

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 3 Worship

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Reflections and Resources

1) Invite and involve

I employ a perspective of “invite and involve” for planning and leading services of worship.
“Invite” is based on the parable of the sower.

The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

oremus Bible Browser: [Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=272305533>

[Images for Parable of the Sower](#)

Resources for Sowers

Faith Practices

Invite

The experience of God’s loving touch in one’s life is a gift the maturing disciple feels compelled to share with others. One way our faith becomes active is when we put into words what God has done for us. Words of witness and acts of genuine hospitality directed toward our friends, relatives and neighbors create the opportunity through which the Holy Spirit brings others into a relationship with Christ and his church. The biblical model for evangelism is relational: friends bring friends to Jesus. “Come and see” are the operative words and find frequent expression in the Gospels, the story of the early church, and in the tradition of the church over the centuries. The disciple plants seeds and invites; the Holy Spirit works the miracle of faith and conversion.

Part of a disciple’s job description is to invite others often.

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Christian-Education/Discipleship/7-Faith-Practices/Invite.aspx>

[Images for Part of a disciple’s job description is to invite others often.](#)

Five Commandments for Sowers

Jesus used parables to describe the gracious and creative activity of God in the world. These parables have insights for everyone in the Kingdom and for every ministry as well. One of the most common “likenings” Jesus used for the Kingdom was that of a seed. It’s preparation, planting, growth and harvest all vividly exemplify the passions that Christ calls everyone in the Kingdom to possess and practice.

http://www.ministryhealth.net/mh_articles/237_five_commandments_for_sowers.html

[Images for Five Commandments for Sowers of the Seed](#)

Go, sow! Sow! Go!

Eaton installed as presiding bishop in joyful, emotional service – The Lutheran

In her sermon, Bishop Jessica R. Crist of the Montana Synod used the familiar story of the sower tossing grains on the path, rocky soil, in the thorns and elsewhere with some landing on fertile ground. Like that person in Jesus’ tale, she told those gathered “to keep on sowing.”

http://www.thelutheran.org/article.cfm?article_id=11713

[Images for Go, sow! Sow! Go! Eaton installed as presiding bishop in joyful, emotional service – The Lutheran](#)

[Images for story of the sower tossing grains on the path](#)

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

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

Scattering Seeds: Cultivating Church Vitality by Stephen Chapin Garner (Author), Jerry Thornell (Contributor)

In *Scattering Seeds: Cultivating Church Vitality*, Stephen Chapin Garner and Jerry Thornell share the story of their home congregation, the United Church of Christ in Norwell, MA. This average congregation has approached congregational life in a not-so-average way. Each congregant is seen as a minister, bringing the good news of Christ to the community; the church has moved away from boards and committees, instead utilizing the people to form ministry teams; and they have revitalized the way they approach and practice worship and education. Garner and Thornell don’t claim to have the secret to church growth and vitality, but in sharing the story of their simple church in New England, they give hope and innovative ideas to congregations in regions all over the country.

<http://www.amazon.com/Scattering-Seeds-Cultivating-Church-Vitality/dp/1566994225>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/14949436-scattering-seeds>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566996259>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Scattering_Seeds.html?id=Vv1YAwAAQBAJ

<http://pres-outlook.org/2012/08/scattering-seeds-cultivating-church-vitality/>

<http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca/ResourceView/16/14230>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/garner-and-thornell-scattering-seeds-congregational-vitality.html>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-chapin-garner-aa557b73>
<http://www.newcanaannews.com/news/article/Congregational-Church-of-New-Canaan-names-new-6219695.php>
<https://www.amazon.com/Stephen-Chapin-Garner/e/B001JP30NE>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1329696.Stephen_Chapin_Garner
[Images for Stephen Chapin Garner \(Author\), Jerry Thornell \(Contributor\)](#)
[Images for Scattering Seeds: Cultivating Church Vitality by Stephen Chapin Garner \(Author\)](#)

Resources for Invite

[PDF] An Invitational Sunday – ELCA Resource Repository

We live out this proclamation of the Good News by inviting others to come and worship with us so that they might hear Christ proclaimed not only through the spoken word, but through the actions of those gathered to celebrate the wonders of God's love. One possibility for this would be to have an Invitational Sunday. To facilitate this, you might distribute invitation to the congregation about six weeks before the designated Sunday and encourage members to invite friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to the service.

In addition to inviting acquaintances, encourage members to invite people in the community at large. For example, their favorite local merchant, doctor, dentist, chiropractor, etc. During the service or during a fellowship hour, take time to introduce them to the congregation.

Invite public servants from the firehouse and police precinct. Have a time during the service where you can thank these community servants and pray for them. Host a time of fellowship for them to thank them for all they do for the community.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/An_Invitational_Sunday.pdf

[Images for Invitational Sunday – ELCA Resource Repository](#)

<http://download.elca.org/elca%20resource%20repository/forms/allitems.aspx>

<https://www.elca.org/Resources>

An Inviting Campaign

82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited. This according to [Dr. Thom Rainer's](#) new book *The Unchurched Next Door*. There is more. Only 2% of church going people ever invite someone to church in a given year. Seven out of ten unchurched people have never been invited to church in their whole lives. I say we ought to do something about that.

Let's put together an inviting campaign.

<http://www.joshhunt.com/mail73.htm>

[Images for Inviting Campaign to the Unchurched](#)

[PDF] Best Practices for the Inviting Congregation – Church Publishing

Here is a brief overview of the best inviting practices and why they're not enough. Evangelism: Drawing new people. The most important inviting work comes long before Sunday morning.

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/media/5205/PracticesInvitingCongregation.pdf>

[Images for Best Practices for the Inviting Congregation](#)

[PDF] Bring a Friend Sunday: A Brief Overview

d. Week Three

i. Temple Talk by FRANS coordinator

ii. Ushers pass out intention cards and **invitation** cards

1. Intention cards: Includes the name of the person being considered for invitation and the member who is considering doing the inviting.

2. Invitation cards – what the person will use to aid in the invitation.

iii. Prayer team prays for those being invited

<http://www.sdsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Bring-a-Friend-Sunday-overview.pdf>

[Images for bring a friend sunday](#)

Disciple making: Jesus' five invitations - Ministry Magazine

Jesus followed a profoundly simple process, employing five invitations, each one followed by experiences and instructions. His invitations provide a frame for our task.

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2014/11/making>

[Images for Disciple making: Jesus' five invitations - Ministry Magazine](#)

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/>

40 Ways You Can Invite People to Church - ChurchLeaders.com

One of the primary reasons every church exists is to share and live the Gospel and invite people to join His kingdom. Since the church is the display of God's glory on earth, and since Jesus said HE would build His church--the church should be central to our lives and faith. So, inviting people to your church should be a part of your core mission.

<http://www.churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-articles/144975-40-ways-you-can-invite-people-to-church.html>

[Images for 40 Ways You Can Invite People to Church - ChurchLeaders.com](#)

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/2016/january/better-way-to-invite-people-to-church-and-to-jesus.html>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Invite-Someone-to-Church> 3 Ways to Invite Someone to Church - wikiHow
<http://jeremyroberts.org/10-ways-to-get-people-to-invite-others-to-church/>

From the Pastor

Come to worship

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'." (Psalm 122:1)

With this pastoral letter, I would like to **invite** you to come worship in the house of the Lord. If you are active in worship, thank you for coming! Please continue to make worship a center part of your week. If, for whatever reason, you have not been attending worship, please start coming to the services of worship at your congregation again!

Sometimes, during the interim period in a congregation – when the church is dealing with the transition emotions following the departure of an installed pastor – members stay away. In one respect, this is understandable. On the other hand, you need the church, and the church needs you each week!

Please invite newcomers to worship with you also. Introduce them to other members and help them feel at home. Take time to talk with others in attendance. In this way, the services of worship become a way to mutually support each other in the Christian walk. I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

Getting Your Current Members to Invite Friends - Beyond Relevance

By analyzing the temptations and challenges associated with inviting people to church, we found the following to be true. If a churchgoer can answer these questions positively, then inviting friends and family will not only be easy, it will become a lifestyle. The church will explode with growth! As a side note, my guess is that none of these topics would ever show up on a visitor survey. They require us to look closely in the mirror, as even our closest allies would have a hard time advising us of some of these issues.

<http://www.beyondrelevance.com/getting-your-current-members-to-invite-friends>

[Images for Getting Your Current Members to Invite Friends - Beyond Relevance](#)

Here We Stand Student Book | Augsburg Fortress

How to **Invite** a Friend or Neighbor to Church without Terrifying Them Page 290

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8604/Here-We-Stand-Student-Book>

[Images for Invite a Friend or Neighbor to Church](#)

How To Invite People To Church (And Why You'll Be Glad You Did)

I don't recommend just lobbing a quick let's-go-invite-someone-to-church-this-week line into your next sermon or end-of-service parting exhortations. That's about as effective as saying "go work on getting healthy!" to help someone lose weight or lower blood pressure. You need to give a *clear plan*. Clear plans yield stronger action, thus measurable results.

So, specifically, teach this in your church:

<https://evangelismga.com/how-to-invite-people-to-church-and-why-you-really-should/>

[Images for How To Invite People To Church \(And Why You'll Be Glad You Did\)](#)

How to Organize An 'Invite a Friend to Church' Sunday - GrowChurch.net

Ideally every Church Service should be an 'Invite a Friend' event but if you find that's not happening, organizing a monthly special 'Invite a friends to Church' Sunday is a great way to start.

<https://growchurch.net/how-to-organise-an-invite-a-friend-to-church-sunday>

<https://growchurch.net/how-to-organise-an-invite-a-friend-to-church-sunday/invite>

[Images for Invite a Friend to Church Sunday](#)

How to Successfully Invite More People to Your Church - Sharefaith

I'm sitting in my neighborhood Starbucks contemplating the topic of inviting people to church. I'm not certain why the subject makes hairs stand up on the back of my neck, but it does. How difficult can it be? The objective, perhaps oversimplified, is to find people that aren't presently attending church and invite them. Here in the coffee shop half of my objective is already met – there are people. Sure, they are all a little preoccupied: a couple sipping lattes and awkwardly discussing the weather (first date?), a man intently pecking away on his laptop, an older woman reading a novel, and the steady stream of regulars coming and going...

I am not going to make a scene just yet, so let's hypothetically work our way around the room and consider possible objections and come up with effective responses. Here's what we might learn:

<http://www.sharefaith.com/blog/2013/10/successfully-invite-people-church/>

[Images for Invite More People to Your Church - Sharefaith](#)

<https://www.sharefaith.com/blog/2018/02/church-invitation-ideas/>

<https://www.sharefaith.com/blog/2014/04/6-tips-invite-people-easter-church-service/>

<https://www.sharefaith.com/blog/2013/12/7-ways-invite-people-christmaschurch-service/>

<http://marshall.com/2013/08/29/How-to-get-over-the-fear-of-inviting-people-to-church>

<http://www.evangelismga.com/how-to-invite-people-to-church-and-why-you-really-should/>

[invite-people-to-church](#) | [Invite Cards](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Churches](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/83246293085718493/>

Images for invite-people-to-church Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/transcendchurch/invite-cards/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/illuminationpub/invites/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/69102175510837233/> Discover ideas about Church Lobby. Get "Be Our Guest" Mini Church Invite Card designs from ProChurch Print.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/146648531590718701/> Discover ideas about Church Stage. Here is a sneak peak of our brand new invite cards. They make it so easy to invite friends to church. Grab a couple this Sunday in the back.

Invitation system - Wikipedia

An invitation system is a method of encouraging people to join an organization, such as a club or a website.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invitation_system

Images for invitation system

<http://www.wikihow.com/Invite-Someone-to-Church>

Images for Invite Someone to Church

Invitational Evangelism Made Easy - Synod Resource Center

Invitational Evangelism is really quite simple. It can be done in any size congregation by any individual or group. And to make matters even easier, it can be done in a great variety of ways!

<http://synodresourcecenter.org/evang/resources/specialists/0002/invitational.html>

Images for Invitational Evangelism Made Easy - Synod Resource Center

Invite People to Church - YouTube

This is a video we used to promote inviting people to church.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-463R6_Xbw

Images for Invite People to Church - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kv5ERcsnh1o> Invite Someone to Church - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vS0WycHkGqY> Invite someone to church! - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkA_v13q7i0 Invite Someone To Church - It Really Is Easier Than You Think! - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMSlqp6CSz0> Invite Someone to Church Sunday – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZfNSDd19HM> Invite Someone For Back to Church Sunday – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jkfzx6WCZs> Invite a Friend to Church - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ryodd4l4UM8> How to Invite Someone to Church! - Come As You Are - YouTube

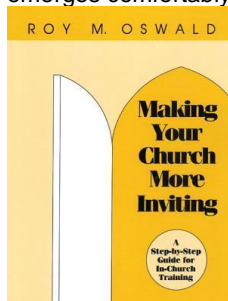
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHfGBk-xZT8> How to invite people to church - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2CZCF9TnqY> Time to invite someone to church - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BggORs1Kp8> How Not to Invite Friends to Church - YouTube

Making Your Church More Inviting: A Step-by-Step Guide for In-Church Training by Roy M. Oswald.

If you've read the book or viewed the course, now lead your church in study with this workbook approach to Alban's Inviting Church materials. Its fifteen sessions are designed to help clergy or lay leaders guide committees or study groups through a dynamic exploration of their congregation's IQ (invitation quotient). Discover how well you invite, welcome, and incorporate new members. As participants uncover the inviting elements of your church, they develop a personal witness style that emerges comfortably from their individual gifts.



<http://www.amazon.com/Making-Church-Inviting-Step-Church/dp/1566990556>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimini06-20/detail/1566990556>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1016940.Making_Your_Church_More_Inviting

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566995801/Making-Your-Church-More-Inviting-A-Step-by-Step-Guide-for-In-Church-Training>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/making-your-church-more-inviting-roy-m-oswald/1114215791?ean=9781566995801>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995809>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Making_Your_Church_More_Inviting.html?id=tICXAwAAQBAJ

Making Your Church More Inviting: A Step-by-Step Guide for In-Church Training

https://centerforcongregations.org/system/files/Resource_Guide_The_Inviting_Church.pdf

<https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/congservices/smallcongs/growthresources.pdf>

The Inviting Church: A Study of New Member Assimilation: Roy M. Oswald, Speed B. Leas: Books.

Ever wonder why some people never return after their first visit? Why some join but you rarely see them? Or why others become active participants in your church family's life and worship? Discover how your congregation can meet growth challenges. Based on Alban Institute research, The Inviting Church includes a self-study design for assessing assimilation processes and analyzing visitors' perceptions.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Inviting-Church-Member-Assimilation/dp/1566990203>

<http://www.amazon.com/Making-Church-Inviting-Step-Step/dp/1566990556>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1016941.The_Inviting_Church

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566990202/The-Inviting-Church-A-Study-of-New-Member-Assimilation>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-inviting-church-roy-m-oswald/1118674614>

<https://www.christianbook.com/inviting-church-study-new-member-assimilation/roy-oswald/9781566990202/pd/990206>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Inviting-Church-Roy-M-Oswald/9781566990202>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996597>

http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Inviting_Church.html?id=HQGmpwAACAAJ

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1991/03/the-inviting-church>

https://centerforcongregations.org/system/files/Resource_Guide_The_Inviting_Church.pdf

<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1075&context=doctoral>

<https://www.uua.org/careers/administrators/reading> Membership

<https://www.ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Roy-M-Oswald-bio.pdf>

<https://www.facebook.com/roy.oswald>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/roy-m-oswald/277986/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Roy-M.-Oswald/e/B001K8KQ1O>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/152452.Roy_M_Oswald

Images for roy m. oswald, author

<https://4b2hrderdaoklyfu2n1ah3eku-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Roy-M-Oswald-bio.pdf>

<https://www.facebook.com/roy.oswald>

<https://alban.org/archive/a-pioneering-spirit-speed-leas-celebrates-four-decades-of-conflict-management-consulting/>

<http://worldcat.org/identities/lccn-n80107299/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Speed-Leas/e/B001HMTL4G>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/509367.Speed_B_Leas

Images for Speed B. Leas, author

Images for The Inviting Church: A Study of New Member Assimilation: Roy M. Oswald, Speed B. Leas: Books.

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19 Ways to Encourage Your Church to Invite Others – Church Fuel

Teaching your church to invite is one of the most important things you can do as a pastor. It's one of those [keystone habits](#), and it affects nearly everything else in the church.

A church that has a [culture of inviting](#) is likely going to be a growing church. And now is the perfect time to start working on that culture.

<https://churchfuel.com/19-ways-to-encourage-your-church-to-invite-others/>

Images for Ways to Encourage Your Church to Invite Others

<https://churchfuel.com/7-ways-to-get-more-people-to-come-to-church/>

[Images for ways-to-get-more-people-to-come-to-church](#)

Notice, Share, Invite by David Lose – Craft of Preaching – Working Preacher

Notice. Share. Invite. These are the three elements of evangelism, sharing the good news of what God has done and is still doing through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for us and all the world.

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=3002>

[Images for Notice, Share, Invite by David Lose - Craft of Preaching – Working Preacher](#)

Pastor's Corner

Come and See

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. (John 1:38-39a)

My cousin lives at the end of a suburban cul-de-sac. Because there is no through traffic, the kids can play in the street. Whenever I go to visit, there seems to always be kids congregated at her house, in the street, and in the yard. She, her husband, and their kids demonstrate a spirit of warm hospitality, and other kids respond to come and see, come and stay.

The church at its best is like that. Members of the faith community demonstrate a warm hospitality so that many want to come and see, come and stay. Jesus [invited](#) his first disciples, "Come and see." "They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day." Jesus speaking through the church extends the same [invitation](#).

The congregations I serve commemorated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) on Sunday, January 19 in which we celebrated the unity that is ours in the common confession of "Jesus is Lord." Congregations and denominations may differ in various beliefs and practices, but the common confession unites us.

In that spirit, I speak to you the invitation of Jesus to "come and see." If you belong to a faith community, may God work through you to extend that invitation to others. If you do not belong to a faith community, may you hear and act on the words of Jesus to "come and see." Pick a church and go to see how God is working in that place. Stay with them and contribute your efforts for the common good. May Jesus be with you!

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

[Submitted to the community newspaper as part of the local ministerial writing the Pastor's Corner]

[PDF] Practice Discipleship Learning Curriculum 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering

Jesus invited, so as disciples we must **INVITE**. The practice of invitation is when we **share what God has done for us** and others. And we can't wait to tell them about it. And the best part, who did Jesus invite: Zaccheus, the short dude, tax collector, who didn't fit in, the woman at the well who had many husbands, he invited young fisherman, Jesus invites young and old, the good, and the not so good, all to join him. And Jesus invites each of us. The greatest thing about being a disciple and inviting others to come and see Jesus is that when we invite, the Holy Spirit takes over and works miracles and plants seeds, and the heart of those we invite are touched.

<http://www.elcayouthministrynetwork.wildapricot.org/Resources/Documents/Practice%20Discipleship/PD1%20Docs/Practice%20Discipleship%20Curriculum%20for%20PD%20Web.pdf>

[Images for Practice Discipleship Learning Curriculum 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering](#)

[Images for share what God has done for us](#)

Sermons about Invitation - SermonCentral.com

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/sermons-about-invitation>

[Images for Sermons about Invitation - SermonCentral.com](#)

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/sermons-about-you-are-invited>

[Images for sermons-about-you-are-invited images](#)

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/sermons-about-inviting-people>

[Images for sermons-about-inviting-people](#)

7 Easy Steps Even You Can Use to Invite People to Church on Christmas Eve

Here are seven steps you can take to offer a pleasant, respectful invitation for anyone to visit your church on Christmas Eve.

<http://www.lawrencewilson.com/7-easy-steps-even-you-can-use-to-invite-people-to-church-on-christmas-eve/>

[Images for 7 Easy Steps Even You Can Use to Invite People to Church on Christmas Eve](#)

<https://newlife.church/blog/invite-friends-christmas-eve/>

<https://www.villagechurchirvine.com/community-blog/post/5-ways-to-invite-someone-to-advent-services---christmas-eve>

<http://seniorpastorcentral.com/3157/christmas-eve-attendance/> INVITE 100 PEOPLE YOURSELF

Strategic Evangelism: The Power of an Invitation | The Exchange | A Blog by Ed Stetzer - Christianity Today

The Lost Are Waiting for an Invitation

Whatever happened to the strategy of simply inviting a friend, co-worker, or neighbor to church? According to our research, an invitation to church is still an effective way to reach the lost.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/july/power-of-invitation-our-god-pursues-lost-and-so-should-we.html>

[Images for Strategic Evangelism: The Power of an Invitation](#)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/july/strategic-evangelism.html>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/june/strategic-evangelism-5-effective-outreach-opportunities.html>

<https://churchplants.com/articles/7208-ed-stetzer-why-a-simple-invitation-has-strategic-power-for-evangelism.html>

<https://www.mightymedallion.com/using-evangelism-coins-to-invite-the-unchurched>

They're Here, Now What? - Peter Bredlau

This workshop will explore two questions: "How do we **invite** to our congregation?" and, "To what are we inviting?"

Congregations may or may not be good at inviting people into their congregation, but what happens when they arrive? Are we willing to accept them as they are, or must they assimilate into our established ways? We'll discuss real-life examples and work on a plan to review your congregation.



Full List of Workshops and Times

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/Workshops_for_Web_Updated-2.pdf

<http://www.trinity-ec.org/staff.phtml>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/peter-bredlau-6116b2126>

Images for invite to our congregation

Thom Rainer on Inviting People to Church - YouTube

In 2005, Kairos organized an inaugural event in St. Louis. During his presentation on Christianity in America Thom revealed how important, and how seldom done, was the simple step of inviting people to church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHgXF0HBF2w>

Images for Thom Rainer on Inviting People to Church - YouTube

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/07/church-members-dont-invite-others-church/>

#3

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2007/july-online-only/102704.html>

#3

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/01/renew-evangelistic-growth-church/>

#3

<https://growchurch.net/whats-the-best-way-to-grow-your-church-membership>

#5

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/02/the-resuscitated-church/>

#9

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/07/10-outreach-ideas-church-fall/>

#9

<https://thomrainer.com/2012/07/10-reasons-we-have-not-reached-the-unchurched-part-2-reasons-6-10/>

#5

<https://thomrainer.com/2016/12/five-surprising-insights-unchurched/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Unchurched-Next-Door-Understanding-Sharing/dp/0310286123>

Images for Unchurched-Next-Door-Understanding-Sharing

<https://revitalizedchurches.com/invite-replay/>

<http://www.joshhunt.com/mail73.htm> An Inviting Campaign - Josh Hunt

Images for Inviting Campaign - Josh Hunt

<https://evangelismga.com/how-to-invite-people-to-church-and-why-you-really-should/>

Images for how-to-invite-people-to-church

<http://churchhacks.com/inviting-friends-to-church/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310248604> The Unchurched Next Door: Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to Sharing

Page 24 #3

Your Faith

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2007/july-online-only/102704.html> #3 Ten Surprises About the Unchurched | CT Pastors

<https://mylordandmyblog.wordpress.com/2006/06/02/ten-surprises-about-the-unchurched/>

<https://renovatechurch.com/2015/10/07/surprises-from-the-unchurched-and-extreme-weather-forecasts/>

<http://www.southbaychurchli.org/life-purpose-hope-blog/inviting-someone-to-church-try-this>

<https://www.facebook.com/Thom.S.Rainer/>

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

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thom_S._Rainer

<https://www.amazon.com/Thom-S.-Rainer/e/B0011GLMVG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/27470.Thom_S_Rainer

Images for thom rainer (author)

12 Marks of Healthy Church Behavior | Episcopal Diocese of Texas

3. Invites, Incorporates: Invites, displays hospitality and works toward inclusion of newcomers and members into active participation in congregational life with an emphasis on relationship formation.

<http://www.epicenter.org/12-marks-of-healthy-church-behavior/>

Images for 12 Marks of Healthy Church Behavior | Episcopal Diocese of Texas - Invites, Incorporates

2017 Synod Assembly Letter from Presiding Bishop Eaton – (English)

What is the church we are becoming?

- A thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people.
- A church equipping people for their baptismal vocations in the world and this church.
- An **inviting and welcoming** church that reflects and embraces the diversity in our communities and the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings.
- A visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace and reconciliation in our communities and around the world.
- A well-governed, connected and sustainable church.

<http://scsynod.com/download/2017-synod-assembly-letter-from-presiding-bishop-eaton-english/?wpdmdl=6688>

Images for inviting and welcoming church

[PDF] Walking Together Booklet 2017 - Constant Contact

+ 500 for the 500th: I will go out and boldly **invite** one more. +

What does a RED DOOR and an OLD CHEST have to do with this year's synod learning event? Soooo much!

THE DOOR

2017 is the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, which began on October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed 95 statements for debate on the front DOOR of the Wittenberg Church in Germany! Some of those 95 statements had to do with the church's unbiblical practice of essentially taxing the poor to pay for the church building projects by the sale of indulgences. These certificates promised the forgiveness of sin. Posting the 95 Theses was a very brave and bold move by a young priest and university professor. Walking in the footsteps of Martin Luther and continuing his reforming movement today, we will boldly take a step to **invite** one more to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed in our church. IF each of us do this, it will be 500 more for the 500th anniversary.

- What if 500 visitors came to our churches between now and October 2017?
- What if we **invited** them to come back a second time, third time?
- What if we boldly keep inviting people and training people to **invite** people and send people out and invite people to come in and learn?
- What if they came into church to be equipped to be sent out again and again all the time inviting one more and equipping one more to share the good news about JESUS?
- What if we kept inviting people, one at a time, to come and see what the Spirit of God is doing?
- What if we kept encouraging and building up each other until everyone was passionate about sharing the gospel message that started the Reformation movement, that we all are saved by grace through faith, a free gift from God?

THE CHEST

Luther is credited as being a champion of the community chest. This is not exactly the same as the Monopoly Game's community chest! It was Luther's economic statement in response to the sale of indulgences. Instead of putting money for indulgences in a box that is sent far away to build lavish buildings, Luther told the people to put the money in a community chest and use it to help the poor, orphans, widows, and sick. This box had several keys and the keeper of the keys were well respected and gave the money to those in need. The community chest was the closest thing to a welfare system in the 1500s.

<http://files.constantcontact.com/0def306001/3f637008-9fe5-4cad-a957-2474854a3276.pdf>

Images for boldly invite one more to church

"Involve" is based on the metaphor of the body of Christ from Paul.

One Body with Many Members

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

oremus Bible Browser: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=345458560>

Images for One Body with Many Members

[PDF]Paul's Use of the Analogy of the Body of Christ - Biblical Studies.org.uk

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul introduces the idea of the church as the Body of Christ in the context of a discussion of spiritual gifts.

http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/1978-2_071.pdf

Images for Analogy of the Body of Christ

Page 72

Ten Bible Verses about the Church the Body of Christ

<http://voices.yahoo.com/10-bible-verses-church-body-christ-4543277.html>

Images for Church the Body of Christ

An article that has been helpful to me is "Preaching and the Post-Modern Condition" by Jay Cooper Rochelle in the November/December 2000 issue of the Lutheran Partners (pages 22-29). Unfortunately, this magazine is no longer in production, and the article is not to be found on the web. He quotes Jean-Francois Lyotard and his book *The Post-Modern Condition* as "the loss of the meta-narrative." In other words, many people of this age are skeptical about any kind of truth claims. He suggests four ways to preach: 1. Invitation. 2. Image. 3. Indwelling. 4. Imitation. I keep this article in my Christ the King - Year B file in which Pilate asks Jesus: "What is truth?" in the verse following the lectionary text of John 18:33-37. Following is Rochelle's paragraph on 1. Invitation: (page 28)

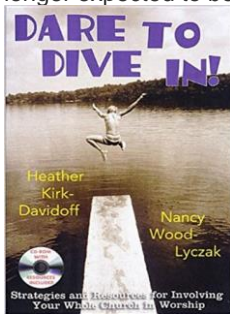
Invitation: We must **invite** people into the world of the text, not force it upon them. We are inviting them to a dance, and the music is provided by the text, which is their partner. As with any dance partner, you may hold tight or you may hold

loosely. As with any dance partner, you may be intimate, or you may be formal. The dance is by invitation. We are the ones who issue the invitation. Black tie is not necessary. Come as you are but come prepared for **involvement**.

