



ELCA Worship News

AUGUST 2018

Greetings,

I have always loved a good story. I love the narrative, the build-up, the climax, the ending, the left-hanging. I love all of what goes into making a story a "good" story. I am even more engaged when I feel like I have a place in the story or can picture an application to my life.

My friend, and program director for Lutheridge camp in Arden, N.C., Pastor Mary Caniff-Kuhn always starts each devotion with, "I'd like to tell you a story." As Pastor Mary tells a story from a children's book or one that has been passed down through the ages, she also ties it in with God's story and how we are all part of God's story. This story of love, grace, liberation and life-changing truth.

Or, as Rachel Held Evans said in her book, "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again":

Jesus invites us into a story that is bigger than ourselves, bigger than our culture, bigger even than our imaginations, and yet we get to tell that story with the scandalous particularity of our particular moment and place in time. We are storytelling creatures because we are fashioned in the image of a storytelling God. May we never neglect the gift of that. May we never lose our love for telling the tale.

God's great story of salvation is one we are invited into every time we gather for worship – each time we hear sacred stories from the pages of our history as God's people, each time we hear this saving story told in song and prayer, each time we gather around bread and wine and hear those saving words once more, each time we draw close to the waters of baptism and hear of God's cleansing water stories, and each time we are drawn into this transforming narrative in proclamation of God's word.

May we never grow weary of hearing the old, old story of Jesus and his love! And may we continue to invite others into this story: a word that will continue to transform the narrative of hate into love, swords into plowshares and enemies into friends.

In Christ's peace,
The Rev. Kevin L. Strickland
Assistant to the Presiding Bishop
Executive for Worship



Recently featured on the ELCA Worship Blog:

- ["Drawn In! Moving Out!" ELCA Youth Gathering Interactive Learning Space](#) (July 18)
- [Drawn In! Moving Out! Part 2: Youth Voices](#) (July 31)
- [Worship at Camp Mount Luther](#) (Aug. 1)

We enjoy hearing from you! It is a gift for those of us here at Worship to hear about the breadth and depth of worship practices around this church. If your particular context has a story, practice or resource to share with our staff, please send it to worship@elca.org.

Although we cannot share everything we receive, we may contact you for further information.

Frequently asked questions

The Worship staff regularly receives similar inquiries on worship-related topics from across the church via email and phone.

Seven new Frequently Asked Questions are now available for you to read, download and consider in your congregation. [Clayton Faulkner](#) responds to questions that address the contextual nature of worship, use of a worship band, how to use video projection and more.



- [What is "postmodern" or "emerging" worship?](#)
- [How can a worship band be used in Lutheran worship?](#)
- [How can video projection be used in worship?](#)
- [What components are needed for a sound system?](#)
- [What components are needed for a video projection system?](#)
- [How do we evaluate worship?](#)
- [How do we make worship contextual?](#)

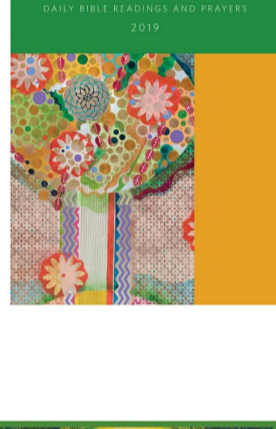
The answers provided in the ELCA Worship FAQ are not the final word. They are useful guides that may be considered in respect to local context with pastoral sensitivity. Remember that these guides can be reproduced for a worship committee or congregational use, provided the web address is cited on the copies.

If you would like additional information or do not find the question that you are seeking an answer to, we invite you to contact the Worship staff at worship@elca.org.

AUGSBURG FORTRESS

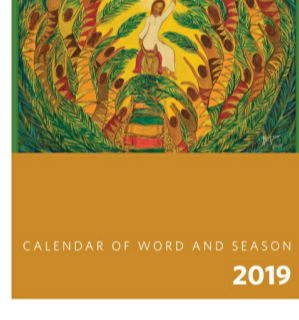
Bread for the Day 2019: Daily Bible Readings and Prayers

"Bread for the Day" is a daily devotional resource filled with rich treasures. Each day includes a brief Scripture reading following the daily lectionary as presented in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, a prayer, and a hymn for each day. There is also a collection of meal prayers, prayers for the holidays and seasons, a simplified form of morning and evening prayer and prayers for various circumstances. This guide for individual prayer and reflection may also be used as a guide to family prayer, prayer in congregational and other settings throughout the week, prayer with those who are sick or homebound, or with other groups. Now available for pre-order. Quantity discounts are available.



