

# Presentation Descriptions



## National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts 2024

The following chart lists presentations by category. See “Presentation Times” for a chart that shows when each topic is offered. In that chart the short titles in the middle column below are used.

### General: Practical & Analytical

Presenter	Long Title	Short Title	Description and Presenter Biography
Jon Bauer	Lutheran Worship: What Now? —Further Conversation	What Now? —Further Conversation	<p>This conference’s plenary address, to be presented after the opening service on Wednesday, explores the following themes and questions. In 2024, <i>Lutheran</i> worship celebrates its 500th birthday. Within the next few years, <i>Christian</i> worship will enter its third millennium. These milestone anniversaries happen at a time when nearly everyone agrees that our world is experiencing unprecedented changes. Whether it’s advances in technology, shifts in spirituality, or instability in institutions, the dramatic ways in which our world is changing have given us a world we would not have recognized a decade ago (much less a world Lutherans in 1524 or the apostles in first-century Jerusalem would have recognized). So what now? How do Christian congregations meet the unique challenges presented by our late-modern world as they gather weekly in Jesus’ name? This presentation aims to demonstrate how, as confessional Lutherans, we are fully equipped to answer this crucial question about our worship: What now?</p> <p>Those interested in further conversation about this plenary address may select this breakout session. The plenary address builds off of Jon Bauer’s 2023 keynote at the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership with specific application to worship. After he expands on the thoughts of his address, participants will have an opportunity for further discussion. His keynote address from the leadership conference is available at <a href="https://vimeo.com/801975492">vimeo.com/801975492</a>.</p> <p><b>Pastor Bauer graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2008. His first call was to Emmanuel in Tempe, Ariz. In 2014 he accepted the call to Good News in Mount Horeb, Wis., a mission church that dedicated its first building project in 2023. Jon serves on the WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling and the Institute for Worship and Outreach. He served on the executive committee of the WELS Hymnal Project.</b></p>
Michael Berg	Myths and Truths about Liturgical Worship:	Liturgy Myths and Truths	<p>This session will explore the benefits of liturgical worship. Leaving behind tired arguments that offer misleading dichotomies (e.g., liturgical vs. non-liturgical), we will discover that liturgically thoughtful worship addresses profound questions that all humans ask regardless of their</p>

	Enriching Love of the Liturgy		<p>background: Who are we? Who is God? Does the spiritual interact with the physical? How shall we live? Ultimately it asks and answers this question: How can we stand before the Almighty without being blown away? Liturgical worship is iconoclastic in this way. It shatters the images we have of God and ourselves and confronts us with a truly Christocentric message.</p> <p><b>Rev. Dr. Berg is associate professor of theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College where he teaches courses on worship, apologetics, Martin Luther, Christ in the Old Testament, and Christ and Culture. He is the author of <i>Vocation: The Setting for Human Flourishing (1517)</i>, <i>The Baptismal Life (NPH)</i>, <i>On Any Given Sunday: The Story of Christ in the Divine Service (1517)</i>, and a forthcoming book from NPH called <i>Peter: Theologian of the Cross</i>.</b></p>
John Bortulin	A Congregation's Story About Worship and Education—Could It Be Yours?	A Congregation's Worship Ed Story	<p>Every congregation is going to “do something” when it gathers. An age-old axiom is “How you worship affects how you believe, and how you believe affects how you worship.” This presentation will tell the story of how one church family has navigated Sunday mornings in a way that seeks to serve the lifelong Lutheran as well as the first-time attendee. Emphasis will be given to intentional and subtle ways to teach “why we do what we do.” Pastors, worship planners, musicians, teachers, and laity alike will hopefully benefit and leave our time together with something to think about and something to implement in their unique ministry settings.</p> <p><b>Pastor Bortulin serves at St. John's, Mukwonago, Wis. In the past ten years, nearly 350 adults have joined the church through its adult instruction class. This has created the dynamic of a large, established congregation with many weekly attendees who were not previously familiar with liturgical worship. John also serves on the Board for Ministerial Education and as second vice president of the Southeastern Wisconsin District. He was a member of the rites committee for <i>Christian Worship</i>.</b></p>
Phil Huebner	Children and Teens in Worship	Children and Teens	<p>What to do with children and teens in worship? Just let them learn through experience? Offer a separate teen service or children's church down the hallway? Include them in worship? Feature them? Leave it to the parents to figure it out? This workshop, not only for parents but for all who care about children and teens, will address generational and statistical changes in worship along with how real parents, teens, and children actually view worship today. The workshop will seek to use a biblical foundation that applies historical precedent and wisdom to modern situations and contexts. It will also give suggestions for incorporating children and teens in worship, addressing them in sermons, and connecting worship with the homes. The goal will be to build up children and teens into the body of Christ as lifelong Christian worshippers.</p> <p><b><i>Information about the presenter is at The Art of Preaching.</i></b></p>
Jonathan Hein	Worship Lessons Learned from Consulting	Worship Lessons Learned	<p>Imagine over the course of two years attending worship at a different WELS congregation every week. As you observed what went well and what didn't, you would gain valuable insights: about what God's people find most edifying, about what enables both members and guests to better participate in worship, about what makes a sermon well received, etc. In his decade of serving the</p>

			<p>WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling, Rev. Hein has attended worship in more churches than you could visit in two years. In this presentation, he will share some lessons learned from congregational consulting. He will provide hard data about worship in congregations that the Lord is blessing with growth. He will share insights about walking the Lutheran middle in our worship planning, trusting that only God’s Word can effect and strengthen faith while also understanding that God expects us to use his gift of reason to conduct worship so that the Word is well proclaimed and received.</p> <p><i>Information about the presenter is at Consolidation for Critical Mass.</i></p>
Paul Prange	Adiaphora: Freedom and Consensus in Worship	Adiaphora: Freedom and Consensus	<p>How much are forms of worship commanded, and how much are they personal preference of the worship planners? This presentation provides insights from the past—A.D. 55, 1571, 1941, 1983, 2008—before making applications for the present. Participants will grow in their understanding of the value of both freedom and consensus in worship while also sharpening their ability to assess questionable cultural assumptions.</p> <p><b>Rev. Prange serves as the interim director of the WELS Commission on Worship. He is also administrator for Ministerial Education and chairman of the Joint Mission Council. His broad ministry experience includes time as a home missionary, a world missionary, and a parish pastor, but most people remember him as president of Michigan Lutheran Seminary, 1994–2009. He was chairman of the committee that prepared the Psalter as part of the new WELS hymnal suite.</b></p>
Wade Johnston	Christ, Culture, and Liturgy	Christ, Culture, and Liturgy	<p>We live in an age where it’s hard to tell where culture ends and Christianity begins. Every Christian has lived in such an age. God came to people in time at a place by his incarnation. God still comes to people in time at places through Word and sacrament. How do Christ, culture, and liturgy therefore relate? This presentation will explore how the liturgy serves both contextually and transculturally, taking place within a cultural framework while at the same time calling us beyond it. What from our culture is adaptable or beneficial? What is harmful, though seeming innocent? How does worship transcend culture? How do we engage our culture without compromising our faith and practice?</p> <p><b>Rev. Dr. Johnston is associate professor of history and theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, Wis. Raised Roman Catholic, he was confirmed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1995 and soon enrolled in Martin Luther College. After graduation from seminary, he served Christ in Saginaw, Mich., for ten years before coming to WLC. He earned his PhD from Central Michigan University and Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam. His teaching focuses on European history, Luther, the Lutheran Confessions, the reformations of the sixteenth century, applied theology, and Paul’s epistles. He has given presentations to numerous WELS conferences and is published by CPH, 1517, Logia, and others.</b></p>

