

adoramus

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A Newsletter for those who Appreciate and Participate in Worship and the Arts

Fall 2007

Let Them Sing! ... *The second in a series of articles on musicals.*

Lutherans love to sing. This is evident from the moment they open their mouths and lift their voices in harmony at any church gathering, anywhere, to the moment the final strains of the accompaniment drift into silence. One way to nurture this love of song, and to involve a wide age range of people is through the presentation of musicals. The second article in this series, by Elaine Nelson of Medicine Hat, Alberta, will get your heart racing! So much to do ... so little time ...



A musical in one week? Yes, it can be done. I know, because I've done it eight or nine times with children, ages 8 - 16, in just 17 1/2 hours. Why should we do a musical? Let me count the ways.

Preparing a musical involves a great variety of endeavours. The procedure I have used gives every child the total experience. They not only learn to sing the music (mostly by rote so it's all memorized at the same time), but they also get to work on sets and props, as well as make their own costumes. We try to keep everything as simple as possible, so it can be finished in one week. We end with a public performance, and all participants feel a great sense of accomplishment - "We did it!" By that time, there has been good team building, and adult volunteers and students have enjoyed working together. We found that advertising in the community brought youngsters who were not connected with our church, so it is also a form of outreach.

I shouldn't say "I" have done these musicals, because it takes many more people than that. Let me explain: First of all, you need to choose the musical you want to do. The last issue of Adoramus had several very good suggestions. Order them early so they arrive in plenty of time.

Then you need to enroll some volunteers. Most people are very willing when they know exactly what to do, and that it won't be a long-term commitment. You need to find:

- ✓ Pastor (to do the Bible study each day).
- ✓ Music director (usually also the choreographer, but not necessarily)
- ✓ Drama director
- ✓ Producer (mostly a go-fer)
- ✓ Director for creating the sets (sometimes the designer is another person)
- ✓ Director of crafts (props and costumes)
- ✓ Someone to serve snacks (who will get other volunteers to bring them).

The last three people mentioned will each need helpers as well. A production meeting with all the directors ▶

should follow. It works best if one person is the overall Director. It is at this time that the role of each person should be spelled out.

The producer should make (or arrange for) posters to announce the auditions for solo speaking and singing parts. If the musical is to take place during the summer, it is a good idea to have the auditions before school dismisses and summer plans are made.

The music director and drama director hold the auditions and subsequently choose the leads for the show. The music director sometimes makes tapes of solos to let them start to learn their parts before the actual "week" begins.

Closer to the actual "week", the producer circulates another poster giving the time, place, and cost involved. Registration can be in advance or at the door. If tee-shirts are to be decorated as costumes, the sizes needed should be determined as the participants register. The producer then buys the shirts and washes them.

The Director sets up a schedule for 2 or 3 groups,

depending on the enrollment. Here is a sample schedule for the first day:

9:00	Bible study for all	
9:15	Introduce the musical and begin first song - all	
	Group A	Group B
9:30	Music, scene 1	Crafts / sets
10:00	Drama, scene 1	Music, scene 1
10:30	Recess - Snack time - all	
	Group A	Group B
10:45	Crafts / sets	Drama, scene 1
11:15	Music, scene 2	Crafts / sets
11:45	Drama, scene 2	Music, scene 2
12:15	Clean up	Review

Similar schedules are implemented each day. By Friday morning, you should be able to run through the show a couple of times. The excitement generated for the public performance on Friday evening is a joy to see. It can be done, and it's lots of fun. I have seen students really become "turned on" by this experience. The participants learn a Bible story that they will never forget. Try it! You'll never forget it either! **A**

Suggested Piano Music by Season/Lectinary

As promised, here is the list of music appropriate for General Sundays 11 - 29, submitted by Elaine Nelson of Medicine Hat. If you wish to review the previous published list, which included music for Advent through Christ the King Sunday, as well as a list of resource music books, you will find it in the Fall 2006 issue of Adoramus, Volume 16, No. 2. Look for it under "Publications" on the Synod web site (www.albertasynod.ca) if you have recycled your paper copy.

General, Sundays 11-29

Abide with Me
Softly and Tenderly
Amazing Grace
Be Thou My Vision
Blessed Assurance
The Doxology
Take Time to be Holy
I Love to Tell the Story
This is my Father's World
Just As I Am
Sweet Hour of Prayer
Let Us Break Bread Together
Morning Has Broken
My Jesus, I Love thee
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
On My Heart Imprint Thine Image
Pass Me Not O Gentle Saviour
Jesus, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
All Hail the Power of Jesus Name
Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
Sent Forth by God's Blessing -
(Ashcroft)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
Glorious Thing of Thee Are Spoken
Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise
Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Where Cross the Crowded Ways
of Life

Elaine Nelson ... retires from the Alberta Synod Committee on Worship and the Arts. We wish to thank her for her willingness to share of her time and many talents over these past years. We will miss her.

Workshops Work!

By: Colleen McGinnis

I've never met a Lutheran yet, who didn't love to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. That makes the ministry of music in our churches a very important role, and Anita Polturak, of Lord of Glory Lutheran Church in Lac la Biche, Alberta, knows first hand how rewarding that ministry can be.

