

WORSHIP REPORT

Pacific Northwest District

District Convention 2022

New WELS Hymnal & Service Builder

Access resources and order at: christianworship.com and online.nph.net.

Preview Service Builder here: christianworship.com/products/service-builder.

Need One License and CCLI as well for full licensing rights (all Getty songs will be included in One License). These licenses do not cover live streaming.

Resources continue to be added.

Christian Worship: Planning Guide & Commentary on Propers, Year A still in the works.

Musician's Resource

Now available at: online.nph.net (upper righthand corner of webpage).

Choir arrangements, accompaniment music for various instruments, and more.

Resources continue to be added.

Congregational Services

Access all resources here: welscongregationservices.net.

The Foundation

The Preacher's Podcast

Points for Discussion

Excerpts from the *Report to the Twelve Districts 2022*:

President's message

And, not least, in these last days when many Christian churches are resorting to gimmicks to “grow the church,” we reaffirm our heritage as confessional Lutherans every time we emphasize that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, with the message that comes from Scripture alone. That emphasis cannot just be one of words. Lip service to the principles of the Reformation is not sufficient. Our faithful use of the means of grace, our confidence that only the means of grace can convert sinners, our recognition that our doctrine and teaching will be carried out faithfully and consistently in our practice, is the foundation and center of all we do.

COP Doctrine Committee and the Doctrine Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

There was also discussion regarding the dangers of the influence of American Evangelicalism on WELS and ELS worship practices (page 3).

Retaining the Lutheran character of our worship

The COP desires to ensure that when new missions are planted, the distinctively Lutheran character of our worship is not lost or eroded. In March 2022, the COP arranged for a meeting of representatives from the COP, Home Missions, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to identify what characteristics are essential to preserving the Lutheran character of worship in WELS congregations, while at the same time upholding the Christian freedom that we enjoy. The committee will identify principles and how those principles can best be applied in WELS congregations. The committee's work will be incorporated into pastoral training done at the seminary and in the vicar year and will also be used by district mission boards and mission counselors as they provide assistance to new missions (page 4).

I encourage circuits to discuss these points further. Particularly:

1. How does the Bible define God-honoring public worship? What biblical principles guide us when making decisions about public worship?
2. What classifies as a distinctively Lutheran character of worship? Which characteristics must we say are essential to God-pleasing public worship? Which are preferences or historical/cultural developments?
3. What influences (positive or negative) has Evangelicalism had on WELS worship practices? What influences (positive or negative) has Roman Catholicism had on WELS worship practices?
4. What are ways we can uphold the Reformation solas and Christian freedom in public worship?
5. In what ways does a congregation's unique context of ministry shape its decisions on how to conduct public worship (cf. cultural considerations in world mission settings)?

Contact

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Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

Psalm 96:9