Calendar of Word and Season: Sundays and Seasons Year C, 2019 now available

This beautiful full-color wall calendar features the artwork of Southeast Asian artists Hanna Varghese and P. Solomon Raj. The calendar identifies church festivals and U.S. and Canadian holidays and includes a list of all the Bible readings for the year from the Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and church festivals. Date blocks provide plenty of room for family or church date-keeping, identifying the seasonal or festival color. The calendars make excellent gifts for each household or staff and committee members. Supply is limited and will go out of print once sold out. [Click here](#) to view a sample of the artwork.



EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Music that Makes Community

Music that Makes Community grew out of the liturgical work being done at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, founded by the Rev. Donald Schell and the Rev. Rick Fabian in San Francisco. During the summer of 2005, they realized a desire to create music for worship that would leave congregants free to move around, use their hands and be fully present to one another in worship. They started collecting and composing music and working on ways to use it in worship.



Events held throughout the U.S. and Canada bring musicians and worship leaders together to help people connect and learn through singing by developing and teaching a practice of paperless song leading grounded in a theology of welcome and generosity for the benefit of musicians, clergy, congregants, students and lay leaders who want to use the practice to enrich and enliven their worship and community life. Go to the [events calendar](#) for other local offerings throughout the country.

Upcoming events:

- Sept. 21-22: Intergenerational MMC Weekend at Camp Kirchenwald, Lebanon, Pa.
- Oct. 10: Music that Makes Community at The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, N.H.
- Oct. 15: Music that Makes Community at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center, Port Murray, N.J.

Hearts • Hands • Voices

Local workshops for church musicians

sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

Hearts • Hands • Voices events continue to occur around the church in 2018 sponsored by the [Association of Lutheran Church Musicians \(ALCM\)](#). These workshops are for musicians, as well as pastors and other worship leaders, who serve in congregations of all sizes and contexts, each with their own challenges and opportunities. Registration is available on the [ALCM website](#). The final months include a number of events:

- Sept. 8 – Honolulu, Hawaii
- Sept. 15 – Carmel, Ind.; Fairfield, Conn.; and Mission, Kan.
- Sept. 22 – Charlotte, N.C.; Schaumburg, Ill.
- Sept. 29 – Perrysburg, Ohio; Lindsborg, Kan.; Baltimore, Md.; Seward, Neb.; and New York, N.Y.
- Oct. 5-6 – South Bend, Ind.
- Oct. 6 – Irvine, Calif.
- Oct. 13 – Denver, Colo.; Beaverton, Ore.; Missoula, Mont.; Waukesha, Wis.; Spokane, Wash.
- Oct. 20 – Columbia, S.C.; San Francisco, Calif.; Torrance, Calif.
- Nov. 3 – Hickory, N.C.
- Nov. 10 – Philadelphia, Pa.

JOURNEY TO BAPTISMAL LIVING

NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CATECHUMENATE

Adult Catechumenate training offered

Portland, Ore., Oct. 5-6
Ottawa, Ontario, Oct. 25-28

Are you looking for a way to deepen the faith lives of those coming to your church and enliven your congregation? If so, consider taking a team to an ecumenical training in the adult catechumenate, a process of spiritual formation for people exploring Christianity or seeking to renew their faith.

Based on ancient practices, the catechumenate goes beyond the traditional study of "what Christians believe" to asking questions, telling our stories and discovering God's story in our story. Through worship, prayer, small groups, biblical reflection, sponsors and ministry in daily life, it creates a journey to baptismal living that changes lives and makes disciples.

At a training event you explore the stages of the catechumenate process and experience its elements and worship rites in both large group and small group settings. These events are recommended for teams of two or more from your congregation or organization (clergy, musicians, lay leaders, and worship and adult faith formation staff) and will provide you with the background and resources you need to adapt and begin a catechumenal process. Registration will be available July 1.

Please visit [Journey to Baptism](#) for the latest information and a link to the registration when it becomes available. These training events are sponsored by Journey to Baptismal Living: The North American Association for the Catechumenate. For questions, contact info@journeytobaptism.org.

For more information about the catechumenate, visit journeytobaptism.org.

Connecting with ELCA Worship

The ELCA Worship Blog and Facebook page are your places to connect with what's going on in worship across our church.

The [Facebook page](#) shares prayers, events, updates, blog posts and "liturgy grams," a short, weekly infographic on the definitions and practices of things we see in worship every week.

The [Worship Blog](#) is regularly updated with more in-depth information and stories. Follow it for updates from the worship office and pictures, resources, reflections and happenings from pastors, musicians and worshippers across the church.

We'd love to include your voice too! If you have a story of how worship is meaningful and engaging in your context or want to share something your congregation has particularly loved, send it to worship@elca.org with the subject "For the blog," and don't forget to include a related picture and where you are writing from.



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