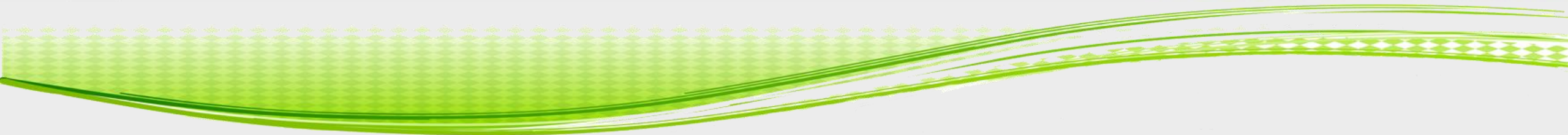


North Wisconsin District LCMS Adult Gathering

**Wausau, Wisconsin
October 1, 2019**



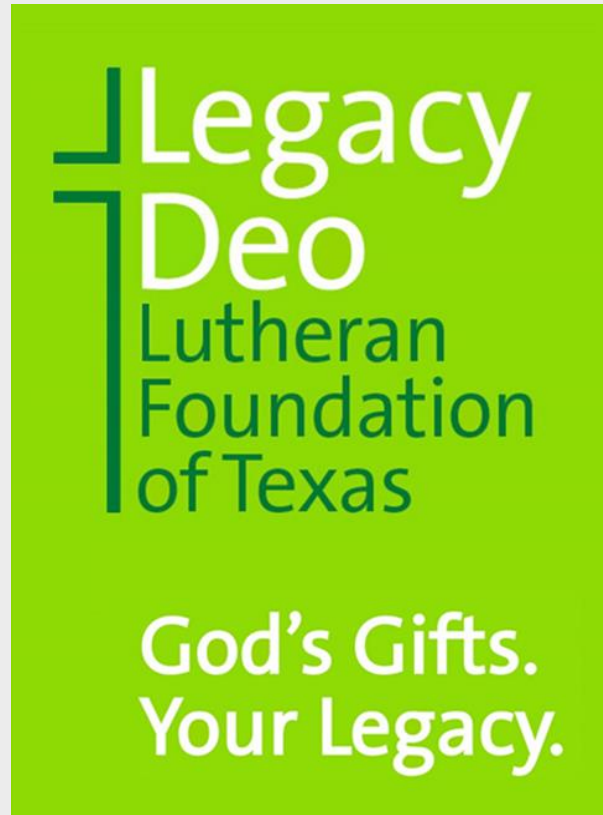


Who is this guy?

Rev. Dr. Jerry Kieschnick

Legacy
Deo
Lutheran
Foundation
of Texas

God's Gifts.
Your Legacy.



Who is Legacy Deo?

**Established in 1960 as Lutheran Foundation of Texas.
In 2017 LFOT became Legacy Deo.**

Exists to inspire and assist individuals and families in legacy giving for family and faith, primarily through planned giving.

A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation funded by:

- **Modest administrative fees from managed accounts**
- **Texas District support**
- **Donor contributions**

**Our legacy FROM God
is who we are and
what we have.**



Our legacy TO God is what we do with His gifts.



What does Legacy Deo do?

Assist donors, churches, and charities

Emphasize importance of estate planning

Serve as executor/administrator of individual estates

Facilitate planned giving for family and faith based causes

Professionally manage 400+ charitable trusts and endowments



Legacy Deo

God's Gifts.
Your Legacy.

*What kind of causes does
Legacy Deo support?*

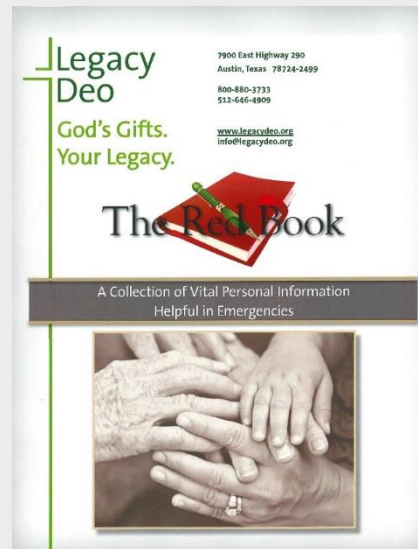
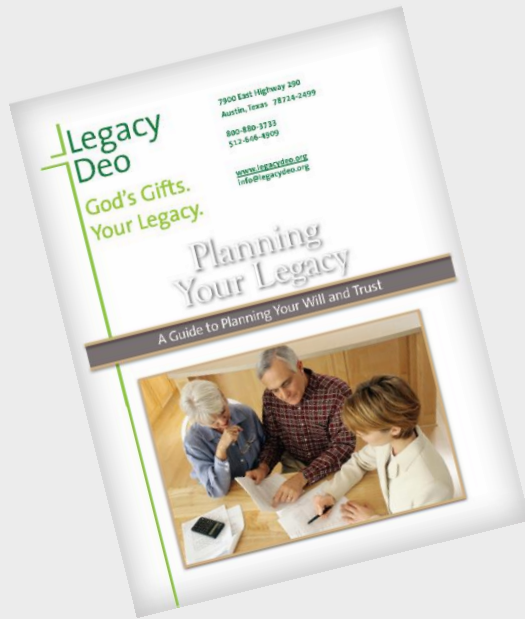


Legacy
Deo

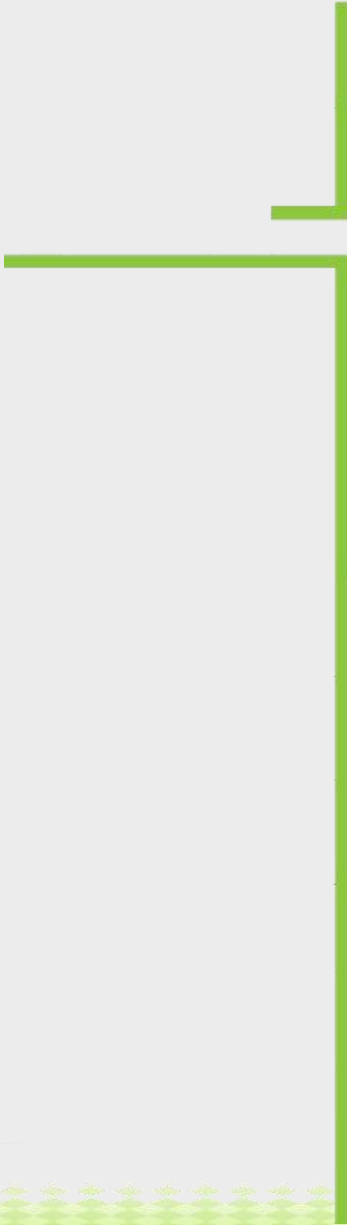
God's Gifts.
Your Legacy.

Legacy Deo Planning Tools

1. Wills planning guide
2. The “Red Book”
3. Funeral planning guide



These are available digitally from Legacy Deo at no cost to you.



Legacy Deo

God's Gifts.
Your Legacy.

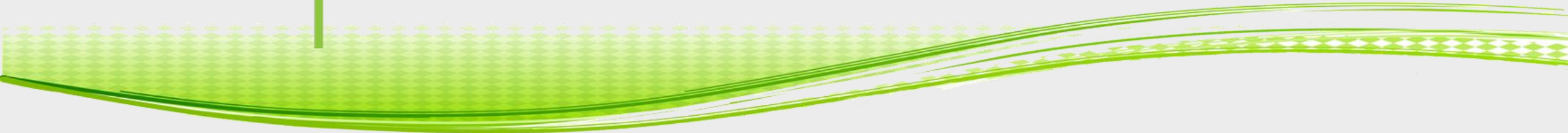
Call or write:

info@legacydeo.org

(512) 646-4909

or

(800) 880-3733



**Before getting to today's topic ...
a little humor ... Bubba and his favorite mule Bessie**

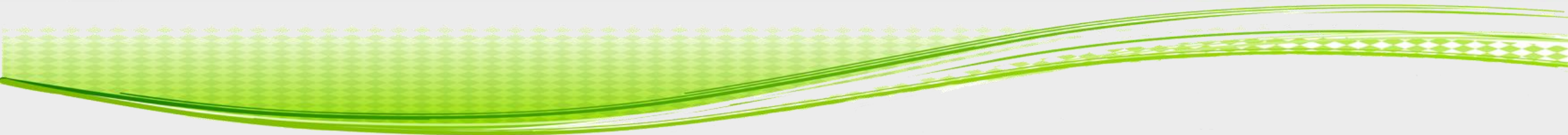


Now to today's topic ...

Being a (Lutheran) Christian in the 21st Century

Part One

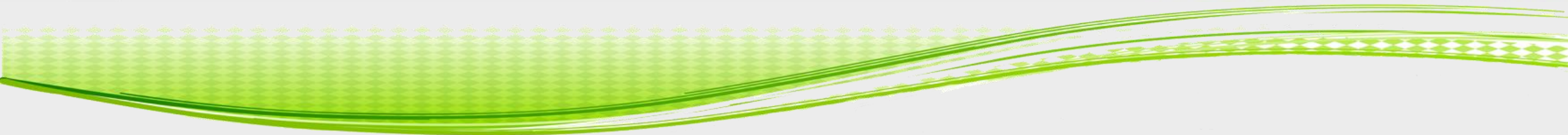
- **Christianity in the world**
- **Christianity in the United States**
- **Lutheranism in the world**
- **Lutheranism in the United States**



What's it all about?

