

# Interim Ministry Resources

## Chapter 3 Worship

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## Reflections and Resources

### 1) "Why do we do what we do? Is God at the center?"

I went to a workshop on Student Panel: Reflections by Pastoral Interns on "Religious but Not Spiritual" convened by Kathryn Ostlie Olson at the **2015 Mid-Winter Convocation - Luther Seminary**. One of the students related how she grew up in a congregation with a praise band, screen, and projection, and then did her internship in a congregation steeped in the ancient western rites:

#### Mount Olive Lutheran Church

It's rare to find **a socially progressive church that keeps and cherishes traditional liturgy**. But that's the blend that draws worshippers from a wide area to Mount Olive's doorstep in Midtown Minneapolis.

We describe ourselves as *musical, liturgical, and welcoming*. By *musical* we mean to emphasize our reputation for congregational singing and organ playing. By *liturgical* we mean to identify ourselves with timeless rituals that are astonishingly powerful in today's world. By *welcoming* we mean to underscore our openness to all comers. We cannot imagine Christ's church as an exclusionary body. Neither can we imagine the Christian life as a solely private relationship. And so, we are compelled to serve others, near and far. In our serving, we are imperfect. We are human. We stumble. We have as many questions as answers. But we lean on God's grace and on each other. And that seems to give our parish – now entering its second century – a lasting strength.

<http://www.mountolivechurch.org/>

[Images for socially progressive church that keeps and cherishes traditional liturgy](#)

<http://www.mountolivechurch.org/worship.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/MountOliveMpls/>

The panel concluded that, no matter what style is used in services of worship, it is important to ask, "Why do we do what we do? Is God at the center?"

### 2) "Soother of anxieties" or "Caller of persons to salvation"?

A Congregation Council president stated, "I go to worship for myself. I don't go for others. I go for an hour of relief out of a busy week."

#### A Quivering Mass of Availability

Will Willimon writes in *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*

The pastor is [often] reduced to the level of the **soother of anxieties** brought on by the dilemmas of affluence, rather than the **caller of persons to salvation**. My colleague Stanley Hauerwas has accused the contemporary pastor of being little more than "a quivering mass of availability." Practicing what I call "promiscuous ministry"- ministry with no internal, critical judgment about what care is worth giving- we become victims of a culture of insatiable need. We live in a capitalist, consumptive culture where there is no purpose to our society other than "meeting our needs." The culture gives us the maximum amount of room and encouragement to "meet our needs" without appearing to pass judgment on which needs are worth meeting... In this vast supermarket of desire, we pastors must do more than simply "meet people's needs." The church is also about giving people the critical means of assessing which needs give our lives meaning, about giving us needs we would not have had if we had not met Jesus.

<http://dashhouse.com/dashhouse/2006/11/2/a-quivering-mass-of-availability.html>

<http://www.amazon.com/Pastor-Theology-Practice-Ordained-Ministry/dp/0687045320>

[Images for soother of anxieties brought on by the dilemmas of affluence](#)

[Images for caller of persons to salvation](#)

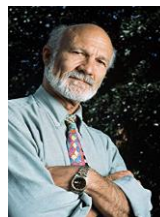
[Images for Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of Quick Fix "a quivering mass of availability"](#)



William H. Willimon - Amazon.com

<https://www.amazon.com/William-H.-Willimon/e/B001IGHNA0>

[Images for William H. Willimon](#)



Stanley Hauerwas - Amazon.com

<https://www.amazon.com/Stanley-Hauerwas/e/B000APV13K>

[Images for Stanley Hauerwas](#)

### 3) Vital signs in the body of Christ

Just as there are vital signs for the **human body**,

#### Vital signs - Wikipedia

Vital signs (also known as vitals) are a group of the four to six most important **medical signs** that indicate the status of the body's **vital** (life-sustaining) functions. These measurements are taken to help assess the general physical health of a person, give clues to possible diseases, and show progress toward recovery.<sup>[1][2]</sup> The normal ranges for a person's vital signs vary with age, weight, gender, and overall **health**.<sup>[3]</sup>

There are four primary vital signs: **body temperature**, **blood pressure**, **pulse (heart rate)**, and breathing rate (**respiratory rate**), often notated as BT, BP, HR, and RR. However, depending on the clinical setting, the vital signs may include other measurements called the "fifth vital sign" or "sixth vital sign". Vital signs are recorded using the **LOINC** internationally accepted standard coding system.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vital\\_signs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vital_signs)  
Images for Vital signs

there are vital signs in the **body of Christ** as evidenced in Acts 2:42-47 (4 Easter A).

#### Life among the Believers

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

oremus Bible Browser: Acts 2:42-47

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=294988708>

Images for Life among the Believers in Acts

Teaching  
Fellowship  
Breaking of bread  
Prayers  
Glad and generous hearts  
Added to their number

#### Resources

**Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship [Thomas G. Long - Bandy Professor of Preaching]**

Almost every congregation is experiencing tension over worship. Many congregations have been participating in a renaissance of worship known as the "liturgical movement" and have reclaimed worship forms that have served the church for centuries. Yet because the church today is operating in a radically changed cultural environment, many people in our society do not understand liturgical worship and thus we must find language, music, themes, and images that speak to the unchurched, spiritually seeking person. In *Beyond the Worship Wars*, Thomas G. Long discusses the **nine characteristics of vital and faithful worship practiced by a wide range of "third-way" congregations—all characteristics that make for vital and faithful worship.**

<http://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Worship-Wars-Building-Faithful/dp/1566992400>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/65308.Beyond\\_the\\_Worship\\_Wars](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/65308.Beyond_the_Worship_Wars)

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/beyond-the-worship-wars-thomas-g-long/1112695747>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566992404/Beyond-the-Worship-Wars-Building-Vital-and-Faithful-Worship>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9781566992404/beyond-the-worship-wars/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566994764>

<http://www.reformedworship.org/article/december-2003/book-beyond-worship-wars-building-vital-and-faithful-worship>

<http://www.pres-outlook.com/reviews3/book-reviews3/1307-beyond-the-worship-wars-building-vital-and-faithful-worship.html>

<https://alban.org/archive/changing-styles-of-worship/>

[http://day1.org/196-the\\_rev\\_dr\\_thomas\\_g\\_long](http://day1.org/196-the_rev_dr_thomas_g_long)

[https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2-long\\_tom](https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2-long_tom)

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/thomas-g-long>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/thomas-g-long-phd>

<https://candler.emory.edu/faculty/profiles/long-thomas.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_G.\\_Long](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_G._Long)

<https://www.amazon.com/Thomas-G.-Long/e/B001ILKH9E>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/36873.Thomas\\_G\\_Long](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/36873.Thomas_G_Long)

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/36873.Thomas\\_G\\_Long](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/36873.Thomas_G_Long)

Images for Thomas G. Long, author

Images for *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship* [Thomas G. Long - Bandy Professor of Preaching]

**Characteristics of a Healthy Church (Acts 2:41-47) | Bible.org**

The **four activities of the earliest church** are introduced to us as priorities of the church. These are the four things to which these saints devoted themselves.

<https://bible.org/seriespage/characteristics-healthy-church-acts-241-47>

Images for *Characteristics of a Healthy Church (Acts 2:41-47) | Bible.org*

## Signs of Faithful Discipleship

The common theme among the texts for this Sunday is "Signs of Faithful Discipleship." Keep that larger theme in mind as you design the worship space for today, asking yourself (and others in your congregation and community) where you see such signs in your midst today -- or perhaps opportunities you may have, but have not yet taken, to display such signs.

Acts 2 is the finale of the Pentecost sermon. One might note that the finale of the sermon itself was last week. But the real "end," the real point of a sermon is not its words, but how people live in response to them. Today we see multiple signs of a vital response to this sermon. These were not signs of vital congregations (at this point, there were zero congregations!) but rather signs of the Holy Spirit at work among believers, transforming their lives in every way imaginable.

### Fourth Sunday of Easter - Lectionary Planning Helps for Sundays

<http://www.qbod.org/lead-your-church/lectionary-planning-helps/fourth-sunday-of-easter5>

Images for Signs of Faithful Discipleship

## THE VITAL SIGNS OF A LIVING CHURCH - TRUTH ENCOUNTER

If we want to be authentic community, we must look at the early Church as a model and glean from them life giving and guiding principles. The first vital sign in the early church was that the early Church was a learning Church. Next week we will discover another Sign of the Living Church.

### TRUTH ENCOUNTER: Rev. Francis Balla: THE VITAL SIGNS OF A LIVING CHURCH

<http://francissermon.blogspot.com/2009/09/vital-signs-of-living-church-i.html>

<http://francissermon.blogspot.com/2009/09/vital-signs-of-living-church-ii.html>

Images for VITAL SIGNS OF A LIVING CHURCH

### Vital Signs: A Pathway to Congregational Wholeness Perfect by Dan R. Dick (Author)

Like many mainline denominations, The United Methodist Church is ailing. Declining membership, worship and Sunday school attendance, outreach and giving - all troubling signs. In an age of megachurches, "Ten Steps to ..." congregational self-help programs point to models that might not be in the church's best interest. Following the suggestions of this new conventional wisdom may reverse the trends and attract thousands to highly entertaining services (bolstered by a strong budget and marketing plan) led by a charismatic pastor, but is that the true picture of a vital church? Could it be that our measure of success is wrong? Could it be we're diluting the real mission of the church? Advocating Christianity "Lite?" For more than six years, Dick has visited, studied, surveyed, consulted with and analyzed 700+ congregations across North America to better understand effective structures, processes, leadership and systems for spiritual formation and development. The critically acclaimed result is Vital Signs. "Where the formation of faith is concerned, and spiritual development and Christian community is the point, qualitative measures are most important," he says. "Bigger says nothing about faithful, and active says nothing about effective. The value of our ministry is judged by the impact it makes on people's lives." From Dick's research emerged clear identifiers of four church types: decaying, dystrophic, retrogressive, and vital. With candor Dick describes each, including examples of communities within the types. While reading about these types may be painful, the intent is to provide tools to move toward vitality. "Making church easy is the opposite of making the church faithful," Dick writes. "Vital churches challenge us to remember that the church is God's, not ours, and being Christian disciples is more involved than simply believing in Jesus as the Son of God. ...To be the church for the world requires that we become vital." Though this study is based on United Methodist churches, its lessons are relevant for all congregations. Help yours become transformed into a community that works - hard - together to engage in courageous ministries of witness!

<https://www.amazon.com/Vital-Signs-Pathway-Congregational-Wholeness/dp/0881774952>

[http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci\\_arttext&pid=S0259-94222009000100033](http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0259-94222009000100033) References

[http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/dan\\_r\\_dick](http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/dan_r_dick)

<http://um-insight.net/blogs/dan-r-dick>

[https://www.isbns.net/author/Dan\\_R\\_Dick](https://www.isbns.net/author/Dan_R_Dick)

<https://doroteos2.com/author/doroteos2/>

<https://doroteos2.com/books-by-dan-r-dick/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Dan-R.-Dick/e/B001JSHH3K>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/83197.Dan\\_R\\_Dick](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/83197.Dan_R_Dick)

Images for Dan R. Dick (Author)

Images for Vital Signs: A Pathway to Congregational Wholeness Perfect by Dan R. Dick (Author)

### Vital Worship, Healthy Congregations - Alban at Duke Divinity School

We can identify several specific factors that contribute to spiritually vital worship and thereby strengthen congregational life.

- Congregations, and the leaders that serve them, need a shared vision for worship that is grounded in more than personal aesthetic tastes. This vision must draw on the deep theological resources of Scripture, the Christian tradition, and the unique history of the congregation.

- Congregational worship should be integrated with the whole life of the congregation. It can serve as the "source and summit" from which all the practices of the Christian life flow. Worship both reflects and shapes the life of the church in education, pastoral care, community service, fellowship, justice, hospitality, and every other aspect of church life.

- The best worship practices feature not only good worship "content," such as discerning sermons, honest prayers, creative artistic contributions, celebrative and meaningful rituals for baptism and the Lord's Supper. They also arise out of good process, involving meaningful contributions from participants, thoughtful leadership, honest evaluation, and healthy communication among leaders.

### Alban at Duke Divinity School » Vital Worship, Healthy Congregations

<http://www.alban.org/conversation.aspx?id=5894>

Images for Vital Worship, Healthy Congregations  
<https://rowman.com/Action/SERIES/RL/RL3VWO/Vital-Worship-Healthy-Congregations>  
<https://alban.org/category/worship/>  
<https://alban.org/category/renewal-vitality/>  
<https://alban.org/archive/vital-signs/>  
<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/what-is-vital-worship>  
 Images for what-is-vital-worship

#### 4) Worship planning honors tradition and offers innovation

I respect heritage, while, at the same time, I promote mission. Past, present, and future come together with the gathered assembly. I try to apprehend the local customs, and when somebody asks me, "Pastor, what would you like?", I try to remember to ask, "What is the local custom?" I seek to build on what has been established.

#### Resources

##### Christian Worship and Its Cultural Setting: [Frank C. Senn]

This serious inquiry into the relationship between worship and its cultural setting can help pastors, seminarians, and other worship leaders steer a path between cultural capitulation on the one hand and cultural irrelevancy on the other in the ordering and doing of Christian liturgy. Senn suggests that the interplay between cult and culture should be a transformation of culture as it is appropriated in Christian worship, leading to an experience which is both a human activity and a transcendental event.

<http://www.amazon.com/Christian-Worship-Its-Cultural-Setting/dp/1592444849>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1592444849>

<https://www.amazon.com/Frank-C.-Senn/e/B001JRRJNO>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank\\_Senn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Senn)

<http://www.fortresspress.com/author/frank-c-senn>

<https://www.amazon.com/Frank-C.-Senn/e/B001JRRJNO>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/293581.Frank\\_C\\_Senn](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/293581.Frank_C_Senn)

Images for Frank C. Senn, author

Images for Christian Worship and Its Cultural Setting: [Frank C. Senn]

##### Enlivening Worshiping in the Interim By Rev. Marlea Gilbert

An interim is an excellent time for deepening the congregation's experience of worship by expanding understanding of worship and exploring new ways of worshiping. Worship can also be a significant means for advancing the Developmental Tasks. In this workshop we will discuss ways to gracefully bring the Developmental Tasks into worship as well as introduce resources for exploring worship within the congregation.

##### Annual Conference | IMN - Interim Ministry Network

<https://imnedu.org/annual-conference/> 2010 Program

Images for Enlivening Worshiping in the Interim By Rev. Marlea Gilbert

<http://imnedu.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2010Program.pdf>

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<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566993371/The-Work-of-the-People-What-We-Do-in-Worship-and-Why>

<https://www.facebook.com/marlea.gilbert>

<http://www.wiclarkcountyhistory.org/3data/61/61239.htm> Gilbert, Rev. Marlea (Installation - 2009), Clark County, Wisconsin

##### Reconnecting Worship: Where Tradition and Innovation Converge [Rob Weber, Stacy Hood]

How does a congregation create a healthy balance of rich tradition and desired innovation? Does rapid change make it necessary for congregations to be innovative in such things as worship and music styles? Or should leaders make an effort to keep their congregation focused on the inherited traditions and practices of the church. This kit is designed for pastors, musicians, worship teams, worship committees, and general church leadership--all those who frequently find themselves in turmoil when caught between remaining faithful to their denominational roots (for example, Wesleyan, Calvinist, or Lutheran) while engaging innovation. Specific questions pertain to the use of new music and technology, maintaining theological integrity, as well as planning and facilitating a multifaceted approach to worship development. These questions emerge from those trying to initiate change within an existing congregation as well as those starting new churches. This resource will help pastors, other worship leaders and planners, and laypersons discuss and learn about innovation that is faithful in also communicating tradition.

*ReConnecting Worship* is helpful for churches wanting to remain faithful to tradition yet are striving to engage innovation.

Whether congregations need to start an alternative service, develop worship for a new congregation, or infuse a new creativity into existing worship teams, *ReConnecting Worship* can provide guidance, information and inspiration to worship teams and other groups seeking to deepen their understanding of and participation in worship. This project can be helpful for:

- Existing churches trying to deepen congregational understanding and experience of worship
- Churches with more than one worship style who want to increase cohesion among church members and overcome tensions based in stylistic differences
- Churches that are reshaping worship to reach groups of people with different generational or cultural backgrounds
- Churches starting new or alternative worship experiences
- New churches planning to launch their inaugural worship experience In times of congregational change, information about worship needs to be experienced in a way that promotes discussion and multilayered learning.



*ReConnecting Worship* provides video session that include examples of innovation in worship with integrity, interview with church leaders experiencing tension and positive change, and practical suggestions for planning and implementation in a variety of settings.

<http://www.amazon.com/Reconnecting-Worship-Tradition-Innovation-Converge/dp/0687063930>

<http://www.godrules.net/webstore/687063930.htm>

<http://www.ensoullc.com/resources.html>

<http://exegetethis.blogspot.com/2010/05/what-im-reading-4-reconnecting-worship.html>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Reconnecting-Worship-Where-Tradition-Innovation-Converge-Stacy-Hood/9780687063932>

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/4f/4fd55073-3ed1-41bb-a2b0-](https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/4f/4fd55073-3ed1-41bb-a2b0-6c755cf5b7b1/documents/GCUMC_Adult_Faith_Plan_January_2018.pdf)

[6c755cf5b7b1/documents/GCUMC\\_Adult\\_Faith\\_Plan\\_January\\_2018.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/4f/4fd55073-3ed1-41bb-a2b0-6c755cf5b7b1/documents/GCUMC_Adult_Faith_Plan_January_2018.pdf)

<https://www.amazon.com/Rob-Weber/e/B001IO9NB4>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/152205.Rob\\_Weber](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/152205.Rob_Weber)

Images for Rob Weber, author reconnecting worship

<http://ensoullc.com/>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2126317.Stacy\\_Hood](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2126317.Stacy_Hood)

Images for Stacy Hood, author reconnecting worship

Images for Reconnecting Worship: Where Tradition and Innovation Converge [Rob Weber, Stacy Hood]

### TRADITION & INNOVATION: Moving worship forward with integrity in a time of change

Jay Beech has performed and led worship all over the country in venues ranging from stadiums to small country churches. He has long been recognized for his creative blending of musical energy and theological substance, and his ability to lift up ancient traditions within a modern context. As a composer, Jay has the ability to bring the Biblical narrative to life in a deeply meaningful and relevant way. Seeking to express both the holiness and the compassion of God, his appreciation for the paradoxical nature of life and faith makes his music truly unique. Before the days when The Jay Beech Band was a favorite at youth gatherings, before there was a worship & praise industry, Jay was deeply committed to congregational singing and participation. He now shares this passion as a frequent presenter at workshops addressing trends in church music. Join Jay as he leads our opening worship for Walking Together and presents two workshops!

- TRADITION & INNOVATION: Moving worship forward with integrity in a time of change

Jay Beech will present ideas about how to approach the process of creatively adapting congregational worship practices in a respectful, collaborative, and healthy way.

- Reading Session of New Music for Worship

Come sing some original new music by Jay Beech and other composers. Multiple styles for various seasons will be included.

[http://www.nwswi.org/news\\_and\\_events/Walking\\_Together.phtml](http://www.nwswi.org/news_and_events/Walking_Together.phtml) [Bulletin Insert Week One](#)

Images for TRADITION & INNOVATION: Moving worship forward with integrity in a time of change

<http://worshipandmusic.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Center-for-Worship-and-Music-Studies/730023387025402?ref=stream>

<http://worshipandmusic.org/teachers/#beech>

<https://www.baytonemusic.com/>

Images for jay beech worship and music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWCOLQERl8Y> Jay Beech - Rethinking Sunday Morning (2016) – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtYoonSaPmM> Growing Worship and Music Leadership by Jay Beech – YouTube

Images for Growing Worship and Music Leadership by Jay Beech – YouTube

### Transitional Ministry Today: Successful Strategies for Churches and Pastors edited by Norman B. Bendroth

During a time of transition, **thoughtful worship** is a time to provide security and comfort for those grieving or nervous about the future. In-between times can also be used to experiment with forms and styles of worship if the wine skins have grown old.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997518>

Page 185

Images for thoughtful worship

<https://www.amazon.com/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies/dp/156699750X>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23811442-transitional-ministry-today>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566997669/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies-for-Churches-and-Pastors>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997518>

<https://alban.org/2015/03/06/norman-bendroth-transitional-ministry-today/>

<http://www.pts.edu/UserFiles/File/2017%20Pittsburgh%20Week%20II%20ltr%20FINAL.pdf>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/norman-b-bendroth>

[http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/71BBE2C7B9B049B0883D51809D9A1E82\\_Rethinking%20Transitional%20Ministry.pdf](http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/71BBE2C7B9B049B0883D51809D9A1E82_Rethinking%20Transitional%20Ministry.pdf)

<https://louisville-institute.org/interviews/norman-bendroth/>

<https://alban.org/2015/03/06/norman-bendroth-transitional-ministry-today/>

[http://bendroth.org/?page\\_id=436](http://bendroth.org/?page_id=436)

### What Church Leaders Can Learn from an Opera Star – Margaret Marcuson

Church leaders can find it hard to experiment with new ways of worshiping and preaching, or even to appreciate what others are doing. **The world of classical music, like traditional church, is struggling to find its way in this new world.** Experiments in new ways of doing music, like church, aren't always successful – but we are called to take some chances. We can create new relationships – and even have some fun while we're doing it.

[http://margaretmarcuson.com/what-church-leaders-can-learn-from-an-opera-star/#.VYIR\\_flVhBc](http://margaretmarcuson.com/what-church-leaders-can-learn-from-an-opera-star/#.VYIR_flVhBc)

Images for the world of classical music, like traditional church, is struggling to find its way in this new world

<https://margaretmarcuson.com/contact/about-margaret/>

<https://www.facebook.com/margaret.marcuson>

## 5) Moving from conform to recommend

The constitution for congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church included the following on worship:

### ARTICLE IV

#### Liturgy, Ritual, Hymnbook

The public services of this congregation shall conform to the Authorized Liturgies and Rituals of The Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the authorized hymnbooks of the Church and such materials as shall be approved by the Congregation for use in its worship and schools.

#### Evangelical Lutheran Church (United States) - Wikipedia

The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America was formed by merger of the Hauge Synod (est. 1876), the Norwegian Synod (est. 1853), and the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America (est. 1890). The NLCA changed its name to The Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC) in 1946. In 1960, the ELC joined with other Lutheran churches to form the American Lutheran Church. This coalescence of Lutheran churches continued into recent times, with the ALC joining others to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 1988.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical\\_Lutheran\\_Church\\_\(United\\_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_(United_States))

The constitution for congregations of the American Lutheran Church included the following on worship:

### Article VIII – WORSHIP

As an expression of the unity of the church in Christ the congregation recognizes the desirability of conforming to the practices of other member congregations in using such forms of worship, including liturgies and hymn books, as are recommended by The American Lutheran Church. Only such variations as are authorized by the congregation shall be permitted.

#### American Lutheran Church - Wikipedia

The American Lutheran Church (ALC or sometimes TALC) was a Christian Protestant denomination in the United States that existed from 1960 to 1987. Its headquarters was in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Upon its formation in 1960, the ALC designated Augsburg Publishing House (est. 1891), also located in Minneapolis, as the church publisher. The *Lutheran Standard* was the official magazine of the ALC.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Lutheran\\_Church](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Lutheran_Church)

The constitution for congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America includes the following on worship:

#### [DOC]Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository

##### Chapter 12.

##### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

**C12.04.** The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations

[https://download.elca.org/>ELCA\\_Resource\\_Repository/>Model\\_Constitution](https://download.elca.org/>ELCA_Resource_Repository/>Model_Constitution)

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

Images for To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

#### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - Wikipedia

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is a mainline Protestant denomination headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. The ELCA officially came into existence on January 1, 1988, by the merging of three churches. As of 2012, it had 3,950,924 baptized members.<sup>[5]</sup> It is the seventh-largest religious body<sup>[8]</sup> and the largest Lutheran denomination in the United States.<sup>[9]</sup>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical\\_Lutheran\\_Church\\_in\\_America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_in_America)

Images for Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## 6) Gathering and Sending

Each service of worship includes a gathering and a sending. The dismissal sends the assembly forth in proclaiming and serving to "Go in peace. Proclaim the Good News. Serve the Lord. Remember the poor."

## Resources

### How Weekend Church Services Will Change In the Future - Carey Nieuwhof

#### 2. The Gathering Will Become The Sending

For the many churches that have adopted an attractional model, the unspoken expectation is that people gather predominantly to come and see.

Combine that with a highly individualist consumer culture, and that's how most people will view church: a place to gather, consume and leave.

Naturally, that's a huge mistake, but it reflects the era we live in.

How do you combat that?

Instead of seeing Sunday only as a gathering, wise leaders will also see it as a *sending*. Tiffany DeLuccia [had some great thoughts on this over at Tony Morgan's blog](#) recently.

The gatherings of the early church were not just a place to worship, learn and encourage, they involved a sending out into the world to change the world.

The [Reformed four-fold pattern of worship](#) embodies this so well. While the church gathers, it also sends.

The goal of a service is not to applaud the message or talk about how amazing the music was. The goal is to go back out into the world for which Christ died better equipped to live out and share our faith.

Figuring out how not just to dismiss people when the service is over but to send people out in the world equipped to live and lead differently is critical.

Church is not a spectator sport. It's a place of transformation.

Future churches will embrace that.

<https://careynieuwhof.com/how-weekend-church-services-will-change-in-the-future/>

[Images for How Weekend Church Services Will Change In the Future - Carey Nieuwhof](#)

<https://careynieuwhof.com/10-predictions-about-the-future-church-and-shifting-attendance-patterns/> #3

<https://careynieuwhof.com/a-response-to-christians-who-are-done-with-church/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/why-attending-church-no-longer-makes-sense/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/10-simple-changes-you-can-make-to-help-boost-weekend-church-attendance/> #8

[Images for carey nieuwhof \(author\)](#)

### Liturgy Lesson: Worship in Four Movements | Church of the Servant

Astute observers of Church of the Servant's printed liturgy will notice four large-type words in each week's liturgy: *Gathering*, *Word*, *Table*, and *Sending*. Why do we include these four sections week after week in worship?

<http://www.churchoftheservantcrc.org/liturgy-lesson-worship-in-four-movements>

[Images for Liturgy Lesson: Worship in Four Movements](#)

### Sent and Gathered: A Worship Manual for the Missional Church (Engaging Worship) [Clayton J. Schmit]

Clayton Schmit examines worship in church settings around the globe and provides a practical manual for shaping liturgies that are informed by and relevant to contemporary missional contexts. The book broadens current ecumenical worship conversations, reveals insights drawn from the church at worship in the world, and argues for a common understanding of a theology of worship.

<http://www.amazon.com/Sent-Gathered-Worship-Missional-Engaging/dp/0801031656>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/sent-and-gathered-clayton-schmit/1100376497?type=eBook>

<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/sent-and-gathered/272810>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1441205225>

[http://books.google.com/books/about/Sent\\_and\\_Gathered\\_Engaging\\_Worship.html?id=vdlb4NRYx\\_oC](http://books.google.com/books/about/Sent_and_Gathered_Engaging_Worship.html?id=vdlb4NRYx_oC)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802868002>

Page 85

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6879064-sent-and-gathered>

<http://day1.org/6945-the-rev-dr-clayton-schmit>

<https://fullerstudio.fuller.edu/contributor/clayton-j-schmit/>

<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/13936/>

<http://www.clayschmit.com/bio.htm>

<https://www.amazon.com/Clayton-J.-Schmit/e/B001IXMBFK>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/154207.Clayton\\_J\\_Schmit](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/154207.Clayton_J_Schmit)

[Images for Clayton J. Schmit](#)

[Images for Sent and Gathered: A Worship Manual for the Missional Church \[Clayton J. Schmit\]](#)

[Images for Engaging Worship series](#)

## 7) Offering the gift of the Sabbath practice for worship and rest

In biblical times, the keeping of the Sabbath was taken seriously.

<sup>14</sup>You shall keep the sabbath, because it is holy for you; everyone who profanes it shall be put to death; whoever does any work on it shall be cut off from among the people. <sup>15</sup>For six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall be put to death. <sup>16</sup>Therefore the Israelites shall keep the sabbath, observing the sabbath throughout their generations, as a perpetual covenant. <sup>17</sup>It is a sign for ever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.'

oremus Bible Browser: Exodus 31:14-17



<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Exodus+31>  
Images for You shall keep the sabbath

<sup>2</sup> For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a day of sabbath rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it is to be put to death. <sup>3</sup> Do not light a fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

**Exodus 35:2-3 - Bible Gateway**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2035:2-3>

Images for day of sabbath rest to the LORD

<sup>32</sup> When the Israelites were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the sabbath day. <sup>33</sup> Those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses, Aaron, and to the whole congregation. <sup>34</sup> They put him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him. <sup>35</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him outside the camp." <sup>36</sup> The whole congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

**oremus Bible Browser: numbers 15:32-15:36**

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=numbers+15:32-15:36&version=nrsv>

Images for sabbath day

Today, the command to refrain from work and to rest is routinely ignored. God gave the gift of the Sabbath practice of rest and worship to a people enslaved by continuous labor. God offers the gift of the Sabbath practice of rest and worship to people today in a culture seemingly engaged in a 24/7/365 constitutional right to the "pursuit of happiness" who discover the more intense the pursuit the more elusive the goal. Many are left exhausted and exasperated. The Sabbath is an ancient word for a modern day.

## Resources

**Best 25+ Sabbath day ideas on Pinterest**

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/sabbath-day/>

Images for sabbath pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/penwood2727/shabbat-sabbath-havdalah/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/bobtheborean/remember-the-sabbath-day-to-keep-it-holy/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/sabbath-quotes/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/sabbath/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/happy-sabbath/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/sabbath-day-holy/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/maryjanesolberg/sabbath-rest/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/Wildhaircher/sabbath-keeping/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/moraa12/the-sabbath/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/sabbath-activities/>

**Catch Your Breath: God's Invitation to Sabbath Rest [Don Postema]**

*Catch Your Breath* calls us to pause, to be quiet for a moment, and to be aware of the presence of God. Continually practicing the Sabbath by taking spiritual breaks of a minute, an hour, or a day can be spiritually refreshing and can help us refocus our lives.

Learn how practicing the principle of Sabbath rest can refocus and enrich your life. Designed for small groups, *Catch Your Breath* is also great for individual reading. Each of the six sessions begins with a guided meditation and includes time for reviewing what you've learned, reflecting on different aspects of sabbath, and practicing sabbath rest. Suggestions for individual reflection at home are also included.

<http://www.amazon.com/Catch-Your-Breath-Invitation-Sabbath/dp/1562122398>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1056315.Catch\\_Your\\_Breath](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1056315.Catch_Your_Breath)

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/catch-your-breath-don-postema/1111700231>

<https://www.christianbook.com/catch-breath-gods-invitation-sabbath-rest/don-postema/9781562122393/pd/122393>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Catch\\_Your\\_Breath.html?id=fMo0PQAACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Catch_Your_Breath.html?id=fMo0PQAACAAJ)

Sabbath Rest - Page 6 - Google Books Result

**Catch Your Breath: Gods Invitation to Sabbath Rest by Don Postema - Pinterest**

<http://www.faithaliveresources.org/Products/150990/catch-your-breath.aspx>

<https://www.calvin.edu/admin/provost/faith/sabbath.htm>

<http://users.erols.com/peterbb/christ2.htm>

<https://www.bethel.edu/academics/faculty/postema-don>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/don-postema/209011/>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/programs/spe/articles/200509/resources-sabbath.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Don-Postema/e/B000APTABA>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/525294.Don\\_Postema](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/525294.Don_Postema)

Images for Don Postema, author

Images for *Catch Your Breath: God's Invitation to Sabbath Rest* [Don Postema]

### Confessions of a former Sabbath breaker by Eugene Peterson

A personal account of a minister who reintroduced Sabbath keeping in his family. Elements of praying and playing. Biblical references; suggestions of good Sabbath keeping.



