



REDEEMER NEWSLETTER

Lutheran Practices: Worship Come Down

I have a book in my library titled "Lutheran Worship: History and Practice." It is published by Concordia Publishing House and has many authors. The point of the book is to outline the form and reason for the way that we worship in the Lutheran Church. There are too many sections and explanations to mention in this short article, but suffice it to say that it covers most of the whys and hows of worship.

One thing that should be noted is the purpose of worship. Here are a few sentences from this book that help us to clarify the false point of worship.

"However, the main thrust of the English word worship is from the worshiper to the worshiped. The direction is from us to God. We recognize the merit or worth of God. When we recognize the merit or worth of God, we offer appropriate acts, rites, and ceremonies of worship. The English word worship makes the activity ours. It is something we do when we have recognized the greatness of God." (pg. 44)

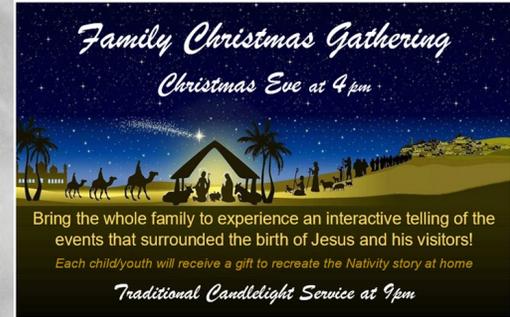
This is how much of the Christian world views worship. It is as if we say, "We gathered, so it must all be about us and what we do." The book goes on to clarify our position.

"The evangelical Lutheran understanding of worship is just the opposite. It is from God to us. It begins with God. It has its foundation and source with God. It is theocentric, and, more specifically, it is Christocentric. It is the theocentric, Christocentric view of worship that forms and norms Lutheran Worship." (pg. 45)

The point is that worship is started with God. We would not know what worship is, what it looks like, or how to do it if it were not for God. That means the worship service should look like the form and be of the substance that comes from God.

This understanding is very different than the dictionary definition and the actual practices of some churches. In fact, some churches believe that worship is so much about them or their culture that they have purposefully tried to make it look less like God and more like man.

...continued on page 2



**Redeemer's
Christmas Services!**

**Sunday December 24 -
Christmas Eve:**
10:00am - Divine Service
(no Bible Study or Sunday School)
4:00pm - Family Gathering
9:00pm - Candlelight

**Monday December 25 -
Christmas Day:**
10:00 am - Divine Service
(no Bible Study or Sunday School)

If you have news you would like to share with Redeemer members, please contact the office at:
office@redeemerolathe.org

Redeemer Lutheran Church
920 S. Alta Lane | Olathe, KS 66061
info@redeemerolathe.org
www.redeemerolathe.org
913-764-2359

(...continued)

Worse is the influx of completely worldly things into the worship service. Instead of the church going out into the world, the world has burst in on the church. In many cases, this has happened by invitation. Where God has intended that the church be light to the world, the world has brought darkness to the church.

One of the reasons that the church has done this is that the church seems so odd to the world. It is hard for us to invite someone to something that will be so foreign to them. But we forget that God is foreign to the fallen world. That worship has always been otherworldly.

Imagine trying to make Passover more comfortable for the people of the world. Imagine trying to explain to new believers that they have to be circumcised. This is exactly what the people of the Old Testament were doing. Imagine this conversation:

Israelite, "Hey, we are looking for new members. Would you like to join?"

Prospective Canaanite, "Sure. What do I need to do?"

Israelite, "Give up all your worldly gods, worship the One True God, Yahweh, offer a tenth of all you have to God every year, regularly offer sacrifices for the sins of your family, be in the temple or tabernacle every Sabbath, don't do any type of work on the Sabbath at all costs, and once a year offer a young lamb without blemish to the Lord while eating bitter herbs being dressed and ready to go as if you were going to travel away from your home because this is how you remember that God saved our people."

Prospective Canaanite, "That sounds like a lot to give up and a lot to do."

Israelite, "O, by the way, you also have to cut off your foreskin."

Prospective Canaanite (Blank stare).

Israelite, "We've all done it!" (Insert wary smile)

Although I meant this to be humorous, this is what was expected of all those who joined the chosen people. There were no exceptions. You were not allowed to change the worship. Add to the worship. Take anything away from worship. Worship was dictated by God.

