

St. John Lutheran Church
Strategic Plan
Average Weekly Worship Attendance
Statistical Analysis

May 20, 2008



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D	Mount Olivet, 5025 Knox Ave. S., Mpls., and West Campus
E	St. Philip the Deacon, 17205 CR 6, Plymouth
F	Mount Calvary, 301 CR 19, Excelsior
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Average Weekly Worship Attendance Findings Comparison of St. John's to Other Congregations

The Strategic Planning Team believes the single most important indicator of the vitality of a congregation is average weekly worship attendance. The ELCA has a statistical report called Congregation Trend Report that provides this as well as other information for each of its churches. The Minneapolis Area Synod was contacted to obtain a list of those congregations considered to have "best practices". A list of other west suburban churches near St. Johns was also obtained for comparative purposes.

The Congregation Trend Report compares statistics from the year 2000 to the current year available from each congregation. For three of the churches this is year 2006 and the other four like St. Johns it is 2007. As results for 2007 become available for all congregations we intend to update our results.

The churches being compared to St. Johns (2007) were:

Benchmark Churches

Bethlehem, 41st & Lyndale (2007)
Lord of Life, Maple Grove (2007)
Mount Olivet, 50th & Knox (2006)
St. Philip the Deacon, Plymouth (2006)

Other West Suburban Churches

Mount Calvary, Excelsior (2006)
Immanuel, Eden Prairie (2007)
Trinity, Long Lake (2007)

The benchmark churches are sometimes considered "mega churches" because of their size but in our opinion their results become that more impressive as a result.

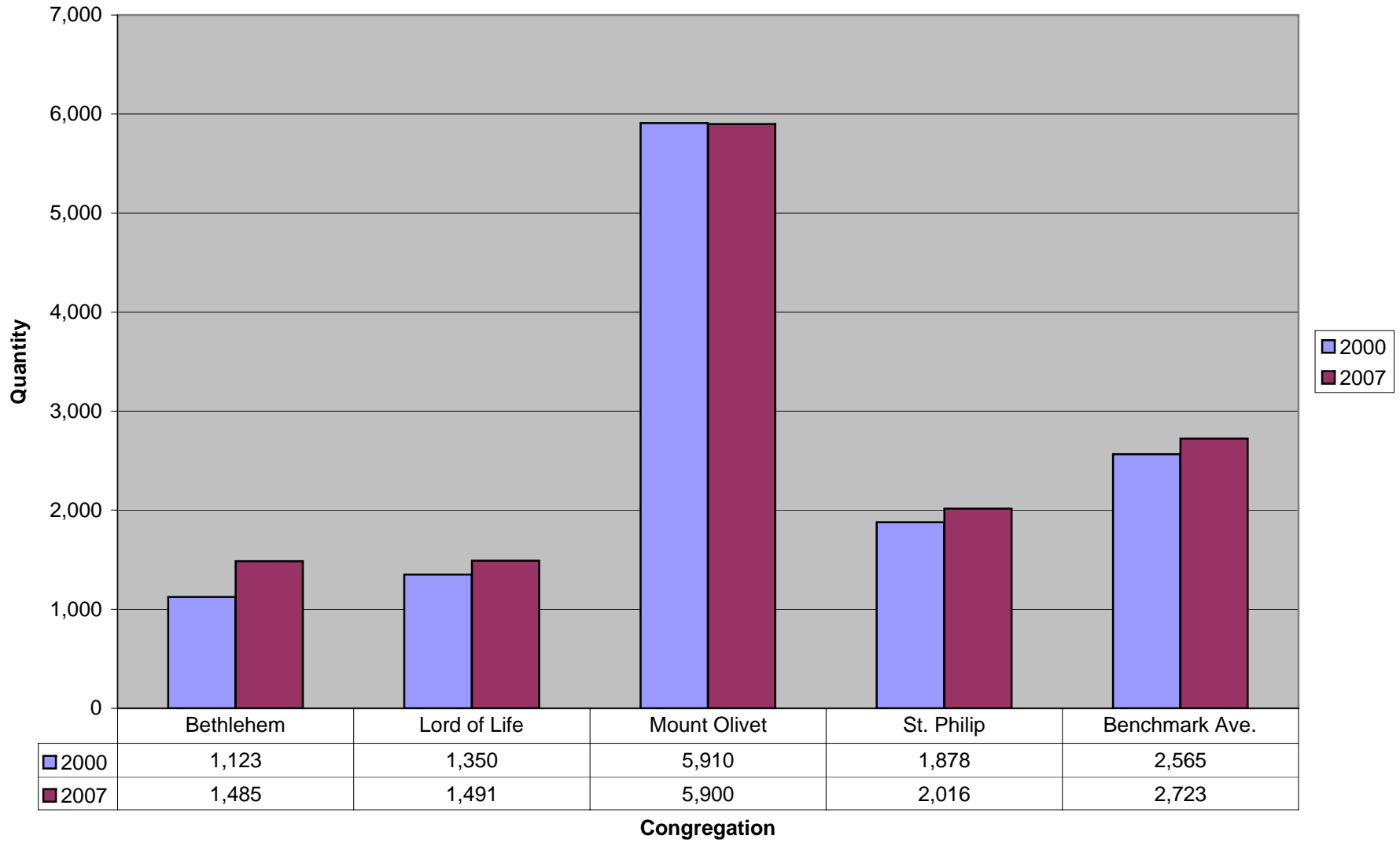
Average weekly worship attendance for the groups was as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>St. Johns</u>	<u>Benchmark Ave.</u>	<u>Other Group Ave.</u>
Year 2000	407	2,565	558
Year 2007	375	2,723	631
% Change	-7.9%	+6.1%	+13.1%