<http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/articles/8800028364/confessions-former-sabbath-breaker>

Images for Confessions of a former Sabbath breaker by Eugene Peterson

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene\\_H.\\_Peterson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene_H._Peterson)

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<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/topics/p/eugene-peterson/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Eugene-H.-Peterson/e/B000APEODO>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27926.Eugene\\_H\\_Peterson](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27926.Eugene_H_Peterson)

Images for Eugene Peterson, author

### Developing a Sabbath Practice - Lifelong Faith

This small group session focuses on the Christian practice of Keeping Sabbath. It isn't easy to keep the Sabbath today.

[http://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/living\\_well\\_small\\_group\\_guide\\_-\\_keeping\\_sabbath.pdf](http://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/living_well_small_group_guide_-_keeping_sabbath.pdf)

Images for Developing a Sabbath Practice - Lifelong Faith

### For God's Sake, Rest! Discovering the Pleasure of His Rest by James L. Anderson

Learn the secret of rest – a **Sabbath**-rest. In *For God's Sake, Rest!*, Anderson shares his scriptural studies, personal journey, and insights from those who have discovered the much neglected treasure of a Sabbath-rest. God actually takes pleasure in our rest and shows us how to be at rest from work and at work.

<http://www.amazon.com/Gods-Sake-Rest-James-Anderson/dp/141410829X>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/For-Gods-Sake-Rest/446110008788087>

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<http://ncdefca.org/districtministries/pastoral-care/resources/>

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Images for James L. Anderson, author

Images for For God's Sake, Rest! Discovering the Pleasure of His Rest by James L. Anderson

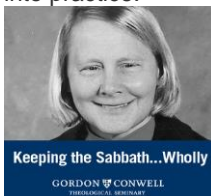
### Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting [Marva J. Dawn]

"But I don't *wanna* go to church!" Marva Dawn has often heard that cry—and not only from children. "What a sad commentary it is on North American spirituality," she writes, "that the delight of 'keeping the Sabbath day' has degenerated into the routine and drudgery—even the downright oppressiveness—of 'going to church.'"

According to Dawn, the phrase "going to church" both reveals and promotes bad theology: it suggests that the church is a static place when in fact the church is the *people of God*. The regular gathering together of God's people for worship is important—it enables them to *be church* in the world—but the act of worship is only a small part of observing the Sabbath.

This refreshing book invites the reader to experience the wholeness and joy that come from observing God's order for life—a rhythm of working six days and setting apart one day for rest, worship, festivity, and relationships. Dawn develops a four-part pattern for keeping the Sabbath: (1) *ceasing*—not only from work but also from productivity, anxiety, worry, possessiveness, and so on; (2) *resting*—of the body as well as the mind, emotions, and spirit—a wholistic rest; (3) *embracing*—deliberately taking hold of Christian values, of our calling in life, of the wholeness God offers us; (4) *feasting*—celebrating God and his goodness in individual and corporate worship as well as feasting with beauty, music, food, affection, and social interaction. Combining sound biblical theology and research into Jewish traditions with many practical suggestions, *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly* offers a healthy balance between head and heart: the book shows how theological insights can undergird daily life and practice, and it gives the reader both motivation and methods for *enjoying* a special holy day.

Dawn's work—unpretentiously eloquent, refreshingly personal in tone, and rich with inspiring example—promotes the discipline of Sabbath-keeping not as a legalistic duty but as the way to freedom, delight, and joy. Christians and Jews, pastors and laypeople, individuals and small groups—all will benefit greatly from reading and discussing the book and putting its ideas into practice.



<http://www.amazon.com/Keeping-Sabbath-Wholly-Embracing-Feasting/dp/0802804578>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/398811.Keeping\\_the\\_Sabbath\\_Wholly](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/398811.Keeping_the_Sabbath_Wholly)

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<https://www.calvin.edu/admin/provost/faith/sabbath.htm>  
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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marva\\_Dawn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marva_Dawn)  
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<https://www.amazon.com/Marva-J.-Dawn/e/B000AP7OJK>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/91254.Marva\\_J\\_Dawn](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/91254.Marva_J_Dawn)  
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[Images for Marva J. Dawn](#)  
[Images for Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting \[Marva J. Dawn\]](#)

### Living in God's Abundant Grace: Sabbath as a Source for an Abundant Life – Luther Seminary

This session is grounded in texts selected from Exodus. The key themes in this session are:

"God's work through the Sabbath is consistent with how God normally works, coming to us from outside of ourselves, intruding graciously into our bondage.

"Sabbath worship is something that God does for us, not something that we do for God. God regularized the Sabbath in order to have a regular worship time in which to work on us."

Rolf Jacobson

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=3964> Session 1

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=3965> Session 2

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=3966> Session 3

[Images for Living in God's Abundant Grace: Sabbath as a Source for an Abundant Life – Luther Seminary](#)

[https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac\\_home.aspx?contact\\_id=rjacobso](https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=rjacobso)

[Images for rolf jacobson luther seminary](#)

### Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now [Walter Brueggemann]

Discussions about the Sabbath often center around moralistic laws and arguments over whether a person should be able to play cards or purchase liquor on Sundays. In this volume, popular author Walter Brueggemann writes that the Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society. Importantly, Brueggemann speaks to a 24/7 society of consumption, a society in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform, and possess. We want more, own more, use more, eat more, and drink more. Keeping the Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important: God, other people, all life. Brueggemann offers a transformative vision of the wholeness God intends, giving world-weary Christians a glimpse of a more fulfilling and simpler life through Sabbath observance.

<https://www.amazon.com/Sabbath-Resistance-Saying-Culture-Now/dp/0664239285>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18350316-sabbath-as-resistance>

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[http://books.google.com/books/about/Sabbath\\_as\\_Resistance.html?id=Xu4IAwAAQBAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/Sabbath_as_Resistance.html?id=Xu4IAwAAQBAJ)

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<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2014/2/4/walter-brueggemann-discusses-sabbath-his-new-book/>

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<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/books.php?id=26626>

<http://slowchurch.com/sabbath-resistance-interview-walter-brueggemann/>  
<http://www.cpi.ca/book-review-sabbath-resistance-walter-brueggemann>  
<https://saconnects.org/book-review-sabbath-as-resistance-by-walter-brueggemann/>  
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### Sabbath || Baylor University || The Christian Reflection Project

Our contributors invite us to open the Sabbath package. But be prepared for some jolts – seeing **Sabbath as a gift** instead of just a law, as “resting from our own works” and giving “due place to God’s works,” and as a call to justice and compassion rather than apathy.

<http://www.baylor.edu/ifl/christianreflection/index.php?id=14738>  
 Images for Sabbath || Baylor University || The Christian Reflection Project  
 Images for Sabbath as a gift

### Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives [Wayne Muller]

In today's world, with its relentless emphasis on success and productivity, we have lost the necessary rhythm of life, the balance between work and rest. Constantly striving, we feel exhausted and deprived in the midst of great abundance. We long for time with friends and family, we long for a moment to ourselves.

Millennia ago, the tradition of Sabbath created an oasis of sacred time within a life of unceasing labor. Now, in a book that can heal our harried lives, Wayne Muller, author of the spiritual classic *How, Then, Shall We Live?*, shows us how to create a special time of rest, delight, and renewal--a refuge for our souls.

We need not even schedule an entire day each week. Sabbath time can be a Sabbath afternoon, a Sabbath hour, a Sabbath walk. With wonderful stories, poems, and suggestions for practice, Muller teaches us how we can use this time of sacred rest to refresh our bodies and minds, restore our creativity, and regain our birthright of inner happiness.

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### Sabbath in Christianity - Wikipedia

Sabbath in Christianity is a weekly day of **rest** or religious observance, derived from the **Biblical Sabbath**. In the 2nd century AD, the observance of a corporate day of worship on the first day (Sunday) had become commonplace, as attested in the **patristic writings**.<sup>[1]</sup> For such worshipers the term "Lord's Day" came to mean the first day. Sunday worship also took on the observance of sabbatarian rest in some Christian traditions, such as the **Puritans** of the 16th and 17th centuries. Among these "first-day Sabbatarians", Sunday eventually became synonymous with a first-day Christian Sabbath.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabbath\\_in\\_Christianity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabbath_in_Christianity)

Images for Sabbath in Christianity

### Sabbath Is a Day of Rest and Worship | Sabbath Truth

God knew that in our human tendency to further our own interests, we would need opportunities for spiritual growth, to refocus on things of eternal importance. The Sabbath is an opportunity to break away from the pressures of everyday living.

<http://www.sabbathtruth.com/free-resources/article-library/id/911/sabbath-is-a-day-of-rest-and-worship>

Images for Sabbath Is a Day of Rest and Worship | Sabbath Truth

### Sabbath Keeping [Donna Schaper]

The third in Cowley's Cloister Book series, *Sabbath Keeping* is a collection of ten meditations, each exploring a different aspect of keeping the sabbath and ending with a prayer. Since it is a difficult art in a society that does not value rest, Schaper encourages small acts of sabbath keeping that initially focus on physical and mental renewal but soon broaden to questions of justice and power. She begins with a chapter called "What is Sabbath?" and goes to the Bible for definitions, from the ordinances surrounding sabbath in the Hebrew Bible to the gospel stories about the Sabbath. Other meditations concern sabbath and music, sabbath and the body, prayer, focusing and decluttering, sabbath and memory, sabbath as the relinquishing of power, and sabbath as an act of resistance.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9erlqcCKEZE> Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper on Church, United Church of Christ and Judson

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Images for donna schaper author sabbath keeping

Images for Sabbath Keeping [Donna Schaper]

### Sabbath Keeping: Finding Freedom in the Rhythms of Rest [Lynne M. Baab]

Let's give ourselves an A for effort.

We keep our minds so preoccupied with work projects that we act and think on autopilot.

We keep our kids so occupied with activities that they need day planners before grade school.

We keep our schedules so full with church meetings and housekeeping and even entertaining that down-time sounds like a mortal sin.

When we fail to rest, we do more than burn ourselves out. We misunderstand the God who calls us to rest—who created us to be people of rest. Let's face it: our rest needs work. Sabbath recalls our creation, and with it God's satisfaction with us as he made us, without our hurried wrangling and harried worrying. It also recalls God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, and with it God's ability to do completely what we cannot complete in ourselves. Sabbath keeping reminds us that we are free to rest each week. Eighteen months in Tel Aviv, Israel, where a weekly sabbath is built into the culture, began Lynne M. Baab's twenty-five-year embrace of a rhythm of rest—as a stay-at-home mom, as a professional writer working out of her home and as a minister of the gospel. With collected insights from sabbath keepers of all ages and backgrounds, *Sabbath Keeping* offers a practical and hopeful guidebook that encourages all of us to slow down and enjoy our relationship with the God of the universe.



<http://www.amazon.com/Sabbath-Keeping-Finding-Freedom-Rhythms/dp/0830832580>

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#### Sabbath Time: Understanding and Practice for Contemporary Christians [Tilden Edwards]

Sabbath Time explores the roots of the Sabbath in the Judeo-Christian tradition. A powerful vision of how to balance worship, play, rest, work, community, and ministry. This well-known book opens readers to the understanding of the sabbath as an integral dimension of the Christian life and broadens our understanding of the relationship between contemplation and ministry in our contemporary world. Edwards offers readers a revealing vision of ways to maintain faithfully the balance among worship, play, rest, work, community, and ministry.

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## Images for Tilden Edwards

Images for Sabbath Time: Understanding and Practice for Contemporary Christians [Tilden Edwards]

### Sabbath - Wikipedia

Sabbath (/ˈsæbəθ/) or a sabbath is generally a weekly day of **rest** or time of **worship**. It is observed differently in **Abrahamic religions** and informs a similar occasion in several other practices. Although many viewpoints and definitions have arisen over the millennia, most originate in the same textual tradition. The term has been used to describe a similar weekly observance in any of several other traditions; the new moon; any of seven annual festivals in **Judaism** and some **Christian** traditions; any of eight annual **pagan** festivals (usually “sabbat”); an annual secular holiday; and a year of rest in religious or secular usage, originally every seventh year.

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Images for sabbath

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Images for Sabbath in Christianity

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical\\_Sabbath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_Sabbath)

Images for Biblical Sabbath

### Secular Sabbath vs. Christian Traditions | The Christian Century

Interestingly, in the church circles I observe, teaching and preaching about sabbath-keeping has gone out of style. The positive read of this is a healthy response to an over-zealous piety that can come with too much emphasis on keeping sabbath. The negative possibility, however, is that in a society where culture is about more-and-more-faster-and-faster, the church has neglected its task of preaching about the joy and benefits of practicing sabbath (and its task to acknowledge the struggles related to it as well).

<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2012/01/09/secular-sabbath-vs-christian-traditions/>

Images for Secular Sabbath vs. Christian Traditions | The Christian Century

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### The Biblical vision of Sabbath economics: Ched Myers

This book examines the jubilee economic ideas taught in the Hebrew Jehovah texts:

1. All slaves should be released every seventh (Jubilee) year.
2. All debts should be forgiven every seventh (Jubilee) year.
3. No person should be required to work more than 6 days a week.
4. Possessions such as land, money, food, houses, should be returned to the larger community during the 7th...[more](#)

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Images for Biblical vision of Sabbath economics: Ched Myers

### The Miracle of the Seventh Day: A Guide to the Spiritual Meaning, Significance, and Weekly Practice of the Jewish Sabbath by Adin Steinsaltz (Author)

In *The Miracle of the Seventh Day*, the internationally renowned and highly acclaimed Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz offers the definitive explanation of the miraculous potential of the Sabbath - what it means, and how it can be observed at home with your family. Much like the Haggadah, the guide to the Passover seder, with its step-by-step directions and explanations, this book provides a simple but complete guide to the spiritual content and ritual practice of the seventh day in the home, including commentary on every appropriate observance, ritual, prayer, and song. The book is both an introduction and a program for observing the Sabbath at home, focused on the core intention and goal of this weekly spiritual renewal.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Miracle-Seventh-Day-Significance/dp/0787965456>

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 Images for *The Miracle of the Seventh Day: A Guide to the Spiritual Meaning, Significance, and Weekly Practice of the Jewish Sabbath* by Adin Steinsaltz (Author)

**The Radical Pursuit of Rest: Escaping the Productivity Trap by John Koessler (Author), Mark Galli (Foreword)**

We live in a culture that values activity, achievement and accomplishment. Whether in our careers, churches, schools or families, busyness is the norm in our lives, and anything less makes us feel unproductive and anxious. We have to work all the harder, then, to pursue true rest in a 24-7 world that is constantly in motion.

John Koessler understands that rest is not automatic or easy to attain. He names the modern-day barriers to becoming people of rest and presents a unique perspective on how pursuing rest leads us to the heart of God. With honest, biblical reflections on trends in our culture and churches, he exposes our misconceptions regarding the concept of rest, as well as offering correction and practices to align our ideas with God's ideal.

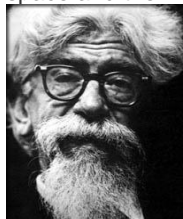
The book includes reflection and discussion questions designed for both individual and group use. You will discover the true meaning behind Jesus' idea of the yoke of rest and restoration for your mind, body and soul.

In *The Radical Pursuit of Rest*, John Koessler offers honest, biblical reflections on trends in our culture and churches. He exposes misconceptions that we have regarding the concept of rest, as well as offering correction and practices to align our ideas with God's ideal.

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 Images for Mark Galli, author  
 Images for *The Radical Pursuit of Rest: Escaping the Productivity Trap* by John Koessler (Author), Mark Galli (Foreword)

**The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man by Abraham Joshua Heschel (Author), Ilya Schor (Illustrator), Susannah Heschel (Introduction)**

Elegant, passionate, and filled with the love of God's creation, Abraham Joshua Heschel's *The Sabbath* has been hailed as a classic of Jewish spirituality ever since its original publication-and has been read by thousands of people seeking meaning in modern life. In this brief yet profound meditation on the meaning of the Seventh Day, Heschel introduced the idea of an "architecture of holiness" that appears not in space but in time. Judaism, he argues, is a religion of time: it finds meaning not in space and the material things that fill it but in time and the eternity that imbues it.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Sabbath-Abraham-Joshua-Heschel/dp/0374529752>  
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[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/345500.The\\_Sabbath](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/345500.The_Sabbath)  
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<https://www.amazon.com/Abraham-Joshua-Heschel/e/B000APT7H2>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/5545.Abraham\\_Joshua\\_Heschel](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/5545.Abraham_Joshua_Heschel)  
 Images for Abraham Joshua Heschel (Author)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susannah\\_Heschel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susannah_Heschel)  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/198275.Susannah\\_Heschel](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/198275.Susannah_Heschel)  
 Images for Susannah Heschel, author  
 Images for The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man by Abraham Joshua Heschel (Author), Ilya Schor (Illustrator), Susannah Heschel (Introduction)

The service the Lord desires

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

<sup>13</sup>If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; <sup>14</sup>then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

oremus Bible Browser: Isaiah 58:9-14

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Isaiah+58:9-14&version=nrsv>

Images for service the Lord desires

Commentary on Isaiah 58:9b-14 by James Limburg – WorkingPreacher.org

One of the marks of the Jews during this time was observation of the Sabbath. Ever since the days of Moses, the Israelite people were to respond to what God had done for them (the Exodus) by keeping the Ten Commandments. The third of these was "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (Exodus 20:1-17). The people were to do no work on the Sabbath. The Hebrew word for Sabbath means to stop. When the hostile enemies asked Nehemiah to stop building the wall around Jerusalem he said, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop (Hebrew sabbath) while I leave it to come down to you? (Nehemiah 6:3).

[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=2954](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2954) First reading for 14PentecostC 2016

Images for Commentary on Isaiah 58:9b-14 by James Limburg – WorkingPreacher.org

## THE SMALL CATECHISM

### THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

You shall keep the day of rest holy.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>

Images for THIRD COMMANDMENT

## 3 Sins of Refusing to Rest – Jenni Catron

Sabbath is about God and my recognition that it is him that enables me to do what I do. It's a weekly reminder of my limitations. Sabbath is my acknowledgement of my total dependence on him.

<http://jennicatron.com/2015/06/21/3-sins-of-refusing-to-rest/>

[https://twitter.com/JenniCatron?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/JenniCatron?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/contributors/jenni-catron.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/jenni.catron>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jenni-catron-6a84858>

<https://twitter.com/jennicatron?lang=en>

<https://get4sight.com/author/jenni/>

<http://www.outreach.com/events/christian-speakers/Jenni-Catron.aspx>

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[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6610953.Jenni\\_Catron](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6610953.Jenni_Catron)

Images for 3 Sins of Refusing to Rest – Jenni Catron

Images for Sabbath acknowledgement of total dependence on God

#### IV. WEEKLY, ANNUAL AND SABBATICAL TIME COMPENSATION

##### A. **SABBATH** DAY (Recommended: 40 to 45 hours per week; at least one full day off)

1. Weekly Rhythm of Work and Rest Full-time called rostered leaders of our congregations must strive for a healthy balance in their lives between their time for God, time for their families and personal life, and their calling to the church. Clearly defined expectations of work and time off are important for both the rostered leader and the congregation. Knowing that some weeks will be more demanding and some less, 40 to 45 hours per week is a fair expectation for both congregation and rostered leader. A Sabbath day each week is God's command and, even more importantly, God's gift.

Page 10

##### Rostered Leaders - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

<http://nswsi.org/leadership/rostered-leaders> 2020 Compensation Standards

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/2020\\_Salary\\_Standards.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/2020_Salary_Standards.pdf)

Images for Weekly Rhythm of Work and Rest

##### What Does the Bible Say About Sabbath? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/sabbath>

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/sabbath\\_day](https://www.openbible.info/topics/sabbath_day)

Images for bible and sabbath

[http://www.christianbiblereference.org/faq\\_sabbath.htm](http://www.christianbiblereference.org/faq_sabbath.htm)

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-sabbath/>

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<https://www.biblestudytools.com/blogs/founders-ministries-blog/6-biblical-reasons-to-observe-the-sabbath.html>

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<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Sabbath,-In-Ot>

<http://sabbathliving.org/sabbath-scripture/>

<https://www.backtothebible.org/what-does-god-s-word-say-about-the-christian-keeping-the-sabbath>

Images for keeping the sabbath

<https://www.sabbathtruth.com/faq/advanced-topics/7-facts-about-the-seventh-day>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=sabbath>

#### 8) Third Place

I've never been to a Starbucks, so I cannot speak from personal experience, but I read an article by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton in *The Lutheran*

##### Worship is the heart of all we do - The Lutheran Magazine

STORY BY

ELIZABETH A. EATON

Given competition, is it 'hub of our week, space of our regrouping'?

There is a Seattle-based caffeinated beverage company that goes to great lengths to provide excellent customer service. Its campaign is to make itself everyone's "Third Place." "First Place" is home, "Second Place" is work and "Third Place" is the local coffeehouse. There is meticulous training for employees, relentless market research and creative adaptability employed by the company to retain customers.

Employees practice the "hand-off plane" where they are taught to make eye contact when handing over the vente mocha latte to the customer. This is so the customer will have a transformative experience while sipping a cup of joe. And it works. In a letter to thank the staff a woman wrote: "You are the hub of our week, the space of our regrouping," and she went on to describe a multigenerational, multicultural, multi-socioeconomic community where she and her family found comfort and a sense of belonging. This is our competition.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=12544](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12544)

Images for Worship is the heart of all we do - The Lutheran Magazine STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON

Images for "First Place" is home, "Second Place" is work and "Third Place" is the local coffeehouse.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

that talked about the appeal as being that Third Place.

##### Company Information | Starbucks Coffee Company

Our Heritage

Every day, we go to work hoping to do two things: share great coffee with our friends and help make the world a little better. It was true when the first Starbucks opened in 1971, and it's just as true today.



Back then, the company was a single store in Seattle's historic Pike Place Market. From just a narrow storefront, Starbucks offered some of the world's finest fresh-roasted whole bean coffees. The name, inspired by Moby Dick, evoked the romance of the high seas and the seafaring tradition of the early coffee traders.

In 1981, Howard Schultz (Starbucks chairman, president and chief executive officer) had first walked into a Starbucks store. From his first cup of Sumatra, Howard was drawn into Starbucks and joined a year later.

A year later, in 1983, Howard traveled to Italy and became captivated with Italian coffee bars and the romance of the coffee experience. He had a vision to bring the Italian coffeehouse tradition back to the United States. A place for conversation and a sense of community. A **third place** between work and home. He left Starbucks for a short period of time to start his own Il Giornale coffeehouses and returned in August 1987 to purchase Starbucks with the help of local investors. From the beginning, Starbucks set out to be a different kind of company. One that not only celebrated coffee and the rich tradition, but that also brought a feeling of connection.

Our mission to inspire and nurture the human spirit – one person, one cup, and one neighborhood at a time.

<http://www.starbucks.com/about-us/company-information>

Images for Company Information | Starbucks Coffee Company

Images for starbucks as a third place between work and home

[http://obsiye.weebly.com/uploads/2/5/8/9/25890567/starbucks\\_manual\\_final.pdf](http://obsiye.weebly.com/uploads/2/5/8/9/25890567/starbucks_manual_final.pdf)

<http://hubpages.com/hub/Starbucks-Drink-Guide-Terms>

<http://192.168.1.1:8181/http://globalassets.starbucks.com/assets/e31d4604b78141bfb13172aa5fd67cfa.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHuZwlcVdUk> The Third Place – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsVFTxZiHd0> The Third Place – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tupknQYGOoA> GET FREE COFFEE STARBUCKS SAMPLES - COFFEE STARBUCKS

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/panosmourdoukoutas/2013/10/09/starbucks-is-turning-a-third-place-into-a-kind-place/>

<http://wallstreetflaneur.com/the-third-place-concept-the-business-of-community/#axzz3f6qMJou0>

## 9) Worship planning in the past

Whenever I come into a new assignment, I look around for some of the old hymnals. I am more familiar with hymnals of the Norwegian Lutheran tradition than those of other traditions. So, when I found **The Hymnal and Order of Service Authorized by The Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod Lectionary Edition** from the Swedish Lutheran tradition in the pastor's study at one congregation, I looked inside with great interest. I found a collect, epistle, and gospel printed for I and II, theme, and hymn recommendations.

### TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

(Also Sixth after Epiphany)

*Watchfulness.*

*Collect.* O Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Thy Holy Spirit, that, being ever mindful of the end of all things, and of Thy righteous judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here in order that we may dwell with Thee forever hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. AMEN.

#### I. EPISTLE, 2 Peter 3. 3–13.

*The Lord Will Return.*

IN the last days mockers shall come with mockery, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

For this they willfully forget, that there were heavens from of old, and an earth compacted out of water and amidst water, by the word of God; by which means the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: but the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

But forget not this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness;

but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? But according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

#### I. GOSPEL, Matthew 25. 1–13.

*The Ten Virgins.*

THEN shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For the foolish, when they took their lamps, took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Now while the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there is a cry, Behold, the bridegroom! Come ye forth to meet him.

	No.
I'm but a stranger here.....	519
Forever with the Lord.....	520
I'm a pilgrim, and I'm a stranger.....	526

*Graduals:*

Didst Thou, dear Jesus, pray for me.....	141
Here we often are perplexed.....	142: 2-4

*Fourth Sunday after Easter.*

How shall I follow Him I serve.....	94
Jesus, the very thought of Thee.....	139
Here we often are perplexed.....	142
Come, Holy Spirit, from above.....	159
Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish.....	477

*Graduals:*

Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord.....	154: 1, 3
Holy Ghost, dispel our sadness.....	155

*Fifth Sunday after Easter.*

Lord, teach us how to pray aright.....	303
Come, my soul, thy suit prepare.....	304
Prayer is the soul's sincere desire.....	307
Heavenly light, benignly beaming.....	325: 4, 5
Go, labor on! Spend and be spent.....	509
I gave My life for thee.....	512

*Graduals:*

In the holy Father's keeping.....	140: 3
Blessèd Jesus, at Thy word.....	302

*Ascension Day.*

Arise, my soul, arise.....	145
To realms of glory I behold.....	146
See, the Conqueror mounts in triumph.....	147
Hail the day that sees Him rise.....	148
The head that once was crowned with thorns.....	150
Hark, ten thousand harps and voices.....	151
Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power.....	336

*Graduals:*

Hail, Thou once despisèd Jesus.....	149: 3, 4
Ascend, dear Lord.....	152: 3, 4

*Sixth Sunday after Easter.*

	No.
<i>Graduals:</i>	
Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord.....	154
Lord God, the Holy Ghost.....	160

*Whitmonday.*

O how shall I receive Thee.....	4: 4, 5
God loved our erring mortal race.....	436
Come, Holy Spirit, from above.....	159
Gracious Spirit, Dove divine.....	162

*Graduals:*

He that believes and is baptized.....	230
Baptized into Thy name most holy.....	59

*Trinity Sunday.*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.....	163
Come, Thou almighty King.....	164
Our Father, merciful and good.....	166
Almighty God, eternal Lord.....	167
<i>Other hymns:</i> 168, 174, 220, 353.	

*Graduals:*

Holy Majesty, before Thee.....	315: 1, 2
Almighty God, eternal Lord.....	167

*First Sunday after Trinity.*

Lord, as to Thy dear cross we flee.....	170
Saviour, Thy dying love.....	499
Jesus, our Lord, how rich Thy grace.....	505
I'm but a stranger here.....	519

*Graduals:*

O Fount of Good, to own Thy love.....	388
Behold what love, that God should give.....	189

*Second Sunday after Trinity.*

O Bread of life from heaven.....	169
"Come, O sinner, all is ready!".....	244
O Jesus, Thou art standing.....	401
The Lord my Shepherd is.....	480

*Graduals:*

Great joy and consolation.....	392: 1-3
Lord! Thou Source of all perfection.....	190

**10) Making the transition from *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice to Evangelical Lutheran Worship***

Since the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* came out in 2006, I have worked with congregations in making the transition to this book.

**Augsburg Fortress | Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship is an unfolding family of resources to help congregations support and provide engaging worship focused on God's mission.



Evangelical Lutheran

**Worship**

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/worship/evangelicallutheranworship/>

Images for Augsburg Fortress | Evangelical Lutheran Worship

**11) Testimony in services of worship**

Temple talks can be used more than simply on the Sundays leading up to Pledge Sunday. Testimony in services of worship provides opportunities for people to tell how faith makes a difference in their lives.

**Resources – Testimony**

44 best Testimonies of Faith in Jesus images on Pinterest



<https://www.pinterest.com/lindyfelzien/testimonies-of-faith-in-jesus/>

Images for Testimonies of Faith in Jesus on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/christianstt/testimonies/>

Images for testimony in worship pinterest

### Sharing Faith Stories in Worship (7713) - Religion Online

When we are exposed to a variety of faith stories, we may more readily accept the wideness of God's mercy, or as David put it, realize that there is no one "right way to do it, just a recognition that each story is part of the fabric." Listening to testimony helps us to find our thread in God's fabric and to know that we are never alone in our journey. We are called to live as disciples, calling one another into the walk with Christ in the world. **Testimonies** call us into new ways of living.

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=3391>

Images for Sharing Faith Stories in Worship

### Tell It like It Is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony by Lillian Daniel (Author)

Lillian Daniel shares how her congregation re-appropriated the practice of testimony one Lenten season, a practice that would eventually revitalize their worship and transform their congregational culture. The experience strengthened lay leadership, fostered more intimate community, and drew the congregation closer to God. The book features the testimonies worshipers heard and reflections from both those who spoke and those who listened to these stories about God at work in the world.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566996457/Tell-It-Like-It-Is-Reclaiming-the-Practice-of-Testimony>

<http://www.amazon.com/Tell-It-Like-It-Is-Reclaiming-Testimony/dp/1566993180>

[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1730406.Tell\\_It\\_Like\\_It\\_Is](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1730406.Tell_It_Like_It_Is)

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<http://www.30goodminutes.org/index.php/archives/23-member-archives/176-lillian-daniel-program-5020>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDbRT34fZzE> Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel - Day1 Conversation (Part 1) - YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swkbh\\_XArZY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swkbh_XArZY) Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel - Conversation on Day1 (Part 2) – YouTube

Images for Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel - YouTube

<http://www.lilliandaniel.com/>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/lillianfdaniel-219>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/people-news/writers/lillian-daniel>

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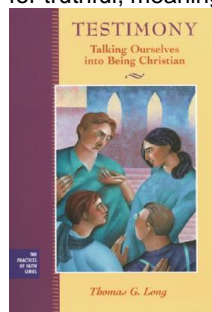
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/794945.Lillian\\_Daniel](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/794945.Lillian_Daniel)

Images for lillian daniel (author)

Images for Tell It like It Is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony by Lillian Daniel (Author)

### Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian (The Practices of Faith Series) by Thomas G. Long (Author)

In this groundbreaking book, Thomas G. Long a theologian and respected authority on preaching explores how Christians talk when they are not in church. Testimony breaks the stained-glass image of religious language to show how ordinary talking in our everyday lives talk across the backyard fence, talk with our kids, talk about politics and the events of the day can be sacred speech. In a world of spin, slick marketing, mindless chatter, and easy deceptions, Testimony shows that the hunger for truthful, meaningful, and compassionate speech is ultimately grounded in truth about God.