There are 201 countries in the world's seven continents:

- Africa:54
- Antarctica:0
- Asia:48
- Australia/Oceania: ...14
- Europe:50
- North America:23
- South America:12

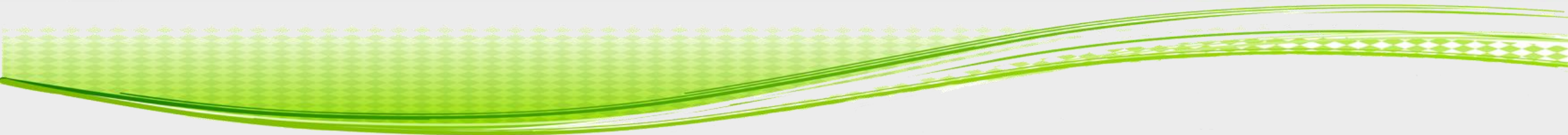


World's Largest Countries

1. China: 1,433,000,000 (plus another 300,000,000?)
 2. India: 1,366,000,000
 3. United States: 330,000,000
 4. Indonesia: 270,000,000
 5. Pakistan: 216,000,000
 6. Brazil: 211,000,000
 7. Nigeria: 200,000,000
 8. Bangladesh: 163,000,000
 9. Russia: 145,000,000
 10. Mexico and Japan: 127,000,000 each
- 

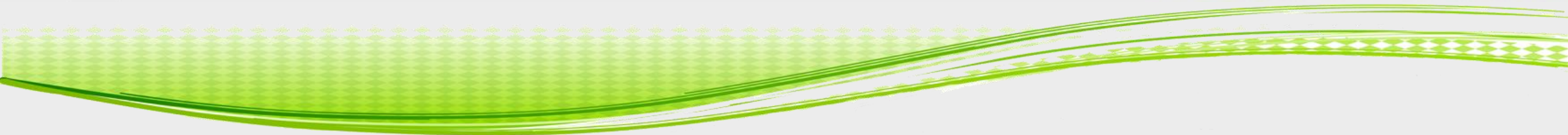
Realities and questions ...

- Realities:
 - America is a small but significant player
 - Christians are a minority but significant group
- Pertinent questions to consider:
 - Why are we Christians here on earth?
 - Why do we do what we do?
 - How do we keep the main thing the main thing?
 - Will what we're doing now make an eternal difference?



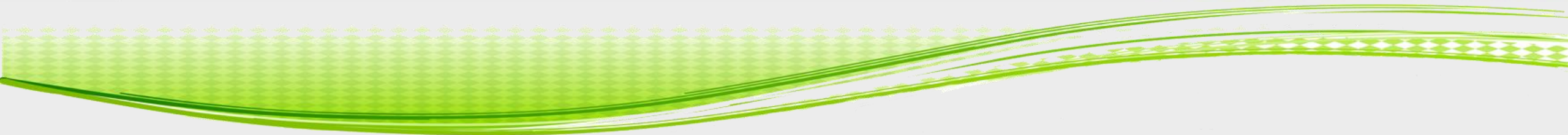
World births

- World population: ~7,735,000,000
- World births:
 - 270 per minute!
 - 16,200 per hour!
 - 388,000 per day!
 - 141,912,000 per year!



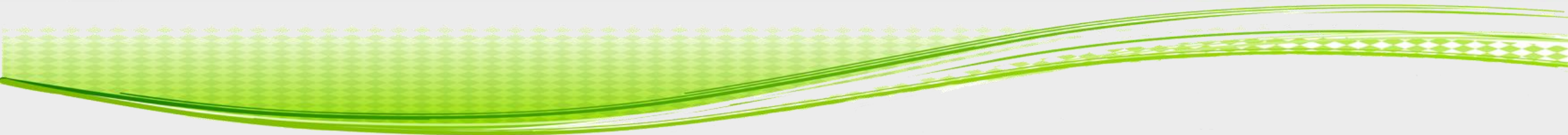
World deaths

- World population: ~7,735,000,000
- World deaths:
 - 115 per minute!
 - 6,900 per hour!
 - 165,600 per day!
 - 60,444,000 per year!



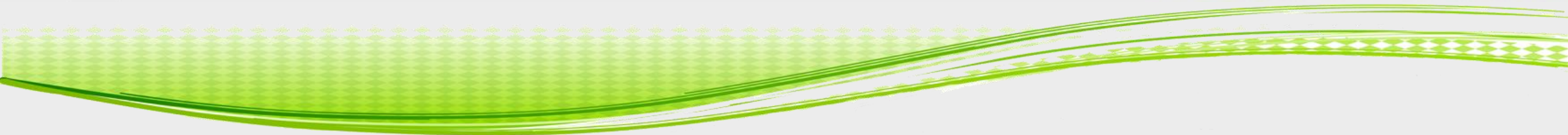
World population net growth

- World population: ~7,735,000,000
- World population net growth:
 - 155 every minute
 - 9300 every hour
 - 222,400 every day
 - 81,468,000 every year



Here's a fascinating look at world population:

- ✓ Note the population explosion at the bottom of the graph
- ✓ Note the race between India and China toward the end
- ✓ Note the disappearance and reappearance of the U.S.
- ✓ Note the predominance of Asian population
- ✓ Ponder how the statistics were determined
- ✓ BCE = Before Common Era (aka BC)
- ✓ CE = Common Era (aka AD)
- ✓ Watch quickly!

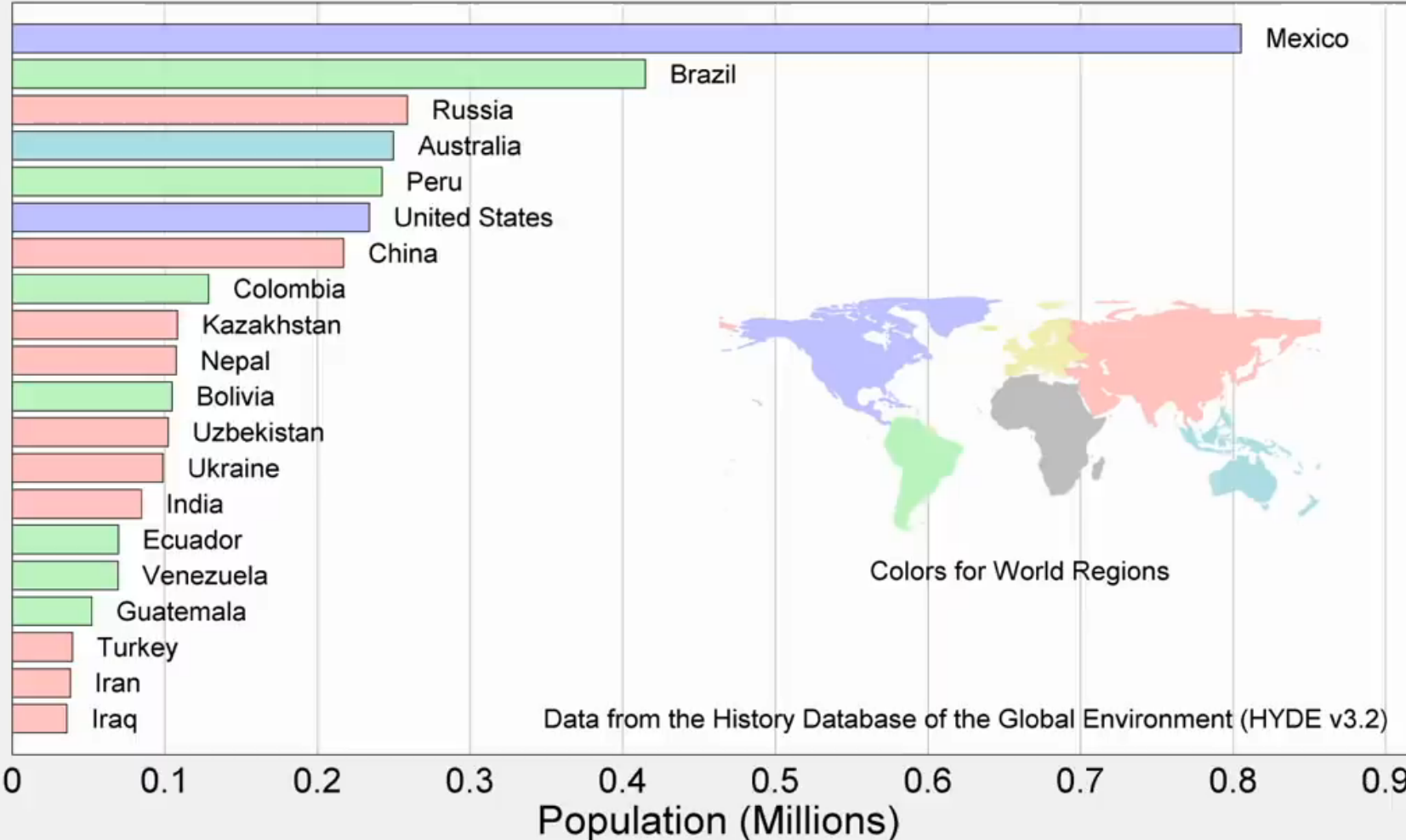


World population through the ages

Population through the Ages

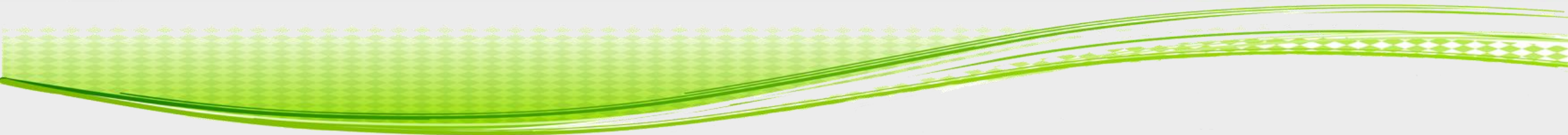
Relative to Modern-Day National Boundaries