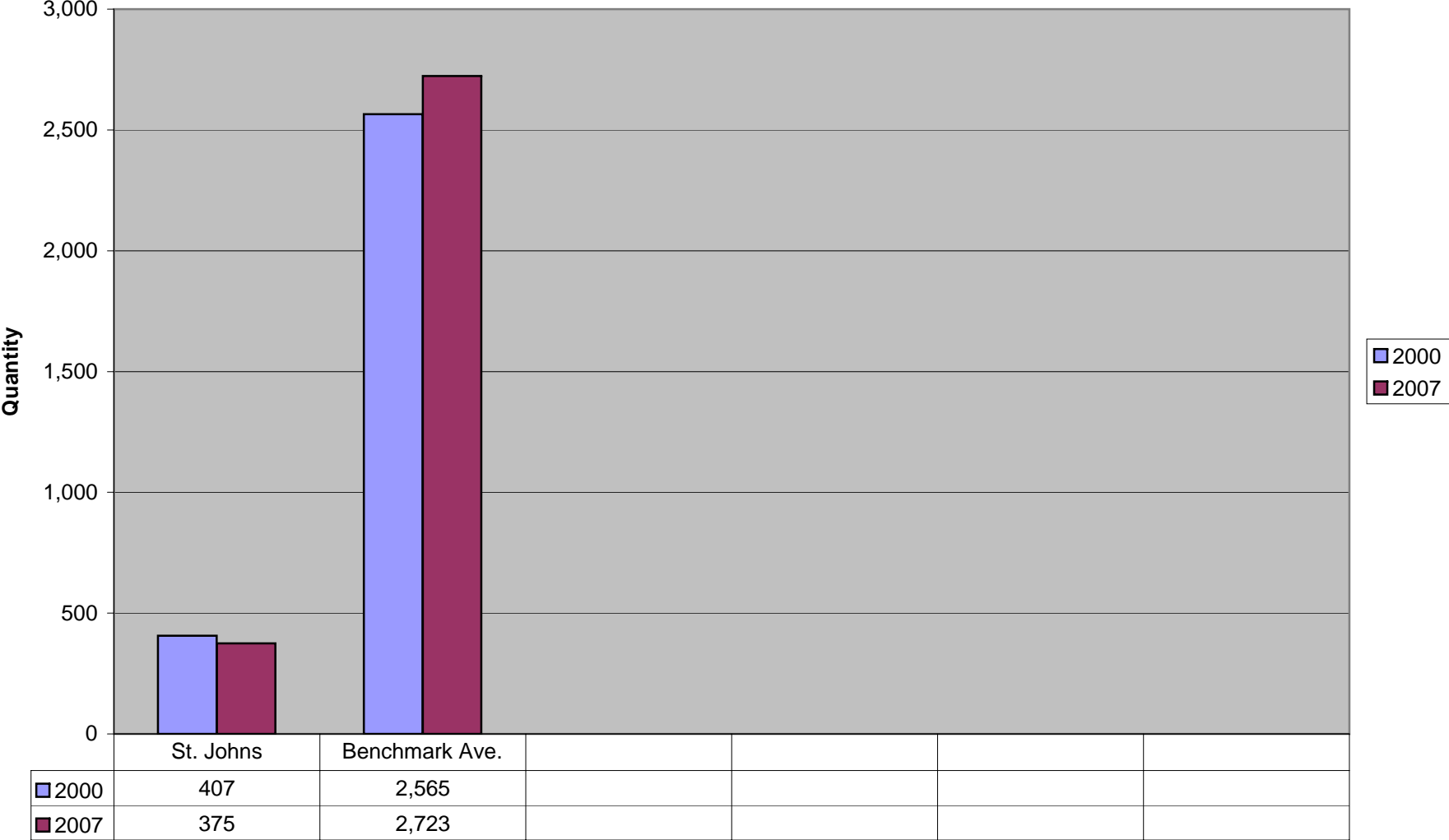
The next planned step is to visit each of the benchmarked congregations to determine what "best practices" they follow that we should consider implementing at St. John's to improve our performance.