<http://www.amazon.com/Testimony-Talking-Ourselves-Christian-Practices/dp/111878197X>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/789809.Testimony>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/testimony-thomas-g-long/1111009633>

<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Testimony%3A+Talking+Ourselves+into+Being+Christian-p-9781118781975>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Testimony-Thomas-G-Long/9781118781975>

<http://www.christiancentury.org/reviews/2005-03/testimony-talking-ourselves-being-christian>

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<http://candler.emory.edu/faculty/profiles/long-thomas.html>

[https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2-long\\_tom](https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2-long_tom)  
[http://awf-email.brtaapp.com/files/traci\\_files/dr.%20tom%20long%20bio%20and%20pic.pdf](http://awf-email.brtaapp.com/files/traci_files/dr.%20tom%20long%20bio%20and%20pic.pdf)  
[https://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/lifelong\\_faith\\_journal\\_2.2.pdf](https://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/lifelong_faith_journal_2.2.pdf)  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/thomas-g-long>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Thomas-G.-Long/e/B001ILKH9E>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/36873.Thomas\\_G\\_Long](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/36873.Thomas_G_Long)

Images for Thomas G. Long (Author)

Images for Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian (The Practices of Faith Series) by Thomas G. Long (Author)

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/bookseries/B00CKDLUR2/ref=dp\\_st\\_0787997757](https://www.amazon.com/gp/bookseries/B00CKDLUR2/ref=dp_st_0787997757)

<https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/13/7977>

<https://www.overdrive.com/series/the-practices-of-faith>

Images for Practices of Faith Series

### Testimony - Wikipedia

Religion

Christians in general, especially within the Evangelical tradition, use the term "to testify" or "to give one's testimony" to mean "to tell the story of how one became a Christian". Commonly it may refer to a specific event in a Christian's life in which they believe God did something deemed particularly worth sharing. Christians often give their testimony at their own baptism or at evangelistic events. Many Christians have also published their testimonies on the internet.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Testimony>

Images for testimony

### What Does the Bible Say About Testimony? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/testimony>

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/giving\\_testimony](https://www.openbible.info/topics/giving_testimony)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/testimony\\_of\\_faith](https://www.openbible.info/topics/testimony_of_faith)

Images for bible and testimony

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Testimony/>

<https://biblereasons.com/testimony/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-testimony.html>

<http://www.gimtvonline.com/gim/gideonarmy/testimony/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/testimony/>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/your-testimony-isnt-about-you>

<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/sharing-our-testimony>

<https://ericcsmith.wordpress.com/2010/05/03/honoring-christ-by-sharing-our-testimonies/>

Images for honoring-christ-by-sharing-our-testimonies

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/bible-questions-and-answers/what-does-the-phrase-the-testimony-of-jesus-mean-in>

<https://www.christian-faith.com/the-power-of-your-testimony/>

<https://www.quora.com/What-are-examples-of-the-best-testimonies-in-the-Bible>

Images for best-testimonies-in-the-Bible

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Testify-On-God-s-Behalf>

Images for Testify-On-God-s-Behalf

Some congregations include "God sightings."

### Resources – God Sightings

**Bethesda Lutheran - Making the Most of God Sightings**

Sharing the God Sightings experience in corporate worship is a powerful encouragement and accountability!

<http://bethesdalutheran.org/ministries/god-sightings/top10.php>

Images for God Sightings

### 591 best God sightings images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/barbozar/god-sightings/>

Images for God sightings pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/anitakeyser77/god-sightings/>

[https://www.pinterest.com/Jamie\\_Smedley/god-sightings/](https://www.pinterest.com/Jamie_Smedley/god-sightings/)

### God Sightings and Blessings | Midvale Community Lutheran Church

November 8, 2014

Name: Sue P.

Where did you think you saw God this week?

Our condo maintenance crew helping an elderly resident with groceries.

How did God use someone to bless you this week?

A former friend and co-worker called to chat about our many years working together.

How did God use you to bless someone else this week?

Took my aunt up north to meet a WWII veteran and hear his stories. She was thrilled as she volunteers many hours for the Badger Honor Flight.

<http://www.sov-id.org/extras/god-sightings/>  
Images for God Sightings and Blessings

#### Wilbarger St Church of Christ / God Sightings / Submit God Sightings

Jo Ann Lyons

May 18, 2014

I have been absent from church on Sunday morning the past two weeks due to low blood counts and low energy. This past Sunday, May 18, the counts had improved so Arie went to Sunday School and then came back to get me for the Worship Service. He had told me about the changes in the foyer area, the coffee bar & the casual seating but when I walked in I was totally blown away! The foyer was literally full of happy, smiling people! I just stopped right inside the entry for a minute and observed. My first thought was, this is a happy place, a place where people love one another and God and are not afraid to let it show! It was awesome! I am so thankful for our leaders & their families, Dave & Timothy, & our Elders. I see God everywhere I look!

<http://www.wilbargerchurch.com/#/god-sightings/read-god-sightings>  
Images for Wilbarger St Church of Christ / God Sightings / Submit God Sightings

Others invite "joys and concerns."

#### Resources – Joys and Concerns

##### Joys and Concerns: Do it Right | UUA.org

Done well, they show that we're a caring and reverent religious community. Done poorly, they embarrass us. Joys and Sorrows, or Joys and Concerns, our Sunday morning sharing of the highs and lows of our lives, can be a rich and rewarding experience that builds community. Or it can start the week on a sour note as speakers take off on political and commercial tangents, give too much vacation detail, and share their weight-loss successes.

<http://www.uua.org/interconnections/47579.shtml>  
Images for Joys and Concerns: Do it Right | UUA.org

##### [PDF] Ritual words to open joys and sorrows - Intergenerational Worship

1. At this time in our service, we pause to reflect on our week. We recall the milestones, the joys, concerns, and sorrows, the changes in our lives; those who need our healing thoughts. Community is deepened by sharing with each other what is in our hearts.

<http://www.uuintergenerational.org/survey/ritual%20words%20to%20open%20joys%20and%20sorrows.pdf>  
Images for Ritual words to open joys and sorrows - Intergenerational Worship

##### [PDF] Why We Share Joys and Concerns - Harbor Church

That's why in most American Baptist churches—and in a good many Congregational and Unitarian churches—setting aside time in worship for sharing our joys and concerns is a cherished part of the liturgy. In Southern Baptist and other evangelical churches, it's not very common—first because it's too uncontrolled, and second because worship is understood as an evangelistic outreach to unbelievers. Why would you want to share our mess with them? In "high" churches, you might be allowed to name a person who needs prayer, but no one's going to allow you to stand up and give a little talk. But in our churches, it's pretty much whatever you want to share before the pastoral prayer

<http://www.harborchurchblockisland.org/clientimages/49048/sermons2013/sermon.2013.07.14.pdf>  
Images for Why We Share Joys and Concerns – Harbor Church

#### 12) Repentance in services of worship

It seems that, increasingly, the Confession and Forgiveness as well as the Creed are omitted, while at the same time the Great Thanksgiving is included as a part of a larger liturgical movement away from a "penitential piety" in Lutheran tradition to a "eucharistic piety" prevalent in ecumenical liturgical circles. Do away with those parts, which might be considered hierarchical and instead emphasize the human cooperation with the divine, seems to be the order of the day. I use the Confession and Forgiveness to preserve the Lutheran emphasis on sinner/saints in need of confession and forgiveness rather than the Thanksgiving for Baptism. I include the Creed as the historic articulation of what the assembly believes. I am not necessarily arguing for returning to the use of The Exhortation before Holy Communion used in *The Lutheran Hymnary* (1913), but, I do not include the Great Thanksgiving in the Lord's Supper so that the Words of Institution function as being sufficient in expressing God's movement in Jesus Christ "for you."

#### Resources

##### 10 best Repentance images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/hurrah4books/repentance/>  
Images for repentance Pinterest  
<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/how-to-repent/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/repentance-quotes/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/sydneykjenstad1/bible-repentance/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/true-repentance/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/Shutterbug4ever/repentance/>



## THE SMALL CATECHISM

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

#### THE NATURE OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

##### *What is the Sacrament of the Altar?*

The Sacrament of the Altar is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself, for us Christians to eat and to drink.

##### *Where is this written?*

The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, together with St. Paul, write thus: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'"

### THE BENEFIT OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

##### *What benefit do we receive from such eating and drinking?*

The benefit which we receive from such eating and drinking is shown us by these words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins," namely, that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

### THE POWER OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

##### *How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?*

It is not the eating and drinking that does this, but the words here written, "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." These words, along with the eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament; and whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, namely, the forgiveness of sins.

### THE PROPER RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

##### *Who then receives this Sacrament worthily?*

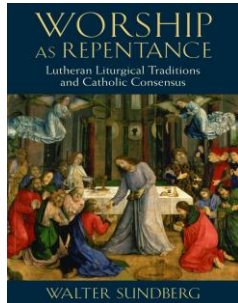
Fasting and bodily preparation are indeed a fine outward training; but he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words, "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." But he who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is unworthy and unprepared; for the words "for you" require truly believing hearts.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>

Images for "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins"

## Worship as Repentance: Lutheran Liturgical Tradition and Catholic Consensus [Walter Sundberg]

Against contemporary trends that conceive of Christian worship primarily as entertainment or sheer celebration, Walter Sundberg argues that *repentance* is the heart of authentic worship. In *Worship as Repentance* Sundberg outlines the history of repentance and confession within liturgical practice from the early church to mid-twentieth-century Protestantism, advocating movement away from the "eucharistic piety" common in mainline worship today and toward the "penitential piety" of older traditions of Protestant worship.



<http://www.amazon.com/Worship-Repentance-Liturgical-Tradition-Consensus/dp/0802867324>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/worship-as-repentance-walter-sundberg/1111112363>

<http://eerdword.wordpress.com/2012/03/22/lutheran-worship-and-theology-by-walter-sundberg/>

<https://www.logos.com/product/158177/worship-as-repentance-lutheran-liturgical-traditions-and-catholic-consensus>

[http://books.google.com/books/about/Worship\\_as\\_Repentance.html?id=T82jVyyf490C](http://books.google.com/books/about/Worship_as_Repentance.html?id=T82jVyyf490C)

<http://tj.sagepub.com/content/70/1/83.extract> Book Reviews

<http://hplbr.blogspot.com/2013/04/liturgy-review-lutheran-catholicity.html>

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=05d1510fb5c81fd16218ee68ccbd61e80a5c1c5d8d1ca80719e1fa1e7d90dbfd>

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=1722>

[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3820](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3820)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MA0F-Lv0Cw> Daily Chapel, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – YouTube

<http://www.lcmc.net/event-presentations/toward-a-theology-of-conversion/a233>

[https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac\\_home.aspx?contact\\_id=wsundber](https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=wsundber)

<https://www.amazon.com/Walter-Sundberg/e/B006T9SFQ2>

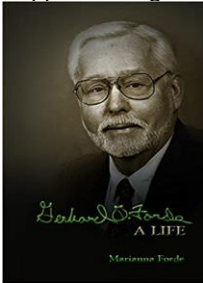
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/385450.Walter\\_Sundberg](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/385450.Walter_Sundberg)

I attended a Roman Catholic church on 1/19/2020 while using allotted vacation. The gospel text for 2EpiphanyA was John 1:29-42. The priest preached for 12 minutes on The Lamb of God in which he expounded on the sacrifice of the lamb from the Passover to the Last Supper in order to explain the Roman Catholic stance on the Eucharist as a sacrifice of thanksgiving. The priest presided at the transubstantiation of the elements from the time the ushers presented the offering and the elements to the time the ushers ushered the people to receive the elements for a period of 15 minutes. Meanwhile, back at the multiple-point parish to which I was assigned, a lay preacher officiated and preached at a Service of the Word. When I preached and presided at the Service of Holy Communion in that parish, the order for the service of worship after the Offering was Offering Prayer, Words of Institution, Lord's Prayer, Invitation. My teacher at Luther Seminary most clearly informed my thinking on this matter.

Fellow faculty members comment on the significance of Dr. Forde's teaching

Rolf Jacobson, associate professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, shares these memories...

(An aside: Gerhard didn't much care for the term "eucharist" because it messes up the direction of the Lord's Supper, focusing on our being thankful rather than on the promised presence of Christ in the bread and wine. He pointed out that the term eucharist never occurs in the New Testament in reference to the sacrament and said, "Paul called it the Lord's Supper. If it's good enough for Paul, it's good enough for me.")



**Gerhard O. Forde: A Life by Marianna Forde (Author)**

<http://www.amazon.com/Gerhard-O-Forde-A-Life/dp/193268896X>

[http://www.lutheranupress.org/Books/Gerhard\\_O\\_Forde](http://www.lutheranupress.org/Books/Gerhard_O_Forde)

In the confusion of the contemporary church it is essential to maintain a sense for the objectivity of the gifts of divine grace. It is of utmost importance just who is giving and who is given in the sacraments. We are to eat and drink in remembrance of the Lord. Thus, what we should be called the Lord's Supper. That is the earliest biblical name (I Cor 11:20) as well as the most apt and comprehensive designation for the sacrament. Other designations, particularly "the Eucharist," are theologically misleading and deceptive. We need to look at these two effects, the change in subject and the quest of sacrifice, a bit more closely.

[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue\\_id=33](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=33) What's in a Name? Eucharist or Lord's Supper. Gerhard O. Forde

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerhard\\_Forde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerhard_Forde)

[http://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article\\_id=165](http://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=165) Remembering Gerhard Forde

[Images for Gerhard O. Forde: A Life by Marianna Forde](#)

### 13) Stand for something

A musician at a neighboring congregation showed a book to me that the pastor had recommended as a blueprint for attracting people to services of worship (or at least not detracting them). Among other things, the book recommended that the Confession and Forgiveness, Creed, and Lord's Prayer all be deleted. Confession and Forgiveness is to be avoided, the book recommended, because seekers might feel bad, and isn't the point of services of worship to make people feel good? The Creed, the book contended, asks seekers to profess something they might not be ready to profess, and, when many people recite the Lord's Prayer, seekers may feel out of place for not being able to do so. All of which reminds me of the quote from the late U.S. Senate Chaplain Peter Marshall: "If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything."



**Peter Marshall (preacher) - Wikipedia**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Marshall\\_\(preacher\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Marshall_(preacher))

[Images for Peter Marshall \(preacher\)](#)

**16 best Peter Marshall images on Pinterest**

<https://www.pinterest.com/hermankauffman/peter-marshall/>

[Images for Peter Marshall on Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/lexinep/peter-marshall/)  
<https://www.pinterest.com/lexinep/peter-marshall/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/bosephus1963/peter-marshall/>

## Resources

### Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down: A Theology of Worship for This Urgent Time [Marva J. Dawn]

Why do churches fight “worship wars”? Why do discussions about how to conduct worship often split into two vitriolic polarizes such as “traditional” verses “contemporary”? These “worship wars” prevent us from being the church. Working to bridge opposing sides in the various “worship wars,” Marva Dawn here writes to help local parishes and denominations think more thoroughly about both worship and culture. She roots her discussion in a careful assessment of significant aspects of the technological, boomer, postmodern society and names criteria by which to judge various cultural influences. She also sketches the essential attributes of true worship - worship that keeps God at the center, builds believers’ character, and up-builds the community. In the process, Dawn discusses music, preaching, Scripture readings, rituals, liturgies, art, and all the accoutrements of worship, and offers practical suggestions for choosing the best tools and forms to deepen worship life, to nurture faith development, and the increase believers’ outreach.

<http://www.amazon.com/Reaching-Out-Without-Dumbing-Down/dp/0802841023>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/157698.Reaching\\_Out\\_Without\\_Dumbing\\_Down](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/157698.Reaching_Out_Without_Dumbing_Down)  
[http://www.marvadawn.org/marvas\\_books](http://www.marvadawn.org/marvas_books)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802841023>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Reaching\\_Out\\_Without\\_Dumbing\\_Down.html?id=XlnCfhRldDcC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Reaching_Out_Without_Dumbing_Down.html?id=XlnCfhRldDcC)  
<https://www.crosswalk.com/newsletters-only/live-it/dont-dumb-down-worship-612220.html>  
<https://quotes.pub/reaching-out-without-dumbing-down-a-theology-of-worship-for-this-urgent-time-quotes>  
<https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1747&context=leaven> Page 2  
<https://www.logos.com/product/43953/eerdmans-marva-j-dawn-collection>  
[http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/marva\\_dawn](http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/marva_dawn)  
<http://marvadawn.org/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marva\\_Dawn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marva_Dawn)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Marva-J.-Dawn/e/B000AP7OJK>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/91254.Marva\\_J\\_Dawn](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/91254.Marva_J_Dawn)  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/91254.Marva\\_J\\_Dawn](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/91254.Marva_J_Dawn)  
[Images for Marva J. Dawn](#)  
[Images for Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down: A Theology of Worship for This Urgent Time \[Marva J. Dawn\]](#)

### The Witness of the Worshipping Community: Liturgy and the Practice of Evangelism by Frank C. Senn (Author)

Contents that the church growth movement runs the risk of losing its roots in return for gaining members. He shows how churches should evangelize through authentic worship that puts people in touch with the source of Christian life. Especially pertinent for Protestant congregations.

<http://www.amazon.com/Witness-Worshipping-Community-Frank-Senn/dp/0809133687>  
[http://scholar.valpo.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1066&context=ils\\_papers](http://scholar.valpo.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1066&context=ils_papers)  
[http://scholar.valpo.edu/ils\\_papers/75/](http://scholar.valpo.edu/ils_papers/75/)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0809133687>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Witness\\_of\\_the\\_Worshipping\\_Community.html?id=FRFEMPLPSMMC](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Witness_of_the_Worshipping_Community.html?id=FRFEMPLPSMMC)  
<http://www.mcsletstalk.org/72F.htm>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank\\_Senn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Senn)  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Frank-C.-Senn/e/B001JRRJNO>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/293581.Frank\\_C\\_Senn](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/293581.Frank_C_Senn)  
[Images for Frank C. Senn \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for Liturgy and the Practice of Evangelism by Frank C. Senn \(Author\)](#)

## 14) A place for lament

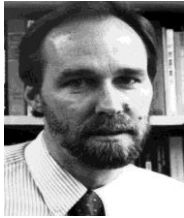
### Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies

- <sup>1</sup>How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
- <sup>2</sup>How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
- <sup>3</sup>Consider and answer me, O LORD my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
- <sup>4</sup>and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed”; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
- <sup>5</sup>But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
- <sup>6</sup>I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

[oremus Bible Browser: Psalm 13](#)  
<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Psalm+13>  
[Images for Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies](#)

The *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* includes all 150 psalms, whereas the previous *Lutheran Book of Worship* included less than the full psalter. Richard Nysse, in a presentation on “Laments in a Time of Change” as a part of the Mid-Winter Convocation 2013 at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, argued that **laments** express the pain of the human condition and can be a form of evangelism. He invited

the participants to listen to some songs in the context of the lament psalms: I'm Tryin' – Trace Adkins, Done Too Soon – Neil Diamond, The Circle Game – Tom Rush, Gravedigger – Dave Matthews, The Class of '57 – Statler Brothers, Time Marches On – Tracy Lawrence, Candle in the Wind – Elton John, Remember When – Alan Jackson. Then, he asked the participants to see how the biblical laments provide opportunities to direct the laments to God.



Richard W. Nysse - Faculty - Luther Seminary

[https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac\\_home.aspx?contact\\_id=rnyse](https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=rnyse)

Images for Richard W. Nysse - Faculty – Luther Seminary

## Resources

Being the Church Today - Alban Institute

Small, peripheral-church folk may bemoan the waning influence of Christianity on American culture. But this is a different kind of lament. And after the last decade's shameless greed and endless military campaigns, they have good reason to bemoan the loss of Christian influence. The **small-church lament** is not about being left behind. It was always behind, always out of step, and always at the margin. The small-church lament is that things are not as they should be. And that lament has a long, important tradition in the life of covenant people. Angry protestations about declining membership rolls and budgets do not offer a prophetic word to the church. But paying closer attention to people and places and speaking out about who people are and what they are created for carry the potential for genuine transformation.

Alban at Duke Divinity School » Being the Church Today - Alban Institute

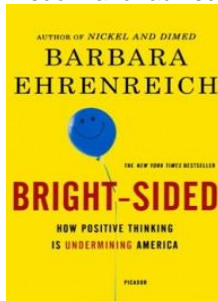
<https://alban.org/archive/being-the-church-today/>

Images for small-church lament

## Bright-Sided: How Positive Thinking Is Undermining America [Barbara Ehrenreich]

Americans are a "positive" people - cheerful, optimistic, and upbeat: This is our reputation as well as our self-image. But more than a temperament, being positive is the key to getting success and prosperity. Or so we are told.

In this utterly original debunking, Barbara Ehrenreich confronts the false promises of positive thinking and shows its reach into every corner of American life, from Evangelical mega churches to the medical establishment, and, worst of all, to the business community, where the refusal to consider negative outcomes--like mortgage defaults - contributed directly to the current economic disaster. With the myth-busting powers for which she is acclaimed, Ehrenreich exposes the downside of positive thinking: personal self-blame and national denial. This is Ehrenreich at her provocative best - poking holes in conventional wisdom and faux science and ending with a call for existential clarity and courage.



<http://www.amazon.com/Bright-Sided-Positive-Thinking-Undermining-America/dp/0312658850>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6452749-bright-sided>

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/6642954-bright-sided-how-the-relentless-promotion-of-positive-thinking-has-unde>

<http://www.barbaraehrenreich.com/bright-sided.htm>

[http://ebookey.org/Bright-sided-How-the-Relentless-Promotion-of-Positive-Thinking-Has-Undermined-America\\_916162.html](http://ebookey.org/Bright-sided-How-the-Relentless-Promotion-of-Positive-Thinking-Has-Undermined-America_916162.html)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/10/books/10ehrenreich.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/10/books/10ehrenreich.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/08/books/review/Rosin-t.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/08/books/review/Rosin-t.html?_r=0)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=113758696>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/13/AR2009111301392.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2010/jan/10/smile-or-die-barbara-ehrenreich>

<http://barbaraehrenreich.com/bright-sided-by-barbara-ehrenreich/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KywyhSeLZT8> Barbara Ehrenreich: "Bright Sided: How Positive Thinking Undermines America"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7w5DiZK-H0> Interview - Barbara Ehrenreich - The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream

<http://us.macmillan.com/bright-sided/barbaraehrenreich>

<http://positivepsychologynews.com/news/louisa-jewell/2010081713039>

<http://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/10634951>

<http://www.hyperink.com/Overall-Summary-Bright-sided-How-Positive-Thinking-Is-Undermining-America-b805a11>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bright-Sided-How-Positive-Thinking-Is-Undermining-America/152584581559319>  
<http://www.brian.digital/writing/reading/bright-sided/>  
<http://www.greatertalent.com/barbaraehrenreich/>  
<http://disabledfeminists.com/2009/12/10/book-review-bright-sided-how-positive-thinking-has-undermined-america-by-barbara-ehrenreich/>  
<http://abcnews.go.com/WN/barbara-ehrenreich-tackles-positive-thinking-book-bright-sided/story?id=8882249>  
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-8050-8749-9> Nonfiction Book Review  
<http://billmoyers.com/guest/barbara-ehrenreich/>  
<https://oneminutebookreviews.wordpress.com/2009/10/27/%E2%80%98smile-or-die%E2%80%99%E2%80%93barbara-ehrenreich%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98bright-sided-how-the-relentless-promotion-of-positive-thinking-has-undermined-america%E2%80%99/>  
<http://grabthelapels.com/tag/positive-thinking/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara\\_Ehrenreich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Ehrenreich)  
<http://us.macmillan.com/author/barbaraehrenreich/>  
<http://ehrenreich.blogs.com/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Barbara-Ehrenreich/e/B000AQ4X9S>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1257.Barbara\\_Ehrenreich](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1257.Barbara_Ehrenreich)  
 Images for Barbara Ehrenreich, author  
 Images for Bright-Sided: How Positive Thinking Is Undermining America [Barbara Ehrenreich]

### Bringing Our Pain to God: Michael Card and Calvin Seerveld on Biblical Lament in Worship

Lament is an essential ingredient of honest faith, but what does biblical **lament** look or sound like in real congregations? A feature story exploring how Christians can bring their pain to God in worship.

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/bringing-our-pain-to-god-michael-card-and-calvin-seerveld-on-biblical-lament-in-worship/>

Images for Bringing Our Pain to God: Michael Card and Calvin Seerveld on Biblical Lament in Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emI97bRGGgo> Calvin Seerveld on "The Breath of God" – YouTube

### Hurting with God: Learning to Lament with the Psalms [Glenn Pemberton]

Many writers have considered the question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Pemberton, however, sets this philosophical issue aside to consider the practical. How do believers live out faith in prolonged seasons of pain and loss? How can we live with God when it hurts - and continues to hurt? Drawing from his own daily struggle with chronic pain and years of reading and teaching the Psalms, Pemberton leads readers on a quest to recover a lost ancient resource for people of faith--the language of lament. The book of Psalms brings out the reality and presence of lament in ancient days, indeed laments make up a third of the Psalter. Through the exploration and study of imagery and language, Pemberton revitalizes this forgotten tool to rejuvenate those who seek to connect with God in times of struggle.



<http://www.amazon.com/Hurting-God-Learning-Lament-Psalms/dp/0891124004>  
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13632483-hurting-with-god>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/hurting-with-god-glenn-pemberton/1111013676>  
<http://alifeworthlivingforhim.blogspot.com/2012/06/book-review-hurting-with-god.html>  
<http://www.acu.edu/legacy/academics/cbs/programs/dbmm/faculty/pemberton.html>  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/jesuscreed/2015/04/15/basset-hounds-lament-and-easter-by-glenn-pemberton/>  
<http://durrough.wordpress.com/2012/07/23/book-review-hurting-with-god-learning-to-lament-with-the-psalms-by-glenn-pemberton/>  
<https://www.mosaicsite.org/glennpemberton>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Glenn-Pemberton/e/B00CBMY146>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5828703.Glenn\\_Pemberton](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5828703.Glenn_Pemberton)

Images for Glenn Pemberton

Images for Hurting with God: Learning to Lament with the Psalms [Glenn Pemberton]

### In the House of the Lord: Inhabiting the Psalms of Lament [Michael Jenkins]

The Lord reigns over all in the world of the psalmist, and everything is alive with the presence of the Lord. Even the unspeakable, the sorrow of oppression, the terror at the unknown, the anguish of the unjustly wronged, find voices to lament, and these lamentations are transformed into a kind of praise. What would it mean for us to inhabit the world of the psalmist? *In the House of the Lord: Inhabiting the Psalms of Lament* invites us to discover the answer to this question, and in so doing to enter a world which has long awaited our arrival.

<http://www.amazon.com/House-Lord-Inhabiting-Psalms-Lament/dp/0814624944>  
[http://books.google.com/books/about/In\\_the\\_House\\_of\\_the\\_Lord.html?id=y-W35hcuzwsC](http://books.google.com/books/about/In_the_House_of_the_Lord.html?id=y-W35hcuzwsC)  
<http://aboutbook.org/title/in-the-house-of-the-lord-inhabiting-the-psalms-of-lament-426426>  
<http://www.lpts.edu/about/our-faculty/full-time-faculty/michael-jenkins>



<https://www.scapc.org/blog/>  
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/michael-jenkins>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Michael-Jenkins/e/B001H6S3PA>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2101344.Letters\\_to\\_New\\_Pastors](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2101344.Letters_to_New_Pastors)  
[Images for Michael Jenkins](#)  
Images for In the House of the Lord: Inhabiting the Psalms of Lament [Michael Jenkins]

#### Lament: Reclaiming Practices in Pulpit, Pew, and Public Square [Sally A. Brown, Patrick D. Miller]

Lament, so prominent in the Christian canon, is neglected in the public worship and witness of most North American congregations. These essays by Princeton Theological Seminary faculty attest to the diverse ways in which lament is understood and practiced, and they invite their recovery in all elements of the church's ministry.

<http://www.amazon.com/Lament-Reclaiming-Practices-Pulpit-Public/dp/0664227503>  
<http://books.google.com/books/about/Lament.html?id=iEMUFxAcORwC>  
<http://business.highbeam.com/2152/article-1G1-148565802/lament-reclaiming-practices-pulpit-pew-and-public-square>  
<https://centralpresworship.net/lament/>  
Images for Sally A. Brown, author lament  
<https://www.amazon.com/Patrick-D.-Miller/e/B001ITYR88>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/85744.Patrick\\_D\\_Miller](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/85744.Patrick_D_Miller)  
Images for Patrick D. Miller, author lament  
Images for Lament: Reclaiming Practices in Pulpit, Pew, and Public Square [Sally A. Brown, Patrick D. Miller]

#### Rachel's Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope by Kathleen D. Billman (Author), Daniel L. Migliore (Contributor)

*Rachel's Cry; Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope*, by Billman and Migliore, seeks to recover the biblical tradition of lament and protest, and exemplify its importance in one's spiritual life, especially for those who grieve while facing irrational suffering. The biblical figure Rachel is seen as metaphor "of the wholeness of prayer and spirituality that needs to be reclaimed by Christians today." Rachel's cry, her lamentations, "need to be reclaimed in Christian prayer, the liturgy of the church, and pastoral ministry." The prayer of lament is the "unsettling tradition of prayer that includes expressions of complaint, anger, grief, despair and protest to God," found throughout the Bible, most often in the Psalms. One who did not believe in God could not have written these laments; they are honest, open conversations with a living, listening, God. The prayer of lament can co-exist with the prayer of praise and joy; in fact, it must if those that suffer are to be honest with them and with God. "How can the prayer of lament be free and joyful if the realities of broken human life are not named and lamented?" Lament adds to the wholeness of Christian life and has its place with praise and thanksgiving in a holistic understanding of prayer. I highly recommend this book for those that are grieving or are seeking to comfort those that are suffering. By R. Michael Friends

<http://www.amazon.com/Rachels-Cry-Prayer-Lament-Rebirth/dp/1556356293>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/rachels-cry-kathleen-d-billman/1101359960>  
[http://books.google.com/books/about/Rachel\\_s\\_Cry.html?id=ODUIAAAACAAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/Rachel_s_Cry.html?id=ODUIAAAACAAJ)  
<http://pres-outlook.org/2001/06/rachels-cry-prayer-of-lament-and-rebirth-of-hope/>  
<http://www.equippinglydia.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Lamenting-Prayers.pdf>  
<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/9946/> Kathleen D. Billman  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/305278.Kathleen\\_D\\_Billman](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/305278.Kathleen_D_Billman)  
Images for Kathleen D. Billman, author  
<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/8395/> Daniel L. Migliore  
<https://www.amazon.com/Daniel-L.-Migliore/e/B001IR1HQQ>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/30792.Daniel\\_L\\_Migliore](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/30792.Daniel_L_Migliore)  
Images for Daniel L. Migliore, author  
Images for Rachel's Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope by Kathleen D. Billman (Author)

#### Risking Truth: Reshaping the World through Prayers of Lament (Princeton Theological Monograph Series) [Scott A. Ellington]

Ours is a world characterized by change. Often the most fundamental changes in our lives result from experiences of profound suffering and loss as we are wrenched from our familiar world and driven into one that is alien. In the midst of such loss, we are compelled to choose between trying to cling to the remnants of a reality that is passing away and trying to make a home in a strange new world. Biblical prayers of lament wait for us at this crossroad of loss and newness. Prayers of lament are marked both by loss and by the inexplicable silence of God. Everything we believe about God's justice and goodness is placed in doubt by his hiddenness. The cry of lament is an act of tremendous risk. To lament is to abandon the sinking ship of religious certainty and strike out in a small dingy, amidst stormy seas, in search of a hidden God. Faced with God's silence, the biblical writers are willing to place at risk their most fundamental beliefs and to lament. The Psalm writers risk the loss of the Exodus story by crying out to a God who has failed to save, demanding that he once more part the chaotic waters and make a way in the desert. Job risks the loss of a moral God by confronting God with his injustice. Jeremiah risks the loss of the covenant by calling out for God to return yet again to a faithless partner and a failed marriage. Matthew and John the Revelator recognize that the coming of Messiah is impelled by the cries of innocent sufferers. Throughout the Bible, lament risks the possible loss of relationship with God and presses for a new, though uncertain, experience of God's presence.

