

# COMMON QUESTIONS

## GENERAL QUESTIONS ON WORSHIP

### ***What is worship?***

Christian Worship is when Christians gather together in the name of the Triune God to sing His praises, listen to His Word, learn how to apply His Word to daily life, partake of the Lord's Supper (when offered), go to Him in prayer and receive His blessing. God desires His children to worship together regularly, as well as having a regular, individual devotional life that contains prayer and personal Bible reading and study. Through worship Christians grow in faith in God and in love for others.

### ***What are the differences between Traditional and Contemporary worship?***

- **Traditional** worship uses the various liturgies described below as well as the various hymns of the Church. The texts of these hymns are often instructional in nature, or they based upon a Biblical text. The hymn tunes are usually several lines long and are repeated for every verse. Many hymn tunes are in the public domain and are easily recognized.
- **Contemporary** worship does not follow the liturgies mention below and use songs, which are based on more recent musical settings and the texts emphasize the praising of God more than teaching about God. Contemporary worship at Bethlehem still has Biblical readings, the Christian creeds of faith, biblical based sermons, prayers, and Lord's Supper on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month.

### ***What is the liturgy in a Traditional Worship Service?***

The Lutheran Church has kept much of the Christian Church's worship traditions. One of those traditions is the liturgy. The liturgy is the written dialogue between the Pastor and the people that is used to give structure to the worship service.

*There are several different liturgies:*

- There are liturgies for a worship service that contains the Lord's Supper. Such liturgies divide the worship service into three parts: Confession and Absolution; Service of the Word; and the Service of the Sacrament (the Lord's Supper).
- There are liturgies for worship services which have only Biblical readings and a sermon.
- There are liturgies for services that just concentrate on prayer. Two examples of these liturgies are Matins and Vespers.

### ***Should I bring anything to church, like a Bible?***

You need bring nothing but your family and yourself to worship! Bethlehem has hymnals and Bibles for your use.

### ***How should I and my children dress for church?***

One may wear clean and neat clothes that are appropriate to wear in public.

### ***Do I have to sing-a-long with the songs and hymns?***

We certainly invite one and all to sing! However, if you feel uncomfortable singing, you can just meditate upon the words sung, or take in the beautiful musical accompaniment.

### ***Is there a lot of standing and sitting in the service?***

#### ***Do I have to stand?***

There are places within the worship service where the people stand; usually when we confess our sins and receive forgiveness, recite the Apostles' or Nicene Creeds, say the Lord's Prayer, and receive the benediction. If you find standing uncomfortable, you certainly are permitted to remain seated.

### ***What is the Lord's Supper?***

On the first and third Sundays of the month, Bethlehem Lutheran offers the Lord's Supper in each of her worship services. In this brief meal of bread and wine, Christ offers – through the presence of His true body and blood in the bread and wine – forgiveness, the strengthening of faith, and the promise of life eternal.

### ***Can I take the Lord's Supper?***

We believe that the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are present in the bread and wine used in Holy Communion. If you are a member of sister church (LCMS) or you are in complete agreement with statement above, we welcome you to share in Holy Communion with us. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk with one of our pastors before the service. We offer both individual and common cup.

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**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP**

*If I have little children, where should we sit?*

Anywhere! However, we do suggest that you sit near an aisle in case you need to leave with your child for the restroom or for other reasons.

*If my children get restless or noisy during church, what should I do?*

Our large narthex is ideal to take your child to in order to settle them down and still be able to hear the service.

*Is there a cry room?*

Yes! From it you can hear and see the service while your children play with the few toys that are in the room.

*Is there a nursery?*

No, we do not have a nursery, just the cry room.

*Is there a place where I can change diapers?*

Yes! The changing room is off of the cry room. It is stocked with diapers.

*Are there children-friendly parts to the service?*

Yes! There is usually a children's sermon at the contemporary service.

**FACILITY QUESTIONS**

**RESTROOMS**

*Where are the restrooms?*

They are in the Narthex, next to the ramp to the School. Use them at any time.

**PARKING**

*Where should I park?*

If you need to use the handicap entrance, please use the parking lot off of Hermansau Road. Otherwise, please use the Weiss Street parking lot.

**HANDICAP QUESTIONS**

*Is there a handicap entrance to the Church?*

Yes! It is off the parking lot on Hermansau Road.

*Where do I sit if I am in a wheelchair?*

There are four places in the front of the church for wheelchairs; two on the lectern side of the church and two on the pulpit side. Please ask one of the ushers to assist you.

*I have a hearing problem. Does the church have hearing aids?*

Yes! Please ask one of the ushers for a hearing aid.

*Does the church have someone signing for the deaf?*

No, we are sorry that we do not have this service.

*I am blind. Can I have my seeing-eye dog come in with me?*

You certainly may bring your aid dog.