

Strong Center

Open Door

Engaging Lutheran worship today

PRESENTERS

Susan Briehl is called by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod to serve the Church through her work with the Valparaiso Project and as a pastor, teacher and writer. As part of the Renewing Worship Holy Communion editorial team and Resource Proposal group, Susan's longtime care for the words we speak and sing in worship deepened and broadened. A member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Spokane, she mentors and trains high school students to serve as assisting ministers.

Suzanne Burke serves as senior editor for worship at Augsburg Fortress where she guides the development of annual worship planning content for the Sundays and Seasons family of print and online resources, sacramental preparation and formation resources, and worship formation resources. She worships at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, a vibrant, creative, community rooted in south Minneapolis. She is especially shaped in worship through the visual environment, ritual action, and the assembly's song. (*Minnesota*)

Matt James lives in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he serves as Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. He spends much of his ministry with youth and young adults and has a deep passion for providing opportunities that lift up new leaders of all ages, in worship and throughout the life of the Church. Matt served on the planning team for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering and continues to serve as a leader for youth ministry events in the New England Synod.

Daniel Schwandt is a musician who cares deeply for the church's song and the church's worship. For twelve years he was the cantor of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and was active in shaping the worship life of the seminary community and forming leaders for the church. He is currently Cantor of Immanuel Lutheran in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago in addition to pursuing graduate studies in sacred music at the University of Notre Dame.

Martin Seltz serves as publisher at Augsburg Fortress, coordinating resource development in worship, music, adult formation, and other facets of the congregation's life, notably in the Sundays and Seasons, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Augsburg Music, and Together by Grace resource families. Serving as one of the cantors at Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis gives him another avenue for living out his calling to enliven the church's song. (*Colorado; Pennsylvania*)

Kevin Strickland serves as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop and Executive for Worship of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Prior to this he served as a parish pastor in Tennessee. He believes that worship is central to our mission. "Worship is at the heart of our mission as Christ church and provides an opportunity for us to be made whole and encounter the holy. Worship equips us to be disciples in this world, striving for justice and in doing so, we return often to the heart of our mission to be re-charged and fed." (*Colorado; Minnesota*)

Scott Weidler has been ELCA Program Director for Worship and Music for more than 20 years. In that position, he was on staff through the development and introduction of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and is eager for everyone to imagine the breadth of possibility within those resources whether the book is used or not. He lives on the north side of Chicago in Rogers Park.