Greetings,

We are about to take a turn into a new church year as we enter into the season of Advent, reminded that this season is about “the church’s continual prayer that God will come (The root of the meaning of ‘advent’) to us, bringing life to a dying world.” (Keeping Time: The Church’s Years, Augsburg Fortress, 2009). Themes of watchfulness, preparation and hope infuse this season.

We are called to ponder myst’ry and await the coming Christ, to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life. God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth, while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth. “Unexpected and Mysterious,” ELW 258, stanza 3


I hope that you can find time to ponder the mystery that draws us through Advent season into Christmas. Amid a busy and chaotic world, the church continues in worship of the one who is and who was and who is to come. Blessings on your worship participation, planning and/or leadership this Advent and into the new church year.

In peace,
Deacon John E. Weit
Interim Assistant to the Presiding Bishop / Executive for Worship

At the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA amended its constitution to name ordination as the entrance rite for ministers of Word and Service. New rites for ordination and installation of ministers of Word and Service, as well as minor updates to the rites for Word and Sacrament, have been authorized by the Church Council as the appropriate forms to be used in the ELCA beginning in January 2020. Visit the ELCA Worship page and click “Worship Resources” to find newly updated rites on the Ministry Rites tab, for:

- Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament
- Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Service
- Installation of a Pastor
Installation of a Deacon

Frequently asked questions

Have you ever wondered?

Though styles of worship differ from congregation to congregation, we typically use the same pattern that was established in the earliest days of Christianity. Do you recognize it?

What is the pattern of worship?

What is the role of silence in worship?

If you would like additional information or do not find the question you need answered, we invite you to contact the worship staff at worship@elca.org.

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.

Resources and Events

World AIDS Day Worship Resources

Each Dec. 1, the ELCA joins with our neighbors around the world in commemorating World AIDS Day. Newly compiled resources are also available on the ELCA Worship Resources page.

Institute of Liturgical Studies
April 20-22, 2020
Valparaiso, Ind.
It begins with breath: the breath of an individual, the breath of a community. Singing is natural to creatures, as hymn writer Robert Lowry asks rhetorically, "How can I keep from singing?" In response to God's revelation in Christ by the Spirit's power, we cannot help but sing.

For more information or to register

**Sundays and Seasons, Year A 2020**

There is still time to review and choose from the many worship resources available for Year A.

**Bread for the Day** offers personal, household or group devotions through readings and prayers.

**Music That Makes Community Events**

Not able to attend one of the many events offered? Music That Makes Community provides numerous online resources on its website. Check them out!

**Lutheran Summer Music 2020**
**Valparaiso University**
**June 28-July 26, 2020**

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is pleased to announce the Rev. Nathan Baker-Trinity as chaplain for LSM 2020. Like many fellow LSM alumni, Pastor Baker-Trinity credits his years at Lutheran Summer Music in guiding him to pursue pastoral ministry.

Currently serving a congregation in Rush City, Minn., he looks forward to ministering to the LSM community as chaplain.