

Becoming Lutheran Quantitative Analysis Summary

Exploring the Journey of American Evangelicals into Confessional Lutheran

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General:

Survey conducted using: SurveyMonkey

Summary: The quantitative survey is the first of two surveys in the Becoming Lutheran research project. The second survey, to follow, is a qualitative survey that will attempt to provide reason, motives, and insights to the quantitative data presented here.

Problem Thesis:

The journey for American Evangelicals into Confessional Lutheranism thought is a long, difficult, and sometimes scary road. The shift from American Evangelicalism into Confessional Lutheranism is not something that just happens overnight, nor is it an easy shift. The shift has linguistic, emotional, worldview, and epistemological challenges that accompany it, thus producing a great deal of anxiety, stress, and uncertainty for the individual. This also presents a challenge for Lutheran pastors in knowing how to minister to parishioners coming out of American Evangelicalism into their parish.

Purpose Thesis:

Purpose: The purpose of this Major Applied Project (MAP) is to learn about the linguistic challenges, emotional struggles, worldview changes, and epistemological shifts of American Evangelicals who have begun making this shift into Lutheran thought, as well as Evangelicals who have already made the shift. Furthermore, this MAP will attempt to identify patterns in the journey from Evangelicalism to Lutheranism. By diagnosing possible patterns and identifying common characteristics in the journey, I hope the findings will provide insights and comfort for those who are experiencing the journey. I also hope to glean from the study ways in which Lutheran pastors can more effectively care for and shepherd these individuals who are in the journey towards Lutheranism.

Date of Survey:

Begin Date: December 11th of 2013

End Date: January 20th of 2013

Survey Participant Response:

Total Response: 340

Final Admitted Surveys: 307

Disqualified Surveys: 33

- 6 participants were disqualified due to their answer on a screen question.
- 14 participant surveys were discarded due to the surveys being very incomplete (i.e., only 15-20% complete).
- 13 participant surveys were removed from the final calculations for not meeting the criteria of the study (i.e. from a non-North American continent, no evangelical background, etc...).

Statistical Accuracy:

Assuming a population of 100,000 individuals who have journeyed from American Evangelicalism, 307 participant responses gives this survey the following statistical confidence:

- A Confidence Level of 95%.
- A Confidence Interval of 5.585%.

Quantitative Survey Analysis:

The quantitative survey was analyzed by an analysis group to ensure objectivity. The analysis meeting was held on February 3rd of 2013 at Sidney Lutheran Brethren Church in Sidney, MT. The analysis team consisted of 9 men and 3 women of whom there were clergy, laymen, and church workers from 4 different denominations (i.e., CLBA, LCMS, AALC, CMA).

Quantitative Results:

1. What is the church affiliation background of American Evangelicals journeying into Lutheran thought?
 - a. Generally speaking, American Evangelicals journeying into Lutheran thought have more than one Evangelical denomination in their background (i.e. approximately 2 denominational backgrounds).
 - b. The two most common American Evangelical backgrounds of those journeying into Lutheran thought were the Baptist denomination (i.e., 54.6%) and Non-denominational churches (i.e., 47.9%).
2. Which movement and influences have respondents been impacted by within American Evangelicalism.
 - a. Generally speaking, American Evangelicals journeying into Lutheran thought have 3.8 different movements and influences that they have been impacted by.
 - b. The top movement and/or influence responses are:
 - i. 61% were impacted by Revivalism.
 - ii. 60% were impacted by Pietism.
 - iii. 55.1% were impacted by Dispensationalism.
 - iv. 52.8% were impacted by Fundamentalism
 - v. 51.5% were impacted the Church Growth Movement.
3. Before beginning the journey towards Lutheran thought, how long had respondents been in American Evangelicalism?
 - a. 49.8% of respondents marked that they were in American Evangelicalism for 15-30 years.
 - b. The other 50.2% varied from less than a year to over 50 years.
4. In reflecting on the journey from American Evangelicalism into Lutheran thought:
 - a. 51.30% of respondents shared that the journey lasted 1-4 years.
 - b. The other 48.70% specified that the journey lasted from less than 3 months to over 10 years.
5. When asked when the decision was made to attend a Lutheran church:
 - a. Respondents showed that they can come to a Lutheran church at any time in their journey.
 - i. 23.1% before the journey into Lutheran thought began.
 - ii. 32.3% at the beginning of the journey into Lutheran thought.
 - iii. 24.3% at the middle of the journey into Lutheran thought.
 - iv. 20.3% at the end of the journey into Lutheran thought.
6. Regarding linguistics:
 - a. 58.60% agree and strongly agree that they experienced an overall confusion regarding linguistics in their journey from American Evangelicalism into Lutheran thought.
 - b. More specifically, 84.20% of respondents agree and strongly agree that they were challenged with familiar words having different emphasis.
7. Regarding emotions:
 - a. 70.40% agree and strongly agree that they experienced struggles with their emotions in their journey from American Evangelicalism into Lutheran thought.
 - b. Generally speaking, in the overall journey they experienced more emotions of joy than sadness and more emotions of trust than emotions of disgust.
 - c. Special Focus:
 - i. Among those that decided to attend a Lutheran church at the end of their journey into Lutheran thought, 45.3% experienced emotions of anger whereas 35.2% experienced emotions of fear.
 - ii. Among those that decided to attend a Lutheran church at the beginning of their journey into Lutheran

thought, 53.20% experienced emotions of fear whereas 34.20% experienced emotions of anger.

iii. See page 4 for diagram.

8. Regarding worldview:

- a. 92.50% agree and strongly agree that they experienced a change in how they view reality.
- b. More specifically, 93.10% of respondents agree and strongly agree that they changed in how they view the Christian faith (i.e., God, salvation, etc...)

9. Regarding epistemology:

- a. 79.90% agree and strongly agree that they experienced an overall shift in how they acquire knowledge and how they analyze it.
- b. More specifically, 94.70% of respondents agree and strongly agree that they shifted in where they acquire their Christian teaching (i.e., they now listen to different pastors/teachers, and they now read different authors). Note: this was the highest percentage response on the whole survey.
- c. Special Focus: When asked about epistemology with specific examples, the respondents tended to agree at a higher percentage than when asked the question of epistemological shifts in general.

10. When asked to assess the overall flow of the journey from American Evangelicalism into Lutheran thought, respondents shared that the journey went from good to very good.

- a. Special Focus: When isolating those that have completed the journey into Lutheran thought, two interesting things develop.
 - i. Those that joined a Lutheran church at the beginning of the journey into Lutheran thought had an overall good journey ending with the journey being very good.
 - ii. Those that joined a Lutheran church at the end of the journey into Lutheran thought had a journey that started out good, then declined until

it became very good at the end when they arrived in a Lutheran church.

iii. See page 5 for diagram.

Qualitative Results:

There were several qualitative questions that were asked in this survey. The responses were analyzed and summarized below.

1. Why did you or what caused you to begin this journey into Lutheran thought?
 - a. Generally speaking they were despairing in works righteousness and had an internal conflict which resulted in a crisis of faith. While the crisis of faith gave them instability in American Evangelicalism, they were influenced by family and friends, as well as Lutheran media and books, to begin the journey into Lutheran thought.
2. In your own words, what has been the worst thing about this journey?
 - a. Generally speaking the worst things were the unsettledness coupled with the loss of family and friends sometimes caused by doctrinal discussion and the switching of churches. Furthermore, they lamented the lost time that they spent in synergistic beliefs. Finally, they struggled to quickly learn new things such as terms, Lutheran worship, music, liturgy, doctrines, etc...
3. In your own words, what has been the best thing about this journey?
 - a. Generally speaking the best thing is that they felt freedom, peace, comfort, and assurance as they have come to understand the objective Christ-centered Gospel and Sacraments.