<http://www.amazon.com/Risking-Truth-Reshaping-Princeton-Theological/dp/1556352638>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6232559-risking-truth>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1630878278>  
[http://books.google.com/books/about/Risking\\_Truth.html?id=GrcQAQAIAAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/Risking_Truth.html?id=GrcQAQAIAAJ)  
<https://www.librarything.com/series/Princeton+Theological+Monograph+Series>

<http://www.wheelersbooks.com.au/browse/series/162049-princeton-theological-monograph/?status=international>  
<http://wipfandstock.com/catalog/series/view/id/41/>  
<http://www.ec.edu/directory/ellington-scott>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Scott-A.-Ellington/e/B002KRBM12>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2836377.Scott\\_A\\_Ellington](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2836377.Scott_A_Ellington)  
 Images for Scott A. Ellington, author risking truth  
[Images for Risking Truth: Reshaping the World through Prayers of Lament \[Scott A. Ellington\]](#)  
<https://www.librarything.com/series/Princeton+Theological+Monograph+Series>  
 Images for Princeton Theological Monograph Series

The Church in Exile: Being a Missionary to the Dominant Culture - Alban

While **lament** is not a practice widely utilized in many sectors of today's church, it is the language that gives voice to a sense of loss and allows for the voice of protest to find its generative expression. In congregations throughout North America there is a **sense of loss and sorrow** that must be given voice. It comes out in church board meetings, informal conversations, and seminary classrooms. The sorrow is found in the cultural realities that remind us that the Christian faith holds less and less influence over the culture. Old certainties are not so certain, old institutions are eroding and carry less attraction to new generations; social fabrics seem to be fraying and are replaced with confusion, frustration, and sometimes anger. There is a lack of clarity about truth, authority, ethics, and what is "right." The church itself struggles (sometimes unsuccessfully) to hold its membership, and finances are an ongoing struggle. These are sorrow-producing realities that are *lamentable*. To properly appropriate the resources of exilic spirituality, the congregation should find ways to lament these changes. There must be a refusal to decorate our marginalization with platitudes or empty complaint. In giving voice to our sadness the church will gain a voice that is honest and realistic, just as the voice of the poet was in Babylon.

**Alban at Duke Divinity School » The Church in Exile: Being a Missionary to the Dominant Culture**

<https://alban.org/archive/the-church-in-exile-being-a-missionary-to-the-dominant-culture/>  
[Images for The Church in Exile: Being a Missionary to the Dominant Culture - Alban](#)  
[Images for lament sense of loss and sorrow](#)  
<https://alban.org/category/missions-evangelism/>

The Season of Departures: Lisa G. Fischbeck » Alban at Duke Divinity School

It took me a while to notice, but summer is a hard season in the life of a church in a university town. People leave. We wish them well, we pray them on their way. And we **grieve**.

**Alban at Duke Divinity School » Lisa G. Fischbeck: The Season of Departures**

<https://alban.org/2015/05/05/lisa-g-fischbeck-departures/>  
[Images for Season of Departures. And we grieve.](#)  
<https://alban.org/2017/04/24/lisa-g-fischbeck-formed-by-worship-to-be-in-the-world/>  
<https://alban.org/category/worship/>  
<http://theadvocatechurch.org/who-we-are/the-vicar/>  
<http://collegevilleinstitute.org/author/lisafischbeck/>  
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/lisa-g-fischbeck-strength-and-beauty-small-churches>  
[Images for Lisa G. Fischbeck, author](#)

## 15) Is the Bible to be read through the prism of Law/Gospel or from the perspective of political correctness?

I drive by churches with banners that read "Jesus didn't reject people. Neither do we." I wonder if I am reading the same Bible. I talked with the pastor of one such congregation on a well-traveled thoroughfare who complained about all the requests to do drive-by weddings. I replied, "What do you expect with that banner out in front?"

### Resources

Jesus claims to mediate God's will

<sup>32</sup>"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

**oremus Bible Browser: Matt. 10:32-33**

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Matt.%2010:32-33&version=nrsv>  
[Images for Jesus claims to mediate God's will](#)

### Matthew 11:20-24 - Woe on Unrepentant Towns

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup> "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.<sup>[a]</sup> For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. <sup>24</sup> But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2011:20-24>  
[Images for Woe on Unrepentant Towns](#)

## Matthew 23 ESV - Seven Woes to the Scribes and Pharisees

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,<sup>2</sup> “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,<sup>3</sup> so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.<sup>4</sup> They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,<sup>5</sup> and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.<sup>6</sup> They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,<sup>7</sup> and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues<sup>8</sup> and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi<sup>9</sup> by others.<sup>10</sup> But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.<sup>11</sup> And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.<sup>12</sup> Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.<sup>13</sup> The greatest among you shall be your servant.<sup>14</sup> Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

<sup>15</sup> “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.<sup>16</sup> Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell<sup>17</sup> as yourselves.

<sup>18</sup> “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’<sup>19</sup> You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? <sup>20</sup> And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’<sup>21</sup> You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? <sup>22</sup> So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it.<sup>23</sup> And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it.<sup>24</sup> And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.<sup>26</sup> You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.<sup>28</sup> You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

<sup>29</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.<sup>30</sup> So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

<sup>31</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous,<sup>32</sup> saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’<sup>33</sup> Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.<sup>34</sup> Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers.<sup>35</sup> You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? <sup>36</sup> Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town,<sup>37</sup> so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah,<sup>38</sup> whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.<sup>39</sup> Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

Lament over Jerusalem

<sup>40</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>41</sup> See, your house is left to you desolate.<sup>42</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+23&version=ESV>  
[Images for Seven Woes to the Scribes and Pharisees](#)

### The Sermon on the Plain

<sup>1</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.<sup>2</sup> Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.<sup>3</sup> Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.<sup>4</sup> Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.<sup>5</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.<sup>6</sup> But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.<sup>7</sup> Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.<sup>8</sup> Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.<sup>9</sup> Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

oremus Bible Browser: Luke 6:20-26  
<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=38260342>  
[Images for woe to you who are rich](#)

## 16) Welcome statement on church sign

The church sign read, “All are welcome.”

### All are welcome - Living Lutheran

The church's catchphrase “all are welcome” is so common it seems like a meme. But what do these three simple words actually mean? Are they sincere or do dwindling congregations just hope to get people in the pews? Is it just what we think we should say?

Welcoming isn't simple. How churches welcome newcomers can often mean the difference between vibrant congregations and those that struggle.

### Study guide

Most every congregation desires to grow with new members who will bring new energy, ideas, enthusiasm and resources. And although most every congregation wants to be a welcoming place for everybody, some unintentionally and unconsciously send mixed signals that keep some folks away. But this is something a congregation can work on.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/02/welcome/>

Images for All are welcome: Pastors and members break down the not-so-simple concept of welcoming | The Lutheran

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

I wondered to myself if the Outreach Committee intentionally determined the statement or if a well-intentioned custodian put up the statement. For instance, what if a registered sex offender seeks to attend? Has church leadership thought through liability? Are they prepared to put a sex offender policy in place?

### **When a Sex Offender Wants to Attend Church | Managing Your Church**

These steps can help ensure a smooth integration.

<https://www.churchlawandtax.com/blog/2012/october/when-sex-offender-wants-to-attend-church.html>

Images for When a Sex Offender Wants to Attend Church

On the other hand, if a congregation announces that it is Reconciling in Christ, then such a welcome statement is more specific.

### **Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Resources | ReconcilingWorks**

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is for congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, and other Lutheran organizations. Lutheran communities that publicly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are accepted onto the Reconciling in Christ roster which now exceeds 813 settings.

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/ric/>

Images for Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Resources | ReconcilingWorks

Unless a congregation is RIC and has thought through other such possibilities, it may be enough to say, "Welcome."

## **17) Strong, Loving and Wise**

A booklet entitled **Strong, Loving and Wise: Presiding in Liturgy** by Robert W. Hovda (Author) that I read early in my pastoral ministry has shaped my perspective down through the years. It just so happened that Hovda was born approximately 20 miles away from the location of my first call. I may have forgotten the details of the publication, but I remember the three-fold description of the role.

### **Strong, Loving and Wise: Presiding in Liturgy** by Robert W. Hovda (Author) Godfrey Diekmann (Foreword)

A manual of ideas and experiences emphasizing the fact that a good presider must be aware of what will happen at every planned moment of a liturgical celebration.



<https://www.amazon.com/Strong-Loving-Wise-Presiding-Liturgy/dp/0814612539>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Strong\\_Loving\\_and\\_Wise.html?id=s8JB0vLSJBcC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Strong_Loving_and_Wise.html?id=s8JB0vLSJBcC)

<http://www.christianbook.com/strong-loving-wise-presiding-in-liturgy/robert-hovda/9780814612538/pd/4612539>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0814612539>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Strong\\_Loving\\_and\\_Wise.html?id=s8JB0vLSJBcC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Strong_Loving_and_Wise.html?id=s8JB0vLSJBcC)

<http://academic.udayton.edu/geraldchinchar/REL546/readings/lwsg03.pdf>

<http://forcrosspurposes.blogspot.com/2010/01/strong-loving-wise-and-elements-of-rite.html>

<http://liturgicaleaders.blogspot.com/2008/09/robert-hovda.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-W.-Hovda/e/B00288KPFW>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5666640.Robert\\_W\\_Hovda](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5666640.Robert_W_Hovda)

Images for Robert W. Hovda (Author)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1442244321>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1703305.Godfrey\\_Diekmann](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1703305.Godfrey_Diekmann)

Images for Godfrey Diekmann, author

Images for Strong, Loving and Wise: Presiding in Liturgy by Robert W. Hovda (Author) Godfrey Diekmann (Foreword)

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## **Resources**

### **How to Preside Over Worship | Our Everyday Life**

The New Testament says that worship ought to be an orderly expression of one's whole heart, mind, and strength in praise and devotion to God. For a worship leader, that means some of the prerequisites for a good service include preparation, sensitivity to the needs of the congregation and teamwork with assistant and lay ministers.

<http://peopleof.oureverydaylife.com/preside-over-worship-10719.html>



Images for Preside Over Worship  
<http://peopleof.oureverydaylife.com/conduct-church-service-6881.html>  
 Images for conduct-church-service  
<http://peopleof.oureverydaylife.com/roles-praise-worship-leader-11442.html>  
 Images for roles-praise-worship-leader  
<http://peopleof.oureverydaylife.com/conduct-sunday-worship-service-7234.html>  
 Images for conduct-sunday-worship-service  
<http://peopleof.oureverydaylife.com/tips-leading-praise-worship-10681.html>  
 Images for tips-leading-praise-worship  
<http://peopleof.oureverydaylife.com/responsibilities-praise-worship-teams-11678.html>  
 Images for responsibilities-praise-worship-teams

The evangelical pastor: Pastoral leadership for a witnessing people by Mark A. Olson  
 Presiding Page 59

<http://www.amazon.com/The-evangelical-pastor-leadership-witnessing/dp/B0006EZPI2>  
<http://fortresspress.com/author/mark-olson>  
 Images for The evangelical pastor: Pastoral leadership for a witnessing people by Mark A. Olson

[PDF]Who Is a Presiding Minister - ELCA Resource Repository

The term "presiding minister" makes the best sense in this context of many leaders exercising many gifts in the assembly for worship.  
[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Who\\_is\\_a\\_presiding\\_minister.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Who_is_a_presiding_minister.pdf)  
 Images for Who Is a Presiding Minister - ELCA Resource Repository

## 18) Pace for leading services of worship

A parish council insisted in the concurrence interview that they did not like the service of worship printed out in the bulletin and wanted to go back to following the order of worship in the hymnbook. I prompted the assembly in the services of worship and paused for people to find their places. The previous assignment the churches used screens and projection so that the people followed along.

### On Pacing and Lay Worship Leadership | Reformed Worship

Q. Worship services in our church are so fast-paced that I can barely keep up. What's the big rush?  
 —California

A. In the past few years, worship leaders have often sought to pick up the pace of services. Part of this quickening is intentional—some services in the past have dragged on at a snail's pace. Part of this is also the unintentional effect of the media in our sound-bite society. Whether we live in Cairo, Carracas, or Cincinnati, our culture shapes our understanding of what seems fast or slow. Lately our culture has been speeding up our internal clocks.

<https://www.reformedworship.org/article/march-2001/pacing-and-lay-worship-leadership>

Images for On Pacing and Lay Worship Leadership | Reformed Worship

<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/leading-the-liturgy/>

<https://www.churchoftheservantcrc.org/worship/a-short-guide-to-leading-liturgy-at-cos/>

<https://churchleaders.com/worship/worship-how-tos/249178-tips-leading-liturgy.html>

Images for guide-to-leading-liturgy

<https://www.musicademy.com/2014/06/worship-leading-mistakes/>

<http://www.lsufirstservice.org/blog/4-tips-on-worship-leading>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/jared-c-wilson/top-10-things-i-love-that-worship-leaders-do/>

<https://www.doxologyandtheology.com/blog/post/eight-ways-to-maintain-your-integrity-as-a-worship-leader>

Images for integrity-as-a-worship-leader

Transitions in the Liturgy  
 Qualities

#5

#4

#4

#10

#2

## 19) A worship leader is called to be calm and confident rather than clever and cute

The former attitude is meant to make Christ known, while the latter seeks to call attention to one self.

Jesus and John the Baptist

Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason, my joy has been fulfilled. **He must increase, but I must decrease.**"

oremus Bible Browser: John 3:25-30

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=257235176>

Images for Jesus and John the Baptist

## 20) Should a pastor carry the baby in baptism?

I don't hold a baby in baptism let alone parade the baby up and down the aisle. For one thing, I do not feel comfortable doing so. More importantly, I think such an act detracts from the central action of baptism in that God is claiming one's own through water and word. When a pastor insists on carrying the baby, I ask, "Whose needs are being met?"

## Holy Baptism

In baptism, our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7583/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition>

Page 227

Images for In baptism, our gracious heavenly Father

In addition, the parents present the child and agree to take on responsibilities.

## Holy Baptism

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7583/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition>

Page 228

Images for child baptized into Christ?

Also, Martin Luther said this about parents:

Most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the gospel. In short, there is no greater or nobler authority on earth than that of parents over their children, for this authority is both spiritual and temporal. Whoever teaches the faith to another is truly an apostle and bishop.

(Luther's Works 45:46, "The Estate of Marriage, 1522," Walther I. Brandt, ed. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1962).

## Resources

[PDF] Biblical and Theological Resources for Raising Children

According to Luther, as priests and bishops to their children, parents have a twofold task: to nurture the faith of their children and to help them develop their gifts to serve others.<sup>10</sup> He also helped parents in this task by preaching about parenting and by writing *The Small Catechism*, which was intended for use in the home.

Followers of Luther also spoke meaningfully about the sacred task of parenting. For example, August Hermann Francke, the eighteenth century German pietist from Halle, claimed that the primary goal of parents is to lead their children to godliness. They are to help children grow in faith, empowering them to use their gifts and talents to love and serve God and the neighbor and to contribute to the common good.<sup>11</sup> Formation of children was also emphasized in the recently adopted social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Our Calling in Education*.<sup>12</sup>

[http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/uploads/5/2/4/6/5246709/biblical\\_and\\_theological\\_resources\\_for\\_raising\\_children\\_-\\_marcia\\_bunge.pdf](http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/uploads/5/2/4/6/5246709/biblical_and_theological_resources_for_raising_children_-_marcia_bunge.pdf)

Page 3

Images for Images for Biblical and Theological Resources for Raising Children by Marcia Bunge

Images for nurture the faith of their children

Defender of the Most Holy Matriarchs: Martin Luther's Interpretation of the Women of Genesis in the Enarrationes in Genesis, 1535-1545 (Studies in Medieval & Reformation Thought) by Mickey Leland Mattox (Author)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=9004128948>

Page 86

<https://www.amazon.com/Defender-Most-Holy-Matriarchs-Interpretation/dp/9004128948>

This work examines Martin Luther's interpretation of the female characters in the stories of Genesis, drawing attention to his appropriation of premodern catholic interpretations of the biblical "saints." In Luther's hands, many of these women became heroic examples of the godly life newly adapted to the worldly asceticism of emerging Protestantism. Their everyday sanctity, exercised for the most part within the limits Luther believed God had imposed on their sex, displayed the kind of piety he thought should animate Christian women in their own households. Two chapters evaluate Luther's interpretation of Eve, noting his understanding of the ideal relations between men and women. Five further chapters examine Sarah, Hagar, Rachel, the daughters and wife of Lot, and Potiphar's wife.

<http://www.brill.com/defender-most-holy-matriarchs-martin-luther-s-interpretation-women-genesis-enarrationes-genesis-1535>

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.2307/4143616>

Reviews 1049

<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=11546> Luther's Not-So-Desperate Housewives

Images for Martin Luther's Interpretation of the Women of Genesis

Faith and Freedom: An Invitation to the Writings of Martin Luther by Martin Luther (Author), John F. Thornton (Editor), Susan Varenne (Editor)

Here I will let the matter rest and leave to others the task of searching out further benefits and advantages of the estate of marriage. My purpose was only to enumerate those which a Christian can have for conducting his married life in a Christian way, so that, as Solomon says, he may find his wife in the sight of God and obtain favor from the Lord [Prov. 18:22].

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=037571376X>

Page 255

Images for Christian conducting married life in a Christian way

*Faith and Freedom: An Invitation to the Writings of Martin Luther* is the first selection in decades for the general reader from the many dozens of volumes that constitute Martin Luther's collected works. The selections included here, chosen for their pastoral tone, speak across the centuries and inform the spiritual concerns of today. Drawing on Luther's Bible prefaces and commentaries, his treatises and sermons, his letters, his "table talk," and his enduring hymnbook, *Faith and Freedom* will provide a spiritual resource for anyone seeking the heritage of modern Christian spirituality. Moreover, it requires no specialized knowledge of Reformation theology or Church history. Rich in language, direct, powerful, fresh in ideas, and often disquieting in their effect, the writings of Luther provide compelling reading.

<https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Freedom-Invitation-Writings-Martin/dp/037571376X>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/824065.Faith\\_and\\_Freedom](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/824065.Faith_and_Freedom)

<https://penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/104655/faith-and-freedom#9780375713767>

Images for *Faith and Freedom: An Invitation to the Writings of Martin Luther*

**From Sacrament to Contract, Second Edition: Marriage, Religion, and Law in the Western Tradition (Family, Religion, and Culture) by John Witte Jr.**

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1611641926>

Page 126

[https://books.google.com/books/about/From\\_Sacrament\\_to\\_Contract\\_Second\\_Editio.html?id=f0cSTQNhNYC](https://books.google.com/books/about/From_Sacrament_to_Contract_Second_Editio.html?id=f0cSTQNhNYC)

[https://books.google.com/books/about/From\\_Sacrament\\_to\\_Contract.html?id=pIL7Gihul0oC](https://books.google.com/books/about/From_Sacrament_to_Contract.html?id=pIL7Gihul0oC)

In *From Sacrament to Contract*, John Witte Jr. offers a study of five conflicting models of marriage--Catholic, Lutheran, Calvinist, Anglican, and Enlightenment--and their social and political impact over the last thousand years. In so doing, Witte shows how we arrived at the notion of marriage as contract.

The Family, Culture, and Religion series offers informed and responsible analyses of the state of the American family from a religious perspective and provides practical assistance for the family's revitalization.

<https://www.amazon.com/Sacrament-Contract-Marriage-Religion-Tradition/dp/0664255434>

[https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/941406.From\\_Sacrament\\_to\\_Contract](https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/941406.From_Sacrament_to_Contract)

<http://www.johnwittejr.com/from-sacrament-to-contract.html>

<https://www.wjkbooks.com/Products/0664234321/from-sacrament-to-contract-second-edition.aspx>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/From-Sacrament-Contract-Second-Edition-Jr-John-Witte/9780664234324>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Witte\\_Jr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Witte_Jr)

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/john-witte-jr>

<http://law.emory.edu/faculty-and-scholarship/faculty-profiles/witte-profile.html>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/314779.John\\_Witte\\_Jr](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/314779.John_Witte_Jr)

Images for John Witte Jr., author

Images for *From Sacrament to Contract, Second Edition: Marriage, Religion, and Law in the Western Tradition (Family, Religion, and Culture)* by John Witte Jr.

Images for five conflicting models of marriage--Catholic, Lutheran, Calvinist, Anglican, and Enlightenment

**[PDF]1 The Mother of all Earthly Laws: The Lutheran Reformation of Marriage. - John Witte, Jr.**

In addition to the divine gift of love, marriage also sometimes bestowed on the couple the divine gift of children.

Luther treated procreation as an act of co-creation and co-redemption with God. He wished for all marital couples the joy of having children, not only for their own sakes but for the sake of God as well. Childrearing, he wrote, "is the noblest and most precious work, because to God there can be nothing dearer than the salvation of souls.... [Y]ou can see how rich the estate of marriage is in good works. God has entrusted to its bosom souls begotten of its own body on whom it can lavish all manner of Christian works. Most certainly, father and mother are apostles, bishops, [and] priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the Gospel. See therefore how good and great is God's work and ordinance."19 LW 45:46

<http://www.johnwittejr.com/uploads/5/4/6/6/54662393/a196.pdf>

Page 16

Images for *The Lutheran Reformation of Marriage. - John Witte, Jr.*

**Great Commission, Great Confusion, or Great Confession?: The Mission of the Holy Christian Church by Lucas V. Woodford (Author)**

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1630875708>

Chapter 6 The Great Confession Part One

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1610978773>

There is a great debate going on in the church today. It centers on one question: "What is the mission of the church?" From culturally relevant, emerging congregations to strategic methods of organization and outreach, many claim they have the answer. They say the mission must become "missional." Yet the churches of North America continue to struggle.

Uncertainty is growing. "What does it really mean to be 'missional'?" Competing claims abound. "Get the message out!" "Get the message right!" Great confusion has set in, particularly in the postmodern North American church. The Gospel is getting lost. Yet, throughout the ages, the creedal confession of the Holy Christian Church has carried her through uncertainty and struggle. The Apostles' Creed has steadied and stayed the mission of the church for centuries. It centers on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit--the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. This book celebrates the historic mission of the Holy Christian Church, and it invites the North American church to do the same.

<https://www.amazon.com/Great-Commission-Confusion-Confession-Christian/dp/1610978773>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/14025174-great-commission-great-confusion-or-great-confession-the-mission-of-t>

<https://www.logos.com/product/55288/great-commission-great-confusion-or-great-confession-the-mission-of-the-holy-christian-church>

<https://wipfandstock.com/great-commission-great-confusion-or-great-confession.html>  
<http://www.pastormatrichard.com/2015/07/great-commission-great-confusion-or.html>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5887998.Lucas\\_V\\_Woodford](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5887998.Lucas_V_Woodford)

Images for Lucas V. Woodford (Author) great commission

Images for Great Commission, Great Confusion, or Great Confession?: The Mission of the Holy Christian Church by Lucas V. Woodford (Author)

### Her Story: Women in Christian Tradition (2nd Edition) by Barbara J. MacHaffie (Author)

God has entrusted to its bosom souls begotten of its own body, on whom it can lavish all manner of Christian works.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451404026>

Page 111

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Her\\_Story.html?id=Daxr-7t3Wf0C](https://books.google.com/books/about/Her_Story.html?id=Daxr-7t3Wf0C)

An accessible, introductory text first published by Fortress Press in 1983, *Her Story: Women in Christian History* has sold over 30,000 copies of the first edition and has ably helped readers recover the oft-ignored or submerged stories of women in the Christian tradition, from biblical times to now. Barbara MacHaffie, who wrote the brief history and compiled a lively anthology of companion primary readings, has revised and updated the text and readings. In this new edition, history and primary readings are combined and augmented with helpful pedagogical tools. This new textbook, which offers sympathetic coverage of all Christian traditions, is supported by a dedicated companion Web site that includes chapter summaries, questions for discussion and Web links that vividly bring the stories of women to life in portraits, artifacts, and other primary materials.

<https://www.amazon.com/Her-Story-Women-Christian-Tradition/dp/0800638263>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/54134.Her\\_Story](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/54134.Her_Story)

<http://fortresspress.com/product/her-story-women-christian-tradition-second-edition>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/her-story-barbara-j-machaffie/1100921000>

<https://www.amazon.com/Barbara-J.-MacHaffie/e/B001KHSFZ4>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/30584.Barbara\\_J\\_MacHaffie](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/30584.Barbara_J_MacHaffie)

Images for Barbara J. MacHaffie (Author)

Images for Her Story: Women in Christian Tradition (2nd Edition) by Barbara J. MacHaffie (Author)

### Impressed? - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Impress is a reminder of our vocation as parents and grandparents.

<https://www.goodshepherd.info/impressed>

Images for vocation as parents and grandparents

### Large Catechism - Christian Classics Ethereal Library

Therefore, God has also most richly blessed this estate above all others, and, in addition has bestowed on it and wrapped up in it everything in the world, to the end that this estate might be well and richly provided for. Married life is therefore no jest or presumption; but it is an excellent thing and a **matter of divine seriousness**. For it is of the highest importance to Him that persons be raised who may serve the world and promote the knowledge of God, godly living, and all virtues, to fight against wickedness and the devil.

Martin Luther (1483-1546), *The Large Catechism*

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/luther/largecatechism.pdf>

Page 31

Images for Married life a matter of divine seriousness

<https://onshouldersofgiants.wordpress.com/2013/01/09/the-greatest-good-in-married-life-raising-kids-to-know-serve-god/>

Images for greatest-good-in-married-life-raising-kids-to-know-serve-god

### [PDF] MARTIN LUTHER ON MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Luther's application of evangelical theology to marriage and family desacramentalized marriage; desacralized the clergy and resacralized the life of the laity; opposed the maze of canonical impediments to marriage; strove to unravel the tangled skein of canon law, imperial law, and German customs; and joyfully affirmed God's good creation, including sexual relations. In return, Luther was in such demand as a marriage counselor that he often complained of the burden it imposed on him.<sup>7</sup>

Page 28

<http://www.emanuel.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/P-2.1-2004-Carter-Lindberg-Martin-Luther-on-Marriage-and-the-Family.pdf>

Images for MARTIN LUTHER ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

[http://www.cranach.org/imageofgod/papers/pless\\_Luther\\_on\\_Marriage.pdf](http://www.cranach.org/imageofgod/papers/pless_Luther_on_Marriage.pdf)

<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=church-history-pubs> [PDF] Martin Luther on

Marriage and Family - Digital Commons @ Andrews University

<https://livingbydesign.org/martin-luther-on-marriage/>

Images for martin-luther-on-marriage

<https://doulouitheou.blog/2016/10/31/martin-luthers-marriage-and-family-life/>

Images for martin-luthers-marriage-and-family-life

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/martin-luther-on-marriage-as-a-school-of-character/>

Images for martin-luther-on-marriage-as-a-school-of-character

[http://www.pbs.org/empires/martinluther/char\\_wife.html](http://www.pbs.org/empires/martinluther/char_wife.html)

<https://wearepatrol.com/blog/luther-family-man>

Images for martin-luther-family-man



<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/billykangas/2010/02/saint-valentines-day-luther-on-marriage.html>  
[www.parentsarise.org/2013/martin-luther-quotes/](http://www.parentsarise.org/2013/martin-luther-quotes/)  
 Images for martin luther quotes  
[http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/uploads/5/2/4/6/5246709/biblical\\_and\\_theological\\_resources\\_for\\_raising\\_childr\\_en\\_-\\_marcia\\_bunge.pdf](http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/uploads/5/2/4/6/5246709/biblical_and_theological_resources_for_raising_childr_en_-_marcia_bunge.pdf)  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/child-in-christian-thought-marcia-j-bunge/1102013168>  
<http://www.sacramentaldiscipleship.com/?p=166> The Vocation of Parents | Sacramental Discipleship  
 Images for Vocation of Parents | Sacramental Discipleship  
<http://www.calvarygf.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Baptism-Class-Brochure-Calvary-20123.pdf>  
 Images for Baptism-Class-Brochure-Calvary

Page 21

### Our Savior Lutheran Church | Parent's role

A child's spiritual and faith formation takes place first within the home. Martin Luther said: "Most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the Gospel. In short, there is no greater or nobler authority on earth than that of parents over their children, for this authority is both spiritual and temporal. Whoever teaches the Gospel to another is truly his apostle and bishop."

[www.oursavior.com/for-parents](http://www.oursavior.com/for-parents)

Images for Our Savior Lutheran Church | Parent's role

Images for child's spiritual and faith formation

### Taking Faith Home – Dilworth Lutheran Church

Luther had an expectation for the church, an expectation for the believers who made up the church. In his introduction to the Small Catechism Luther tells of the "deplorable" state in which he found the homes of the common people and of their inability to understand and know even the most basic of Christian teachings. It is for this reason that Luther wrote the Small Catechism, for the home. Luther believed parents were the bishops and priests to their children and therefore the church itself.

[www.dilworthlutheran.org/taking-faith-home/](http://www.dilworthlutheran.org/taking-faith-home/)

<https://www.dilworthlutheran.org/vibrant-faith-frame/>

<https://www.dilworthlutheran.org/>

<http://www.dilworthlutheran.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Home-and-Family-Event-Schedule-2016-2017.pdf>

Images for Taking Faith Home

### The Annotated Luther, Volume 5: Christian Life in the World (Annotated Luther) by Hans J Hillerbrand (Author, Editor)

But the greatest good in married life, that which makes all suffering and labor worthwhile, is that God grants offspring and commands that they be brought up to worship and serve him.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451472331>

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Images for God commands that offspring be brought up to worship him

This volume (volume 5) features Luther's writings that intersect church and state, faith and life lived as a follower of Christ. His insights regarding marriage, trade, public education, war and are articulated. His theological and biblical insights also colored the way he spoke of the "Jews" and Turks, as well his admonition to the German peasants in their uprisings against the established powers.