Resources for Involve

Dare to Dive In!: Strategies and Resources for Involving Your Whole Church in Worship [Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Nancy Wood-Lyczak]

Worship resources to help small to mid-sized congregations make worship more engaging, interesting, and inviting. Mainline churches cannot continue with “business as usual” and expect that they will be able to revitalize. Nowhere is this more true, the authors say, than in worship, where too many churches communicate their depression about the fate of their congregation more clearly than they do the joy and hope of the Gospel. There is a tremendous hunger for any kind of worship resources that will help small to mid-sized mainline congregations make worship more engaging, interesting and inviting to new visitors and younger members, and yet it seems few such resources exist. Too often, conferences and workshops on worship revitalization end up discouraging church leaders because the tools used, and the methods described are often too expensive and too elaborate. The authors have put together a variety of worship pieces that were rooted in their church's current realities, but which gently stretched their congregations to open up to new forms and new ideas in worship. Church leaders can put these skits, monologues, liturgies, and other worship resources to use right away, even if their congregations are small, and even if they've done very little “new” in worship before. These resources have been tested in various congregations, and each congregation where these resources were used has experienced a growth in vitality of worship, increased worship attendance, and increased membership during that time. More important, they raised their congregation's expectations of worship. They no longer expected to be bored, but rather came to worship ready to be engaged, challenged, renewed, and inspired.



<http://www.amazon.com/Dare-Dive-Strategies-Resources-Involving/dp/0687332842>

<https://alban.org/archive/preaching-as-practice-techniques-to-help-your-whole-congregation-share-their-faith-during-your-sermon/>

<http://www.kc-church.org/about-heather/>

<http://www.chalicepress.com/Talking-Faith-P396.aspx>

<http://www.kc-church.org/how-we-gather/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Heather-Kirk-Davidoff/e/B001HCXKKW>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/402054.Heather_Kirk_Davidoff

Images for Heather Kirk-Davidoff, author

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/402053.Nancy_Wood_Lyczak

Images for Nancy Wood-Lyczak, author dare to dive in

Images for **Dare to Dive In!: Strategies and Resources for Involving Your Whole Church in Worship** [Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Nancy Wood-Lyczak]

Designing Worship Together: Advice that really works

Planning worship may have seemed easier when the pastor merely called the organist with a few hymn choices. But a new book – *Designing Worship Together* – shows how to **involve** more people in worship planning so that congregations pour their hearts into worship.

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/designing-worship-together-advice-that-really-works/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995051>

Images for *Designing Worship Together*

Images for involve more people in worship planning

7 Ways to Grow Church Attendance by Increasing Engagement – Carey Nieuwhof

2. Provide a clear path toward **involvement**

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/02/7-ways-grow-church-attendance-increasing-engagement/>

Images for 7 Ways to Grow Church Attendance by Increasing Engagement – Carey Nieuwhof 2. Provide a clear path toward involvement

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/02/5-reasons-engagement-will-drive-almost-future-church-growth/> #5

<https://careynieuwhof.com/how-to-get-your-church-passionate-about-your-mission/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/6-reasons-youre-losing-high-capacity-volunteers/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/9-signs-your-church-is-ready-to-reach-unchurched-people/>

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

Images for careynieuwhof (author)

6 Ways to Involve New People in Your Church Community

It's building relationships with people, which your church has already been doing for years — you've just got to be a bit more intentional about making sure it keeps happening as your church grows.

<https://www.churchcommunitybuilder.com/blog/6-ways-to-involve-new-people-in-your-church-community>

Images for 6 Ways to Involve New People in Your Church Community

10 Ways to Get Involved in Your Church - Crosswalk.com

Once you've established your own skill set and spiritual gifts, you should talk with your church elders about where you might best be put to use. Hopefully the following 10 ideas will help you get this conversation started. And always remember to serve enthusiastically as if you were serving the Lord, not people.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/slideshows/10-ways-to-get-involved-in-your-church.html>

Images for 10 Ways to Get Involved in Your Church - Crosswalk.com

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/10-reasons-to-be-involved-in-a-church.html>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/answers-for-church-members/how-can-i-get-more-involved-at-church-oct-26.html>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/slideshows/10-ways-the-church-needs-to-get-women-involved-in-ministry.html>

The ABC'S of getting people involved

Jesus gave all of us gifts. When people know how they are gifted, they use those gifts for His glory. When leaders know how people are gifted, they find effective ways to them to serve. Christ expresses His whole self through the uniqueness of His people.

<https://ministry.acst.com/abcs-getting-people-involved/>

Images for The ABC'S of getting people involved in church

2) Variety in services of worship

From the Pastor

What's So Lutheran about Worship?

"Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful! (Psalm 149:1)

During this new 21st century, as the church seeks a variety in worship formats, what insights does the Reformation give to us? Martin Luther, on the one hand, retained the order of liturgy that had served the church so well down through the centuries. On the other hand, he put the worship service into the language of the people and used popular folk tunes for his songs.

As church musician John Ylvisaker stated in his workshop here at this congregation in August, Luther used a high/low approach to worship planning in that there was a high level of formality for the festival days with the classical liturgy and a low approach with a folk mass for other times. Ylvisaker commended this approach for the church today.

Luther rejected the radical approach of the Anabaptists who would strip the service of worship anything that sounded like the classical liturgy. In our day, this approach is making inroads even in Lutheran churches under the guise of "entertainment evangelism." Here at this congregation we are following an order of worship that has stood the test of time while, at the same time, employing a variety in worship. Luther emphasized a creative tension in being faithful to the order of worship of the historic ecumenical church and responsive to the times in which he found himself. The goal is to allow this genius of the Reformation to guide and form our worship lie today.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

From the Pastor

Variety in Worship

Martin Luther used the formal high Medieval Mass for the major festivals of the church year and for those Sundays that emphasized God's vertical relationship to people. On those times that stressed the horizontal life of the church and its relationship to the world, Luther used his German Song Mass. He often wrote songs using familiar music of the day. He was supposed to have been heard to have remarked that, "it was not fair for the devil to have all the good music."

I attended two different workshops by the church musician John Ylvisaker who stated that in 1900 if people wanted a variety of worship in Story City, Iowa, they had three churches from which to choose. In this my home town, there are three Lutheran churches. At the turn of the 20th century, one congregation belonged to the Synod Lutheran Church and offered a high church service of worship along the lines of the state church of Norway. Another congregation belonged to the Hauge Synod and offered a low church service of worship along the lines of the lay activity movement begun by Hans Nielsen Hauge. Still another congregation belonged to the United Lutheran Church and offered a service worship between the high and the low. Those who desired the classical liturgical service went to St. Petri. Those who desired a folk service went to Bethel. Those who wanted a worship service that incorporated elements of both went to my home church of Immanuel.

This congregation was started when some members of the neighboring congregation wanted to have worship service in the English language. To accomplish this change, they began a new congregation.

What is the point of these historical reflections? The point is that a desire for variety in worship is nothing new. That desire for variety in worship continues to be felt.

Today, individual congregations are able to offer a variety of styles within the same worshipping assembly rather than having to go to a church that uses a particular style of worship or having to start a new congregation for a different style of worship. The church has a long history of variety in worship. That tradition is being rediscovered. In that spirit, I invite you to welcome variety in worship.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

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 involve the people in worship

From the Pastor

Worship and Praise

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise... (Psalm 145:5a)

Recently I ran across an article entitled, *Please, no more new hymns!* Part of it read:

"What is wrong with the inspiring hymns with which we grew up? When I go to church it is to worship God, not to be distracted with learning a new hymn. Last Sunday's was particularly unnerving. While the text was good, the tune was quite unsingable and the harmonies were quite discordant."

A pastor received this letter in reaction to one hymn.

Another pastor received the next letter in reaction to another hymn.

"Was it the organist's idea or yours that our peaceful worship service was shattered by that new hymn last Sunday? The music was sacrilegious; something one would expect in a den of iniquity, NOT a church; don't expect me to sing it next time!"

What hymns could possibly have evoked such a harsh response? The first letter was actually written in 1890 complaining about a new "unsingable" hymn entitled *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, while the second letter was written in 1874 about a "sacrilegious" hymn entitled *I Love to Tell the Story*.

In this article originally written by Pastor Michael Shackelford of Grace Lutheran Church in Lakeland, Florida and then used by Pastor Gary Sahs of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, the article goes on to make the point,

Holding on to the familiar is fine, but there should be a conscious effort to be open to the many wonderful resources available for experiencing God in the present. The Living Word of God is a powerful Word that expands across the generations. The spectacular, inspiring, awesome, and passionate Word of God cannot be contained in just one kind of experience, because God touches millions of lives in a myriad of languages, cultures, and circumstances.

Perhaps this lesson from history can illuminate our present context as we learn to worship and praise God in a variety of ways.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

Strategies for Seeking to Engage Children, Youth, and Families in Worship

[The following are ideas I came up with in one mid-sized congregation I served as an interim pastor.]

+ Youth and Family Ministry that emphasizes responsibilities assumed in baptism including "bring them to the word of God and the holy supper." The Youth and Family Minister can meet with families before baptism and couples before weddings.

+ Stepping Stones in the Faith Journey: employing those practices already in place – Baptism, Handing out of Bibles, First Communion, Affirmation of Baptism, Senior High School Recognition, as well as adding the following practices: Remembrance of Baptism on The Baptism of our Lord, Welcome to Sunday School, Welcome to Confirmation, Post High School Student Recognition, and asking couples to be present in worship for the announcement of the marriage and prayer on the Sunday prior to the wedding.

+ Every member contacts in the forms of cards from the pastor for the following: 1) inviting people to worship when they are being included in the prayers; 2) greeting from the pastor on their birthdays and anniversaries. These cards can be entrees to make contact with people who may not otherwise regularly come to services of worship.

+ Letters are being sent by the pastor to those new to the community inviting them to come to services of worship.

+ Plans for next fall to expect confirmation students to take 15 worship reports a year as well as take turns to acolyte.

+ Promote the Monday 7pm service for those who may be gone on the weekends.

+ Involve high school youth as lectors and ushers.

+ Promote the Kid's Choir, the Sunday School, and the Vacation Bible School children when they sing in services of worship.

+ The Balloon Celebration 8:30am worship service on Easter was well received. Next year have the youth serve the cinnamon roll breakfast again.

+ Propose that the youth serve cinnamon rolls once a month for refreshments and conversation.

+ Propose that offer both a Boys Scout Sunday and a Girls Scout Sunday.

+ Promote the Bluegrass Gospel Festival worship on 1.16.05 and the Tender Branches youth group from Black River Falls on 2.27.05.

+ Youth and Family Minister to lead worship on July 25 at 7pm and to involve the youth.

+ Commemoration of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals on October 3.

+ All Saints Day Jazz Service involving middle school and high school students from the school jazz bands.

+ Affirmation of Marriage worship service around Valentine's Day with the Youth and Family Minister.

+ Accessibility: Custodian put up restroom signs. One young family asked if we had a cry room.

- + Develop a song leadership team for the worship services using the *With One Voice* blue book. Meet at 8am to go over the songs ahead of the 8:30am worship service. Desired characteristics for members of such a team include the following: new people who are not otherwise overinvolved in music and other activities of the church (new groups attract new people), who exude warmth, friendliness, inclusiveness, inviting, and engaging (think of the Youth in Christ worship team from Prairie Farm). Avoid forceful individuals who are pushing their own agenda and those who have been lightning rods in previous polarizing conflicts.
- + Develop a puppet ministry for use in children's messages.
- + Starting in June, we will no longer be using pre-printed bulletins. This will make for more flexibility.

Variety is the Spice of Life

Come to Our Chapel Service on Saturday at 5pm

Want to meet old friends and make new ones? Do you long for worship that feels like a country church in the middle of the city? Then join the rest of our good folks for our Saturday 5pm worship service in the chapel. You'll be glad you did!

Come to our Cathedral Service on Sunday at 8:30am

Be present with the gathered assembly as we sing and hear great music on Sunday at 8:30am. This worship goes out over the airwaves to our radio audience.

Come to our Camp Service on Sunday at 10:30am

Looking for a more informal worship experience? Whether you are youngsters or oldsters or somewhere in between, come as you are. A special message will be given for the children. Children and youth will be presenting special music and involved in various others ways.

A Jubilee Service is offered the third Sunday of each month with our Jubilee Team leading the worship. In addition, various special emphasis worship services are offered to reflect the many aspects of the Christian life.

Wake Up to Worship

Can't sleep? Want to worship early and then have the whole day ahead of you. Join the rest of the early risers for worship at 7:15am. What a wonderful way to start the day.

Let's Raise the Roof

Or at least shake the rafters. Join us on Sunday morning at 8:30am for the kind of congregational singing that'll send you home with a song in your heart. Worship the Lord at this congregation!

Not an Early Riser? Then...

Take your time getting up on Sunday morning and then join us for worship at 10:30am. Come as you are and go with the peace of God in your heart. You'll be refreshed for the rest of the week!

Take time for worship

Out of 168 hours in the week, take 1 hour for worship!

Come to Worship

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go up to the house of the Lord. Psalm 122:1

Variety is the Spice of Life

You don't have to worry about the same old, same old at this congregation. We use orders of worship that range from formal to informal and from low church to high church, not to mention numerous special emphasis worship services that give expression to the life of faith. You can make sure you don't miss a thing by being in church each and every Sunday!

3) Publications used to invite and involve

Publications in the form of newsletters, bulletin announcements, and electronic media are used to invite and involve. Following is a sample front page for a January newsletter and a message from the pastor. Where possible I send out a weekly electronic message entitled *Come to Worship* telling of the worship that Sunday (weekend) and inviting the people to attend. See Chapter 9 Publications for sample front pages and from the pastor for the whole year.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

January

Beginning a New Year to be Focus on January 4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

This verse from the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Christmas speaks of the beginning of time. The verse gives a perspective as a new year comes once again. A special litany will be used entitled "Beginning a New Year." You are invited to get the year off to a good start by worshipping regularly. May you be present with the gathered worship assembly on this day and throughout the year!

Baptism of Our Lord on January 11 to remember our baptism

Jesus is revealed as the Son of God in the waters of the River Jordan. In the Sacrament of Holy Baptism those washed by the water are called "fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God." A

special invitation is extended to the families with a baptism this past year. Come to worship to commemorate the Baptism of Our Lord and your baptism!

Service of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18

This congregation will be joining Christians throughout the world in a Service of Prayer for Christian Unity as a part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25. Pray for the unity of the church!

Annual meeting on January 25

Come to worship and stay for the annual meeting. The annual meeting provides an opportunity to look back at the year past and to look ahead to the year to come. Pray to God for wisdom and direction!

Looking Ahead to February

- 1 Recognition of Ministries in the Congregation
- 8 Commemoration of St. Valentine: Celebrating Love and Marriage
- 15 Transfiguration Day Jazz Service
- 22 First Sunday in Lent
- Bold Women's Day

From the Pastor

Happy New Year in the Lord's Service

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

The beginning of a new year provides the opportunity to look at life in a new and fresh way. With the start of a new year, this congregation looks to the future. Important to this looking ahead at how God's work can best be carried out is to capture the biblical sense of ministry for all the baptized. The writer of 1 Peter speaks of you as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people." With this exalted language, the biblical writer lifts up the ministry of all the baptized.

It has been my privilege and opportunity to serve among you in the role of interim pastoral leadership during the past year for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. Pastor and people carry out the work of the church when both enter into a partnership so that as a congregation, we can "declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Our mission is: "This Lutheran Congregation is a *vibrant faith* church in that we seek to grow in our faith and to share that faith with others."

I invite you to ask God how this congregation might do that even more effectively in the upcoming year.

You are invited to begin the year out by gathering with the assembly for worship.

- Beginning a New Year Service on January 4
- Baptism of Our Lord on January 11 to remember our baptism
- Service of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18
- Annual Meeting on January 25

Happy new year in the Lord's service!

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

4) Invite to and involve the children, youth, and families in services of worship

Transfiguration Day Jazz Service on February 15

"Who says Lutherans can't have fun?" An attempt will be made on the last Sunday of Epiphany right before Lent to prove that perception wrong with a jazz service. We will be singing songs such as *Shine, Jesus, Shine; This Little Light of Mine*; and others.

Children are invited to march in to the gathering song and march out to the sending song with rhythm instruments. Invite your friends!

Children to sing "He Is the Way" on March 1

Invite the grandparents and the rest of the relatives when our children sing "He Is the Way" based on John 3:16!

Eight children to receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 2

First Communion is another of the milestones of the faith journey that begins in baptism. Eight third graders and their parents have been studying "Come to God's Table: Preparing for First Communion" with Pastor Bolstad in preparation to receive first communion. Keep these children and their parents in your prayers as they make yet another milestone in their faith journey!

Youth in Christ from Prairie Farm to present youth service on April 9

For twenty-six consecutive years, the Youth in Christ team from United Lutheran Church in Prairie Farm has created an original worship service to share their faith. The theme for 2016 is BY OUR LOVE. The service consists of music, scripture readings, and skits. The group will be on the road during February, March and early April sharing their worship service with area congregations. Youth in Christ at United Lutheran Church is a group of dedicated young people who gather regularly and participate in service work in their local community. Every few years they are able to arrange a servant trip outside of Wisconsin. In 2014 the team traveled to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and transformed a garage into a living space. They are currently looking for the next project where they can give of themselves for the good of others.

Blessing of High School Graduates on May 31

Come to the service of worship in to bless and recognize our high school graduates. A quilt will be presented to each of them. Each of the students will share about their plans for the future. A designated student will give a message on behalf of the class. A reception between services will be given in their honor. This is another milestone in the faith journey that began in baptism. Assure them of your best wishes and continued prayers!

Blessing of Youth Gathering Participants on July 19

Come to a Blessing of the Youth Gathering Participants for those youth and adults who are going to the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering. We are glad for all those going to the gathering and pray God's blessing on them and safe travels to and from the event. Pray for these participants and for the gathering.

Presentation by Youth Gathering Participants on August 2

The ELCA Youth Gathering participants have prepared a presentation on their recent adventure and will show that at the service of worship. Show them your support by your presence.

Vacation Bible School children to sing on August 16

Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) children will present special music from VBS. Wild Bible Adventures is the theme of the ecumenical VBS offered here at the church August 7-11 where children encounter "Pandamania where God is wild about you." Support our children and the educational ministry of this congregation and the community by coming to worship for the VBS special music from Pandamania!

Welcome to Sunday School and to Confirmation on September 14

All students starting Sunday School and Confirmation, together with their parents and sponsors, are asked to come to worship for a special Welcome to Sunday School and Confirmation. These are milestone events in the faith journey that begins in Baptism. One of the promises parents make in Baptism is "to bring them to the word of God and the holy supper." In the spirit of Baptism, we invite our children and parents as often as possible. Pray for our families!

Rally Day with games and treats to kick off a new year of Sunday School following worship. Classes start September 21.

Blessing of the Backpacks on September 14

As our students start another year in school, we ask a blessing on their backpacks and especially on the children who will carry them. A special invitation is extended to our students and their families for this Blessing of the Backpacks.

Blessing of Teachers and Students on Sunday, September 21,

We thank God for those who have offered to assist parents to live out the promise made in baptism to *teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures*. Pray for the teachers and students in the educational ministry of this congregation!

Young People to Affirm their Baptism in Rite of Confirmation on September 28

The Rite of Confirmation, as a part of the Service of Affirmation of Baptism, is one of the important milestones in the faith journey. Be sure to come to witness our young people affirm their baptism. Show them your prayerful support as they make a public profession of their faith and state their intention to: "to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." A special invitation is extended to sponsors, relatives, and friends!

All Saints Day Jazz Service on Sunday, November 1

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In and *Soon and Very Soon* are two songs we will sing as a part of the All Saints Day Jazz Service with an ensemble being assembled by our accompanist providing the music. The faithful departed will be remembered. A special invitation goes out to all those who have lost loved ones during this past year to light a candle in memory of their loved one! A volunteer coordinator for Adoray Home Health and Hospice will speak on hospice care and other end of life matters at the adult forum between services in the narthex. A special invitation is extended to the children and youth to march with musical instruments to these gathering and sending songs. On All Saints Day, we remember loved ones who have finished their course on earth and now rest from their labors. A special invitation goes out to all those who have lost loved ones this past year!

Sunday School presents "The Twelve Days of Christmas: The Meaning Behind the Song" on December 20

Bring the grandpas and grandmas and the rest of the relatives and friends when our Sunday School children present "The Twelve Days of Christmas: The Meaning Behind the Song." The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, December 25 and Epiphany, January 6, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world. The song was written in England during a time of religious persecution as kind of "secret catechism" to help young Christians learn important parts of their faith. Each element is a code word for a religious truth. Our children will dramatize this song to help us learn the meaning of the faith. This is one event during the season you will not want to miss. Pass the word!

Post High School Student Recognition on December 26

The Christmas season is a time to welcome students home from college and other institutions of higher learning. A special invitation is extended to our students and their families to come to the post high school student recognition. One of our students who is a freshman in college will give a student recognition message. This service of worship offers an opportunity for the gathered worship assembly to affirm and encourage our students in their ongoing pursuit of higher education. A reception will be hosted by the Congregational Life Committee in the fellowship hall between services.

Resources

Children and Worship | Rows of Sharon

Children and Worship

<https://rowsofsharon.com/resource-recommendations/children-and-worship/>

Images for Children and Worship | Rows of Sharon

Faith Inkubators + Inkubators / Faith Stepping Stones

The Eight Stepping Stones

Stone 1: Baby

Stone 2: Preschooler

Stone 3: Entering School

Stone 4: Early Elementary

Stone 5: Late Elementary

Stone 6: Adolescence

Stone 7: Confirmation

Stone 8: Graduation

<http://www.faithink.com/Inkubators/steppingstones.asp>

Images for Faith Inkubators + Inkubators / Faith Stepping Stones

[PDF]Faith Milestones as a Tool to Grow Relationships - Lifelong Faith

There are several organizations and resources designed to introduce milestones as a tool to grow faith relationships in the congregation and in the home.

https://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/faith_milestones.pdf

Images for Faith Milestones as a Tool to Grow Relationships - Lifelong Faith

<https://milestonesministry.org/>

<https://vibrantfaith.org/vfi/>

Frequently Asked Questions - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Do we celebrate Youth Sunday?

How do we involve children and youth in worship?

<https://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship/FAQ>

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Do_we_celebrate_Youth_Sunday.pdf

Images for Youth Sunday

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/How_do_we_involve_children_and_youth_in_worship.pdf

Images for involve children and youth in worship

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Youth-Ministry>

Images for elca/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Youth-Ministry

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Youth-Ministry>

Images for youth ministry in ELCA

<https://www.elca.org/Resources>

Involving Kids in Worship – Children's Ministry Magazine

*Include children. Get kids doing things often, during the service as readers, soloists, acolytes, greeters, and ushers. Give them each a job and teach them how to do it. Pride of ownership is an important part of belonging.

<http://childrensministry.com/articles/involving-kids-in-worship>

<https://childrensministry.com/involving-kids-in-worship/>

Images for Involving Kids in Worship – Children's Ministry Magazine

<https://forwardinchrist.net/involving-children-in-worship/>

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2009/May/simply-creative>

Images for involve children in worship services

<http://mauriceoverholt.com/2013/05/17/6-ways-to-involve-children-in-leading-worship/>

Images for Involve Children in Leading Worship

<https://www.amazon.com/Including-Children-Worship-Elizabeth-Sandell/dp/0806625449>

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/629/including-kids-in-worship>

Images for Including Kids in Worship

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2009/august-online-only/including-children-in-worship.html>

<http://www.sarahwalkercleveland.com/children-in-worship-part4/>

<https://www.illustratedchildrensministry.com/2017/welcome-engage-children-in-worship/>

<http://kidmincorinne.com/5-ways-to-engage-kids-in-worship/>

Images for engage kids in worship

<https://familyfire.reframedmedia.com/articles/engaging-your-children-in-church>

Images for children in church

<http://childrensministryleader.com/3-practical-ways-to-include-children-into-corporate-worship/>

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevindeyoung/2012/03/06/children-in-worship-lets-bring-it-back/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/children-in-worship-lets-bring-it-back/?comments>

Images for Children in Worship

<http://sacraparental.com/2016/06/11/12-reasons-welcome-kids-church-tips-actually/>

<https://refocusministry.org/resources-for-ministers/family-ministry/practical-ways-to-welcome-kids-to-church/>

Images for welcome kids to church

<http://www.kidsfriendly.org.nz/worship-together/worshipping-with-children/>

Images for worshipping with children

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/spiritual-growth-for-kids/hearts-of-worship/welcoming-kids-into-worship>

Images for welcoming kids into worship

<http://www.dbfchurch.com/top-10-reasons-kids-benefit-from-a-corporate-worship-experience/>

<http://blog.childrendesiringgod.org/category/worship/>

Let Them Lead and They Will Worship | YouthWorker.com

If you involve them, they will come. With so many activities vying for teenagers' time and energy—sports, academics, social life, sleep—it's a wonder young people ever attend worship services. And when they do, they may act bored or apathetic or lack respect for the traditions of the church. Yet, many churches across the country are discovering something about teens and worship: If you involve them in the worship service, they will be there. Especially if you let them lead.

<http://www.youthworker.com/youth-ministry-resources-ideas/youth-ministry/11557893/>

Images for Let Them Lead and They Will Worship | YouthWorker.com

Images for involve youth in the worship service

<https://hillsong.com/collected/blog/2015/08/7-tips-for-raising-up-a-youth-worship-team/#.W31IOOhKiUk>

Images for tips-for-raising-up-a-youth-worship-team

http://westashepres.org/images/youth_sundays.pdf

<https://www.genonministries.org/collections/worship-skills-resources>

<https://youthministryconversations.com/how-do-you-see-the-church-engaging-youth-in-worship-services/>

Images for engaging youth in worship services

<http://www.youthsource.com/2014/06/11/all-things-new-the-role-of-worship-in-youth-ministry/>

Images for role-of-worship-in-youth-ministry

[PDF] Passing on Faith—Milestone to Milestone - Faith Formation Learning Exchange

Passing on the Christian faith from generation to generation is at the heart of the life and work of the church. This fundamental task requires much more than passing on biblical and doctrinal information. Passing on the Christian faith to others involves the work of the Holy Spirit, who gives birth to trust and confidence in the creative, redeeming, and renewing power of God.

http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/uploads/5/2/4/6/5246709/passing_on_faith-milestone_to_milestone_-_staats.pdf

Images for Passing on Faith—Milestone to Milestone - Faith Formation Learning Exchange

7 Tips for Engaging Youth in Worship | David Santistevan

For this article, let's discuss how it is possible to engage that 14-year-old in worship. I believe it begins with a pastoral approach to youth worship ministry.

<http://www.davidsantistevan.com/leading-youth/>

Images for Engaging Youth in Worship

http://slingshotgroup.org/team_members/david-santistevan/

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

Images for David Santistevan, author

Teens, Worship, and Faith Formation - Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

In Summary:

1. Worship plays a formative role in the faith development of teens.
2. Teens that are given the opportunity to articulate their faith deepen their faith beliefs.
3. Mentors play an important role in the involvement of teens in worship.
4. Teen involvement in worship should reach beyond involvement in a praise band.
5. Learning about worship— how and why we worship — provides good insights for teens involved in worship.

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/teens-worship-and-faith-formation/>

Images for Teens, Worship, and Faith Formation - Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/planning-worship-with-teens/>

Images for Planning Worship with Teens

<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/why-youth-need-to-be-leading-worship-regularly-now/>

Images for why-youth-need-to-be-leading-worship-regularly-now

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/more-ideas-on-engaging-children-in-worship/>

Images for engaging children in worship

Way to Worship | Reformed Worship

How do we go about **getting teens involved**? An effective way to pique their interest is to ask them to help make the worship happen every Sunday. Consider the following ideas: Recruit at least two teens to serve on the worship committee. Use teens in the greeting/ushering ministries. Have teens offer public prayers. Let teens help the deacons take the offerings. If you have a "children's message," let the young people lead it from time to time. Use the instrumental and vocal talents of young people

in the music ministry of the church. Involve teens in drama and skits. Encourage youth to design posters, banners, and bulletin covers. Invite teens to help write the sermon. Also ask them to suggest topics/texts for the pastor to incorporate into sermon planning. In general, look to your young people for creative ideas. Expect of them what you would expect of anyone else. Listen to them as you would anyone else. Affirm them. Let them know they are appreciated.