Brett Naumann	Virtual Worship Is Like a Virtual Honeymoon, In Person Is Better	Virtual Worship	<p>Knowing how to do worship well is one thing; having people return to worship after they have grown comfortable streaming church from their couch while clutching a cup of coffee is a whole separate matter. Churches across Christendom have struggled to return to pre-pandemic in-person worship attendance levels. This presentation will share the experiences and lessons learned at one church that is averaging <b>66%</b> of members attending in-person worship each week. It will review the blessings of in-person worship and will provide a number of strategies for encouraging people to return to live worship.</p> <p><b>Pastor Naumann served for 14 years at Good Shepherd in Fond du Lac before taking a call to Trinity in Kiel, Wis., where he has served since 2019. He also serves on the Northern Wisconsin District Worship Committee.</b></p>
Aaron Christie	The Modern Hymn Movement: Impact in America, Implications for Lutherans	The Modern Hymn Movement	<p><i>Christian Worship 2021</i> includes about 70 modern hymns by names like Getty, Kauflin, Boswell, Papa, Townend. Many of these are as widely sung as some of an earlier generation’s “Christian contemporary” songs, but they are often superior in several respects: depth of content, breadth of themes, more singable by the assembly than soloistic songs. It’s also noteworthy that the huge conferences sponsored by Getty Music don’t use only modern repertoire but also traditional hymns, sometimes with a modern ensemble but also sung a cappella in harmony. This session will explore some of the modern hymns and how they found a place in CW21 (noting also the kinds of songs that did not make the cut—and why) and how both modern and traditional hymns can best serve our churches.</p> <p><b>Information about the presenter is at <a href="#">Stretching Your Worship</a>.</b></p>
Aaron Christie	Stretching Your Worship Within Lutheran Parameters	Stretching Your Worship	<p>Lutherans often take a different view on things. What, for instance, are the distinctive aims, actions, and aesthetics of Lutheran worship? We speak of the principles of Lutheran worship. Do we think of these principles as scriptural signposts that help us? Or as strictures that hinder a vibrant worship? A principled approach to worship comes with a possible pitfall: that our worship becomes stagnant. Is there sometimes a bit of truth to the critique of Lutheran worship, “It’s the same thing every week!”? This workshop will encourage your congregation to spot that which is stagnant and then stretch your worship life. What are your next steps forward in enriching your orders of service; in singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs? Do you conduct worship in a way that welcomes the unchurched? The goal is to keep your congregation stretching toward a life of worship that exchanges parish ruts for Lutheran riches! God’s people and our communities will be blessed as a result. Attendees will bring home a list of deliverables to implement in their specific contexts. <i>This workshop was originally presented at the 2023 WELS leadership conference. It is offered only once.</i></p> <p><b>Prof. Christie is dean of chapel and professor of worship and homiletics at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He previously served churches in Antioch, Ill., and Waukesha, Wis. He holds a Master</b></p>

			<p>of Church Music degree from Concordia University Wisconsin. He has served the church at large as a presenter for Schools of Worship Enrichment, a member of the Commission on Worship and the Institute for Worship and Outreach, and chairman of the hymns committee for <i>Christian Worship</i>.</p>
Mike Berg	Signals Not to Send	Signals Not to Send	<p>It seems that our culture is divided up between left and right in just about every aspect including Sunday mornings. What a tragedy! The things that unite us are so much more precious and important than the things that divide us. This is true in our country and exponentially truer in the church. Of all places, the church should be the place where the truth of the gospel matters and everything else fades into the background. And yet is this the feeling our members sense while sitting in the pews? How about the visitors in the narthex? Would a person who holds a minority political opinion walk away because of unintended signals we send? Whether we realize it or not, we send unintended signals (good and bad) in preaching, worship, conversations in the narthex, and in Bible class discussions. In this session we will discuss signals not to send but also ways to reinforce the matters that unite us. We will try to hone the skill of challenging our audiences with the grand topics that relate to our current culture without putting a barrier between them and the gospel.</p> <p><i>Information about the presenter is at Liturgy Myths and Truths.</i></p>
Adam Mueller	More Than Just Good Worship: Congregational Health	Congregational Health	<p>The ultimate goal is to see people in worship—members regularly, visitors frequently. But this requires far more than good worship. This session explores several emphases that are increasingly important for congregational health and vitality: Bible class culture, meaningful service opportunities, building genuine relationships, reinforcing a truly Christian worldview, apologetics, discipleship in terms of mentoring and accountability.</p> <p><b>After tutoring at Michigan Lutheran Seminary for two years, Pastor Mueller was assigned to a mission restart in Kokomo, Ind. During his 12 years there, he also helped start missions in Lafayette and Greenwood, Ind. In 2012 he accepted a call to serve Redeemer, Tucson, Ariz. Besides parish ministry, Adam has served in various roles on the district level including evangelism coordinator and circuit pastor. On the synodical level, he has served on translation review teams, on the Commission on Congregational Counseling, and as the WELS Hymnal Introduction Program director.</b></p>
Donn Dobberstein	More Than Just Good Worship: Meaningful Membership	Meaningful Membership	<p>A church can offer excellent preaching and inspiring music, yet still suffer the unwanted effect of back-door losses—people who quit and walk away. Why is that? In a pulse survey, WELS members were asked, “Do you feel you ‘fit in’ and are part of a church family?” Half responded that they <b>don’t</b> feel they are usually part of their church family. What negative consequences for worship are implied? More importantly, what might a congregation do about it? And how would your members benefit from a church unafraid to communicate what it means to be a member? This session will share key non-negotiables that are often overlooked but strengthen meaningful membership for the young and old, the lifelong Lutheran or the brand-new member.</p>

			<p>Rev. Dobberstein served mission parishes in Topeka, Kan., and Port Orange, Fla., for 22 years. Additionally, he served on the Nebraska District Mission Board and South Atlantic District Evangelism Commission as well as chairman for the WELS Commission on Evangelism. In 2017, he accepted the call to be director of WELS Discipleship. His responsibilities include women’s ministry, youth and family ministry, and discipleship. He has presented in the past for a variety of synod workshops (WELS Schools of Outreach, Telling the Next Generation) and conferences (WELS national leadership conferences, WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts).</p>
Joel Gawrisch	Strategic Planning and Worship Enrichment	Strategic Planning	<p>Almost without fail corporate worship is evaluated as a congregation’s most important aspect of ministry. And yet when it comes to congregational planning for enriching corporate worship and dedicating the necessary resources, worship plans and needs are often marginalized. This session will discuss how to avoid this pitfall, explore specific blessings that come with a strategic approach to worship planning, and provide resources to do so.</p> <p><i>This session is a version of a session offered in 2017. It is available only once.</i></p> <p><b>Pastor Gawrisch has served at New Life in Shoreview, Minn., for the past nine years. He is the Minnesota District Worship Coordinator and has also been involved with the Schools of Worship Enrichment and the rites committee for the WELS Hymnal Project.</b></p>
Caleb Bassett	The Promise and Perils of Marketing Worship	Marketing Worship	<p>Because of its public prominence and frequency, worship is often advertised, marketed, or otherwise promoted in much the same way that a local business might promote its own offerings. But making worship marketable can lead to unintended and unwanted consequences ranging from bad marketing to poor practice. Nevertheless, it is possible to make known what takes place on Sunday with taste and integrity—but to do so requires leaders to set aside conventional marketing wisdom. This presentation will equip participants with an updated understanding of contemporary cultural trends and will provide a practical toolkit to help congregations get the word out about worship while preserving clarity about the source of the power in what God does for his people in worship.</p> <p><b>Pastor Bassett serves at Our Redeemer, Madison, Wis. Previously he served north of San Diego, Calif. He was a member of the executive committee of the WELS Hymnal Project and chairman of the project’s technology subcommittee. He has been a frequent guest panelist on The White Horse Inn, a nationally syndicated radio program and podcast on theology and culture. He is a fellow of the International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism, and Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, and a member of the WELS Institute for Lutheran Apologetics.</b></p>