<https://www.amazon.com/Annotated-Luther-Christian-Life-World/dp/1451462735>

Images for Annotated Luther, Volume 5: Christian Life in the World

<http://fortresspress.com/product/annotated-luther-volume-5-christian-life-world>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/1596/The-Annotated-Luther-Volume-5>

<https://www.christianbook.com/christian-world-volume-5-annotated-luther/9781451462739/pd/462739>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-annotated-luther-volume-5-hans-j-hillerbrand/1125129941>

<https://www.librarything.com/author/hillerbrandhansj>

<https://www.amazon.com/Hans-Joachim-Hillerbrand/e/B001HPTPMQ>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/30505.Hans\\_J\\_Hillerbrand](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/30505.Hans_J_Hillerbrand)

Images for Hans J Hillerbrand (Author, Editor)

Images for The Annotated Luther, Volume 5: Christian Life in the World (Annotated Luther) by Hans J Hillerbrand (Author, Editor)

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/23039/The-Annotated-Luther-Volume-1-6-set>

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/LutherCatalog.pdf>

<https://fortresspress.com/annotatedluther>

<https://www.logos.com/product/145224/the-annotated-luther-series>

<https://www.logos.com/product/122789/the-annotated-luther-series>

Images for annotated-luther-series

### The Oxford Handbook of Martin Luther's Theology

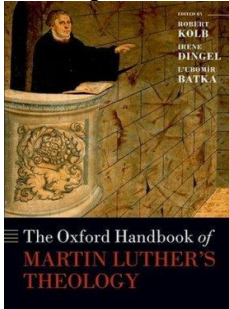
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0191667471>

VII. Parents and Children

Images for Oxford Handbook of Martin Luther's Theology Parents and Children

As celebrations of the five-hundredth anniversary of Martin Luther's initiation of the most dramatic reform movement in the history of Christianity approach, 47 essays by historians and theologians from 15 countries provide insight into the background and context, the content, and the impact of his way of thought. Nineteenth-century Chinese educational

reformers, twentieth-century African and Indian social reformers, German philosophers and Christians of many traditions on every continent have found in Luther's writings stimulation and provocation for addressing modern problems. This volume offers studies of the late medieval intellectual milieu in which his thought was formed, the hermeneutical principles that guided his reading and application of the Bible, the content of his formulations of Christian teaching on specific topics, his social and ethic thought, the ways in which his contemporaries, both supporters and opponents, helped shape his ideas, the role of specific genre in developing his positions on issues of the day, and the influences he has exercised in the past and continues to exercise today in various parts of the world and the Christian church. Authors synthesize the scholarly debates and analysis of Luther's thinking and point to future areas of research and exploration of his thought.



<https://www.amazon.com/Oxford-Handbook-Luthers-Theology-Handbooks/dp/0198766475>

<https://www.christianbook.com/the-oxford-handbook-martin-luthers-theology/robert-kolb/9780198766476/pd/766470>

<http://www.booksataglance.com/book-reviews/the-oxford-handbook-of-martin-luthers-theology-edited-by-robert-kolb-irene-dingel-and-lubomir-batka/>

<https://library.villanova.edu/Find/Record/1499169/TOC> Table of Contents: The Oxford handbook of Martin Luther's theology

**The Pastoral Luther: Essays on Martin Luther's Practical Theology by Timothy J. Wengert (Editor)**

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1506427243>

Page 268

[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Pastoral\\_Luther.html?id=r6PS3JKdoi4C](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Pastoral_Luther.html?id=r6PS3JKdoi4C)

Explores a long-neglected aspect of Martin Luther his life and ministry as a pastor. Sixteen church historians here examine Martin Luther in an uncommon way not as Reformer or theologian but as pastor. Luther's work as parish pastor commanded much of his time and energy in Wittenberg. / After first introducing the pastoral Luther, including his theology of the cross, these chapters discuss Luther's preaching and use of language (including humor), investigate his teaching ministry in depth, especially in light of the catechism, and explore his views on such things as the role of women, the Virgin Mary, and music. The book finally probes Luther's sentiments on monasticism and secular authority.

Contributors: Charles P. Arand, James M. Estes, Eric W. Gritsch, Robert Kolb, Beth Kreitzer, Robin A. Leaver, Mickey L. Mattox, Ronald Rittgers, Robert Rosin, Reinhard Schwarz, Jane E. Strohl, Christoph Weimer, Dorothea Wendebourg, Timothy J. Wengert, Victor Westhelle, H. S. Wilson.

<https://www.amazon.com/Pastoral-Luther-Practical-Theology-Quarterly/dp/B00D9TXG14>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6568969-the-pastoral-luther>

<http://fortresspress.com/product/pastoral-luther-essays-martin-luther%E2%80%99s-practical-theology>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/1649/The-Pastoral-Luther>

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/004057361006700117?journalCode=tjta>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/233491.Timothy\\_J\\_Wengert](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/233491.Timothy_J_Wengert)

Images for Timothy J. Wengert (Editor)

Images for The Pastoral Luther: Essays on Martin Luther's Practical Theology by Timothy J. Wengert (Editor)

I want to affirm the sponsors and assembly in their role to help nurture and support the child.

#### Holy Baptism

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this person in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help this person live in the covenant and in communion with the church?

*Response:* I do.

People of God, do you promise to support name and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ.

*Response:* We do.

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress**

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7583/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition>

Page 228

Images for Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this person in the Christian faith

Images for People of God, do you promise to support name and pray for them in their new life in Christ.

As a pastor, I see my role as functioning in the office for this sacrament of water and word and not as calling attention to myself and entertaining the assembly. In other words, I consider it inappropriate for me to thrust myself into the center of attention.

Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism as a devotional for parents. For too long, parents have abdicated this responsibility to pastors and educational ministries, while pastors and educational ministries have accepted this responsibility by default. Fortunately, efforts, such as Milestones Ministry and Faith Inkubators, seek for the church and the family to recover this original intention.

## Resources

### Faith Inkubators

Faith Inkubators offers Sunday School, Confirmation, Catechism and whole-family Christian education curriculum in addition to Home Journals, Christian music...

<http://www.faithink.com/>  
[Images for Faith Inkubators](#)

### Milestones Ministry | A Vital Partnership between Home and Congregation

Growing the church by nurturing people in faith.

<https://milestonesministry.org/>  
[Images for Milestones Ministry | A Vital Partnership between Home and Congregation](#)

Asking the baptismal party to face the assembly and inviting the assembly to sing *Welcome, Child of God* by Anne Ylvisaker is to be preferred, in my opinion.

### *Welcome, Child of God* - Augsburg Fortress

Written by Anne Ylvisaker and illustrated by Claudia McGehee, this beautiful board book is part of the Washed and Welcome family of baptismal resources.

*Welcome, Child of God* is an ideal baptismal gift for families, featuring illustrations that help children connect to their baptism and reinforcing the baptismal connections that surround us every day.

In addition to being a treasured reminder of the child's baptism, the text has been written to be sung to the child (listen to the tune in the audio sample tab above), and a music graphic is included on the back cover of the book. Parents will want to read and sing this beautifully illustrated board book to their child again and again!

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9464/Washed-and-Welcome-Welcome-Child-of-God>  
<http://storypath.upsem.edu/welcome-child-of-god/>  
[Images for welcome child of god song](#)

Following the service of worship, I ask the baptismal party to present themselves in the gathering area to be greeted by the people.

## 21) Act like you've been there before

Legendary Green Bay Packer's Coach Vince Lombardi is quoted, "When you go into the end zone, act like you've been there before."

Quote by Vince Lombardi: "When you go into the end zone,..."

<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/1368777-when-you-go-into-the-end-zone-act-like-you-ve>  
[Images for coach vince lombardi](#)

Punt returner Marcus Sherels replied to a question in a way that shows class.

[Chris Tomasson@christomasson](#)

#Vikings special teams coordinator Mike Priefer asked Marcus Sherels if he would have spiked the ball if he had scored on his long punt return last Sunday vs. Miami. The response for the mild-mannered guy: "No, I would have handed the ball to the official."

671:06 PM - Dec 20, 2018

[Images for Marcus Sherels](#)

## 22) Now it takes ever increasing intentionality to get people in the doors

During my 10 2/3 years in the installed pastorate during the 1980s serving an open country two-point parish, mid-week Lenten services at 8pm were offered at each church – one on Wednesday night and the other on Thursday night. The schedule rotated from year to year. I taught Confirmation at 7pm and expected the students and parents to attend the Lenten services. The Congregation Council held their regular meetings following the Lenten services. Circles served a lunch after the Lenten services. Ushers ushered, and acolytes lit the candles. All these activities increased the attendance.

Through the years, I have learned that some people will come if asked to serve in some capacity but will not otherwise. So, at one mid-sized congregation I served years later in interim ministry, a big part of the church secretary's job was to ask people to serve as ushers, greeters, assisting ministers, acolytes, communion assistants, altar guild, communion bread, coffee fellowship, projection, and recording. When the choir sang, the choir members came. When the praise band played, the members of the praise band came. If there ever was a day when it could be said, "Open the doors, and they will come," that day has passed.

## Resources

### How do we get people to church? | The Christian Century

And it's really good for the church to not be lazy about opening its doors and doing everything this week the same way we did it last week, because that's the way we've been doing it for the last hundred years. We have to actually **think** about the people in our neighborhoods. What do people need? What do they want? What motivates them?

<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2015-11/how-do-we-get-people-church>  
[Images for How do we get people to church? | The Christian Century](#)  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/magazine>

## 10 Major Trends for Churches in 2017 - Rainer on Leadership - Thom Rainer

In some ways, outreach and evangelism were easier in the past. A greater **intentionality** is needed today.

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/01/10-major-trends-churches-2017-rainer-leadership-290/>

Images for outreach and evangelism were easier in the past. A greater intentionality is needed today. - Thom Rainer

<https://thomrainer.com/2015/02/fifteen-reasons-churches-less-evangelistic-today/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2017/08/five-evangelism-realities-must-face-rainer-leadership-358/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/07/nine-things-that-have-replaced-traditional-outreach-in-churches/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2015/11/nine-reasons-cont-evangelize/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Effective-Evangelistic-Churches-Successful-Reveal/dp/0805454020>

Images for thom rainer (author)

## 23) Reasons for coming to services of worship

A member of the Congregation Council concerned about inactives asked me, "Can we give people reasons for coming to worship?"

### Resources

#### 5 Reasons to Attend Church Regularly - Christian Post

Regular church attendance is extremely valuable, is very important and should be practiced by anyone who claims to be a follower of Christ. A Christ-follower needs to regularly attend church. Not counting the times that you might miss for vacation or sickness or a particular work commitment you should be in church.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rick-mcdaniel/5-reasons-to-attend-church\\_b\\_3528383.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rick-mcdaniel/5-reasons-to-attend-church_b_3528383.html)

Images for 5 Reasons to Attend Church Regularly - Christian Post

<https://www.lightworkers.com/5-surprising-scientific-reasons-to-attend-church/>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/5-reasons-to-attend-church-regularly-114977/>

<http://www.outreachmagazine.com/features/21037-attending-church.html>

<https://biblereasons.com/reasons-for-attending-church/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/church-attendance.html>

<https://www.thinke.org/blog/attending-church-important>

Images for attending-church-important

#### 99 Reasons You Should go to Church This Weekend

So, why go to church? I've listed 99 reasons below.

Some of these reasons are serious and thought provoking, others are just fun... they're not in any particular order and perhaps a portion of them won't apply to you. Either way though, I hope you too will be encouraged by my sharing of this list.

More than that – I pray it inspires you to not only attend church this weekend, but to serve and contribute. And let's all remember to invite others who may not know the incredible blessing that being a part of a local church can be.

<https://hillsong.com/collected/blog/2014/09/99-reasons-you-should-go-to-church-this-weekend/#.W3wOe-hKiUk>

Images for 99 Reasons You Should go to Church This Weekend

<https://www.ibelieve.com/slideshows/10-reasons-you-should-go-to-church-every-week.html>

<https://argenta.org/2012/05/18/ten-reasons-why-you-should-be-going-to-church-2/>

<http://redeemeropcairdrie.ca/ten-good-reasons-to-go-to-church/>

[http://www.shepherdfargo.org/images/Newsletter\\_0616\\_web.pdf](http://www.shepherdfargo.org/images/Newsletter_0616_web.pdf)

<https://ministrytodaymag.com/outreach/communication/21533-3-solid-reasons-for-going-to-church>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/2018/april/5-more-reasons-to-go-to-church.html>

<https://www.charismamag.com/life/women/24860-10-reasons-you-should-go-to-church>

<https://churchleaders.com/worship/worship-articles/161607-philip-wagner-6-essential-reasons-why-worship-matters-worship.html>

Images for reasons\_why\_worship\_matters

<https://www.crosswalk.com/church/pastors-or-leadership/10-reasons-to-go-to-church-even-when-you-don-t-feel-like-it.html>

<https://www.gci.org/articles/give-me-one-good-reason-i-ought-to-go-to-church/>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/why-should-i-go-to-church>

<https://www.livingwellspendingless.com/2016/12/02/the-surprising-benefits-of-going-to-church/>

Images for benefits-of-going-to-church

<https://unlockingthebible.org/2016/09/go-church-50-things-miss-not-attending-church/>

<https://www.christcenteredmama.com/why-you-should-go-to-church/>

<https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/go-church-even-youre-not-sure-beliefs/>

#### Top 10 reasons to worship this summer: Why does attendance drop? | The Lutheran

Perhaps you've heard (or said) this yourself after Easter or Christmas: "Too bad these folks don't come more than twice a year." Our churches don't swell at those times of year due to an influx of Johnny Come Latelies. In reality, those "C & E" crowds are more indicative of a sluggish commitment to worship in general.

A similar myth is upon us: Attendance drops in the summer because everyone is away on vacation. Please. So we adjust our worship schedules and ratchet down our already-meager expectations.

Instead, let's raise expectations. In the spirit of a late-night talk show, I offer 10 reasons to worship this summer:

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article.cfm?article\\_id=6505](http://www.thelutheran.org/article.cfm?article_id=6505)

Images for Top 10 reasons to worship this summer: Why does attendance drop? | The Lutheran

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

#### What Does the Bible Say About Attending Church? - OpenBible.info

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/attending\\_church](https://www.openbible.info/topics/attending_church)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/regular\\_church\\_attendance](https://www.openbible.info/topics/regular_church_attendance)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/not\\_going\\_to\\_church](https://www.openbible.info/topics/not_going_to_church)

Images for bible and attending church

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Attending-Church/>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Going-To-Church/>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/the-bible-on-church-attendance-701991>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-church-attendance/>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Attending-Church>

<http://www.equip.org/article/does-the-bible-require-christians-to-attend-church/>

<https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/BQA/k/222/Is-Church-Attendance-Required-in-Bible.htm>

<https://ebible.com/questions/18614-what-does-the-bible-say-about-the-necessity-of-attending-church>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/church-service.html>

<https://www.gospelway.com/church/attendance.php>

<http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/articles/does-god-care-if-i-dont-go-to-church.aspx>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pctH11RkYyU> What Does the Bible Say About Attending Church? - YouTube

<https://bibleforums.org/showthread.php/61597-Where-does-the-Bible-Say-We-Have-to-go-to-Church>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/274860383482266265/> Christian Living, Christian Faith, Christian Quotes, Quick View Bible, Bible Knowledge, Images Bible, Life Quotes Love, Bible Scriptures, Bible Quotes

<http://christianity.about.com/od/faqhelpdesk/a/whygotochurch.htm>

Images for Biblical and Practical Reasons to Go to Church

## 24) Sensitivity to people with intolerances and allergens

A newcomer worshipped at the small congregation I served but did not come up to receive Holy Communion. As she came through the line following the service of worship, she asked if the church used gluten free wafers. I said I would check into getting some. Some previous congregations had supplied gluten free wafers, but I had not paid much attention to the cost and availability. I contacted a neighboring pastor who related that these wafers were costly but gave me three wafers to make it through the next Sunday.

### Resources

#### Gluten-Free Communion Bread ... a beginning

Gluten-Free and Allergen-Friendly Communion Bread Recipes and More.

<https://gfcommunionbread.wordpress.com/>

Images for Gluten-Free Communion Bread

#### Gluten-Free Communion Wafers: Quantity per package: 40 - Augsburg Fortress

A practical solution, this light, plain, small round wafer can be used for holy communion for participants with food sensitivities.

Gluten-free, dairy-free, wheat-free, corn-free. 40 wafers in a package. Wafers are 1.5" in diameter. \$8.52

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/15518/Gluten-Free-Communion-Wafers>

Images for Gluten-Free Communion Wafers

<https://www.cokesbury.com/product/514351/gluten-free-communion-wafer/>

<http://www.celebratecommunion.com/gluten-free-wafers>

<https://gfjules.com/recipes/gluten-free-communion-wafers/>

#### 7 tips for offering gluten-free Communion | Ministry Matters™

Although many are going gluten-free as part of a health-diet-bandwagon, and a little bit is no big deal, greater awareness of the prevalence of celiac disease means that there are those who must not ingest it in any way.

So, here are Seven Principles to a Safe Gluten Free Table!

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/5507/7-tips-for-offering-gluten-free-communion>

Images for Principles to a Safe Gluten Free Communion Table

The parish secretary found Sesmark gluten free rice thins rice snack crackers the next week at the local grocery store for \$3.75 that saved on the cost and shipping from a church supply store. The crackers may not have been "kosher", but they served the purpose.

#### Rice Thins | Sesmark

Rice Thins, Sesame, Brown Rice, Cheddar Teriyaki flavors, **gluten free**, wheat free, rice crackers.

<http://sesmark.com/products/rice-thins>

Images for Rice Thins | Sesmark

The newcomer telephoned me later to explain that she suffered from Celiac Disease and to ask if a separate cup of wine could be provided also to avoid cross-contamination.



### Celiac Disease, Alcohol Intolerance, and the Church's Pastoral Response

As a best practice, it is recommended that individuals with gluten and/or alcohol intolerance arrange through their parish the purchase any low-gluten hosts or mustum. This facilitates the oversight and good stewardship of the pastor who is responsible as mentioned above. It also "normalizes" the practice for the communicant, as well as keeping the purchase of liturgical supplies together in the parish budget.

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/celiac-disease-and-alcohol-intolerance.cfm>

Images for Celiac Disease, Alcohol Intolerance, and the Church's Pastoral Response

<http://ourladyofthevisitation.dioc.org/Portals/6/Liturgy/Celiac%20Disease,%20Alcohol%20%20Intolerance,%20and%20the%20Church's%20Pastoral%20Response.pdf>

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/presentation/8314/4b548a6f659e22c0b1a56081f4725cb0478c.pdf>

<https://celiac.org/celiac-disease/understanding-celiac-disease-2/what-is-celiac-disease/>

Images for Celiac Disease

<https://www.celiac.com/articles/23171/1/More-Churches-Offering-Gluten-free-Communion-Bread-Options/Page1.html>

Images for Churches-Offering-Gluten-free-Communion-Bread-Options

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ritarubin/2017/07/16/can-you-still-take-communion-if-you-have-celiac-disease-since-gluten-free-wafers-are-forbidden/#5550f694215f>

Many congregations as a matter of practice provide unfermented grape juice in addition to wine for those with alcohol intolerance.

### A pastor's approach to Holy Communion - Living Lutheran

What about allergies or other sensitivities to bread and wine?

The church has long taught that Communion with just one element — receiving only bread or only wine — is a valid form of Communion. Yet other forms of food and drink, including gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic drink, are available to congregations and have been the topic of conversation at a recent worship committee meeting and in personal conversations in my office. We will continue to discuss these issues and review our congregation's Communion practices.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2013/01/pastors-approach-holy-communion/>

Images for A pastor's approach to Holy Communion - Living Lutheran

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

Early in my pastoral ministry, I recall standing at the altar in a small open country congregation with lilies on the altar at Easter. My eyes watered, and my nose ran. Now, I make it through Easter Sundays, but I plan ahead with antihistamines.

### Allergic to Easter Lilies! | Christian Forums

Oh dear. I just went into the sanctuary, which is all decked out for the sunrise service tomorrow... the pulpit area is completely surrounded by Easter lilies, and oh boy...

<http://www.christianforums.com/threads/allergic-to-easter-lilies.1388012/>

Images for Allergic to Easter Lilies

<http://www.medhelp.org/posts/Allergy/Allergy-to-Easter-Lillies/show/1503400>

<https://fox6now.com/2014/04/14/love-lilies-but-allergic-check-out-variety-of-easter-flower-options/>

<https://kirkhneely.com/2009/04/06/consider-the-easter-lily/>

<https://www.hunker.com/13426184/how-to-stop-the-smell-of-easter-lilies>

<http://www.allergyfree-gardening.com/articles/32-allergy-free-flowers-and-plants-for-churches.html>

Images for allergy-free-flowers-and-plants-for-churches

Some attendees are allergic to perfumes and fragrances and find it difficult to gather with the assembly because of this.

### Chemically Sensitive Find Sanctuary In Fragrance-Free Churches - HuffPost

A fragrance-free campaign asks members and visitors to forego perfumes, after-shave and scented lotions on Sundays. Meanwhile, the church is swapping out perfumed products throughout the building, including cleaners, candles, air fresheners and bathroom soaps.

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/chemical-sensitivity-fragrance-church\\_n\\_4163785](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/chemical-sensitivity-fragrance-church_n_4163785)

Images for chemical-sensitivity-fragrance-church

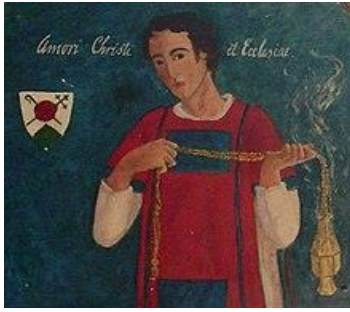
Occasionally, I attend a Roman Catholic Church while using an allotted vacation Sunday. The use of incense there is more common than it is in my tribe of Lutherans.

### Pastoral Meanderings: Increasing Allergies Among Lutherans

If you want to know how many of your folks have allergies, simply try using incense and, all of a sudden, the hacking and coughing will soon drown out organ, choir, and every other sound in the Sanctuary.

<http://pastoralmeanderings.blogspot.com/2010/10/increasing-allergies-among-lutherans.html>

Images for incense in the sanctuary



Sacristy Painting showing a thurifer holding a thurible with burning incense, Anglo-Catholic [Church of the Good Shepherd](#) (Rosemont, Pennsylvania)

Religious use of incense - Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious\\_use\\_of\\_incense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_use_of_incense)

Images for Religious use of incense

## 25) Considerations on the number of services of worship

Invariably, a congregation leader or member in a mid-size or large congregation will suggest cutting back on the number of services of worship. Often, the underlying lament is over declining attendance. Many times, the suggestion does not gain traction, and I simply listen to the concern. But, if the suggestion is taken seriously, I am prepared. I wrote up the following considerations where the suggestion to cut back on gathered worship assemblies had been gaining momentum before I came, and certain people wanted to move on after the previous installed pastor, who was opposed to the idea, took another call.

### Considerations on Gathered Worship Assemblies

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

1. Jesus commissions the disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)
2. The Apostle Paul states, "I have become all things to all people that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings." (I Corinthians 9:22b-23)
3. The mission statement of this congregation is  
A congregation of Christ's baptized people being led by the Spirit to serve God within our broader community by:  
Celebrating the presence of God - Cultivating the spiritual growth of all members - Caring for the needs of all people, Communicating Christ to all.
4. In the early days of the congregation, the assembly convened when a circuit preacher was available. Through the years this congregation fortunately has been able to increase the number of worship assemblies to three a weekend.
5. It would be one thing if this congregation was located in a stable or declining homogenous community, but this congregation is a regional church welcoming people from a large area in various circumstances. Decisions about worship schedule are best carried out in keeping in mind, not only members and attenders, but also visitors and guests, in order to reach out to welcome as many people as possible. This is especially true in a region with a large influx of people for weekends, weeks, summers, longer, and year around, which multiplies the population. It would be a big mistake to change a worship schedule simply to satisfy the personal preference of certain members.
6. A contraction of the gathered worship assemblies inevitably results in a subtraction of attendance and receipts. People fall through the cracks in attendance, participation, contributions. Cutbacks result in total lower worship attendance, not higher, with a resultant drop in receipts. Even if the decision is looked at simply from a financial perspective, going from two worship assemblies on a Sunday to one decreases the revenue stream. The intent of this congregation to pay off the line of credit and add back staff would become increasingly difficult if the decision is made to contract the number of gathered worship assemblies. Be prepared for a round of budget cutbacks if there is a contraction.
7. The present situation of two gathered worship assemblies on a Sunday allows for variety. For instance, on one Sunday, the choir may sing at the early service and the ensemble at the later service.
8. Vibrant congregations see their identity more as a mission outpost to reach out to share Jesus with as many people as possible rather than a country club to accommodate the comfort of its members?
9. In a day and age when people's lives and schedules are becoming increasingly complicated, a variety of worship offerings in mid-size and large congregations seeks to make it possible for as many as possible to come to worship. This is a day and age when people appreciate options especially the younger generations. The days when the church could simply open its doors and expect that people would walk in are over. The church is called to become increasingly strategic. At the same time, many people are creatures of habit and resist a dramatic disruption.
10. Any number of congregations in this synod would be glad to have an average worship attendance of 150+ and host 3 worship assemblies.

11. Worship assemblies possess different personalities and choreographies. For instance, a Saturday evening worship service may feel like a *chapel* service, while the early morning Sunday service like a *cathedral* service, and the later morning Sunday service like a *camp* service. People are attracted to worship assemblies based on their personality and choreography.
12. More than one service allows for more involvement with musicians, ushers, greeters, altar guild, lectors, acolytes, projection, counters, coffee, and others. People come to worship when asked to serve. When the complaint is made that multiple services put a strain on available workers, I encourage exploring creative and adaptive possibilities rather than simply contracting worship assemblies.
13. The 80% rule. Whenever the facility approaches 80% average worship attendance capacity, people feel overcrowded, and some quit coming.
14. Contracting a worship assembly is like losing a congregation. As a pastor, I do not want to lose a congregation on my watch.
15. Some older people or those in special circumstances find it difficult to get up and going early in the morning so appreciate either a Saturday evening service or a later Sunday morning service. The same can be said for people who are on vacation or live some distance away.
16. Cutting back on the number of worship assemblies offered may actually create more problems than it solves.
17. With a pastor and a student pastor, there is sufficient pastoral staff for preaching and leading worship for three worship assemblies.
18. Going to one worship for a special occasion (for instance a pastor's farewell) may bring a large attendance, but over the long haul will result in decreased attendance and giving.
19. I encourage a response of being proactive "Move forward" rather than a reactive "Circle the wagons; "purpose driven" rather than "anxiety driven;" "mission ministry" rather than "personal preference."
20. Many times, the impetus behind the proposal to cut back on worship services comes from those who remember a previous age when the church felt full. The choice, then, becomes, "Pine for the past or invest in the present?"
21. I suggest that keeping a worship service to one hour or less is optimum. This objective becomes increasingly difficult when the various activities normally spread over two Sunday worship services must be included in one service. For instance, there are more people to commune. If some of the following are included it makes for a full service: children's message, noisy offering, choir, ensemble, temple talk, others. This time matter becomes more acute when there is a baptism or affirmation of baptism. It will be very difficult to keep the worship service to one hour when the decision is made to cut back to one Sunday worship service.
22. Two Sunday services of worship offer the opportunity for children and adults to come to the first service of worship and then go to educational ministry or go to educational ministry and come to the second service of worship.
23. A decision on worship schedule is best made by the Congregation Council. If it is put to a vote at a Congregation Meeting, this action runs the risk of dividing the congregation. Many affected people could be left out of a vote [Saturday people as well as attenders, visitors, guests]. This congregation has suffered through a divisive vote and does not need another potentially divisive vote. Also, surveys of this nature often only reflect the attitudes of those with a personal preference and again run the risk of dividing the congregation.

## Chapter 12.

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

**C12.04.** The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its **worship** life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in **worship**, learning, witness, service, and support.

In addition to the above, I compiled the following considerations and resources in response to other settings:

1. If the number of worship services is cut back, the question arises of what style of worship will be used.

#### Resources

##### Seven Trends in Worship Service Times - ThomRainer.com

1. Churches with **multiple Sunday morning services** will soon be in the majority. This trend, once more common with larger churches, is now taking hold in congregations of all sizes.

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/05/seven-trends-in-worship-service-times/>

[Images for Seven Trends in Worship Service Times - ThomRainer.com](http://thomrainer.com/2015/06/trends-in-worship-service-times-rainer-on-leadership-133/)

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/06/trends-in-worship-service-times-rainer-on-leadership-133/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2013/08/the-number-one-reason-for-the-decline-in-church-attendance-and-five-ways-to-address-it/> #4

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/05/what-is-the-best-time-for-a-worship-service-rainer-on-leadership-221/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/07/decline-sunday-evening-services-rainer-leadership-064/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/05/nine-rapid-changes-church-worship-services/> #5

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/08/four-types-churches-will-soon-die/> #2

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/05/eight-signs-church-may-closing-soon/> #4,5  
<http://thomrainer.com/2016/09/church-members-choose-one-worship-service-another-rainer-leadership-256/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/02/the-disappearance-of-the-1100-am-sunday-service-rainer-on-leadership-304/>  
<https://www.renewingworshipnc.org/author/thom-rainer/>  
Images for thom rainer (author)

### The Best Ways to Get People to Attend Church More Often

Overall, we found that the biggest motivators for weekly attendance are related to convenience and finding value in relationships with leaders and other members of the church community.

#### *Offer a Variety of Worship Options*

Twenty-seven percent of survey respondents reported that **more options for worship times** would motivate them to attend more often.

This makes sense, given that the number of hours Americans work in a week has been ticking upward since the 1970s. And since household chores, schoolwork and extracurricular activities take up much of the remaining time families have together, offering a variety of service times or online options to accommodate members' busy schedules could help increase attendance.

<http://blog.softwareadvice.com/articles/church/survey-get-people-to-church-0514/>

Images for Offer a Variety of Worship Options

2. When the *Lutheran Book of Worship* came out in 1978, it reflected a belief in uniformity in anticipation of the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1987. When the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* came out in 2006, it reflected a belief in variety as different congregations are using various worship practices.

### Resources for ELW

#### New ELW worship resources

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, now in widespread use across North America, includes much that churches know, cherish, and use from previous worship resources while incorporating new liturgies, new hymns, and new texts. A rich and vibrant resource for worship, at home, and throughout our journey of faith.

Features:

- 14 musical liturgies
- 15 new additional services
- Evocative art
- All 150 psalms for singing
- 743 hymns and songs
- Luther's Small Catechism

[http://www.iksynod.org/Whats\\_New/Temp/ELW\\_brochure\\_2013.pdf](http://www.iksynod.org/Whats_New/Temp/ELW_brochure_2013.pdf)

Images for new Evangelical Lutheran Worship resources

### Resources for the 80% rule

#### 80 Percent Rule | Peace Mennonite Church

"When your main worship service reaches 80 percent of comfortable capacity (measured at 30 to 36 inches per person), you may be pretty certain that you are discouraging frequent attendance by current members and presenting a 'no vacancy' sign to newcomers," says Alban Institute senior consultant Alice Mann in her book *Raising the Roof*.

<http://peacemennonite.org/for-participants/church-growth/80-percent-rule/>

Images for 80 Percent Rule | Peace Mennonite Church

### HOW FULL IS TOO FULL? TESTING THE "80 PERCENT RULE" – DAN HOTCHKISS

When average annual worship attendance reaches 80 percent of the comfortable seating capacity of the worship room, crowding becomes a serious growth-limiting factor.

<http://danhotchkiss.com/publications/how-full-is-too-full-testing-the-80-percent-rule/>

Images for average annual worship attendance reaches 80 percent of the comfortable seating capacity

### Ten Rules of Thumb for Healthy Churches - ThomRainer.com

6. Maximum capacity of a facility: **80% full**. This old tried and true ratio is still good. When a facility is 80% full architecturally, it feels 100% full.

<http://thomrainer.com/2013/03/04/ten-rules-of-thumb-for-healthy-churches/>

Images for maximum capacity of a church facility: 80% full

### The 80 Percent Rule: Fact or Fiction? » Alban at Duke Divinity School

For instance, Moss suggests 25 inches per person is needed for comfort. This figure is based on findings from a survey of 711 churches from seven Presbyterian denominations that Moss conducted in the mid-1980s, as well as ongoing research since then.