<http://www.reformedworship.org/article/june-1993/way-worship>

Images for getting teens involved in worship

<http://www.reformedworship.org/article/june-1995/kids-worship-fifteen-churches-report-what-theyre-doing>

What Does the Bible Say About Faith Of A Child? - OpenBible.info

https://www.openbible.info/topics/faith_of_a_child

https://www.openbible.info/topics/influencing_children

https://www.openbible.info/topics/how_to_train_your_children

Images for bible and faith of a child

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Faith-Of-A-Child/>

<https://www1.cbn.com/bible-verses-about-children-and-kids>

Images for bible-verses-about-children-and-kids

5) Affirm the gift of marriage and family

Commemoration of Saint Valentine

Celebration of Love and Marriage on February 8

One of God's gifts is that of love and marriage. You are invited to give thanks for the gift of companionship in general and of love and marriage in particular at worship on the weekend before Valentine's Day. A special invitation is extended to those married at the church this past year as well as those planning to be married this coming year. Pray that God will strengthen the gifts of companionship, love, and marriage in our faith community!

Honor your mothers on Mother's Day, May 10

God preserves and sustains the gift of family with the fourth commandment to honor your father and mother. One specific way is the commemoration of Mother's Day. Come to worship on Mother's Day when a special litany on *Blessing of Mothers* will be used. The hand bells will provide special gathering music in their honor, and the Sunday school will present special music. Bring the whole family to church on Mother's Day!

Worship is the place to be on Father's Day, June 21

What better way to honor God, our Heavenly Father, than by worshipping in God's house on Father's Day? We will be using a litany for "Blessing of Fathers" and singing such familiar hymns as "Children of the Heavenly Father." We hope to see all our earthly fathers and their families in church that day to wish them a Happy Father's Day!

Bless the Years: Honoring Older Adults on August 30

Bless the Years: Honoring Older Adults will be observed in the endeavor to help all worshipers to recognize each day as a day of grace and each year as a gift from God. Using the resources of The Association of Lutheran Older Adults, the worship will affirm the worth of older adults and seek to challenge our seasoned folk for service to God, neighbors, and the community.

6) Commemorate the lives of exemplary witnesses

Commemoration of Saint Valentine

Celebration of Love and Marriage on February 8

One of God's gifts is that of love and marriage. You are invited to give thanks for the gift of companionship, in general, and of love and marriage, in particular, at the service of worship the weekend before Valentine's Day. A special invitation is extended to those married at the church this past year as well as those planning to be married this coming year. Pray that God will strengthen the gifts of companionship, love, and marriage in our faith community!

Commemoration of Patrick, Missionary to Ireland, on March 15

St. Patrick's Day is known for secular celebrations. Come to worship and hear about his lesser known work as missionary to Ireland. Some of his writings will be included in the worship, and songs will be sung to Irish tunes. No matter your ethnic background, you can commemorate this missionary to Ireland!

Commemoration of Lutheran Composer, J. S. Bach, on July 26

Johann Sebastian Bach is recognized as one of the great Lutheran composers of all time. He died July 28, 1750, and so on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of his death, a Commemoration of J. S. Bach is offered at worship. Come to sing some of his hymns and to listen to the organ and piano ring with the sound of his compositions.

Commemoration of Mary, Mother of Our Lord on August 9

The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning God-bearer, and we commemorate her. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and Mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will call me blessed." (Luke 1:48) In addition there will be special music in the form of a rendition of *Ave Maria*.

Commemoration of Francis of Assisi with a blessing of animals between services on October 4

"All creatures both large and small, God loves them all." This is the spirit in which a blessing of the animals will be offered following the early worship on the lawn across from the main entrance of the church. In case of inclement weather, the blessing will be under the overhang at the main entrance. The worship services that day will commemorate Francis of Assisi who is best known for his prayer "Make me an instrument of your peace..." and for his hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King." He is also known as a lover of nature and so the practice of blessing of animals. Come to worship and bring your animals to be blessed!

Commemoration of Luke, Evangelist on October 18

Luke, Evangelist will be commemorated with a service of healing and thanksgiving for healing. Luke is referred to in Colossians 4:14 as "the beloved physician." Perhaps, you are in a situation of desiring prayers for healing, or you have experienced recovery from illness and you desire a prayer for thanksgiving. Those desiring prayers may come to the pastor after receiving communion for prayers of healing or prayers for thanksgiving for healing.

Resources

New Book of Festivals and Commemorations: A Proposed Common Calendar of Saints by Philip H. Pfatteicher (Author)

Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians, paralleling Roman Catholics, have all recently made attempts at reforming and updating their respective calendars to reflect their present understanding of saints and their celebrations. Going one step further, renowned liturgical theologian Philip Pfatteicher here seeks to provide a common calendar.

The New Book of Festivals and Commemorations picks up on renewed interest in the saints and other heroic figures of faith: apostles and martyrs, historical figures including artists, musicians, and scientists, and such modern men and women as Dag Hammarskjöld. Including Festivals, Lesser Festivals, Commemorations, and optional memorials, each entry comprises a brief biography and bibliography, a related reading, a hymn suggestion, and a prayer.

<http://www.amazon.com/New-Book-Festivals-Commemorations-Proposed/dp/080062128X>

<http://www.lutheranforum.org/book-reviews/review-of-new-book-of-festivals-and-commemorations-by-philip-h-pfatteicher/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Philip-H.-Pfatteicher/e/B001JS6FBA>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/philip-h-pfatteicher>

<https://www.amazon.com/Philip-H.-Pfatteicher/e/B001JS6FBA>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/84387.Phillip_H_Pfatteicher

Images for Philip H. Pfatteicher (Author)

[Images for New Book of Festivals and Commemorations: A Proposed Common Calendar of Saints by Philip H. Pfatteicher \(Author\)](#)

92 best Saints & Commemorations 1 - Bible images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/revjoelle/saints-commemorations-1-bible/>

Images for saints-commemorations on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/revjoelle/saints-commemorations-4-reformation/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/moremanthem1382/daily-commemorations/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/revjoelle/saints-commemorations-3-1000-1599/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/revjoelle/saints-commemorations-5-1600-1899/>

Images for commemoration of the saints pinterest

Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Keeping Time, The Church's Years by Gail Ramshaw (Author); Mons Teig (Author)

This title in the Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship series explores why Christians have different ways of looking at time, at how the life of the church is ordered and organized by days, weeks, seasons, and years. It provides detailed information about Sundays, festivals, seasons and commemorations as well as daily prayer.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/626/Using-Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship>

<http://www.amazon.com/Keeping-Time-Churchs-Evangelical-Lutheran/dp/0806670169>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/keeping-time-mons-teig/1125165950?type=eBook>

<http://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/productgroup/626/Using-Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Keeping-Time-The-Church-Years>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451478224>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/gail-ramshaw>

<https://www.amazon.com/Gail-Ramshaw/e/B001JS8K68>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/204120.Gail_Ramshaw

Images for Gail Ramshaw (Author)

https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=mteig

<https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh...27%3AMons%20Teig>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4027500.Mons_Teig

Images for Mons Teig (Author) worship

[Images for Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Keeping Time, The Church's Years by Gail Ramshaw; Mons Teig](#)

[PDF]What Is a Commemoration - ELCA Resource Repository

Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What_is_a_Commemoration_and_How_do_we_celebrate_them.pdf

Images for What Is a Commemoration - ELCA Resource Repository

<https://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship/FAQ> What is a Commemoration and how to we celebrate them?

7) Lift up women's ministry

Women of the ELCA Bold Women's Day on February 22

Bold Women's Day – observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February – celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Whether you live out your bold story of faith in the workplace, family or community, your faith compels you to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out your baptismal call, being a disciple of Christ.

Blessing of Quilts on October 11

The quilts made by the women and destined to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief will be displayed and dedicated. "O Lord, our God, maker of all things, you have blessed our quilters with so many gifts – a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of their labors, the quilts they have made to you." Come and see the handiwork and add your blessing. In addition, The Quilt Song will be sung.

Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Litany on November 8

The Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Litany continues the tradition of showing gratitude for God's blessings. This tradition is grounded in a celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us.

8) Remember members in the prayers of intercession

Members remembered in prayers of the church during Pentecost

An important way of upholding each other in the community of faith is to remember each other in prayer. The Apostle Paul speaks of this in his letter to Timothy: "I thank God whom I serve with a clear conscience, as did my fathers, when I remember you constantly in my prayers." (2 Timothy 1:3). Starting on the Day of Pentecost, June 12, and going through the season of Pentecost until Christ the King Sunday on November 20, we will be remembering each other in the prayers of the church as part of our worship life. Starting at the beginning of the alphabet and going to the end, the plan is to cover all who belong to this community of faith. Post cards will be sent out with a special invitation to attend. This interim period serves as an opportunity to increase your concern for the whole membership of this church. Another purpose is to help arouse interest in any special concerns that this remembering will bring about. Make this interim period a time of renewal for the church!

Resources

The Power of Being Prayed For - Working Preacher

So, my suggestion this week, Working Preacher, would be to invite people to hear these words of Jesus addressed to them today. To imagine – really, to *know* – that Jesus was praying for us all those years ago and continues to care for us, support us, and love and value us today. After doing so, invite people to take a moment to think about where they need to be one, to be more whole, to have more peace in their lives. And then ask them to imagine that Jesus is praying just for them and, indeed, for all of us.

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=2566>

Images for Power of Being Prayed For - Working Preacher

What Is Prayer? | ...In the Meantime – David Lose

Here's my hunch: I think prayer has more to do with relationship than "outcomes." We pray, that is, because it is a vital way of remaining in relationship, just as we may pour out our hearts to a friend, lover, or family member not in the expectation that they are necessarily going to *do* something about it but because we need someone to share with. And as we share all these things the relationship grows stronger. I think that makes more sense to me. Prayer is about relationship.

<http://www.davidlose.net/2013/02/what-is-prayer/>

Images for What Is Prayer? | ...In the Meantime – David Lose

9) Emphasize connections to the wider church

Service of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18

This congregation will be joining Christians throughout the world in a Service of Prayer for Christian Unity as a part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25. Pray for the unity of the church!

Luther Point Bible Camp IMPACT 365 Team to present worship service on February 20

An IMPACT 365 Team from Luther Point Bible Camp will present the worship service. These young people will bring a taste of Bible camp to our worship. Bible camp is more than summer camp. This team wants to bring the impact of camp year around. One of the team members stated, "Luther Point is a very important place to me because my faith grew stronger as a result of the time I spent here. I wanted to give back to the place where I have grown the most spiritually." Another team member related, "Camp doesn't end with the summer, so I wanted to help share that. It also lets me explore other aspects of outdoor ministry and to simply spend time in a place I love with people I love." Bring the family and friends to this taste of camp worship service!

Women of the ELCA Bold Women's Day on February 27

Bold Women's Day – observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February – celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Whether you live out your bold story of faith in the workplace, family or community, your faith compels you to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out your baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

Luther Park Bible Camp Special Emphasis on March 8

Come to worship for a taste of Bible Camp when Barb Solsaa from Luther Park Bible Camp will give the message during worship and speak at an adult forum during the coffee fellowship. The children will sing camp songs for special music. She speaks passionately of this important camping ministry to people of all ages the year around.

Lutheran Social Services Shared Ministry Sunday on March 22

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is one of the most highly regarded social service agencies of any denomination. Come and hear about the shared ministry with LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan as Rev. James Holmberg from LSS Church and Community Relations will give the message and speak at an adult forum during the coffee fellowship.

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Emphasis on June 14

Our partnership with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin will be the special emphasis. Giving the message will be Rev. Todd Iverson, Assistant to the Bishop. The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The synod is composed of 212 congregations, over 106,300 members, and nearly 300 clergy and rostered leaders. Synod means "walking together," which describes the interdependent ministry relationships as we support mission partners, carry out synodical and churchwide initiatives, provide for education events and leadership training, respond to disaster and emergency needs, and heed the call to be a church engaged in the world.

Companion Synod Sunday on July 12

The Companion Synod emphasis will focus on our relationship with our companion synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi, Africa. A member of a neighboring congregation who has been to Malawi three times will give the message and present at the adult forum. The Companion Synod Program of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin enables us to experience the gifts and witness of a church in Africa. The companion synod relationship exists for the purpose of strengthening one another for life and mission within the body of Christ. It offers us the privilege of mutually participating in the life of another church through prayer, study, communication, and exchange of pastors, leaders, visitors, and resources. It opens our eyes to the global challenge that Christ offers us today.

Vibrant Faith Commitment Sunday on November 13

This congregation is moving ahead as a *vibrant faith* church. We are looking forward to a new chapter in the journey of faith. Vibrant Faith Commitment Sunday will provide an opportunity to offer an estimate of giving for the upcoming year. A mailing will be coming out to provide the giving card. The special speaker for the day will be our Assistant to the Bishop Amy Odgren, who is the Director for Evangelical Mission in our Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and shared staff with the ELCA. She will share with us how walking together makes for a more vibrant faith church. She will also speak at an adult forum between services. Your generous support of the life and ministry of the church is much appreciated!

Assistant to the Bishop to preach on December 7

Rev. Greg Kaufmann from the synod office will preach and assist with communion distribution. Following worship, he will present and converse with interested members regarding the rough draft of the Ministry Site Profile.

10) Employ a variety of music styles

Transfiguration Day Jazz Service on February 15

"Who says Lutherans can't have fun?" An attempt will be made on the last Sunday of Epiphany right before Lent to prove that perception wrong with a jazz service. We will be singing songs such as *Shine, Jesus, Shine*; *This Little Light of Mine*; and others. Children are invited to march in to the gathering song and march out to the sending song with rhythm instruments. Invite your friends!

Norwegian Rite of 1889 to be offered May 17 as a heritage service

The use of the Norwegian Rite of 1889 will offer an opportunity to appreciate our worship heritage. This is Norwegian Constitution Day. The order of service will reflect the Norwegian background of this congregation and will include parts of the service in Norwegian to give a flavor of the history. In addition, the hymns and music will be of Norwegian background. The basic order of worship in Norwegian and then English was used from 1889 to the time of the Service Book and Hymnal in 1958. Spread the word. Invite others!

"Come to meetin'" to sing gospel music on June 28

Pie and ice cream social to follow

Our church is known as a place with a love of music and eager voices. Besides, Lutherans are known as singing people. So, now that we are in the middle of the summer, we want to set us aside one Sunday for singing some of those good old gospel songs. This gospel music service will be led by our own praise team together with additional singers. If throngs of people gather down the road for Country Fest, we can gather at church for gospel music. Plan to stay for a pie and ice cream social following the worship. Leave the church that day with a song in your heart and a smile on your face!

Commemoration of Lutheran Composer, J. S. Bach, on July 26

Johann Sebastian Bach is recognized as one of the great Lutheran composers of all time. He died July 28, 1750, and so on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of his death, a Commemoration of J. S. Bach is offered at worship. Come to sing some of his hymns and to listen to the organ and piano ring with the playing of his compositions.

Christian bluegrass music service on August 23

Come to worship for a Christian bluegrass music service led by the Alzen Family. They enjoy making toe-tapping, bluegrass music. The family consists of dad on guitar and banjo, mom on harmonica, and four children: one son on upright bass fiddle; another son on whiz-bang (washboard with horns and whistles); a daughter on mandolin, fiddle, and guitar; and another daughter on fiddle, banjo, and mandolin. Each family member sings, and the variation of a deep bass voice to a sweet alto to a powerful soprano provides a great variety and interest in their music. A free-will offering will be taken to be used for the adoption of two young boys from overseas. All are cordially invited to attend as this area family glorifies God with their high energy music!

Combine fast pickin', tight-knit harmonies, and over-flowing joy, and the result is the talented Alzen Family. Hailing from Roberts, Wisconsin, this family of eight loves to merge their musical abilities with their strong faith to gladden people's hearts with music and the love of Jesus Christ.

October Worship Fest with polka service on October 11

A-one, a-two, a-one-two-three. Get your toes tapping in anticipation of October Worship Fest with a polka service. The youth will serve brats and root beer for refreshments. No, polka services aren't just for Roman Catholics. Lutherans can have them, too, and what better time than during the month of October? Who says Lutherans can't have fun? Invite the neighbors and friends!

All Saints Day Jazz Service on Sunday, November 1

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In and *Soon and Very Soon* are two songs we will sing as a part of the All Saints Day Jazz Service with an ensemble being assembled by our accompanist providing the music. The faithful departed will be remembered. A special invitation goes out to all those who have lost loved ones during this past year to light a candle in memory of their loved one! A volunteer coordinator for Adoray Home Health and Hospice will speak on hospice care and other end of life matters at the adult forum between services in the narthex. A special invitation is extended to the children and youth to march with musical instruments to these gathering and sending songs. On All Saints Day, we remember loved ones who have finished their course on earth and now rest from their labors. A special invitation goes out to all those who have lost loved ones this past year!

11) Interpret holidays and designations

Thanksgiving for Workers in the Church on April 19

A Litany of Thanksgiving for Workers in the Church will be included in the worship. By the will of God our workers are committed to the Lord and to us. God has worked mightily through them to bless us. We thank God for them!

Stewardship of Creation to be focus on April 26

The stewardship of creation will be the special emphasis the Sunday following Earth Day, April 22. People of faith join with people of good will to seek the stewardship of creation.

Remember Loved Ones by Coming to Worship on Sunday, May 24 of Memorial Day Weekend

Amidst the various commemorations of Memorial Day Weekend, you are invited to come to church to remember in thanksgiving to God the gift of loved ones who have passed on. There will be a *Litany of Freedom* for Memorial Day, as well as the singing of national hymns.

Give thanks to God for the gift of independence on Sunday, July 5

Combine your devotion to God with love of country by coming to worship. Take part in an Independence Day litany and sing national hymns. We pray God will give grateful hearts to all who enjoy freedom and lead us to exercise our freedoms with care, and that God will assist all who still seek liberty in this world!

Faith in Daily Life on September 7 of Labor Day Weekend

Labor Day weekend provides an opportunity to reflect on faith in daily life. In Baptism, God calls us as "fellow workers in the kingdom of God." Worship will be a time to explore the ways in which we employ our faith in daily life.

Remembrance of Veterans on Veterans Day, November 8

A prayer of remembrance for veterans will be offered. A special invitation goes out to all veterans!

Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 15

To be sure the whole year is filled with thanksgiving. But Thanksgiving is designated for a special time of praise to God for the rich blessings of the past year. Come with grateful hearts to our Thanksgiving Service!

Blessing for Hunters before Deer Season on November 15

A blessing of hunters before the deer season will be offered. A special invitation is extended to deer hunters to wear orange attire that Sunday!

12) Maximize seasons of Advent and Christmas

The seasons of Advent and Christmas involve some of the most service of worship planning of any season(s) of the church year. I have sought to maximize the following services of worship during these seasons:

- Advent Service of Readings and Carols
- Sunday School Programs

Christmas Sunday – 4AdventA: The Birth of Jesus the Messiah according to Matthew
Have a Mary Christmas – 4AdventB and 4AdventC: Mary's Song of Praise
Longest Night: A Service of Longing and Hope – Winter Solstice, December 21
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Post High School Student Recognition
Beginning a New Year

When the Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6, fell on a Sunday in 2019, I recommended that the Christmas tree and decorations be left up until after that Sunday.

13) Seek the welfare of the community

Litany for Towns and Neighborhoods on June 7

A special *Litany for Towns and Neighborhoods* will be offered at worship. This will be a way for the assembly to lift the well-being of towns and neighborhoods on the weekend of the community fair June 5-7.

County Fair Service on August 16 at 9am

This congregation and our neighboring congregation will join together with people from the country for a county fair service on the fairgrounds. Spread the word. Invite the neighbors!

14) Offering community services of worship

An average of 13 members attended services of worship at one open-country congregation. At the same time, they hosted a lakeside polka service in the summer, a Nativity in the Barn service on the Saturday evening prior to Christmas Day, and a monthly service on a Wednesday at noon at the local community center following a senior meal. In addition, I was asked to put together a Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary Reformation service at the community center on a Saturday afternoon.

15) Ideas for enriching the services of worship

A senior pastor asked me as an interim associate for ideas on enriching communal worship life. I provided the following list.

- + Chant the liturgy. Assisting ministers could also be used to chant the liturgy.
- + Speak or sing the psalms. Do so on Sundays with Service of the Word if time is a consideration.
- + Use lectors for the reading of the lessons other than the Gospel.
- + Pass a welcome pad during the announcements as a way for people to know who is in the pew with them and for a more accurate way of finding out who the newcomers are in order to make follow-up contact.
- + Use the New Revised Standard Version for the reading of the instead of the Revised Standard Version to use more inclusive language.
- + Use name tags so that people can get to know each other by name.
- + Use the occasional service of Reception of Lutherans by Transfer to have more of a welcoming service for members by transfer. Have new members in a receiving line to have people greet and welcome them. Also have the baptismal family, confirmands, and graduates in a receiving line as well.
- + Offer instruction for first communion at a younger age so that more children and parents can commune together.
- + Ask the greeters to introduce newcomers to other members.
- + Announce in the bulletin when new publications are available: *Christ in our Home*, *The Lutheran*, and *The Lutheran Digest*.
- + Place greater emphasis on the passing of the peace in moving it to the designated place in the worship rather than at the very end.
- + Offer additional worship opportunities, for instance, afternoon mid-week Lenten services, as well as mid-week evening Advent services.
- + Tape ministry for members of the congregation who cannot come to church.
- + Children and youth to sing or speak or otherwise take part as much as possible.
- + Occasional hymn festival to sing a variety of music or else old familiar hymns.
- + Additional potluck dinners after the service of worship for people to get to know each other.

16) Invite and involve members in service of worship leadership roles

A standard part of a service of worship bulletin in many congregations lists the worship assistants.

Resources

Help with Worship & Evangelism | Como Park Lutheran Church

For Adults

Greeters – Two shifts
Welcome Desk – Two shifts
Coffee Servers – One shift in summer; two shifts the rest of the year
Communion Preparers: 1st and 3rd Sundays – Prepare and clear the altar before and after Sunday worship
Lectors – Read the scripture lessons for the day
Ushers – Hand out bulletins and collect the offering
Liturgists – Lead the congregation by singing the liturgy, prayer, and psalm
Contact: Tom Ferry, 651-646-7127 x209

Communion Assistants – 1st and 3rd Sundays
For Children

Acolytes – Youth can acolyte when they enter 6th grade

Also, serve as liturgists, lectors, and ushers (see above)

<http://comoparklutheran.org/get-involved/help-with-worship-evangelism/>
Images for Help with Worship & Evangelism | Como Park Lutheran Church

[PDF]How Can Lay People Participate in Worship Leadership

The ministries of the baptized are many and include: readers, ministers of communion, prayer leaders, cantor and other musicians, ushers, greeters and more. All of these individual ministries contribute to the health of the one body.

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/How_can_lay_people_participate_in_worship_leadership.pdf
Images for How Can Lay People Participate in Worship Leadership - ELCA Resource Repository

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church – ELCA

There are a number of ways one can serve and contribute, and these roles include: choir, praise team, musicians, acolyte, usher, greeter, nursery, attendant, communion server, altar guild, office volunteer, lay reader and lay assisting minister.

<http://newportrichiey.patch.com/listings/joyful-spirit-lutheran-church-elca>
Images for choir, praise team, musicians, acolyte, usher, greeter, nursery, attendant, communion server, altar guild, office volunteer, lay reader and lay assisting minister

17) Share the services of worship with a wider audience

Through the years, various congregations I have served have sought to share the worship with a wider audience through radio, television, telephone dial-up, making DVDs of the services of worship and providing them to the homebound and various facilities. Other congregations webcast their sermons on their church websites or employ numerous other outlets.

Resources

Can churches put worship services on YouTube and Vimeo?

Churches cannot get licenses from ASCAP, BMI, AND SESAC for music performances on YouTube and Vimeo. ASCAP, BMI, AND SESAC are not currently issuing licenses for playback on self-publishing sites like YouTube and Vimeo. Churches who have sought out these license have been unable to acquire them. Currently, the owner of a website url (www.website.com) is the only party who can get these licenses for music played on that url.

The only way for churches to obtain licensing from ASCAP, BMI, AND SESAC for their webcasted performances is to put it on their own website.

Churches can legally webcast their performances of copyrighted music from their own website with the WORSHIPcast license from CCS. The WORSHIPcast license provides licensing from ASCAP, BMI, AND SESAC in one bundle. Choosing to work with a video hosting provider that is geared towards the needs of the church like 316networks makes the process of getting worship services online simple.

<http://www.churchmedia.net/forums/copyright-issues/44742-can-churches-put-worship-services.html>
Images for Can churches put worship services on YouTube and Vimeo?

It's time! Put your sermon audio online: Best hosting plans

Among any church's most easily shared resources is the weekly sermon. New Web technologies and digital recorders make it easy to capture and upload sermons. What are you waiting for? It is time! Take advantage of the latest and best options for getting your sermons online.

<http://www.umcom.org/learn/its-time-put-your-sermon-audio-online-best-hosting-plans>
Images for It's time! Put your sermon audio online: Best hosting plans

St. Paul Lutheran Church: Recording Ministry

The seeds that started as a way to bring our church services to home-bound family and friends soon bloomed into reaching thousands of listeners via weekly radio broadcasts. Today, instead of using radio waves, our delivery is via the internet and through the distribution of DVDs and CDs.

<http://www.stpaulboca.com/index.cfm/pageid/2232/index.html>
Images for St. Paul Lutheran Church: Recording Ministry

18) "We're here!"

Snow fell the previous night so that only the sexton and the lectern showed up for the early Sunday morning service of worship. I asked them what they thought, and they said, "We're here!" We went ahead with the service of worship. By the time of the later Sunday morning service of worship, the roads were plowed, and more showed up.

19) What to do with the welcome and announcements

One practice I inherited at a congregation I served included placing Welcome and Worship Announcements after the gathering music in the Gathering part of the service of worship and Mission and Ministry Announcements after the Blessing in the Sending part of the worship. In another congregation, the decision was made to keep the Welcome after the Gathering Music and place the Announcements in the Sending part of the worship before the Blessing as suggested in the [Sundays & Seasons — A rich and reliable resource for worship](#) online worship planner. In a congregation I started serving in 2017, I made this switch with favorable results. On a

practical level, I learned in meeting agendas, that whatever is placed first on the agenda gets the most time no matter how important or unimportant. The same with announcements. Especially when announcements come from the assembly, the announcements in the Sending part of the service of worship tend to be more succinct than the announcements in the Gathering part of the service of worship.

20) Planning for services of worship

Many of the church musicians and secretaries have welcomed advance worship planning. At the same time, some church secretaries and musicians, especially those used to doing things in a certain way for a long time, have given pushback.

Resources

Seasonal Planning for Preaching and Worship

Some pastors of large multiple-staff churches routinely select preaching themes and Scriptures three or even six months in advance. This makes it possible for music ministers and worship committees, liturgists, worship leaders, musicians, soloists, and other worship artists to coordinate their efforts with the general theme of the sermon for each week. "Solo" pastors and pastors of smaller congregations also find advance planning valuable. Volunteer musicians and liturgists often feel more confident when they have Scripture readings and music selections several weeks before the worship service.

<http://www.gbod.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=nhLRJ2PMKsG&b=5819089&ct=3833707>

Images for Seasonal Planning for Preaching and Worship

Sundays and Seasons: Guide to Worship Planning, Year A 2020

Sundays and Seasons supports comprehensive week-by-week planning with content and ideas for liturgy and music, preaching and visuals, shaped by the Revised Common Lectionary, the church year, and the assembly gathered around word and sacrament.

Worship planners and leaders, preachers, presiding ministers, worship committees, musicians, visual artists, sacristans and altar guilds, and those who create congregational worship folders, will find an indispensable companion in *Sundays and Seasons* as they prepare for worship each week.

A diverse group of more than 50 contributors from across the church has provided:

WEEKLY HELPS

- Day and reading introductions
- Propers: prayer of the day, gospel acclamation, scripture texts, preface, color
- Examples of prayers of intercession for each Sunday and major festival
- Exploration of images in the readings
- Ideas for approaching the day and its texts in preaching and worship
- Ideas for deepening children's engagement with worship
- Assembly song suggestions from a variety of resources in a wide range of musical styles
- Choral, children's choir, keyboard/instrumental, and handbell recommendations
- Notes on commemorations

SEASONAL HELPS

- Seasonal introductions
- Reproducible worship texts for the seasons
- Reproducible rites for days and occasions, including a midweek Lenten service

AND MORE

- Cover art by Christina Saj and interior art by Gertrud Mueller Nelson
- Introduction to the year of Matthew
- Extensive bibliography

Use *Sundays and Seasons* print edition together with sundaysandseasons.com for effective and efficient planning, preparation, and production of all your worship needs.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781506449647/Sundays-and-Seasons-Guide-to-Worship-Planning-Year-A-2020>

Images for Sundays and Seasons: Guide to Worship Planning

21) Ceremonial binder

I have taken to using a three-ring binder for keeping the order of service, announcements, sermon resources, pictorial directory, checklist for service of worship preparation, and the like. While I simply use a black binder, church supply stores provide ceremonial binders with liturgical symbols.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Ceremonial Binder Pack

This value pack contains one of each of the four colors of binders available: Red, Green, White, and Blue/Purple. These practical and elegant ceremonial binders allow you to assemble all of your materials in one place for use in worship.