Average Weekly Worship Statistics

1 Average Weekly Worship Attendance-Benchmark Group

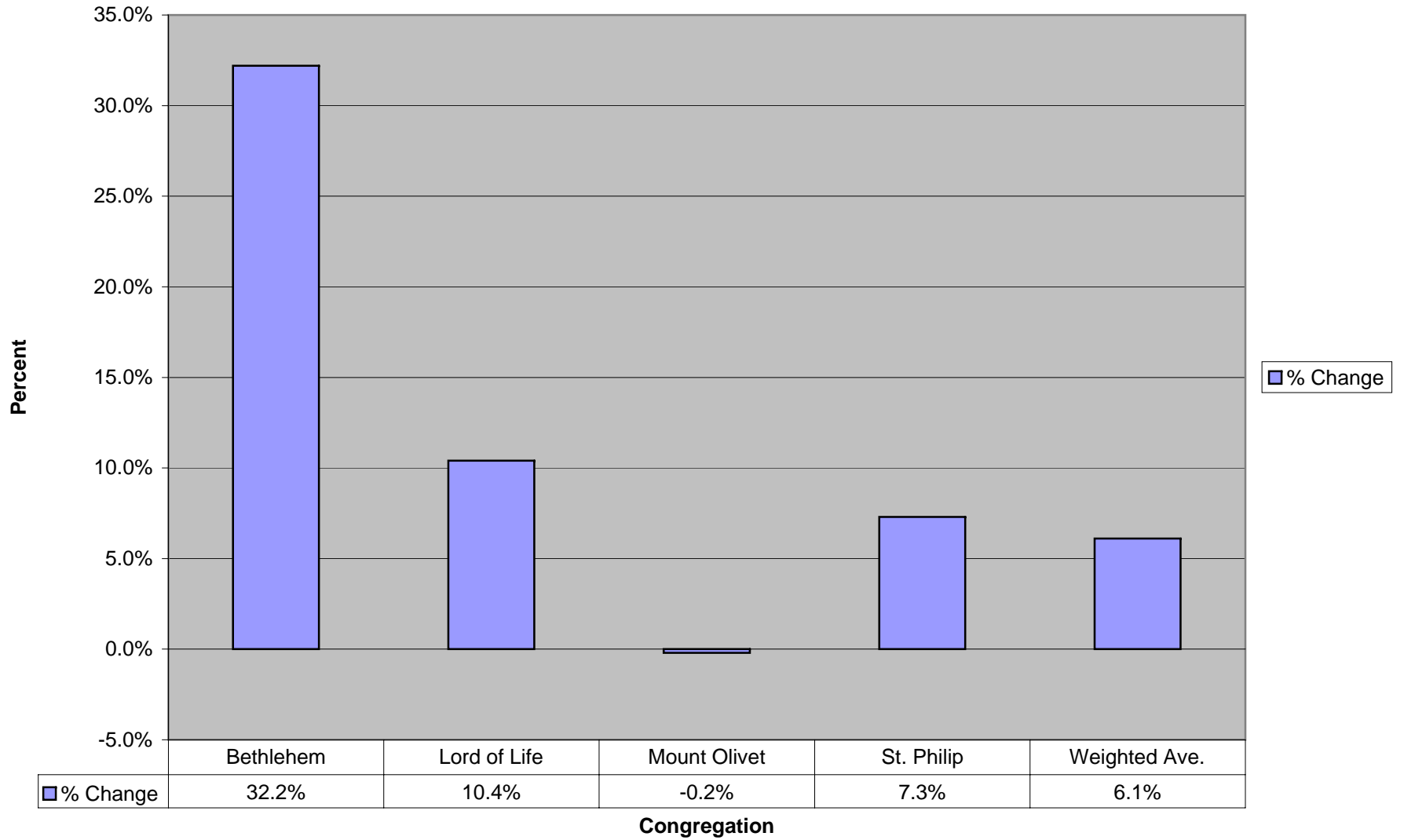