10000 BCE



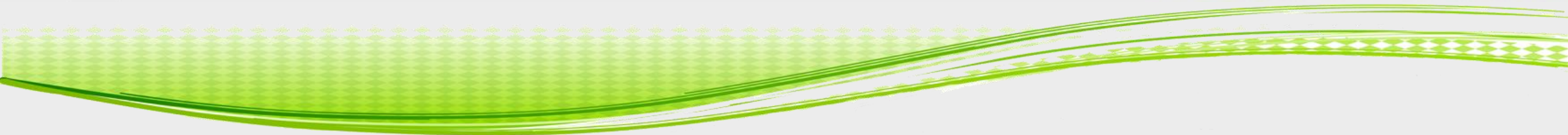
U.S. Population Growth

- Population: ~330,000,000
- One birth every 8 seconds
- One death every 12 seconds
- One international immigrant every 33 seconds
- Net gain:
 - One person every 13 seconds
 - 60 people every hour
 - 1,440 every day
 - 525,600 every year



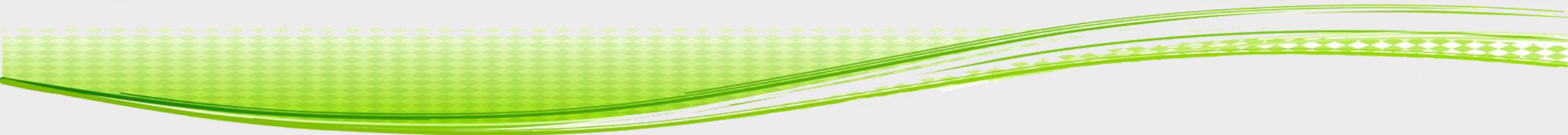
Religions in the world

- Christians:2.4 billion (2,400,000,000) – 32%
- Muslims:1.8 billion (1,800,000,000) – 24%
- Unaffiliated:1.2 billion (1,200,000,000) – 16%
- Hindus:1.1 billion (1,100,000,000) – 15%
- Buddhists:0.5 billion (500,000,000) – 7%
- Folk religion:0.4 billion (400,000,000) – 6%
- Other religions:0.1 billion (100,000,000) – 1%
- Jews:0.014 billion (14,000,000) – 0.2%



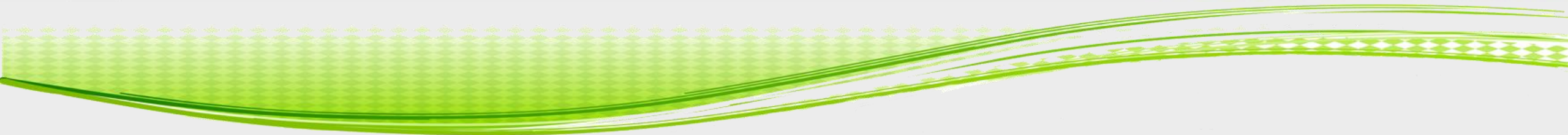
Christianity in the World

- World population: 7,735,000,000
- Christians:~ 32% of world population: 2,400,000,000
 - Roman Catholics: ~ 16% of world population: 1,200,000,000
 - Protestants:~ 16% of world population: 1,200,000,000
 - Lutherans: ~ 80 million
 - ~ 3.3% of world's Christians
 - ~ 1.1% of world's population

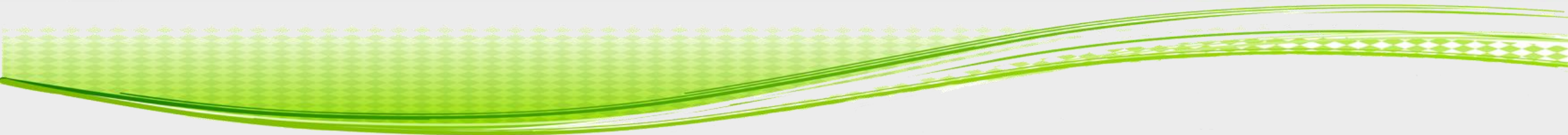


Christianity by World Regions

- Europe:~ 565,500,000
- Latin America:~ 531,000,000
- Africa:~ 526,000,000
- Asia:~ 375,000,000
- North America:~ 267,000,000
- Australia/Oceania:~ 25,750,000
- Middle East:~ 16,000,000

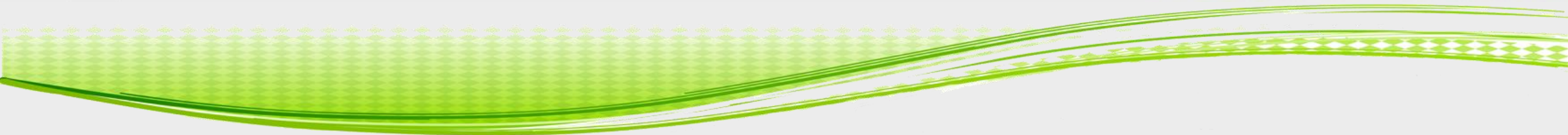


Lutheran Christians



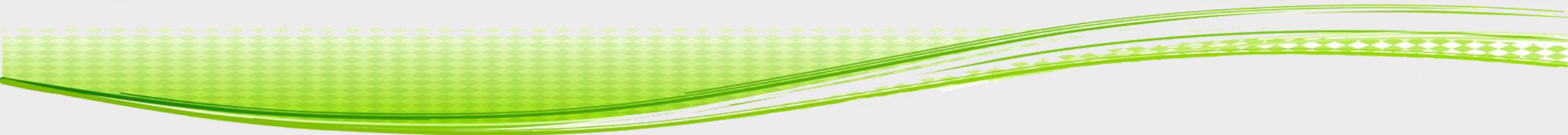
Lutherans in the World

- More than 160 different Lutheran groups/church bodies with 80 million members:
 - Europe:~ 35 million
 - Africa:~ 24 million
 - Asia:~ 12 million
 - North America:~ 7 million
 - Latin America:~ 1 million
 - Australia/Oceania:~ 50,000



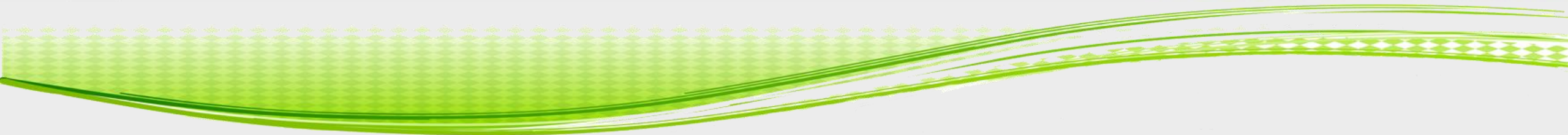
Lutherans in North America

- North America: 40 different Lutheran groups and church bodies with ~ 6,000,000 members:
 - ELCA:3,300,000 members?
 - LCMS:1,900,000 members?
 - WELS:360,000 members
 - LCMC:300,000 members*
 - NALC:142,000 members
 - LCC:56,000 members
 - ELS:19,000 members
- 38 now defunct Lutheran groups have come and gone



LCMS in the World

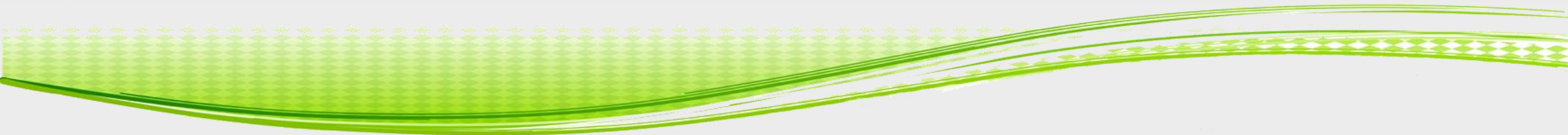
- Approximately 2.4% of the world's 80 million Lutherans
- Approximately 0.1% (1/10th of one percent) of the world's 2.4 billion Christians
- Less than 0.03% (3/100th of one percent) of the world's 7.7 billion people
- Essentially, when the LCMS speaks, not many people are listening or even know we exist!
- The Pope and I ...



Who are these Lutherans?

Numerous studies of Lutheran churches and people

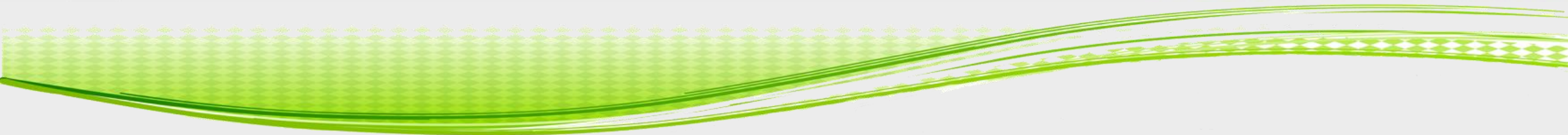
- **Pew Research**
- **The Barna Group**



Archival Data Research: Demographics

Findings

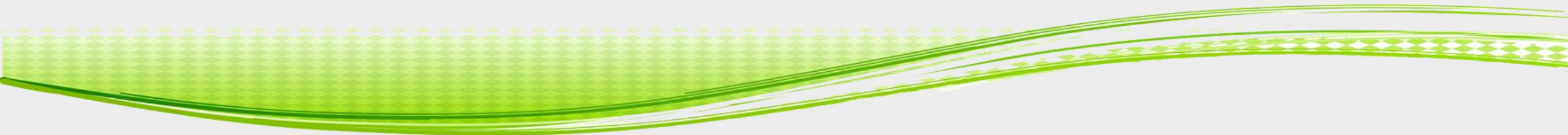
- ◆ More Lutherans in Midwest than other regions.
- ◆ Lutheran denomination has very few non-whites.
- ◆ Two-thirds of Lutherans are married.
- ◆ Slightly more than one-fifth have been divorced.
- ◆ Two of five Lutheran attenders are parents.