Perfect for presiders, lectors, cantors, accompanists, or prayer leaders, these 3-ring binders are sized to hold standard 8-1/2 x 11" pages. Features a 7/8" spine. 9-3/4" wide x 11-5/8" tall.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/14939/Evangelical-Lutheran-Worship-Ceremonial-Binder-Pack>

Images for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Ceremonial Binder Pack

22) Vestments

For the first 30 or so years, I wore a white alb, cincture, and stole. Then, I purchased 2 black Murphy Robes

Murphy Robes: Quality Robes for Choirs, Clergy, Pastors, Priests

Quality attire for choirs, clergy, pastors, ministers, deacons, priest and bishops - hundreds of sanctuary items.

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

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

Images for Murphy Robes

The **black robe or Geneva gown**, originally an academic gown worn by various professionals, is another common garment for ordained ministers leading worship. In its plainness, **the robe deemphasizes symbols as well as the peculiarities of everyday dress, thereby focusing attention to the hearing of the Word of God read and proclaimed.**

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2804/what-should-i-wear-to-preach>

Images for black robe or Geneva gown

at the Campus Bookstore - Luther Seminary. It is a good thing I bought the robes at the bookstore when I did, because the bookstore is now closed. I find the plainness appealing. Also, these robes are easier to wear. They are used by many in the Reformed tradition. The wearing of a black robe used to be common in Lutheran circles, as I recall Pastor Harold T. Masted wearing one at Immanuel Lutheran Church (1957-1968) when I was growing up in Story City, Iowa and confirmed in 1967, but when Bishop Richard N. Hoyme of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin was installed on Sunday, 9/8/2013 at Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, I was the only one of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin pastors wearing a black Murphy Robe. A retired pastor said to me afterwards, "You sure know how to stick out don't you?!" The same on 8/24/2018 when Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson was installed as bishop at Bethel Lutheran in Hudson, Wisconsin. In 2018, when I was asked to serve a three-point parish, so I bought a 3rd black Murphy Robe online to have 1 at each church.

Resources

Clergy Robes | Cokesbury

Shop Cokesbury for a wide variety men's & women's clergy robes at great prices.

<https://www.cokesbury.com/church-supplies-clergy-robes>

Images for Clergy Robes | Cokesbury

Ecclesiastical Vestments - Anglicans Online

IN THIS SECTION, WE COLLECT links related to the vestments used in the chancel and choir of most Anglican parishes. We provide you with links to suppliers and designers, as well as to informative and historical resources. To submit an additional site for our consideration, use [this link](#).

<http://anglicansonline.org/resources/vestments.html>

Images for Ecclesiastical Vestments - Anglicans Online

Vestments | Clergy Vestments | CM Almy

CM Almy's QuikShip liturgical vestments for priests and deacons are made in a range of fine materials and timeless styles.

Tailored in our Maine shop, QuikShip liturgical vestments are wonderful values and they are in stock for prompt delivery.

<http://www.almy.com/Category/ChurchVestments>

Images for Vestments | Clergy Vestments | CM Almy

23) Altar Guild

I met with an altar guild at a regularly scheduled meeting on a Saturday at 9:30am a month into an assignment. The chair asked me if I wanted to say a few words. I thanked them for their dedicated service in this important ministry, especially in setting up for Holy Communion for 3 services of worship a weekend each weekend of the year. In addition, I told them that I appreciated that they used recommended best practices and that they served communion bread rather than wafers. After the meeting, I talked with one woman who said that she and her husband had worshipped at various congregations throughout their married life and that she had served continuously on altar guilds (up until 2015+ plus) since the 1960s. She explained, "I don't sing in the choir, nor do I teach Sunday School, but this is one thing I can do."

Resources

Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook | Augsburg Fortress

A fixture in churches everywhere, Stauffer's original work for altar guilds has sold more than 26,000 copies since 1985. This handbook helps altar guilds understand their responsibilities and how best to perform them. Included are practical instructions regarding preparation for Holy Communion, Holy Baptism, marriage, burial, confirmation, daily prayer services, healing rites, other occasional services, and seasons and festivals of the church year. The book also provides tested suggestions for organizing an altar guild, devotions for altar guild meetings, and a helpful glossary.

This edition is revised and expanded with: new practical illustrations, an expanded understanding of the ministry of the sacristan as one who prepares the environment for worship, additional suggestions for seasonal worship environments, reflection on the question of cultural context for worship and anticipates the needs of the altar guild worshipping with newly published culture-specific worship resources, worship principles from The Use of the Means of Grace, the ELCA's guidelines for sacramental practice.

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Worship/Leadership/Altar-Guilds.aspx>

<http://www.amazon.com/Altar-Sacristy-Handbook-Augsburg-Fortress/dp/0806638966>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451479271>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Altar_Guild_and_Sacristy_Handbook.html?id=prXlcGVGajkC
http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2007-07-12/news/0707111209_1_baptismal-lutheran-book-worship
<http://godsworkeourhands.org/News-and-Events/5961>
<http://store.afcanada.com/store/contributor/2957/S-Anita-Stauffer>
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/s-anita-stauffer/495812/>
<https://www.amazon.com/S.-Anita-Stauffer/e/B001K87PHC>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/626239.S_Anita_Stauffer
Images for S. Anita Stauffer
Images for Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook | Augsburg Fortress

[PDF]altar guild handbook - Mount Olive Lutheran Church

http://www.mountolivechurch.org/images/pdfs/Mount_Olive_Altar_Guild_Handbook_%20PUBLIC.pdf
Images for altar guild handbook - Mount Olive Lutheran Church

Altar Guild - YouTube

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-U4enHH6T54>
Images for Altar Guild - YouTube

20 best Altar Guild images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/rry/altar-guild/>
Images for pinterest/altar-guild
<https://www.pinterest.com/jeannen/altar-guild-ideas/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/127297126943588821/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/wardx2/altar-guild/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/dqhsims/altar-guild/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/debrapollock/altar-guild/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/elo567/anglican-altar-guild-101/>
Images for church altar guild pinterest

What Does the Bible Say About Altar? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/altar>
Images for Bible and Altar
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/altar/>
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Altars>
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/altar/>
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Altar/>
<https://www.artbible.info/concordance/a/602-2.html>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altar_\(Bible\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altar_(Bible))
<https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-an-altar.html>
<http://www1.cbn.com/devotions/build-an-altar>
<https://www.bible-history.com/biblestudy/altars.html>
<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/altar>
<https://christiananswers.net/dictionary/altar.html>

24) Communion distribution

I served a congregation in a city with a population of 2,318, which offered 1 service of worship on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. Each service included Holy Communion. Communicants knelt at the rail and received communion bread, and the wine was poured from a chalice into individual cups. A communion blessing was given to each table.



Homemade Unleavened Communion Bread for Churches and Families

<http://www.communionbread.org/unleavenedbread.html>
Images for homemade unleavened communion bread

At the next assignment, the open country congregation in a two-point parish had recently remodeled the chancel and removed the altar rail so that distribution was continuous at the front of the center aisle with wafers by intinction. The communion blessing was given after all received communion. At the next assignment, a congregation in an unincorporated village as part of a multi-point parish employed a continuous distribution by intinction in which the servers stood at the end of each pew. The communion blessing was given after all received communion. At another congregation in an unincorporated village as part of the previously mentioned multi-point parish the people knelt at the rail, and the presiding minister carried an intinction set. The communicants received the wafer and dipped it into the wine. A communion blessing was given to each table.



Intinction Set with Bowl - Living Grace

<https://www.livinggracecatalog.com/category/communion-supplies-intinction-sets>

Images for Intinction Set with Bowl

Resources

A pastor's approach to Holy Communion - Living Lutheran

How should we receive Communion?

We are to receive these gifts of bread and wine, of Christ's body and blood, in faith, trusting that in this meal our Lord comes to us, forgives us our sins, renews us in faith and leads us into new life.

The manner of receiving varies in different churches and even within churches, and there is no "right" way to receive. I suggest that people approach reverently — not somberly, but reverently and expectantly — holding out their hand to receive the body of Christ. Then they may take that bread between two fingers and dip it into the cup, dabbing the bread so as to avoid dripping wine on oneself or on the floor, before consuming the bread and wine together.

Upon hearing the words, "Body of Christ, given for you," and "Blood of Christ, shed for you," it is appropriate to respond "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." It is also perfectly appropriate to smile a joyful smile, as this bread and wine are amazing gifts. Some Christians make the sign of the cross before and/or after receiving the bread and wine, as a sign of blessing and remembrance of their baptism. Others may also genuflect or bow before the bread and wine, a gesture that honors the body and blood of Christ and also humbles the one about to receive this great gift of Christ's holy presence.

<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/>

Intinction - Wikipedia

Intinction is the [Eucharistic](#) practice of partly dipping the consecrated bread, or *host*, into the consecrated wine before consumption by the [communicant](#).

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

Images for Intinction

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucharist_in_Lutheranism Manner of reception

Images for Eucharist in Lutheranism Manner of reception

Taking Communion. What's the Best Way?

From the churches I've attended I've seen communion done 4 different ways (I'm sure there are more, which I would be interested to hear about):

<http://www.rustyparts.com/wp/2006/01/29/how-to-take-communion/index.html>

Images for taking communion

25) Communion registration

What is the purpose of communion registration? Part of it is to track participation for the records of the congregation. I have also used communion registration cards as a way of learning the names of members. In addition, I served a multi-point parish of village churches in which a sheet was hung in the back of the church for people to sign that they had received communion that year.

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

Chapter 8.

MEMBERSHIP

*C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

- c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have **communed in this congregation** and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting

members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

<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 Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Chapter 8. MEMBERSHIP Voting members communed in this congregation](#)

Another part of the reason for communion registration is to reflect on the purpose of Holy Communion.

Resources

LCMS Communion Registration Cards (Pkg of 500)

Each card states the confessional position of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod regarding the Lord's Supper.

<https://www.cph.org/p-3435-Communion-Registration-Cards-Pkg-of-500.aspx>

[Images for LCMS Communion Registration Cards](#)

Registration Card (Communion), 100/pkg - Augsburg Fortress

Full-color card for the use of members to indicate their desire to commune, giving the pastor a record of the communicants.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9780806614441/Registration-Card-Communion-100-pkg>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9780806645650/Announcement-for-Communion-Registration-Card-with-Belief-Statement-100-pkg>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/6730/Announcement-for-Communion-Registration-Card-with-Belief-Statement-100-pkg>

[Images for Images for Registration Card \(Communion\) - Augsburg Fortress](#)

26) Acolyte Ministry

During one assignment, I served 2 congregations. At the first service of worship, 2 acolytes robed in red gowns lit the candles. At the next service of worship, a member of the altar guild sometimes lit the candles, other times not.

In another assignment, with a senior pastor and an associate pastor, the one pastor who presided that day was accustomed to helping the acolytes vest. I balked at that practice for 2 reasons. One, I considered my time to be more valuable in greeting the people prior to the service of worship. Two, from a boundary's perspective, I thought it was not a good idea for a pastor to be alone with a young person vesting in the sacristy. The best situations have been where caring adults instruct and assist acolytes.

And, under the rubric of "Acolyting isn't what it used to be," at one assignment, oil candles were mounted on the wall, and the flame created smoke stains. The Congregation Council decided to go with battery operated candles purchased at Bed, Bath, and Beyond on the altar.

Flameless Candles - Pillar Candles, Led Candles & more - Bed Bath & Beyond Inc

Luminara® Real-Flame Effect 8-Inch Battery Operated Taper Candles in Ivory (Set of 2)

<https://www.bedbathandbeyond.com/store/category/home-decor/candles-fragrance/flameless-candles/12628/>

[Images for flameless candles with remote](#)

When I asked what the acolytes would do then, I was told that the acolytes could use the remote to turn on the batteries. In other words, altar candles have gone from wax to oil to batteries.

Resources

A Manual for Acolytes

A valuable handbook for the server at all liturgical celebrations. Complete with illustrations, this volume covers in careful detail all the responsibilities and duties of the acolyte.

ChurchPublishing.org: A Manual for Acolytes

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/products/amanualforacolytes>

[Images for manual for acolytes](#)

<http://cotgs.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Youth-Acolyte-Program-Acolyte-Manual.pdf>

[Images for Youth-Acolyte-Program-Acolyte-Manual](#)

<http://trinitystaunton.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Acolyte-Manual.pdf>

<https://www.thewoodlandsumc.org/assets/docs/acolyte-manual-0614.pdf>

<http://www.graceastoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Grace-Episcopal-Church-Acolyte-Manual.pdf>

http://www.holycrossparis.com/files/Training_Sept_09.pdf [PDF]1 Acolyte Training Manual Holy Cross Episcopal Church

[Images for Acolyte Training Manual Holy Cross Episcopal Church](#)

https://www.gracechurchwfp.org/uploads/9/0/5/4/90549385/acolyte_manual_grace_revised.pdf

https://stjamespotomac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/acolyte_manual-Sep-2014.pdf

https://www.hcew.org/media/1240/acolyte_manual.pdf

http://stgabriels.org/uploads/3/4/8/5/34851987/acolyte_manual_final_3.13.15_.pdf

<https://www.doers.org/wp-content/uploads/pubs/handbooks/Acolyte-Manual-2017-Revision.pdf>

http://www.stjameslouis.org/uploads/2/6/8/8/26885576/acolyte_manual_-_2014.pdf

http://www.sslcmn.org/uploads/2/4/2/4/24240315/012014_acolyte_manual.pdf

<https://www.amazon.com/Manual-Acolytes-Duties-Liturgical-Celebrations/dp/0819212725>

<https://www.amazon.com/Acolyte-Manual-Liturgical-Instructions-Episcopal-ebook/dp/B01CRAI9HQ>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJQM2qk6S88> Acolyte manual - YouTube
Images for Acolyte manual - YouTube

Acolyte - Wikipedia

An acolyte is an assistant or follower assisting the celebrant in a religious service or procession. In many **Christian** denominations, an acolyte is anyone who performs ceremonial duties such as lighting **altar candles**. In others, the term is used for one who has been inducted into a particular liturgical ministry, even when not performing those duties.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acolyte>
Images for Acolyte

Acolytes and Servers: A Worship Handbook - Augsburg Fortress

As some of the most visible participants in the worship service, acolytes and servers play a crucial supporting role in liturgy. This readable, practical handbook helps provide background, history, and useful aids for filling these vital roles with vibrancy, depth and purpose.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/6498/Acolytes-and-Servers-A-Worship-Handbook>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/639325.Gerald_Spice
Images for Acolytes and Servers: A Worship Handbook
<http://cross-of-christ.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Acolyte-handbook.pdf>
http://www.dioalaministries.org/uploads/3/0/5/4/30546011/christ_church_acolyte_handbook.pdf
https://onecumc.net/wp-content/uploads/Acolyte_Handbook.pdf
<http://www.gracecathedraltopeka.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Handbook.pdf>
<https://www.cph.org/p-1053-acolyte-handbook.aspx>
https://www.christepiscopalcornering.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/Acolyte_Handbook_6.pdf
http://synodresourcecenter.org/wma/worship/worship_assistants/acolytes/0003/handbook.html
<https://www.amazon.com/Acolyte-Handbook-Ralph-Van-Loon/dp/0800620593>
https://www.canterburyabq.org/uploads/3/3/4/9/3349700/acolyte_handbook_fall_2015_final_.pdf
Images for acolyte handbook

The Ministry of Acolyte - YouTube

Recently, three of our brothers here in the Dominican Studium in Dublin received the Ministry of Acolyte. This short video shows part of the ceremony and explains what the Ministry of Acolyte is about.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMU-x6F-HR8>
Images for Ministry of Acolyte - YouTube

39 best Acolytes images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/lagator/acolytes/>
Images for Acolytes on Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/episcoforma/all-things-acolytes/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/clintmcdonald/acolytes/>

Following is an orientation for Acolyte Ministry, which I wrote up for one congregation by adapting material from the previous pastor.

Acolyte Ministry

The word *acolyte* is taken from an ancient Greek word which means attendant or helper.

Arrive 15 minutes before the worship service. Check with the pastor for any special instructions.

Pick up a bulletin on the way into the sanctuary and place it on the second chair. Make sure there is a worship book on the chair. The chair closest to the altar and pulpit is for the pastor.

Vestments - Put on your robe. Comb your hair. Dispose of any gum or candy.

Check to see if the offering places have been placed on the altar. If not, look for them in the small room adjoining the chancel. Put the places on the altar on the left-hand side by the upper candles.

Light the candles 10 minutes before the worship service. Light the candle lighter in the back and come before the altar in a dignified manner. To light the candles, start outside and move in to the center first on the right side and then on the left side. Light the Paschal candle when instructed by the pastor. The pastor will also give instructions about lighting candles for the Advent wreath during the season of Advent.

After lighting the candles reverence the altar with a small bow of the head. Extinguish the candle lighter, then push the wick back out (so that it does not melt inside the candle lighter), put it in its proper place, and go to your chair.

Worship – sing, follow along, read, pray, sit, and stand as members of the assembly are doing.

Offering – After the sharing of the peace and people have sat down, walk behind the altar and pick up the offering plates. Hold the plates for the ushers who should be coming forward. Return to your seat. During this time, the pastor will be preparing for communion. When the offering is complete, the assembly will rise and sing an offering song. Receive the offering plates from the ushers. Place the offering plates on the left-hand side by the upper candles. Go behind the altar and return to your seat.

Communion – After the communion invitation, join the communion assistant at the altar with the pastor. Then return to your seat and be attentive to the possible request from the pastor for additional wafers. Obtain them from the sacristy adjoining the chancel.

Extinguish the candles – During the sending song, extinguish the candles in the same order as lit. Outside in beginning on the right side and then going to the left side. Extinguish Paschal candle, if necessary, as well as candles on the Advent wreath during the season of Advent. Put the candle lighter away in its proper place.

Finish - Hang up the robe. Straighten up the closet as needed.

Thank you for serving in the ministry of acolyte.

27) Prayer for sending of communion and blessing of the prayer shawls

One congregation I served employed a practice of the pastor offering a prayer for sending of communion, while another congregation wanted the pastor to bless the prayer shawls during worship.

Resources

[PDF] Eucharistic Visitor - Diocese of Springfield

As a Eucharistic Visitor, you will deliver the sacrament persons in such circumstances ...

- ...directly after the Sunday celebration. In most instances, Eucharistic Visitors do not even stay for Coffee Hour, but are dismissed with prayer right after the administration of communion. In any case, the visit(s) should be completed on the same day, at the very latest, and not deferred to a weekday.

<http://www.episcopalspringfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Eucharistic-Visitor-Training1.pdf>
Images for Eucharistic Visitor

Prayer Shawl Blessing Liturgy | Preaching in Pumps

This Sunday we are blessing a new group of prayer shawls. I thought I would post the liturgy that I wrote for our blessings last year. I usually have the children come up and lay their hands on the shawls during the blessing. It is a neat way for them to be involved.

<http://www.preachinginpumps.com/liturgy/prayer-shawl-blessing-liturgy/>
Images for Prayer Shawl Blessing Liturgy

Sundays and Seasons, Year B, 2015 | Augsburg Fortress

Sending of Communion

Page 319

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/19890/Sundays-and-Seasons-Preaching-Year-B-2015>
Images for Sending of Communion

28) Receiving lines

As one additional way of involving people, I use receiving lines following the service of worship. The most common use of a receiving line is at weddings, but I also use receiving lines for Holy Baptism, Affirmation of Baptism – Confirmation and Reception into Membership, as well as Blessing of Graduates.

29) Computing average worship attendance

Average worship attendance (AWA) is generally agreed to be a more accurate indicator for a congregation than membership. But how does a congregation accurately compute AWA?

Resources

Average Worship Attendance | Mission Possible Network

Why is “average worship attendance (AWA)” such an important number in the life of a congregation? What follows are three reasons why knowing, and tracking, this number is crucial.

<http://txlamission.wordpress.com/2010/09/28/average-worship-attendance/>
Images for Average Worship Attendance | Mission Possible Network

Congregational Attendance Profile (CAP) - Lewis Center for Church Leadership

Worship attendance is a primary indicator of congregational vitality, but few churches track attendance in a way that reveals long-term trends. CAP, the Congregational Attendance Profile, reveals these trends to help you improve worship attendance. CAP monitors weekly attendance against a 52-week running average.

Instead of simply knowing how a Sunday's attendance compares to the previous week's, you'll know how it compares to the entire past year's average, revealing larger trends and patterns.

<https://www.churchleadership.com/product/congregational-attendance-profile-cap-download/>
Images for Congregational Attendance Profile (CAP) - Lewis Center for Church Leadership
<https://www.churchleadership.com/videos/why-worship-attendance-matters-and-clues-for-improving-it/>
<https://vimeo.com/47467057> Why Worship Attendance Matters and Clues for Improving It
Images for Why Worship Attendance Matters and Clues for Improving It
<https://fi.pinterest.com/pin/92112754852483439/> Why Worship Attendance Matters and Clues for Improving It
<https://www.churchleadership.com/tag/worship-attendance/>
<https://www.vaumc.org/ncfilerepository/Discipleship/BODBestPractices.pdf>
<https://gp-email.brapp.com/viewemail/1670406> December Small Membership Churches enewsletter

<https://www.churchleadership.com/category/50-ways/>

How Churches Count Attendance - ThomRainer.com

The Pattern Today

The most common statistical metric today is average weekly worship attendance. The gauge of membership is no longer very helpful. In most churches membership comes with few and low expectations. Thus, a church with a membership of 400 may only have 100 in average worship attendance. There is little expectation for members to be active in the church in a meaningful way, even weekly attendance.

But this relatively new metric of worship attendance has its challenges. The simple problem is that different congregations count attendance in different ways.

<http://thomrainer.com/2013/02/09/how-churches-count-attendance/>

Images for How Churches Count Attendance - ThomRainer.com

<http://thomrainer.com/2013/05/five-ways-to-avoid-lying-about-church-attendance/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2013/08/the-number-one-reason-for-the-decline-in-church-attendance-and-five-ways-to-address-it/>

<http://visionroom.com/four-ways-your-church-can-break-attendance-barriers/>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/december/counting-correctly-create-right-scorecard-for-churches.html>

<https://blog.capterra.com/if-youre-not-using-church-attendance-tracking-you-need-to-be-heres-how/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/ThinkAwesome/church/>

Images for thom rainer (author)

What is Average Weekly Attendance? - UUA

Here's how to calculate your congregation's average weekly attendance:

<http://www.uua.org/directory/data/faq/certifyingmembership/20576.shtml>

Images for What is Average Worship Weekly Attendance?

30) Saturday 5pm service of worship

A long-term installed senior pastor lamented to me as an interim associate pastor about officiating at a Saturday 5pm service of worship. At the time, I thought to myself he just needed to buck up, but, now that I have served in 5 different settings with a Saturday 5pm service of worship, I understand where he is coming from. It is difficult to do much outside of the parish past noon on a Saturday knowing that the 5pm service of worship is looming. I am willing to work hard, but I would much prefer leading a service of worship on a Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday instead of Saturday to possess some flexibility on Saturdays. I now tip my hat to those installed pastors who lead Saturday services of worship.

Resources

Better to Start ONE or TWO Saturday Night Services?

A church leader recently emailed us to ask whether it's better to go to one Saturday night service or two. Here are some ideas I suggested.

http://leadnet.org/better_to_start_one_or_two_saturday_night_services/

Images for Saturday Night Worship Services

If the Lord's Day Is Sunday, Why Do We Have a Saturday Evening Service?

I concluded that the world needs to feel the shade of the cool shadow of the Lord Jesus to be cast weekly across its weary, secular landscape. The name of that Shadow is the Lord's Day (cf. Colossians 2:16f).

That left the question: How should we think about our Saturday night service in view of "the Lord's Day" being the "first day of the week"? So here is my response

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/if-the-lords-day-is-sunday-why-do-we-have-a-saturday-evening-service>

Images for Saturday Evening Worship Service

When a Church Might Have a Saturday Evening Service

Some churches have chosen to hold a service on Saturday evening. Traditionally, Saturday evenings were times when the church was closed up and quiet. Why would a church have a Saturday evening service? Should your church do the same?

<http://www.sharefaith.com/blog/2014/03/church-saturday-evening-service/>

Images for worship service on saturday evening

31) Deer hunting and Thanksgiving

When I was studying at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN (1975-79), a recent grad wrote back to the student newsletter to tell about life in her first call in Northwest Wisconsin. She said the people have a new way of defining the seasons. She was used to the nature seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter as well as the seasons of the church year of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. But she discovered that people in Northwest Wisconsin divide the year into the following seasons: *before* deer hunting season, *during* deer hunting season, and *after* deer hunting season. When I accepted my first call in Northwest Wisconsin, I discovered this to be the case. Deer hunting in Wisconsin is 10 days either side of Thanksgiving. To begin with, I offered a Thanksgiving Day service of worship. Then, more and more congregations went to a Thanksgiving Eve service of worship. Now many congregations do not offer a service of worship on either Thanksgiving Day or Thanksgiving Eve. One year, I offered a Thanksgiving Service and a Blessing of Hunters on the Sunday 11 days prior to Thanksgiving Day.

[Listen | Wisconsin Public Radio](#)

Wisconsin's cultural phenomenon known as the gun deer hunt is less than three weeks away! Joy Cardin's guest previews this year's season with regards to new herd research, the role citizens will play in deer management, recruiting new hunters and what makes hunting in the state so enjoyable.

<http://www.wpr.org/listen/283401>

[Images for Wisconsin's cultural phenomenon known as the gun deer hunt](#)

32) Variety in services of worship not Intended to be a pick and choose buffet

Sometimes, I worry that people will read the newsletter and decide which service of worship emphasizes sound most appealing and which service emphasizes sound less appealing and determine whether to come based on those preferences. Worship means that God is worthy of praise and adoration no matter the special emphasis.

Resources

[Eight Signs Your Church May Be Closing Soon - ThomRainer.com](#)

5. The members are intensely **preference-driven**. They are more concerned about their music style, their programs, their schedules, and their facilities than reaching people with the gospel. Their definition of discipleship is "others taking care of my needs."

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/05/eight-signs-church-may-closing-soon/>

[Images for Eight Signs Your Church May Be Closing Soon - ThomRainer.com](#)

<https://thomrainer.com/2016/07/five-things-pray-will-not-senior-adult-church/> #4

<https://bbhchurchconnection.wordpress.com/2015/07/22/the-shift-to-preference-driven-church/>

<http://www.bpnews.net/42662/rainer-writes-autopsy-of-deceased-churches>

<http://gracebaptistasheville.org/church-news/autopsy-of-a-deceased-church-by-thom-rainer-part-4/>

[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

[24-7worship.org - What is "Worship?"](#)

The English word "worship" is derived from Old English *worthscipe*, meaning "worthiness" or "worth-ship." So, in its simplest concept, worship is to give worth to something. But Christian worship is not simply giving worth to "some thing" but is focused on the Almighty Triune God. Because of who God is, and all he has done, revealed in the many names of God used throughout the scriptures, worship, that is ascribing worth to God, involves a multiplicity of actions on our part.

http://www.24-7worship.org/pb/wp_874c8eac/wp_874c8eac.html

[Images for 24-7worship.org - What is "Worship?"](#)

[Images for Old English worthscipe, meaning "worthiness" or "worth-ship"](#)

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/worship>

<http://thinkingworship.com/tag/worth-ship/>

33) Service times

When I was growing up in the 1960s, I recall a service of worship at 11am, and when I served a two-point parish in the 1980s, the two open country congregations in dairy country switched back forth between 9am and 11am every 2 months. Starting in the summer of 2018, I served an assignment where 2 of the 3 congregations switched back and forth between 9am and 11am week to week. Now, in 2018, I know of 2 parishes with start times of 8, 9:30, and 11am but would be hard pressed to find other congregations with an 11am start time. Here in Wisconsin, when the Green and Gold play at noon, woe to the preacher who does not allow for people to get home in time to catch the noon kickoff.

