

THE LIVE WIRE

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PLUG INTO THE HIGHEST POWER

September 10, 2021

MUSIC: CONGREGATIONAL SINGING FOSTERING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Creating a flow within the confines of worship takes great care in everything from the selection of the liturgy, relation of the scriptures, and the topics addressed within the sermon.

Congregants are led to Christ through sensing, feeling, and perceiving how the theology presented in worship inspires them to live a life that is Christ like. Hymnody and music in worship have a large impact on how this is done as well. Music, and its text, should and do enhance as well as support the theology within a service. They should not be used to merely fill time or thoughtlessly be selected as feel-good worship music. They should be chosen with the same care and theological foundation that hopefully goes into the rest of the service.

Here at American Lutheran, the selection of music normally utilizes criteria for worship that include but are not exclusive to the following:

- Is the text theologically sound?
- Will it fit with the scripture and or sermon?
- Is it singable?
- Will it enhance worship?
- How will the mood affect worship?
- Are we singing for ourselves or for/toward God?
- Is it common within our canon as a congregation?
- Will it support the direction of the service?
- Will it stretch the Congregation?
 - In a good way?
 - In a challenging way?
 - Will it help members live a more Christ like life?

Over this past year when Covid has limited gathering in worship the selection of music has been even more significant in our worship life. Limited numbers in worship, no choir to provide leadership and support to congregational singing, and a

great deal of worship being live streamed has challenged me to look at how music touches congregants' hearts and strengthens their faith through both the corporate and digital worship that we have produced. Recently we have removed restrictions in worship attendance, social distancing, and the requirement of wearing face masks. In doing so, we have added more liturgical music, including hymns, back into corporate worship, and there will be leadership from the choir as the program resumes on September 12th.

Our desire to sing and lift our voices is great, but the challenge of ensuring that the music is sound, fitting, and pleasing to God is ever present. In looking at past Sunday's selections did I honor my calling to lead and select music that fits the criteria to help our congregation grow. Did the music challenge the congregation to grow in their faith? Better relate to the scriptures? Better relate to our understanding of Christ and God in a Lutheran church? Did the congregation leave feeling filled and fed?

In selection of weekly liturgical music, I strive to see how the music will affect me as a worshiper while at the same time how it will be accepted and viewed by the congregation in the confines of worship. I agree with the idea that Mary Cuff shared in her article, *The Disposable Modern Hymn* "if a certain hymn or style leads someone to prayer, then who are we to force our preferred worship tastes upon them? Live and let live. Pray and let pray." In review of recent services, I believe that the music selected did achieve the goal of drawing the congregation closer to God and supporting the congregation in strengthening their growth and relationship with God. This may not always be the case but with God's guidance the liturgical music selected will lead members to living a life rooted in the virtues of Christ our Lord and God the Father.

David Sherman, Minister of Music

WHAT IS THE ENDOWMENT FUND AT ALC?

The ALC Endowment Fund is a ministry that goes largely unknown to many of us. This Fund assists important elements of ALC without impacting the annual budget.

The ALC Endowment Fund was initiated to encourage supporters to make legacy gifts to our church. These gifts are used to further ALC's mission and other ministries as well as worthy organizations outside of ALC that benefit the community.

The ALC Endowment Fund operates within specific guidelines to ensure that our donations perpetuate the capital in the Fund. Only earnings from a specific time period are available for donations each year. Emphasis is placed on sound fiscal management to ensure that funds are placed in outreach ministries, internal development areas, and capital improvements.

How can you help? When preparing wills, trusts or making tax decisions, please prayerfully consider including the Endowment Funds as a recipient. This is NOT a solicitation for funds at this time, but rather to inform ALC members of the Endowment Fund and its function.

How do you request funds? If you wish to ask for funding for an outreach or in-reach ministry, contact the church office for a Request Form. The request will then be reviewed by the Endowment Board and a decision made whether to approve or not.



We are sad to announce but at this time Connection Classes have been put off to an undetermined date. At this time, we are looking for individuals who would like to teach a Connections Class. If you are interested, please contact Altha Cline at (928) 499-1079.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

I wasn't born in Prescott, but I got here as quick as I could! Here's a little bit of my story.

