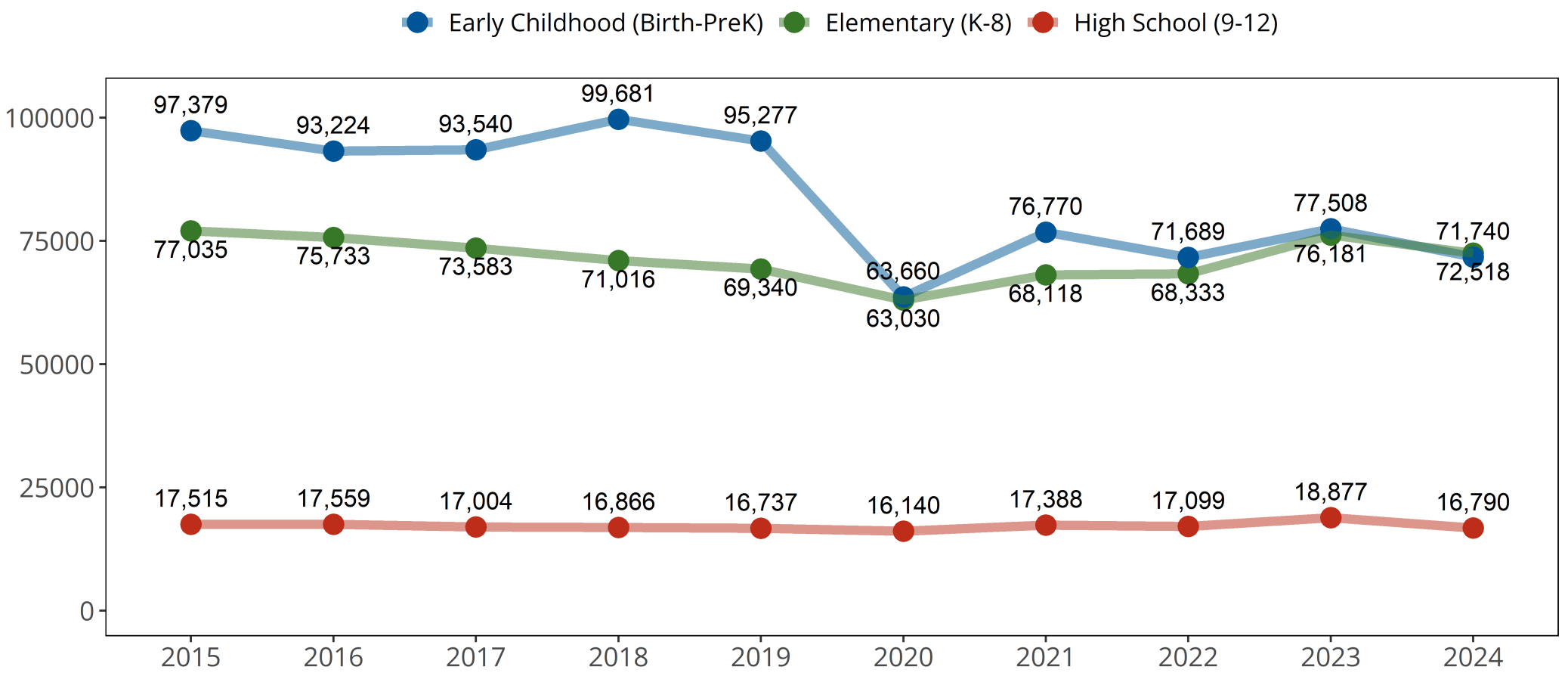
Current Breakdown of LCMS Schools by Type



"School" is any school with elementary grades. This group includes schools with high school grades.
"Freestanding High School" are schools that only only have grades 9-12.

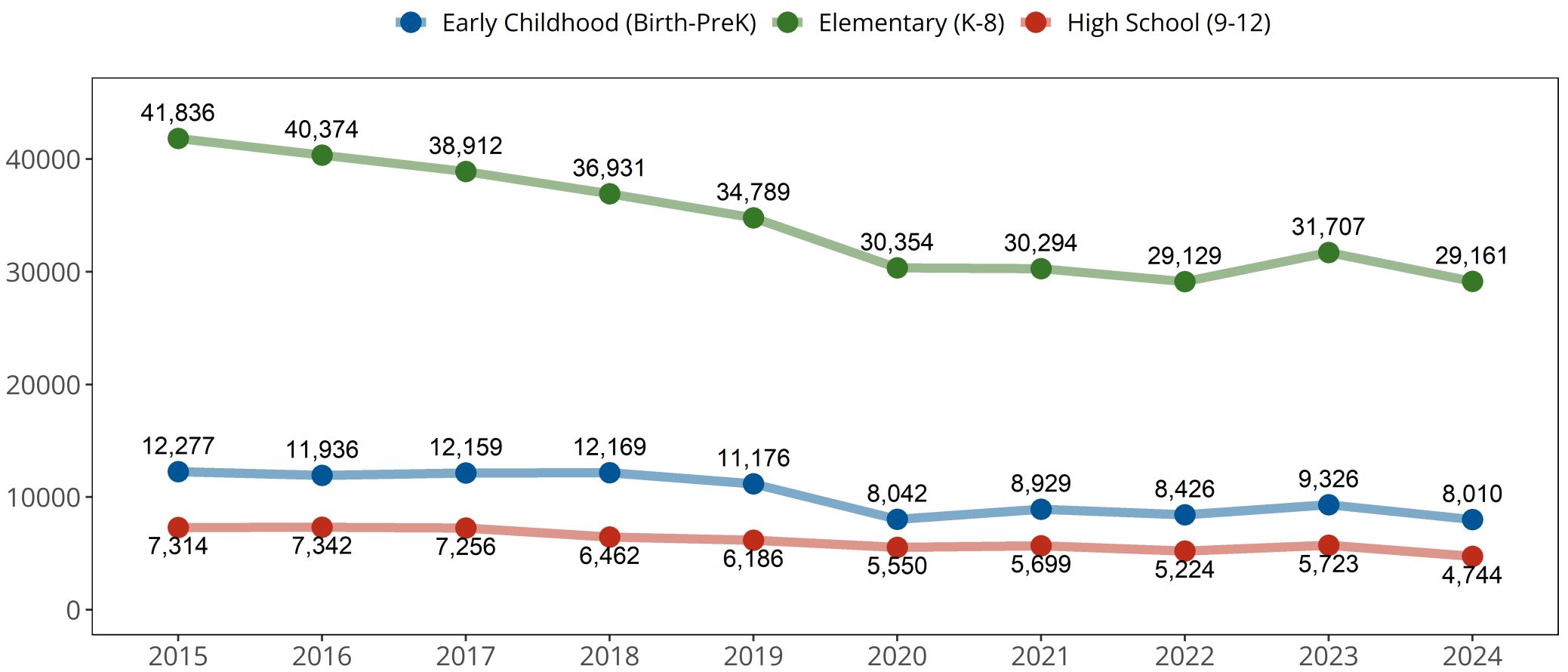
- This method of grouping schools favors showing the total number of LCMS schools without double-counting those fitting multiple categories (EC, EL, HS).
- The downside to this method is that it does not allow show exactly how many schools go through grade 12, versus that stop at grade 6 or grade 8.