## Historical with Modern Application

Jon Micheel	Windows into the Wedding Feast: Philip Nicolai and “Wake, Awake”	Windows into the Wedding Feast	<p>“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” is one of the most beloved Lutheran hymns, often called the “king of chorales.” This workshop looks at the fascinating story behind the hymn and examines the rich imagery within the hymn’s text. Numerous cultural factors influenced Philip Nicolai, the hymn’s author, and we will see how the hymn opens windows into these worlds. We will also discover how Nicolai’s creative process suggests useful models for spiritual care today.</p> <p><b>Prof. Micheel teaches preaching and church history at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, where he has served since 2020. Previously he served congregations in California and Utah. He is one of the moderators for the Preacher Podcast, produced in conjunction with The Foundation worship resources from WELS Congregational Services. He was the chairman of the rites (liturgy) committee for the WELS Hymnal Project and contributed chapters to <i>Christian Worship: Foundations</i>. He is currently a doctoral candidate at Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) in homiletics.</b></p>
Joel Otto	Luther’s Transformation of the Medieval Church	Luther’s Transformation	<p>Luther’s Reformation has often been described as a “conservative Reformation” because he did not advocate a radical break with everything from the past. Nevertheless, his theological emphases resulted in a transformation of the way people experienced, lived, and learned the Christian faith. This was especially evident in public worship. We will explore the transformative changes Luther instituted through congregational hymn singing, law-gospel preaching, and changes to the liturgy.</p> <p><b>Information about the presenter is at 175 Years of Change in WELS Worship.</b></p>
Joel Otto	175 Years of Change in WELS Worship	175 Years of Change	<p>The founders of the Wisconsin Synod were not confessional Lutherans, and their mixed confession showed in worship practices in the early decades of the synod’s history. While a pietistic influence has always been felt in worship attitudes in WELS, changes have occurred throughout the synod’s history. By examining church architecture and the use of hymnals in Wisconsin Synod congregations across 175 years since her founding, we will note the shift toward a more confessional Lutheran understanding of worship in WELS.</p> <p><b>Prof. Otto chairs the WELS 175th anniversary committee (2025). Since 2011, he has served at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, where he teaches church history and education and is the dean of students. Previously he served congregations in Michigan, California, and Wisconsin. He is also the chairman of the WELS Historical Institute and serves on the Commission on Inter-Church Relations. He has previously served on the Commission on Worship, the Commission on Lutheran Schools, the WELS Hymnal Project, and as a writer for <i>Forward in Christ</i>.</b></p>
Nathaniel Biebert	Michael Praetorius and a Flowering of Lutheran Worship	Michael Praetorius	<p>A century before Bach (1685–1750), Michael Praetorius (1571–1621), son of a Lutheran pastor, was a singular and pioneering musical force in the Lutheran world. This presentation provides an overview of his life, work, and influence. In doing so, it will also show how principles and strategies</p>

			<p>evident in Praetorius’ work can still inform our choices today—resulting in a creative and vibrant worship that is distinctively Lutheran.</p> <p><b>After serving as a tutor in Nebraska and ministering to congregations in central Wisconsin and Austin, Texas, Pastor Biebert now shepherds Trinity in Winner, S.D. He has visited Praetorius sites in Germany, including Wolfenbüttel, and his translation <i>Heaven Is My Fatherland (Wipf and Stock, 2020)</i> is the first stand-alone biography of Praetorius in English.</b></p>
Mark Tiefel	The Passion for God's People	The Passion for God's People	<p>In 2024, Lutherans observe the 300th anniversary of Bach’s St. John’s Passion, both a musical masterpiece and a remarkable example of creative worship. Throughout the three centuries that followed its publication, preachers and worship planners have sought creative ways to bring Jesus’ death to life in their celebrations of Lent and Holy Week. This session will draw on historical perspectives and offer practical ideas to help people get to the heart of Jesus’ passion.</p> <p><b>Pastor Tiefel serves at Emanuel, New London, Wis., and is worship coordinator of the WELS Northern Wisconsin District. He previously served in Houston, Texas, and as worship coordinator of the WELS South Central District. He was a member of the hymnal committee and has contributed to past worship conferences in service design and presentations on the practical history of worship.</b></p>
Jacob Behnken	Eight Enduring Lessons from the Achtliederbuch	Eight Enduring Lessons	<p>In 1524, Martin Luther and fellow hymn writer Paul Speratus curated a collection of eight hymns and published the first Lutheran hymnal. To the chagrin of the Reformation’s enemies, the “Achtliederbuch” was a great success and helped to spread the gospel throughout Europe. As Lutherans continue to publish and cherish their hymnals, what lessons can we learn from the first Lutheran hymnal? This session will explore what the Achtliederbuch can still teach us five centuries later.</p> <p><b>Prof. Behnken graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2012 and serves as the dean of chapel and a professor of music at Martin Luther College. In addition to his training as a pastor, he is an accomplished organist, having done graduate study at Central Michigan University. He is a member of the Commission on Worship.</b></p>

## Miscellaneous and Niche Topics

Douglas Van Sice and Craig Wilke	Small Church Forum	Small Church Forum	<p>The number of smaller churches in WELS is increasing. This is due to demographic trends (see <u>“Statistical Summary and Analysis,”</u> p. 11) as well as to the goal of establishing 100 new churches in 10 years. In 2022, 13% of churches had under 25 people in worship, and another 26% had 25-49. What are the worship challenges and needs in small churches? What are some beneficial strategies and solutions? Participants will be invited to submit their top five questions in advance of the conference. Presenters will offer their insights and welcome input from attendees.</p>
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Jonathan Hein	Consolidation for Critical Mass and Ministry Impact	Critical Mass for Ministry Impact	<p>Some things are hard to do without critical mass. Two people—a cellist and trombonist—cannot play music written for an orchestra. Three kids playing football in the backyard is not as fun as ten kids. Critical mass is important! In 2022, WELS had almost 460 congregations with an average weekly worship attendance under 50 (with many under 25). Half of these are within a ten-minute drive of another WELS congregation. Might they benefit from a larger critical mass? How would that happen? Imagine three churches within ten minutes of each other. Each has a sanctuary that seats over 150 and a weekly worship attendance in the low 30s. Now imagine those congregations consolidating at one location. Worship attendance is now in the 90s. The sanctuary is two-thirds full. Does this allow various improvements—youth group, choir, congregational singing? Does it help outreach when a guest walks into a church that is mostly full versus mostly empty? This presentation tells the story of three sites that have already consolidated and 20 more that are in the process. Why? For greater critical mass and, God willing, more ministry. The presenter also shares a process for at least exploring the possibility of congregational consolidation.</p> <p>Upon graduation from the seminary in 1997, Rev. Hein was assigned to a home mission in the Charleston, S.C., area. In 20 years there, he helped start two congregations. He has served as chairman of the South Atlantic District Mission Board as well as a member of the executive committee of WELS Board for Home Missions. In 2014 he was called to be the director of WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling. In that capacity, he works with congregations and schools to assess and plan gospel ministry efforts. In 2017, his duties expanded to include serving as coordinator of the six commissions that make up WELS Congregational Services: Congregational Counseling, Discipleship, Evangelism, Lutheran Schools, Special Ministries, and Worship.</p>
Phillip Magness	Traditions and Mission: Discerning What Is Good	Traditions and Mission	<p>Drawing on his experience as a leading musician serving in many contexts and capacities in the LCMS for over 30 years, Magness offers 1) a survey of how the “worship wars” impacted liturgical and musical practice in the Missouri Synod and 2) an overview of current trends. Key to his observations are how different attitudes and approaches to tradition have both served and impeded the church’s worship, proclamation of the gospel, and calling all to faith. As congregations in the WELS move forward with a new hymnal, it is hoped that his perspectives may</p>

