

Pastors' Views on Christmas Events

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

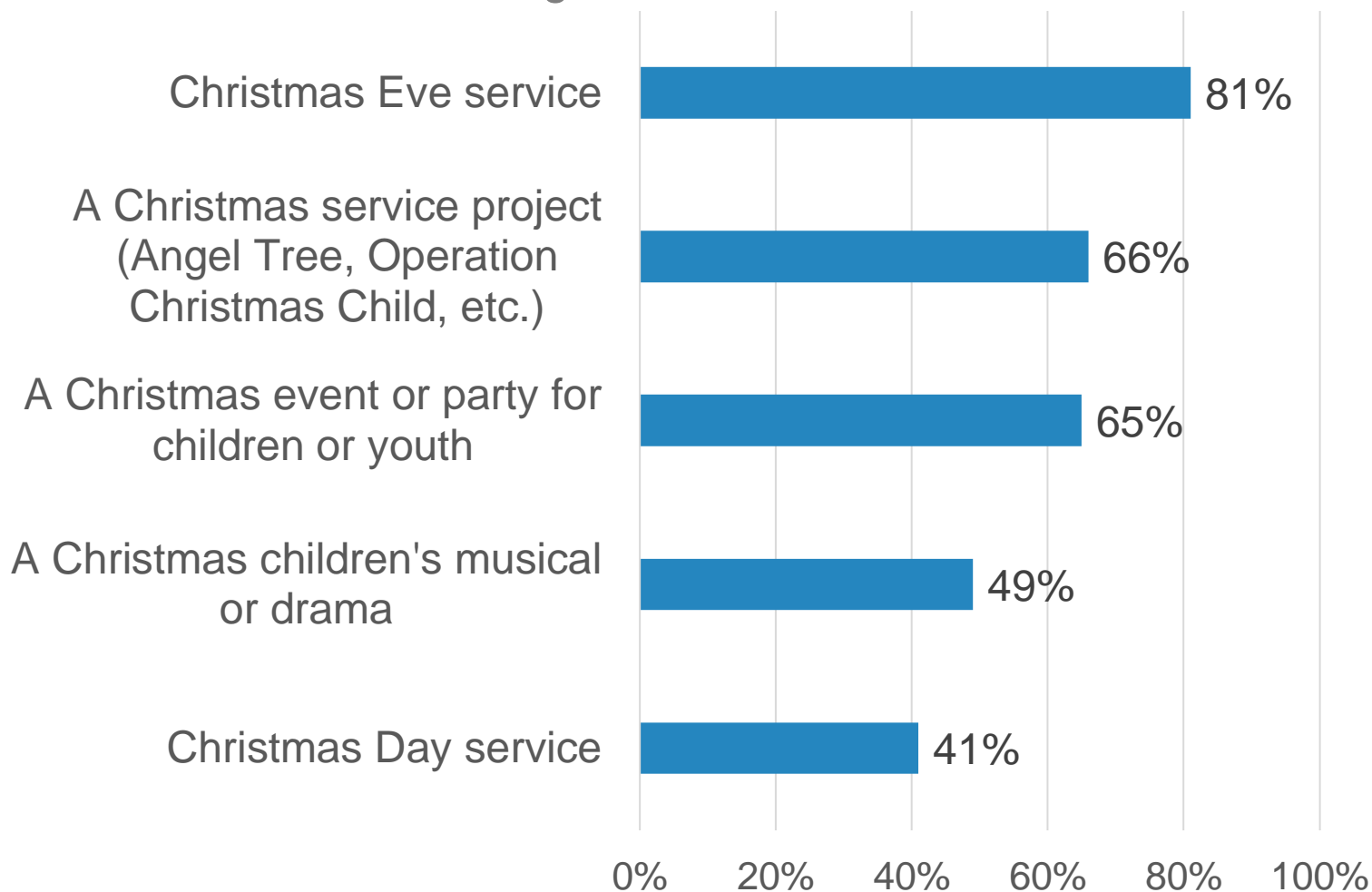
Lifeway research

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,004 Protestant pastors was conducted August 29, 2023 - September 20, 2023
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,004 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.2\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

“Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?”