At one assignment, I served two congregations where the open country congregation started the service of worship at 8:30am and the village church eleven miles away at 10:30am. The village church realigned with a city church and agreed to change their start time to 8:30am, as the start time for the city church was 10:30am. The open country church realigned with another church in a village 23 miles away. The open country congregation kept their starting time during the school year at 8:30am and moved it up to 8:15am Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The village church was used to start times of 10am during the school year and 9am during the summer and agreed to change their start times to 10:30am and 10am as a part of the shared ministry agreement. The negotiation was civil, but other times members can get worked up about starting times. The key is to ask, "What arrangement best serves the mission of the parish?" rather than trying to accommodate various personal preferences.

Resources

[\[PDF\] ELCA Multi-Point Resource - Clover Sites](#)

The **setting of worship times** appears to be a source of regular conflict. Flexibility in behalf of the whole should be emphasized.

<http://storage.cloversites.com/easternnorthdakotasynod/documents/ELCA%20MultiPointResource-1.pdf>

Page 3

[Images for setting of worship times](#)

[Seven Trends in Worship Service Times - ThomRainer.com](#)

2. **The 11:00 am worship service is no longer the designated time for a majority of churches.** The so-called sacred hour of worship is not sacred in most churches. This change started slowly, but it is pervasive now.

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/05/seven-trends-in-worship-service-times/>

[Images for Seven Trends in Worship Service Times - ThomRainer.com](#)

<https://thomrainer.com/2019/03/9-common-trends-in-church-worship-services/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/05/what-is-the-best-time-for-a-worship-service-rainer-on-leadership-221/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/02/the-disappearance-of-the-1100-am-sunday-service-rainer-on-leadership-304/>
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/02/five-reasons-1100-worship-service-disappearing/>
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/07/decline-sunday-evening-services-rainer-leadership-064/>
<http://thomrainer.com/2015/06/trends-in-worship-service-times-rainer-on-leadership-133/>
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/05/nine-rapid-changes-church-worship-services/>
 Images for thom rainer (author)

[PDF] Some Brief Definitions - The United Lutheran Parish

Church Locations and **Worship Schedules**

Page 4

<http://www.tulpchurch.com/documents/INFORMATIONPACKET.pdf>

Images for Worship Schedules

Where 20 or 30 Are Gathered: Leading Worship in the Small Church by Peter Bush, Christine O'Reilly

Rotating **service times**, we believe is fraught with difficulty. Particularly for newcomers or visitors to the community, service times and locations that keep changing present an unneeded obstacle to attendance and participation. Changing the service times may prove difficult for families in the church, as it constantly adjusts the "habit" of worship attendance.

Page 75

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997003>

<https://www.amazon.com/Where-20-Are-Gathered-Congregations/dp/1566993229>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1460110.Where_20_or_30_Are_Gathered

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/bush-and-oreilly-where-20-or-30-are-gathered.html>

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/publications/where-20-or-30-are-gathered/>

<http://worship.calvin.edu/about/authors/?slug=christine-o-reilly>

<http://worship.calvin.edu/about/authors/?slug=peter-bush>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1264314.Peter_George_Bush

Images for Where 20 or 30 Are Gathered: Leading Worship in the Small Church by Peter Bush, Christine O'Reilly

34) Whether service cancellations because of severe weather

The rule of thumb for cancellations of church activities during the week in congregations I have served has usually been that, if school is cancelled or the day shortened, then it follows that evening activities, especially for children and youth, will also be canceled, but Sundays are different as there are no precedents from the schools. I remember one January in the early 1980s where services of worship were canceled at the two open-country congregations I was serving at the time because of cold and snow on three successive Sundays. In addition, I recall a Sunday in the winter of 2007 where the lector and sexton were the only attendees. I asked them what they thought, and they said, "We're here." We went ahead with the service of worship.

The weather forecast for Sunday, 1/5/2014 was for cold temperatures and high winds. Neither seemed to materialize quite as bad as initially forecast, but it inspired a round of e-mails from pastors before and after debating the topic. It so happens that in my hymn selection some time earlier I had picked *Cold December Flies Away* for the gathering song. I quipped during the announcements that it could also be said, "Cold January comes our way."

In 2018, I was serving a multi-point parish of congregations located in unincorporated villages and open country. Heavy snow fell on the Saturday before Easter and the Tuesday after Easter, but the parish was able to hold services of worship of Easter Sunday, April 1 (no fooling). The parish was not quite so fortunate 2 weeks later. The National Weather Service warned on Saturday evening of "blizzard or near blizzard conditions... resulting in near impossible travel conditions."

Posted 1 hour ago

...HEAVY SNOW AND STRONG WINDS ACROSS NORTHWEST WISCONSIN AND PORTIONS OF MINNESOTA TONIGHT THROUGH SUNDAY NIGHT...

.An early spring storm system was affecting the region and will continue to do so into Sunday night impacting all of northwest Wisconsin and parts of northeast Minnesota. A couple periods of heavy snow will occur with this storm. One period will be this evening over northern Wisconsin into east central Minnesota with more heavy snow on Sunday. Snowfall rates could exceed an inch per hour at times, especially in northwest Wisconsin. In addition, low visibility is expected because of strong northeast winds that will accompany the falling snow. The wind will continue to be strong, especially around Lake Superior. The wind and snow will combine to produce blizzard conditions in parts of northwest Wisconsin resulting in near impossible travel conditions. A period of blizzard or near blizzard conditions could develop further west to the Twin Ports area Sunday as well.

Snow reports as of 7 pm range from 1 to 4 inches over southern portions of Sawyer and Washburn Counties and over Price County.

...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 7 PM CDT SUNDAY...

* WHAT...Heavy snow. Additional snow accumulations of 8 to 14 inches, with localized amounts up to 16 inches, are expected. Gusty winds of 30 to 35 mph will also continue.

* WHERE...In Wisconsin, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer and Price Counties. In Minnesota, Pine County.

* WHEN...Until 7 PM CDT Sunday.

* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Travel will be very difficult to impossible. Expect significant reductions in visibility at times. Snowfall reports as of 7 pm range from 1 to 4 inches over southern Washburn and Sawyer Counties into Price County.

Recommended actions

A Winter Storm Warning for snow means severe winter weather conditions will make travel very hazardous or impossible. If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency. The latest road conditions for Minnesota can be found at 511mn.org, and for Wisconsin at 511wi.gov, or by calling 511 in either state.

I communicated with leadership starting at noon on Saturday. The local television station listed 67 area church and other organization cancellations many of them in towns and cities when I last checked before going to bed.

NewsChannel 7 | Central WI, Wausau, Rhinelander | News, Weather, Sports | WSAW - Closings

School and Organization Closings and Delays

Last Updated: 04/14/2018 08:21PM

<http://www.wsaw.com/closings?r=0.8873457120582143&c=n>

Images for NewsChannel 7 | Central WI, Wausau, Rhinelander | News, Weather, Sports | WSAW - Closings

Three of the 4 churches decided on Sunday morning to cancel their service of worship, but the church next to the parsonage went ahead with their 11am service with 18 in attendance. Total snowfall on Saturday and Sunday amounted to 28 inches. What can be said for interim pastors is the importance of knowing the decision-making and reporting process ahead of time. Then, when severe weather comes, decisions and reports can be made accordingly. If there are no procedures in place, the matter can be addressed. Whereas in the past, church members may have relied on TV and radio reports, as well as phone trees for smaller congregations, now more churches post an announcement on their website home page and/or on Facebook.

First Lutheran Church

April 15 at 6:29am ·

The 10:30 Sunday Service is cancelled due to the weather and roads.

One church in a neighboring city with a population of 4,326 posted on its Facebook the image of "Keep Calm: We're Still Open." It turned out to be a **Historic April Snowstorm Hits Northcentral Wisconsin // WJFW TV-12** with reported snowfalls 18.4" to 33.0".

Resources

Inclement Weather Policy - Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church

Sunday worship will never be canceled no matter how terrible the weather is. Please use your common sense as to whether it is safe for you to venture out or not, however we will not cancel worship due to weather. Even if there are only 3 people here on a Sunday morning, we will still worship and glorify God together.

Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church in Abingdon, VA

<http://www.sinkingspring.org/sspcnews.html>

Images for inclement weather policy church

<http://www.firstbaptistcapitolhill.org/inclement-weather-policy/>

<http://www.fbcmboro.org/new-page/> Inclement Weather Policy — First Baptist Church

<http://www.centralumc.org/worship/article358739.htm> Central United Methodist Church - Asheville, NC: Worship: Snow Policy.

Images for winter weather closing church

<http://westminstergr.org/blog/tag/severe-weather>

Images for severe weather policy

http://www.cpcames.org/editoruploads/files/Policy%20Forms/Weather_Closures.pdf

Images for Weather Closures Policy

The message of canceled church services | Seven whole days

When we cancel, what messages do we send? When we hold services in adversity, what are we saying? Are there times it's right to cancel services on the Lord's Day?

<http://www.sevenwholedays.org/2013/02/10/the-message-of-canceled-church-services/>

Images for canceled church services

http://www.episcopalcafe.com/lead/liturg/under_what_circumstances_does.html

Weather as a Focus for Anxiety - Margaret Marcuson

As a pastor in Massachusetts, I usually got very anxious about whether I should cancel events or not, especially Sunday worship. Once I got curious about my response and the responses of others, it was a lot easier. Even a snowstorm can become an interesting case.

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/weather-as-a-focus-for-anxiety/>

Images for Weather as a Focus for Anxiety - Margaret Marcuson

One area pastor shared his policy if the pastor cannot make it to the service of worship because of inclement weather.

Tell people that, if they get to church and no pastor gets there, just read and discuss the readings and sing the hymns and pray the prayers.

35) Fellowship

Peter's sermon at Pentecost

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

oremus Bible Browser: Acts 2:42

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Acts+2%3A42&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>

[Images for Peter's sermon at Pentecost fellowship in acts 2](#)

One indicator for me of vibrancy in the faith community is the fellowship before and/or after services of worship. When people come late and leave early, it indicates a cool atmosphere, but when people arrive early and stay after, it indicates a warm atmosphere. My heart is encouraged when I see healthy fellowship patterns develop during the interim period.

Resources

Beyond Maintenance to Mission: A Theology of the Congregation by Craig L. Nesson (Author)

Here, in a newly revised edition, is a powerful and pertinent guide for congregations wanting to move away from "maintenance thinking" to powerful, creative engagement with the world.

Visionary yet practical, Nesson's influential book makes a persuasive case for the centrality of mission in the life of the church.

Nesson's model of mission-driven leadership is strongly centered on the community of faith's worship and draws unique connections between the worship life of a congregation and every aspect of the church's ministry. Around the twin foci of congregational identity and mission, the chapters in this dynamic book provide solid theological and radical direction on the themes of worship, education, fellowship, stewardship, evangelism, global connections, and social ministry.

7. Life in Community

The Meaning of Christian Fellowship

Egalitarian Communion

Pastor and People

<http://store.fortresspress.com/store/productgroup/463/Beyond-Maintenance-to-Mission-A-Theology-of-the-Congregation>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/463/Beyond-Maintenance-to-Mission>

http://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Maintenance-Mission-Theology-Congregation/dp/0800663268#reader_0800663268

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/people/dr-craig-l-nessan/>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/craig-l-nessan>

<https://www.amazon.com/Craig-L.-Nesson/e/B001JSAG9C>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/723724.Craig_L_Nesson

[Images for craig l. nesson \(author\)](#)

[Images for Beyond Maintenance to Mission: A Theology of the Congregation by Craig L. Nesson \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Meaning of Christian Fellowship](#)

Fellowship: Delavan First Presbyterian Church

Sharing fellowship with God and neighbor is an important part of our life as disciples at First Presbyterian Church.

<http://firstpresdelavan.org/fellowship>

[Images for sharing fellowship with God and neighbor](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Fellowship? - OpenBible.info

<http://www.openbible.info/topics/fellowship>

[Images for Bible and Fellowship](#)

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Fellowship.-Among-Believers>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/3-importance-fellowship-new-testament-church>

[PDF]Why Christians Need Fellowship

Fellowship comes from the Greek word, KOINONIA, which means "to share in common." Christian fellowship is more than attending Church — it is "assimilating" into the body of believers, becoming "one" in worshipping, loving, caring and sharing.

According to the scripture, fellowship is not an optional matter for believers. It says, "if walk in the light [in fellowship with God]

... his causes us to have fellowship with one another." And from the outcome of this fellowship, "the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

<http://www.victorious.org/felwship.htm>

[Images for Why Christians Need Fellowship](#)

36) Clarify and simplify

Sometimes, sooner rather than later, and other times, gradually, as the situation presents itself, I make changes to the format of the printed bulletin with the intent to clarify and simplify. Specifically, I include the Gathering – Word – Meal – Sending headings for the Service of Holy Communion and the Gathering – Word – Thanksgiving – Sending headings for the Service of the Word. Generally, I seek to follow more closely the terminology of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

37) Bulletin covers

When I started out in the pastoral ministry, it was normative for congregations in the American Lutheran Church to order bulletin covers from Augsburg Publishing House. A color photo adorned the front page, a message on the back page, and the blank two inside pages were used for the order of service on the left and the announcements on the right.

Bulletins - Augsburg Fortress

Weekly bulletins welcome God's people to worship through colorful, vibrant images and are available in various sizes and formats.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/285988/Bulletins>

Images for Bulletins - Augsburg Fortress

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286462/Weekly-bulletins>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286565/Seasonal-bulletins>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/SUB0000011/Weekly-Bulletin-Service-Standard>

Images for augsburgfortress/Weekly-Bulletin-Service

Now, more congregations than not, with which I am familiar, photocopy the entire bulletin, but still hang on to the notion of making a cover page. The problem comes in that many congregations, particularly smaller ones, do not subscribe to a clip art or image service. My contention is that, if a congregation does not purchase bulletin covers from the churchwide publishing house and does not purchase clip art or images, that it is simply better to forego attempts at a cover page, save time and paper, cut down on the aggravation of having to decide what is appropriate, and start out with the order of service. Besides, people are so used to such quality visuals in all the various media that it is difficult to measure up with other clip art and images.

38) Food

Food is important for the gathered assembly, not only in the Meal at the altar, but in table fellowship in the gathering area. See below a resource for recipes for communion bread as well as a resource for foods to correspond with the liturgical year.

Resources

Communionbread.org

More people are becoming interested in baking communion bread for their churches and for personal use. This website shares my own recipe as well as some thoughts concerning communion and how Jesus is represented in unleavened bread.

<http://communionbread.org/>

Images for baking communion bread

Communion Bread Recipe - Luther Seminary

Luther Seminary's communion bread recipe has been used here for more than 25 years. It is baked by Luther Seminary dining services staff and served as part of our weekly Holy Communion service in chapel each Wednesday.

This recipe is known throughout the country as one of the best tasting and easiest to make. It's become quite popular! In July 2012 Luther Seminary dining services staff baked an estimated 1900 loaves and Fed-Ex-ed them to the ELCA's youth gathering in New Orleans for their Sunday Eucharist!

http://www.luthersem.edu/resources/communion_bread_recipe.aspx

Images for Communion Bread Recipe

[PDF]What Kinds of Bread Are Used for Holy Communion - ELCA Resource Repository

What kinds of bread are used and in what form? Options and their rationale are listed below.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What_kinds_of_bread_are_used_for_Holy_Communion.pdf

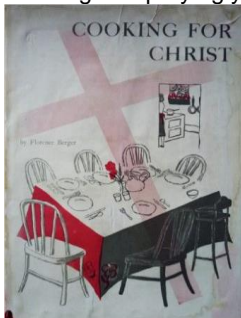
Images for What Kinds of Bread Are Used for Holy Communion - ELCA Resource Repository

<https://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship/FAQ> What kinds of bread are used in Holy Communion?

See my suggestions for food to eat at fellowship to correspond with the service of worship in 3WorshipPlanning Page 2 Calendar.

Cooking for Christ: the liturgical year in the kitchen [Florence S. Berger]

Cooking and praying your way through the Church year. An intimate family way to celebrate.



http://openlibrary.org/works/OL11743953W/Cooking_for_Christ

<http://www.amazon.com/Cooking-Christ-liturgical-year-kitchen/sim/B001CY871C/2>

[Images for \[Florence S. Berger\]](#)

[Images for Cooking for Christ: the liturgical year in the kitchen \[Florence S. Berger\]](#)

<http://catholiccuisine.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=1231>

<http://amywelborn.wordpress.com/2013/02/05/amy-welborn-cooking/>

<http://www.praytelltblog.com/index.php/2013/11/15/women-leaders-in-the-liturgical-movement-florence-berger-1909-1983/>

39) Cocktail tables in a Lutheran church

People conversed with each other in the gathering area following the Sunday early service of worship and before the late service of worship. A member of the staff came up with the idea to put in high round tables around which people could gather and place their food and drink. Sure enough, the Congregation Council went for it and ordered 4 tables, which were well received the first Sunday and thereon. When I saw a photocopy of the sales slip in the meeting packet for the Congregation Council, it described them as **cocktail tables**. I asked if they ever thought there would be cocktail tables in a Lutheran church. The president of the church women gave the tables her own designation in her newsletter column: "The Love Gifts were approved, and we elected by a unanimous vote to join the men of the church and purchase two of the new **conversation tables** for the narthex."

40) Sanitation at Holy Communion

An older member at one congregation told me about the extent of instruction for first communion in his day. The German Lutheran congregation used a common cup, and the older pastor said to the teenage boys, many of whom chewed tobacco even at that young age, "Boys. When you come to receive the cup, make sure you take that chaw out of your mouth!" Sanitation at Holy Communion receives more attention now than it did back then. The question I ask, "What did everybody do before liquid hand sanitizer?" Now, church people debate bread or wafers; common cup, individual cups, or intinction.

Resources

Holy Communion and Concerns about Infection – Discipleship Ministries

From time to time, we receive requests about how to address concerns related to the risk of infection from sharing the Lord's Supper. Such concerns deserve careful and compassionate pastoral, theological, and sacramental response. The following links should help churches engage in conversation about these matters and determine what their practices will be when celebrating Holy Communion.

<http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/holy-communion-and-concerns-about-infection>

[Images for Holy Communion and Concerns about Infection – Discipleship Ministries](#)

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/clean-hands-and-pure-hearts-hygiene-and-holy-communion>

[Images for clean-hands-and-pure-hearts-hygiene-and-holy-communion](#)

http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/what-we-believe/documents/this-holy-mystery-communion.PDF

[Images for Holy Communion and Concerns about Infection](#)

<http://articles.latimes.com/2005/jan/01/local/me-beliefs1> Does Communion Cup Runneth Over with Germs? - latimes

http://archive.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/11/08/churches_try_to_balance_communion_with_sanitary_practices_during_flu_season/

[Images for balance Communion with sanitary practices](#)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/3284951> The hazard of infection from the shared communion cup. - NCBI

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1201971213001872> Infections associated with religious rituals - ScienceDirect

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/can-you-catch-a-cold-at-communion>

[Images for Is receiving Communion sanitary?](#)

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/2014/01/13/are-church-communion-chalices-harboring-the-flu-and-other-dangerous-bacteria>

[Images for communion chalice harbors flu](#)

<https://www.poynter.org/news/tuesday-edition-holy-communion-and-flu>

[Images for holy communion and flu](#)

<http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/How-safe-is-sipping-communion-wine-from-the-same-cup-19089074>

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacred-art-and-music/influenza-and-the-liturgy.cfm>

<http://jesuslastsupper.blogspot.com/2010/01/post-8.html> The Lord's Supper: Sanitation in Communion

[Images for Sanitation in Communion](#)

Why drink from the cup? | U.S. Catholic magazine

Our short answer to anyone who asks, "Do I have to receive from the cup?" is certainly no; it is not imposed. As a concerned friend or parent, however, we might gently add, "But do you realize what you are missing?"

<http://www.uscatholic.org/church/2011/09/why-drink-cup>

[Images for Why drink from the cup? | U.S. Catholic magazine](#)

I received an email on 3/12/2020 from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson on Safe Practices for Worship in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. It included

1. Use individual cups or pouring chalice for communion. Intinction is less sanitary because so many hands are entering the cup to dip the wafer or bread.

On 3/13, I received a Message from Bishop Laurie: Updates for Ministry in the Presence of Uncertainty. It suggested

- Discontinue the Sacrament of Holy Communion for a season; think of it as fasting from communion for Lent. Use Service of the Word.

On 3/16, I received an email that urged Pastors, Deacons, SAMs and Lay Leaders of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to

LEARN TO LEAD WORSHIP ON LINE BY LIVE STREAMING

41) Pretzels for the children at Holy Communion

One congregation I came into gave pretzels to the children who did not yet receive the wafer and wine.

Resources

Children and Communion – Kids Friendly

Kids Friendly encourages churches to prayerfully consider how children are welcome and included in the sacrament of holy communion.

<http://www.kidsfriendly.org.nz/worship-together/children-and-communion/>

Images for Children and Communion – Kids Friendly

How Should Parents and the Church Welcome Children to the Lord's Supper?

Since the decision about when a child may first receive Communion in The United Methodist Church is left up to the parents/caregivers, they often struggle with the question of when their child should begin receiving the Lord's Supper.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/how-should-parents-and-the-church-welcome-children-to-the-lords-supper>

Images for Parents and the Church Welcome Children to the Lord's Supper

42) Holy Communion on Thanksgiving Eve/Day?

Some congregations offer Holy Communion on Thanksgiving Eve/Day. This is thought to emphasize unity when offered at a community service with various congregations participating.

A Service of Holy Communion for Thanksgiving - Discipleship Ministries

This order of service may be used on Thanksgiving Eve, Day, or the Sunday closest to Thanksgiving Day.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-service-of-holy-communion-for-thanksgiving>

Images for A Service of Holy Communion for Thanksgiving - Discipleship Ministries

Most of the congregations I serve use a Service of the Word for Thanksgiving Eve/Day. My thought is that Thanksgiving is an occasion that is civil religion, so that a Service of the Word with many songs of praise and thanksgiving by the assembly as well as selections by musicians is more appropriate.

American civil religion - Wikipedia

American civil religion is a [sociological theory](#) that a nonsectarian quasi-religious faith exists within the [United States](#) with sacred symbols drawn from national history. Scholars have portrayed it as a cohesive force, a common set of values that foster social and cultural integration.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_civil_religion

Images for American civil religion

43) Shall the elements of Holy Communion be extended to a Muslim?

I heard afterwards that a congregation I served as an interim pastor extended the elements to a Muslim foreign exchange student who came forward with her sponsors. A neighboring pastor, who believed that the elements are to be extended to baptized Christians but wanted to extend hospitality at the altar, talked to her before the service of worship when she visited the church he was serving. He asked her if it would be acceptable to give her the Muslim blessing instead of the elements.

How to Bless a Muslim | Synonym

For Muslims, blessings are always made as an invocation to Allah to protect and bless the person in question. In Muslim tradition, asking Allah to bless those around you is common. It is incorporated in greeting, expressions of thanks and welcome, when talking about the Prophet and his companions, and even after someone sneezes. While these blessings may seem small, they are daily reminders for Muslims of their devotion to their faith.

<https://classroom.synonym.com/how-to-bless-a-muslim-12086140.html>

Images for How to Bless a Muslim | Synonym

She found that gesture meaningful.

[PDF]Table and font: Who is welcome? - ELCA Resource Repository

Who is welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion? This question, sometimes described as a matter of "eucharistic hospitality," is answered in a variety of ways by Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations. A generation ago the question focused primarily on the invitation of all Christians to the table. Today the question has broadened, asking whether those who have not been baptized may be invited to receive Holy Communion. The Church

Council of the ELCA has invited members, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization into conversation and study regarding this question. This conversation also presents an opportunity for congregations to reflect on "The Use of the Means of Grace," the ELCA's statement on the practice of word and sacrament, in its entirety.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Table_and_Font_Study_Guide.pdf

Images for Table and font: Who is welcome? - ELCA Resource Repository

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/The_Use_Of_The_Means_Of_Grace.pdf

Images for ELCA Resource Repository/The Use Of The Means Of Grace

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5981/The-Use-of-the-Means-of-Grace>

<https://www.amazon.com/use-means-grace-statement-sacrament/dp/0806636483>

44) Creed

The rubric from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) states that "*The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and other times.*" (page 104)

In addition, I include variety in the use of a creed. During the Sundays of Advent, I use an Advent Creed. **An Advent Creed: re:Worship** On the Nativity of Our Lord, Holy Cross Day, and Reformation Day, I use the *What does this mean?* explanation from The Second Article of The Creed in the Small Catechism of Martin Luther. On Beginning a New Year and on Faith in Daily Life (Labor Day Weekend), I use the *What does this mean?* explanation from The First Article of The Creed in the Small Catechism of Martin Luther. On the Baptism of Our Lord, I use the Profession of Faith and Affirmation by the Assembly (ELW, pages 235, 237). When Holy Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation, reception into membership) is included in the service of worship, Holy Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism take the place of the creed, since the creed is included. The rubric for Affirmation of Baptism in ELW (page 234) states that "The order may be adapted for use by the whole assembly. Appropriate times for use include the Baptism of our Lord, the Vigil of Easter, the Day of Pentecost, All Saints Day, and significant occasions in the life of a congregation, such as an anniversary." And on the Day of Pentecost, I use the *What does this mean?* explanation from The Third Article of The Creed in the Small Catechism of Martin Luther. In the past, I have used the Athanasian Creed on The Holy Trinity in the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW). Unfortunately, this creed is not included in the ELW. It can be printed out and made into a litany **[PDF] The Athanasian Creed**. On the Commemoration of Patrick, Missionary to Ireland, I use **I Bind unto Myself Today - Lutheran Hymnal**. On Stewardship of Creation, an Affirmation: All Creation can be used **Affirmation: All Creation: re:Worship**. On the Blessing of Fathers, the *What does this mean?* explanation from the Introduction of The Lord's Prayer in the Small Catechism of Martin Luther can be used.

There are other ways of using creeds in worship, both spoken and sung as listed below. The sung version from Peace Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church is sung to the tune of Hymn to Joy 8787D as used in Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.

Resources

Best 25+ Apostles creed ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/apostles-creed/>

Images for apostles creed pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/nicene-creed/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/430375308128746785/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/yankeebell/apostles-creed/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/absolutewebdev/apostles-creed/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/565835140656115688/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/triomomkent/apostles-creed/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/nicene-creed-catholic/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/emilyeggz/apostles-creed/>

I Believe (The Apostles' Creed)

A hymn of the Apostles' Creed

I Believe

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D ("Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken")

carolynshymns.com: I Believe

http://carolynshymns.com/i_believe.html

Images for I Believe (The Apostles' Creed) *A hymn of the Apostles' Creed*

<https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9780664501341/gifts-of-love-new-hymns-for-todays-worship/>

Ideas for Using Creeds in Worship - Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Here are ideas for how to incorporate the creeds into a series of services, music, art, and specific places within the order of worship.

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/ideas-for-using-creeds-in-worship/>

Images for Ideas for Using Creeds in Worship - Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

[PDF] Sunday School Children's Christmas Program - Peace Lutheran Church

The Apostles' Creed (Sung) Verses 1, 2 – Children; verse 3 – Congregation

I believe in God the Father, Maker of the heav'n and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, our Savior; God's own Son of human birth.

Virgin-born, the Lord incarnate, Whom the Spirit did conceive;

Suffered under Pontius Pilate; He's the God whom I believe!

Crucified, was dead and buried; Down to hell in victory;
From the dead, he rose the third day; Up to heav'n triumphantly.
There at God's right hand he's ruling, By his will the world is led.
He will come to judge the nations, Both the living and the dead.
I believe in God the Spirit, In his Church, his chosen band.
They are joined in sweet communion, Holy in his sight they stand.
I believe in sins forgiven' I believe I'll rise again; I believe in life eternal.
Amen! A-amen! A-a-men!

http://peacemankato.com/download/bulletins/2016_bulletins/161218-SS-Childrens-Program-full.pdf

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http://www.goodshepherdplymouth.com/home/180011171/180011171/docs/Reformation%20Sunday%20November%201%20-and-%202%20Series%20B.pdf?sec_id=180011171

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Images for Apostles' Creed (Sung)

Sung versions of the Apostles Creed | Cardiphonia

Here are a number of versions of the Apostles Creed that artists have put to song.

