



175 Years of Change in WELS Worship

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Introduction

Lutheranism in Germany: Pietism, Rationalism, the Prussian Union, mission societies and mission houses, and a confessional revival

Lutheranism in America: Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Samuel Simon Schmucker, the challenge of American Protestantism and American Revivalism, and a confessional revival

Earliest Beginnings

Johannes Muehlhaeuser: his experiences, the founding of Grace in Milwaukee, and the founding of the Wisconsin Synod

The “free-for-all” in worship in early Wisconsin Synod congregations

The influence of Reformed theology on the architecture of the earliest Wisconsin Synod churches

Turn toward Confessionalism

Johannes Bading: his experiences and his influence

The first Wisconsin Synod hymnal: *Evang.-Lutherisches Gesangbuch* (1870)

The influence of confessional Lutheran theology on the architecture of Wisconsin Synod church buildings, 1870-1900

Language Struggle and Church Construction

The challenges of the first decades of the twentieth century

Church Hymnal for Lutheran Services (1911)

Book of Hymns (1916)

Height of church construction in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota Synods, 1900-1929

The Lutheran Hymnal

A Synodical Conference project with Wisconsin Synod involvement

Acceptance and use in the Wisconsin Synod

Wisconsin Synod's horizons are expanded

Excursus: Choirs, organs, and instrumental music in WELS

Rapid Growth of WELS across the Country, 1960s—1980s

Coincided with a cultural shift in America

Impact on church architecture in Midwest congregations and on the mission fields

Impact on worship life in WELS

The Wide Influence of *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* (1993)

Key leaders in the development of *Christian Worship*

Almost universal acceptance across WELS

A renewed interest in liturgy and hymnody

Impact on worship life

The WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts

Retaining Our Past and Looking to the Future

WELS church architecture in the new millennium

Christian Worship: Supplement (2008) and *Christian Worship: Hymnal* (2021), *Christian Worship: Psalter*, and the importance of providing musical resources

Ongoing challenges in our American context

Conclusion

Where are we now?

Where do we go from here?



**FOR
175 YEARS**