



Sanctus

John the Baptist



A Worship Newsletter of the ELCA,
Indiana-Kentucky Synod

April 2007

John said, "I must decrease, but he must increase" (John 3.30). John's birthday is celebrated in June after the vernal equinox. Days begin to grow shorter and darker, until the birth of Christ in December, when the days begin to grow longer again.

This year the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist falls on a Sunday (June 24, 2007), giving us the opportunity to celebrate that feast day. In this issue you will find some resources for planning the liturgy for that feast day.

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Speaking of planning a liturgy, just how does that happen? Many congregations have a Worship and Music Committee that regularly plans ahead. They look at how to vest the worship space for particular seasons and themes that might be lifted up. They also choose music and hymns, and make decisions about the various parts of the liturgy – for example, what do we sing for an offertory: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful", "What Shall I Render", "Create in Me", or perhaps a hymn. The Committee also engages in ongoing study of matters related to the renewal of worship, liturgy and theology, and music.

How do you get such a Committee started? Such a committee would do its work on behalf of the Congregation Council (which functions on behalf of the whole congregation). Worship is clearly the center of parish life, the source of vitality and strength of a congregation. Congregation Councils are charged with the "oversight of the life and activities of [the] congregation and in particular its worship life" (*Model Constitution*, C12.04). So the Congregation Council clearly needs to be on board with the formation and work of a Worship Committee.

Membership would include a wide and diverse representation of the congregation, but always those who have a passion for worship that is Christ-centered and reflects the core values of the congregation. Membership would include those who are responsible for leading worship – pastor(s), choir director, organist or musician(s); it would include representatives from the ushers, the altar guild, liturgical assistants; it would do well to also include representatives from the youth group and the confirmation class.

No one, including the pastor and musicians, would assume they have learned all there is to learn about worship. Each meeting would include a time for study as well as prayer and devotion.

Planning would be by the season, and would be at least two months ahead. Choosing themes, banners, and hymns, and making liturgical decisions far in advance, allows musicians and choir directors ample time to find music and anthems that fit chosen themes.

Augsburg Fortress publishes *Preparing the Assembly's Worship: A Worship Handbook*, that could be a useful resource in getting started.

What's on the calendar for 2007:

Healing in the Christian Assembly

April 16-18 Institute of Liturgical Studies, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

Summer Music Series – “Tuesday at Trinity”

June 12 – The Brass Band of Columbus

June 19 – Celebrating the Seasons: Vivaldi “The Four Seasons”

Michael Davis, soloist

June 26 – The Mark Flugge Trio with Kelly Crum Delaveris

Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio

Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival

June 24-July 22, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN

Outstanding faculty of artists and teachers guide gifted high school and college students from around the country through a month of intensive musical study and performance.

Young Lutherans Sing: A Summer Choral Experience

July 1-6, Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin

A one week choral and worship program of the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians for young musicians in grades 4-8. Michael Burkhardt, choral clinician and conductor

Augsburg Fortress Summer Music Clinics David Cherwien, choral & Mark Sedio, organ

July 30-31, Columbus, OH area

August 2-3, Chicago, IL area (pre-conference event for Worship Jubilee 2007)

Summer Institute for Liturgy and Worship – The Sacraments and the House that Holds Them: Sacred Space and the Arts as Theology July 8-13

The Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry

From Generation to Generation” July 8-12

Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Biennial Worship Conference in Houston, TX

Lutheran Youth Choir of North America

July 22-August 5, Faith Lutheran Church, Glen Ellyn, IL

A program for gifted high school singers, including participation in Worship Jubilee 2007 and a one-week tour of the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. Audition deadline: May 1.

Philip Spencer, founding conductor

Worship Jubilee August 3-6

A Churchwide Worship Event celebrating the renewal of worship in the ELCA

Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois





Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Five **Worship for Mission Workshops** were held throughout the Synod, beginning last October and finishing up on March 17. The workshops were:

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| October 28 | Christ the King Church, South Bend | 177 persons attended |
| November 4 | St. Luke Church, Newburgh, IN | 92 persons attended |
| November 18 | Pilgrim Church, Indianapolis | 266 persons attended |
| March 3 | Gloria Dei Church, Crestview Hills, KY | 125 persons attended |
| March 17 | Risen Savior Church, Fort Wayne | 148 persons attended |

Thanks to three groups for the success of these workshops:

First, thank you to the worship staff at ELCA headquarters for putting together the structure and content of the workshops.