<https://cardiphonia.org/2014/06/24/sung-versions-of-the-apostles-creed/>

Images for Sung versions of the Apostles Creed | Cardiphonia

This I Believe (The Creed) Song Story | Collected - Hillsong Church

As this album is released, our prayer for this song, as a musical and creative representation of the Apostles' Creed, will help bring people together around what we all believe to be most true; in unity with one another and ultimately with God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

<http://hillsong.com/collected/blog/2014/07/this-i-believe-the-creed-song-story/#.Wly-ixsrKUK>

Images for This I Believe (The Creed) Song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6UVF_uYIPk Hillsong Worship feat Ben Fielding - This I Believe (The Creed) from the album NO OTHER NAME - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdQKWbV8c5w> Hillsong Worship - This I Believe (The Creed) Story behind the song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqfLu29dSRQ> This I Believe (The Creed) Interview – YouTube

Images for This I Believe (The Creed) song – YouTube

45) Lord's Prayer

Occasionally, I attend a service of worship at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rice Lake, Wisconsin when I am using allotted vacation. The assembly joins raised hands and sings the Lord's Prayer.

Singing the Lord's Prayer by Albert H. Malotte at an organ driven service can be particularly moving. One congregation I served used this custom the first Sunday of each month for a service of Holy Communion. The members of the assembly knelt at the altar rail for the distribution of the elements.

Resources

The Lord's Prayer Sheet Music | OnlineSheetMusic.com

<http://www.onlinesheetmusic.com/the-lords-prayer-p374637.aspx>

Images for The Lord's Prayer Sheet Music | OnlineSheetMusic.com

The Lords Prayer sung by Andrea Bocelli - YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50dLkv7v2TQ>

Images for Lords Prayer sung - YouTube

A hymn version of the Lord's Prayer is "Our Father, God in Heaven Above" by Martin Luther

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 747. Our Father, God in heaven above

www.hymnary.org/hymn/ELW2006/747

Images for Evangelical Lutheran Worship 747. Our Father, God in heaven above

There are other more informal sung versions of the Lord's Prayer that can add variety to this practice.

Resources

A New version of the sung Lord's Prayer - YouTube

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rl_CuGDNz8M

Images for A New version of the sung Lord's Prayer - YouTube

ARAMAEUS (The Prayer) The Lords Prayer sung in Aramaic. - Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/120612096244993881/>

Images for ARAMAEUS (The Prayer) The Lords Prayer sung in Aramaic. - Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/lord-s-prayer/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/120612096244993881/> ARAMAEUS (The Prayer) The Lord's Prayer sung in Aramaic (audio only)

<https://www.pinterest.com/caranjoseph/lord-s-prayer/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/revmaryhawes/the-lord-s-prayer/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/sargri/bible-the-lords-prayer/>
[Images for pinterest/bible-the-lords-prayer](#)

Lord's Prayer - African Sanctus - YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIW0FRKi7WY>
[Images for Lord's Prayer - African Sanctus - YouTube](#)

Lord's Prayer sung to Away in a Manger
<http://www.sandprairielutheran.org/lords-prayer-sung-to-away-in-a-manger.html>
[Images for Lord's Prayer sung to Away in a Manger](#)
<https://sjbrown58.wordpress.com/2008/12/07/what-does-the-lords-prayer-and-away-in-a-manger-have-in-common/>
<http://cpcnews.files.wordpress.com/2008/03/12-24-10-bulletin-christmas-eve.pdf>

LORD' PRAYER: (Sung to the tune of "It Came upon the Midnight Clear")
[PDF] Bulletin for December 5, 2010 - Grace United Methodist Church
www.jaxgrace.org/bulletins/Bulletin-20101205.pdf

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Our Father from Mass of Joy, by Marie-Jo Thum - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQK03QEOfXo>
[Images for Our Father from Mass of Joy, by Marie-Jo Thum - YouTube\](#)
<http://www.ocp.org/compositions/8276>

The Lord's Prayer - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzpmR4sTB40>
<http://tidido.com/a35184374359689/al55f174b5a5f39075738e395b/t55f174b6a5f39075738e3a24>
[Images for Lord's Prayer - YouTube](#)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itcG6H_94RI The Lord's Prayer Calypso Version - YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5ShLPPGFTY> The Lord's Prayer (Sung) - YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x2XJXtynXA> The Lord's Prayer, New Version - YouTube
[Images for The Lord's Prayer, New Version - YouTube](#)

A version of the Lord's Prayer was given to me (original source unknown) to be sung to the tune of "Amazing Grace."

Our Father, Lord in Heav'n above, Most holy be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth in Heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need; Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead; From evil set us free.
Yours is the kingdom Yours the pow'r, And Yours the majesty.
So shall it be from this glad hour and to eternity.

46) Change in technology leads to the use of more paper

When I started out in the pastoral ministry in 1980, the congregations in the two-point parish purchased **Bulletins - Augsburg Fortress**. The front page displayed a picture, and the back page gave a reflection on the texts. The inside left page printed the order for the service of worship, and the right side the announcements. The church secretary used a \$50 electric typewriter and a \$100 stencil duplicator in the basement of her farm home. I gave the material to the church secretary for as many as 3 Sundays at a time, and then picked up the bulletins from her mailbox. With the advent of the desktop computer and digital duplicator, congregations moved away from the purchased bulletin covers and printed ever larger booklets. The question can be asked, "Are these booklets the best stewardship of physical and personnel resources?"

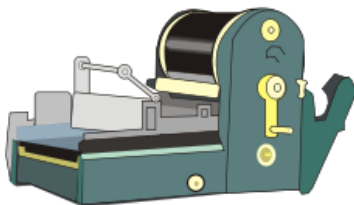
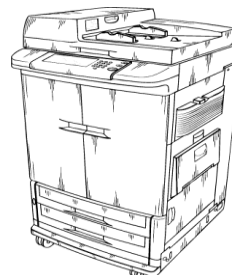


Illustration of a typical mimeograph machine
[Mimeograph - Wikipedia](#)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mimeograph_technology/photocopier.png.html
[Images for Mimeograph](#)



Free photocopier Clipart
[Free Clip Art Now](#)
<https://www.freecartnow.com/electronics->
[Images for photocopier](#)

47) Trees for Jesus

A treasurer objected to the sizeable overrun in the cost of photocopying. I worked with the church secretary to reduce the number of pages in the bulletins, which had grown large from printing the entire service of worship including lessons and hymns.

Save a tree. Shrink your Sunday bulletin. | Episcopal Cafe

Can we have Spirit-filled liturgy without millions of reams of paper discarded each Sunday?

http://www.episcopalcafe.com/save_a_tree_shrink_your_sunday_bulletin/

[Images for Save a tree. Shrink your Sunday bulletin. | Episcopal Cafe](#)

48) Whether printed bulletins

I finished one assignment on 4/15/2020 and the assignment I was scheduled to start on 4/16 fell through, so I ended up on leave from call. I listened to the ELCA service of worship on the local radio station on Sunday at 9am while they were practicing social distancing because of the threat of the virus, then attended in-person services of worship at the Evangelical Free Church at 10:30am or the Wesleyan Church at 11am, and the Roman Catholic Church mass on Sunday at 5:30pm or Tuesday at 5:30pm. Though dissimilar liturgical styles, the one thing the evangelical and Catholic churches shared in common is that they did not use printed bulletins for the service of worship. I thought back over the past 40 years and realized all the work that went into those printed bulletins...

49) On not over-functioning as a worship leader

Each congregation possesses its own rhythm and style of worship. I seek to apprehend and honor the heritage. At the same time, I try to avoid over-functioning as a worship leader and use only as many explanations or promptings as is needful.

Resources

The Drawback of an Over-functioning Leader | Leadership

Over-functioning can be defined as: "Doing for others what they can and should do for themselves." One way to remind yourself to work hard at avoiding this is to remember the following five truths:

<http://www.leadership.com.sg/person/self-leadership/the-drawbacks-of-an-over-functioning-leader/#.WMHsIDvyuUk>

[Images for Over-functioning Leader](#)

What does the Bible say about the position of worship leader?

Answer: Because the term "worship leader" means so many different things to so many people, it is always best to see what Scripture has to say about the role of worship and those who lead corporate worship.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/worship-leader.html>

[Images for lead corporate worship](#)

50) Intercessions are prayers and not homilies or announcements

I use prepared Prayers of Intercession from Sundays & Seasons worship planning guide from Augsburg Fortress and adapt them to the local context. This practice keeps me honest so that I do not end up making the prayers of intercession a continuation of the sermon or announcements.

Resources

1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43 Commentary by Cameron B. R. Howard - Working Preacher.org

Have you ever heard a public prayer in a worship service do "double duty," announcing something to the congregation even while ostensibly addressing God in praise, confession, thanksgiving, or petition?

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1704

https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=choward002

https://www.luthersem.edu/photos/facultypublish/CVs/Howard_Aug_2015_circ.pdf

[Images for Cameron B. R. Howard](#)

How to Lead the Prayers: A Training Course by Anna de Lange (Author), Liz Simpson (Author)

Leading the intercessions is a vital part of public worship. Yet - in contrast to those who sing, play musical instruments, preside or preach - there is little formal training available.

This interactive course can be used by individuals or groups. It is designed to give those who lead the prayers fresh confidence and a chance to reflect on what they are doing and inject creative new life into this important ministry.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Lead-Prayers-Worship-Anna-Lange/dp/1851744940>

https://books.google.com/books/about/How_To_Lead_the_Prayers.html?id=HFkZAAAACAAJ

<http://www.knockholtandhalsteadchurches.org/content/pages/documents/1437058180.pdf>

http://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/uploads/327/Intercessions_guide-pdf.html

<http://www.zoominfo.com/p/Anna-de%20Lange/1082762079>

<https://grovebooks.co.uk/collections/all/anna-de-lange>

<https://grovebooks.co.uk/collections/all/liz-simpson>

<https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/w-169-how-to-lead-the-prayers-a-training-course>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/55698.Liz_Simpson

[Images for Anna de Lange \(Author\) how to lead the prayers](#)

[Images for How to Lead the Prayers: A Training Course by Anna de Lange \(Author\), Liz Simpson \(Author\)](#)

Leading Common Worship Intercessions: A Simple Guide by Doug Chaplin (Author)

This concise, plain-speaking book is designed to help anyone who leads intercessions to do so as well as they are able. Drawing on the author's extensive experience as a parish priest and trainer, it contains wisdom both for those leading intercessions for the first time and those with many years of experience. Taking a sensible, down-to-earth approach, it offers: Sample forms of intercession based on Common Worship, Alternatives to the more common forms, Important dos and don'ts, Ideas for creative ways to develop intercessions, Practical exercises and checklists.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Leading-Common-Worship-Intercessions-Chaplin/dp/0715142003>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0715142003>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Leading_Common_Worship_Intercessions.html?id=V_U5HGokbTYC

<http://www.fossedeane.org.uk/faith/intercessions3.pdf>

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715142004/leading-common-worship-intercessions>

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/authors/doug-chaplin>

<http://www.dougchaplin.uk/about/>

<http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/author/doug-chaplin/>

Images for Doug Chaplin (Author) worship intercessions

Images for Leading Common Worship Intercessions: A Simple Guide by Doug Chaplin (Author)

Prayers of Intercession for Common Worship [Susan Sayers]

A beautifully produced lectern book with Intercessions for every Sunday of Common Worship. Written by Susan Sayers, the country's most trusted, consistent and popular writer on prayer and worship, they pick up people's needs and aspirations in simple, elegant language.

<http://www.amazon.com/Prayers-Intercession-Common-Worship-Sayers/dp/1840034734>

http://www.kevinmayhew.com/common-worship-prayers-of-intercession-softback.html#Vp_wlvkrKUK

<http://www.kevinmayhew.com/info/contributors/susan-sayers.html?store=default>

<http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/assets/downloads/Departments/ministry/Leading%20Worship/Praying%20in%20Public.pdf>

<https://www.amazon.com/Susan-Sayers/e/B0034OYY56>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/114901.Susan_Sayers

Images for Susan Sayers, author

Images for Prayers of Intercession for Common Worship [Susan Sayers]

The assembly prays - Living Lutheran

The prayers of intercession, spoken for the needs of the church, the world and all people, have been included in Christian worship since the second century. These follow the proclamation of the word of God in readings and preaching and are a response to that life-giving word. In sure and confident hope of God's grace in Jesus Christ, these prayers express the assembly's particular concerns for the whole world and for all people. Before Holy Communion, the community turns outward, recognizing that the grace offered in word and sacrament is for the sake of the whole world.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2013/04/assembly-prays/>

Images for assembly prays - Living Lutheran

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

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

The Intercessions Handbook: Creative Ideas for Public and Private Prayer [John Pritchard]

This handbook provides examples of good practice and sample prayers for a broad spectrum - traditional services, all-age worship, small-group prayer and personal devotions. It includes ideas for improving presentation and contains material for seasons, major festivals and special events. In two introductory chapters, John Pritchard considers the importance and challenges of the vital task of intercession. He then offers practical examples of intercessions in traditional services, all-age worship, small groups and personal devotions.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Intercessions-Handbook-Creative-Private/dp/0281049793>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0281074046>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Leading_Intercessions.html?id=4d-BVey4oJIC

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/6966727.Bishop_John_Pritchard

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Pritchard_\(bishop\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Pritchard_(bishop))

Images for john pritchard author, the intercession handbook

Images for The Intercessions Handbook: Creative Ideas for Public and Private Prayer [John Pritchard]

51) Prayers from the assembly

At one parish I served, the ushers handed the prayer petitions to various members as they walked in and asked them to read 1 or 2.

Narrative Lectionary Resources – freedfromfreedfor.org

Prayers of Intercession:

<https://freedfromfreedfor.org/category/narrative-lectionary-resources/>

Images for Prayers of Intercession

52) What about those verbal announcements?

Different congregations follow different customs regarding verbal announcements. I try to learn local customs ASAP. For instance, do members regularly get up and give announcements? I make it a point not to read the announcements from the bulletin, but instead to highlight upcoming service of worship events.

Resources

A Theology for Announcements in Worship | Alan Rudnick

Here's a few different ways of looking at church announcements:

<http://www.alanrudnick.org/2012/10/15/a-theology-for-announcements-in-worship/>

Images for Theology for Announcements in Worship | Alan Rudnick

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

http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/alan_rudnick

<http://blog.timesunion.com/rudnick/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/alanrudnick>

Nine Observations about Announcements in Worship Services – Thom Rainer

To have or not to have announcements in the worship services? That is the question many church leaders ask today. And, indeed, there are several tendencies or trends related to announcements, and they are often related to the size of the church. I asked a number of church leaders of congregations of varying sizes about their practices in this area. They pretty much confirmed what I am seeing as well. Here are my nine observations:

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/01/07/nine-observations-announcements-worship-services/>

Images for Nine Observations about Announcements in Worship Services – Thom Rainer

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/04/why-church-announcements-cause-problems-rainer-on-leadership-220/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/04/five-reasons-church-announcements-cause-problems/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/10/10-ways-to-improve-announcements-in-your-church/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/02/make-announcements-worship-services-rainer-leadership-098/>

<https://defininggrace.com/communication/better-church-announcements/>

Images for thom rainer (author)

Ten Tips for Better Church Announcements: Dan Wunderlich

You will notice a theme running through these resources: TOO MUCH. In some churches I have visited, the announcements have run close to 10 minutes. If this is an hour-long service, that is 1/6th of your service time. That's a half to a third of a typical sermon. How much do you really expect people to remember? And as I wrote in a post about the beginning of the worship service, that expectation should go down even further if there is going to be 55 minutes or more of hopefully-engaging worship participation following the announcements.

Here are some thoughts I had about better church announcements

Dan Wunderlich: Ten Tips for Better Church Announcements

<https://alban.org/2015/08/28/dan-wunderlich-ten-tips-for-better-church-announcements/>

Images for Ten Tips for Better Church Announcements: Dan Wunderlich

<https://alban.org/category/featured-posts/page/2/>

<https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/34269647149379548/> Discover ideas about Announcement How To Make Your Church Announcements More Effective

<https://alban.org/category/worship/>

<http://missionaryrenegade2013.blogspot.com/2015/08/ten-tips-for-better-church.html>

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

http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/dan_wunderlich

https://twitter.com/defininggrace?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor/all/author

53) Welcome

"Good morning and welcome to worship. A special welcome to those who may be visiting with us. Today is..." is how I begin the welcome and announcements. I avoid the "Good morning," (pause) and then the response, "Good morning." The latter sounds too Howdy Doody to me, and I want the service of worship greeting and response to be the greeting.

Howdy Doody - YouTube

The Howdy Doody Show was one of the first and by far the most popular children's television shows in the 1950's and a reflection of the wonder, technical fascination and business realities associated with early television.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dlslhp9vqgw>

Images for Howdy Doody - YouTube

54) Firm handshake

Pastors greet people before and after the service of worship as well as the sharing of the peace during the service of worship. What makes for a good handshake?

Why Your Handshake Matters (and How to Get it Right) - Forbes

While analyzing interactions in job interviews, management experts at the [University of Iowa](#) declared handshakes “more important than agreeableness, conscientiousness, or emotional stability.” And seven other studies have shown that a handshake can improve the quality of an interaction, producing a higher degree of intimacy and trust within a matter of seconds.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dailymuse/2012/07/19/why-your-handshake-matters-and-how-to-get-it-right/#3f6690bb2421>

Images for Why Your Handshake Matters (and How to Get it Right) - Forbes

<http://www.forbesindia.com/article/harvard-business-school/shaky-business-how-handshakes-win-negotiations/51571/1>

Images for business-how-handshakes-win-negotiations

55) To hug or not?

I do not initiate hugs. I figure in this heightened social sensitivity about safe touch I want to be safe rather than sorry.

7 Sexual Lines No Pastor Should Cross - Outreach Magazine

2. Do not hug women.

One pastor said he hugs no one between the ages of 6 and 66.

To the minister who says, “I am a toucher and people need to be hugged,” I reply: a) Let women hug women and men hug men, if necessary and appropriate. And b) In most cases, your “touching” indicates some physical or emotional need in yourself, and is not what healthy ministers do.

Even if your intentions are pure, you make yourself vulnerable to charges of inappropriate touching. And—do not miss this—in the minds of many, to be charged is to be convicted. Best to guard against these dangers.

<https://outreachmagazine.com/features/17103-7-sexual-lines-no-pastor-should-cross.html>

Images for 7 Sexual Lines No Pastor Should Cross - Outreach Magazine. Do not hug women.

56) Flowers for festivals

Exhortations to godliness

²⁴For “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵but the word of the Lord endures forever.” That word is the good news that was announced to you.

oremus Bible Browser: 1 Peter 1:24-25

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=1+Peter+1%3A24-25&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>

Images for flesh is like grass

Poinsettias for Christmas, lilies for Easter, geraniums for Pentecost, and mums for Thanksgiving. Oftentimes, congregations employ a practice of people buying flowers for these seasons of the church year. I honor these traditions but do not push the purchase of flowers. I want the main thing to be the main thing.

57) Poinsettias, palms, lilies, and geraniums

Even if people come to proverbially “see the poinsettias, palms, lilies, and geraniums,” I want to give them Jesus born, lived, crucified, and raised.

Pictures for Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Beltsville, MD

Altar with Geraniums

<http://www.merchantcircle.com/abiding-presence-lutheran-church-beltsville-md/picture/gallery>

Images for poinsettias in church

Images for palms in church

Images for lilies in church

Resources

CEO (Christmas/Easter Only) Christians – Thom Rainer

The need is for congregations across America to take seriously what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

http://thomrainer.com/2011/04/ceo_christmaseaster_only_christians/

Images for CEO (Christmas/Easter Only) Christians – Thom Rainer

http://www.goodreads.com/author_blog_posts/1137672-ceo-christmas-easter-only-christians

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/04/11-reasons-pastors-struggle-easter/> #4

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/03/the-four-common-high-attendance-days-in-churches/>

chreaster, Christmas and Easter Christian

Chreasters are folks who show up to church only about twice a year... on Christmas and Easter. Christmas + Easter = Chreaster! *Chreasters* go by many names... Chreastians, twice-a-year Christians, Christmas-and-Easter Christians, holiday Christians, and even some really clever ones such as holly-and-lily Christians and poinsettia-and-lily Christians (since those are the plants associated with each church holiday). However, you might be tempted to refer to these Christians who straggle into church in their best clothes twice a year to do their due diligence, try to cut them a little slack. Go on over and say hello!

<http://www.dictionaryofchristianese.com/chreaster-chreastian-c-and-e-christian-ceo-christian-christmas-and-easter-christian/>

Images for chreaster, Christmas and Easter Christian

Growing divide between 'practicing Catholics' and 'cultural Catholics'

Lingo lesson: Some use 'cradle Catholic' to identify those raised Catholic who remain active in the church as adults; it is often used to distinguish those raised in the faith and those who converted as adults. The term 'cultural Catholic' is just one term for someone who was raised Catholic but is not active in the church. Some use 'lapsed Catholics'. There are also a other labels (albeit pejorative ones), that highlight those that attend mass only on major holidays:

Two-Timers

Chr'easters or Chreasters ('Christmas' and 'Easter' combined)

Poinsettia & Lily Catholics

C&E Catholics (Christmas and Easter)

CEOs (Christmas and Easter Only)

CASE Catholics (Christmas and Sometimes Easter)

CAPE or PACE Catholics (Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter)

<http://tobingrant.religionnews.com/2014/02/10/graphs-growing-divide-practicing-catholics-cultural-catholics/>

Images for Poinsettia & Lily Catholics

Lapsed Catholic - Wikipedia

Colloquial names

Some lapsed Catholics attend [Mass](#) on special occasions like [Christmas](#) and [Easter](#). Such lapsed Catholics are colloquially referred to by such terms as [Cultural Catholics](#), Two-Timers, Chreasters, ^{[21][22]} C&E Catholics, ^[23] Poinsettia & Lily Catholics, ^[22] APEC (Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter, and Christmas), CEOs (Christmas and Easter Only), CAPE Catholics (Christmas, Ash [Wednesday], Palm [Sunday], Easter), PACE Catholics (Palm [Sunday], Ash [Wednesday], Christmas, Easter), CASE Catholics (Christmas and Sometimes Easter), CMEs (Christmas, [Mother's Day](#) and Easter), or A&P Catholics (for [Ash Wednesday](#) and [Palm Sunday](#)). ^[24]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lapsed_Catholic

Images for Lapsed Catholic

There's Only One Me! - Page 144 - Google Books Result

Ann Landers once did a column listing all the excuses people use for not going to church on Sunday morning. My pastor let me do a *No Excuses Sunday* based on that column. I worked hard finding all the items I needed, but the visual representation spoke volumes. I had poinsettias and lilies for the people who only come on Christmas and Easter.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1602472815>

https://books.google.com/books/about/There_s_Only_One_Me.html?id=sH5tJoz_UxsC

<https://www.amazon.com/Theres-Only-One-Doris-Bookhart/dp/1602472815>

Images for poinsettias and lilies for the people who only come on Christmas and Easter

58) When does the evergreen tree go up?

I once road with a group of older men in their pick-up trucks out into the woods through the snow to cut down an evergreen tree for the church. The tradition was that the tree had to be at least as high as the ceiling in the open country church. To get a tree too short was worse than getting a tree too tall even if it meant that only the most daring person climbed the ladder to hang the ornaments at the top. One would have thought these men were acting like school boys in their excitement. The practice never got old.

Why Do We Have Christmas Trees? | Christian History

The custom gained popularity throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, against the protests of some clergy. Lutheran minister Johann von Dannhauer, for instance, complained (like Tertullian) that the symbol distracted people from the true evergreen tree, Jesus Christ. But this did not stop many churches from setting up Christmas trees inside the sanctuary. Alongside the tree often stood wooden "pyramids"—stacks of shelves bearing candles, sometimes one for each family member. Eventually these pyramids of candles were placed on the tree, the ancestors of our modern Christmas tree lights and ornaments.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/thepastinthepresent/storybehind/whychristmastrees.html>

Images for Why Do We Have Christmas Trees? | Christian History

Images for true evergreen tree, Jesus Christ

At another congregation, I wondered what the young birch trees were doing lying in the yard only to find out later that they were erected to typify the barrenness of Advent. These would be replaced with evergreen trees after 4 Advent and prior to Christmas Eve to typify the symbol of life.

Sundays and Seasons: Guide to Worship Planning / Year A, 2005

One way to make connections between seasons, especially for regions experiencing the coming of winter, is to space bare trees around the chancel or worship center as a sign of Advent. As long as it does not harm the environment, clumps of birch or large branches can be anchored in clay pots and set in visible places around the worship room. Page 22

<http://sundaysandseasons.com/>

Images for bare trees as a sign of advent

Some congregations put up the evergreen tree(s) ASAP after Thanksgiving, while others wait closer to Christmas.

Best 20+ Church christmas decorations ideas on Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/church-christmas-decorations/>
Images for Church christmas decorations ideas on Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/417497827931400058/> Church Christmas Decorating Ideas
<https://www.pinterest.com/gailfinken/church-christmas/>

59) Flowers at the altar

A volunteer custodian at a small congregation asked me, "What is your idea about flowers at the altar?" She went on to explain that sometimes the president's wife came up with imitation floral arrangements.

Resources

Are artificial flowers allowed on the altar? - Crux Now

In the year 2000, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops published liturgical guidelines under the title "Built of Living Stones." That document says in No. 129 that "the use of living flowers and plants, rather than artificial greens, serves as a reminder of the gift of life God has given to the human community."

But those words speak to a preference rather than a prohibition.

Finally, to go back to your question, if by "on the altar" you really did mean the table of the eucharistic sacrifice, then the General Instruction of the Roman Missal is quite clear when it says in No. 305 that floral decoration should always "be arranged around the altar rather than on the altar table."

<https://cruxnow.com/church/2015/09/21/can-artificial-flowers-be-on-the-altar-in-a-catholic-church/>
Images for Are artificial flowers allowed on the altar?

Are there guidelines for placing flowers in the sanctuary? - The United Methodist Church

There is no church policy prohibiting artificial flowers, however, according to the principle of integrity for worship, no appointments in the sanctuary should appear to be something they are not. **United Methodist Altars: A Guide for the Congregation** includes a section on the proper uses of flowers for worship, which says,

"Since flowers symbolize the resurrection, and in keeping with the principle of integrity, no type of artificial flower or plant is appropriate to the environment of worship." The "principle of integrity" means that "everything should express to the worshiper the qualities of truth, integrity, simplicity, and purity. Anything that expresses falseness or pretense, or that is gaudy or cheaply ornate, should be avoided."

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/are-there-guidelines-for-placing-flowers-in-the-sanctuary>
Images for guidelines for placing flowers in the sanctuary

60) Be prepared

I used to wake up at 5am to deliver The Des Moines Register in grades 6-12. I also participated in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Now, I make it a practice of arriving at the church between 6 and 6:30am on Sunday to be prepared for the service(s) of worship. When I served a multi-point parish with services at 8, 9:30, 11am I arrived at the open country church 8 miles from the parsonage by 7am.

Be Prepared - Scout Sunday - Sermon Central

OPEN: A bricklayer had an accident at work and filed following insurance report:

On the day of my accident I was working alone on the roof of a 6-story building. When I completed my work, I discovered that I had about 500 pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which was attached to the side of the building at the top of the 6th floor.

I loaded the brick into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, which I held tightly to insure a slow descent of the 500 pounds of brick. Unfortunately, I only weigh 135 pounds... and the weight of the barrel jerked me off the ground.

This happened so suddenly, that I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded up the side of the building at a rapid rate of speed.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my broken arm and shattered collar bone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent up the side of the building, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand rammed into the pulley. This explains my two broken fingers.

At approximately the same time, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel and spilled the bricks all over the ground.

The barrel now weighed approximately fifty pounds.

Still holding onto the rope I began a rapid decent down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the 3rd floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the 2 fractured ankles and the dislocation of my left kneecap.

Slowed only slightly, I landed directly on the pile of bricks beneath me, and this explains the 3 cracked vertebrae in my back.

Finally, as I lay there on the bricks in pain, unable to stand, and watching that empty barrel six stories above me, relieved that it was over... I let go of the rope.