Archival Data Research: Demographics

Findings

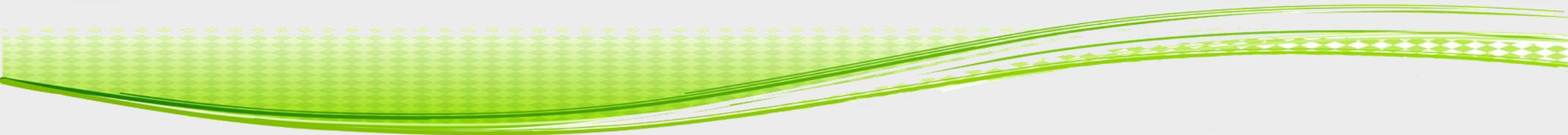
- ◆ Lutherans slightly younger than mainline attenders.
- ◆ Lutherans have a higher median income than others.
- ◆ More Lutherans have a college degree than others.
- ◆ Three of five Lutherans are female.



Archival Data Research

Theolographics

George Barna's description of "the faith variables of belief, activity, affiliation, and identity."

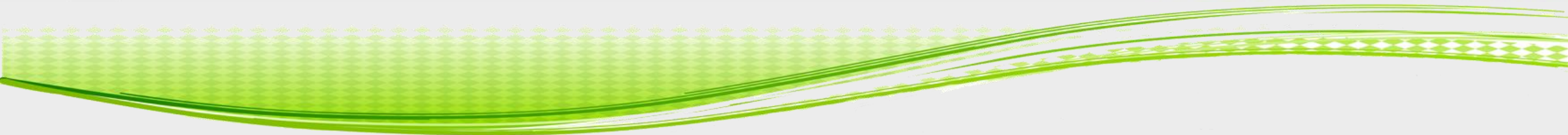


Archival Data Research Theolographics

Findings

One of sixteen Lutherans is an evangelical Christian:

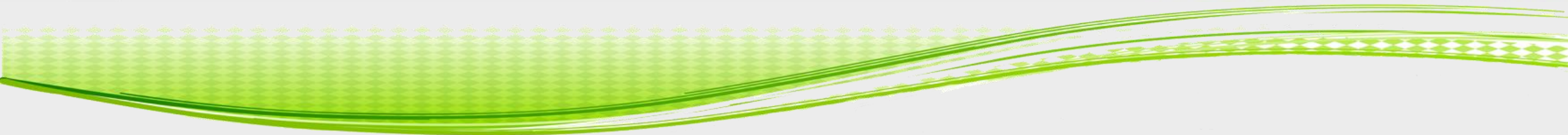
- ✓ *“Born Again”*
- ✓ *Believes that the Bible is without error*
- ✓ *Believes in God as described in Bible*
- ✓ *Believes in Satan as real being*
- ✓ *Believes in salvation by grace alone*
- ✓ *Accepts personal responsibility to share the Gospel*
- ✓ *Says faith is very important to daily living*



Archival Data Research Theolographics

Findings

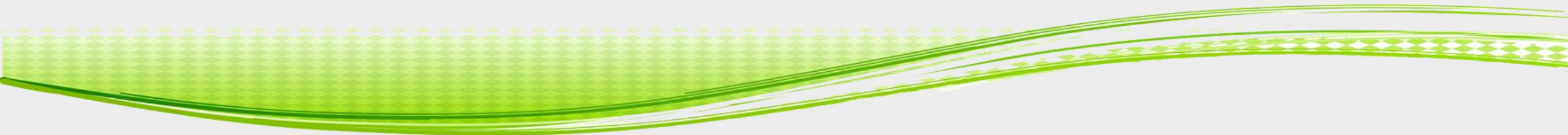
- ✓ *83% of Lutherans pray to God*
- ✓ *47% of Lutherans attend church*
- ✓ *34% of Lutherans read the Bible*
- ✓ *28% of Lutherans volunteer at church*
- ✓ *16% of Lutherans attend a small group*
- ✓ *15% of Lutherans attend Sunday School*



Archival Data Research

Insight

Lutherans tend to be less involved in those activities that bolster life-transforming faith.

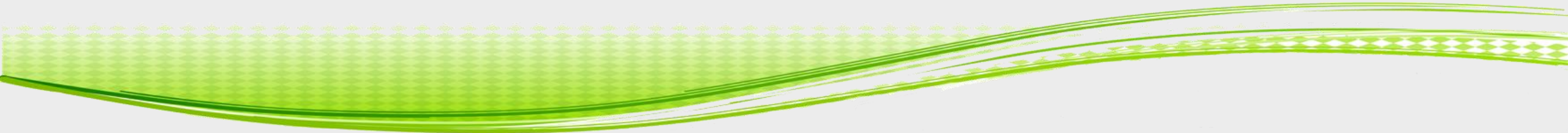


The Lutheran Church: National Imaging and Positioning Research A National Survey of U.S Adults

Commissioned by Aid Association for Lutherans

Conducted by Barna Research Group, Ltd.

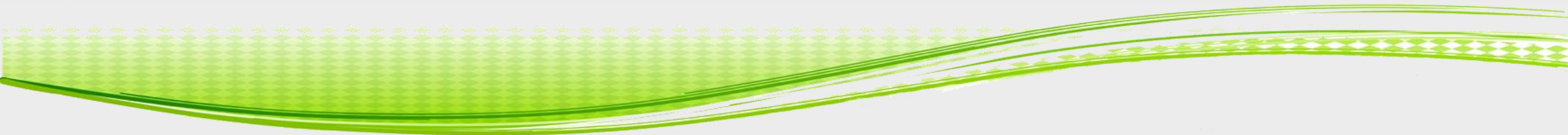
August 2000



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Purpose:

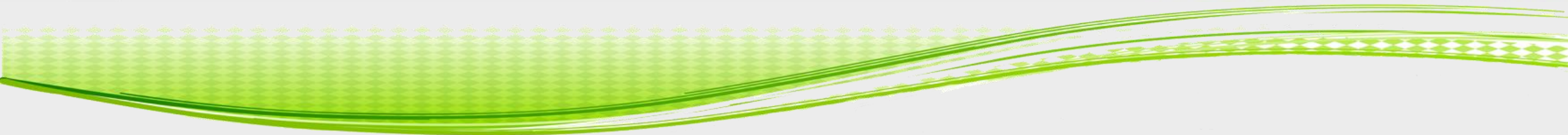
To determine how the U.S. public perceives
Lutherans



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Methodology

- ✓ Barna quarterly *OmniPoll*TM tracking study
- ✓ Nationwide sample of 1,012 U.S. adults
- ✓ 95% confidence level; $\pm$ 3 percentage points

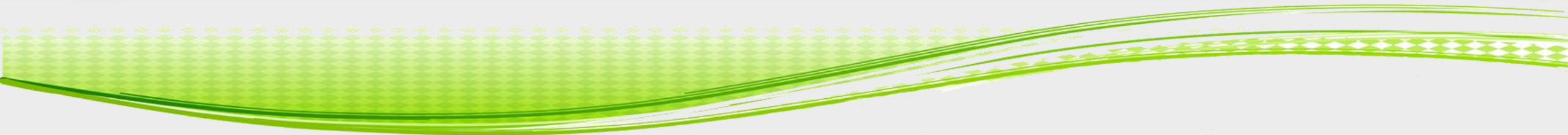


National Imaging and Positioning Research

Awareness

Q: Do people know there is a Lutheran church?

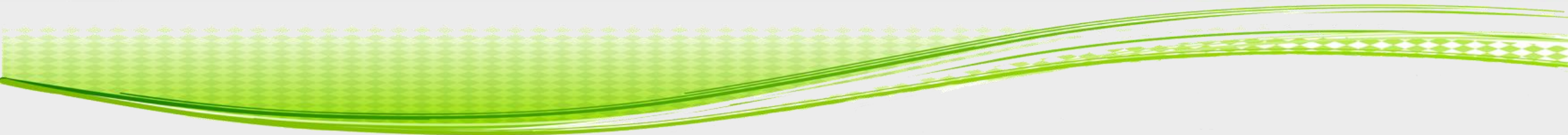
A: 85% of U.S. adults have heard of the Lutheran denomination.



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Key Learning

*30.8 million U.S. adults claim no awareness
of the Lutheran Church.*

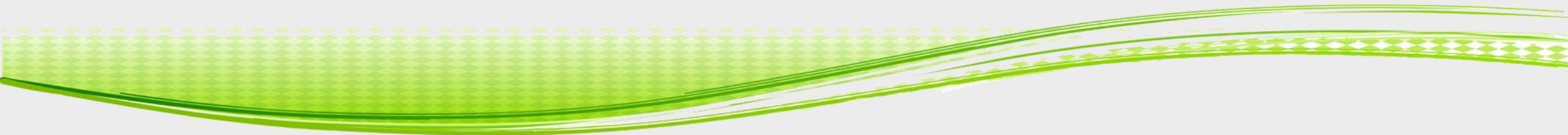


National Imaging and Positioning Research

Favorability

Q: Do people view the Lutheran church positively?

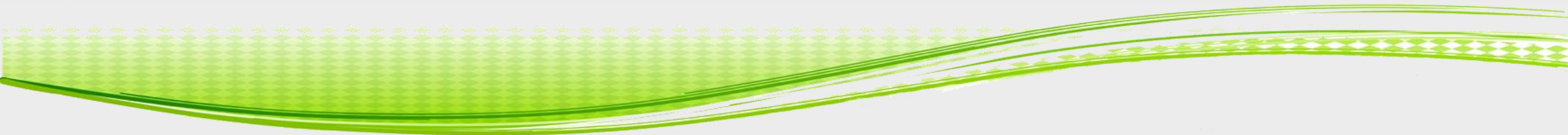
A: When asked to describe their perceptions of Lutheran churches, three of five people had no impression or image whatsoever.