Second, thank you to the congregations who hosted and fed the attendees.

Third, thank you to the team that led the workshops –

Maretta Hershberger and Cindy Strietelmeier, the musicians

Susan McMahan, Rudy Mueller, and Pamela Thiede, the presenters

The Synod Worship Committee will be meeting in late April to review what was done and what direction should be taken as we live into *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

What's New at Renewingworship.org?

- Augsburg Fortress has launched a new web site with information about the new hymnbook. The web site is www.augsburgfortress.org/worship/evangelicallutheranworship/default.jsp. The site provides information on the hymnbook, free samples, announcements about upcoming events, and a link to www.SundaysandSeasons.com.
- Settings One and Two from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* are now available for download and may be used without further permission through April 30, 2007.

At www.morningstarmusic.com/november_enewsletter_06.pdf check out Christmas music for organ and brass. The enewsletter also highlights a new CD by the National Lutheran Choir.

Augsburg Fortress is offering a Spring Music Sale on selected music items when you order online! Through April 30 you can enjoy a discount of **25%** on an assortment of **choral, organ, piano,** and **instrumental music**. To see a full list of titles go to www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category.jsp?clsid=186910&productgroupid=0&categoryid=3192

Also available from Augsburg Fortress are two new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* items: The Gift Edition and ceremonial binders. The gift edition contains the complete content of the *ELW* pew edition with an elegant cranberry bonded leather cover, gilded edging and ribbon markers. The ceremonial binders match the *ELW* pew edition, as well as being available in the liturgical colors of the church year. 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, this 3-ring binder is sized to hold standard 8-1/2 x 11" pages.

The color of the feast day is **white**.

This would be a good day to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism



GATHERING

It is appropriate on feast days to omit the Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness, and include a petition for forgiveness of sins during the intercessions. However, if a Baptism has not been scheduled for this day, it would be fitting to use the Thanksgiving for Baptism (*ELW*, p 97).

Possible Gathering hymns:

#246/37, #249/36, #250/WOV 725, #255, #256/29, #421/178 (stanza 14) all relate to John the Baptist.

Other possible hymns: #511/233, #514/231, #553/265, #604/300

[first numbers are *ELW*, second numbers *LBW*]

Any of these hymns would fit well as a Hymn of the Day.

If you omit the Kyrie green season of Pentecost, it is appropriate to do so on this day.

WORD

About the lessons for this day, *Sundays and Seasons* (ISBN 0-8066-4940-2; © 2006 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, Minnesota) writes:

Malachi prophesies a “messenger to prepare the way” (3.1). Teaching in the Antioch synagogue, Paul traces Israel’s salvation history down through John to Jesus (Acts 13). This festival’s gospel reading is Luke’s account of John’s birth, complete with the optional inclusion of Zechariah’s song that we know as the Benedictus (“Blessed are you, Lord”). The story of John’s birth parallels that of Jesus ... John the Baptist, forerunner of Jesus, is the classic voice that comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable. (pp 207-208)

ELW offers Matthew 5.10 as the Gospel Acclamation. We remember that John was persecuted by Herod.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,*

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The Nicene Creed is the appropriate creed for feast days.

Sundays and Seasons also offers intercessions (p 207) that may be used.

MEAL

The Peace may be introduced as follows:

P The dawn from high shall break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. The peace of Christ be with you always.

An appropriate Offertory would be *ELW* #692.

The proper preface for Advent is the suggested preface.

Possible distribution hymns:

#466, #481, #486, #488/224, #490/198, #494/200, #495/207

A possible dismissal:

A Brothers and sisters, to you has been sent the message of salvation.

Go forth before the Lord to prepare his ways. Share this knowledge of salvation.

Forgive sins; be kind and merciful. Alleluia, alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Introducing Children and Youth to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

[*Editor's note:* This article was downloaded from the CD which was in the introductory kit sent to every congregation and every rostered leader in September 2006. © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to reproduce this document for local use in introducing *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.]

Holy Baptism joins people of all ages, including young children and youth, to the body of Christ. Whether baptized or still anticipating baptism, people who are gathered into the Christian assembly participate in worship. So, all people – young, old, and in between – should be introduced to the resources used in worship.