			<p>be useful to pastors, musicians, and lay leaders as they make worship decisions for their communities.</p> <p><b>Phillip serves a dual call as cantor at Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, Mo., and LCMS missionary to francophone Africa. He also serves as the interim associate of Music Arts at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He previously held cantorates at congregations in Texas, Illinois, and Oklahoma. He chaired the introduction committee for the Lutheran Service Book, has served on district and synodical boards, and has led music for daily worship at three LCMS national conventions. He is a published composer, arranger, and author. His book, <i>Church Music: For the Care of Souls</i>, is published by Lexham Press. Eight of his pianistic hymn settings are in <i>Christian Worship: Accompaniment for Hymns</i> and music for seven psalms in <i>Christian Worship: Psalter</i>.</b></p>
David Porth and Aaron Winkelman	Nurturing and Sustaining a Healthy Pastor/Musician Relationship	Pastor/Musician Relationship	<p>As the foundation of all parish health and activity, corporate worship is the most important function of any congregation. This practical workshop will focus on the critical importance of pastor(s) and musician(s) working seamlessly together to provide high-quality worship each and every week. It will focus on practical organizational matters, philosophy of ministry consensus, and relational respect for each other's roles.</p> <p><b>Prior to joining Pilgrim in January 2023, Pastor Winkelman previously served congregations in Waupaca, Wis; La Porte, Ind.; and Fort Atkinson, Wis. With parish experience ranging from large churches with schools to mission congregations, he has presided over and prepared corporate worship to meet a variety of needs and to use a broad range of talents and abilities for the weekly divine service of Christ's people.</b></p> <p><b>Since 2014, David has served Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School, Menomonee Falls, Wis., as grades 7-8 teacher and worship coordinator. These duties include worship planning, serving as head organist, directing the adult choir, and including a wide variety of instrumentalists. He holds a Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University Wisconsin. He also serves as the district worship coordinator for the Southeastern Wisconsin District, was a curriculum writer for the synod's hymnology curriculum, is a member of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM), and is an associate organist and member of the Fine Arts Committee at St. Marcus, Milwaukee.</b></p>
Kristine Laufer and Harvey Dunn	Copyright Matters Made Clear	Copyright Matters	<p>Misconceptions about copyright law are common. Two examples: Purchase of hymnals does not grant the right to reproduce copyrighted content for a meeting devotion; sharing copyrighted content because you don't charge for it is not legal. This session will cover several topics: an overview of a copyright holder's exclusive rights; fair use; some do's and don'ts with music; licensing for service folder reprints and livestreams; what and how to report through OneLicense.net. Ample time will be reserved for specific questions that attendees bring. (No official legal advice can/will be given; rather, best practices and references to further information will be shared by experienced professionals.)</p>

			<p>Harvey is an attorney who spent 40-plus years handling intellectual property (IP) matters (copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, etc.). For a large law firm (Vinson &amp; Elkins) he primarily handled IP litigation and other IP matters. For the last 20 years, he worked on IP matters (capturing, protecting, and exploiting IP) for several large corporations including General Electric and most recently Woodward, Inc., a publicly-traded aerospace company, from which he retired last year. He is a frequent presenter on copyright and other legal matters. Harvey has served on the WELS Commission on Worship and is a member of Abiding Love in Loveland, Colo.</p> <p>Kristine has served as copyrights and permissions coordinator at Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) since 2008. In this role she encounters a variety of intellectual property issues and has played a key role in securing copyright permissions for NPH music resources, from <i>Christian Worship: Supplement (2008)</i> to the <i>Christian Worship (2021)</i> suite of resources. She is the NPH representative to OneLicense and strives to be a helpful resource for church copyright licensing for service folder reprints and livestreams. Having begun her career at NPH as a copy editor more than 20 years ago, she is also the lead copy editor.</p>
Phil Casmer and Tim Snyder	Technology in Worship	Technology	<p>Since 2020 many churches have significantly upgraded their audio and video capabilities. In this presentation, two members of a church newly dedicated in the fall of 2023 review technology deliberations and decisions accomplished at a cost of about \$75,000. The focus is on ideals, principles, and best practices, as well as specific equipment choices and the practical use of that equipment for both live worship and streaming—including a solution for hiding digital display panels when not needed—and to technology’s impact on acoustics that are good both for singing and for clarity of the spoken word. Attention will be given also to less expensive projects and to cost-effective upgrades to existing systems.</p> <p>Pastor Casmer has served for 15 years at Christ the Lord in Brookfield, Wis. He has presented on “working with a parish music director” at previous WELS worship conferences, has served on the manuals committee for the WELS Hymnal Project, and as a circuit pastor in the Southeastern Wisconsin District. He is currently pursuing a doctor of ministry degree in homiletics through Concordia Seminary (St. Louis).</p> <p>Tim is in his 14th year as the media services coordinator at Wisconsin Lutheran College. During his time there he has coordinated AV technology for a variety of events in many different venues. As a member at Christ the Lord in Brookfield, Wis., Tim served on the AV/Tech Committee during the building of their new worship sanctuary.</p>
Nathan Strutz	Worship and Outreach: Lessons Learned	Worship and Outreach	<p>There is outreach that every congregation and pastor can do. There are worship and outreach principles that will strengthen believers and reach the lost. Pastor Strutz shares insights from the several places he has served, in a variety of settings and communities. This presentation will fortify both pastors and lay people in their commitment to outreach and worship.</p>

			<p>Pastor Strutz first served a dual parish in western Wisconsin: Holmen and Galesville. While there, a new site was started in Arcadia, Wis. He next served at Resurrection in Verona, Wis., where a daughter congregation, Good News in Mt. Horeb, Wis., was started. A sister congregation from Monroe, Wis., then merged into the Verona church to become a multi-site congregation. Pastor Strutz has served on the Western Wisconsin District Mission Board and Board for Home Missions Executive Committee. He has presented at Schools of Outreach. One of his greatest joys in ministry has been serving with 19 vicars and seeing them put worship and outreach principles into practice around the country.</p>
Eric Roecker	Invitational Worship: Designing Worship That Encourages Invitation Evangelism	Invitational Worship	<p>While it is true that far fewer Americans are shopping for a church home, it is also true that most unchurched people say they would be likely to accept an invitation from a friend or relative to attend worship with them. What an opportunity to connect lost souls to the gospel! How can we design our worship so that it is biblically and confessionally sound while at the same time being accessible to the guests our members bring? How can we design our worship so our members are eager and excited to ask their unchurched friends and neighbors to join them on Sunday morning?</p> <p><b>Rev. Roecker is a 1998 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Upon graduation, he was assigned to serve Resurrection in Virginia Beach, Va., where he served until 2013. While in Virginia, he served as the adult discipleship coordinator for the North Atlantic District and later as the district's second vice president. In 2013 he moved to Menomonee Falls, Wis., to serve at Pilgrim. In 2018 he began serving as the director of the WELS Commission on Evangelism.</b></p>
Johann Caauwe and Michaela Zabell	Music Education As Community Outreach: Various Models	Music Ed As Outreach	<p>The Lutheran Church has a rich heritage and resource in its music. Not only does it serve to proclaim the gospel in its midst, but music can also serve as an avenue to reach out to and enrich our communities. This presentation will explore various ways that local congregations have used music education to both reach out and raise up future church musicians.</p> <p><b>Pastor Caauwe serves St. John's in Wood Lake, Minn., which has conducted a summer music program for the congregation and community for over ten years and held an annual hymn festival for five years. He serves as circuit pastor and vice president for the Hausvater Project.</b></p> <p><b>Michaela is a 2022 graduate of Martin Luther College, receiving degrees in elementary education and parish music. Prior to graduation, she served twice as the summer music teacher at St. John's in Wood Lake. In 2024, she will return as a guest organist for their annual hymn festival. After graduation, she served one-year assignments to teach 4th grade and 4th-8th music at St. John's, Milwaukee, Wis., and to teach 2nd-4th grade and K-4th music at Our Savior, Brookings, S.D. She is an enthusiastic church organist and is passionate about sharing God's gift of music with children.</b></p>
Phil Huebner	The Art of Preaching	The Art of Preaching	<p>Just as applying law and gospel to someone's life is an art, so also is the public proclamation of both in a sermon. Sermons come in many different forms and styles: short, long, or really long;</p>