Total Enrollment Trends at LCMS Schools



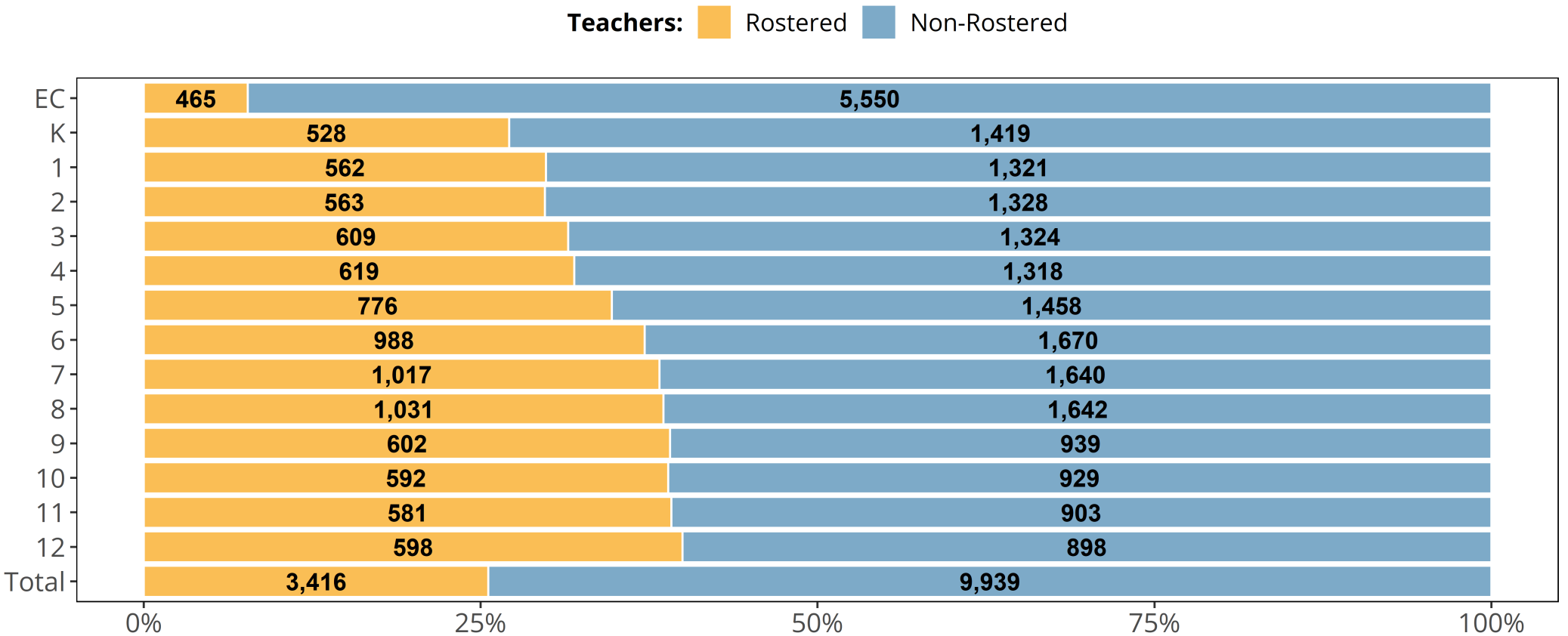
- LCMS schools annually report their enrollment by age/grade level. Shown above are the reported totals since 2015. Numbers are the enrollment at the start of the school year in the fall of the year shown.
- While early childhood and preschool enrollments were greatly diminished in the 2020 school year by the COVID-19 pandemic, elementary and high schools saw a slight increase in their numbers.

LCMS member children enrolled in LCMS schools



- Compared with the previous chart, which showed early childhood centers have much higher total enrollment, their number of LCMS member children is substantially lower than LCMS elementary schools.

Current LCMS School Teachers by Grade Level and Roster Status



Because individual teachers may be counted in multiple grades, grade level numbers do not add to the final total line.

- What the data does not let us see is number of non-rostered teachers who are trained by Synod institutions. These non-rostered teachers may be “roster-eligible” but choose not to be on the roster (often for tax reasons).