Kenn Sanders, a church planner and designer who has worked with more than 1,000 churches, says the attendance and pew length data he has obtained from many of these churches indicate that "26 H inches is the amount of space everybody wants when they sit in a pew these days."

Others believe the figure is even higher. "When your main worship service reaches 80 percent of comfortable capacity (measured at 30 to 36 inches per person), you may be pretty certain that you are discouraging frequent attendance by current members and presenting a 'no vacancy' sign to newcomers," says Alban Institute senior consultant Alice Mann in her book *Raising the Roof*.<sup>1</sup>

Alban at Duke Divinity School » The 80 Percent Rule: Fact or Fiction?

<https://alban.org/archive/the-80-percent-rule-fact-or-fiction/>

Images for worship service reaches 80 percent of comfortable capacity

<https://alban.org/category/worship/>

3. Sometimes there is a radio or television broadcast. Going from two services of worship on a Sunday to one and changing the times can get complicated for these broadcasts.
4. I suggest that starting another service of worship - whether it be an evening service on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Saturday - is preferable to cutting back a Sunday morning service of worship to carry out the goal to "invite and involve." Among the possibilities are the following: Sunday evening service of worship for youth and young adults; Wednesday evening service of worship tied in with the educational ministry during the school year and for those folks to continue to come in the summer [Gone on weekends? We've got a worship service for you on Wednesdays. We'll be waiting for you!], a Thursday evening "cabin" summer service of worship for those going away on weekends; and a Saturday evening summer campfire service of worship ["Want to go camping for the weekend, but don't want to pay the cost of gas? Come to the church's campground. Be sure to attend the campfire service on Saturday @ 9pm!].

## Resources

[PDF] Adding Worship Services - Unitarian Universalist

Making the decision to add an additional worship service, or even considering such a thing, is a major undertaking in congregational life. As institutions (and even as members of institutions), we don't always embrace even the smallest changes easily, and alterations in our worship styles and patterns are not small changes. Rather, they are often some of the largest changes that congregations choose to undertake. Yet many positive reasons for adding worship opportunities exist: to relieve overcrowding, to grow the congregation, or to offer something entirely new to the members and to individuals outside the congregation. Adding services can provide a wonderful, invigorating climate for growth of all sorts, both individual and institutional. But large-scale change without adequate planning not only may doom the change but also may create additional problems. Therefore, planning well for this change, as for any other major change, is necessary to ensure that the process will be effective.

[www.uua.org/cde/education/addingworshipservices.pdf](http://www.uua.org/cde/education/addingworshipservices.pdf)

Images for Adding Worship Services: A How-to Manual - Unitarian Universalist Association

How to Start a New Service - Church Growth.net

No matter how many services your church has, adding a new style service will help you reach new people. This book answers all the questions you will have, along with some you wouldn't have even thought to ask. Included are helpful worksheets to guide the process and evaluate the results of your church's planning.

<http://www.churchgrowth.net/products/books/items/newservice.htm>

Images for Start a New Service of Worship

New Worship Services and Church Growth by Charles Arn (Author), Leith Anderson (Foreword)

Ever since premier missiologist Donald McGavran observed that some churches reached lost people more effectively than others, researchers have sought to understand more about how God uses different approaches to grow the Kingdom.

Having observed the American church for the past 25 years, I have been fascinated with one particular method that more and more churches are employing to reach new people—multiple worship services.

It was my privilege to participate in a 5-year research study on the effect of adding a new style worship service.

One highlight stood out:

*Growing churches are much more likely to offer choices of WHEN people worship, HOW they worship, and WHERE they worship.*

<http://wesleyconnectonline.com/new-worship-services-and-church-growth-charles-arn/>

<https://www.amazon.com/How-Start-New-Service-Church/dp/0801090377>

[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/438431.How\\_to\\_Start\\_a\\_New\\_Service](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/438431.How_to_Start_a_New_Service)

<https://www.christianbook.com/how-to-start-a-new-service/charles-arn/9780801090370/pd/09037>

<http://www.churchgrowth.net/about/chipbio.htm>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1585582182>

<http://geneseoumc.org/wp-content/uploads/summary-of-how-to-start-a-new-service.pdf>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2011/october-online-only/timestartnewservice.html>

<http://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/19.-Starting-a-New-Service.pdf>

<http://www.graceandpeacemagazine.org/articles/19-issue-summer-2013/351-7-steps-to-adding-a-new-worship-service>

<https://www.reformedworship.org/article/march-1999/book-how-start-new-service>



<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1999/01/why-add-a-new-service>  
[http://www.unitedlutheranchurch.org/uploads/1/2/6/2/12628238/notes\\_from\\_book\\_how\\_to\\_start\\_a\\_new\\_service.page](http://www.unitedlutheranchurch.org/uploads/1/2/6/2/12628238/notes_from_book_how_to_start_a_new_service.page)  
<https://baptistcourier.com/2010/09/starting-a-new-worship-service/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Charles-Arn/e/B001KCJ42C>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/246926.Charles\\_Arn](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/246926.Charles_Arn)  
 Images for Charles Arn (Author)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Leith-Anderson/e/B001HNN178>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/102043.Leith\\_Anderson](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/102043.Leith_Anderson)  
 Images for Leith Anderson, author  
 Images for New Worship Services and Church Growth by Charles Arn (Author), Leith Anderson (Foreword)

### Start a New Worship Service

Summary: Church growth research clearly indicates that new style worship services reach new people who would otherwise not attend the church. If you are considering a new style worship service, you will find the experience and knowledge of a CGI consultant to be exceptionally worthwhile. One, two, three, or four on-site visits are optional, depending on where the church is in the planning and implementation process. The critical steps to successfully launching a new service comprise the outline and direction of the consultant's visit.

<http://www.churchgrowth.net/consult/startnewworship.htm>  
 Images for Start a New Worship Service

5. When the generation born prior to 1965 passes away, this question of whether to have more than one service of worship on a Sunday morning will probably be a moot point in most congregations. Then, congregations will have to decide whether there are enough people in the pews to be sustainable, but, in the meantime, offering more than one service of worship on a Sunday morning can be a strategic way for many congregations to invite and involve.

### Being the Church Today – Alban Institute

The numerical height of mainline Protestantism in the United States occurred in the year 1965.<sup>1</sup> That was the year that the largest percentages of American people affiliated with and attended church. More Americans were going to church than at any other time in U.S. history.

**Alban at Duke Divinity School » Being the Church Today - Alban Institute**

<https://alban.org/archive/being-the-church-today/>  
<http://www.amazon.com/Healthy-Esteem-Ministry-Membership-Church/dp/0881773727>

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### Mainline decline - The Lutheran Magazine

Mainline denominations grew through the 1940s and 1950s, but about 1965 they began to lose members.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=5806&key=33709634](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5806&key=33709634)

Images for Mainline decline - The Lutheran Magazine

[http://www.ewaldsynod.org/images/E\\_Apr\\_16\\_CC\\_HiRes.pdf](http://www.ewaldsynod.org/images/E_Apr_16_CC_HiRes.pdf) • The peak year for ELCA (and predecessor church bodies) membership and financial support was 1965.

## 26) Considerations on proposal to close churches to make for one service of worship in one church

If the argument is made that in one congregation, the number of services of worship should go from 3 to 1, what about the argument that in a parish, the parish should go from 3 congregations to 1 congregation with 1 service of worship, 1 Sunday School, and 1 building? The critique behind the proposal often argues that many of these small congregations are not pursuing God's mission in the world anyway but only hanging on to preserve the building or stay with their own until they die and that they are being selfish in insisting on their own congregation when they could simply go to a bigger church with more programs.

The church building in Northeastern Montana in which I was baptized stands empty on the prairie, so I am well aware that many small congregations in the open country may be facing the end of the life cycle. At the same time, I am not willing to agree that urging congregations to close and merge with a larger congregation will necessarily make the combined ministry in the larger congregation that much stronger. My contention is that the total activity and energy of 3 congregations merged into 1 congregation will still be less than 3 congregations cooperating as 1 parish. Many of the considerations in the above scenario are appropriate in this scenario. It cannot be assumed that the people will automatically go to the larger church. Some will fall through the cracks. Some who held important formal or informal roles in the smaller congregations will be sidelined. I am not familiar with individual giving amounts, but my guess is that people in small congregations contribute more to keep going. Will they be as committed to maintain that level of giving after leaving their home church and being assimilated by a larger congregation? I am familiar with people serving in the congregation and wonder if they will continue serving at or above that level when they are assimilated into the larger congregation. Simply assuming that there will then be only one building to maintain is not that simple. Some buildings may be sold. Some may not be worth standing and may be demolished. But, what about the buildings in good condition that are next to a cemetery, for instance, and do not lend themselves to be sold for any purpose the market will bear? A church building is more than a facility in that it serves as a symbol of the presence of the congregation in the neighborhood. A congregation at its best is there for the neighborhood, and the loss of its unifying symbol is felt in the area.

This contraction argument carried to its conclusion could argue that it only makes sense to keep open a handful of congregations in a geographical area that show promise and then close the rest so that people can go from a smaller congregation to one of the larger congregations. The Roman Catholics can do this because of the power given to the bishop, but, at least in my tribe of Lutherans, members hold a stronger sense of congregation autonomy.

For my part, as an interim pastor, the last thing I want to be known as is an agent of the synod sent to close churches because of mainline decline and the clergy shortage. If the people come to the realization that the ministry is no longer sustainable, I am willing to continue the conversation, but I am not interested in pushing a preconceived notion of what is best for them.

## 27) When the unthinkable happens

A shooter killed nine people and wounded a tenth at [Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church](#) in downtown [Charleston, South Carolina](#), United States on the evening of 6/17/2015. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton called for a day of repentance and mourning 6/28 in response to the Charleston church shooting.

### Resources

A day of repentance and mourning June 28

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the [public statement](#) I made June 18, the day after the shooting in Charleston, S.C., I called for a day of repentance and mourning. I would like that day for the ELCA to be this Sunday, June 28.


The worship staff of the churchwide organization has developed a "[Service of Prayer in Remembrance](#)" for your use this Sunday. I hope you will have an opportunity to use significant portions (if not all) of this liturgy this Sunday.

I also want to encourage you to share with your congregations, ideally from the pulpit during Sunday's worship, the June 18 public statement. You might also wish to insert it into bulletins, duplicate it as a handout and/or post it on your congregation's website.

The members of this church, no matter where they are located, must think about, discuss and deal with this crucial issue of justice and compassion. It is the church's work. God's intention for all humanity is that we see the intrinsic worth, dignity and value of all people. Racism undermines the promise of community and fractures authentic relationships with one another. We need to talk, and we need to listen, but we also need to act and speak out against inequity. Look with newly opened eyes at the many subtle and overt ways that racism infects and affects our communities. Above all pray – for insight, for forgiveness, for courage.

I thank God for your faithful service to the gospel and God's work, and I thank you for your partnership in helping all of us address the sin of racism.

Your Sister in Christ,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[PDF] [Service of Repentance and Mourning - ELCA Resource Repository](#)

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Service\\_of\\_Repentance\\_and\\_Mourning.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Service_of_Repentance_and_Mourning.pdf)

[Images for Service of Repentance and Mourning - ELCA Resource Repository](#)

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/long\\_season\\_of\\_disquiet\\_letter.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/long_season_of_disquiet_letter.pdf)

**Obama's Charleston eulogy: 'Amazing Grace' - CNN.com**

Charleston, South Carolina (CNN) President Barack Obama delivered a touching eulogy, a rousing political speech and a thoughtful meditation on race in America when he traveled to Charleston, South Carolina on Friday to speak at the funeral of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, who was gunned down last week by a racist terrorist during Bible study.

But the President's speech will be remembered for a moment at the end when he launched into a solo of "Amazing Grace," that at first stunned the mourners and then brought them to their feet as they joined him in song.

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/06/26/politics/obama-charleston-eulogy-pastor/>

[Images for Obama's Charleston eulogy: 'Amazing Grace'](#)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/26/obama-clementa-pinckney-eulogy\\_n\\_7670800.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/26/obama-clementa-pinckney-eulogy_n_7670800.html)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RK7tYOvd0Hs> President Obama Delivers Eulogy at Charleston Shooting Funeral of Clementa Pinckney [FULL SPEECH] – YouTube

[Images for President Obama Delivers Eulogy at Charleston Shooting Funeral of Clementa Pinckney – YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9IGyidtfGI> President Obama delivers Eulogy – FULL VIDEO (C-SPAN) – YouTube

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000003767801/obama-delivers-eulogy-in-charleston.html>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/06/26/417721206/mourners-gather-in-charleston-to-remember-slain-pastor>

**Safe and Secure: The Alban Guide to Protecting Your Congregation [Jeffrey W. Hanna]**

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful

Safe and Secure

By A Customer on March 2, 2000

Safe and Secure 2 Mar. 2000

By A Customer - Published on Amazon.com

Format: Paperback

Methodist minister Jeffrey W. Hanna draws on his law enforcement experience as the author of *Safe and Secure-The Alban Guide to Protecting Your Congregation*, which examines the need and ways to provide for safety and security in churches.

Safe and Secure, just published by the Alban Institute, offers guidelines to protect congregations from harm. Once considered a safe haven, churches today have begun to look at how secure they really are. While some have taken precautions to protect their congregations, many churches are not prepared to deal with security issues.

Prior to receiving his M. Div. from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, Hanna worked as an undercover sheriff's detective and received his BS in Criminal Justice from Ashland College in Ashland, Ohio. In his first book, Hanna offers methods for recognizing and dealing with security issues ranging from safeguarding church finances to protecting congregations from hate and anti-religious groups. Other topics discussed include building maintenance, personnel practices, and criminal and civil liability.

<http://www.amazon.com/Safe-Secure-Alban-Protecting-Congregation/dp/1566992117>

[http://www.peakspresbytery.org/catalog/Calibre%20Library/catalog/book/book\\_858.html](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/catalog/Calibre%20Library/catalog/book/book_858.html)

Images for Jeffrey W. Hanna, author safe and secure

Images for Safe and Secure: The Alban Guide to Protecting Your Congregation [Jeffrey W. Hanna]

<https://alban.org/category/worship/>

<https://alban.org/category/management/>

## 28) Prepare for emergencies during services of worship

What kind of planning can be done to prepare for emergencies?

### Resources

#### Active Shooter Preparedness | Homeland Security

Active shooter incidents are often unpredictable and evolve quickly. In the midst of the chaos, anyone can play an integral role in mitigating the impacts of an active shooter incident.

<http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>

Images for Active Shooter Preparedness | Homeland Security

<https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/active-shooter?family=editorial&sort=mostpopular&phrase=active%20shooter>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/16/us/survive-active-shooter.html>

<https://www.ready.gov/active-shooter>

<https://www.everbridge.com/active-shooter-training-protect-your-employees-with-an-emergency-response-plan/>

<https://www.calhospitalprepare.org/active-shooter>

<https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/Documents/active-shooter-planning-eop2014.pdf>

#### Disaster Preparedness for Houses of Worship - ICTG

When making a disaster preparedness plan for your local congregation, check to see if your *denomination or governing body* has templates. [Look here for ICTG training](#) to expand leadership and congregational care practices. Below are additional resources.

<http://www.ictg.org/disaster-preparedness-for-houses-of-worship.html>

Images for Disaster Preparedness for Houses of Worship

#### Resources to Protect Your House of Worship | FEMA.gov

Across the United States, Americans congregate in faith-based venues to worship, learn, play, and bond as a community.

However, public gatherings are vulnerable, and adversaries may perceive houses of worship as attractive targets where they can inflict mass casualties, cause substantial psychological impacts, and draw extensive media coverage.

<https://www.fema.gov/faith-resources>

Images for Resources to Protect Your House of Worship | FEMA.gov

## 29) Entertain or engage?

A classmate of mine at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN went on to start and grow Community Church of Joy in Glendale, Arizona. He employed what he called **Entertainment Evangelism: Walter Kallestad**. Later, he repented and changed his ways.

#### "Showtime!" No More | CT Pastors | Christianity Today

That's when I came back to Joy and felt sick to my stomach. The contrast between Joy and the transformational churches we visited on sabbatical was stark. We were **entertaining** people as a substitute for leading them into the presence of God. I fell on my face before God and prayed, "God, I am so sorry for what I've done."



<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2008/fall/13.39.html?start=3>

Images for transformational churches

<http://www.internetmonk.com/archive/two-churches-that-closed-down-the-show>

<http://pastoralmeanderings.blogspot.com/2011/08/end-to-long-running-variety-show.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Walter-P.-Kallestad/e/B001IOH5DM>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/272259.Walt\\_Kallestad](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/272259.Walt_Kallestad)

Images for Walt Kallestad

The congregation later terminated its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### Resources

#### Anthony B. Robinson: Building a front porch

How can church leaders create an intermediate space where people can begin to learn that church isn't an **entertainment** experience?

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/anthony-b-robinson-building-front-porch>

Images for church isn't an entertainment experience

Images for Anthony B. Robinson

#### Billy Graham Quotes - BrainyQuote

Many churches of all persuasions are hiring research agencies to poll neighborhoods, asking what kind of church they prefer. Then the local churches design themselves to fit the desires of the people. True faith in God that demands selflessness is being replaced by **trendy religion that serves the selfish**.



[https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/billy\\_graham](https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/billy_graham)

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/billy-graham-quotes>

<https://www.brainyquote.com/lists/authors/top-10-billy-graham-quotes>

Images for Billy Graham Quotes

### 30) Organ/Band Driven rather than Traditional/Contemporary Terminology

I prefer to use organ/band driven terminology to denote diversity in services of worship rather than traditional/contemporary terminology to connote dichotomy in the services of worship. I advocate an appreciative approach rather than a divisive approach.

#### Defining "Contemporary Worship" - Church Leaders

To use the terms traditional, contemporary and blended as definitions for our corporate worship styles is misleading and incorrect.

<https://churchleaders.com/worship/worship-how-tos/138560-defining-contemporary-worship.html>

Images for To use the terms traditional, contemporary and blended as definitions for our corporate worship styles is misleading and incorrect.

### 31) Primary role of church musicians is to support assembly singing

Jay Beech in a presentation entitled, *So, now we have to be INNOVATIVE, too?* as a part of the Mid-Winter Convocation 2013 *Worship in a Time of Change* at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota stated, "The primary role of church musicians is to support assembly singing." He also shared his worship planning values list: word and sacrament as foundational; respect for the liturgy; church year and the lectionary, theological content, congregational participation and dialog, and cultural context (liturgical inculturation).

### 32) Praise bands: performative or participative?

Through the years, I have served assignments where praise bands have played once a month in some congregations, every weekend in other congregations, and more than once a month but less than every weekend in other congregations. One indicator for me of whether a *member* of a praise band views their musicianship as performative or participative is attendance at services of worship on those weeks when the band does not play. When a band *member* only shows up to play (perform), but not to worship (participate) on other occasions, that tells me that, at least for that *member*, the band is more performative than participative.

### Resources

#### Are We Headed for A Crash? Reflections on The Current State of Evangelical Worship

And to be honest, it's a troubling theme. And if this current generation of worship leaders doesn't change this theme, then corporate worship in evangelicalism really is headed for a major crash. It's the theme of **performancism**. The **worship leader as the performer**. The **congregation as the audience**. The sanctuary as the concert hall. It really is a problem. It really is a thing.

And we really can't allow it to become the norm. Worship leaders, we must identify and kill performancism while we can.

<http://worthilymagnify.com/2014/05/19/crash/>

Images for performancism

#### Nine Reasons People Aren't Singing in Worship | Renewing Worship

At first, this advance in technology led to more powerful congregational singing, but soon, a shift in worship leadership began to move the congregation back to pre-Reformation pew potatoes (spectators).

What has occurred could be summed up as the **re-professionalization of church music** and the loss of a key goal of worship leading – enabling the people to sing their praises to God. Simply put, we are breeding a culture of spectators in our churches, changing what should be a **participative** worship environment to a concert event. Worship is moving to its pre-Reformation mess.

<http://blog.ncbaptist.org/renewingworship/2014/06/11/nine-reasons-people-arent-singing-in-worship/>  
[Images for Nine Reasons People Aren't Singing in Worship | Renewing Worship](#)  
[Images for pre-Reformation pew potatoes \(spectators\)](#)

#### **Praise Bands are the New Medieval Priests | The Millennial Pastor**

Liturgical worship has stood the test of time. It has been around for 2,000 years. You can see our liturgical roots in the writings of the early Christian church. [Liturgical worship will remain as long as Christ's church does](#). I don't know if the same can be said for Praise Bands. Praise Bands just may go the way of the Medieval priest saying mass to himself in the dusty corner of a cathedral. Praise Bands are likely to become an obscure historical footnote, remembered only by those wishing to take up the ancient priestly performance.

<http://millennialpastor.net/2014/03/03/praise-bands-are-the-new-medieval-priests/>

[Images for liturgical worship has stood the test of time](#)

<http://millennialpastor.net/tag/praise-bands/>

<https://millennialpastor.net/tag/medieval-priests/>

<http://chrishubbs.com/2014/03/11/do-praise-bands-speak-a-secret-language/>

<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/rijKGxpBT.htm> Clip Arts Related To : Praise Bands are the New Medieval Priests

#### **The Challenge of Modern/Postmodern Culture – Let's Talk**

...we cannot bracket the fact that [much contemporary Christian music is written for soloists and ensembles and that this kind of music has not often worked well for congregational singing](#). We cannot bracket the fact that much of this music is intended to be disposable and therefore has limited value for long-term faith formation. We cannot bracket the fact many of the lyrics reinforce a personal relationship with God, couched in the first personal pronoun, and therefore do not communicate the doctrines of the faith. We cannot bracket the fact that the lyrics of many of the songs express a personal devotion to Jesus but not the public praise of the Holy Trinity. We cannot bracket the fact that the order of worship promulgated in Pentecostal traditions such as the Vineyard and adopted in many mainline churches aims at bringing individuals into a personal, intimate relationship with God (even Holy Communion is used for this purpose) rather than celebrating word and sacrament as means of grace and expressing liturgically the response of the community of faith.

<http://mcsletstalk.org/worship-and-culture/the-challenge-of-modernpostmodern-culture/>

[Images for contemporary Christian music](#)

#### **The Difference between Congregational Worship and a Concert**

3. If you, the [praise band, are the center of attention](#), it's not worship.

<http://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2013/05/29/the-difference-between-congregational-worship-and-a-concert/>

[Images for Difference between Congregational Worship and a Concert](#)

#### **The Imminent Decline of Contemporary Worship Music: Eight Reasons**

6. Contemporary worship music is ordinarily accompanied by Praise Teams, and these have frequently (but by no means always) [been problematic](#). It has been difficult to provide direction to them, due to the inherent confusion between whether they are [participants](#) in the congregation or [performers](#) for the congregation. In most circumstances, the members of the Praise Team do the kinds of things performers do: they vary the instrumental or harmonious parts between stanzas, they rehearse, etc. In fact, if one were to watch a video of the typical Praise Team without any audio, they ordinarily *look* like performers; their bodily actions and contrived emotional expressions mimic those of the entertainment industry.

<https://secondnaturejournal.com/the-imminent-decline-of-contemporary-worship-music-eight-reasons/>

[Images for Imminent Decline of Contemporary Worship Music](#)

<https://secondnaturejournal.com/the-problem-with-praise-teams/>

[Images for problem-with-praise-teams](#)

#### **Which Way Are You Leaning? – John Ylvisaker**

In my thirty years of traveling and working with Lutheran musicians, I've discovered that all church musicians can be divided into two groups, [performists and hymnists](#) - those who emphasize music groups in their churches and those who strive to develop solid participation from the whole congregation. I have met very few musicians who are well balanced in this area.

<http://www.ylvisaker.com/?p=83>

[Images for performists and hymnists - John Ylvisaker](#)

<http://www.ylvisaker.com/?cat=6> Category: Articles

[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=1403](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1403)

#### **Why Career-Driven Worship Can Damage a Congregation — Ministry Today**

Leading worship isn't glamorous – [you're not entertaining fans](#) like Coldplay is at the arena down the road. If you are, you're abusing your role as a pastor and servant of God's people. It's not about the glam of the spotlight.

<http://ministrytodaymag.com/life/worship/23053-why-career-driven-worship-can-damage-a-congregation>

[Images for Career-Driven Worship Can Damage a Congregation](#)

#### **Why Congregational Singing Is Waning – Rainer on Leadership #215 – ThomRainer.com**

•[When worship leaders are too artistic, the congregation tends to stop singing and watch.](#)

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/04/why-congregational-singing-is-waning-rainer-on-leadership-215/>

[Images for Why Congregational Singing Is Waning – ThomRainer.com](#)



<http://thomrainer.com/2016/10/six-reasons-congregational-singing-waning/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/03/congregational-singing-pastor-featuring-mark-dever-rainer-leadership-307/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/02/congregational-singing-keith-kristyn-getty-rainer-leadership-306/>  
<http://www.christianitydaily.com/articles/9011/20170518/eight-major-changes-churches-past-ten-years.htm>  
<http://www.tribune.org/thom-rainer-forecasts-15-trends-for-churches-in-2015/>  
<https://www.renewingworshipnc.org/author/thom-rainer/>  
<http://www.lifeway.com/pastors/2016/04/20/dear-worship-pastor/>  
<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2017/07/05/pipe-up-why-these-modern-hymn-writers-want-you-and-your-congregation-sing/417023001/>  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/ponderanew/2016/02/01/a-case-for-the-pipe-organ/>  
 Images for thom rainer (author)

#5  
#13

### 33) Dance band or lounge act?

A leader of one dance band told me, "If the people can't dance to the song, we don't play it!" On the other hand, some band leaders like to hear their own voices and instruments, as well as the applause of the people, so as to keep people in their seats and off the floor.

#### Resources

##### Characteristics of a Good Dance Band - Sheer Dance

In this article, I'll provide a number of measurable characteristics that may be meaningful in determining the suitability of a dance band. I'll discuss each characteristic, and indicate to you why I feel that a band that measures well on those characteristics, is a good dance band.

<http://sheerdance.com/issues/2016-04-01/characteristics-of-a-good-dance-band/>

<http://sheerdance.com/issues/2016-05-01/characteristics-of-a-good-dance-band/>

Images for Characteristics of a Good Dance Band

##### What makes a good contra dance band? - Mickey Koth

These are comments culled from Fiddle-L and responses to the question "What makes a good contra dance band?" on the newsgroup rec.folk-dancing, from the article [Contra and Square Dance Playing](#) by Phil and Vivian Williams (their remarks used with permission), and [Tune Talk for Contra Dances](#), a forum on [Mandolin Cafe](#), as well as from various contra dance musicians and callers, and from contra dancers. Some comments were very useful, some were obvious, and some were obviously in response to bad experiences. I have arranged them according to topic.

<http://www.biteyourownelbow.com/what.htm>

Images for good contra dance band

### 34) Gathering—Word—Meal—Sending or Music—Message

An assignment ended 4/15/2020, and the next assignment I was scheduled to start 4/16 fell through, so I ended up on leave from call during the rest of the COVID-19 lockdown of the economy and lockout of the congregants. In June some of the churches opened up, while most ELCA churches kept their doors locked, so I went to a Wesleyan service of worship on 6/14. The band played music for 15 minutes while the people stood and clapped their hands and waved their arms. After a few announcements, the pastor preached for 50 minutes using projection and props and kept their attention. The order of service was different than I was accustomed to, but I have to admit that most of the people looked under 50, while most of the people at the liturgical congregations I served looked over 50.

### 35) Respect for those in attendance no matter how many

One venue offered bands each Friday night at 7pm. Normally, there were only a handful of people to begin the evening, but the number usually picked up as the night wore on. One local band started late, made sarcastic comments like, "Don't all rush the stage at the same time," and talked to themselves in an extended fashion between songs. Another band, interestingly from a large city, could have taken the same approach but did not. They started on time, played with enthusiasm, and kept the songs coming.

### 36) Who shall preside at Holy Communion?

At one setting, I had arranged for a member of the congregation to lead a Service of the Word upon my absence, while a special speaker from one of the partner agencies gave the message. When I came back, I learned that the member presided at Holy Communion. Upon further digging into the background of the congregation, I discovered that the previous pastor affiliated with **WordAlone** authorized members to preside at Holy Communion in a Lay Presidency Letter sent to assisting ministers.

It just so happens that you drew this week for being the assisting minister in worship on Sunday. Our policy has been to aid our guest preachers by covering the rest of our service with lay ministers. Some of our assisting ministers have been rather anxious when it came to "doing" communion. I don't know if that's the case for you or not. Whatever the case may be, this letter is mainly to give you some encouragement and rationale, so you can be clear about what you are doing on the Sundays when I am gone, as well as what you are doing as an Assisting Minister in general.

First of all, as I have said numerous times already: when it comes to communion there is nothing magical about what I do or say or who I am as "The Pastor." A traditionally Lutheran approach to communion is different from say, the Roman Catholics or Episcopalians. For them, it is all about the priest, of course. For them, Jesus' presence doesn't happen unless the right person saying the right words while wearing the right clothing and making the right hand gestures does it all rightly. But what that means is that "the people" can't receive the assuring presence of God unless they go through the priest. For traditional Lutherans, that's poppycock. In fact, in some sense the heart and soul of the Gospel revealed in Jesus Christ is that

we no longer are reliant on others to intercede on our behalf before God. It is Jesus himself who does that and not some priest. In Jesus, there is a restoration of the relationship enjoyed between humanity and their Creator in the Garden, when we are told that the Lord God would come walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze (Gen. 3:8). Second, the way that Holy Communion happens – the way that Jesus is made present for those who come forward – is simply through the words that you proclaim, and that the congregation hears and believes. This is what Luther’s Small Catechism reminds us about communion:

What benefits do we receive from this sacrament?

The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, ‘...given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin.’

These words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can eating and drinking do all this?

It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words, ‘...given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. These words, along with the eating and drinking are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.

See? It’s not hocus pocus that makes communion communion. It’s not about you or me doing the right incantation to summon the spirits. It’s simply about telling the congregation the Good News. “God loves you so much that He gave His Son Jesus Christ for YOU... this IS the Body of Christ for YOU... this IS the Blood of Christ for YOU.” And don’t you know, there are people literally DYING to know and to believe that God is for them and with them even when they can’t see that in their daily lives!

St. Paul says about such matters:... (Romans 10:5-15, 17).

“Faith comes by hearing,” Paul says. That is what we do when we lead the congregation in the Service of Communion: we are proclaiming the “word of Christ.” No magic. No special authorization. Just pure proclamation that God loves you and forgives you in Jesus. See?

Make sure you keep these things in mind when you preside on Sunday. One the one hand, I want you to take it take it seriously. It is no small task to be the proclaimer of God’s grace. There are lots of things that can get in the way on Sundays that would hinder that proclamation – your external demeanor, the way you dress, the attitude with which you speak the liturgy, your age (I know there are some who have been hindered by the high school you who have presided at The Supper.), etc.

On the other hand, God’s grace isn’t dependent on the individual presiding over the liturgy. Can you imagine how little of God’s grace would be bestowed if communion was dependent on how righteous, how good, how holy, how precise the person presiding at communion was? Hopefully, then, that mystery of faith gives both peace and confidence to do what you have been called to do this weekend....

That’s the Gospel, and it’s not up to or dependent on you. You’re the tool. You’re the vessel. But it is God in Christ who is the actor, the forgiver, the up-lifter.