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/be-prepared--scout-sunday-jeff-strite-sermon-on-david-76122.asp>
Images for Be Prepared - Scout Sunday - Sermon Central

Resources

Best 25+ Be prepared ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/be-prepared/>

Images for be prepared pinterest

https://www.pinterest.com/allison_drake/be-prepared/

<https://www.pinterest.com/momwithaprep/be-prepared/>

<https://au.pinterest.com/explore/be-prepared/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/ssain/be-prepared/>

How I Prepare Myself for Worship | CT Pastors - Christianity Today

Different forms of private prayer can make a difference in public worship.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/1990/summer/90I3080.html>

Images for pastor prepare for sunday worship

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-do-you-prepare-for-sunday>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/lord-tune-my-heart-for-worship>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/preparing-for-sunday-worship/>

<https://churchleaders.com/worship/worship-articles/297136-ways-really-prepare-worship-david-manner.html>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Lead-Worship> Part 1 Prepare Before the Service

I Will Prepare for Worship - ThomRainer.com

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/05/will-prepare-worship/>

Images for I Will Prepare for Worship - ThomRainer.com

Personal Preparation for Worship | Reformed Worship

<http://www.reformedworship.org/article/june-1988/personal-preparation-worship>

Images for Personal Preparation for Worship | Reformed Worship

Robert Baden-Powell Quotes - Tropa 300

Be Prepared... the meaning of the motto is that a scout must prepare himself by **previous thinking out and practicing how to act** on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise.

<http://tropa300.weebly.com/robert-baden-powell-quotes.html>

Images for Be Prepared scout motto

[Images for previous thinking out and practicing how to act](#)

61) Double Check

Watching the State Farm commercial about the football referee forgetting to check his mic while consulting other referees on a play reminds me of the importance to double check.

State Farm Discount Double Check TV Spot, 'Still On' - iSpot.tv

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers stars in this State Farm commercial. He runs into Doug the referee who regrettably states he wishes he had double checked before discussing that one player on the football field. What follows is a flashback to this embarrassing moment where Doug huddles the other referees together and tells them they're going to act like they're debating; a couple of them are going to do the "bouncy football thing" while the third referee's going to rub his head like it's a tough call. Suddenly, one of the guys in the audience yells that the mic is on - Oops.



<http://www.ispot.tv/ad/ALaE/state-farm-discount-double-check-still-on-feat-aaron-rodgers>

Images for State Farm Discount Double Check TV Spot

This applies not only to microphones but to services of worship preparation in general.

Resources

Designing Worship: Creating and Integrating Powerful God Experiences

□ **Double-check** that all personnel, equipment, instruments, and support required for weekend worship are in place.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0764426818>

Images for Double-check that all personnel, equipment, instruments, and support required for weekend worship are in place

https://books.google.com/books/about/Redesigning_Worship.html?id=DIPRtvWI-AC
<https://www.amazon.com/Designing-Worship-Creating-Integrating-Experiences/dp/0764426818>

Planning a worship service is far more than just choosing songs and seasonal images. Helping people to genuinely worship God requires creating an experience through which people can enter into the presence of the divine. Discover strategic insights for creating and integrating powerful God-experiences into your own setting. Discover how a real-life worship team interacts, champions creativity and creates powerful God-experiences, one week at a time. This descriptive book offers practical direction for building and leading teams, empowering creative ideas, and guidance for handling conflict and overcoming serious obstacles.

<https://www.amazon.com/Redesigning-Worship-Creating-Powerful-Experiences/dp/1426700113>
<http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9781426700118#.WqQQfOjwaUk>
<https://www.christianbook.com/redesigning-worship-creating-powerful-experiences-ebook/kim-miller/9781426727122/pd/20001EB>
<https://www.amazon.com/Kim-Miller/e/B001IR1OW2>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/476520.Kim_Miller

Images for Kim Miller, author designing worship
Images for Creating and Integrating Powerful God Experiences

Foundations of Christian Worship - Page 211 - Google Books Result

1. Prepare the space carefully. Insure that lights, candles, sound system, linens, books, and other things needed for the conduct of the service are in place and ready to use. **Double-check** these just before the service. See that the space itself is clean and free of clutter. Keep maintenance work current so that emergencies are less likely to occur.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664229247>
<https://www.amazon.com/Foundations-Christian-Worship-Susan-White/dp/0664229247>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3164335-foundations-of-christian-worship>
<https://www.christianbook.com/foundations-of-christian-worship/susan-white/9780664229245/pd/29247>
<https://www.amazon.com/Susan-J.-White/e/B001IXTW4S>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/438149.Susan_J_White
Images for Foundations of Christian Worship: Susan J. White

Four Simple Habits That Can Transform Your Rehearsal

2. **DOUBLE CHECK** THE TECH
I'm in a church that can afford a full-time worship leader but is not yet able to employ a paid tech person. And that's OK. We have great volunteer techs. But a couple years ago, I had an epiphany:

<http://www.worshipteamcoach.com/blog/2015/12/02/four-simple-habits-that-can-transform-your-rehearsal-before-it-even-starts>
Images for DOUBLE CHECK THE TECH

Planning for Worship | Reformed Worship

Planners must contact all those participating in the service. The church secretary includes the final order of worship in the bulletin and distributes copies in advance to all participants. Just before the morning worship the elders and all available participants meet to **double-check** assignments and to pray.

<http://www.reformedworship.org/article/december-1986/planning-worship>
Images for Planning for Worship | Reformed Worship
[Images for participants meet to double-check assignments and to pray](https://www.reformedworship.org/article/december-1986/planning-worship)

[PDF] Usher Procedures - Crestwood Christian Church

Communion elements – Facing the altar, as you face the front of the sanctuary, place 4 trays of wine and bread on your left and 5 trays on your right. The trays will have been prepared by the deacons and left in the Sacristy (choir kitchen). **Double check** that all trays that are taken to the altar are filled. In humid weather, it is also necessary to remove the wine trays from the refrigerator ahead of time. This allows the metal trays to warm up to room temperature and prevent excess condensation.

<http://www.crestwoodchristian.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Usher-Instructions-2013.pdf>
Images for Church Usher Procedures

[PDF] WORSHIP PLANNER/PRESIDER CHECKLIST COLONIAL HILLS CONGREGATION

DOUBLE CHECK

Participants include youth, adults, both genders, new families, and those who haven't participated recently.

<http://colonial-hills.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/WORSHIP-PLANNER.pdf>
Images for WORSHIP PLANNER/PRESIDER CHECKLIST

62) No such thing as a perfect game

Many Sunday mornings I whimsically imagine the equivalent of what it would be like to bowl all strikes and score a perfect 300.

5 easy bowling tips for the perfect game | Star Lanes Blog

They say practice makes perfect, but does practice bowl perfect? Bowling that coveted 300 game isn't as elusive as you think. Take these 5 easy bowling tips from Star Lanes in Royal Oak and you'll have that perfect game in no time.

<http://www.star-lanes.com/5-easy-bowling-tips-for-the-perfect-game/>
Images for 5 easy bowling tips for the perfect game | Star Lanes Blog

It never happens. Glitches occur. Mortality is the reminder.

How Do You Make Sundays Go Smoothly? | Adam J. Copeland

Those of you who are pastors, I could use your help. Is this just a fact of life in a small church —from time to time the announcements will go long, and the communion preparer will forget, and typos will hide until Sunday, and your mind will be on ten distracting details? Is this inevitable from time to time, or am I just a bad pastor?

<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2010/10/16/how-do-you-make-sundays-go-smoothly/>

Images for How Do You Make Sundays Go Smoothly? | Adam J. Copeland

There is no such thing as a perfect game.

Resources

Perfection Is Overrated -- Here's What You Need To Be Striving For Instead - Forbes

How can you switch your focus from perfection to vulnerability, while still aiming for serious awesomeness? Here are my three tips.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dailymuse/2015/09/22/perfection-is-overrated-heres-what-you-need-to-be-striving-for-instead/#45a78a4ba254>

Images for Perfection Is Overrated -- Here's What You Need To Be Striving For Instead - Forbes

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/hannahart/2019/10/01/is-perfectionism-holding-you-back-try-imperfectionism-instead/#f24c1812ae03>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/deeppatel/2017/06/16/why-perfection-is-the-enemy-of-done/#5e15203b4395>

Pursuing Excellence, Not Perfection | Psychology Today

You can meet high standards and still leave room for mistakes.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/shyness-is-nice/201301/pursuing-excellence-not-perfection>

Images for Pursuing Excellence, Not Perfection | Psychology Today

Vince Lombardi Jr. Quotes - Goodreads

"Gentlemen, we will chase **perfection**, and we will chase it relentlessly, knowing all the while we can never attain it. But along the way, we shall catch excellence."

— Vince Lombardi Jr.

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/9771155.Vince_Lombardi_Jr

Images for Vince Lombardi Jr. Quotes - "Gentlemen, we will chase perfection

Resiliency is the secret.

Resources

Developing Resilience - Mind Tools

In this article, we'll examine resilience: what it is, why we need it, and how to develop it; so that we have the strength and fortitude to overcome adversity, and to keep on moving forward towards our dreams and our goals.

<http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/resilience.htm>

Images for Developing Resilience - Mindtools

<https://www.mindtools.com/blog/corporate/resilience-achievement-ld/>

<https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/resilience-quiz.htm>

6 Important Questions to Assess Your Level of Grit and Resiliency

To help you gauge and grow your level of resilience, here are six questions to answer and reflect on.

<http://shakeoffthegrind.com/emotional-health/6-important-questions-know-resilient>

<https://youhaveacalling.com/emotional-health/6-important-questions-know-resilient>

Images for 6 Important Questions to Assess Your Level of Grit and Resiliency

63) Farm Boy

I was returning from a committal service at a cemetery in a village different from the village where the memorial service was conducted. I thanked God that the service, lunch, and committal went well. The family preferred the service, lunch, and committal to be simple and straightforward, and I was only too happy to oblige. On the way back to the parsonage, I took the tab out of my collar and stopped at Stockman Farm Supply in a city with population of 1,696 to pick up a few things. As I got out of the car, I noticed the cuffs rolled up on my black Wrangler jeans. Evidently, I had rolled them up the previous night at the parsonage when walking around in my stocking feet and had forgotten to roll them back down the next day. The thought occurred to me, "I must have looked like a farm boy."

STOCKMAN'S FARM SUPPLY & MORE

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

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

Images for STOCKMAN'S FARM SUPPLY & MORE

Images for farm boy

64) Start time

The local custom at one assignment was for the church organist to play a prelude and then for an usher to press a button to ring the bell after which the pastor gave a welcome and announcements. The pastor and assisting minister walked in together when the organist began the prelude. At times, I had to find the assisting minister who would be visiting with others somewhere in the gathering area. Invariably, the prelude concluded before the designated service of worship start time as people were coming into the worship area. I heard my share of complaints.

At the previous assignment, a 9th grade girl played the piano in place of the regular organist. She came early, opened her song books, and played gathering music smoothly and effortlessly. The people enjoyed her playing and encouraged her development. The regular organist/pianist did the same only for a shorter time. I walked in at 5 minutes prior to the start time and seated myself in the chancel. I walked to the lectern at 30 seconds prior to the start time and simply waited for the accompanist to come to a natural break after which she pressed a button to ring the bell. Then I gave the welcome. The latter situation was much more relaxing than the former.

65) Carillons: Current or Christendom?

The chimes coming from the village church bell tower begin to sound more like ghoulish music appropriate for Halloween. The president realized that something needed to be done about the carillons so that they did not alienate when they were meant to invite. A member knew somebody who knew something about carillons who offered to install a used demo digital system for \$4,000. The leadership needed to decide whether that purchase was warranted in this day and age.

Resources

Carillon - Wikipedia

History [edit]

In medieval times, swinging bells were first used as a way of notifying people of imminent church services, and for such as fires, storms, wars and other secular events.

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

[Images for Carillon](#)

The Carillon - Essential Vermeer

The oldest sources concerning the use of **bells in Christian culture** trace back at first to Egypt. With the Edict of Milan in 313 by Constantine the Great, Christians gained extensive religious freedom which enabled them to practice their faith with all its liturgical orders in a more open manner. Some of the oldest bells known from early Christian culture appear to come from Byzantine cloisters in the small area of Damascus. This is also an indication that bells had been used in those times primarily in cloisters where they were cast by the monks themselves, mostly in the size of handbells. They were used to announce the canonical hours, calling the monks to the regular prayers. Hence the Latin name for the bell as signum-the signal.

http://www.essentialvermeer.com/music/carillon/carillon_a.html#.XUxVXuhKiUk

[Images for bells in Christian culture](#)

66) Prelude or Gathering Music, Postlude or Sending Music?

The days of people coming to services of worship early and sitting quietly to enjoy the prelude or sitting down at the end of the service to listen to the postlude seem to be waning. With more emphasis on a gathering space, many come to converse before entering the worship space. Gathering music helps set the tone for the assembly. Sending music accompanies the gathered assembly for more mutual conversation and consolation.

67) Ringing the church bell

The 75-year-old organist finished her gathering music and looked over at the rope for the church bell in the balcony to see if the custodian was going to ring the bell. Not seeing him, she ran over to the stairwell and called down for him. When he didn't show promptly, she ran back to the rope and pulled as hard as she could. After she went back to her organ bench, the church custodian sheepishly meandered up into the balcony.

In another church, a custodian related to me that she had rung the bell for who knows how many funerals. One time, unbeknownst to her, somebody greased the rope, so it would pull easier. She pulled hard on it as before only to be pulled up off the floor.

Invariably, one of the first questions I get asked when I come into a new church by an usher is, "When do you want us to ring the bell?" Many churches now employ an electronic church bell, so there is less drama.

In still another church, the patriarch took me up into the bell tower to show me where Jesse James had left his initials.

Resources

Church Bell-Ringer Falls and Gets Tangled in Ropes - YouTube

A church bell-ringer falls from a belfry and gets tangled in ropes. Most people have heard those telltale church bells. But, a woman in the UK recently found out the hard way how alarming the task of bell-ringing can be. The unfortunate 58-year-old lady was rendered unconscious in the tower of St Nicholas Church. According to reports, she had been "thrown around the belfry". She was then left suspended roughly 20 feet in the air and entangled in ropes. Fire officials could only access the tower through a trap door that had not been opened in 6 decades. Armed with rescue lines and equipment, fire officials lifted up a portion of the gallery floor, located at the very top of a narrow staircase and successfully lowered the woman. She was then taken to the hospital by ambulance. The lady encountered severe bruising. She had only been doing the bell-ringing job for three months and claims that she tripped and hit her head on the belfry wall during the "first pull" of the night.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVvPadz1mpk>

[Images for Church Bell-Ringer Falls and Gets Tangled in Ropes - YouTube](#)

Church Bell Ringing - YouTube

Testing of the Church bell named "Jessica" on February 23, 2010. It is in the bell tower of St Gabriel's Church in Poway, CA.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6qZ9A6GFik>
Images for Church Bell Ringing - YouTube

Church bell - Wikipedia

A church bell in the Christian tradition is a [bell](#) which is rung in a [church](#) for a variety of church purposes, and can be heard outside the building. Traditionally they were used to call worshippers to the church for a communal [service](#), and to announce times of daily prayer, called the [canonical hours](#). They are also rung on special occasions such as a [wedding](#), or a [funeral](#) service. In some religious traditions they are used within the liturgy of the church service to signify to people that a particular part of the service has been reached.^{[1][1]} The ringing of church bells, in the Christian tradition, is also believed to [drive out](#) demons.^{[2][3]}
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_bell
Images for Church bell

How to Maintain Church Bells: 6 Steps (with Pictures) - wikiHow

Church bells ring out to the faithful and bring joy to the hearts of all who hear them. They are also expensive, and it is important to ensure that they are properly maintained in order that they will last many years of service. Bell installations can consist of chimes, ringing peals or carillons and each need regular attention to ensure the best upkeep.
<http://www.wikihow.com/Maintain-Church-Bells>
Images for Maintain Church Bells

68) Designated bell ringer

I met with a parish council in a concurrence interview to begin a new assignment. One of the understandings was that the traditional practices of ringing the bell at the beginning and end of the service of worship be left in place. I looked at the pictorial directories given to me to prepare for the assignment and among the pictures of the pastor, organist, and others was that of the bell ringer. In 2 of the 3 churches, the husband rang the bells, and the wife played the organ. In one church, the organist said she had been playing for 45 years. Fortunately, the previous pastor left detailed notes of what to expect. One of the churches sang the three-fold Amen after the benediction and then the doxology, after which the bell ringer rang the bells 3X. Following are the instructions in the balcony:

Bell Ringers...

Before pastor speaks... (soon as *(organist)* stops playing organ...)

Big Bell: 7 times (Pull and let rope slide thru hands)

7 rings represents the 7 days God Created the Heavens & Earth

Near end... (after Doxology is sang)

Ring Small bell: 3 times... represents Father + Son + Holy Spirit

Thank you

Resources

Bell Ringers | Saint Mark's Church

If you are interested in finding out about ringing, either to satisfy your curiosity, or to pursue it as an art, you are welcome to come up to the tower when the bells are being rung, before or after the High Mass on Sundays, or you may wish to join the ringers for a practice night. The most up-to-date information on ringing schedules and practices can be found on [the Guild's website](#).

<http://www.saintmarkspiladelphia.org/bellringers/>

Images for Bell Ringers | Saint Mark's Church

<http://www.phillyringers.com/stmarks/>

<http://www.stmarkscathedral.net/bell-ringers>

Church Bell-Ringers Rope in Recruits - YouTube

England's medieval tradition of church bell-ringing has seen a decline in membership in recent years, along with church attendance. Old-timers are trying to rope in new recruits.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5zZMfd34wg>

Images for Church Bell-Ringers Rope in Recruits in Recruits - YouTube

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/church-bell-ringers-rope-recruits-150203467.html>

The Bell Ringer | The New Yorker

The bell ringers were continuing a tradition that had once been central to the life of the community, and she liked to think that only a generation ago, whenever these bells had rung out over the fields and the streets, everyone had known what they were saying. A call to worship; a royal wedding; an armistice; an enemy attack.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2008/03/17/the-bell-ringer>

Images for Bell Ringer | The New Yorker

69) Downsizing the high pulpit

I came to one church of the Swedish Lutheran tradition, which still had the high pulpit, but when I went around back to the steps into the pulpit, I saw it was filled with music stands, flower stands, and a fan. As it turned out, the previous pastor walked up and down the aisle when he preached. I used the lectern with its stationary microphone. The next assignment, 2 out of the 3 churches, of Norwegian Lutheran tradition, still had the high pulpit. Two of the churches had a working stationary microphone, so I used the pulpit, while the other church did not have a stationary microphone for the pulpit, and the portable microphone scratched so much that I used the lectern with its stationary microphone.

Pulpit - Wikipedia

Pulpit is a raised stand for [preachers](#) in a Christian church. The origin of the word is the Latin *pulpitum* (platform or staging).^[1] The traditional pulpit is raised well above the surrounding floor for audibility and visibility, accessed by steps, with sides coming to about waist height. From the [late medieval period](#) onwards, pulpits have often had a canopy known as the [sounding board](#) or [abat-voix](#) above and sometimes also behind the speaker, normally in wood. Though sometimes highly decorated, this is not purely decorative, but can have a useful acoustic effect in projecting the preacher's voice to the congregation below. Most pulpits have one or more book-stands for the preacher to rest his or her bible, notes or texts upon.

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

Images for pulpit

70) Dress up or dress down?

I still remember when I came to Wisconsin in 1980 seeing a Confirmation student wearing a blast jacket with the name of the local tavern on the back to the services of worship. After getting over my initial reaction, I said to myself, "Well, at least he's in church." When I started a new assignment at one congregation, I found a picture in the archives of a Sunday school opening exercises in the 1950s and showed it to the children in a Let the Children Come at a service of worship I was speaking on the transition dynamic of Heritage. Boys wore suits, and girls wore dresses. Well, it isn't the 50s anymore, and people who dress up for their professional work today welcome the opportunity to dress down to go to church. Now I remind myself of Paul's words, "...clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator." (Colossians 3:10) In addition, sometimes there can be surprises. The people hadn't mentioned ahead of time to the retired supply pastor in a neighboring congregation that the man who volunteered to take his turn to push the buttons on the Clavinova piano to play the songs, in lieu of an organist, liked to dress like a woman. That Sunday the man showed up in a brightly colored sundress.

9 Ways Worship Has Changed in 10 Years — Ministry Today

2. Dress is more casual.

<https://ministrytodaymag.com/life/worship/20921-9-rapid-changes-in-church-worship-services>

Images for 9 Ways Worship Has Changed in 10 Years — Ministry Today - Dress is more casual.

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/11/691509/> Four Reasons Sunday Attire Is Important to Christian Millennials

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/06/twenty-relics-church-past/> #3

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/07/six-thoughts-about-proper-pastoral-attire-for-worship-services/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/06/six-ways-keep-churchs-momentum-going-summer/>

<https://www.churchcentral.com/blogs/dressing-your-best-for-the-pulpit-or-not/>

<http://reformedcollective.com/2016/03/09/reverent-relaxed-dress-worship/>

Images for thom rainer (author)

71) Rest and worship at the same time

Eutychus

⁷ On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. ⁸There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting. ⁹A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer. Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down, and bending over him took him in his arms, and said, 'Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.' ¹¹Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. ¹²Meanwhile they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.

oremus Bible Browser: Acts 20:7-12

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Acts+20:7-12>

Images for Eutychus overcome by sleep

During my first 10+ years serving an open-country two-point parish during the 1980s, the congregations switched times for services of worship between 9am and 11am to accommodate dairy farmers who milked cows before coming to church. Invariably, one farmer who just happened to be the treasurer, nodded his head and closed his eyes during the sermon. I knew that he milked cows especially early in the morning so that he could milk cows correspondingly earlier in the afternoon to attend school events for his children in the evening. I admired such farmers who hurried to make sure they got their chores done in time to come to church in contrast to the excuses I heard in later years how people preferred to sleep in on Sunday mornings rather than get up and come to services of worship. I asked the janitor to turn the heat down to lessen at least one contributing factor. I remembered how, when I delivered morning newspapers, I nodded off as a young boy myself on Sunday mornings during the services of worship.

My dad took me to Norway on a guided tour in 1998. While visiting one historic stave church, a guide related how people of financial means owned their own boxes to sit in for the hours-long services of worship and could doze off without being seen. The common people sat in the pews. When women dozed, the usher tickled their ear with a feather. When men dozed, the usher gave a rap on their shoulder with a stick. I did not adopt such a strategy when I came back to this country. As far as I know, no one hurt themselves while nodding off during my sermons, as did Eutychus in the Acts of the Apostles.

Resources

How to Stay Awake in Church | LDS Living

So, in an effort to keep our minds “awake” during Sunday worship, I put together a list of things that may just help lift a Sunday slump.

www.ldsliving.com/How-to-Stay-Awake-in-Church/s/71722

Images for How to Stay Awake in Church

10 Things to Do When You Get Tired in Church - Ben Reed

But there are a few things you can do when you get tired in church. Some preventative measures.

www.benreed.net/10-things-to-do-when-you-get-tired-in-church/

Images for 10 Things to Do When You Get Tired in Church

The Children of God: How to Not Fall Asleep in Church - Everybody's Church

Hopefully none of you out there are asleep yet. Hopefully you've managed to stay awake through my sermon. But if you are asleep, know that God loves you and has sent Christ into the world to save you all the same. And if you are asleep, or falling asleep, or peaceful and secure in your faith life, I encourage you to ask what makes you come alive and go and do it.

Because what the church needs are people who have come alive.

<http://www.fpcbirmingham.org/recent-sermons/the-children-of-god-how-to-not-fall-asleep-in-church>

Images for How to Not Fall Asleep in Church

72) What about restless children in worship?

I remember what my internship supervisor said, “What better sign of life than crying babies as opposed to snoring saints.” Also, one church custodian shared an indicator of a family friendly service of worship - “Cheerios under the pews.”

Resources

Dear Parents with Young Children in Church - Huffington

I know it's hard but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family - with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy - are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jamie-bruesehoff/parents-kids-church_b_3909085.html

Images for Parents with Young Children in Church

How to Behave in Church (For Kids): 9 Steps (with pictures) – wikihow.com

Children can become bored and restless during a church service, but it is not usually welcome for them to misbehave or be restless while others are trying to pay attention and participate. Technically speaking, this does not apply to merely little children, but surprisingly, applies to most high school students, as well as some adults, especially if you have ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) or ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder).

<http://www.wikihow.com/Behave-in-Church-%28For-Kids%29>

Images for Behave in Church (For Kids)

Now What?: Too wiggly for worship? | The Lutheran

Q: Now that my son is a toddler, I'm worried that he's too wiggly and disruptive for worship. Although my pastor tells me his behavior is fine, I can't help but feel as if some worshipers are staring at us when he acts up. What should I do?

A: Listen to your pastor. It was God, after all, who put that wiggle into your toddler. Your son, like other children his age, carries with him a natural energy level that is bound to produce more noise and activity than adults.

If your son is in the throes of a full-on tantrum, it's wise to take him outside the sanctuary to help him collect his emotions. But if he is merely dancing in a side aisle or singing a song to himself, leave him be and make no apologies. This is where he is learning to praise God.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=8529

Images for Now What?: Too wiggly for worship? | The Lutheran

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

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

Steadfast Lutherans » Children in Church

So, parents, yes, **bring your children to church** and keep them “in church”—except for the occasional boisterous outburst. But bring them back in, so that they don't miss Jesus. But, parents, by all means, bring them to Jesus and teach them how to receive His gifts.

<http://steadfastlutherans.org/?p=33960>

Images for bring your children to church

The Contraceptive Sanctuary: Why you SHOULD Bring Baby to Church

Since my wife and I actually have a chapter on taking your kids to Church in [Parenting with Grace](#), I thought I'd weigh in with a few points.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/faithonthecouch/2013/04/the-contraceptive-sanctuary-why-you-should-bring-baby-to-church/>
Images for The Contraceptive Sanctuary: Why you SHOULD Bring Baby to Church
<https://www.amazon.com/Parenting-Grace-Catholic-Parents-Raising/dp/1592766854>

What you don't see: Blessed be those who bring children to worship | The Lutheran

Before you consider telling parents about the faults of their child (and their parenting) in worship, please consider what you don't have the joy of witnessing.

You don't hear my child whisper the Lord's Prayer along with the congregation.

You don't see his smile as his dad sings in the choir.

You don't see him sharing stickers with the kids around him who don't have them.

You don't hear the questions he asks after worship.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=11988
Images for What you don't see: Blessed be those who bring children to worship | The Lutheran

Why We Take Our Kids to Church...Even When It's a Hassle

To us, church is about a more sophisticated word (though related to "food" and "fun" in many ways!) that our kids do not yet know. To us, church is about *community*. Although our kids cannot yet articulate this word, they seem to understand the concept, in large part thanks to our time in the St. James's parish. It is about having a surrogate family when our extended families live far away. It is about having a place and a group of people to begin discussions about other big words, such as faith, love, respect, forgiveness, and social injustice. And of course, it is about pizza, chili, pancakes, brownies, and let us not forget, jambalaya!

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/ellenpainterdollar/2012/10/why-we-take-our-kids-to-church-even-when-its-a-hassle/>
Images for Why We Take Our Kids to Church...Even When It's a Hassle

73) Usher

When I came into the pastoral ministry in 1980 to serve an open-country two-point parish, I was told, "Pastor, just make up a list of men to usher for the year and then send them a letter telling them which month they're to usher and to find their own replacement if they can't make it." Obligation is now replaced by opportunity. Men, women, boys, and girls are asked for one service of worship at a time. I recall two ushers standing in the narthex before the 11am service. Both milked cows. One lamented the time and work required. The other claimed that being a farmer meant being one's own boss. The two argued back and forth until the latter emphatically stated, "When you're your own boss, you can take 1 hour off and watch the 1st half of the Packer's game!"

Resources

A Guide for the Church Usher [Thomas L. Clark, James L. Blevins]

These pages are written to you, a church usher, as though we were talking face-to-face. The ideas in this book have been shared with me through the years by ushers like you. Some ideas will be familiar; a few will be new; but all will need to be translated into the way you do things in your church.

<http://www.amazon.com/Guide-Church-Usher-Thomas-Clark/dp/0805435174>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimmini06-20/detail/0805435174>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/308466.Thomas_L_Clark

Images for Thomas L. Clark, author a guide for the church usher

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/663068.James_L_Blevins

Images for James L. Blevins, author a guide for the church usher

Images for A Guide for the Church Usher [Thomas L. Clark, James L. Blevins]

4 Ways to Usher in a Church - wikiHow

How to Usher in a Church. Greeting people in a warm way makes them feel good about their presence in church. Be a great welcomer to the house of God.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Usher-in-a-Church>

Images for Usher in a Church

Guide for Ushers and Greeters [Paul Turner, Karie Ferrell]

The Guide for Ushers and Greeters is one in a series of handbooks for the formation of liturgical ministers. Rev. Paul Turner provides the theological and liturgical aspect of each ministry and then the practical considerations for training is provided by someone in active parish ministry.