2 Average Weekly Worship Attendance-St. Johns vs Benchmark Group

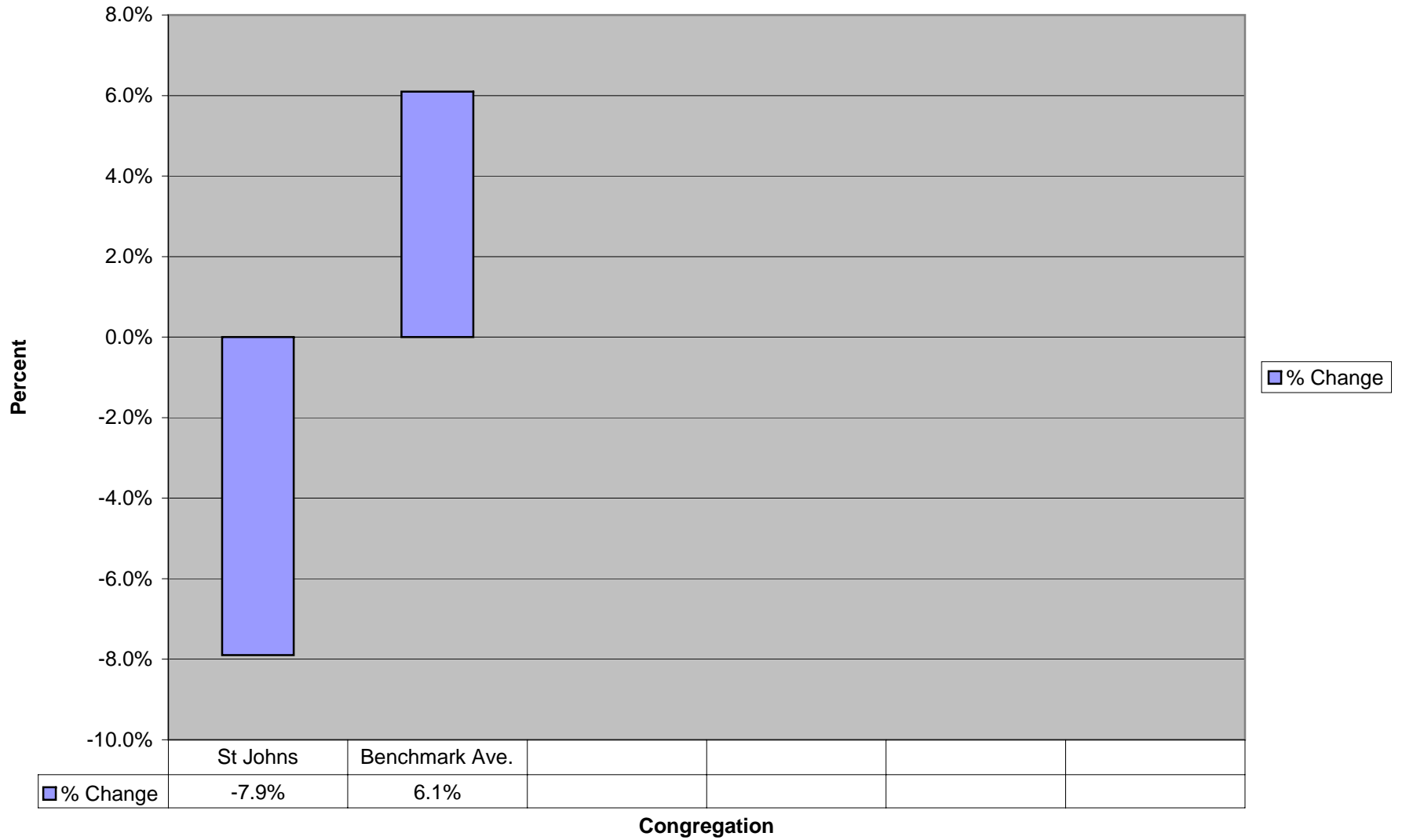


