

A Congregation's Story About Worship and Education—Could It Be Yours?

Working Title: Some things to take with a grain of salt from middle-aged guy who recognizes more each day how much he doesn't know.

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What was advertised: 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.

What I don't want to do...

What I want to do...

I think this background is helpful...

*“It's a culture not a program”
“The Ministry of Presence”*

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What I want them to know

Invocation

Confession and Holy Absolution

Kyrie, Eleison

Gloria in Excelsis

Salutation

Sermon

Creed

Sanctus

Consecration

Agnus Dei

Distribution

Song of Departure/*Nunc Dimittis*

Benediction

What do you want to talk about

- 1) The sidewalk from parking lot to front door has gotten longer.
- 2) The incarnation and "In the Garden". A Jewish neighbor and a preschool Christmas Service.
- 3) Where do they hear grace? Where do they hear mercy? Where do they hear *Christus pro nobis*?
- 4) It's about the kids 1
- 5) It's about the kids 2
- 6) It's about the kids 3
- 7) "Good" Worship takes time.
- 8) We Proclaim the Lord's Death Until He Comes—Evangelism and Closed Communion
- 9) Jane and the Methodist Handshake (Passing of the Peace)—the time I was wrong! (I think)
- 10) Morning Prayer and Compline
- 11) Youth Instruction Class
- 12) The Adult Instruction Class
- 13) The nervous sign of the cross
- 14) "We're an authentic church"
- 15) What do your movements teach, without words?
- 16) I'm embarrassed how much mileage I have gotten out of: paschal candle/funeral pall/baptism certificates
- 17) That's too high church... "If he starts swinging the smokebox..."
- 18) The vestments and the collar—knocking down the straw man
- 19) My friends..
 - a. And she was a Methodist
 - b. And she was a Catholic
 - c. And she was a Non-Denom
 - d. And he was agnostic?
 - e. If they walk away...
- 20) Practicality: Where the heavy lifting happens
- 21) Practicality: walk through that service
- 22) Practicality: An answer to: "How we've always done it" and "What I'm used to in worship." The story of Paul. The story of tradition.
- 23) Practicality: Why we sing, what we sing.
- 24) Practicality: St. John's intentional teaching of Why We Do What We Do
 - Every AIC lesson is connected to a part of the Service. The same goes for youth catechism. The catechism student's sermon study form also asks them to list their favorite hymn and anything in the service that drew their attention. Where do I see this truth when I come to worship? Where does this truth and this worship intersect with daily life?
 - Lesson four in the AIC starts out: "Any questions about that Service you just sat through?" It's a good temperature check. Sometimes that lasts an hour. Sometimes it leads to the next lesson, a step-by-step walkthrough of the Divine Service.
 - Sunday morning Bible study often starts with "Any questions about worship today?"
 - Utilization of explanatory notes in the Service Folder.
 - Sermon connections to various parts of the Service, when appropriate.