

lutheran worship

Course Description and Required Texts

Instructor: Dr. Linda Borecki

Course Description: What makes worship “Lutheran”? What makes worship “genuine”? How are we formed in Christ – or not – in worship? Under what circumstances might a long-bored Lutheran or brand-new visitor encounter God in “old, dead liturgy”? How can we better integrate innovation in worship without starting or continuing a worship war? What (hidden?) treasure does Lutheran worship offer a non-denominational and New Age-spirituality world? Do our worship services communicate or confound the presence of Christ? Does it matter?

Our studies will seek spiritual maturity and depth in worship, growing up into Christ Jesus (Eph. 4:15). This course is a study and application of early Christian, early Reformation, and postmodern sacramental sensibilities – living the Divine embrace in Word, prayer, and Sacrament. Our goal is to deepen:

- Discernment – of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in truly sacramental worship - whether “traditional,” “contemporary,” or “emergent” worship style
- Resourcefulness – in practicing the presence of Christ through varied, deeply anchored means
- A pastoral heart – for ministry to both long-time and novice worshipers in our churches

Course Guidelines: Lutheran Worship is an online course, designed at the university undergraduate level. It combines synchronous (live, entire class present) lecture and discussion with asynchronous assignments. In general, activities consist of reading, reflections on the readings, discussion, application of skills and knowledge in a worship setting, reflection on worship leading experiences, and building a community for mutual support. Attendance at all three sessions is required for passing (missed sessions to be made up in consultation with the instructor).

Session Readings: to be completed *before* each session. Thorough reading (four-five hours per class) and genuine reflection in preparation for class discussions is assumed. There are two readings for each session; one is weighted toward academic and theological contemplation, the other is weighted toward the heart and devotional reflection.

Session One:

Brauer (the whole thing – God bless you!)
Warren, Parts One and Two

Session Two:

Luther, “The Basic Liturgical Writings” (through page 90)
Warren, Parts Three and Four

Session Three:

Webber (all)
Nouwen (all)

Required Texts:

- Brauer, James L. *A Guide for the Presiding Minister*, 2006 edition. (sent to you via e-mail)
- Luther, Martin. *Luther's Works*, vol. 53, *Liturgy and Hymns*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965. (Concordia Seminary Bookstore, ph: 314-505-7315)
- Lutheran Service Book*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006. (the maroon hymnal; Concordia Seminary Bookstore). Or, the Lutheran hymnal your congregation uses
- Nouwen, Henri J.M. *With Burning Hearts: a Meditation on the Eucharistic Life*. Mary Knoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1994. (Christian bookstores, Amazon.com)
- Warren, Robert. *The Practice of Prayer*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994. (out of print, purchase on Amazon.com or direct from Linda Borecki [\$20 total from L.B.]
- Webber, Robert E. *The Divine Embrace*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006. (Christian bookstores, Amazon.com)

Recommended Texts (especially recommended for those who will lead public worship):

- Best, Harold M. *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2003. (available through Christian bookstores and Amazon.com)
(Church musician and theologian Harold Best has written an incisive, provocative, profound, and comprehensive book on authentic worship. It has been received with highest accolades and is considered a landmark volume on worship.)
- Dawn, Marva. *A Royal "Waste" of Time: The Splendor of Worshiping God and Being Church for the World*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1999.
(This book by LCMS theologian Dawn [Ph.D., Notre Dame] is a passionate and scholarly approach to moving beyond worship style to deeper issues of culture, community, spiritual formation, and postmodern worship challenges.)
- Luecke, David S. *Apostolic Style and Lutheran Substance*. Lima, Ohio: Fairway Press, 1999
(a reflection on worship, the public ministry and church organization)
- Precht, Fred L., ed., *Lutheran Worship: History and Practice*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1993.
(This book is a classic, standard resource for LCMS worship history and liturgical practice.)