Today, we do not have to do all those things they did in the Old Testament because Jesus has come. Much of what they did was to point them to the Christ. Much of what we do is to prepare us for His return. This means the emphasis has been changed from sacrificial to sacramental.

Before, they offered to God the sacrifices of faith that He proscribed. The sacrifices pointed toward His Son as the fulfillment of them all. Now, we receive from God the gifts of heaven from the sacrifice of His Son. His love has been poured down in love toward us in the gift of Jesus. Before Christ, they had to do it over and over again so that they would remember that He was coming. Now, we do it over and over again to stay prepared for His return.

This is why the service should look more like it is from God and less like the inventions of man. That is why, in our services, you will note all the references to Scripture. The Word of God is the will of God that He penned through the prophets and apostles. We take from it and the ancient liturgies of the church how we are to worship.

If we view worship this way, we can clearly see the purpose of it. It is God's work to keep us in the one true faith. It is a work that needs to be completed as He sees fit.

God's peace!

Pastor

Hi, I'm Emily Crow, and, as a fairly new member of Redeemer, I have felt so welcomed by each of you. I have truly found such a wonderful faith family, for which I am so grateful. When I started, I was quiet, shy and reluctant to immerse myself into much beyond women's Bible study; even the church service was not something I felt comfortable with. It wasn't long before I started being "voluntold" by a few, lovely, nameless ladies for various activities, the first being to decorate the church for the upcoming Christmas season. It's hard to believe it has been a year since I was fluffing trees by the entrance.

I have met so many women by being involved with LWML, and at the March Lydia's Circle meeting, I surprised everyone with my baptism! I couldn't imagine a better group of people to share that with than the ones who have guided me through this faith journey.

Being involved with the women of LWML has allowed me to volunteer where my interests, time and talents allow. It has given me a community, a place to fill my cup with all the goodness of Christ's love.

There are 2 groups of women who meet and would love to have you join! Ruth's Circle meets the second Tuesday of every month at 1:30pm. Lydia's Circle meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30pm.

If you are wanting or, like me, needing to join a community of likeminded women who have fun inside and outside of the church walls, please reach out to the church office or me for more information about either of these groups!

FACILITY NEWS

Have you noticed how GREAT our parking lot looks?! It's all due to the hard work and dedication of Larry Rademann, Dale Schnelle, Pete Peterson, and many of Pete's friends! There were many days when they were out there in the heat of summer, but they were able to complete the task! THANKS GUYS, for all your hard work and dedication to the Lord's house!



ROBERTS RULES

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING A MAIN MOTION

NOTE: Nothing goes to discussion without a motion being on the floor.

Obtaining and assigning the floor

A member raises hand when no one else has the floor.

- The chair recognizes the member by name.

How the Motion is Brought Before the Assembly

- The member makes the motion: I move that (or "to") ... and resumes his seat.
- Another member seconds the motion: I second the motion or I second it or second.
- The chair states the motion: It is moved and seconded that ... Are you ready for the question?

Consideration of the Motion

1. Members can debate the motion.
2. Before speaking in debate, members obtain the floor.
3. The maker of the motion has first right to the floor if he claims it properly.
4. Debate must be confined to the merits of the motion.
5. Debate can be closed only by order of the assembly (2/3 vote) or by the chair if no one seeks the floor for further debate.

The chair puts the motion to a vote

1. The chair asks: Are you ready for the question? If no one rises to claim the floor, the chair proceeds to take the vote.
2. The chair says: The question is on the adoption of the motion that ... As many as are in favor, say 'Aye'. (Pause for response.) Those opposed, say 'Nay'. (Pause for response.) Those abstained please say 'Aye'.

The chair announces the result of the vote.

1. The ayes have it, the motion carries, and ... (indicating the effect of the vote) or
2. The nays have it and the motion fails.

WHEN DEBATING YOUR MOTIONS

1. Listen to the other side.
2. Focus on issues, not personalities.
3. Avoid questioning motives.
4. Be polite.

(This summary taken from a document of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Believe it or not, I actually like going to business meetings. They can be places where great minds gather to discuss and advance magnificent ideas. I also have difficulty returning to meetings that are not run well. If the discussion does not stay on track, decisions are never made, information is not shared, interruptions never end, or people are not involved, then a meeting can be dreadful.

In a sense, our church is like a big family. Families should do three things together to stay healthy. They should worship together, they should work together, and they should play together. The worship part is obvious. Go to church and do devotions in the home. The work part means that you work together to maintain your home. It does not have to be a family business. The play part means having time for fun and fellowship that is not work.