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Key Learning

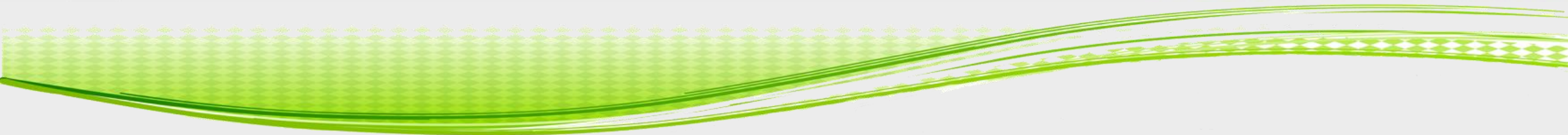
*The image of the Lutheran church is
undefined and unimportant
for most Americans.*



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Denominational comparison

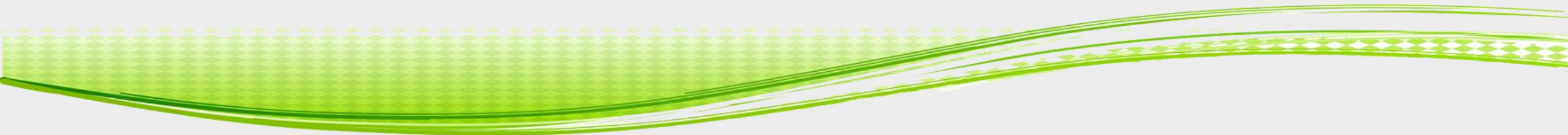
How do people view the Lutheran Church in comparison with other Christian churches and denominations?



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Denominational Comparison

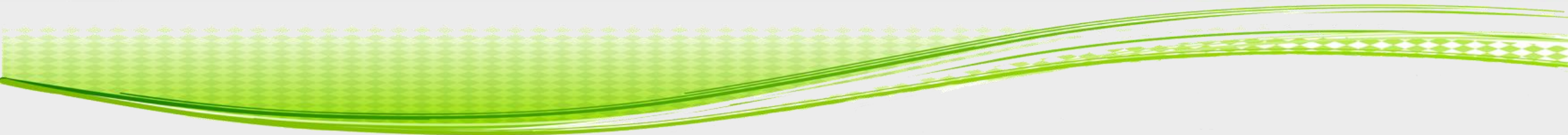
- ❖ *27% of U.S. adults feel there is an identifiable difference between Lutheran churches and other Christian churches.*



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Key Learning

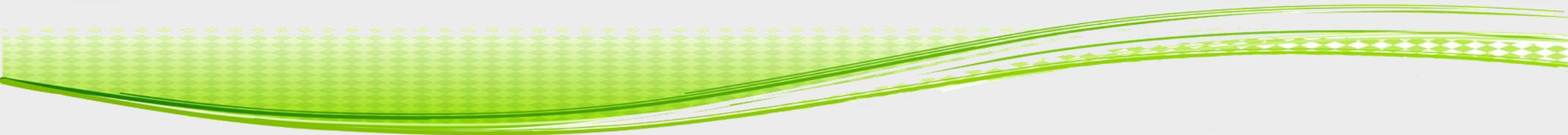
*A substantial majority of U.S. adults
do not differentiate between Lutheran churches
and other Christian churches.*



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Attractiveness

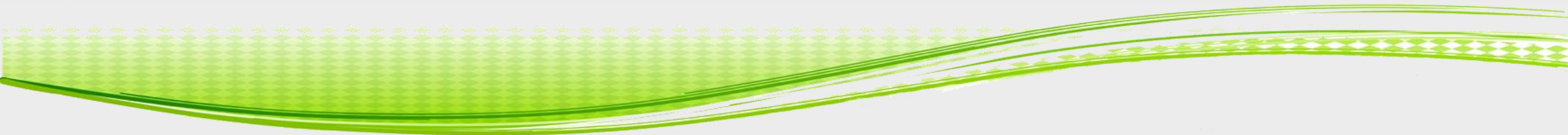
How likely is it that a person would visit a Lutheran church when looking for a church to attend?



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Attractiveness

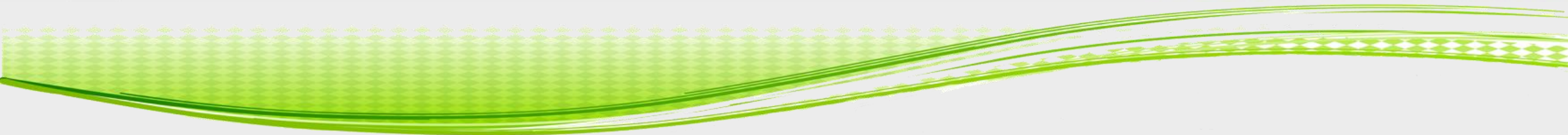
- ❖ *33% of U.S. adults would definitely not visit a Lutheran church.*



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Attractiveness

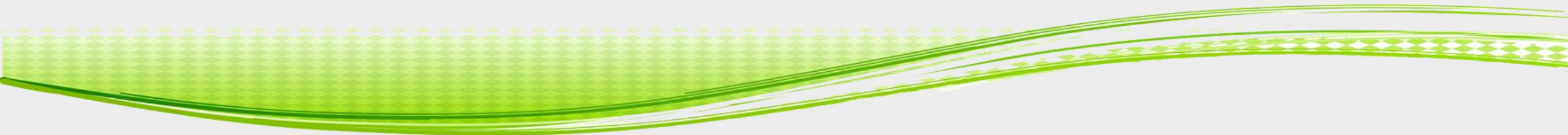
- ❖ *6% of U.S. adults would only visit Lutheran churches.*



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Attractiveness

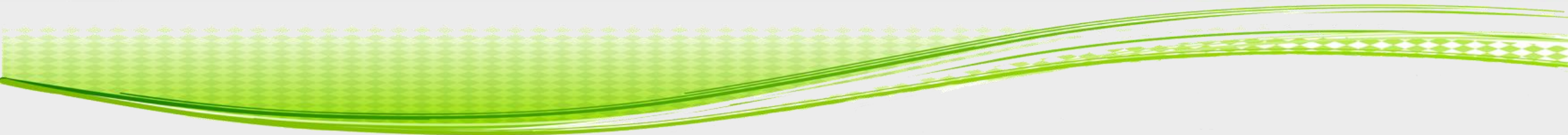
- ❖ *For 17% of U.S. adults, denomination doesn't make much difference.*



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Attractiveness

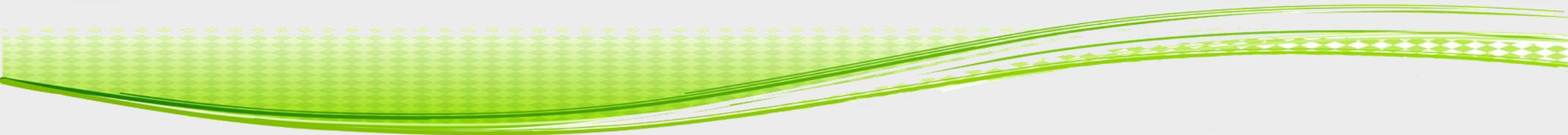
- ❖ *38% of U.S. adults would probably not visit a Lutheran church.*



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Key Learning

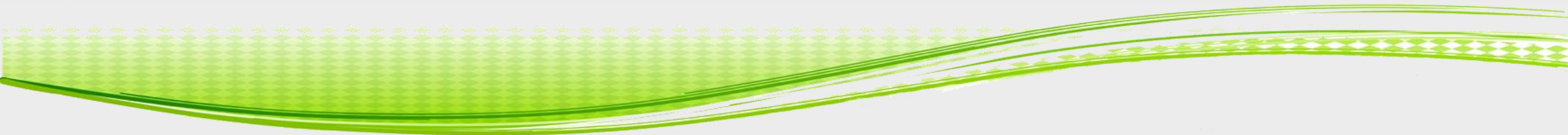
Two-thirds of U.S. adults are not wholly closed to the idea of attending a Lutheran church.



National Imaging and Positioning Research

Insight

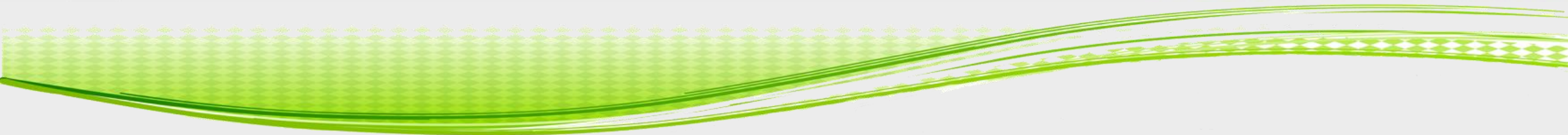
The Lutheran denomination has no meaningful presence in the minds of most Americans.



AAL/Barna Research

Overall Inference

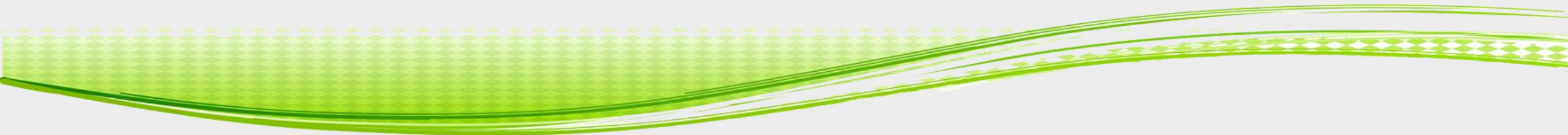
*Like other churches, Lutheranism
has a relevance problem in
penetrating post-modern American
culture.*



AAL/Barna Research

Overall Inference

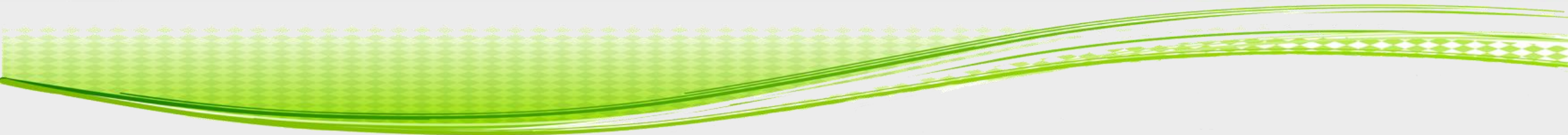
The Lutheran denomination can grow ... if a sufficient number of local congregations have the will to embrace change.