Congregation

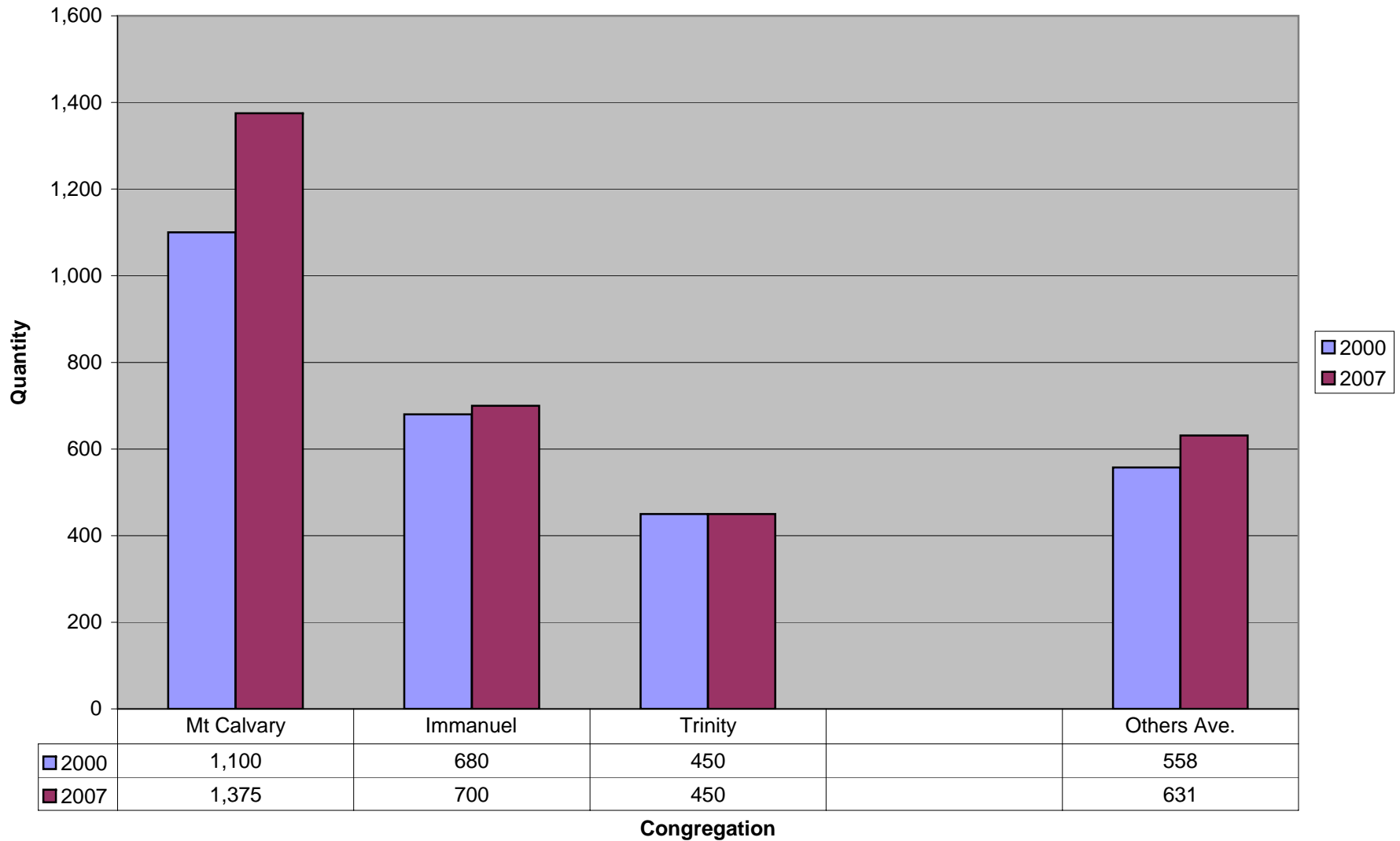
3 Average Weekly Worship Attendance-% Change Since 2000-Benchmark Group