Our church life should be the same. We are one big family, after all. As a people of God, we get together to worship and study God's Word. We also get together for fun. These are the fellowship events, or the time together before and after meetings and gatherings of organizations. We also need to work together as well. That means physically taking care of the church and doing the business of the church.

Why are church meetings a little harder to keep on track? One of the most significant problems with church business meetings is their casual atmosphere. We are often gathered in a place where we sit in social settings near our friends, and we have chosen or volunteered to be there. It creates an environment that can be more social than business-focused.

I was once the president of a local Rotary International club. One of the great things about their meetings is that they created space for social and business. The social started with a meal and people casually talking. However, once the meeting began, the social portion ended. The president would assume the podium, the gavel would sound, and we would start to focus. We listened to reports and asked questions. We received motions and made decisions. These meetings never went past their time allotted. It was all started and completed over a lunch hour. They were a true joy.

I want to encourage all our leadership council, boards, committees, and organizations to work on maintaining the church's work. We are really good at being social. I love that about the members of our church. It is even very strong among our leadership. We also need to be good leaders so that we can be good at what we do. Our proficiency will be noticed within the walls of Redeemer and outside as well.

One of the easiest things that we can do is start conducting our business in a thoughtful, orderly way. One of the best ways to do this is to follow Robert's Rules of Order. Many church constitutions actually state that all meetings will be conducted by these rules. The rules create an atmosphere where issues can be heard and addressed. A meeting where even the most timid voice has a say and where business is just that, it is business. It is not the personal agenda of any one member.

To assist with this, we are going to start reviewing the basics of Robert's Rules. There is a fairly good-sized book on all the ins and outs of the rules. However, knowing some of the basic tenets of the rules can help each person understand how they can impact the business meetings of our church. This means in the smallest of groups and committees up to the congregational meeting. In the next several newsletters of Redeemer, you will see some of these "rules." Please read through them and get familiar with them. I also hope to start seeing these "orders" followed in our meetings. So be watching.

All of this is to say that we are doing a great job here at Redeemer, and we can do better. A well-run organization brings confidence to all members and makes an impact on them. This is who we are striving to be at Redeemer. We already have the zeal for the Lord. Let's continue to work on the focus that will help us accomplish the work of the

Lord.
Pastor



We now have Narcan, a medication to give someone when you suspect a drug overdose. One time use. Spray in a nostril. Of course, call 911. It is located in the AED box.

An additional B/P check will be before second service on the 3rd Sunday, starting November 19th.

Don't forget your flu shots! You can get them at most pharmacies and, of course, your doctor's office.

COPD Awareness

What is COPD?

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, refers to a group of diseases that cause airflow blockage and breathing-related problems. It includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

What are the symptoms of COPD?

Symptoms of COPD include:

- Frequent coughing or wheezing.
- Excess phlegm, mucus, or sputum production.
- Shortness of breath.
- Trouble taking a deep breath.

Who has COPD?

Chronic lower respiratory disease, primarily COPD, was the fourth leading cause of death in the United States in 2018.¹ Almost 15.7 million Americans (6.4%) reported that they have been diagnosed with COPD.² More than 50% of adults with low pulmonary function were not aware that they had COPD,³ so the actual number may be higher. The following groups were more likely to report COPD in 2013.²

- Women.
- People aged 65 to 74 years and ≥ 75 years.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives and multiracial non-Hispanics.
- People who were unemployed, retired, or unable to work.
- People with less than a high school education.
- People who were divorced, widowed, or separated.
- Current or former smokers.
- People with a history of asthma.

In the past, COPD was often thought of as a man's disease, but things have changed in the past couple of decades. Since 2000, more women than men have died from COPD in the United States.⁴ In 2018, chronic lower respiratory disease, primarily COPD, was the fourth leading cause of death among US women.⁴ The age-adjusted death rates for COPD have dropped among US men, but death rates have not changed for women.⁵ More women than men are also living with COPD in the United States.⁵ There are several reasons why COPD might affect women differently than men.⁶ Women tend to be diagnosed later than men, when the disease is more advanced and treatment is less effective. Women also seem to be more vulnerable to the effects of tobacco and other harmful substances, such as indoor air pollution. For example, tobacco smoke is the main cause of COPD in the United States, but women who smoke tend to get COPD at younger ages and with lower levels of smoking than men who smoke. There also appear to be differences in how women and men respond to different treatments.

