

**Worship at First: Principles of Lutheran Worship**  
**August 12, 2009, 6:30 pm**

Welcome

Opening Prayer

**3 Years of Change in Worship at First Lutheran Church**

New Space: New Fellowship Hall 2006  
New Hymnal: Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
New Position: Full Time Director of Worship and Music  
New Form: Contemporary Worship  
New Communion Practice: Weekly Eucharist  
New Worship Times: 8:30 and 10 Year Around  
New Pastor: Preaches without Notes, Sits with the People

**Point: Much Change in a Short Amount of Time**

Many Feelings about Change  
    Positive: Excitement, Renewal and Energy  
    Negative: Fear, Anxiety and Sadness  
Questions Arise  
    Why did these changes occur?  
    What meaning is behind the change?

**Three Part Experience**

August 12: Principles of Lutheran Worship  
August 19: 4 Fold Pattern of Worship  
August 26: First Lutheran Church's Worship Life

**Lutheran Principles of Worship**

**#1 God gathers the faithful into the Church.**

*Implications*

- Humans need community
- Humans need God's direction and grace
- The Church is that gift where God provides for humanity's needs

**#2 God gives the Church the Means of Grace which are the Word and the sacraments.**

*Implications*

- The Means of Grace reveal and share God's loving heart
- Means of Grace are central to the life of the Church and the believer

- The Word and sacraments provide faith, forgiveness and new life
- The Church shares and provides the means of grace to everyone
- Definition of the Church: Assembly of believers who gather around the Word and Sacraments

**#3 Worship is the experience where the faithful experience the Means of Grace.**

*Implications*

- Worship is the center of the Church
- Worship is offered weekly
- The believer is responsible to tend to their worship life
- In worship, God lovingly meets humanity
- Scripture reminds us to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

**#4 The Word of God is Jesus Christ incarnate which is experienced in Scripture and preaching.**

*Implications*

- Jesus Christ is the living Word of God that continues to speak to the faithful in every day and age
- Christ's words come to us in worship through the reading of scripture and preaching

**#5 The sacraments of Baptism and Communion are the visible Word of God.**

*Implications*

- In baptism, we are given God's name forever
- In communion, we are given God's meal of Christ crucified and risen
- Both sacraments give us God's grace which we need for daily life
- Baptism and communion must be part of our worship life

**#6 God gave us the arts which serve the Means of Grace.**

*Implications*

- Hymns are sung theology
- Art forms shared in worship become proclamation – they communicate God's grace
- Music, Dance and Visual Art deepen the worship experience

**#7 God provides freedom in all matters outside of the Means of Grace.**

*Implications*

- This concept is known as “adiaphora” which means that which does not pertain to salvation
- No one singular correct way to worship, provided the Means of Grace are present

**#8 Worship is relational and participatory.**

*Implications*

- All the faithful are invited and expected to respond in prayer, word and song to God's grace
- It takes many people to provide leadership of worship
- Liturgy is a Greek word. It is literally means "work of the people"
- Worship connects the faithful to each other and God

**#9 Worship leads the faithful into prayer**

*Implications*

- Prayer is communication with God
- In worship, we pray for all in need
- Prayer is the connective tissue of worship
- Worship directs us in our personal prayer life and spirituality

**#10 Worship leads to mission.**

*Implications*

- Worship is rehearsal for life
- Worship strengthens us for service and faithful living in God's name

**#11 Worship connects us to other Christians**

*Implications*

- Shared experience: church seasons, lectionary texts, creeds and song
- Reminds the faithful that the Church is larger than one parish or tradition

**#12 Worship has a pattern**

*Implications*

- Gathering
- Word
- Meal
- Sending

**Questions**

**Next Time**

August 19, 2009, 6:30pm  
4 Fold Pattern of Liturgy