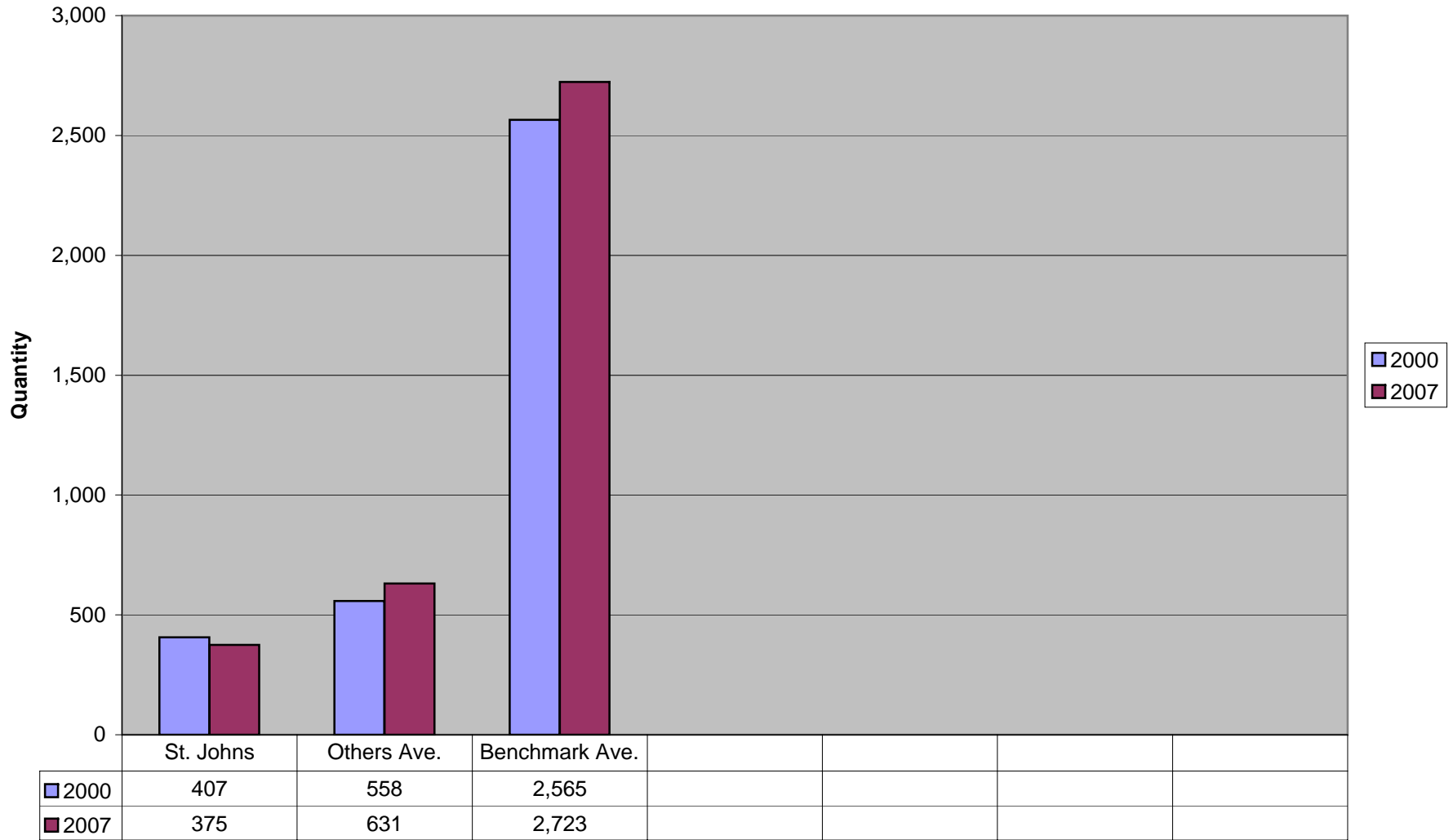
4 Average Weekly Worship Attendance-% Change Since 2000-St. Johns vs Benchmark Group