			<p>deductive or inductive; exegetical, isagogical, and pedagogical components. At the same time, sermons can also be read or memorized, inspirational or boring, rote and redundant, or thoughtful and creative. How does a pastor avoid common pitfalls and continue to keep his preaching styles and forms fresh? This workshop will 1) review some basics of sermon writing and preaching, 2) explore stylistic options a pastor might employ, and 3) equip pastors with tools to assist with continual growth in the art of preaching. While the primary audience of the workshop is pastors, those who listen to preaching will be edified as well.</p> <p><b>Rev. Dr. Huebner was assigned from the seminary to start a new mission church in Palm Coast, Fla., where he served for nine years. Since 2016 he has served as the campus pastor at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. He received a second master’s degree from our seminary in 2016 and a doctorate in ministry in missions and culture in 2019 from Concordia Theological Seminary. His entire ministry to date has seen emphases in outreach, children, teens, and families.</b></p>
Caleb Kurbis	21st-Century Preaching in a Mission/Outreach Setting	21st-Century Preaching	<p>Do you think it’s getting easier to preach? Listeners are living frenetic lives inundated with news and distracted by the noise. Parishioners and prospects recall more about recent social media feeds than the lives of Abraham or Moses and teachings of Jesus—and all of this in a post-Christian culture that breeds apathy, skepticism, and anti-institutionalism (read “anti-church”). Does today’s preacher need to be a perfect combination of scriptural and societal exegete, apologist, compelling communicator, and winsome storyteller all in one? That wouldn’t hurt. But is that realistic or even necessary? Whether your ministry setting is best described as “mission” or “traditional” or “diverse” or “visitor-friendly” or whatever, this presentation will explore how God has given us exactly what we need to reach the products of these modern times.</p> <p><b>Since 2011 Pastor Kurbis has served at Living Savior in Asheville, N.C. In 2017 Living Savior started a second location in Hendersonville as one church in two locations. God continues to provide many visitors and opportunities to reach people who come from all backgrounds. This quickly growing population is an eclectic mix of traditional Southern, weird hippie, skeptical transplant, culturally diverse, and professional meets blue collar. Caleb also serves as circuit pastor and coordinator for the South Atlantic District Discipleship Committee.</b></p>
Todd Dvorak and Mark Tiefel	Practical Planning Steps to Renew Your Worship Space	Practical Planning . . . Worship Space	<p>As a building ages, there can be many challenges to address in order to best serve both congregation and community. Some projects may seem approachable, such as audio/video upgrades or new flooring and paint. Other challenges may feel more daunting, such as accessibility improvements, lighting, or expanding your building, while also being sensitive to the historical character of the church. Sometimes these goals can feel overwhelming. This presentation will help congregations, no matter the financial starting point, develop a roadmap to renew their worship spaces. We will take a closer look at the renovations planned for Emanuel in New London, Wis., and learn how design professionals can assist a congregation’s leaders to determine a meaningful path forward. Projects from other churches will also illustrate possibilities.</p>

			<p><b>Todd Dvorak, AIA, ACLS, is an architect and senior project manager with GROTH Design Group. Todd has over 20 years of experience in the architecture and construction industry and has been blessed to serve many WELS congregations on their journey toward expanding or renewing their worship spaces. Todd is currently a member at St. Paul in Appleton and serves on the church's properties committee.</b></p> <p><i>Information about Pastor Tiefel is at The Passion for God's People.</i></p>
Joel Gawrisch and Michael Marquardt	School Chapel Worship	School Chapel Worship	<p>As many of our schools grow through an influx of students from outside of our denomination and outside of our country, how do we nurture new students, not only as Christians, but also into the strengths of Lutheran worship? This session will share research into current practices with chapel services in our elementary and secondary schools. It will address preaching, liturgical ideas, using the lectionary, music, encouraging young musicians, and ideas for creating a worshipful setting in gyms or other multipurpose spaces. This session will apply to any who participate in or have an interest in worship in our schools.</p> <p><b>Mike has been the choral director at St. Croix Lutheran Academy in West St. Paul, Minn., since 2017. Before that he enjoyed 14 years as a teacher and music director at Peace in Hartford, Wis. He has served on district worship committees in the Southeastern Wisconsin and Minnesota Districts, the hymnology curriculum committee, and the WELS Hymnal Project. He holds a Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University Wisconsin.</b></p> <p><i>Information about Pastor Gawrisch is at Strategic Planning and Worship Enrichment.</i></p>

## Children, Music Education, Musicians

Jonathan Laabs	Embracing the Imposter: An Interactive Conducting Workshop	Embracing . . . Conducting	<p><b>Session 1: Understanding Your Role: Discussion and Conducting Basics</b> Many of us are asked to lead musical ensembles in our various congregation or educational settings, often taking on the role of conductor. However, the vulnerability of this position can evoke a sense of self-consciousness, inadequacy, and "imposter syndrome." This first part of a two-part session seeks to build knowledge and confidence for conductors of all abilities through an interactive discussion, demonstration, and review of the basics of conducting skills and philosophy.</p> <p><b>Session 2: Embracing Your Role: Conducting Masterclass</b> In part two of this session, participants will have the opportunity to experience firsthand a demonstration of ideas and concepts previously discussed as selected conductors work with the</p>
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			<p>session attendees in leading various choral anthems. Prof. Laabs will coach, mediate, and answer questions from both the participating conductors and attendees.</p> <p><i>When registering, sign up for both sessions on Thursday afternoon.</i></p> <p><b>Prof. Laabs currently serves as professor of music and music division chairman at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minn., where he conducts the College Chorale and Women’s Choir and teaches courses in conducting, choral repertoire, and aural theory. In addition, he is currently the artistic director and conductor of Canticum Novum. Prof. Laabs has worked with ensembles of all levels, including elementary, parish, high school, collegiate, and professional.</b></p>
Martha Johnson and Levi Nagel	Engaging a Wide Range of Instrumentalists and Vocalists	Engaging a Wide Range	<p>In an earlier era of WELS worship culture, it was often only festival services (and the occasional obbligato instrument with a choir selection) that merited inclusion of instruments beyond the organ. Now some churches regularly involve a wide variety of instruments beyond organ and piano. Regular use of singers beyond a choir (of adults or children) is also common. This session covers a wide range of related topics: recruitment and organization, selecting and arranging music for beginning instrumentalists, nurturing the less skilled rather than relying on the A-team, the same music in each service but with different singers/players, intergenerational ensembles, young musicians in school chapel, and more.</p> <p><b>Martha is a 2004 graduate of Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minn., where she received a degree in education with an emphasis in music. She served at Nebraska Lutheran High School in Waco, Neb., as the choir and band director for 11 years and later as the minister of music at Bethlehem in Menomonee Falls, Wis. Currently Martha teaches 5th grade and upper grade music at Peace Lutheran School, Hartford, Wis. She also sings with The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra, Canticum Novum, and the Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee.</b></p> <p><i>Information about Levi is at 2pt-Unison Adult.</i></p>
Lisa Uttech	Let’s Hear It for the Boys: Engaging and Empowering Adolescent Male Singers	Let’s Hear It for the Boys	<p>Participants will learn or strengthen strategies for developing confident singers who employ beautiful tone, contributing to worship in a way that is impactful for all. Practical tips will be given for warm-ups, voice testing, and choosing repertoire for changing voices, with a particular emphasis on engaging and empowering adolescent males. Discussions will also include the benefit to an area Lutheran high school when children have a strong singing foundation in the Lutheran elementary school.</p> <p><b>Lisa is a fine arts music instructor and the choral director at Wisconsin Lutheran High School, where she directs the freshman choir, a cappella choir, and Wisco Kids show choir. Previously,</b></p>

