



WE WORSHIP...

I WAS GLAD WHEN
THEY SAID TO ME,
LET US GO TO
THE HOUSE OF THE
LORD!
PSALM 122:1

Church^{of the}
Lutheran
Brethren

We Worship . . .

It is a wonderful blessing and joy to call people to gather in worship in the sanctuaries of Lutheran Brethren congregations across the United States and Canada. Worship of our God takes place in many ways as we live our lives in His grace. Our works of service as well as our words of praise are received by our loving Lord as worship. Weekly gatherings, and special services planned throughout the year, provide unique opportunities for the children of God to receive His gifts of grace which come to us through His Word and Sacraments, and to express together their love for God. Our united voices, lifted in praise and thanksgiving to God, give expression to our heart-felt worship in response to God's great love for us.

How do Lutheran Brethren congregations approach worship service planning and preparation?

In our Statement of Values, we say:

The Word of God is the focus of our worship services, the textbook for our teaching ministries, and the foundation of our daily lives. Whether we are preaching, teaching, singing, or just talking, we want to be people of the Word.

This focus on the hearing of God's Word is at the heart of the approach CLB congregations take to teaching, service *and* worship, so we make the preaching of the Word central to our Sunday worship gatherings. In addition, we generally take a simple yet reverent approach to the other parts of our service, arranging a variety of ingredients that make up the order of service. Our worship gatherings are typically not liturgical in nature.

It is not that we disagree with others on how to worship God; it is our desire to intentionally keep the hearing of the Word of God central to the service even as we use different styles of music and a variety of approaches to prayer, confession of sin and confession of faith, the serving of the Lord's Supper, and the sacrament of baptism in the weekly gathering. Worship service structure and style will vary from congregation to congregation.

Every week, each congregation carefully plans for Sunday worship, enjoying the freedom and responsibility which all pastors and worship leaders recognize. They prayerfully structure a service that will invite you to give thanks and praise to God, confess your sins, receive forgiveness, hear the life-changing Word in the Gospel and go on your way blessed by God..

As you consider joining us for worship, fellowship and service, be encouraged by these words of Paul to the early church in Rome:

'...the word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,' that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, 'Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.' For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can

they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Romans 10:8-15

In the congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, the Word of God will remain central to our faith and life. Both of these come together, in very meaningful ways, whenever and wherever we gather for worship. Of course we hope you enjoy the style of worship service found in this congregation; even more important, we pray you will hear God's Word and receive the many gifts the Word brings to you.

You are invited to worship with us! Come with an expectant heart, ready to receive good gifts from God, even as you raise your heart and voice in praise and thanksgiving, and as you bring your requests to Him.

Upon leaving our worship services, we pray that you will be able to say with the Psalmist, *I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord!* Psalm 122:1.

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN BRETHERN
1020 W. Alcott Ave., Box 655
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0655
1-218-739-3336
www.clba.org

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