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Putting Christian Worship Foundations to Work

WELS NATIONAL CONFERENCE on WORSHIP, MUSIC, and the ARTS

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Pastor Jon Zabell

Commissioned in connection with our hymnal project, *Christian Worship: Foundations* 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 *Foundations* 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 *Foundations* 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!"

Foreword

- Let the message of Christ dwell **among you richly... (Col. 3:16-17)**
- The whats, whys, and hows of worship
- Not just for pastors
- Theology of worship

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:16-17)

What / why / how – paschal candle: what? A large candle used in connection with a baptism font in a church chancel. The candle is lit on all the Sundays in the Easter season, and whenever there is a baptism or a funeral. Why? Because the candle is a symbol of the resurrection, the key connecting thought between Easter (Jesus lives) Baptism (I live with him), Funeral (I will not die but live). How? Determine where a paschal candle stand may fit in your chancel near the font – or if the font isn't in the chancel, where else might it go – commission the creation of a stand for the candle that matches your other furnishings – purchase the candle itself, dedicate it, and explain its use to the congregation.

“When pastors, musicians, planners, and worshipers are all on the same page, striving for a common experience, the gospel will have free course and be proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people” (Foundations, p.12).

Theology of Worship = worship based on scriptural principles.

Companion Volumes

- Guidebook
- **Musician's Manual**
- Our Worth To Him

Guidebooks is aimed primarily at pastors but lay leaders and church musicians and teachers in our schools may find helpful information.

Guidebook will be the practical extension of CW Foundations. Chapters in Guidebook will reference, summarize, and perhaps quote information from Foundations.

Guidebook cannot be the final word for practical applications. For example, Foundations provides a rationale and encouragement for worship education and Guidebook will provide creative ideas for a variety of educational ministries. Neither volume, however, can provide actual course notes and lesson plans. What Guidebook requires is an online compendium of various resources which supplement the two print volumes. Ed. James Tiefel

Musician's Manual is aimed primarily for church musicians and teachers in our schools but lay leaders and pastors may find helpful information. Ed. James Tiefel

Our Worth To Him: Devotions for Christian Worship – Mark Paustian

Contributors

- James Tiefel: 1,2,3,6,12
- Steven Lange: 4,5
- Jonathan Micheel: 7-11
- Bryan Gerlach, 13-14
- Nathan Pope, 15-16
- Aaron Christie, 17
- Mark Tiefel, 18, manuals oversight
- Jonathan Bauer, 19

Tiefel – former prof at seminary

Steve Lange – Pastor from Louisville, KY – member of Scripture Committee

Jon Micheel – sem prof – chair of rites committee

Bryan Gerlach – director of C/W

Nathan Pope – church artist – retired pastor living in Racine

Aaron Christie – prof at sem, chair of hymnody committee

Mark Tiefel – Pastor at Emanuel, New London, oversight of all manuals

Jonathan Bauer – Pastor at Good News, Mt. Horeb., exec committee of hymnal

Content: History

1. The Purpose of Christian Worship
2. The Story of Worship
3. The Story of Worship in WELS

1. How and why the church has gathered to worship through the ages, and the difference between worship and other modes of gospel proclamation.
2. History from Genesis up to the present day. Challenges and opportunities, and the effect these have had on God's gathered people.
3. How our church body has come to the place we are in worship today.

Content: Calendar

4. Origins and Objectives of the Church Year
5. Festivals and Occasions

4. Who invented the idea of a church calendar? The Lord! Goes back to Genesis, where the stars are placed in the sky to mark sacred times. – How did NT calendar come into being?

5. How the church has celebrated NT worship festivals and other occasions, and what this looks like now in CW 21.

Content: Rites and Services

6. A Liturgical Philosophy for Christian Worship
7. The Service: Beginning with Baptism
8. The Service: Preaching the Word
9. The Service: Celebrating the Feast

6. Why one basic service with three musical settings?

7. Walking through the first part of the weekly service.

8. Walking through the second part of the weekly service.

9. Walking through the Sacrament portion of the weekly service.

Content: Rites and Services

- 10. Other Services in Christian Worship
- 11. Other Rites in Christian Worship
- 12. Occasional Services and Rites in Christian Worship Agenda

10-11. Weddings, Funerals, Daily Office, Daily Prayer, Corporate Confession and Absolution , Service of Word and Prayer, etc.

12. From CW:Agenda – explanations of dedication rites, installation rites, confirmation rite, etc.

Content: Serving in Worship

13. **The Pastor's Role: As One Approved**

14. Various Roles: One in Christ

13. How to guide for pastors presiding at worship.

14. How to guide for pastors working with others who have something to do with worship planning and volunteer work.

Content: Art

- 15. Worship Space
- 16. Worship Symbols
- 17. Music Selection

15. How the church has handled the matter of worship space, how to create meaningful focal points, history of the altar, pulpit, font, etc.

16. Scripture is full of symbols which we use in worship.

17. Thinking beyond just “what kind of music does this congregation like?” a principled approach to selecting music for worship.

Content: Culture

18. Healthy Creativity

19. Worship and Outreach

18. Creativity in worship isn't an option, since the Lord has called us to give our best, and has given us gifts of creativity. How to temper creative impulse with Christian wisdom and love. Lessons from Martin Luther.

19. Worship is a key point for visitors to make contact with our church and with the gospel. What are some key things to keep in mind as we consider the unchurched guests and visitors who attend our services?



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Resources

- Bible Study Starters
- New Hymnal Introduction / Appreciation
- Worship Administration

Different chapters in the book seem especially helpful for each of the initiatives above:

Bible Study Starters: Ch. 1-4, 15-19

New Hymnal Introduction / Appreciation: Ch. 6-9

Worship Administration: Ch. 5, 10-14

The resource packet offers practical help for each.

Using Foundations

- Personal Growth
- New Pastors
- Pastors New to C21
- Circuit Meetings

Also:

- Bible Information Class
- Sunday School / LES – special lessons, aimed at kids
- Teen Bible Study

Using Foundations

- Worship Committees
- Sunday Bible Study
- Small Group Bible Study
- Online Book Club



Used the CW Icon "Ministry" for cover of this book. See the connection?

Free CW Icons from NPH for congregations who subscribe to CW:Service Builder, or who order enough pew hymnals to qualify for discounted Service Builder subscription. Contact NPH for details.