

WORSHIP RENEWAL

Beginning a new chapter in bearing the creative and redeeming Word of God for the whole world.

Partners in Evangelical Worship

Two people from each ELCA synod were gathered in Houston this past June for three days of singing, praying, worshipping, learning, and conversation about on-going renewal of worship life in the ELCA. Also part of this group were Synod mission directors and culture-specific representatives.

Leading the event were:

- Robert G. Schaefer, Jennifer Ollikainen, and Scott Weidler - Worship and Liturgical Resources office of the ELCA headquarters in Chicago
- Stephen Bouman - Executive Director of ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission
- Sherman Hicks - Executive Director of ELCA Multicultural Ministries
- Craig Satterlee - Professor of Homiletics, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago
- Thomas Schattauer - Professor of Liturgics and Dean of the Chapel, Wartburg Seminary

Purpose

- To lead and support a conversation in local synods about how, through word, sacrament, liturgy, and song the church both (1) participates in God's mission and (2) is nourished for that mission for the sake of the world

Work

- Be part of a new network with goal of ongoing worship renewal centered in word and sacrament
- Help congregations to embrace the unifying patterns in worship, while exploring the freedom and flexibility of worship in diverse contexts
- Support conversations that help to make connections between word and sacrament worship and/to mission, justice, and service in the world
- Always keep in mind the missional intention of this work

In East Central Synod

- Be available to present worship events
- Identify, train, and replicate skills in other leaders, to form leadership teams
- Listen for grassroots needs in worship conversation/workshops
- Be available to consult with congregations
- Consult with ecumenical partners whenever possible

Synod Contacts

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The following documents and workshops are available through Marillyn or Becky. They have been designed by the worship office of the ELCA for use in helping congregations and synods in these many areas.

1. *The Use of the Means of Grace* (doc.) - a 1997 ELCA Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament
2. *Principles for Worship* (doc) - Published in 2002, this resource was the outcome of the first consultative phase of *Renewing Worship*
3. *Lutheran Federation's Nairobi Statement on Worship and culture* (doc) - drafted in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1996, illustrates the relationship between worship and culture
4. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* - introduction of the new hymnal
5. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: A Deeper Look* - continue to explore the riches in the liturgical material presented in introductory workshop and look at some of the deep issues underlying the development of liturgical resources in *ELW*
6. *Global Mission Worship Curriculum* - address questions of culture and its impact on worship
7. *Worship: Freedom and Flexibility* - reflect on common worship patterns and explore possibilities for shaping worship in specific contexts
8. *Scripture Shapes the Assembly* - reflect on how the public proclamation of Scripture brings the book of faith alive in the assembly
9. *Worship and Mission* - explore the inseparable nature of worship and mission and how the mission of God is enacted and expressed through our worship practice
10. *The Place Where We Worship* - engage principles of worship regarding worship space, including thoughtful preparation of existing spaces, changing or creating worship spaces, and the art and environment for worship
11. *Exploring Musical Riches in Evangelical Lutheran Worship* - enlarge the musical vision of music leaders using *ELW*, exploring hidden treasures in that resource
12. *Sound Decisions: Evaluating Contemporary Music for Lutheran Worship* - step-by-step guidance on how to evaluate and use contemporary church music within Lutheran worship
13. *With the Whole Church* - conversation and study about worship, understanding why worship matters and how worship draws us into God's own mission
14. *Leadership Program for Musicians* - information for intensive 2-year program for training and certifying church musicians
15. *Preparing Liturgy and Music for Synod Assemblies and Other Large Events* (doc.) - tips for preparing liturgy and music for large worship services at synod assemblies or other occasions