What causes COPD?

In the United States, tobacco smoke is a key factor in the development and progression of COPD.⁷ Exposure to air pollutants in the home and workplace, genetic factors, and respiratory infections also play a role. In the developing world, indoor air quality is thought to play a larger role than it does in the United States. People should try to avoid inhaling tobacco smoke, home and workplace air pollutants, and respiratory infections to prevent developing COPD. Early detection of COPD may change its course and progress.

What are the complications or effects of COPD?

Compared to adults without COPD, those with this disease are more likely to:

- Have activity limitations like difficulty walking or climbing stairs.^{2,8,9}
- Be unable to work.^{2,8}
- Need special equipment like portable oxygen tanks.²
- Not engage in social activities like eating out, going to places of worship, going to group events, or getting together with friends or neighbors.⁹
- Have increased confusion or memory loss.⁸
- Have more emergency room visits or overnight hospital stays.¹⁰
- Have other chronic diseases like arthritis, congestive heart failure, diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, or asthma.^{10,11}
- Have depression or other mental or emotional conditions.^{10,11}
- Report a fair or poor health status.¹²

How is COPD diagnosed?

A simple test, called spirometry, can be used to measure pulmonary—or lung—function and detect COPD in anyone with breathing problems.^{3,13}

How is COPD treated?

Treatment of COPD requires a careful and thorough evaluation by a physician.^{3,13} COPD treatment can alleviate symptoms, decrease the frequency and severity of exacerbations, and increase exercise tolerance. Treatment options that your physician may consider include:

- Quit smoking. For people who smoke, the most important part of treatment is smoking cessation.
- Avoid tobacco smoke and other air pollutants at home and at work.
- Ask your doctor about pulmonary rehabilitation, which is a personalized treatment program that teaches COPD management strategies to improve quality of life. Programs may include plans that teach people how to breathe better and conserve their energy, as well as provide advice on food and exercise.
- Take medication. Symptoms such as coughing or wheezing can be treated with medication.
- Avoid lung infections. Lung infections can cause serious problems in people with COPD. Certain vaccines, such as flu and pneumococcal vaccines, are especially important for people with COPD. Respiratory infections should be treated with antibiotics, if appropriate.
- Use supplemental oxygen. Some people may need to use a portable oxygen tank if their blood oxygen levels are low.
Information from CDC.gov

YOUTH NEWS

Pete Peterson (not pictured), Jace Baum, Tucker Baum and Jeremiah Shelton went to Wichita, KS for a Confirmation Retreat in September. I think they had a good time!



GETTING TO KNOW...

I would like to introduce you to my new young friend, David Ross. I had the pleasure of spending some time with him after he had finished practicing with the Bell Choir one Wednesday evening in November. What an amazing young man!! Many of you have been charmed by his musical talent when he has accompanied our organist, Nara, by playing his trumpet. I am sure you have wondered about his path in life that had God bringing him to be part of the Redeemer family.

David was born in a hospital in Cleveland, OH, but his family home at that time and during his years of childhood was in the small town of Chippewa Lake, OH. Most of his mother's family is around that area of Ohio. His father's family is mostly located in Florida, where he spent many summer vacations. David's parents divorced when he was a child, and he grew up living with his mother, Beth Myers. David has a sister (Molly) and brother (Mark), who are both older than him.

David comes from a long family history of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod members on his mom's side. He was raised in the LCMS church in his hometown. He was baptized as an infant and confirmed during his 8th grade year of school. He served as an officer (secretary and president) of his church youth group during his high school years. He truly enjoys playing his trumpet for us here at Redeemer. He also volunteers and has played taps for some funeral services.

During his youth, David was interested in music and started playing the trumpet in the sixth grade. He is a very talented musician and played in the marching band, the symphonic band, and the jazz band during his high school years. He was the lead trumpet. When he graduated from high school, he received two honors—the John Phillips Sousa Award and the Marcher of the Year. He received a music scholarship to be part of the marching band at Youngstown State University where he received a BA in Applied Sciences, majoring in Forensic Science with a minor in Chemistry.

David came to Olathe right after graduation at the end of May 2023 when he accepted the position of Forensic Toxicology Technician at the Johnson County Medical Examiner's Office. This position is in a small, but rapidly growing, office in Olathe. They are concerned with autopsies and investigations of cause of death for those who die here in Johnson County. He points out that the office is busily seeking accreditation for their work and has a vision of increasing in size as they work to meet the needs here in Johnson County. With this vision, he has many coming opportunities for growth in his field of knowledge.