I was born in Lutheran Deaconess Hospital back in the holy land. Minneapolis, Minnesota, that is. The first nine months of my life were pretty normal from what I can remember. Then things got a little crazy and I spent my first birthday in the hospital with acute poliomyelitis, polio for short. And no, I hadn't been vaccinated for the simple reason that the vaccine wasn't around yet and wouldn't be for a couple years. My family teases me, saying that I started the polio epidemic of the early '50s, but I don't think that's true.

At the age of five, a local orthopedist suggested to my parents that they might consider some corrective surgery that might improve the function of my paralytic right arm and hand. It was quite complicated, and to Dr. Jones' knowledge it hadn't been done anywhere before, but he, and by extension my folks, were confident it would help, and it did! The usage of my right arm and hand went from zero to about 40%! Dad took me to the doctors' office for the removal of the last stitches. When some tests were done, and I could actually do some things with my right hand, both Dr. Jones and my dad were crying with joy. I mention this little story because my parents were strong Christians, and we were all giving God the glory for this "miraculous" improvement. Anyway, I was pretty OK for a kid who only had one good arm and one good leg. It took a little longer than other kids for me to learn things like how to ride a bike or dribble and shoot a basketball, but eventually I was as good an athlete as any other neighborhood kid. I owe my folks a huge debt of gratitude in this regard, not only for their prayers but for how they helped me sharpen my athletic skills when other kids weren't around to play with.

Shortly after that my parents along with a few other couples started a Christian elementary school in south Minneapolis. I attended this school from second grade until, until sixth grade. I then attended a Lutheran (LCMS) junior high school for three years, and Minnehaha Academy (Christian school) for grades ten through twelve. Minnehaha was affiliated with the Covenant denomination, but always had more Lutheran students than Covenanters. Attending "the Academy" was a privilege I'll always be thankful for. Then, on to St. Cloud State.

Following our 1976 wedding, my wife Cheryl and I both worked as sales reps in the health and beauty industry until '82 when we adopted our son, Jonathan when he was three weeks old. Cheryl became a stay-at-home mom during the day and worked part-time evenings selling cosmetics at the Northridge mall while I was home with Jonathan. Thirty-nine years later and an A.A.S. degree in on the wall, Jonathan is now a successful automotive Service Writer/Repair Tech in Prescott Valley.

Now, I'm not proud of this, but my walk with Christ made a few unscheduled turns between college and my late 40s. I thought of myself as a Christian, but I wasn't living the Christian life. Fortunately, the hand of the Lord, Cheryl, and later a fellow named Bill Wilson drew me back into the fold. I came to realize that my "higher power" should be, and would be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Nowadays, I am beset with post-polio syndrome, where many symptoms of the original onset of polio return 30 or 40 years later. Doctors familiar with polio used to advise, "Use it or lose it!" Now they're saying, "Conserve it to preserve it!" I have a wonderful wife, and a whole bunch of Christian friends. I have a dependable power chair that allows me a great deal of independence. So my walk with Christ lately has become more a "ride" with Christ.

I love our church and its leaders. As Lou Gehrig said, "Sometimes I feel like the luckiest guy in the world." I've long maintained that you don't have to look very far to see someone worse off than you. And as the apostle Paul said to the Philippians: "I thank my God every time I remember you." In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy."

In 2006, we finally got "home" to Prescott -- AND AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH! *Elliot Peterman*

Often we don't know a great deal about the people who worship and fellowship with us. Our members and friends have their own unique stories and testimonies to share.

If you or someone you know has a story to tell, please contact the church office or Kris Foster, Coordinator of Member Support.

BLANKETS 4 KIDS

Blankets 4 Kids has been selected to take a lead position in supporting the blanket drive in the New Orleans area that was recently hit with hurricane Ida.

Our volunteers have already started to fill boxes with blankets and as they are filled they will be put in our storage until we can fill a semi-truck with them. We have experience in these disaster situations but we need everyone's help to make sure we put them on a truck and place them in the hands of Catholic Charities personnel in that area.

So we need kid's and adult's blankets as well as financial support to make this happen. It's a big undertaking but with the help of ALC and the community at large we'll get a truck on the road! God Bless, *Ron Campbell, Dir. Blankets 4 Kids, Inc*

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Support ALC by following/like us on Facebook and Instagram! Stay informed on all events, news and weekly encouragement. We invite you to like, share and comment on our posts. This helps us increase our visibility and promote all the great things that happen at our church. **We will be having another Giveaway starting Tues., Sept. 14!!**