Among Protestant Pastors

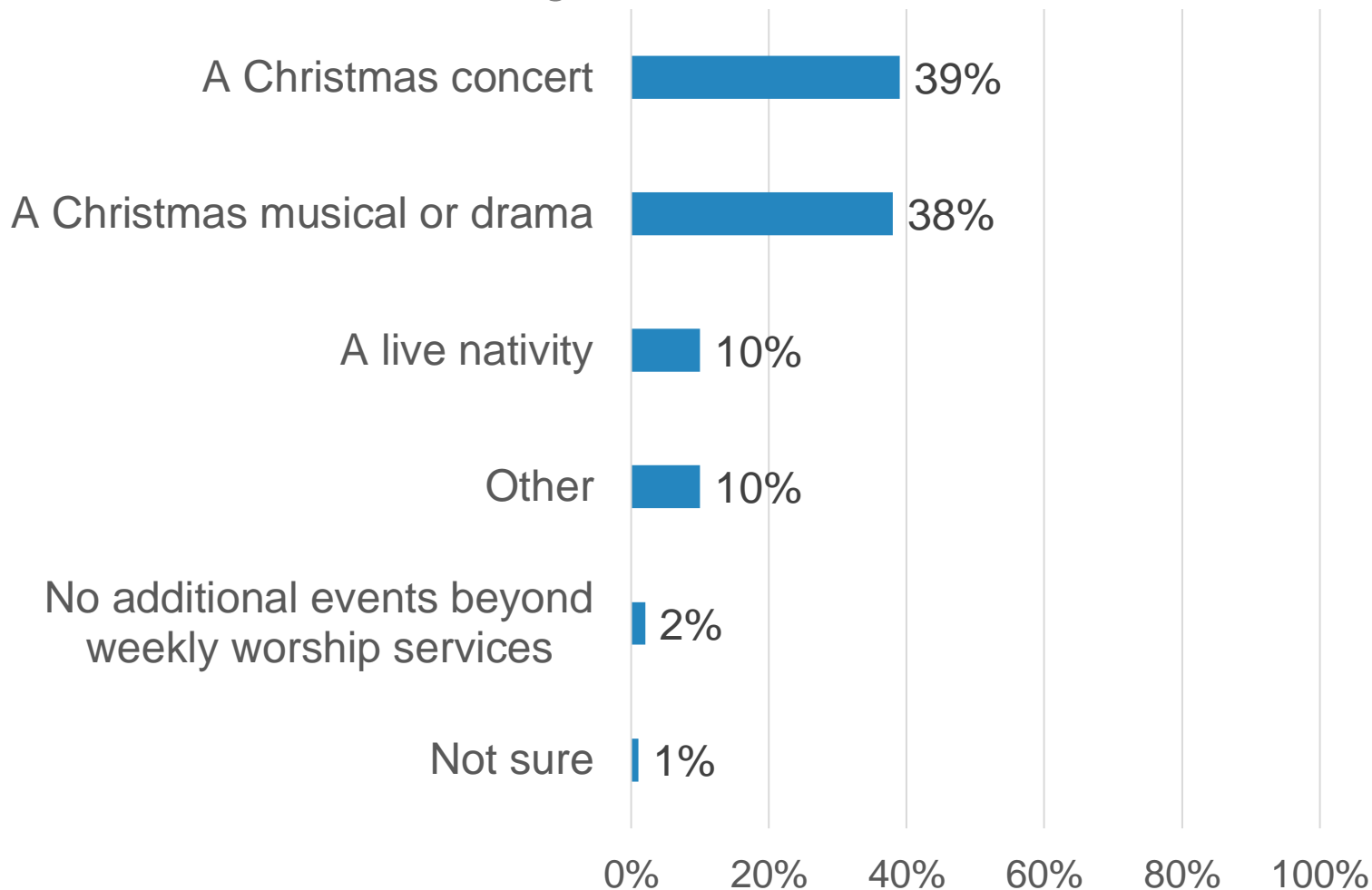


Lifeway research

Q: “Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?
(Select all that apply)” n=1,004

“Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?”

