

2024 LCMS Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music

The following is a list of ideas for session and master class topics.

This list may be chosen from directly; it may also inspire other topics not listed.

Categories are only for organization. Many topics overlap and suit a broad audience.

Psalms and the Psalter:

- In church, classroom or home
- In pastoral care and preaching
- In art
- Gregorian, Meinrad, and other historic chant
- Anglican chant
- Ionian Psalms
- Gelineau Psalms
- Psalm singing in *LW*, *LBW* and *LSB*
- Taizé
- Psalm paraphrases and hymns
- The Becker Psalter
- Psalms for contemporary ensemble
- Psalms and the Propers (*introit, gradual, verse, etc.*)
- Conducting chant
- Accompanying psalms with handbells
- Composition techniques for psalm tones and antiphons
- Curriculum and strategies for learning and using psalms in church and school
- Psalter as devotional material for pastors, congregations, choirs and others

Workshops & Master classes:

Note: One value of gathering together is the opportunity to sharpen one another in our respective crafts. Our conference facilities at CUNE offer many small rooms and the opportunity to receive direct instruction with immediate feedback. LCMS Worship will work to facilitate communication as necessary.

***Presenters** serve as instructors, either for small group or one-on-one sessions. Attendees will request their preferred sessions in advance. Where applicable, they will be asked to come with prepared material.*

The number, kind and frequency of opportunities will be highly contingent on interest.

Individual Master Classes (*one-on-one instruction or feedback*)

- How to chant (*pastors*)
- How to sing (*absolute beginner; on-site assessment; consultation for improvement*)
- Basic organ hymns and liturgy (*attendee prepares hymns and ordinaries*)
- Improvising/adapting organ (*intermediate*) (*teacher supplies material*)
- Improvising/adapting piano (*intermediate*) (*teacher supplies material*)
- Hymn-writer or hymn-composer feedback session
- Sermon feedback (*attendee provides sermon; feedback in content and delivery*)

Group Workshops and Master Classes (*small groups, receiving feedback with others present*)

- Choral conducting (*group serves as choir; teacher supplies material*)
- Handbell conducting and playing
- Hymn and liturgy playing (*group serves as congregation*)
- Choral and instrumental reading sessions (*publishers and Institute supply material*)

For Pastors and Musicians

- Service planning; hymn selection
- Core hymnody; core psalmody
- The pastor and church musician relationship (*vision, strategies and methods*)
- Music and theology in the Lutheran school
- Musicians as spiritual caregivers; pastors as music makers
- Glimpsing the unseen realities while doing our jobs
- Intro to rights and permissions
- Bringing the congregation, school and choir into weddings and funerals

For Musicians

Planning and Administration:

- A year in the life of a church musician
- Rubrics for the musician; a look at major services and musical opportunities
- Core hymnody; core psalmody
- Communication with your people (*strategies and tactics*)
- Organizing hymn festivals and other worship-adjacent events

Vocal, Choral and Congregational:

- Encouraging good congregational singing
- Small choirs and congregations (*strategies and tactics*)
- Music without an organ (*or any instruments*)
- Diction
- Warm-up tips and tricks
- Children's vocal development

Conducting & Pedagogy:

- Conducting techniques, examples, etc. (*See master classes*)
- Leading from the bench
- Teaching congregations (*long and short-term strategies and tactics*)
- Eurythmics, audiation, etc.
- Kodaly, Royal School, FAME and other specific methods
- Music pedagogy where there is no Lutheran school
- Incorporating hymns and liturgy in preschools, Lutheran schools and homeschools

Keyboard:

- Improvisation for liturgy and hymn introductions and reharmonizations
- Planning a service at the bench
- Significant literature and the Lutheran Church Year
- The wedding musician
- Organ registration
- Organ plus (*instruments; vocalists*)
- Organ or piano pedagogy
- Moving from piano to organ (*organ basics*)
- Piano and congregational singing
- Basic organ repair

Instrumental:

- Handbell literature and techniques
- Guitar; brass; percussion; congregational orchestra
- Lutheran worship with a modern ensemble

Technical or Informational Topics:

- Technology in church and school music (*Finale, Service Builder, Muse Score, Piascore*)
- Introduction to composers, hymnwriters and their works
- CPDL; IMSLP; Digital music subscriptions

For Pastors**Pastoral Care & Catechesis:**

- On hearing confession
- Catechetical methods (*how to teach particular articles; scope and sequence*)
- Catechetical strategies and tactics (*e.g., personal study, outreach, visitors, shut-in visitation, home devotions*)
- House blessings and home devotions
- Connecting liturgy and hymnody to the home and life
- Pastoral care of musicians
- Topics in catechesis and confirmation
- How teachers can help pastors

Preaching:

- Current preaching trends and approaches; historic models and adaptations
- Examples with evaluation and methods for improving
- Proclamation and teaching from the pulpit
- Improved writing; improved speaking; preaching without manuscript
- Moving beyond clichés in homiletics
- Bach cantatas and other non-sermon sermons
- Connecting the sermon with the liturgy; connecting the sermon with daily life
- Church Year planning, lectionary use, etc.
- Advent or Lent series

Conduct of Service:

- Rubrics and leadership in the services (*Service of the Word; Service of the Sacrament; Daily Office services; what, how and why to do*)
- Small parish, big parish; city church, country church
- Learning from the *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services*
- Planning the Daily Office (*midweek, in schools, seasonal, weekly/daily*)
- Holy Week and other unique services
- Public reading; teaching others to read publicly
- Making congregational change; pastoral wisdom
- How to chant
- Lectionaries and Church Year planning

General

- Theological and historical topics (*especially related to worship*)
- Technology in and around the service
- Resource sharing and review

For Christians (“in the pew”)

- In-depth on a service, psalm(s) or hymn(s)
- Structure of the Bible for reading, studying, understanding history, etc.
- Pastor? Musician? Help me understand what you’re doing when ...
- Home devotions; how to sing at home
- Top ten easiest ways to X
- Rubrics for the pew
- How to hear a sermon
- Music appreciation; hymn appreciation; learning to listen to music
- How to support your musician; your pastor; your called church worker; your church administrative assistant

Friends of Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music

- Architecture
- Acoustics
- Fundraising
- Beauty and aesthetics
- Art (*styles and trends, adaptations and planning, how to commission, managing art committees*)
- Vestments, paraments, vessels and other church adornments.
- Lutheran schools (*preschool music; planning chapel services; choir resources for school*)

Interactive Sessions and Panel Discussions

In addition to more traditional sessions, we want to give opportunity for some “structured interaction” for the good of a larger group. This is a good place for more debatable topics and for sharing wisdom. A wise moderator can make or break these sessions.

Please indicate your willingness and fitness to serve either as a panel member or as a moderator.

The following are some suggested topics:

Tabletop:

- Communicating and working with my pastor
- Communicating and working with my musician
- Best settings of all 150 psalms
- Share your best routines for catechism class

Panel Discussion:

- The psalms in the parish
- Ask the pastor: worship related; psalms edition
- Panel of organists: play me your intros to the liturgy