			<p>she taught and/or served as director of music at several WELS schools and churches as well as Pewaukee High School (Wis.), also maintaining a private voice studio.</p>
Kate Tiefel	Teaching Kids to Sing	Teaching Kids to Sing	<p>The Lutheran church is called the singing church, and we all share the responsibility to teach the next generation to sing the praises of the Lord. Whether you are a classroom teacher, Sunday school volunteer, parent, or grandparent, this session will equip you with joyful, play-based activities that teach the children in your life to sing beautifully. We'll explore puppets and props, songs, games, and children's books that help kids sing in tune. We'll also review research about how children's voices grow and develop so that you feel equipped to pick the right music for children at each age and stage of vocal development.</p> <p><b>Kate Tiefel, director of music at Emanuel, New London, Wis., holds a BS in music education and an MM in choral conducting from Michigan State University. She has 20 years of experience teaching music and is a founding member of the Lutheran Institute for Music Education.</b></p>
Daniel Hubert and Dale Witte	Professional Growth for Church and School Musicians	Professional Growth for Musicians	<p>Many <i>formal</i> options are available to help musicians boost their skills: ALCM, ACDA, AGO, Master of Church Music, Kodaly certification, LIME, Orff, Kodaly, Feierabend First Steps, World Music Drumming, Wisconsin CMP program, and workshops by nationally recognized speakers. But many <i>informal</i> options also exist, such as just a handful of private lessons or coaching sessions to sharpen conducting, keyboard, or vocal skills. This session will discuss the pros and cons of various approaches as well as how to pay for them.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hubert is the director of instrumental music at Wisconsin Lutheran College. In addition to directing the concert band, he teaches courses in music theory, conducting, education, and arranging, and conducts the college's jazz band and Contemporary &amp; Gospel Ensemble. Previously he served in various music education settings from beginning band to middle school music to high school ensembles. Hubert holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, Ill., and is a founding member of the Lutheran Institute for Music Education.</b></p> <p><b>Information about Dale is at Christian Worship: Psalter.</b></p>
Kevin Bode, David Porth, and Kate Tiefel	No Time for Hymnology?	Hymnology	<p>Among worship conference attendees, a strong majority would likely endorse the idea that every WELS elementary school should be teaching hymnology. And yet only about 25% of our schools are using any part of the "new" <i>Hymns for Life</i> hymnology curriculum, and many seem unaware that it exists even after four years of availability. The mission of the Lutheran elementary school is embedded in the mission of the church, which includes inculcating a deep love for hymns. This session explores 1) the high value of teaching hymns in the elementary years, 2) reasons why some schools aren't teaching hymnology, 3) how to approach the topic with fellow faculty and the school board, and 4) how some schools have successfully begun using the curriculum when there was nothing before. Attention is also given to a related theme—Creative Ideas Create Beloved</p>



			<p>Hymns. Running side by side with hymnology is the incredibly important performance aspect— involving students in opportunities to perform hymn melodies.</p> <p><i>Information about David is at Nurturing and Sustaining . . .</i></p> <p><i>Information about Kate is at Teaching Kids to Sing.</i></p> <p>Kevin serves Emanuel, Tempe, Ariz., in a 50/50 position with both teaching and music roles. He is blessed to direct/work with instructors for group and private guitar lessons, chimes, a band program and private instrumental instruction, ukulele, male and female and chamber choirs at high points in the church year, junior/adult choir, and ensembles for all the musical instrument families. The Lord is using these individuals to touch hearts with the gospel and to show that the songs kids learn in school can run with and even outrun many new and popular Christian songs currently in vogue.</p>
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## New Hymnal

Dale Witte	Using <i>Christian Worship: Psalter</i> in K-8 Classrooms	<i>CW Psalter</i>	<p><i>Christian Worship: Psalter</i> (NPH 2021) is the first Lutheran psalter to contain multiple musical settings of all 150 psalms along with the complete text of every psalm. It is so much more than just a source for psalm variety in the liturgical worship service. <i>CW Psalter</i> is an invaluable musical and devotional resource to have in every Lutheran elementary school classroom and household. This presentation will explore 17 different ways to use <i>CW Psalter</i> in every grade level, from strengthening thematic units in early childhood, to fostering musical literacy in the middle grades, to finding the Christian’s voice during the tough times of life in the upper grades.</p> <p><b>Dale currently serves as fine arts department chairman, choir director, and music educator at Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Fond du Lac, Wis. He is one of the founding members of LIME, Lutheran Institute for Music Education, which seeks to aid WELS teachers and schools in strengthening their music education programs. From 2014–2021 he served on the WELS Psalm Committee, which researched, reviewed, and edited over 5,000 psalm settings to produce <i>Christian Worship: Psalter</i> (NPH 2021). Dale holds a Master in Church Music degree from Concordia University Chicago (1997); is a member of WCDA, ACDA, NAFME, ALCM, and WMEA professional organizations; and is an active church music composer.</b></p>
Bryan Gerlach	Still Considering the New Hymnal, or Struggling with Introduction?	Still Considering or Struggling?	<p>This session is for people from congregations that haven’t yet adopted the new hymnal and for those who feel that introduction has not gone so well. It offers an overview of features, shares some interesting back stories on various decisions and hymns, and answers questions raised by attendees.</p>