Some might say:

“When you discover you are on a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount.”

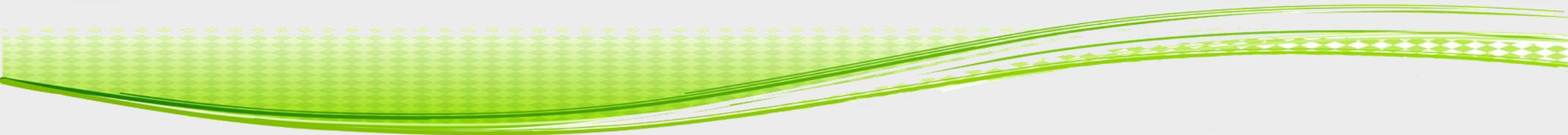
-- Dakota Indian Wisdom



Others might say:

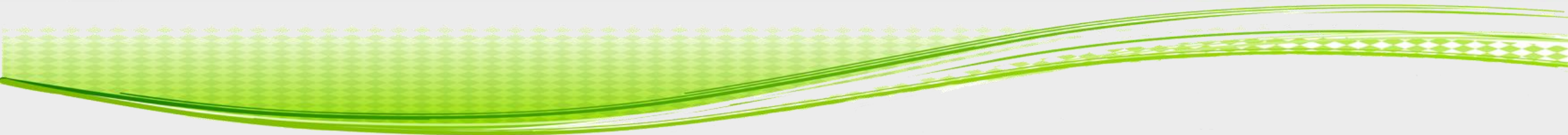
*“Perhaps the horse only appears to be
dead but actually is just sleeping
soundly and needs to be awakened ...
and given new shoes!”*

-- JK's Prognostication



A question to ponder

*What do these statistics and insights say to you
about your local congregation and about our
national church body?*

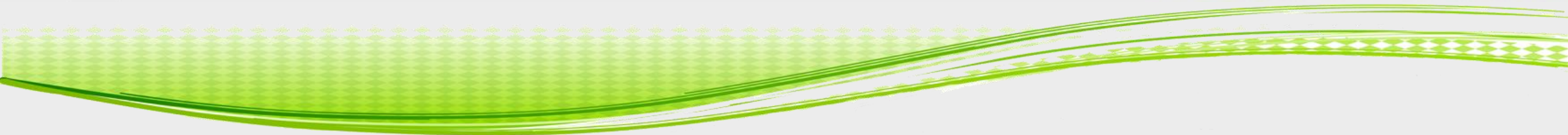


Today's topic after lunch...

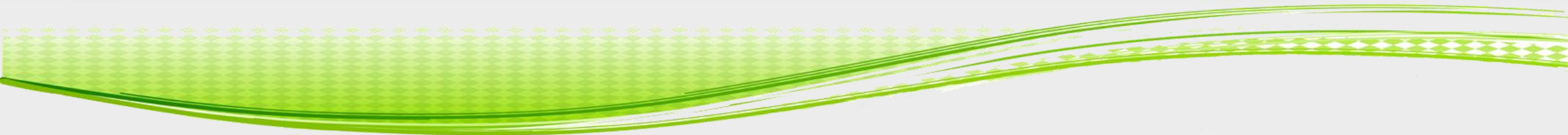
Being a (Lutheran) Christian in the 21st Century

Part Two

- **Identity**
- **Culture**
- **Perceptions**
- **Challenges**
- **Opportunities**
- **God's promises**



Break Time



**Before getting back to today's topic ...
a little humor ... “Talking dog for sale!”**

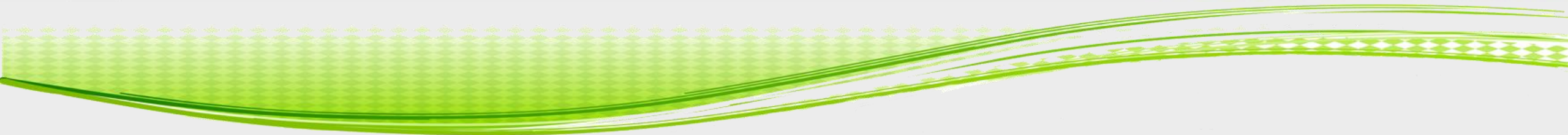


Continuing with today's topic ...

Being a (Lutheran) Christian in the 21st Century

Part Two

- **Identity**
- **Culture**
- **Perceptions**
- **Challenges**
- **Opportunities**
- **God's promises**



Identity of the Lutheran Church in North American Culture

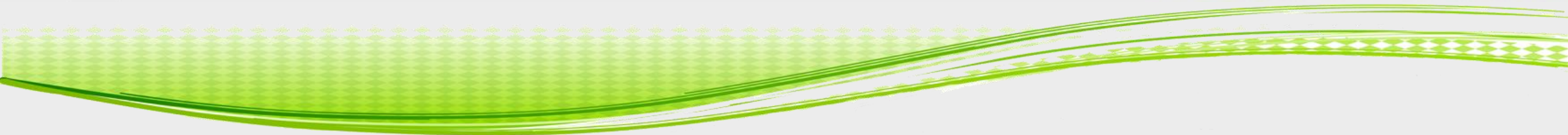
19-20th
Centuries:

An Orthodox,
Evangelical,
Confessional, Christian,
Lutheran Church in a
Heterodox Christian
Culture

21st Century:
An Orthodox,
Evangelical,
Confessional,
Christian,
Lutheran Church
Passionately
Engaging with the
Gospel a Culture
Indifferent/ Hostile to
Christianity

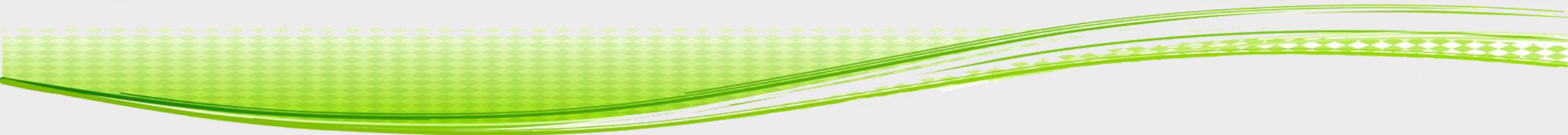
What comprises this culture that's indifferent/hostile to Christianity?

- *Different attitudes toward and perceptions of the church*
- *Different generations with differing perspectives on life*
 - *Different communication vehicles and practices*
 - *Differing ideas about sexuality and marriage*
 - *Economic needs, realities, and disparities*



Different generations with differing perspectives on life

- **Lost Generation:**Born 1890 – 1913
- **Greatest Generation:**Born 1914 – 1924
- **Silent Generation:**Born 1925 – 1945
- **Baby Boomers:**Born 1946 – 1964
- **Baby Busters/Gen X:**Born 1965 – 1983
- **Millennials/ Gen Y:**Born 1984 – 2002
- **Centennials/Gen Z:**Born 2003 – 2018

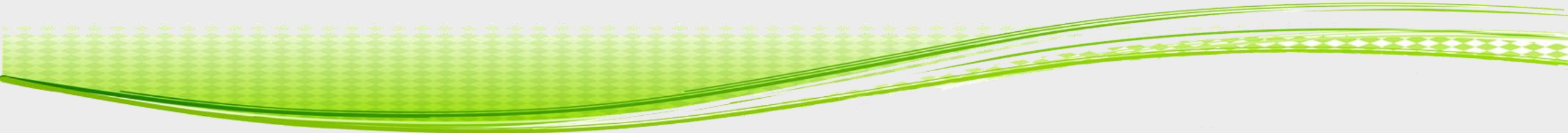


Different communication methods and practices

That was then ...

- Face to face visitation
- Long distance phone calls charged by the minute
- Letters sent via U.S. Mail
- Personal conversations
- Newspapers
- Telegrams
- Email

This is now ...

- Electronic communication
 - Smart phones with unlimited talk, text, data
 - Emails sent on computers
 - Facebook
 - Chrome/Instagram/Snapchat
 - Linked In
 - Texting/Twitter
- 

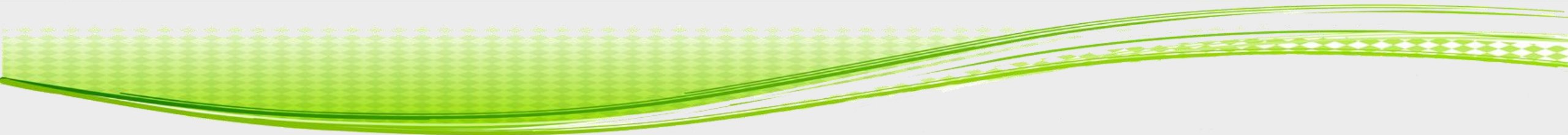
Different ideas about sexuality and marriage

That was then ...

- Marriage was the norm
- One man, one woman
- Premarital sex was secretive
- Being openly gay was rare
- Pregnancy out of wedlock was secret and shameful
- Abortion was illegal and considered immoral

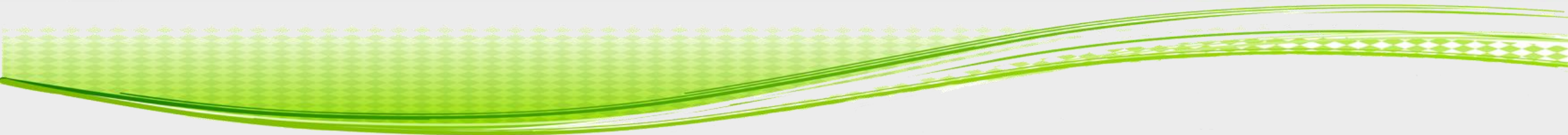
This is now ...

