

Worship and the Arts Committee
Report to the 2011 Conference Conventions

Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight
Come and revel in heaven's love and light
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin.
(*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 531 - Refrain*)

The Worship and the Arts Committee serves to assist congregations and ministries within the Synod to offer faithful worship to God, rooted in Scripture and the confessional and liturgical heritage of our Lutheran tradition. Currently serving on the committee are Rev. Ron Flamand (Edmonton), Colleen McGinnis (Wetaskiwin), Tova Olson (Camrose), Carolyn Speakman (Lethbridge), and Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer from the Synod office. Colleen McGinnis continues serving as editor of the *Adoramus* publication, and Carolyn Speakman serves as our ABT representative on the ELCIC National Program Committee for Worship.

This year, we are grateful to have welcomed Rev. Ron Flamand to our group. We also express deep thanks for Sharon Villetard's many years of collaboration on behalf of the synod office and for Pastor Larry's continuing partnership in his new role as Assistant to the Bishop.

The Worship and Arts Committee has continued its work on several projects.

Intercessory Prayers. Before the beginning of the new church year, a weekly diary of prayers and intercessions for congregations and ministries of the Church is distributed in a synodical mailing to each pastor; it is also available on the synod website. Congregations are invited to include these public intercessions in their weekly worship.

Liturgical Furnishings. The synod's processional cross and torches, previously commissioned by the committee, are used at synodical events and are also available from the synod office for congregational use. Carrying cases have been completed, and we are searching for a woodworker to create bases and stand for the torches.

Learning. As part of our own learning and growth, our committee has continued to include a book study in our meetings. This year's focus has been Marty Haugen's, *To Serve as Jesus Did: A Ministerial Model for Worship Teams and Leaders* (© 2005 by GIA Publications, Inc.). We are also open to providing learning opportunities for congregations and/or individuals. By request this year, Pastor Larry led an ELW Hymnal Introduction at St. John's, Barrhead, and a Lay Pastoral Assistants' class on "Shaping Worship: Freedom and Flexibility." If you are looking for someone to facilitate workshops on worship-related topics, please contact any member of the committee or the Synod office.

Resources. The *Adoramus* newsletter, published 2-3 times/year, features articles on a range of worship topics. We encourage you to explore our synod web page (www.albertasynod.ca) for a growing collection of seasonal worship resources, hymn festivals, workshop opportunities, the *Adoramus* newsletter and MORE! We also invite you to help us build these resources by sharing materials being created for worship in your own communities. Our current goal is to include new Advent litanies and services.

Connection. Our committee also strives to stay connected with opportunities in the wider church. One new initiative in Canada this year is www.openspirit.ca, a place for Lutherans and Anglicans to contribute and find original worship music. Check it out! We also hope many from our synod will plan to experience “Beyond the Fortress” in Winnipeg on June 29 - July 2, 2012. This year’s National Lutheran-Anglican Worship Conference promises to be an exciting, engaging time of exploration and growth, expression and connection as we seek to understand through our worship eyes the world God loves. For more information, visit the conference website: <http://www.nationalworshipconference.org/>

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Speakman (Lethbridge)
For Colleen McGinnis (Wetaskiwin),
Tova Olson (Camrose),
Rev. Ron Flamand (Edmonton),
and Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer (Synod Office).