5 Average Weekly Worship Attendance-Other West Suburban Churches

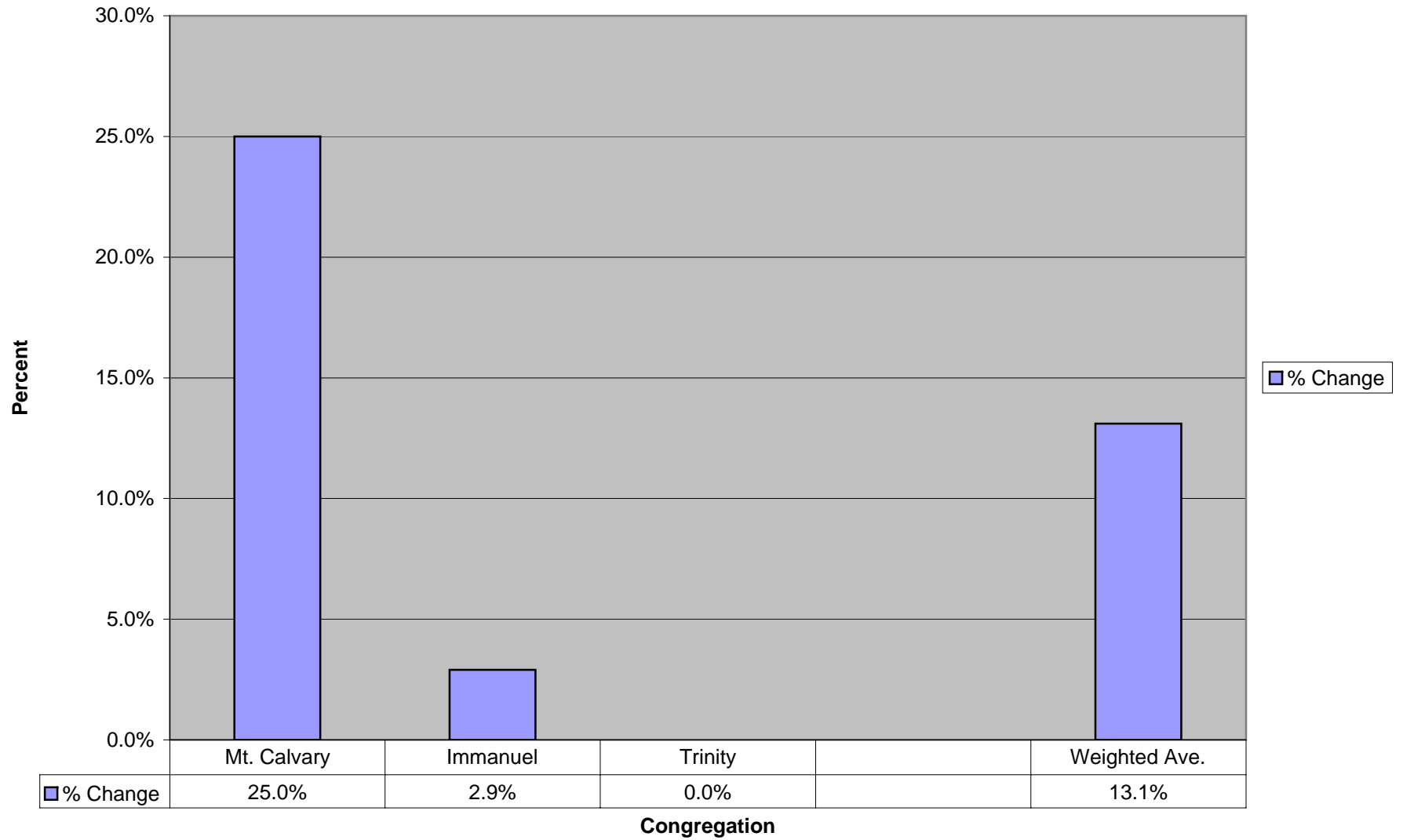


6 Average Weekly Worship Attendance-St. Johns vs Others



Congregation

7 Average Weekly Worship Attendance-% Change Since 2000-Other West Suburban Churches



8 Average Weekly Worship Attendance-% Change Since 2000-St. Johns vs Others