- Cohabitation before marriage
- Same gender marriage legal
- Open premarital sex/cohabitation
- Homosexuality is quite public
- Premarital pregnancy is common and largely accepted by public
- Abortion is legal – still immoral but supported by many



Different attitudes and perceptions of the church

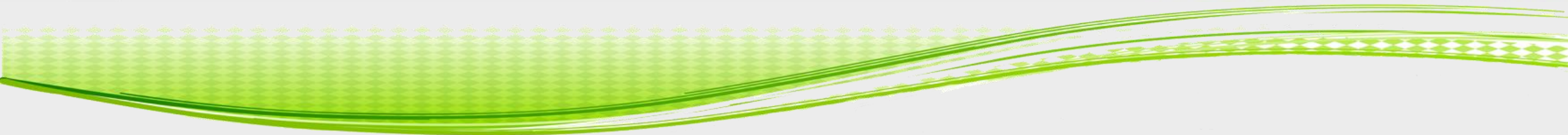
“unChristian” by David Kinnaman – Barna Group - 2007



Different attitudes and perceptions of the church

1. The church is hypocritical.

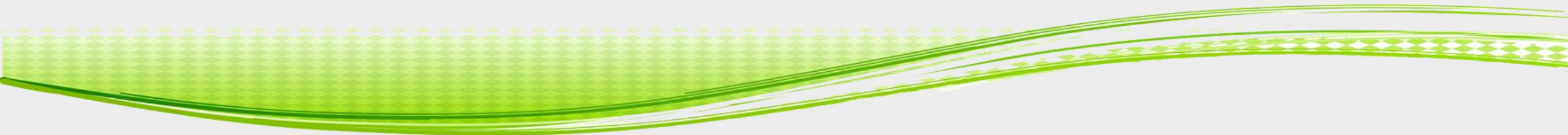
Perception: The lives of Christian people don't match their beliefs. In many ways, their lifestyles and perspectives are no different from those of anyone around them. Christians say one thing and do another.



Different attitudes and perceptions of the church

2. The church is too focused on getting converts.

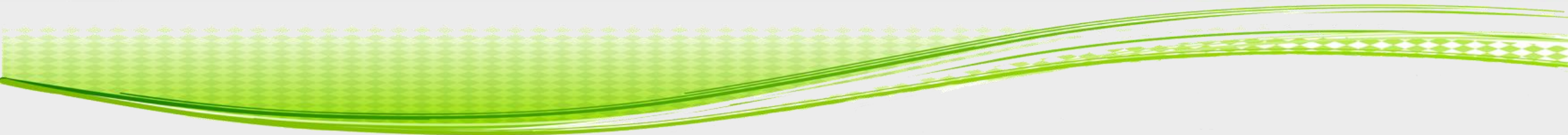
Perception: Outsiders wonder if we genuinely care about them as individuals and not just “cheeks in the seats” that represent increased numbers and nickels.



Different attitudes and perceptions of the church

3. The church is anti-homosexual

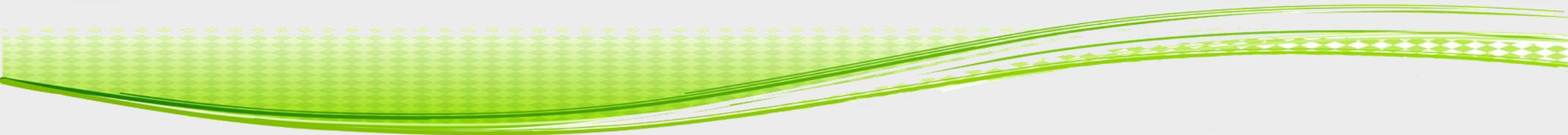
Perception: Christians are bigoted and show disdain or contempt for gays and lesbians. Christians sometimes emphasize this sin above others and end up being far less loving to homosexual people than the faith really demands.



Different attitudes and perceptions of the church

4. The church is sheltered from reality

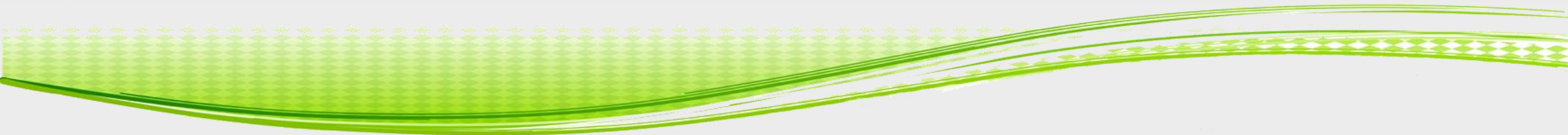
Perception: Christians are thought of as old-fashioned, boring, and out of touch with reality.



Different attitudes and perceptions of the church

5. The church is too political

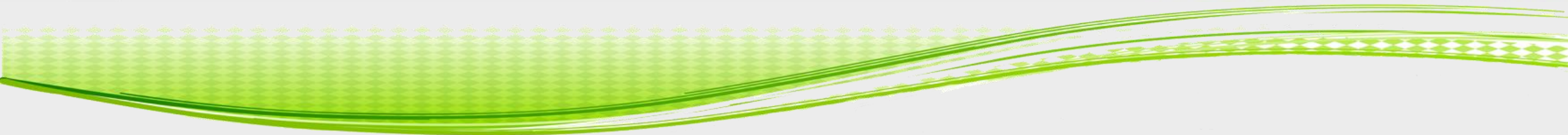
Perception: Christians are overly motivated by a political agenda, representing politically conservative interests and issues. The church's gospel ends up being diluted by its political concerns.



Different attitudes and perceptions of the church

6. The church is too judgmental

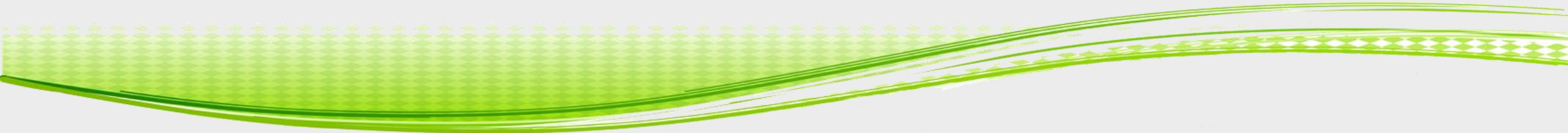
Perception: Outsiders think of Christians as quick to judge others. They doubt that we really love people as we say we do.



Challenges facing 21st century world

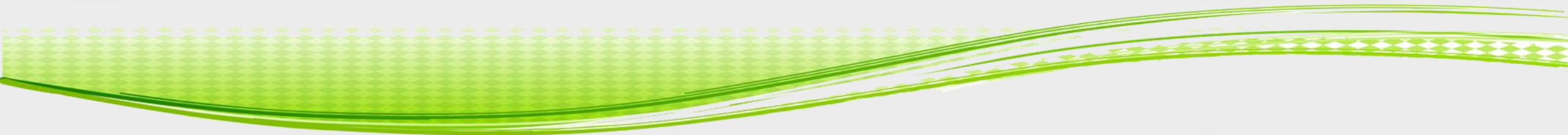
- 1. Land use to accommodate exploding populations*
 - 2. The future of nuclear energy*
 - 3. The chasm between rich and poor*
 - 4. Genetic modification of humans*
 - 5. A more aged population than ever before*
 - 6. Potentially lost cities*
 - 7. Evolution of social media*
 - 8. New geopolitical tensions*
 - 9. Safe car travel*
 - 10. Settling other worlds*
 - 11. Boosted brainpower*
 - 12. Artificial intelligence's dominance in our lives*
- 

Challenges facing 21st century Americans

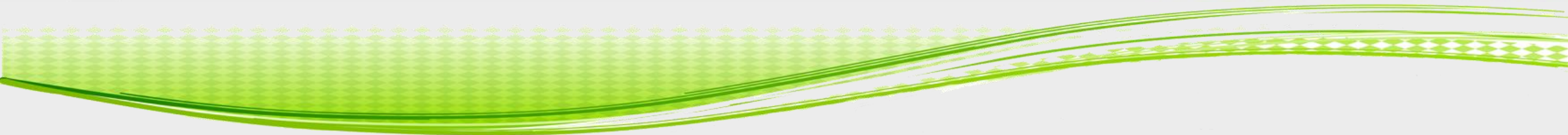
- 1. Another housing crisis?*
 - 2. Gender identification issues*
 - 3. The decline of privacy*
 - 4. A massive regulatory burden – “Land of the Free”?*
 - 5. Drug and alcohol addiction*
 - 6. National political battles*
 - 7. Unfunded liabilities – SS, Medicare, national debt*
 - 8. The age of pre-emptive war*
 - 9. The collapsing dollar – 1913 \$ worth \$25.36 today*
 - 10. Terrorism and mass killings*
- 

Challenges facing a 21st century “mainline” church body

- ❖ *Waning respect for institutional church*
- ❖ *Post modern and narcissistic trends*
- ❖ *16th century teaching in 21st century*
- ❖ *Decline of denominational loyalty*
- ❖ *Fiscal viability and stewardship*
- ❖ *Shifting of church identity*
- ❖ *Competition at every turn*



**We live in a time of present uncertainty
and future fear of the unknown!**

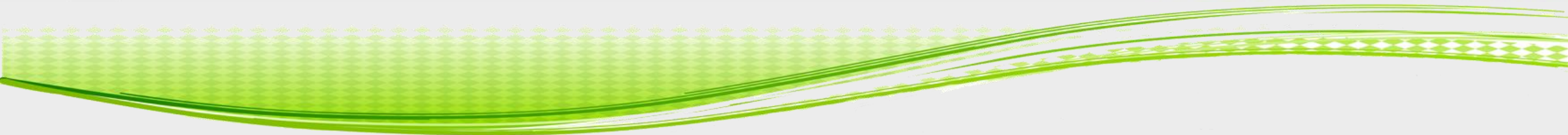


Hope for the future is in Christ our Lord

Do not worry about your life ... saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

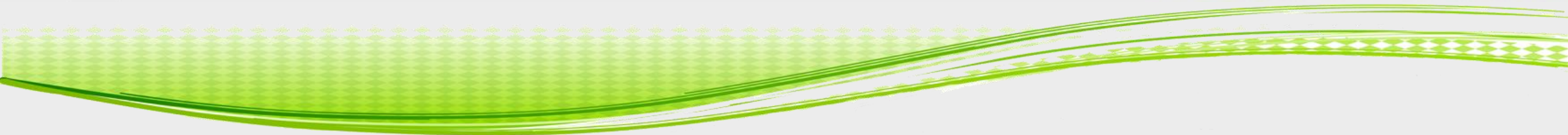
For the pagans pursue all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be yours as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own."