Chart A: Emotions of those that decided to attend a Lutheran church at the end of their journey into Lutheran thought.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided or Not Applicable	Agree	Strongly agree	RatingAverage	RatingCount
... experienced more of the emotions of sadness (i.e., feeling dejected, depressed, and down) than emotions of joy (i.e., feeling cheerful, content, optimistic, and relieved).	27.5% (14)	37.3% (19)	21.6% (11)	5.9% (3)	7.8% (4)	2.29	51
... experienced more of the emotions of anger (i.e., feeling irritable and resentful) than emotions of fear (i.e., feeling doubtful, nervous, and tense).	17.6% (9)	17.6% (9)	19.6% (10)	35.3% (18)	9.8% (5)	3.02	51
... experienced more of the emotions of trust (i.e. feeling hopeful, confident, and accepting) than emotions of disgust (i.e., feeling repulsed, contemptible, and abhorred).	0.0% (0)	5.9% (3)	17.6% (9)	51.0% (26)	25.5% (13)	3.96	51

Chart B: The emotions of those that decided to attend a Lutheran Church at the beginning of their journey into Lutheran thought.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided or Not Applicable	Agree	Strongly agree	RatingAverage	RatingCount
... experienced more of the emotions of sadness (i.e., feeling dejected, depressed, and down) than emotions of joy (i.e., feeling cheerful, content, optimistic, and relieved).	30.4% (24)	43.0% (34)	7.6% (6)	12.7% (10)	6.3% (5)	2.22	79
... experienced more of the emotions of anger (i.e., feeling irritable and resentful) than emotions of fear (i.e., feeling doubtful, nervous, and tense).	15.2% (12)	38.0% (30)	12.7% (10)	26.6% (21)	7.6% (6)	2.73	79
... experienced more of the emotions of trust (i.e. feeling hopeful, confident, and accepting) than emotions of disgust (i.e., feeling repulsed, contemptible, and abhorred).	1.2% (1)	6.2% (5)	8.6% (7)	64.2% (52)	19.8% (16)	3.95	81

Chart C: Those that have finished the journey into Lutheran thought and joined a Lutheran church at the beginning of the journey.

21. In order to assess the overall flow of your journey, please specify your general experience within each stage of your journey. [Download](#)

Overall Experience	Very Good	Good	Bad	Very Bad	N/A	ResponseCount
Considering Leaving Evangelicalism	11.9% (7)	40.7% (24)	32.2% (19)	10.2% (6)	5.1% (3)	59
Beginning Stage of Leaving Evangelicalism	13.8% (8)	39.7% (23)	31.0% (18)	13.8% (8)	1.7% (1)	58
Midway Stage of Leaving Evangelicalism	15.5% (9)	51.7% (30)	19.0% (11)	10.3% (6)	3.4% (2)	58
Final Stage of Leaving Evangelicalism	43.1% (25)	34.5% (20)	10.3% (6)	12.1% (7)	0.0% (0)	58
Arriving in Lutheranism	81.0% (47)	15.5% (9)	1.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	1.7% (1)	58

Chart D: Those that have finished the journey into Lutheran thought and joined a Lutheran church at the end of the journey.

PAGE: SECTION 6: REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

21. In order to assess the overall flow of your journey, please specify your general experience within each stage of your journey. [Download](#)

Overall Experience	Very Good	Good	Bad	Very Bad	N/A	ResponseCount
Considering Leaving Evangelicalism	11.9% (5)	40.5% (17)	23.8% (10)	16.7% (7)	7.1% (3)	42
Beginning Stage of Leaving Evangelicalism	4.8% (2)	42.9% (18)	35.7% (15)	9.5% (4)	7.1% (3)	42
Midway Stage of Leaving Evangelicalism	7.1% (3)	38.1% (16)	38.1% (16)	11.9% (5)	4.8% (2)	42
Final Stage of Leaving Evangelicalism	26.2% (11)	33.3% (14)	21.4% (9)	16.7% (7)	2.4% (1)	42
Arriving in Lutheranism	81.0% (34)	14.3% (6)	0.0% (0)	2.4% (1)	2.4% (1)	42