As Music Director, she wished to be able to bring more to her congregation. With the support of her pastor and congregation, she enrolled in the Leadership Program for Musicians when it was offered by the Synod. The instructors were approachable, knowledgeable and answered questions with enthusiasm. She found that working with other like minded people was very rewarding, in that they were able to talk with each other and learn from each others experiences within their congregations. A camaraderie developed between the participants that has remained intact today.

Because of the knowledge she gained, Anita was able to solidify her position concerning the importance of music, whether she was leading congregational song or conducting a choir. She gained a better understanding of the liturgy, and became a more confident leader.

"Worship is enriched when directors gain a fuller understanding of what it means to be a worship and music leader. I would encourage both the musicians to seek further musical education, and churches to support their directors in this way," she says. "I gained a more firm foundation in musical knowledge and a freedom in musical choice. I love seeing how all music, traditional and contemporary, can find a place in worship."

And, Anita's pastor and congregation loved it too! **A**

Greening our Worship

Check out these links on the www.worship.ca web site.

Essays by: Paul F. Bosch

http://www.worship.ca/docs/ww_115.pdf

http://www.worship.ca/docs/ww_116.pdf

http://www.worship.ca/docs/ww_117.pdf

Christmas is Coming ... The Christmas season is a good time to make things right; "God and sinners reconciled." ... H. Gniewotta

Christ the King Hymn Festival

The festival of Christ the King was first celebrated in 1925, and intended to proclaim God's reign over a world wracked by war. That can still be proclaimed today.

A hymn festival for this occasion has been prepared by Pastor Larry Kochendorfer and Carolyn Speakman of the Synod Worship and the Arts Committee.

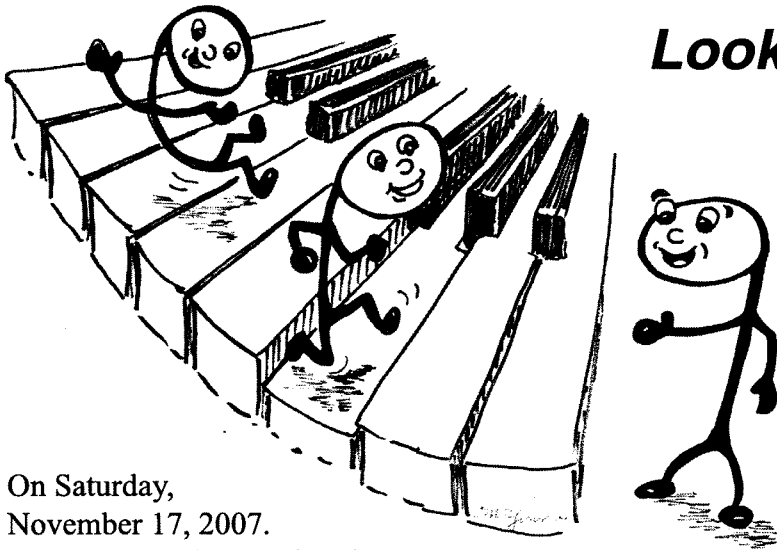
You are welcome to download it from the link on the synod web site at www.albertasynod.ca and make as many copies as you'd like for this special festival.

Need to borrow a book?

There are 100 copies of the new **Evangelical Lutheran Worship** book at the Synod Office in Edmonton.

If your congregation would like to borrow them to give the new liturgies and hymns a try, please contact:

Sharon Villetard
Synod of Alberta & the Territories
(780) 439-2636



Looking for ...

People of Note!

Submitted by: Pastor Larry Kochendorfer

On Saturday,
November 17, 2007.

Ascension Lutheran Church,

Edmonton, 8405 - 83 Street, will be the home for a day of workshops, "Let the People Sing!". We will be looking at leading congregational song in the morning, and conducting church choirs in the afternoon. Led by Dr. Joy Berg of Concordia University College of Alberta, Edmonton, the morning session from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, will focus on leading hymns and liturgy from the piano or the organ bench, with general suggestions and then more specific suggestions as participants play for each other.

The afternoon session, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, will focus on conducting the church choir, concentrating on the physical conducting gesture, practical ideas to help with the running of your choir, and repertoire ideas. Come ready to be involved in playing and conducting! You are welcome to one or both of the workshops. Coffee and snacks will be provided, but please bring a bag lunch or plan on making a quick trip across the street to the food court at Bonnie Doon Mall for lunch.

Sponsored by our Synod's Worship and the Arts Committee, the cost is only \$75.00 for the day, or \$40.00 for one workshop.

Pastor Larry will be happy to talk to you about this workshop, and he can be reached at Ascension 780-469-2421. You may also call for information, or to register at the Synod Office at 780-439-2636 or by email at abtsynod@elcic.ca. **A**

Tova Olson joins the Synod Worship and Arts

Tova was born in Minneapolis, and raised in Camrose where she still resides. She is a graduate of CLBI and Augustana University College. Tova is the Director of Music at Messiah Lutheran Church in Camrose, where she is involved with planning and coordinating worship services, as well as working with the choir. World music is just one of her many areas of musical expertise.

She loves to travel, and previous to her appointment to Messiah Lutheran Church, she spent two years in Korea teaching English and piano. Here, Tova also teaches private piano lessons, and sings with Oran, a young adult choir which is part of Kokopelli, an Edmonton based Choir Association that performs anything from canonical classical repertoire to experimental and avant-garde contemporary works. She recently travelled to Africa with the group.

We welcome Tova to the Committee on Worship and the Arts. **A**

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