-- Jesus (Matt. 6:25, 31-34)



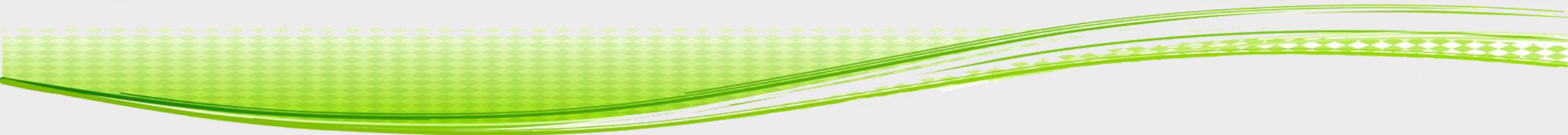
Why aren't people coming to church today?

- Poor preaching – irrelevant and non-engaging
- Ineffective worship – unprofessional leadership
- Time of worship – lack of flexibility and availability
- Increasing competition – not the only game in town
- Song and hymn selection – hard or impossible to sing
- Irrelevance of message – little connection to daily living
- Sense of exclusiveness – communion, clergy, church relations



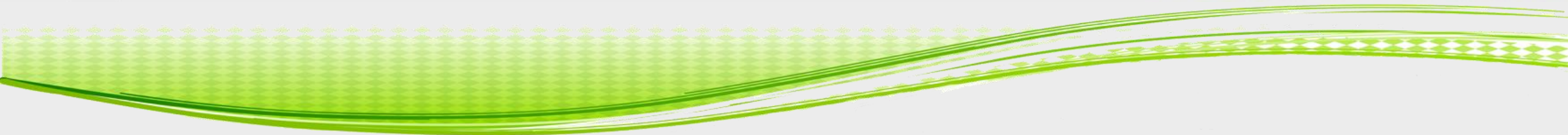
Christianity without going to church?

- **Worship online**
- **Personal Bible reading**
- **Intentional Christian witness**
- **Personal devotions and prayer**
- **Watch televised worship services**
- **Participate in a small group Bible study**
- **“Make music to the Lord in your heart.” Eph. 5:19**
- **“Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs!” Col. 3:16**



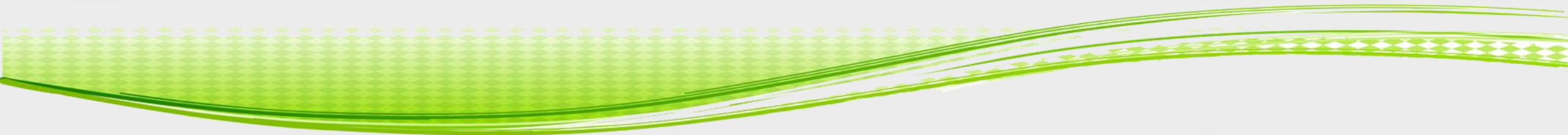
Why are people coming to church today?

- Spiritual hunger and thirst are met
- Focus on and reminder of things eternal
- God's presence is discernable and palpable
- Genuine relationships are fostered and nurtured
- Sermons touch the heart and speak to real needs
- Opportunities for meaningful involvement are offered
- Worship stirs the soul and invites heartfelt participation



“If a man can write a better book, build a better mousetrap, or preach a better sermon, though he build his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his doorstep!”

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

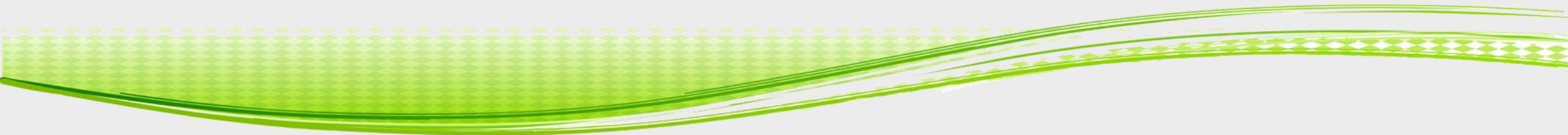


“On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.”

-- Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:18)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

-- Jesus Christ (John 14:6)

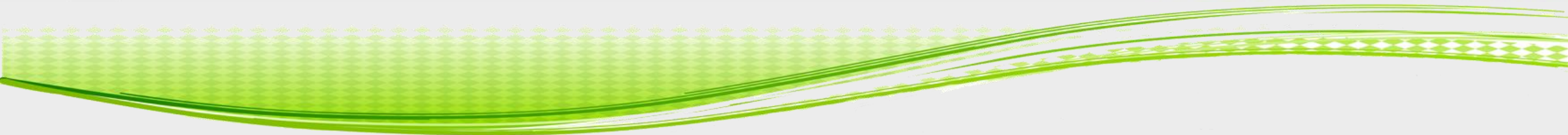


“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

-- St. Paul (Eph. 2:8-9)

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer...Be faithful even unto death and I will give you the crown of life”

-- Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 2:10)



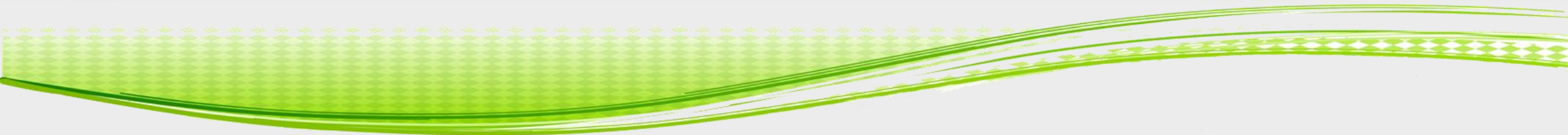
Concluding story ... a boy named Ben ...

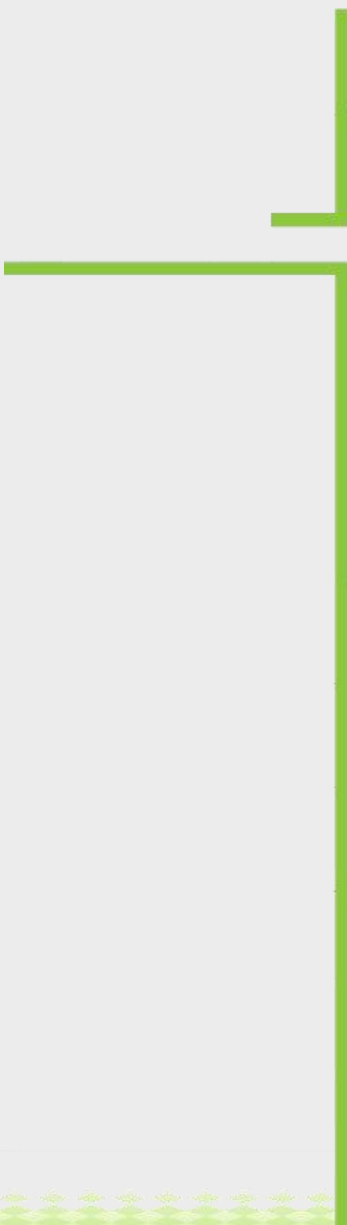
How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

-- 1 John 3:1

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

-- Rom. 14:8





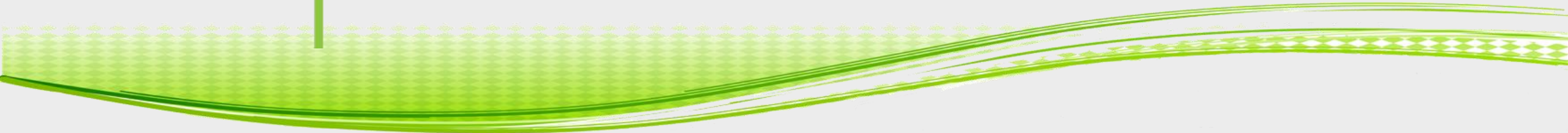
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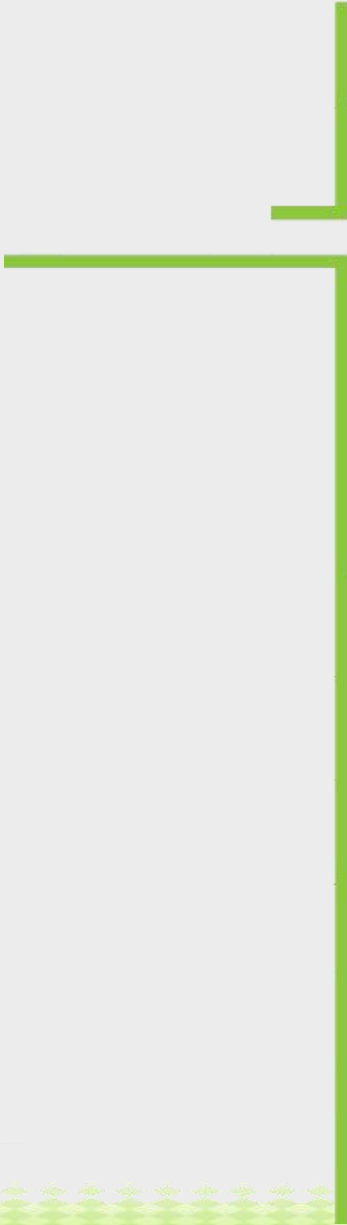
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