

WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT WORSHIP COMMITTEE

REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2023

Who we are

Pastor Nate Berg (Eastside, Madison, WI), Professor Lucas Krogmann (LPS, Watertown, WI), Pastor Daniel Naumann (Trinity, Marshfield, WI), Pastor Paul Stratman (St. Stephen's, Beaver Dam, WI), serve as members of the Western Wisconsin District Worship Committee. Pastor Philip Moldenhauer (Our Redeemer, Madison, WI), serves as the coordinator for the committee.

What we do

The Western Wisconsin District Worship Committee exists to help parishes in their central activity of worship that glorifies God and strengthens his people. To that end, we serve as a conduit for information and resources from the WELS Commission on Worship. We also assist the District Praesidium in designing and leading services at district conventions and conferences.

Committee activity

The committee met in person in October of 2022 to discuss our work and lay plans for the future. We conducted a survey of district congregations in February 2023. Conference worship planning took place online in spring 2023.

District website update

Our committee makes materials available through our district's website: welswwd.weebly.com/worship.html

Need help with adapting to the new hymnal

Members of our committee are available for consultation for any congregations or pastors that would like assistance with adapting to the new hymnal. In addition, Paul Stratman of our committee has produced a [helpful guide](#) to using the hymnal, with guidance and advice for careful planning.

2023 Survey results and analysis

Our committee surveyed district congregations about worship practices during February 2023. We received responses from about 60 congregations or about 36% of our district. Some items of note:

77% of congregations in our district have an average worship attendance of 225 or less per weekend. Small churches predominate. Most, however, have a fair number of musicians. Only 10% of churches report having no organists, and 15% report having no pianists available. 12% regularly use recorded music in lieu of a service accompanist.

67% of respondents indicate that they have adopted Christian Worship: 2021.

The overwhelming majority of reporting congregations follow a lectionary and celebrate the Lord's Supper twice a month (90% in both cases).

Virtually all congregations print out something for worship (95%). About 70% print the entire order of service. Very few congregations actually use the hymnals to follow along with the liturgy.

Congregations are almost evenly split between those that do and do not use projection during the service.

Just over 40% of congregations no longer pass an offering plate during the service.

Full results of the survey are available [here](#).

National worship conference

Save the date for the 2024 National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts: July 30 to August 2, 2024 at Carthage College, Kenosha, WI. More information is available at wels.net/worshipconference

Links to resources

- **Christian Worship: Playlist** is an add-on for Christian Worship: Service Builder that assists churches in leading congregational singing for worship. For congregations that do not have a trained musician to lead the music of the service, Playlist is designed to give you the next-best thing. You get high-quality recordings of service music (for the hymns, psalms, liturgy, etc.) that have been recorded by professional church musicians to play back through your church's sound system. The annual subscription rate is \$225. Visit: online.nph.net/servicebuilder
- **Musician's Resource** continues to be updated with quality material.
- **Christian Worship: Easy Hymn Accompaniments**
 - [Chorale Edition](#)
 - [Piano Edition](#)
 - [Discounted Set](#)
- **The Foundation Year A**
 - Worship resources, but not yet all the graphics and podcasts, are now available: <https://welscongregationalservices.net/foundation-yr-a/>