David loves meeting new people and would welcome a chance to meet all his brothers and sisters here at Redeemer. Be sure to stop him and thank him for being willing to use his musical gift to praise God here at Redeemer with us. And, if you get a chance, ask him about his job—you are in for a treat.

Jesus Is Coming!

The Scripture is replete with verses that call us to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Some of them seem dark with ideas of fear and images of dread. Others are exultant in voice and give the impression of people looking forward to a grand reunion.

Dark or fearful

“Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?” (Amos 5:18–20, ESV)

Light or exultant

“And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:27–28, ESV)

These two extremes make us wonder, “Which will it be?” Should we fear the coming of the Lord, or should we look forward to it? Should it be a moment of terror, or a moment of light? We want it to be a moment of light, but we also know that we are a people of darkness.

“And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” (Isaiah 6:5, ESV)

We also know that we are people of darkness, for whom the light has come.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.” (Isaiah 9:2, ESV)

“to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:79, ESV)

“for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8, ESV)

This means that it depends on your relationship with God. Are you ready to stand in the presence of a perfectly holy and almighty God? It’s kind of like the trick sentence. Read this:

GODISNOWHERE

What does it say to you? Did you read it in the negative sense? God is nowhere. Or, did you read it in the positive sense? God is now here! Same letters. Same order. Different meaning.

There will be only One God who returns on the Last Day. There will be two responses. One response will be of terror. For the deeds of man will be judged. The other response is one of joy. For the deeds of man have been paid for in Christ.

If you look from the perspective of man and believe that you will be judged on the basis of the evil that you have done, then the Last Day is certainly frightening.

If you look from the perspective of what God has done through Christ for those who believe, then the Last Day will bring great joy.

For the unbeliever who did not believe in God or keep His Word, it will be better if it were true that God is nowhere. For the believer who believed in God and kept His Word, there will be rejoicing in the fact that the God of salvation is now here!

This brings us to a huge point of being a believer. We must stay ready for the day of the Lord's judgment as if it were about to happen at any moment. At any moment, Christ may return, and we will find ourselves ready to greet Him. The opposite is also true. At any moment, Christ may return and catch us not ready to greet Him.

We recently read Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish virgins. The main point of the parable was that we need to be always ready, because we do not know the day or the hour that judgment will come.

It is also something that we do in the season of Advent and Christmas. We celebrate these each year recalling how Christ was promised, and then came. But we are not waiting for Him to come in the flesh. We are waiting for Him to return in the flesh.

His return will not be like His coming. He will not have to be announced by an angel. Whether that means His conception or His birth. Only Mary heard of His conception. Only the Shepherds heard of His birth. When He returns, all humans who have ever lived will be raised to see Jesus face to face on that great and glorious day.

Advent and Christmas are a way of recalling the past and looking forward to the future. We look back in praise that He has come and accomplished our salvation. We look forward to His return and our future full glorification.

These yearly seasons are a way of preparing us for His return. The people 2000 years ago were caught off guard. They knew that Jesus was coming, what He was going to do, and even how He would do it. But when He came, they were not prepared. In fact, they were so far away from what God had told them, many rejected Him when He came.

The only way for us to avoid the same thing is by staying prepared in the way that He has told us to stay prepared. We must use the Armor of God.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."
(Ephesians 6:11, ESV)

We need to use the sword of the Spirit.

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12, ESV)

We need to reach out to the world.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20, ESV)

We need to admonish sinners.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” (Matthew 18:15, ESV)

We need to feast to stay strong until He returns.

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” (1 Corinthians 11:23–26, ESV)

These things, given to us by Christ Himself, are all that we need as Christians. Keeping the whole counsel of God, we can stand firm on the day of judgment. We can lift our heads when our Lord comes again in glory.

The reason that we know that these things will work is because they are from Him. He would not leave us with a bait and switch. He is faithful and just and He cannot go back on His promises.

“The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.” (2 Timothy 2:11–13, ESV)

That is why we know we don’t need anything else to be sure of our salvation. If Christ has left us these things, then this is all we need. If we needed anything else, He would have given it to us.

Christ is indeed coming. We need to be ready at all times. Thank goodness He has given us all we need to be ready.

Come Lord Jesus! Amen.

Pastor