

MN District Worship Committee Report, MN District Convention, June 2016, New Ulm, MN

Joel Gawrisch, New Life Lutheran Church, Shoreview MN

James Bakken, St. Peter, St. Peter MN

Craig Engel, Immanuel Lutheran, Willmar MN

David Bauer, MLC, New Ulm MN, District Worship Coordinator



1. In the District since the 2014 District Convention.
 - a. NPH Reading Workshops in the MLC Chapel of the Christ.
 - b. Music and Bible Academy – replace one week VBS
 - i. Christ, Marshall; St. John's, Wood Lake; Immanuel, Willmar. Cottage Grove unfilled. Menasha inquiry.
 - c. Bethlehem, Lakeville
 - i. Bethlehem Lutheran and Wegner Music Academy partnership.
 1. Pastor Ben Blumer and Danny Wegner are available as consultants for contemporary worship.
 - d. School of Worship Enrichment (SoWE) attempts.
 - i. Joel Gawrisch & Mark Kaesmeyer had two failed attempts. 1 year out there is strong interest; many conflicts and drop-outs as the date approaches resulting in cancellation.
 - ii. 31 of 156 district congregations have participated in a SoWE (20%).
 - iii. We are looking at areas of the district where SoWEs were successfully held in the past, possibly try again in the Rochester area and in Cannon Falls. If Easter is early, late spring; or early October. Regular review of worship is valuable, and the content of the SoWEs has changed over time.
 - iv. Changes to the SoWEs are being considered (more below #3b).
2. NPH Music Reading Workshops, 2016.
 - a. 2016 Workshop is this Saturday, June 18 (8-3:30; Keyboard is AM, Choir is PM).
 - b. Register online – Google “Northwestern Publishing House Music Reading Workshops.”
3. Commission on Worship/District Worship Coordinators meeting, September 2015, highlights.
 - a. Commission on Congregational Counseling – David Scharf.
 - i. ***Congregations have keyboardists, sometimes organists.***
 1. MLC is looking into providing focused instruction on the piano as a worship leading instrument.
 - ii. ***Congregations are not clamoring for the Praise Band, in part because they do not have the resources.***
 1. Guitar is offered at MLC, beginning Fall of 2015.
 - iii. ***Any worship changes are pastor driven, modest, and conservative.***
 - iv. ***A need to change the worship culture (long range planning, mediocrity is not OK, involve laity in planning/presentation).***
 - v. ***Encourage pastors to schedule a SoWE to help address worship related issues. District worship coordinators and committee are available as resources. Enable SoWE w/out minimum of 5 congregations? Break SoWE content into online modules?***
 - b. SoWE format is being reviewed.
 - i. The multi-day event seems to be a hindrance. Competition with many other available workshops.
 - ii. Deliver content pre-meeting, face-to-face time is one day.
 1. 3 content sessions, 3 break-out sessions (Where should we be going, How do we get there, Do it).
 - c. Hymnology Curriculum
 - i. The K-8 plan (outline) is finished, writers of the lessons are engaged.
4. Reformation 2017.
 - a. National Event, Oct 31, 2017 afternoon Bradley Center (Milwaukee). Funding for all WELS called workers, H.S. choirs. Connected with WLS Symposium, National Teacher's Conference.
 - b. The MN District is planning to have Festival Services in both Twin Cities and New Ulm on Sun, November 5.
 - i. Both areas have established and well-attended joint Reformation services.
 - ii. The MN District Worship Committee will compile resources and make available via MN District website for parts of the District that may elect to have local events.
5. The eighth triennial WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Art.
 - a. June 13-16, 2017, Carthage College, Kenosha, WI.
 - b. Possible satellite conference in Phoenix; one other location.
 - c. The largest Lutheran conference on worship, music, and the arts.
 - d. Strong connection with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.