Peace,

Pastor (name)

I brought up the bishop’s message addressing this matter to the Congregation Council and met stiff resistance.

#### A Message from Bishop Pederson

September 22, 2008

Colleagues,

From time to time, I receive requests from pastors/congregation asking that a lay person be authorized to president at Holy Communion during the short-term absence of the pastor. In our polity, only synodical bishops can grant this authorization. I have sometimes granted such requests primarily because I had not clarified for myself the circumstances under which such authorization is appropriate; and, when I have provided such authorization, I have done so with some discomfort. A recent request “pushed” me to do the clarification that I should have done earlier in my time as bishop, a clarification that I want to share with those of you who hold the Office of Word and Sacrament.

To honor the Office of Word and Sacrament and those who are specifically trained and called to this office, and to respect our relationship with the whole church and the guidance of the Conference of Bishops, I will only authorize presiding at Holy Communion in long-term circumstances where it is not possible to secure an ordained pastor or a pastor from an ecumenical partner with whom we share full-communion. Therefore, the occasional, short-term absence of a pastor would not qualify for such authorization. When the pastor is absent occasionally or for the short-term, laity should lead worship using an order of service that does not include sacraments.

I am fully aware that many congregations include Holy Communion as part of their worship every Sunday, a frequency I applaud. I am also aware that capable, theologically faithful lay persons are part of every congregation. I am also aware that some of these lay persons may have been authorized to preside at Holy Communion in the past for various reasons. However, to uphold the integrity of the pastoral office of Word and Sacrament, I will only authorize presiding at the Table in long-term ministry contexts where it is virtually impossible for an ordained pastor to be present at worship to give sacramental leadership.

If you wish to read the consensus of the church on this matter and the background for my clarification, please refer to the Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters under “Managing your rosters,” pages 53-55, page 55 in particular.  
Blessings,  
Bishop Pederson

This congregation terminated its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America following the vote on **A Social Statement on Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust** at the **2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly**.

## Resources

### A Statement of Understanding Concerning Synodically Authorized Ministry of Word and Sacrament

The Conference of Bishops has reviewed the recommended approval of a revised “Policy and Guidelines Related to Synodically Authorized Ministries of Word and Sacrament” document and offers the following statement of understanding related to that policy and guidelines.

- A. To affirm the policies and guidelines of this church on synodically authorized ministries as stated in the bylaws, in “Policy and Guidelines Related to Synodically Authorized Ministries of Word and Sacrament” as revised, and in Use of the Means of Grace, and to encourage and support one another in applying and interpreting these policies.
- B. To affirm that synodically authorized ministry policies are intended to honor the God-given office of Word and Sacrament (Article V, The Augsburg Confession) and this church’s commitment to ordained ministry as the primary means for fulfilling this office. Synodically authorized ministry is intended to assist this church to respond pastorally and effectively to emerging opportunities in Christ’s mission where it is not possible to provide an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament.
- C. To affirm that when addressing the need for Word and Sacrament ministry in a congregation or other ministry where an ordained minister of this church is not available, that synods will seek the utilization of an ordained minister of a full-communion partner church, under the guidelines related to the orderly exchange of ordained ministers.
- D. To affirm that synodically authorized ministry of Word and Sacrament is normally intended for a specific congregation or other ministry where appropriate ordained ministry is not available for an extended period of time.
- E. To agree that, in keeping with the policies of this church, synodically authorized ministry of Word and Sacrament is not intended for and should not be used to authorize an individual to provide for short-term, intermittent absences of a specific congregation’s called pastor. However, we acknowledge that there is often need to provide for the celebration of the sacrament for such circumstances, and we acknowledge that in some areas and at some times neither an ELCA nor a full-communion partner church ordained minister is available to meet such a need. Such situations highlight a tension between a bishop’s authority to provide for “appropriate ordained pastoral leadership” (7.61.01.) and the guideline that authorization is only to be used when the need for such leadership is “for an extended period of time” (Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 40).

We agree that for congregations in such areas, the inability to provide “appropriate ordained pastoral leadership” may require flexibility in interpreting “for an extended period of time.” This flexibility may be accomplished for a transitional period by the authorization of a person or persons to be available to provide Word and Sacrament ministry in congregations in the area where ordained leadership is chronically unavailable.

Authorization would be for a renewable term not to exceed one year and for the specific area. Like all synodically authorized ministers, such persons would be appropriately prepared and supervised. Though authorized for an area and for a term, such persons would only serve in specific ministry settings with the approval of the bishop. The synod should continue to seek ways to make available ordained ministers to serve in that area.

- F. To affirm that this church’s policies and commitments name four clear aspects in synodically authorized ministry: an invitation to service, the preparation of persons to serve, supervision and accountability, and authorization for specific service. All four aspects are vital to faithful use of synodically authorized ministries.

1. We agree to hold one another accountable for the ongoing recruitment of candidates for the ordained and rostered lay ministries of this church.
2. We encourage congregations and other ministries to enhance the mission-effectiveness of the policies and guidelines by commending to the bishop persons who should be prepared for possible service in synodically authorized ministry.
3. We encourage bishops and synods to plan for the preparation of persons to meet anticipated and unanticipated mission opportunities of that synod.
4. We commit ourselves to seek always to authorize for ministry only individuals who have been well prepared and who will serve under supervision.
1. We will encourage congregations and other ministries to become aware of these guidelines and, in collaboration with the synod, to seek to anticipate their own mission needs and opportunities and to plan for them.

Adopted by the Conference of Bishops as an agreed statement March 2005 [CB05.03.01]. Part One - page 52

**Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Policies\\_Procedures\\_Roster\\_Mgmt.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Policies_Procedures_Roster_Mgmt.pdf)  
[Images for Synodically Authorized Ministry of Word and Sacrament](#)

### Lay presidency - Wikipedia

Lay presidency is a form of celebrating the Lord’s Supper (sometimes called the Eucharist) whereby the person presiding over the sacrament is not an ordained minister of religion. Similarly, when the celebrant is a deacon rather than a presbyter, the term diaconal presidency is used.

Most independent Christian churches have a form of lay presidency as part of their communal worship. Mainstream denominations have been less inclined to allow lay people to preside over the sacrament, preferring to use ordained ministers or priests for this role.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lay\\_presidency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lay_presidency)  
[Images for Lay presidency](#)

I served a congregation that had been in a shared ministry agreement. The other congregation left the shared ministry agreement to enter into a letter of agreement with another congregation. I agreed to stay on for the time being. The Transition Task Force explored the options for leadership of the services of worship after I left and before a settled pastor came on board as a solo pastorate or in a shared ministry agreement with another congregation. A retired pastor on the task force proposed a rotation of supply preachers and non-ordained persons leading worship. The congregation was in the habit of Holy Communion each week. I contacted the synod office, which in turn asked for guidance from churchwide. The staff at churchwide provided the following:

**[PDF]The Use of the Means of Grace - ELCA Resource Repository**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION TAKES PLACE IN THE ASSEMBLY**

*Principle*

39 The gathered people of God celebrate the sacrament. Holy Communion, usually celebrated within a congregation, also may be celebrated in synodical, churchwide, and other settings where the baptized gather.

*Application 39A* Authorization for all celebrations of Communion in a parish setting where there is a called and ordained minister of Word and Sacrament is the responsibility of the pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.

*Application 39B* In established centers of this church—e.g., seminaries, colleges, retreat centers, charitable institutions, and administrative centers—authorization for the celebration of Holy Communion shall be given, either for a limited or unlimited time, by the presiding bishop of this church or, where only one synod is concerned, by the bishop of that synod.

*Application 39C* In institutions not formally associated with this church—e.g., hospitals, retirement homes, colleges and universities, or military bases—where there is a called pastor or chaplain, authorization for the celebration of Holy Communion rests with the pastor in consultation with the appropriate calling-sending expression of this church. 6

*Background 39D* The authorizing role of bishops is a sign of our interconnectedness. This church provides for ministry in many settings. Chaplains, for example, bring the means of grace to people in institutions on behalf of the whole Church.

**A PASTOR PRESIDES AT THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*Principle*

40 In witness that this sacrament is a celebration of the Church, serving its unity, an ordained minister presides in the service of Holy Communion and proclaims the Great Thanksgiving. Where it is not possible for an extended period of time to provide ordained pastoral leadership, a synodical bishop may authorize a properly trained lay person to preside for a specified period of time and in a given location only.<sup>7</sup> *Background 40A* "In the celebration of the eucharist, Christ gathers, teaches and nourishes the church. It is Christ who invites to the meal and who presides at it. He is the shepherd who leads the people of God, the prophet who announces the Word of God, the priest who celebrates the mystery of God. In most churches, this presidency is signified by an ordained minister. The one who presides at the eucharistic celebration in the name of Christ makes clear that the rite is not the assembly's own creation or possession; the eucharist is received as a gift from Christ living in his church. The minister of the eucharist is the ambassador who represents the divine initiative and expresses the connection of the local community with other local communities in the universal Church."<sup>7</sup>

**LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS SERVE IN MANY ROLES**

*Principle*

41 Designated and trained lay persons serve in a variety of leadership roles in the Eucharist. Among these assisting ministers will be readers, interpreters, cantors, musicians and choir members, servers of communion, acolytes, leaders of prayer, those who prepare for the meal, and those who offer hospitality.<sup>72</sup>

*Background 41A* "The liturgy is the celebration of all who gather. Together with the pastor who presides, the entire congregation is involved. It is important, therefore, that lay persons fulfill appropriate ministries within the service."<sup>73</sup>

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/The\\_Use\\_Of\\_The\\_Means\\_Of\\_Grace.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/The_Use_Of_The_Means_Of_Grace.pdf)

Page 45

<https://www.amazon.com/use-means-grace-statement-sacrament/dp/0806636483>

<https://iksynod.org/invitation-study-use-means-grace/>

[Images for PASTOR PRESIDES AT THE HOLY COMMUNION Principle](#)

I ran across the following guidelines offered by Bishop John Stanley Macholz.

**Guidelines for when no ordained person is available to preside**

These guidelines continue to be a working document and an invitation to conversation as together we struggle with a shortage of ordained persons to provide pastoral coverage in Upstate New York congregations. More and more of our congregations have moved to weekly Eucharist and some have mid-week services as well. The needs and traditions vary from place to place across the synod. These guidelines do not represent a change in the way we have been operating and are consistent both with the tradition in this synod and the ELCA policies. I continue to believe that this is not a matter of "rights and privileges" so much as "for good order" and for the sake of the mission of the church. Constitutionally it falls to me, as Bishop, to make these decisions. I do not tend toward legalism and I recognize that there are some gray areas

and a fair amount of disagreement among us on these issues. Even so, I ask for the full cooperation of all rostered and congregational leaders in these matters.

[Upstate New York Synod | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](https://upstatenysynod.org/resources/)

<https://upstatenysynod.org/resources/> Guidelines for when no ordained person is available to preside  
Images for Bishop John Stanley Macholz Guidelines for when no ordained person is available to preside

### 37) Let the liturgy do its work

The congregation I was serving at the time went together with a neighboring congregation for joint mid-week Lenten services. One pastor preached the sermon, while the other led the liturgy. I preached on the parable on the Good Samaritan at one service. At the Blessing as a part of the Sending part of the worship, the other pastor started out by saying, "How many of us would have walked on by like the priest and the Levite?" The pastor proceeded to make the Blessing an exhortation to do good deeds. I believe there is power in the liturgy and that there is no need for me to interject added commentary.

### 38) Is all this acclamation by applause necessary?

As an interim pastor, I seek to respect services of worship traditions of the settings into which I enter. So, when the congregation is used to acclamation by applause, I realize it does little good to quote Luke 17:10, So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' Having said that, I do have concerns that its increasing use falls under the "everyone gets a trophy" self-esteem category, which results in the practice being trivialized. At the very least, I do not encourage its practice any more than already being used. This matter is best addressed in long-term worship planning and education. The music composer J. S. Bach believed in "To the Glory of God Alone."

#### Resources

[PDF]A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - Park Street Church

Instruction

*Please enter the sanctuary in silence*, preparing yourself to join with this assembly in the worship of Almighty God.

*Please do not applaud during this service.* The music performed by the choir and orchestra is primarily presented as an offering—a sacrifice of praise—to God, on behalf of the congregation. When the choir sings, it is an agent of the whole church, not a separate entity. When we come together, we are all worshipping as a community, even if we are not all singing, so to applaud during the service is, in a sense, to applaud for oneself.

[https://www.parkstreet.org/sites/default/files/lessonscarols\\_2015\\_program\\_web.pdf](https://www.parkstreet.org/sites/default/files/lessonscarols_2015_program_web.pdf)

Images for Please do not applaud during this service of worship.

[PDF]Is Applause Appropriate in Worship - ELCA Resource Repository

When considering the impact of applause in worship, think not only about the recipients, but also for the congregation, the applauders. We live in an entertainment age. The liturgical church, with its emphasis on participation by all, offers a countercultural alternative to worship that is cast as entertainment by a few for the many. Worship planners need to look critically at our secular culture, constructively use what is good. In a secular setting, applause may not be a weakness. When transferred to worship, however, it may not function in the same positive way.

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Is\\_applause\\_appropriate\\_in\\_worship.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Is_applause_appropriate_in_worship.pdf)

Images for Is Applause Appropriate in Worship - ELCA Resource Repository

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Principles\\_for\\_Worship.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Principles_for_Worship.pdf)

Johann Sebastian Bach: Soli Deo Gloria – To the Glory of God Alone

Soli Deo Gloria. "To the Glory of God Alone" is something Bach wrote on all of his music for worship. This was not to say that the purpose of the music was only to seek God's glory without giving any thought to those who might hear and sing the music. I see this solely as a heartfelt reminder to himself that his gifts came from God. He wanted to continuously remember that it wasn't the accolades of his congregation, or the praise of his superiors, or even the admiration of his contemporaries that drove him to compose his masterpieces, but he did so for the honor and glory of God.

<http://www.theworshipcommunity.com/johann-sebastian-bach-soli-deo-gloria-to-the-glory-of-god-alone/>

Images for Johann Sebastian Bach: Soli Deo Gloria – To the Glory of God Alone

What is wrong with applauding in Church? - Catholic Answers Forums

"Whenever applause breaks out in the liturgy because of some human achievement, it is a sure sign that the essence of liturgy has totally disappeared and been replaced by a kind of religious entertainment."

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, The Spirit of the Liturgy, 198

<http://forums.catholic.com/showthread.php?t=114530>

<https://forums.catholic.com/t/what-is-wrong-with-applauding-in-church/55608/2>

<https://forums.catholic.com/t/applause-in-church-service-mass/537111>

<http://www.tldm.org/News18/PopeBenedictXVIAndPopePiusXOpposeClappingDuringMass.htm>

Images for Pope Opposes Clapping During Mass

What's Wrong with Applauding in Church | Reformed Worship

The faces of the Cherub Choir members shine as they finish their song. Before I know it, I am applauding with everyone else. What am I doing? I glance around to see if anyone is watching. (We liturgy professors take ourselves very seriously.) What are we to make of this increasingly popular practice of applauding in worship?

<http://www.reformedworship.org/article/december-1988/whats-wrong-applauding-church>



### Why you shouldn't clap in church - Randal Rauser

The consumer mentality affects churches in many subtle (and not so subtle) ways. Consider one of them: the tyranny of applause. The pastor prays for the offering. And then the deacons fan out as the offertory begins, a thoughtful melody of hymns played on a piano or violin by a congregant. Then as soon as the performance is concluded the congregation bursts into applause. I understand the sentiment. We want to encourage and thank. But the problem is the presumption of the congregation that the performance is for *them*, as if *they're the audience*, the consumers of the product offered by the church.

<http://randalrauser.com/2013/01/why-you-shouldnt-clap-in-church/>

Images for Why you shouldn't clap in church - Randal Rauser

### 39) Cut the chatter

I resist the temptation to engage in glib remarks while leading services of worship. I see my role to lead the assembly to honor God and not to highlight myself. This is not entertainment. This is a service of worship.

#### [PDF] 10 Tips for Worship Leaders: How to Enhance On-Stage Presence

When we remember that our role on stage is primarily one of **servant leadership, that it is not about us** and what we do but about the people of God gathered, we are freed to serve and lead well.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56dee43ee321400514f98522/t/575aff4f59827e1575677fd/1465581392928/5+WORS+402+Mag+5.pdf>

<http://www.theworshipcommunity.com/10-tips-for-worship-leaders-how-to-enhance-on-stage-presence/>

Images for Tips for Worship Leaders

<https://churchleaders.com/worship/worship-how-tos/150648-5-parameters-of-stage-presence.html>

Images for stage presence

### 40) Prayers of intercession

I appreciate prepared written intercessions, which I can adapt and add, but which keep me honest. I prefer that they not be written out whether in the use of an insert or printed in the service of worship to provide for flexibility. At the same time, if the congregation uses published inserts, I go with them and make additions.

#### Resources

##### Crafting Prayers for Public Worship: The Art of Intercession by Sam Wells

This is an inspirational and practical guide for all who help to lead the intercessions in regular worship or to offer prayers in public worship on specific occasions. It aims to empower and equip lay people and clergy alike to offer heartfelt, informed, thoughtful and appropriate prayers on behalf of the people of God for God's world. Crafting Prayers for Public Worship: • considers what public prayer is and offers practical guidelines for avoiding common pitfalls. • explores prayer as an integral part of worship and the kinds of speech we need (and don't need) to address God. • reflects on the basic structures and shape of the prayers we create, staying rooted in scripture, the answers we can expect with confidence, becoming part of the answer ourselves, and other practicalities • offers a wide range of templates and examples.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Crafting-Prayers-Public-Worship-Intercession/dp/1848254601>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Samuel-Wells/e/B001HCTZPQ>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/56980.Samuel\\_Wells](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/56980.Samuel_Wells)

Images for Sam Wells, author prayers for public worship

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7193107.Abigail\\_Kocher](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7193107.Abigail_Kocher)

Images for abigail kocher, author prayers for public worship

Images for Crafting Prayers for Public Worship: The Art of Intercession by Sam Wells

##### Sundays & Seasons — A rich and reliable resource for worship planning.

Sundays and Seasons follows the three-year lectionary cycle and provides everything you need to support your worship ministry in one convenient location, always accessible online.

<http://sundaysandseasons.com/>

Images for Sundays & Seasons — A rich and reliable resource for worship planning.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286268/Sundays-and-Seasons>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286486/Sundays-and-Seasons-Calendars>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2015/03/sundays-seasons/>

##### The assembly prays - Living Lutheran

The prayers of intercession are best when locally prepared by those who are sensitive to the needs of the world and the local community. The prayers may begin with such preprinted resources as Sundays and Seasons but should always be adapted to the particular community's concerns.

<http://www.elca.org/en/Living-Lutheran/Seeds/2013/04/130412g>

Images for assembly prays - Living Lutheran

### 41) Name names?

I served a two-point parish where the previous pastor preferred for the people in the assembly to name names of those in need during the prayers of intercession. One of the congregations realigned with another congregation. I stayed on as the remaining congregation

aligned with still another congregation. The first Sunday I was approached by members of the Worship Committee who wanted me name names during the prayers of intercession and gave me a list of names to pray for.

At the very least, I want to know that the person being prayed for has given permission to have their name used. I remember early on in my pastoral ministry an older woman who lived alone in the countryside and who did not want her name included in the prayers when she went to the hospital as that would make public that her house was for the moment unoccupied. Also, when the service of worship is broadcast, I prefer to use only first names.

### Resources

#### [PDF] A Short Guide to Preparing and Leading the Intercessions

How does your church identify (and maintain boundaries of confidentiality and sensitivity around) individuals to be prayed for?

People named on prayer lists should have given their permission.

<http://www.fossedeaney.dustin.co.uk/faith/intercessions3.pdf>

[Images for People named on prayer lists should have given their permission.](#)

### Leading Intercessions

#### *Naming names*

Do not be afraid to do this! But be sensitive – God knows why someone needs prayer or wants to give thanks. Remember, the person leading the intercessions is doing so on behalf of the people. Names called out are appropriate in a prayer group but less so in public worship.

<http://www.stursula.ch/Guidelines/Intercessions.html>

[Images for Leading Intercessions Naming names](#)

#### [PDF] Leading Intercessions Guide - Diocese of Gloucester

It may be appropriate to pray for particular parish events and activities, but you do not need to cover everything. You might include prayers for those being baptized or confirmed, the sick and those who have died—generally or by name. Remember to be **pastorally sensitive**—hearing someone's name in the prayers may be the first time some of the congregation hear about it.

Do make sure permission is given to include people's names, if they are on an 'official' prayer list, this should be fine.

<http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Leading-Intercessions-Guide.pdf>

[Images for Leading Intercessions pastorally sensitive images](#)

### 42) Be careful what you pray for

A congregation I served went through a split 12 years earlier in which a 1/3 of the congregation walked out and formed a Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) congregation 8 blocks away. Some of the people who left made harsh statements in leaving so that even after that long there were raw feelings in the congregation towards those who left.

The 4th Sunday in January I offered a Service of Prayer for Christian Unity as a part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity as I had done previous years in other congregations. I commended the congregation in my message for its efforts to involve other congregations and people in the community in joint efforts. I also lifted the joint services of worship with the Methodists and Episcopalians. I talked about the local ministerial meeting and working together.

The following week a former member who left during the split to become a part of the new LCMC congregation died. This person was well liked in the community. A member of the congregation I was serving related that he did not know to that day exactly why the man left. A member of the choir of the congregation I was serving proposed to a member of the choir at the LCMC congregation that they practice together and sing together at the funeral at the LCMC church. The choir members from the LCMC congregation came over to the ELCA congregation to practice on Wednesday and then sang at the funeral at the LCMC congregation the following Saturday.

### 43) Recommendations of a consultant

A congregation retained the Church Doctor to make recommendations on the various areas of life and mission of the congregation before I came. These recommendations informed my interim ministry in that congregation. Following are recommendations for worship:

I recommend you conduct research among those who attend the different worship services.

I recommend you ask them to fill out a very small questionnaire that would ask them which service they attend and then to ask them to check one of the following answers as to the primary reason “why?” Time\_\_\_ Style \_\_\_

I recommend you encourage all members to honor the different heart languages of people as they worship in different ways.

I recommend you help people recognize that each person does not have to like every style of worship, but they do have to respect and honor the different ways that people worship. The truth is that Lutherans worship in different styles all over the world.

In the contemporary service, I recommend you use the keyboard.

I recommend you provide some songs with a piano and some with electronic keyboard.

I recommend you provide a unique choir designated primarily for the 9:30am worship service made up of children and parents together.

I recommend they sing child friendly worship songs as a choir for that service.

I recommend as you start this additional choir that you recognize one of the ways to grow a healthy church is to continually start new groups.

I recommend you do not change the worship schedule for services during the seasons. Continuity throughout the year strengthens and builds.

I recommend you worship twice a year together at one place at one time.

I recommend this be an off-campus location on a neutral site, like the high school auditorium.

I recommend this be a “bring-a-friend” Sunday.

I recommend this be highly publicized as an outreach to your community.

I recommend a core team of people be developed for ministry during worship times.

I recommend they be uniquely chosen for their gifts and personalities.

I recommend they be assigned to the sole purpose of ministering and reaching out to those who are alone, in need, or new.

I recommend a mentality be established that anytime ministry is conducted, the person who is doing that ministry be training and equipping another person for ministry. For example, when ushers are ushering, I recommend they see, as a part of their own personal responsibility, the ministry of developing another usher in training.

#### 44) Worship Committee

In my ► *Review by synod* of constitutions for congregations of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I come across various descriptions of duties for committees and teams. The following is one such Continuing Resolution for a Worship Committee:

- a. The duties of the **Worship Ministry Committee** include the following:
  - 1) To give leadership, counsel, and guidance in all matters pertaining to worship, including assisting ministers, altar guild, communion stewards, acolytes, readers, greeters, ushers, media, and church music within the congregation.
  - 2) To maintain an adequate supply of expendable items for worship, such as communion cards, pencils, communion wine and bread, baptism napkins, candles, and other items, as needed for and contributing to regular and special services of worship.
  - 3) To be responsible for preparation of the altar, assistance with communion serving, and care for all paraments and vestments.
  - 4) To consult with the pastor and work with the Congregation Council relative to music staff.
  - 5) To establish criteria for music to be used in services of worship and at weddings and funerals, with counsel and cooperation of the pastor and music staff.
  - 6) To recruit and develop musical talent for present and future services of worship.
  - 7) To serve as the congregation’s link to synod and churchwide ministries on worship and church music.
  - 8) To report regularly to the Congregation Council on its activities and to the congregation at the annual meeting.
  - 9) To convene at least once each year a meeting of all ministries to meet jointly with the Congregation Council to review the life, work, and program of the congregation.
  - 10) To establish an annual budget for worship materials.
  - 11) To submit a report for annual report.
  - 12) To decorate worship areas for seasons and holidays.

#### Resources

##### Church Worship Committee Job Description | The Network

We are rethinking our church **committee** job descriptions. Does anyone have a **worship** task force job description that works well?

<http://network.crcna.org/worship/church-worship-committee-job-description>

Images for worship committee job description

##### 8 best Worship Committee Ideas images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/lisac21769/worship-committee-ideas/>

Images for worship committee pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/jfk78/worship-committee/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/cutnpasteclergy/worship-communion/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/disciplesfcm/resources-for-worship/>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/melovecows/worship-committee/>

##### Guidelines for forming a worship committee - Reformed Worship

Church worship can easily be destroyed by extremes. The same is true for the worship planning process. One extreme occurs when no one is ultimately in charge; the other occurs when everyone is. Establishing a worship committee can help churches avoid these extremes.

<https://www.reformedworship.org/article/september-1994/members-methods-and-mandates-guidelines-forming-worship-committee>

Images for Guidelines for forming a worship committee - Reformed Worship

##### [PDF]Worship Committees - ELCA Resource Repository

The worship committee will want to work from the assumption that worship is a unifying event in the life of a congregation.

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What\\_is\\_a\\_Worship\\_Committee.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What_is_a_Worship_Committee.pdf)

Images for Worship Committees - ELCA Resource Repository

<https://www.elca.org/Resources>

#### 45) Should surveys be used to make decisions on scheduling services of worship?

A front-page article in a newsletter told how the pastor asked the parish council about the number of services of worship for Christmas Eve and Day when Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. The Parish Council decided to survey the people in the parish.

[DOC]Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository

#### Chapter 12.

#### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

**C12.04.** The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its **worship** life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do **long-range planning**, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in **worship**, learning, witness, service, and support.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations

<https://download.elca.org> > ELCA Resource Repository > Model Constitution

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

[Images for Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Chapter 12. CONGREGATION COUNCIL involve members in worship](#)

#### Shared Ministry Agreement

##### IV. Worship

1. Each congregation may retain its own order of worship and prepare its own bulletins.
2. Sunday services of worship:
3. Scheduling of occasional services of worship, such as Christmas Eve/Day, Lent, Easter, and others, will be done by the Parish Council.

Sample shared ministry agreement from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

My thought is that council leadership can talk with people informally and come to a decision rather than expecting some sort of consensus to emerge from a survey.

#### 46) Who picks the hymns?

The two organists and two members of the Worship Committee asked to talk with me after the first service of worship during a bridge assignment. "Pastor," one asked, "How do you handle hymn selection?" I asked how it had been done. I was told the previous pastor was in declining health and all too happy to delegate that task to the organists and members of the Worship Committee. Especially the one organist - who was developing tremors but insisted on continuing to play - preferred tunes with no more than two sharps and flats. At the next bridge assignment, the organist said she met with the interim pastor to pick out hymns for three months at a time. In both settings, they understood why I chose to select the hymns to match the theme or emphasis of the day. For my part, I gained a better understanding that the musicians wanted hymns that were both playable and singable. No accompanist wants to be embarrassed by being asked to play a tune that is out of their comfort zone, nor does an accompanist want to play a tune that no one can sing.

#### 47) Without accompaniment

The 2 congregations, one open country and the other village, had been served by the same organist for 30+ years, but when they realigned, the organist stayed with her home congregation and relinquished her position at the other congregation. The church secretary located a pianist to play 2 Sundays a month. The other Sundays, I led the singing. The next parish I went to, the organist was in her 70s and could not find anyone to accompany when she went on vacation. I led the singing at that service of worship. The next parish after that, one of the congregations did not have a regular accompanist, so I led the singing. One of the results I have discovered in leading and singing without accompaniment is that the assembly sings louder as it is not dependent upon accompaniment.

##### A cappella - Wikipedia

A cappella [[a kkap' pella](#)] (Italian for "in the manner of the chapel")<sup>[1]</sup> music is specifically group or solo singing without [instrumental accompaniment](#), or a piece intended to be performed in this way. It contrasts with [cantata](#), which is usually accompanied singing.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_cappella](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_cappella)

[Images for cappella](#)

Some church bodies as a matter of principle do not use instrumental accompaniment.

##### A cappella - Wikipedia

[Opposition to instruments in worship](#)<sup>[edit]</sup>

Present-day Christian religious bodies known for conducting their worship services without musical accompaniment include some [Presbyterian](#) churches devoted to the [regulative principle of worship](#), [Old Regular Baptists](#), [Primitive Baptists](#), [Plymouth Brethren](#), [Churches of Christ](#), Church of God (Guthrie, Oklahoma), the [Old German Baptist Brethren](#), [Doukhobors](#) the [Byzantine Rite](#) and the [Amish](#), [Old Order Mennonites](#) and [Conservative Mennonites](#). Certain [high church](#) services and other musical events in liturgical churches (such as the Roman Catholic [Mass](#) and the [Lutheran Divine Service](#)) may be a cappella, a practice remaining from apostolic times. Many [Mennonites](#) also

conduct some or all of their services without instruments. [Sacred Harp](#), a type of [folk music](#), is an a cappella style of religious singing with [shape notes](#), usually sung at singing conventions.

Opponents of [musical instruments in the Christian worship](#) believe that such opposition is supported by the Christian scriptures and Church history. The scriptures typically referenced are [Matthew 26:30](#); [Acts 16:25](#); [Romans 15:9](#); [1 Corinthians 14:15](#); [Ephesians 5:19](#); [Colossians 3:16](#); [Hebrews 2:12, 13:15](#); [James 5:13](#), which show examples and exhortations for Christians to sing.<sup>[10]</sup>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_cappella](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_cappella)

Images for cappella church

#### 48) Recorded message and/or music

A substitute pianist did not show one Sunday. I led the singing. The primary sound engineer, (who was also gone that day), said afterwards that it was possible for the organist to pre-record the songs on a disc for the organ and have them played during the service of worship. When I attended another Lutheran congregation on an allotted vacation Sunday, I saw the organ but no organist. Then, the organ started playing. I looked over and saw an older woman pressing the keys on a laptop computer to make the organ play. A couple years later, I served an open country congregation, which had purchased a Clavinova to use when the organist was not playing. Though I prefer live music and live preaching and do not advocate recordings or projection in worship, I wonder if there will come the day when, because of a shortage of pastors and musicians, a pastor will serve a circuit of congregations where at least some Sundays the message and/or the music will be pre-recorded. It takes me back to the day when I started out in the pastoral ministry in 1980 at an open-country two-point parish when the members told me they "were just getting used to coming to worship every Sunday." They referred to their history when they were part of a circuit where they took turns with other congregations in having a pastor available to lead the services of worship. Technology could conceivably make it possible for a pastor to serve a circuit and for people to come to the services of worship each Sunday. In addition to preaching on those Sundays, the ordained pastor would administer the sacraments.