			<p>Rev. Gerlach served parishes in Texas and California before becoming WELS' first director for worship in 1996, the year of the first national worship conference. He has been involved in planning every conference since 1996 as well as with introduction plans and resources for both the 1993 and 2021 hymnals. In addition to seminary training, he holds the Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University Chicago. He regularly plays organ in two Milwaukee-area churches.</p>
Jon Zabell	Putting <i>Christian Worship: Foundations</i> to Work	Christian Worship: Foundations	<p>Commissioned in connection with our hymnal project, <i>Christian Worship: Foundations</i> offers 19 chapters by eight WELS pastors on topics such as music, art, liturgy, creativity, and outreach. Special attention is given to discussing the features of our new hymnal's orders of service. This workshop will introduce participants to <i>Foundations</i> and offer resources for studying and discussing it in their local settings. In connection with this volume, Prof. James Tiefel writes: "I've now read <i>Foundations</i> twice, once quickly and once slowly. I am amazed again and again how excellent this book is! I wish I had owned it before I started teaching at the seminary!"</p> <p><b>Pastor Zabell chaired the executive committee of the WELS Hymnal Project and served as managing editor for <i>Christian Worship: Foundations</i>. From 2011–2023 he chaired the WELS Commission on Worship. Jon and his wife, Julie, live in Green Bay, Wis., where he serves as pastor at St. Paul and first vice president of the Northern Wisconsin District.</b></p>
Johnold Strey	Making the Most of CW21	Making the Most of CW21	<p>The <i>Christian Worship</i> suite offers a wealth of resources for planning worship. Intended for pastors, musicians, artists, and altar guilds, this presentation covers a variety of themes to help worship planners: seasonal best practices, how to introduce new music, balancing variety with comfort, recognizing the capabilities of differing congregations, and creating festive worship for festival days. Consideration will be given to a wide variety of parish sizes and circumstances.</p> <p><b>Pastor Strey served congregations in California for 15 years and as the Arizona-California District's worship coordinator for a decade before coming to Crown of Life in Hubertus, Wis., in 2016. He earned a master's degree in worship and church music from Santa Clara University in 2009. He has served on the School of Worship Enrichment team and on the hymnal's rites committee and is the author of <i>Christian Worship: God Gives His Gospel Gifts</i> (NPH).</b></p>
Johnold Strey	The Story of The Service in CW21	The Story of The Service	<p>Each generational hymnal brings familiarity and change to public worship. <i>Christian Worship: Hymnal</i> is no exception. The familiar flow and content of the tried-and-true Lutheran liturgy is presented with adjustments and adaptations for a new generation. Johnold Strey, a member of the hymnal's rites committee, will share the story behind The Service—the discussions, debates, and decisions that ultimately led to the shape of the liturgy in the new WELS hymnal. This workshop also provides useful background information for Pastor Strey's new Bible class called <i>A Look at the Lutheran Liturgy</i> from Northwestern Publishing House.</p> <p><b>Information about the presenter is at Making the Most of CW21.</b></p>

## Recitals

	Sine Nomine Brass		This recital offers “500+ Years of Worship with Brass and Keyboards.” Dr. Patricia Backhaus started Sine Nomine Brass during the pandemic. They began playing in her driveway. Eventually the members asked their home churches to host the group. One church asked, “What is your group’s name?” With crazy banter at rehearsal, the name was born: Sine Nomine means “no name.” United in faith and from six different WELS congregations, this group performs everything from polychoral to hymntune-based literature to contemporary Christian repertoire.
	Canticum Novum		<p>This recital presents Johannes Brahms’ <i>Ein Deutsches Requiem</i> with accompaniment for four hands piano arranged by Brahms himself. Canticum Novum, under the direction of Jonathan Laabs, is a choir dedicated to performing challenging choral music for the spiritual edification of its listeners and the encouragement of choristers of all ages to use their God-given talents at the highest possible level. Canticum Novum is unique in that its members, from WELS congregations across the Midwest and beyond, rehearse independently in the weeks and months leading up to the performances and meet as an ensemble for only a week out of the year at a retreat with intensive rehearsals, fellowship, and performance.</p> <p>This recital is offered only Tuesday afternoon at 4:15 p.m. in the Carthage chapel. It is not necessary to sign up to attend. It will also be presented on Fri., June 21, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Marcus in Milwaukee and Sat., June 22, at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity in Waukesha. Visit <a href="http://canticumnovumwels.org">canticumnovumwels.org</a> for more information.</p>
	It’s About Time		This is a recital compiled and performed by Dr. Juanita Becker and Dr. Kayme Henkel and their colleagues. The program brings together different perspectives about time. It includes works from times past as well as our current time. The performers include WELS musicians who have established careers as well as performers with less time since earning their degrees. Performers include Alana Laufman, Judy Kriewall, Tevelis Winslow, Quinten Petersen, Daniel Hafenstein, Brett Duwe, and Joshua Hoehke. The program will include a premiere of a piece by Dr. J. Richard Freese.

## Repertoire

Kari Hahm	2pt-Unison Children	2pt-Unison Children	Learn about the latest children’s repertoire from NPH and a curated selection from other sacred music publishers. Also included will be discussion and repertoire about using children’s choirs liturgically in worship.
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			<p>Kari graduated from Martin Luther College in 2000 with a secondary music degree. Currently she is the music department chair of West Lutheran High School in Plymouth, Minn., teaching and directing freshmen music, concert choir, concert band, pep band, Western Accents, and theater. She has spent over a decade leading parish music in her previous calls and congregations. She has been a member of Canticum Novum: a WELS Chamber Choir since 2005. Kari and her husband, James, are blessed with five children.</p>
Levi Nagel	2pt-Unison Adult	2pt-Unison Adult	<p>Learn about the latest adult 2pt-unison repertoire from NPH and a curated selection from other sacred music publishers. Also included will be discussion about and examples of adapting SATB/SAB repertoire for 2pt-unison choirs.</p> <p>Levi is a full-time staff minister serving in the area of worship for the past 19 years. From 2005–2016 he served at Grace, Falls Church, Va. He currently serves as the minister of music and worship at St. John’s, Milwaukee (Forest Home Ave.). He holds a BA in music from Wisconsin Lutheran College and a Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University Wisconsin. While living in the Washington, D.C., area, Levi sang professionally with several choirs, including the Washington Chorus and the Washington Master Chorale, for the latter of which he was the principal chair for his section. Levi has also been the artistic director of the Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee since 2018. During the hymnal project, he served on the music subcommittee of the hymns committee, and in 2022, he served as one of the clinicians for the East Regional Choral Festival.</p>
Matt Kanzenbach	SATB/SAB	SATB/SAB	<p>Learn about the latest SATB/SAB repertoire from NPH and a curated selection from other sacred music publishers.</p> <p>Matthew is a 2005 graduate of Martin Luther College. He has served as teacher, organist, youth and adult choir director, and worship committee member at St. Mark, Lincoln, Neb. (2005-2008); Zion, Columbus, Wis. (2010-2018); and St. Paul’s, Livonia, Mich. (2018-present). In 2016 Matt received a Master of Church Music degree with an organ emphasis from Concordia University Wisconsin.</p>
Linda Moeller	Piano	Piano	<p>Learn about the latest piano repertoire from NPH and a curated selection from other sacred music publishers.</p> <p>Linda is a graduate of Dr. Martin Luther College. She has taught organ at DMLC; in the music department at Michigan Lutheran Seminary; primary grades at Abiding Word, Houston, Texas; and directed the band program at St. Andrew in Chicago. Linda has spent most of her teaching career as band director and private instrumental teacher at both Trinity-St. Luke’s Lutheran School and Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wis. She has served on the hymnal’s Musician’s Resource committee and the WELS School of Worship Enrichment and was the founder of both the WELS Summer Strings and the Trinity Lunchtime Recital Program. She is</p>