<http://www.amazon.com/Guide-Ushers-Greeters-Paul-Turner/dp/1568547455>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimmini06-20/detail/1568547455>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1568547455>

<https://www.amazon.com/Paul-Turner/e/B007O3123K>

Images for Paul Turner, author guide for ushers and greeters

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7753888.Karie_Ferrell

Images for Karie Ferrell, author guide for ushers and greeters

Sundays & Seasons

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

Images for Ministries in the Congregation: Ushers and Greeters

Responsibilities and Duties of a Church Usher | Ushers and ... - Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/347480927471692504/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/Evangelismcoach101/church-ushers/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/99008891787416177/> The Ministry of Church Ushers: A starter's guide to Usher Ministry

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/347480927482192192/> Every church should have someone to say, "Welcome!" Are those folks trained?

Here are resources to train your church greeters and ushers.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/489766528202012287/> Discover ideas about Guest Services church usher | the ushers greeters ministry includes men and women who are here to ...

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/99008891784737241/> Discover ideas about Ushers church usher | Church Ushers Pictures

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/470907704762439868/> Discover ideas about Ushers USHERS-SERVERS-GREETERS:

Images for church usher pinterest

Serving as a Church Usher [Leslie Parrott, Paul E. Engle]

For: •Individual use •Group training Includes usher's checklist and resources for the offering Your importance as an usher can't be overstated. Your impact is enormous both in meeting the needs of people and in keeping the church service running smoothly. Serving as a Church Usher sheds light on •The Ministry of Ushers •The Functions of an Usher •An Usher's Standard of Excellence •The Authority and Responsibility of Ushers •Ushers as Greeters Zondervan Practical Ministry Guides provide you with simple, practical insights for serving in today's churches. Written by experienced pastors and church workers, these easy-to-read, to-the-point booklets address the fundamentals of different ministries as practiced effectively in real life. You'll find biblical insight and wise, field-tested advice you can apply today, as well as discussion questions to help you think through and integrate what you read.

<http://www.amazon.com/Serving-Church-Usher-Leslie-Parrott/dp/0310247632>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimini06-20/detail/0310247632>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Serving_as_a_Church_Usher.html?id=dkjb_9PasIEC

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310247632>

<https://www.amazon.com/Leslie-Parrott/e/B001HCZDVG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8199469.A_Leslie_Parrott_Jr

Images for Leslie Parrott, author church usher

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/665909.Paul_E_Engle

Images for Paul E. Engle, author church usher

Images for Serving as a Church Usher [Leslie Parrott, Paul E. Engle]

The Work of the Usher (Works (Judson)) [Alvin D. Johnson]

This book is a complete guide, simply and clearly written, suitable for individual or group study, and durably bound in a convenient size. It has been written by a minister whose four pastorates have convinced him of the significance of effective ushering as a form of Christian witness. Prepared on the premise that the usher is one who represents the warm welcome of the church at its best, this manual thus becomes an aid in Christian outreach as well as effective administration.

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimini06-20/detail/0817003568>

<http://www.lifeway.com/Product/the-work-of-the-usher-p001125872>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Work_of_the_Usher.html?id=HfEHAAAACAAJ

<https://mark12ministries.wordpress.com/2011/12/31/the-work-of-the-usher-by-alvin-d-johnson-a-book-review-by-bryan-e-walker/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Alvin-D.-Johnson/e/B001KHRZFK>

Images for The Work of the Usher (Works (Judson)) [Alvin D. Johnson]

Tips for Ushers

From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Year A. 2015. Copyright © 2014. Augsburg Fortress.

Sundays & Seasons

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

Images for tips for ushers in church

[PDF] Usher Training Manual - Dan Reiland

An usher is a spiritual ambassador for the local church – God's ordained and organized body of believers. The usher serves as a "first representative" of Jesus Christ for a worship service. Though we thoroughly enjoy the creative edge of our 12Stone services, make no mistake, this is a holy event where God is meeting with His people.

<http://danreiland.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/Ushers-Training-Manual.pdf>

Images for Usher Training Manual - Dan Reiland

<https://danreiland.com/building-a-great-usher-team/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Dan-Reiland/e/B001HPDEAA>

<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/developing-the-next-generation-of-church-leaders-with-dan-reiland-podcast>

Ushering in Today's Churches [Horatio Wilson]

Ushering in Today's Churches was written to assist usher ministries to serve God in an effective and excellent manner. The contents of this book are for any churches that desire to take their usher ministries to the next level. The book will give ushers the knowledge to serve God with a spirit of excellence and elevate God with a well-organized ministry.

I offer my assistance as a workshop instructor to any church organization that has the desire to further educate its usher ministry. The workshop will equip the usher ministry with knowledge and techniques that God has blessed me with. To have a workshop at your church, please refer to the workshop information page at the end of this book.

<http://www.amazon.com/Ushering-Todays-Churches-Horatio-Wilson/dp/1591608937>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimmini06-20/detail/1591608937>

http://www.xulonpress.com/bookstore/bookdetail.php?PB_ISBN=9781591608936&HC_ISBN=

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1591608937>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Ushering_in_Today_s_Churches.html?id=1Elen6EyMrMC

<http://www.internationalbibles.com/catalog/books/Auxiliaries/ushers/ushers.htm>

<https://www.internationalbibles.com/catalog/books/Auxiliaries/ushers/ushers.htm>

Images for *Ushering in Today's Churches* [Horatio Wilson]

Ushering 101: Easy Steps to Ushering in the Local Church [Dr. Buddy Bell]

Ushering in the local church is much more than just shaking hands and passing offering plates. Fulfilling your role as an usher is just as important to the body of Christ as that of a prophet, teacher or evangelist.

This book covers both the biblical and the practical aspects of church ushering. Buddy Bell, founder of Ministry of Helps International, combines humor with informative teaching to help you become more effective in your ministry. You will be challenged to serve with excellence as you learn the following:

The scriptural role of ushering Leadership by example

The legal do's and don'ts of ushering

The responsibilities of the head usher

Plus, much more!

<http://www.amazon.com/Ushering-101-Dr-Buddy-Bell/dp/1577948882>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimmini06-20/detail/1577948882>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsnXWLxNZjg> Ushering Training System 101 by Dr. Buddy Bell – YouTube

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/268252.Buddy_Bell

Images for *Ushering 101: Easy Steps to Ushering in the Local Church* [Dr. Buddy Bell]

Wilson's Usher Guide [Gertrude Reed, S. B. Wilson]

A guide to lift ushering into its proper place as a means of Christian service and training for both men and women. Provides timeless advice for effectively carrying out the duties of an usher.

<http://www.amazon.com/Wilsons-Usher-Guide-Gertrude-Reed/dp/1567420052>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimmini06-20/detail/1567420052>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/wilsons-usher-guide-getrude-reed/1111846629>

<https://www.cogicpublishinghouse.net/shop/wilson-s-usher-guide.html>

Images for *Wilson's Usher Guide* [Gertrude Reed, S. B. Wilson]

74) Recorded music and projection

Many small congregations find it difficult to find somebody to play the keyboard let alone put together a praise band. Some of them play recorded music and project on the screen.

Resources

I Didn't Even Miss the Praise Band

Struggling to find musicians? Looking to add some contemporary songs to your worship but can't find enough people for a praise band? Consider video songs. Join Pastor Rebekah Tarras and Jenny Nieman from St. John's in Spencer to learn how they are using videos songs in worship. You might just discover as you sing along that you didn't even miss the praise band.

[PDF] ALL INFO 2016.xlsx - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/all_info_2016.pdf

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/all_info_2016_links.pdf

Images for Consider video songs for services of worship

http://www.stjohnsspencer.com/contact_us_23.html

Presentation programs for worship – The Lutheran

A variety of companies have created programs specifically designed for worship needs that are relatively inexpensive, easy to use and blend all the advantages of video/image integration with the benefits of a projected hymnal.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=8980

Images for Presentation programs for worship – The Lutheran - STORY BY TOM LYBERG

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/tom-lyberg/>

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

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

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

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomas-lyberg-1a865821>

Should We Can Canned Music in the Church? | Worship Matters

Now that I've talked about the downside of using pre-recorded music in the church, I'll share some thoughts tomorrow on when and how it might be beneficial.

<http://www.worshipmatters.com/2005/12/20/canned-music/>

Images for Should We Can Canned Music in the Church? | Worship Matters

Yesterday I shared some of the drawbacks of using pre-recorded music in church services. Can it ever be beneficial? I think so, as long as we're aware that God is more concerned about the faith in our hearts than the sound of the music. If you're part of a small church, a small group, or a mission church, you may find the following to be true.

<http://www.worshipmatters.com/2005/12/21/should-we-can-c/>

Images for pre-recorded music in church services

75) Entering the brave new world

Two churches in neighboring unincorporated villages lost their accompanists and could not find replacements, so the parish secretary embedded the music in the PPT. I quipped to the Parish Council that the two churches could be known in the area as the karaoke churches. One council member chimed in to say, "At least we don't have a ping-pong ball bouncing above the words."

Resources

Churches try karaoke – The Denver Post

London – Karaoke bars have become trendy around the world, with countless wannabe singers mangling songs like Frank Sinatra's "My Way" while following along with lyrics displayed on a big screen.

So, why not karaoke churches? With attendance plummeting and youthful organists hard to find, churches across Britain are turning to a new karaoke-like machine called Hymnal Plus as a means of jazzing up stale services – and also giving elderly organists a break.

<https://www.denverpost.com/2006/05/29/churches-try-karaoke/>

Images for Churches try karaoke

PyroManiac: Karaoke worship

I once remarked that if the trends in "contemporary worship" were carried to their logical conclusion, church services would soon feature karaoke contests. That remark prompted an outpouring of replies from people who informed me that karaoke was already being used "quite successfully" in their churches.

<http://phillipjohnson.blogspot.com/2006/01/karaoke-worship.html>

Images for karaoke worship

Vicars turn to karaoke because churches struggle to muster a choir and organist for Sunday services

Vicars are buying karaoke-like machines to play music during their services to solve the difficulty of finding an organist.

The 'electronic hymnals' have a vast repertoire of music and can play anything from traditional Songs Of Praise to a disco version of Amazing Grace.

Church-goers who struggle to remember the words can look up at a big screen displaying the lyrics in time with the music for help - just like real karaoke.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2269451/Vicars-turn-karaoke-churches-struggle-muster-choir-organist-Sunday-services.html>

Images for Vicars turn to karaoke because churches struggle to muster a choir and organist for Sunday services

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9830145/Karaoke-is-music-to-ears-of-long-suffering-vicars.html>

Images for Karaoke-is-music-to-ears-of-long-suffering-vicars

[PDF]We Don't Have an Organist - ELCA Resource Repository

After many years, the organist at your congregation retires. After an extensive search, a qualified person is not found to fill the position. In another congregation, the organist takes a much-needed vacation and a substitute is not available. These and many other scenarios are common and becoming increasingly more so as trained organists become more and more difficult to find. What do you do if you don't have an organist? Some common solutions are listed below.

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What_can_we_do_if_we_don%E2%80%99t_have_an_organist.pdf

Images for We Don't Have an Organist - ELCA Resource Repository

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What_is_the_role_of_music_in_the_Lutheran_liturgy.pdf

Who knows, church music may emerge at places where karaoke music originated.

Resources

Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures by Eddie Gibbs (Author), Ryan K. Bolger (Author)

For a season at Sanctuary (Santa Monica, CA), the church meeting took the format of an open mic. The Sunday gathering became a spiritual club night in a dance club. It was an attempt to have a discussion about God in an entirely different context, an exploration of religion and spirituality outside the comfort zone of the church being in charge. Thus, the leaders had no control over the outcome. In addition to an open mic, there was a prayer room, a conversation room, and an art room. The events were heavily participatory, providing multiple ways for the congregation to worship.

A metaphor for a participatory kind of service is **karaoke**. Karen Ward of Church of the Apostles (Seattle) says, "Karaoke is the model of alternative worship we have adopted. One woman was awful and sounded like a gerbil! Everyone cheered her on. 'You go girl,' they shouted. These are gospel values, singing their hearts out to God. They give their best. This is much better than auditioning a worship team. I would much rather have the gerbil-voiced woman! I have one woman who plays accordion out of tune. She is awful, and yet we love listening to her."

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1441200487>

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The "emerging church" movement is perhaps the most significant church trend of our day. The emerging church offers and encourages a new way of doing and being the church. While it largely resonates with an eighteen-to-thirty-four-year-old audience--the first fully postmodern generation--it is also gaining popularity with older Christians and encompasses a broad array of traditional and contemporary churches. *Emerging Churches* explores this movement and provides insight into its success.

Filled with the latest research and interesting, anecdotal testimonies from those on the cutting edge of ministry, this book provides pastors, church leaders, and interested readers with an insightful glimpse into the thriving churches of today--and tomorrow.

<https://www.amazon.com/Emerging-Churches-Christian-Community-Postmodern/dp/0801027152>

Images for Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures

Sing Your Heart Out at Karaoke Spots in Atlanta - Atlanta Insiders Blog

Atlanta has a lot of great live music, but sometimes you want to be the star. There are many karaoke bars on Buford Highway, just outside of Atlanta, but here are some of our favorite Atlanta spots that offer karaoke nights and a chance for you to step into the spotlight and shine.

1. **Sister Louisa's Church of the Living Room** and Ping Pong Emporium. It's a bar; it's a restaurant; it's a haven for ping-pong aficionados. But on Wednesday night, Sister Louisa's (or The Church, as locals call it) gears up for church organ karaoke. Yes. It's a real church organ played by real church organists. Karaoke singers take the mike in a pulpit. Needless to say, The Church is a special place to go for karaoke.

<https://www.atlanta.net/Blog/Sing-Your-Heart-Out-at-Karaoke-Spots-in-Atlanta/>

Images for Sister Louisa's Church of the Living Room

76) Preferred times for Sunday services of worship

When I attended the Sunday service of worship with my family at Immanuel Lutheran in Story City, Iowa in the 1960s, the single service was offered on Sunday at 11am. Then the service was followed by a noon meal and afternoon nap. Sometimes, we got together with the relatives for food and conversation.

Gradually, the time changed, so now the assembly gathers for a service at 9:30am. My parents have died, and my brothers live in other locations, so none of the family attends the services at the home congregation.

Presently, in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I can think of only a handful of congregations with a service at 11am. These congregations tend to be part of multi-point parishes.

Now Sundays are busy, busy, busy. For the decreasing number who still attend services of worship, many prefer an early or mid-morning start time to get on with their day. The mention of a Sunday afternoon nap is often greeted with bemusement.

The Disappearance of the 11:00AM Sunday Service – Rainer on Leadership #304

11:00AM is rarely, if ever, the preferred time for a church's single Sunday morning worship service.

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/02/the-disappearance-of-the-1100-am-sunday-service-rainer-on-leadership-304/>

Images for The Disappearance of the 11:00AM Sunday Service – Rainer on Leadership

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/02/five-reasons-1100-worship-service-disappearing/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/05/seven-trends-in-worship-service-times/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/05/what-is-the-best-time-for-a-worship-service-rainer-on-leadership-221/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/06/trends-in-worship-service-times-rainer-on-leadership-133/>

<http://theaquilareport.com/many-churches-dropping-11-m-sunday-service-looking-wednesday-new-sunday/>

Images for thom rainer (author)

77) Making service times work in a parish

I started out serving two congregations with the service time at the open country congregation at 8:30am and the service time at the village congregation at 10:15am. The village congregation realigned with a congregation in a city 26 miles away on a four-lane highway. The remaining open country congregation received an overture to align from a congregation in a village 23 miles away on township roads. The offer was accepted. The service times to begin with during the school year were 8:30am at the open country congregation and 10:30am at the village congregation. Congregation leadership at the village congregation wondered if there was any way to move up the service time for the summer. I proposed an 8:15am service time for the open country congregation and 10am for the village congregation to run Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. I figured I needed to leave the open country congregation at 9am to travel the 30+ minutes to arrive at the village congregation with time to prepare and to greet. Most often, I left after the blessing and allowed a congregation leader to give the announcements and the dismissal. I took various other measures to keep a Service of Holy Communion at the open country congregation within the allotted time.

Church in rural America - Living Lutheran

Felici serves a five-point parish in rural West Virginia, the heart of Appalachia, with her husband, Jason. They spend their time going back and forth between Mount Hope in Upper Tract, Faith in Franklin, St. John in Moyers, Calvary in Brandywine and New Hope in Minnehaha Springs.

"We have all sorts of wonderful experiences here that you don't have the opportunity to do outside of rural ministry," she said. "You could be spending Saturday at a farm meeting baby lambs, worship on Sunday and hospital visits that evening. There is no set schedule and every day is a wild adventure."

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/04/church-rural-america/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/study-guide/church-rural-america/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/03/study-guide-church-rural-america/>

Images for Church in rural America - Living Lutheran

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/tag/rural-church/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/11/the-eventual-resurrection-of-the-rural-church/>

78) Services of worship at times other than Sunday morning

One neighboring pastor was serving 2 congregations and agreed to take on a 3rd in a shared ministry agreement. The churches were located close enough that he could preach and administer the sacraments at services of worship at 8, 9:30, and 11am. Another pastor was serving one congregation and agreed to take on a second in a letter of agreement. The small congregation agreed to have their service of worship on Saturday at 7pm.

An older member at one congregation I served recounted that she remembered attending services of worship on Sunday, 2pm. While that practice may have worked then, people probably would not be open to that time today.

A colleague told me he interviewed at a five-point parish in North Dakota where the churches held services of worship on Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday morning. The pastor was provided with a SUV to get around.

Some urban congregations rent space from another congregation and gather as an assembly late Sunday afternoon.

House of Mercy

We're a church located in St. Paul, MN that offers a discriminating blend of the old, the new, sincerity and skepticism. Join us on Sunday at 5pm.

www.houseofmercy.org/

Images for Images for House of Mercy in St. Paul, MN on Sunday at 5pm

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

<https://www.spas-elca.org/stories-partnership-house-mercy-turf-club/>

Normally, congregations gather in assembly for services of worship on Sunday morning,

[PDF] Why Worship on Sunday - ELCA Resource Repository

In many ways, the church of the early 21st century finds itself more like the early church, a minority community in the culture. As schools and other organizations no longer "protect" Sunday morning, Christians will have to consider when and how to both be part of the culture and set apart from it. The Lord's Day promises the beginning of a new era where Christ reigns both in time and beyond it, in life and death yet beyond earthly ways. Assembling for worship on Sunday is a primary way that Christians live out their faith in the one who makes all things new.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Why_worship_on_Sunday.pdf

Images for Why Worship on Sunday - ELCA Resource Repository

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Principles_for_Worship.pdf

but could it be that congregations in the future will consider services of worship on other than Sunday morning for one pastor to serve multiple congregations? The argument can be made that the main work for ordained pastors is word and sacrament. Other people can attend to other responsibilities. For instance, I have led services of worship in various congregations on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday late afternoon and early evening, Sunday at 4pm and 6pm.

Reconsidering Worship Service Alternatives Beyond Sunday Morning – Thom Rainer

We are starting to see more and more churches offer alternative worship service times. Today we discuss the when, where, and how of this trend.

<https://thomrainer.com/2019/01/reconsidering-worship-service-alternatives-beyond-sunday-morning-rainer/>

Images for Reconsidering Worship Service Alternatives Beyond Sunday Morning – Thom Rainer

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/05/seven-trends-in-worship-service-times/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/05/what-is-the-best-time-for-a-worship-service-rainer-on-leadership-221/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/02/the-disappearance-of-the-1100-am-sunday-service-rainer-on-leadership-304/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/02/five-reasons-1100-worship-service-disappearing/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/07/decline-sunday-evening-services-rainer-leadership-064/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/06/trends-in-worship-service-times-rainer-on-leadership-133/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/05/nine-rapid-changes-church-worship-services/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2019/02/we-cant-add-another-service-we-wont-know-everyone/>

Images for thom rainer (author)

The companion synod for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin - the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi explores various ways to provide word and sacrament ministry to the various congregations and preaching points.

About Us - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

2. Present Situation

The church has over 101,000 members, 400 Congregations and Preaching Points, with 72 Parishes and Mission Areas. The church is currently divided into 9 Deaneries with 56 total number of Pastors including the Bishop. The ELCM continues to grow covering the whole country with close to 86% of its members being in the rural areas. The highest governing body of the Church is the Church Assembly which meets every three years and it has an equal representation of 1 woman, 1 youth, 1 Man from each parish. The Assembly reflects upon the mission as priority of the church. The Church Council, which is the second highest governing body, sits in between the Assembly it meets quarterly. It is responsible for ensuring the daily activities of the church.

Due to the growing number of preaching points and Congregations the ELCM is constantly in need of training more pastors and continuing education in order to respond to the leadership needs. Most congregations and parishes depend on lay people for specific ministries such as teaching Sunday school, confirmation classes, preaching and other ministerial activities, in spite of this and due to large areas of coverage still a number of parishes go without a Pastor for weeks or even months.

<http://elcm.weebly.com/about-us.html>

Images for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

The following paragraph from a church history tells about times for services of worship in the late 1800s:

History - Elk Creek Lutheran Church

The Elk Creek Lutheran Church of Hale was formed on Monday, June 25, 1877 when a few men from the area gathered at the North Branch School to organize the church and begin work on a constitution. Worship services in those formative years were held mostly on a monthly basis, one Sunday a month and several other services on various weekdays.

<http://www.elkcreeklutheran.com/history.html>

Images for Elk Creek Lutheran Church of Hale

79) TED Talks

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Synod Assembly 2017 included four TED Talks from pastors of congregations with growing average worship attendance as a part of the theme on Getting the Word Out.

In TED Talk #1, Pastor Brad Peterson of Trinity Lutheran Church in Boyceville identified “authenticity” as a key ingredient.

Trinity Lutheran Church - Boyceville, Wisconsin - Church | Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trinity-Lutheran-Church/120800537934650>

Images for Trinity Lutheran Church - Boyceville, Wisconsin

In TED Talk #2, Pastor Keith Anderson of Zion Lutheran Church in Woodville shared how the congregation developed a FAMILY CONNECT service of worship defined as “brief, high energy, faith to learn and share.”

Zion Lutheran Church

<http://www.zionlutheranwoodville.com/index.html>

Images for zion lutheran church woodville wi

<http://www.zionlutheranwoodville.com/meetthestaff.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/Zion-Lutheran-Church-217081604977399/>

In TED Talk #3, Pastor Ned Lenhart of Living Water Lutheran Church in Cameron stated that the mission of the congregation is “Serving Others through Christ.” Services of worship are “energetic, contemporary, and grounded in scripture – the Good News of Jesus Christ.” He said the newest initiative was to explore live streaming of their services of worship to other congregations.

Living Water Lutheran Church | Home - Cameron

<http://livingwater-cameron.org/>

Images for Living Water Lutheran Church | Home - Cameron

<http://livingwater-cameron.org/staff>

<https://www.facebook.com/Living-Water-Lutheran-Church-249377908442648/>

In TED Talk #4, Pastor Amelia Houdek of First Lutheran in New Richmond said that they “Expect God” and then see what God is doing and seek to align themselves with what God is doing.

First Lutheran Church | Welcome!

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

Images for First Lutheran Church New Richmond Wisconsin | Welcome!

https://www.facebook.com/firstdaynr/?hc_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE

80) Beyond welcoming to being inviting

Many congregations pride themselves in being welcoming. Today, it is not enough to be welcoming. Congregations are to be inviting.

Resources

How to RENEW your congregation and how to talk about your faith without freaking out

Is your congregation in decline and needing renewal? Practical tools will be shared, and participants will be encouraged to move their congregations from being "WELCOMING" churches to being "INVITING" churches. Participants will learn what to say when someone says, "So what do you have planned for the weekend?" or "Church, really? Why do you go to church?"

[PDF] ALL INFO 2016.xlsx - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/all_info_2016.pdf

[Images for How to RENEW your congregation and how to talk about your faith without freaking out](#)

Moving from Welcoming to Inviting - Deb Stehlin

Everybody knows someone who's searching for something. How do we invite them into Christian community? The Rev. Deb Stehlin, a former church planter, will share ideas for equipping members to invite, and to take the first steps in changing to a culture of invitation. This workshop is about all the things that take place BEFORE someone walks through your door.

Full List of Workshops and Times

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/Workshops_for_Web_Updated-2.pdf

Images for Moving from Welcoming to Inviting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltEOESX9My4> Rev. Deb Stehlin, Director for Evangelical Mission, Minneapolis Area Synod

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEdXFUlwIH4> April 10th 2016 Rev Deb Stehlin – YouTube

<https://vimeo.com/204918891> Sermon by Rev. Deb Stehlin

<https://www.minnpost.com/arts-culture/2008/07/how-start-church-while-your-kids-are-taking-nap>

<http://mpls-synod.org/tag/rev-deb-stehlin/>

We Will No Longer be a Welcoming Church | Neighborhood Church

"Inviting," however, is different. That means we leave the comfort of our congregational home-court advantage. The main activity doesn't happen in our worship space when people drop in, but in the neighborhood when we go out. It isn't so much welcoming them into our place but going out into their place and meeting them there.

<https://daelcarev.wordpress.com/2013/03/12/we-will-no-longer-be-a-welcoming-church/>

<https://daelcarev.wordpress.com/2013/03/18/we-will-no-longer-be-a-welcoming-church-pt-2-the-motivation/>

[Images for We Will No Longer be a Welcoming Church](#)

81) I keep reminding myself of the theme: Invite and Involve

Sometimes, I think to myself that planning for services of worship would be so much simpler if I delegated hymn selection to a worship committee

[PDF]Selecting Hymns for All Seasons - ELCA Resource Repository

With so many hymns to choose from, it is no wonder that pastors, church musicians, and congregational worship committees regularly ask themselves, "What do we sing this week?"

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/How_do_we_select_hymns_and_songs_for_all_seasons.pdf

[Images for Selecting Hymns for All Seasons - ELCA Resource Repository](#)

and obtained my sermons on the internet,

[lacrosseareasynod | Call Process](#)

[Materials for Interim Pastors »](#)

[A Sermon for Every Sunday- Lectionary based sermons available to congregations via video](#)

www.lacrosseareasynod.org/call-process

Lectionary-based video sermons by America's best preachers for use in worship, Bible study, small groups, Sunday school classes, or for individual use. All you do is push the button.

<http://asermonforeversunday.com/>

[Images for Lectionary-based video sermons](#)

but I keep reminding myself that the days of "Open the doors, and they will come," (if that ever was the case), is long since over.

82) Offering services of worship during the COVID-19 shutdown

The cold and snowy conditions of the 1983-84 winter prevented the assembly from gathering for services of worship for 3 Sundays in a row in the 2 open-country congregations I was serving at the time, but nothing prepared me for the 15 Days to Slow the Spread | The White House and Safer at Home - Governor Tony Evers - WI.gov. I gave messages in the church basement which the administrator of the congregation Facebook recorded on her smartphone and uploaded. I emailed resources for home services of worship provided by the synod staff. I received additional resources by email from the Wisconsin Council of Churches:

Staff at the Wisconsin Council of Churches have been busy compiling resources for churches. We invite you to visit our [Coronavirus Resource Page](#) to access the following resources:

WRITTEN RESOURCES FROM WCC

- [Flu Season, the Coronavirus and the Church](#)
 - What is our role?
 - What do we need to prepare for?
 - A church view on keeping people healthy
 - Responding to Our Neighbors' Needs
 - Ministry Amid Social Disruption
 - Where can I find trustworthy information about the current public health situation?
 - Denominational Resources
- [Pastoral Care in the Time of COVID-19](#)
 - Alcohol and other Drugs
 - Domestic Violence
 - Mental Health
- [Resources for Streaming Worship](#)
 - How to Stream Worship
 - Copyright for Music, Liturgy and other Resources
 - Celebrating Holy Communion
- [Wisconsin Churches who are Live Streaming Worship](#)
- [Worship Resources for Use During COVID-19](#)
- [Other Ministry Resources for Use During COVID-19](#)
 - Children's Ministry – Livestreams
 - Children's Ministry – Written (devotionals, etc)
 - All Ages Faith Formation
 - Leadership
 - Zoom and Online Meetings

WEBINARS FROM WCC

- [Epidemic Preparedness for Faith Based Organizations](#)
- [Creating Live-Streamed Worship](#)

These resources are being continually updated with new information so please check back often. We also are continuing to work on resources such as adapting Holy Week practices during a time of social distancing, a guide for times of dying and grief care and more. If you have resources you would like to see, [please let us know](#). If you have a question you can't find an answer to, [let us know](#) and we will help connect you to someone who might have an answer.