As part of the effort to introduce *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* in your community of faith, it is important to include young children and youth. Often drawn to variety or new things, young people are particularly teachable when it comes to new songs, prayers, and patterns for worship. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* includes new compositions, global rhythms, classic hymns, and a wealth of other material that will be of interest to children and youth.

The “how” of introducing young people to this new book of worship is rich with possibilities. The suggestions listed below provide a place to start. These may cause you to think of other creative possibilities. And the things you try with children may lead you to discover things that will work with other generations. Whatever you decide, approach the task with care and delight, knowing that words and music that are placed in the mouths and on the hearts of young people are likely to form them in faith for a lifetime.

Consider these ideas:



In Worship

- Very young children should be encouraged to hold the book as soon as they show interest. Turning pages and seeing the images created by art, words, and music contributes to a child's sense that they are included when they see others holding the book.
- Children are more likely to feel connected and participate if they can see. Encourage families with children to sit near the front, where children can see what is happening in worship. Help older children follow the action by showing them where the action corresponds with the words, art, and music in the book.
- Encourage children and youth to be a part of the movement of worship – standing, kneeling, following a procession, making a sign of the cross, coming to the table during Holy Communion, sitting near the font during a baptism, bringing gifts forward when invited, sharing their own gifts when the offering is gathered, exchanging the peace of Christ.
- If your worship includes a “time for children”, consider explaining in clear and simple ways some of the actions and words of worship. When the explanation is then “connected” with the biblical readings for that day, by participating in this time together, the children are participating in the assembly's proclamation.
- Use the “Kids Celebrate Worship” resources from Augsburg Fortress as weekly handouts for children. When that is not possible, consider including announcements or graphics in the “announcements” part of your weekly worship folder that are intentionally designed for young people.
- Many of the new hymns and songs have refrains. Take time to teach these to the whole congregation, increasing children's participation in the singing by intentionally inviting them to join in.
- Provide regular opportunities for hymn-sing preludes, where both new songs and old favorites can be learned and enjoyed. Ask a variety of members, including youth, to choose the hymns that will be sung during these preludes.
- Encourage the directors of youth and children's choirs to use the hymns and psalms from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* in planning their musical offerings for worship and as a regular part of their rehearsals.
- Invite and train young people who are able to participate in worship leadership, helping them to see how their role comes to expression in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

In Christian Education

- Use announcements in Christian education classes, in newsletters, and on bulletin boards to encourage families to talk with one another about their worship experience each week.
- Teach hymns from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* in Sunday School using a variety of methods – audio, visual, print, projected, hands-on, movement. Incorporating rhythm instruments, movement, and other artistic responses (drawing, painting) helps children learn more quickly.
- Use the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* “Calendar of Sundays and Principle Festivals” to teach about the church year, saints, and important church figures. Look for additional helpful resources on the websites www.elca.org/worship and www.augsburgfortress.org.
- Use the art included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* to shape discussions about symbols of faith or discipleship. This can be done in different ways depending on what is appropriate for the age group. Use the art to encourage drawing or painting young peoples’ own expressions of faith.
- Use the “Kids Celebrate Worship” resources from Augsburg Fortress with younger children (ages 6-10) in Sunday School.
- Use *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* as a resource in First Communion classes. Present a copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* to the children upon entering First Communion classes or Confirmation instruction.
- Use *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* as a resource in confirmation classes, especially when studying Luther’s Small Catechism and services related to Holy Baptism. (Remember, confirmation is an affirmation of baptism.)
- Explore together prayers and the words of hymns, songs, and canticles within *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. There are many additional resources in this book of worship that may serve as topics for discussion, especially among junior and senior high school students. In the Home
- Encourage families to use *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* for personal and family devotions. During Advent and Lent, learn the prayers or words from worship services used during that particular season of the church year. Responsive Prayer can be used with children who are able to read.
- Explore some of the psalms and say or sing them together whenever your family prays.
- Celebrate Baptismal anniversaries with children and youth, using the services of Holy Baptism or Affirmation of Baptism as the guide for “remembering” and giving thanks for their baptism.

Remember, this is but a beginning. Work with others to intentionally include children and youth in the introduction of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Your efforts are likely to contribute to more fully including all generations in worship.