			published by Northwestern Publishing House and has self-published two well-received sacred songbooks for children and a Christmas service entitled “The Story of Christmas Night,” which contains several of her original songs.
James Bakken	Organ: Easy-Medium	Organ: Easy-Medium	<p>Learn about the latest easy-medium organ repertoire from NPH and a curated selection from other sacred music publishers.</p> <p>Jim served as classroom teacher, organist, and director of multiple choirs and ensembles at Zion in Columbus, Wis., from 1979-1990 and at St. Peter in St. Peter, Minn., from 1990-2020. He holds an MM in organ performance from Minnesota State University at Mankato. In retirement he is still actively accompanying worship and both accompanying and directing choir at Grace in Tucson, Ariz.</p>
Laura Pufahl	Organ: Medium-Difficult	Organ: Medium-Difficult	<p>Learn about the latest medium-advanced organ repertoire from NPH and a curated selection from other sacred music publishers.</p> <p>Laura will begin serving on the 4th grade teacher team at Augustine Prep in Milwaukee in fall 2024. For the past seven years, she has served as the 4th grade and K-4 music teacher at Trinity, Waukesha, Wis., as well as a regular worship and choir accompanist at Trinity. She has taught music; directed elementary music groups; and served as organist, pianist, and choir accompanist at every church/school she has served. While her degrees are in education and instruction, she has been a church organist since 5th grade and has played in a variety of sizes of churches. She studied organ formally for eight years throughout high school and college.</p>
Jeremy Bakken, Ian Welch, and Stacy Jensen	Liturgical Ensemble	Liturgical Ensemble	<p>Learn about the liturgical ensemble repertoire available via Musician’s Resource.</p> <p>Jeremy serves as director of worship and sacred music at Northwestern Publishing House. He is an active church musician, composer, presenter, and clinician. He served on the hymns committee for <i>Christian Worship: Hymnal</i>, which includes four of his original hymn tunes. He holds degrees from Wisconsin Lutheran College (BA in music and mathematics, 2004), University of New Mexico (MM in composition and choral conducting, 2013) and University of Southern California (DMA in choral music, 2022).</p> <p>Ian is a graphic designer and a musician living in Milwaukee, Wis. After graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2010, he decided to continue his education in music and liturgical arts in California. He has served as musician and designer at Risen Savior in Chula Vista, Calif.; worked with the vestment company, Panarotto, in Vicenza, Italy; was a key designer for</p>

			<p><i>Christian Worship</i>; and is currently the communications director at Trinity in Waukesha, Wis., where he also accompanies worship and is a member of the adult choir. He also operates the liturgical media company, Paramentics (paramentics.com), which focuses on producing graphics for churches and schools.</p> <p>After serving Wisconsin Lutheran College as an adjunct professor for almost two years, Dr. Stacy Jensen received a divine call to join the faculty full time in 2005. She holds a PhD in organizational leadership, and she sees her role as an amazing blessing—to be able to share her passion for the fields of communication and leadership with students. She is a regular vocalist with the liturgical ensemble at Trinity, Waukesha, Wis., where she is a member with her husband and three children.</p>
Kevin Becker and Michael Schultz	Strings and Keys	Strings and Keys	<p>This workshop has been offered at previous conferences. It continues to evolve and expand as more keyboard/guitar arrangements for psalms, hymns, and liturgical songs in the <i>Christian Worship</i> suite of resources become available. It will feature the liturgical songs of <i>Christian Worship</i>, Setting 5, composed by the presenters. It will also sample other arrangements that demonstrate how worship can be well led even if all of the musical forces of a full liturgical ensemble are not available.</p> <p>Pastor Schultz has served WELS congregations in Flagstaff, Ariz., and Lawrenceville, Ga. He chaired the hymns committee for <i>Christian Worship: Supplement</i> and served as project director for the WELS Hymnal Project. He enjoys working on arrangements that combine piano and guitar. Michael currently serves as a parish pastor in Tallahassee, Fla., and is the chairman of the WELS Commission on Worship.</p> <p>Kevin serves as music minister at Grace, Milwaukee, Wis. He has loved church music from a young age and has played regularly for Lutheran worship since high school. Prior to serving in ministry, he worked as a collaborative pianist with singers and instrumentalists, accompanied ballet classes and musical theatre, instructed collegiate music courses, and taught private piano lessons. Kevin earned a bachelor's degree in piano performance and music theory/composition from Wisconsin Lutheran College, a master's degree in composition from Truman State University, and has completed WELS ministry certification through Martin Luther College.</p>
Jeremy Bakken	Musician's Resource	Musician's Resource	<p>Learn about the various resources available via Musician's Resource. Note: This session will not cover liturgical ensemble, which will have its own session.</p> <p>Jeremy serves as director of worship and sacred music at Northwestern Publishing House. He is an active church musician, composer, presenter, and clinician. He served on the hymns committee for <i>Christian Worship: Hymnal</i>, which includes four of his original hymn tunes. He</p>

			holds degrees from Wisconsin Lutheran College (BA in music and mathematics, 2004), University of New Mexico (MM in composition and choral conducting, 2013) and University of Southern California (DMA in choral music, 2022).
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## Art

Paul Burmeister	Seeking One Thing While Being Shadowed by Another	Seeking . . . Being Shadowed	<p>Using a framework of “the sublime and the shabby,” this presentation will explore how we think about things such as excellence and faithfulness, and high and low (in forms and expressions of culture, such as art), and about their possible applications to church-life and faith-life. The presenter will propose that we ought to be careful about the words we use and that we ought to avoid setting up false choices. Drawing upon his experiences and expertise in higher education and as a visual artist and lifelong active WELS member, the presenter will center his ideas in the doctrine of vocation.</p> <p><b>Prof. Burmeister is a published artist and writer. His acrylic paintings are exhibited regionally, and his writing on aspects of Christian vocation is published in a variety of settings. He has 25 years’ experience as a professor and administrator in higher education, and he has worked in the field of graphic design for many years. He has been involved in a number of church design projects connected to WELS and ELS.</b></p>
Carolyn Brinkley	Enriching Devotional Life Through Artwork: An In-Depth Study of Albrecht Dürer’s <i>Small Passion</i> Woodcuts	Albrecht Dürer	<p>After a brief overview of the artist Albrecht Dürer, this presentation will center on using his <i>Small Passion</i> woodcuts as a devotional aid. The viewer will be drawn into Dürer’s pictorial accounts of Scripture and given insight to see the holy events of Jesus’ birth, death, and resurrection as if they were happening right in front of their eyes. The focus will be on the suffering of Christ and his promise not only to be with his faithful people in their suffering, but also to bring it to good.</p> <p><b>Carolyn is the author of <i>Bearing the Cross: Devotions on Albrecht Dürer’s Small Passion</i>, published by Concordia Publishing House in 2012. She earned her BA at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, and MA at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, where she is a deaconess serving as the Military Project director. Carolyn is an artist specializing in a mixed media of watercolors and pressed flower art.</b></p>
Sara Nordling	Paraments, Vestments, and Textile Art for the Worship Space	Paraments, Vestments	<p>The design and creation of textiles used in the church is an involved process. In this sectional you will learn how Sara Nordling designs her paraments and vestments considering not only the theological implication but the specific site where the item will be used. The presentation will enlighten those who haven’t thought about ecclesiastical textiles, inform everyone of what’s involved, and perhaps inspire others to get involved in creating works of art for the church.</p>

			<p>Sara is a lifelong Lutheran currently living in Fort Wayne, Ind. She is a rostered deaconess in the LCMS and has an MFA in studio art/textiles from Indiana University. Sara teaches art, weaves, and works on commissions for ecclesiastical textiles. Her art and textiles work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, and her commissioned work is in homes and churches around the globe.</p>
John Bergmeier	A Defense of the Unique in Christian Art	A Defense of the Unique	<p>What does the gospel look like? Is it an image of Jesus holding a lamb or a depiction of his crucifixion? Is the only avenue for devotional art a painting such as the Warner Sallman standard? This session shows how the message of the gospel can be expressed in many forms to serve the church's purpose—both to do mission work among unbelievers and to educate and edify believers. We will look at some unique visual concepts that perhaps don't fit into the traditional format of Christian visual arts but should still be valued for communicating the gospel.</p> <p>John received a BA in studio arts from Hastings College in Nebraska and an MFA in printmaking and drawing from Wichita State University in Kansas. He has worked as a commercial designer and design manager since 1992 and has continued to create artwork throughout this time in his home studios. He has exhibited internationally and has also taught studio art and graphic design classes at various colleges.</p>