#### Resources

##### Clavinova - Wikipedia

The *Clavinova* is a long-running line of premium [digital pianos](#) created by the [Yamaha Corporation](#). They are similar in styling to an [acoustic piano](#), but with many features common to various [keyboards](#) such as the ability to save and load songs, the availability of different voices, and, in more recent models, the ability to be connected to a [computer](#) via [USB](#) or [wireless network](#) for [music](#) production or interactive [piano](#) lesson programs.



Clavinova CVP-303 Player Piano

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clavinova>

Images for Clavinova

#### MUSIC WITHOUT MUSICIANS

Edna Sahs, Worship and Music Coordinator, Our Savior's Lutheran, Eau Claire

This workshop is for congregations that do not have people to play for worship services. A church may have an organ and/or a keyboard, but they may not have a musician. A church may like to offer contemporary worship with a praise band but have no musicians. Today's technology makes it possible to provide music without musicians. This workshop will demonstrate how to easily provide music for whatever type of worship service that suits your congregation.

If you have specific questions before the workshop, please call me so that I can structure the workshop to help you get started.

View the web page for Walking Together details. - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

[http://www.nwswi.org/news\\_and\\_events/Walking\\_Together.phtml](http://www.nwswi.org/news_and_events/Walking_Together.phtml)

Images for CHURCH MUSIC WITHOUT MUSICIANS

##### Small Church Music

Quality music for congregational singing, prepared by church musicians. Large range old traditional hymns and modern songs. Variety of musical styles.

<http://www.smallchurchmusic2.com/>

Images for Small Church Music

##### 10 Ways to Lead Music Without a Musician - Pastor Resources

Listed below are several different options and resources for helping your church lead worship this Sunday without any live musical assistance.

<http://www.pastorresources.com/6972-2/>

Images for Lead Church Music Without a Musician

The Multi-Site Church Revolution: Being One Church in Many Locations (Leadership Network Innovation Series) by Geoff Surratt (Author), Greg Ligon (Author), Warren Bird (Author), Erwin McManus (Foreword)



Fueled by a desire to reach people for Christ, a revolution is underway. Churches are growing beyond the limitations of a single service in one building. Expanding the traditional model, they are embracing the concept of one church with more than one site: multiple congregations sharing a common vision, budget, leadership, and board. Drawing from the examples of churches nationwide, The Multi-Site Church Revolution shows what healthy multi-site churches look like and what motivates congregations to make the change. Discover how your church can: • cast a vision for change • ensure a successful DNA transfer (vision and core values) to its new site • develop new leaders • fund new sites • adapt to structure and staffing change • use technology to support your worship services you'll identify the reasons churches succeed and how they overcome common snags. The Multi-Site Church Revolution offers guidance, insights, and specific action steps as well as appendixes with practical leadership resources and self-diagnostic tools.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Multi-Site-Church-Revolution-Leadership/dp/0310270154>

[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/689934.The\\_Multi\\_Site\\_Church\\_Revolution](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/689934.The_Multi_Site_Church_Revolution)

<http://www.zondervan.com/the-multi-site-church-revolution>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310566436>

<http://www.multisitechurchrevolution.com/>

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/content/a-multisitechurchrevolution>

[PPT]The Multi-Site Church Revolution Multi-Site Church Overview: The Movement of Becoming One Church in Many Locations. Warren Bird. Leadership Network, Dallas, TX.

[PPT]The Multi-Site Church Revolution The Multi-Site Church Revolution. Geoff Surratt.

[PPT]The Multi-Site Church Revolution The Multi-Site Church Revolution. Greg Surratt.

<https://www.slideshare.net/djchuang/expowest-multisiteintro>

<http://www.churchmarketingsucks.com/2006/05/the-multi-site-church-revolution/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Geoff-Surratt/e/B001IGJRU4>

Images for Geoff Surratt (Author) multi-site church

<https://www.amazon.com/Greg-Ligon/e/B002BLL0TG>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/354547.Greg\\_Ligon](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/354547.Greg_Ligon)

Images for Greg Ligon (Author) multi-site church

<https://www.amazon.com/Warren-Bird/e/B002BLN1V6>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/85146.Warren\\_Bird](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/85146.Warren_Bird)

Images for Warren Bird (Author) multi-site church

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erwin\\_McManus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erwin_McManus)

[https://twitter.com/erwinmcmanus?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/erwinmcmanus?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

<http://erwinmcmanus.com/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Erwin-Raphael-McManus/e/B001H6EMAK>

Images for Erwin McManus (Author) multi-site church

Images for The Multi-Site Church Revolution: Being One Church in Many Locations (Leadership Network Innovation Series) by Geoff Surratt (Author), Greg Ligon (Author), Warren Bird (Author), Erwin McManus (Foreword)

<https://www.amazon.com/Leadership-Network-Innovation-Pack-16/dp/0310529972>

<http://leadnet.org/books/>

[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLD8A36B5906464D98](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLD8A36B5906464D98) Leadership Network Innovation Series - YouTube

Images for Leadership Network Innovation Series - YouTube

<https://www.librarything.com/series/Leadership+Network+Innovation+Series>

<https://www.amazon.com/Leadership-Network-Innovation-Pack-16/dp/0310529972>

<http://www.zondervan.com/leadership-network-innovation-series-pack>

<http://www.zondervan.com/catalog/pastor-resources/leadership-network-innovation-series>

Images for Leadership Network Innovation Series

### **'Virtual preaching' transforms Sunday sermons - CNN.com**

It may not be a better way, though, said the Rev. Thomas Long, a nationally recognized authority on preaching and author of "Preaching from Memory to Hope."

Preachers who don't think they need to be physically present in their church should ask how they would feel if they were forced to preach to high-def images of their congregation every Sunday morning, said Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching at Emory University.

"There's something about embodiment - that the person who delivers the sermon is actually there - that's important," Long said. "It's important in the same way that someone physically visits someone in a hospital or buries a loved one - they don't fax it in."

Long said the New Testament accounts of Jesus' interaction with people show him constantly touching and being physically present with people.

"We don't think God sent a message to us; God sent a person and the word became flesh," he said.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/innovation/07/14/virtual.preaching/>

Images for 'Virtual preaching' transforms Sunday sermons - CNN.com

One pastor accomplished on the Clavinova Player Piano was recording music to accompany the assembly singing at one congregation without an accompanist when he ran across the following website to purchase recorded music:

Our goal is to provide God-pleasing worship resources as supplements to commonly-used Lutheran hymnals. Learn about our vision by clicking the [About Us](#) link. Download our [Brochure](#) or browse our online (free) [Multi-Media Library](#).  
[www.lutheranmusic.com/](http://www.lutheranmusic.com/) Evangelical Lutheran Worship [ELW] - Augsburg Fortress, 2006 (ELCA)  
[http://www.lutheranmusic.com/web/ELW\\$MP3Library.html](http://www.lutheranmusic.com/web/ELW$MP3Library.html)  
Images for LutheranMusic.com

He explained that because the MP3 selection looked so good for the price, he decided to suspend recording and/or downloading audio hymn files and then purchase the selection and embed the tunes in the PPT slide shows.

#### 49) Stoles with team colors?

The Evangelical Lutheran Worship service for Holy Baptism includes a rubric about a baptismal garment:

*Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized may receive a baptismal garment.*

The intention is as follows:

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:**

**join us in giving thanks and praise to God**

**and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7583/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition>

Page 231

Images for Clothed with Christ in baptism

The Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly service for Ordination includes the following:

Giving of a Stole

*The ordinand/s may remain kneeling. A stole is placed over each ordinand's shoulders as the presiding minister says:*

Receive this stole as a sign of your work, and live in obedience to the Lord Jesus, serving his people and remembering his promise: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly

Page 192

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8432/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Occasional-Services-for-the-Assembly>

Images for stole is placed over each ordinand's shoulders

In light of the services of worship for Baptism and Ordination mentioned above and the resources cited below, what do you think of the appropriateness or inappropriateness of pastoral stoles with different NFL team colors?

#### Resources

Stole (vestment) - Wikipedia

... is a fitting symbol of the yoke of Christ, the yoke of service...

Together with the [cincture](#) and the now mostly defunct [maniple](#), the stole symbolizes the bonds and fetters with which [Jesus](#) was bound during his [Passion](#); it is usually ornamented with a cross. Another version is that the stole denotes [the duty to spread the Word of God](#).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stole\\_\(vestment\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stole_(vestment))

Images for Stole (vestment)

The preacher has a sports addiction | Pastor Joe McKeever

The number one way pastors know they're keeping loyalty for their team in check is church members have no idea which is their favorite.

And the way you tell your love for your team has gotten way out of line is—pick one or more—a) your constant reference to it in conversation, b) your repeated reference to the game or the team in sermons, c) the displays on your office wall, d) the "stuff" in your home, e) the bumper stickers and other identifying items on your car, and f) the way you bob up or down emotionally depending on what your team did yesterday.

Pity the church whose pastor is in bondage to his love for a football team.

<http://joemckeeper.com/wp/preacher-sports-addiction/>

Images for preacher sports addiction

#### 50) Whose needs are being served?

One change in the style of worship back in the 1970s was to move away from the altar against the wall and to a free-standing altar. One graduate from a seminary, which identifies itself as a "worship-centered community", determined when he accepted his first call to an open country congregation in one of the Plains states to do just that. His ministry did not end well, as he only lasted a couple years. He then moved to a major urban population center where he engaged in various ministry ventures outside the installed pastorate.

[PDF] The Structure of Worship pdf - ELCA  
Practice

Evangelical Lutheran Worship outlines this basic pattern of Gathering, Word, Meal and Sending (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, pp. 92-93; Leaders Desk Edition, pp. 164-165). Elements of this pattern will change during the church year and according to **local contexts and customs**. For guidance on worship planning using this pattern, check the Resources section at the bottom of the article for both print and online resources.

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What is the pattern of worship.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What%20is%20the%20pattern%20of%20worship.pdf)  
Images for local contexts and worship customs

## 51) Two streams of congregation music

I find the insights of **Two Streams of Congregational Music - John Ylvisaker** based on the reforms of Martin Luther helpful in understanding the need for both formal and folk.

### Resources

#### **Beyond Borning Cry, Another 1,000 songs: An interview with Lutheran composer John Ylvisaker - The Lutheran Magazine**

The musical topic most interesting to Lutheran composer **John Ylvisaker** is the reuse of traditional tunes. He notes that there is a strong tradition for tune-borrowing in Lutheranism, as Martin Luther was "real good at it."

Ylvisaker, a member of **St. Paul Lutheran Church**, Waverly, Iowa, leads workshops and has written articles on the practice of borrowing melodies from bygone cultures and compositions. Despite that, it came as a surprise when, 15 years after writing "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry," Ylvisaker learned he may have unknowingly borrowed the tune.

"We were at an anniversary celebration for some friends, and their kids had put together a video of their life," he said. "There was some music in the back of it, and I thought, that's 'Borning Cry.' But it was Duke Ellington's 'Don't Get Around Much Anymore' .... It's the same six notes that start 'Borning Cry.'"

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=7611](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=7611)

Images for **Beyond Borning Cry, Another 1,000 songs: An interview with Lutheran composer John Ylvisaker - The Lutheran**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJI3NFT5T\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJI3NFT5T_c) John Ylvisaker - I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry - YouTube

Images for **Borning Cry - YouTube**

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

#### **Two Streams of Congregational Music - John Ylvisaker**

Martin Luther introduced the German language into the worship life and also paraphrased the liturgy and psalms into songs that could be easily sung by everyone. This was an attempt to not only involve the people in worship, but also to get them to come back after he removed the main reason why anybody went to church. By attacking the Pope's indulgence and merit systems, one of which was that simple church attendance could gain you favor or knock years off your stay in purgatory, Luther was also removing the main reason people went to church. **To encourage their attendance, he made the Mass more accessible to them. However, on the high feast days, he continued the practice of the formal Latin Mass.**

<http://www.ylvisaker.com/?p=24>

Images for **Two Streams of Congregational Music - John Ylvisaker**

<http://www.ylvisaker.com/?cat=7> John Ylvisaker liturgical songwriter, recording artist, composer, performer, ethnomusicologist

Images for **John Ylvisaker liturgical songwriter, recording artist, composer, performer, ethnomusicologist**

#### **What Song Shall We Sing?: Healing the Worship Wars with Fusion by John Ylvisaker**

In his zeal to enhance the worship life of the congregation, John (Ylvisaker) urges us to understand that **our variety of musical styles in the church are meant to bring us together, not to tear us apart**. Variety in our hymnody ought not to lead us into "worship wars." Hymnic variety, rather, ought to bring a new harmony to our life together as people of Christ.

Dr. Richard A. Jensen

[http://books.google.com/books/about/What\\_Song\\_Shall\\_We\\_Sing.html?id=L\\_liCUHqZboC](http://books.google.com/books/about/What_Song_Shall_We_Sing.html?id=L_liCUHqZboC)

<http://www.amazon.com/What-Song-Shall-We-Sing/dp/097707840X>

[http://www.ylvisaker.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&products\\_id=25](http://www.ylvisaker.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=25)

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7260/What-Song-Shall-We-Sing>

[http://store.seracomm.com/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&products\\_id=6](http://store.seracomm.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=6)

<http://metrolutheran.org/2013/04/celebrating-the-lutheran-troubadour/>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/contributor/970/John-Ylvisaker>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJI3NFT5T\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJI3NFT5T_c) John Ylvisaker - I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry – YouTube

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/john-ylvisaker-obituary?pid=1000000184462313&view=guestbook>

<http://www.startribune.com/obituary-john-carl-ylvisaker-the-bob-dylan-of-lutheranism/417376093/>

[https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A5174%2Cp\\_32%3AJohn%20Ylvisaker](https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A5174%2Cp_32%3AJohn%20Ylvisaker)

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/251019.John\\_Ylvisaker](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/251019.John_Ylvisaker)

Images for **John Ylvisaker, author**

Images for **What Song Shall We Sing?: Healing the Worship Wars with Fusion by John Ylvisaker**

## 52) One pastor, three churches, three worship books

A colleague announced in a conference gathering that he had received a call to a three-point parish in an urban setting in a southern state. One congregation used *Lutheran Book of Worship*, another *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, and the third *This Far by Faith*. Each congregation had their own church secretary who prepared the bulletins. Part of the explanation was that the first congregation consisted largely of retirees, while the third congregation consisted largely of African Americans.

## Resources

### Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Pew Edition - Augsburg Fortress

More comprehensive than previous worship books, the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Pew Edition is still compact and easy to handle. It introduces a rich and broad selection of new songs and prayers—yet it includes much that churches know, cherish, and use from existing resources.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/.../Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Pew-Edition>

Images for evangelical lutheran worship

### Lutheran Book of Worship - Augsburg Fortress

Contains 569 hymns including 21 canticles, three musical settings for Holy Communion plus outline for a Chorale Service, Service of the Word, Propers, Responses, Psalms, Prayers, Morning and Evening Prayer, Marriage, and Burial of the Dead.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286358/Lutheran-Book-of-Worship?lv=true&sb=p>

Images for lutheran book of worship

### This Far by Faith - Augsburg Fortress

This Far By Faith: An African American Resource for Worship - Pew Edition. This Far by Faith celebrates the abundant gifts of African American worship and song.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286353/This-Far-by-Faith?lv...p>

Images for this far by faith hymnal

## 53) Should liturgical congregations try something else to see if it works?

Should liturgical congregations exchange the altar for a stage, organ for a band, hymns for songs, hymnal for screen, pulpit for power point, lectionary for series, vestments for casuals, theology for therapy, and Gathering-Word-Meal-Sending for music-message? I hear the argument that whatever may have worked the last 500 years no longer works and something else needs to be tried, but, what happens, if whatever is considered “contemporary” today is regarded as “outdated” in the ever near future and the cycle repeats itself at an ever-increasing rate so that it becomes increasingly difficult to keep up with what is most recent?

### That's So 90s (TV Series 2012– ) - IMDb

From The Rachel and fanny packs to Beanie Babies and dancing the Macarena, the 1990s had plenty of questionable fads. The home was no exception, as owners went wild with faux finishes, inflatable furniture, shabby chic, armoires, stencil painting and more. With the help of design pros and pop-culture experts, we're opening the HGTV and DIY archives to tackle the worst trends from the '90s and see if we can answer the question: “What were we thinking?”

-Written by DIY

[http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2596018/plotsummary?ref\\_=tt\\_ov\\_pl](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2596018/plotsummary?ref_=tt_ov_pl)

Images for That's So 90s (TV Series 2012– )

Images for “What were we thinking?”

### The Church Needs to Stop Pandering to Trends – RELEVANT Magazine

Recent research from Barna Group and Cornerstone Knowledge Network has found that in reality, 67% of millennials say a quiet church is more ideal than a loud one; 67% say classic is more ideal than trendy; 77% would chose a sanctuary over an auditorium. As Dr. Clint Jenkin explained in the research, “Most millennials don't look for a church facility that caters to the whims of pop culture. They want a community that calls them to deeper meaning.” Essentially, by pandering to trends they think millennials want, many churches isolate them further.

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/church-needs-stop-pandering-trends>

Images for Church Needs to Stop Pandering to Trends

<http://archive.ii/2z8lQ> Rachel Held Evans discusses what millennials are really looking for in a church experience.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/jesus-doesnt-tweet/2015/04/30/fb07ef1a-ed01-11e4-8666-a1d756d0218e\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.cbd466d009ef](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/jesus-doesnt-tweet/2015/04/30/fb07ef1a-ed01-11e4-8666-a1d756d0218e_story.html?utm_term=.cbd466d009ef)

Want millennials back in the pews? Stop trying to make church ‘cool.’

## 54) What about projection?

In worship settings that use projection, I am reminded of the couple sitting at a booth in a restaurant, where one is reading the newspaper and the other looking at the smart phone. There is no eye contact. In the service of worship, the leader is looking at the worship book, and the assembly is looking at the screen. The greatest disconnect for me is when I announce the absolution and the assembly stares at the words on the screen. While I respect the traditions of the congregations I serve, I am relieved that most of the congregations I am asked to serve do not use projection. Screens may aid education, but I hold reservations about projection in services of worship and therefore do not encourage its use.

## Resources

### Charles R. Swindoll Quotes - BrainyQuote

I'm not against screens, or new songs, or innovation. I just don't like gimmicks. I want to know when worship is over that the leader's sole purpose was to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

[https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/charles\\_r\\_swindoll](https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/charles_r_swindoll)

Images for worship leader's sole purpose was to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ

### Craig Mueller- Why worship matters in the digital age

Second, worship invites us from hyper-connectivity to a balance of work and rest. Jaron Lanier is a computer scientist and pioneer in digital media. In his book, *You Are Not a Gadget*, he writes: "When developers of digital technologies design a program that requires you to interact with a computer as if it were a person, they ask you to accept in some corner of your brain that you might also be conceived of as a program."

The new normal is that most people are never "unplugged" from technology. Smart phones lie on the table next to us at dinner. It isn't unusual for someone to go on Facebook or do something online when a meeting or class gets boring. The ping to a text, email or update gives a dose of dopamine to our brains.

A 2011 study revealed that 80% of vacationers bring along laptops or smartphones so they can check in with work. A president of an ad agency commented: "When someone started carrying their own communication and telecommunications devices on their bodies, the boundaries between work and life collapsed."

The distinctions between work and rest – central to Jewish and Christian understandings of worship – are breaking down. And studies are showing that this hyper-connectivity is bringing stress to our lives. Should we consider worship on the Lord's Day as the primary "spiritual practice" for Christians? A fast from technology? If people are losing the ability to unplug and reflect on their lives, can worship teach new spiritual patterns and forum us in alternate ways? Can the gospel be a countercultural message in our time, reminding us that our identity is who we are, not in what we do to fill up every spare moment.

<http://www.lstc.edu/lifelong-learners/resources/craig-mueller-presentation.php>

Images for why worship matters in the digital age

Images for distinctions between work and rest – central to Jewish and Christian understandings of worship

### Farewell Franchise Ministry | CT Pastors - Christianity Today

Solid Rock Church started out in the suburbs and grew to be a megachurch. After we'd grown we planted a campus in downtown, then another campus in a different suburban neighborhood. We did the multi-site thing, but from the beginning we never used video venues. We never believed they would work even in our original suburban context, and certainly not in urban, anti-corporate Portland. There is such an emphasis here on small batch, home-grown, do it yourself, local, organic, etc. People around here place a high value on authenticity and have skepticism toward "chains."

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2014/spring/farewell-franchise-ministry.html>

Images for Farewell Franchise Ministry

<http://anglicansablaze.blogspot.com/2015/11/farewell-franchise-ministry.html>

<https://www.madetoflourish.org/resources/farewell-franchise-ministry/>

<http://www.pauljpastor.com/portfolio/>

<https://www.pinterest.es/pin/574771971165483340/> Why is megachurch pastor John Mark Comer ditching conventional church-growth wisdom?

### Five Reasons Why This Millennial Still Likes Using Hymnals – ThomRainer.com

Yes, I realize I'm supposed to want to worship with fog machines and song lyrics on projector screens with cool moving backgrounds. And sometimes I enjoy that too – but not all the time.

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/03/five-reasons-millennial-still-likes-using-hymnals/>

Images for Five Reasons Why This Millennial Still Likes Using Hymnals – ThomRainer.com

<https://www.midlandscbd.com/articles/five-reasons-why-this-millennial-still-likes-using-hymnals-9174>

<https://pastors.lifeway.com/author/jonathanhowe/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonathan-howe-7016764>

Images for jonathan howe lifeway

### PowerPointless: Video screens in worship | The Christian Century

In recent years, PowerPoint has become a dominant force in worshiping communities across the theological and liturgical spectrum. In churches smitten with the Microsoft wonder, its power to affect the sensibilities of worshipers and thus to shape congregational identity is almost never discussed.

A tacit assumption is that PowerPoint computer presentations are merely a means to an end, a value-neutral tool used for innocent, perhaps even noble purposes: enlarging text for the hard of seeing; reducing the demand for and thus the production of printed materials; and bringing younger people, who spend much of their lives in front of screens—TV, computer, cell phone, PDA—into worship. But PowerPoint is not value-neutral. As information design analyst Edward Tufte has argued, PowerPoint promotes a kind of cognitive style that routinely disrupts, dominates, and trivializes content.

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2006-07/powerpointless>

Images for PowerPointless: Video screens in worship | The Christian Century

Shhh! Don't tell anyone we're here...

We are different. We don't use screens. We believe that with all of the technology in our – everything from computers and laptops to tablets and smart phones – people are hungry for something that is different from their everyday experience. People are hungering for a sense of something "other." We encourage people to "unplug" for a while so they can sense the Spirit moving in and around people in community.

We are different. We use a hymnal. Hymnals aid the assembly's ability to sing. It allows you to see more than just the words. It allows you to sing parts. Hymnals allow parents to move their finger along with the words so that their child can learn to read music. With a hymnal, you are free to explore; read the psalms, discover the prayers, learn more about the church year and the assigned lectionary readings. Hymnals are tools to help us grow in our faith.



We are different. We don't categorize our music as 'contemporary' or 'traditional'. Music is done well with a variety of instruments: pipe organ, timpani, clarinet, trumpet, bassoon, violin, flute, bass, trombone, piano, and more. We use the instruments the music calls for which aid the assembly in singing.

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

[lcrelca.org](http://lcrelca.org) - Home

<http://www.lcrelca.org/>

[Images for Hymnals aid the assembly's ability to sing.](#)

#### Technology in Worship: Beyond PowerPoint

"We know from other studies that the new technology generally does not deliver on the promises. **We can't find any long-term evidence that high technology keeps young people connected with the church,**" Schultze says.

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/technology-in-worship-beyond-powerpoint/>

[Images for Technology in Worship: Beyond PowerPoint](#)

#### To Project or Not to Project: Hymn Lyrics and Worship – Discipleship Ministries The United Methodist Church

There are several advantages to projecting lyrics on a screen for worshipers: ...

However, there are some **disadvantages to projecting lyrics on a screen.**

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/to-project-or-not-to-project-hymn-lyrics-and-worship>

[Images for To Project or Not to Project: Hymn Lyrics and Worship](#)

#### 55) Maybe there is hope for liturgical congregations after all...

Not everyone is going for praise bands and preachers in faded jeans. Some still appreciate the richness of the liturgical tradition.

#### Resources

##### CONFESSIONS OF A HIGH CHURCH MILLENNIAL

**Liturgy ties us together, rather than emphasizing our personal or generational experiences.** Liturgy is timeless and when we can get past whether we like the tunes or instruments playing them or not, we can realize that these things we do, and repeat together, are biblical, rooted in the ancient Church and are about God. In fact, liturgy at its best makes us forget it is liturgy and instead helps us see God in our midst.

<http://millennialpastor.net/2014/10/07/confessions-of-a-high-church-millennial/>

[Images for Liturgy ties us together, rather than emphasizing our personal or generational experiences.](#)

#### Ever Ancient, Ever New: The Allure of Liturgy for a New Generation by Winfield Bevins (Author), Scot McKnight (Foreword)

For many years now, the church in North America has heard figure after figure concerning the steady flow of millennials leaving the church as soon as they complete high school. In the midst of these troubling figures, there remains a glimmer of hope for these youth as they transition into young adults. *Ever Ancient, Ever New* tells the story of a generation of younger Christians from different backgrounds and traditions who are finding a home and a deep connection in the church by embracing a liturgical expression of the faith.

Author and pastor Winfield Bevins introduces you to a growing movement among millennial Christians who are returning to historic, creedal, and liturgical reflections of Christianity. He unpacks why and how liturgy has beckoned them deeper into their experience of Jesus, and what types of churches and communities foster this "convergence" of old and new. Filled with stories illustrating the excitement and joy many millennials have found in these ancient expressions of Christianity, this book introduces you to practices and principles that may help the church as it seeks to engage our postmodern world.



<https://www.amazon.com/Ever-Ancient-New-Liturgy-Generation-ebook/dp/B07DT4NYW9>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40589868-ever-ancient-ever-new>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/ever-ancient-ever-new-winfield-bevins/1129808170>

<https://www.harpercollins.co.uk/9780310566137/ever-ancient-ever-new-the-allure-of-liturgy-for-a-new-generation/>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Ever-Ancient-Ever-New-Winfield-Bevins/9780310566137>

<https://www.scribd.com/book/399946829/Ever-Ancient-Ever-New-The-Allure-of-Liturgy-for-a-New-Generation>

<https://www.christianbook.com/ever-ancient-allure-liturgy-for-generation/winfield-bevins/9780310566137/pd/566137>

<https://www.zondervan.com/9780310566137/ever-ancient-ever-new/>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/Ever-Ancient,-Ever-New>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Ever\\_Ancient\\_Ever\\_New.html?id=Y4IqDwAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Ever_Ancient_Ever_New.html?id=Y4IqDwAAQBAJ)

<https://www.missioalliance.org/8-reasons-the-next-generation-craves-ancient-liturgy/>

<https://anglicancompass.com/review-ever-ancient-ever-new-by-winfield-bevins/>  
<https://outreachmagazine.com/resources/voices/43381-winfield-bevins-ever-ancient-ever-new.html>  
<https://www.evangelicalsforsocialaction.org/resources/book-reviews/liturgy-millennials-review/>  
<https://centrestreetbaptistchurch.com/2019/07/05/a-sort-of-book-review-ever-ancient-ever-new/>  
<https://conciliarpost.com/theology-spirituality/ever-ancient-ever-new-an-interview-with-rev-dr-winfield-bevins/>  
<https://www.scribd.com/author/323857768/Winfield-Bevins>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Winfield-Bevins/e/B001K85X3K>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5218466.Winfield\\_Bevins](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5218466.Winfield_Bevins)  
<https://www.scribd.com/author/461145592/Scot-McKnight>

Images for Winfield Bevins (Author)

Images for Ever Ancient, Ever New: The Allure of Liturgy for a New Generation by Winfield Bevins (Author), Scot McKnight (Foreword)

#### 5 reasons why young people are seeking old ways of doing church

Today, something unexpected is happening. There is a small but distinct movement of young people abandoning the smoke machines, multi-purpose buildings and celebrity pastors of recent church models, and heading back towards traditional worship services, where sacraments are central, buildings are beautiful, and the liturgy has a historic rootedness about it. [Gracey Olmstead](#), [Rachel Held Evans](#), [Aaron Niequist](#), [Ben Irwin](#) and [Erik Parker](#) have written illuminating articles about why young people are embracing “un-cool” church and becoming “liturgy nerds”.

<http://www.churchinacircle.com/2015/03/31/why-young-people-are-seeking-old-ways-of-doing-church/>

Images for young people are seeking old ways of doing church

#### Millennials Need Time-Tested Traditional Churches - RealClearReligion

Instead of joining trendy churches that reject Christian traditions and theology, millennials should seriously consider seeking out churches that value tradition and that employ the historic liturgy on Sunday mornings.

[https://www.realclearreligion.org/articles/2019/06/19/millennials\\_need\\_time-tested\\_traditional\\_churches\\_110223.html](https://www.realclearreligion.org/articles/2019/06/19/millennials_need_time-tested_traditional_churches_110223.html)

Images for Millennials Need Time-Tested Traditional Churches - RealClearReligion

[https://www.realclearreligion.org/articles/2019/02/20/hymnals\\_still\\_have\\_a\\_place\\_in\\_modern\\_churches\\_110209.html](https://www.realclearreligion.org/articles/2019/02/20/hymnals_still_have_a_place_in_modern_churches_110209.html)

<https://www.facebook.com/RealClearReligion/>

#### Re-arranging the chairs: a response to Richard Dahlstrom and Rachel Held Evans (a.k.a. in defense of liturgy)

I may not be a millennial (I missed the cut-off by a few years), but I am one of those Christians Rachel writes about, who made the jump from converted-shopping-mall evangelicalism to liturgical, high church Christianity. And I can assure you that the decision had more to do with substance than style.

<http://benirwin.me/2013/07/30/re-arranging-the-chairs-a-response-to-richard-dahlstrom-responding-to-rachel-held-evans/>

Images for liturgical, high church Christianity

#### Some reasons why Millennials should get into traditional liturgy

And in this distracted, dishevelled generation, there's precious little of anything that lasts over time. Precious few experiences, or products that are not designed to be superseded, or that have redundancy built in to them. Good liturgy grounded in good doctrine will aid in the rebuilding program over time that our church culture desperately needs.

<https://stephenmc Alpine.com/some-reasons-why-millennials-should-get-into-traditional-liturgy-and-some-reasons-why-they-shouldnt/>

Images for reasons why Millennials should get into traditional liturgy

#### Why Millennials Long for Liturgy | The American Conservative

Is the High Church the Christianity of the future?

The millennial generation is seeking a holistic, honest, yet mysterious truth that their current churches cannot provide. Where they search will have large implications for the future of Christianity. Protestant churches that want to preserve their youth membership may have to develop a greater openness toward the treasures of the past. One thing seems certain: this “sacramental yearning” will not go away.

<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/why-millennials-long-for-liturgy/>

Images for Millennials Long for Liturgy

<http://harkseminary.org/archives/message-to-millennials>

<http://www.praytellblog.com/index.php/2014/01/31/millennials-and-high-church-liturgy/>

Images for millennials and high church liturgy

<https://www.pinterest.de/pin/123145371036420307/> Discover ideas about Young Adult Ministry Why Millennials Long for Liturgy Is the High Church the Christianity of the future

<https://www.pinterest.com.mx/pin/117023290293936610/> Discover ideas about Young Adult Ministry Is the High Church the Christianity of the future? (Why isn't the confessional Lutheran church listed as an example of a (high) liturgical church.