Among Protestant Pastors



Lifewayresearch

Q: “Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?
(Select all that apply)” n=1,004

Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Lifeway research

Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

| AGE | GENDER | ETHNICITY | EDUCATION | Self-Identified |
|-------|--------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 18-44 | Male | White | No College Degree | Evangelical |
| 45-54 | Female | African American | Bachelor's Degree | Mainline |
| 55-64 | | Hispanic | Graduate Degree | |
| 65+ | | | Doctoral Degree | |

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, average worship attendance, and year church started.

| REGION | DENOMINATION GROUP | ATTENDANCE | YEAR STARTED |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Northeast | Baptist | 0-49 | Before 1900 |
| South | Lutheran | 50-99 | 1900-1949 |
| Midwest | Methodist | 100-249 | 1950-1999 |
| West | Pentecostal | 250+ | 2000-2023 |
| | Presbyterian/Reformed | | |
| | Christian/Church of Christ | | |
| | Non-Denominational | | |

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

“Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?”

A Christmas concert

- Pastors with a Doctoral Degree are the most likely to select (51%)
- Pastors in the South (43%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (34%)
- Methodists are the most likely to select (53%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the least likely to select (27%)
- Pastors at churches started Before 1900 (42%) are more likely to select than those started 2000-2023 (29%)

“Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?”

A Christmas musical or drama

- Pastors age 55-64 (40%) and 65+ (41%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (31%)
- Pastors in the South (45%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (32%) and Midwest (29%)
- Baptists (44%), Methodists (43%), and Pentecostals (52%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (27%) and Christian/Church of Christ (14%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the least likely to select (28%)

“Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?”

A Christmas children’s musical or drama

- Pastors age 55-64 (54%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (45%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (51% v. 43%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (55%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (45%) and West (42%)
- Lutherans are the most likely to select (70%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 are the most likely to select (64%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the least likely to select (31%)
- Pastors at churches started Before 1900 (53%) and 1900-1949 (54%) are more likely to select than those started 1950-1999 (44%)

“Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?”

A Christmas event or party for children or youth

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (55%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (67% v. 57%)
- Pastors in the South (68%) are more likely to select than those in the West (56%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the least likely to select (46%)

“Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?”

A live nativity

- Hispanic pastors (21%) are more likely to select than White pastors (9%)
- Methodists (14%), Pentecostals (13%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (14%) are more likely to select than Baptists (6%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ (17%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (8%) and 100-249 (7%)

“Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?”

Christmas Eve service

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (74%)
- African American pastors are the least likely to select (46%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (89%) or a Doctoral Degree (85%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (75%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (70%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (88%) and Midwest (86%) are more likely to select than those in the South (76%)
- Christian/Church of Christ are the least likely to select (52%)
- Pastors at churches started Before 1900 are the most likely to select (89%)

“Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?”

Christmas Day service

- Pastors age 55-64 (44%) and 65+ (48%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (32%)
- Pastors with no college (47%) or a Master’s Degree (42%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s degree (34%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (48% v. 41%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (43%) and West (45%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (32%)
- Lutherans are the most likely to select (71%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (48%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 100-249 (36%)

“Which of the following activities does your church plan to offer this year to celebrate Christmas in addition to weekly worship services?”

A Christmas service project (Angel Tree, Operation Christmas Child, etc.)

- Pastors age 45-54 (73%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (62%)
- White pastors (68%) are more likely to select than African American pastors (53%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (69%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (61%)
- Methodists (74%), Presbyterian/Reformed (77%), and Non-denominational (77%) are more likely to select than Baptists (61%), Pentecostals (55%), and Christian/Church of Christ (53%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the least likely to select (56%)
- Pastors at churches started Before 1900 (74%) and 1900-1949 (68%) are more likely to select than those started 2000-2023 (53%)

Pastors' Views on Christmas Events

A SURVEY OF AMERICANS PROTESTANT PASTORS

Lifeway research