

Worship Report

Arizona-California District—2018 District Convention



2018 WWD Convention worship

Many thanks to everyone who has preached, practiced, played, and served in any way with the worship aspects of our convention. This is a great blessing from the Lord and to us this week.

Music Talent Survey

Last spring I sent out a short “talent survey” to the district called workers, to see who has abilities in music. The intention of this is to keep a master list of people, and make use of them at conferences and conventions for the worship opportunities. These can be such blessings as we continue to use our God-given talents to serve at these meetings! If you forgot to get back to me with interests that you have, you can still send me that e-mail back. Or, let me know if you need another copy.

The Wittenburg Psalter

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This collection features resources for celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and beyond.

The composer, Steven J. Rhode, states: “The Wittenburg Psalter is a collection of unison psalm settings for congregation, choir, and/or soloist.” He recognizes that—due to perceived difficulty—they “may not be appropriate for every congregation” and provides various options for usage.

<https://worship.welsrc.net/download-worship/formulary-psalms/>

Report to the Twelve Districts (RttTD)

Commission on Worship

For the entire report see: <https://synodadmin.welsrc.net/download-synodadmin/report-to-the-twelve-districts-2018/?wpdmdl=3443&ind=13ilxj136fTUSHpyKmJ3V7gAgr-K6MPMuAky-3VXIgeMdzdrglQk6rQnfZ8GaDtI>

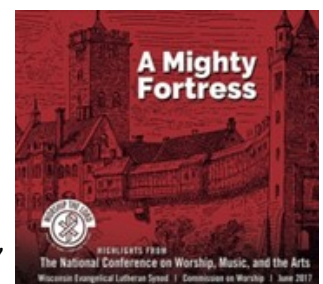
HIGHLIGHTS:

WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, & the Arts

Double CD recording of music:

A double CD of musical highlights is available from Northwestern Publishing House. The title, *A Mighty Fortress*, is no surprise during the year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The conference featured five settings of that great Reformation hymn by Luther; three are included in the CDs. Selections from the 35 tracks range from soft solo piano to full orchestra, choir, and a “congregation” of 1,400. Included are tracks featuring Canti-cum Novum, The Children’s Choir, High School Honor Choir, The Festival Choir, recitals, and newly commissioned selections. Stock number: 388157 (CW38-8157).

<http://online.nph.net/musicvideo/cds/wels-worship-conference.html>



Conference Resources

Various items from the Conference are available for free download (<https://worship.welsrc.net/worship-conference-2017/>): workshop handouts, service folders, repertoire lists, presentation files (both PowerPoint and PDF versions), and photos.



The next Conference will not be in 2020 but in 2021

This conference has been held every three years since 1996 but will be skipping 2020 mainly to better take advantage of new hymnal resources and to link the summer conference with the fall release of the new hymnal. In addition, 2021 avoids competition with some other national WELS events in 2020.

Hymnal Project Highlights

The entire report can be found at:

https://synodadmin.welsrc.net/download-synodadmin/report-to-the-twelve-districts-2018/?wpdmdl=3443&ind=117P8iVbu_IUjVGjn37Y5BGPb2YmgG2m5HskSVfqjzsZQHkXiBevNLeiAU89WKh

WELS Hymnal Project Director is Rev. Michael D. Schultz

- Am **earlier release** (Advent 2021 instead of 2024), workflow increased significantly for the Executive Committee and for seven subcommittees.
- The Executive Committee is planning to review and approve final content for all resources by December 2019.
- Quite a number of people are participating in the “keep/cut” list of hymns through the project website.
- **PSALMODY COMMITTEE (PC)** - 64 Psalms will be printed in the front part of the hymnal. A self-standing Psalter will include all 150 psalms in multiple and varying musical settings, as well as a psalm prayer for each.
- **HYMNODY COMMITTEE (HC)** - The committee has reviewed thousands of hymns to narrow it down to several hundred. The goal is that the hymnal be a “singer’s book,” meaning more settings that can be sung in harmony and with easier keyboard settings.
- **rites COMMITTEE (RC)** - Will soon have a draft of rites that will appear in the front of the hymnal—3 Holy Communion services, Morning Prayer (Matins), Evening Prayer (Vespers), Prayer at the Close of Day and other rites and devotions. Added musical arrangements will be available in digital format. Still to be accomplished will be special seasonal rites/services (as for Holy Week).
- **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (CC)** - Will begin a new series of blog articles and continue to coordinate project updates at conferences and conventions. They also desire to communicate about this project with the younger generations and will have press releases for them through various communicative means.
- **SCRIPTURE COMMITTEE (SC)** - Early work was with the 3-year lectionary so that the Psalm Committee could consider the psalms based on lectionary appointments. The SC is reviewing the language of the creeds and the Lord’s Prayer. A sizeable remaining project is a series of books called “Commentary on the Propers”—an expanded commentary on the lectionary lessons.
- **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (TC)** - Working to develop a Service Builder product which includes all the digital assets of the hymnal project and allows the user to plan worship and formulate high quality service folders ready for printing.

Developing a *Musicians’ Resource* as an online e-commerce site for purchasing additional music (lead

sheets, alternate accompaniments, descants, brass, etc.) for all of the hymns, psalms, and rites across the entire line of resources.

Looking at working on a Personal App for phone or tablet by which individuals could use this hymnal resource devotionally to read or play or sing hymns and psalms, to convert hymnal texts into large print, or to preview items scheduled for upcoming worship.

- **MANUALS** - Four manuals are being produced for four audiences: pastors, musicians, parish groups (such as altar guilds, elders, ushers), and lay people (devotions on worship).
- **HANDBOOK** - A hymnal handbook will provide the background on hymns and the biographical information on authors, translators and composers.

Newsletters

The C/W continues to publish two bi-monthly newsletters: **Worship the Lord** and **Preach the Word**. The latter publication is being used by a number of non-WELS pastors. The *Worship* newsletter is also used internationally. Back issues of both newsletters can be found on pdf at worship.welsrc.net

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"Schools of Worship Enrichment"

Not many have been conducted in last couple of years as the emphasis of the C/W has been on the new hymnal project with all its committees. If you are interested in having one, they do have leaders available to conduct it. Talk to me if that's the case. We'll see about what we can offer in the next couple of years. Also, consider hosting or co-hosting a School of Worship Enrichment. Information is at: <http://worship.welsrc.net/school-of-worship-enrichment/>
Options and topics:

- One-day or one weekend option
- Reviewing Lutheran principles of worship
- Excellent ideas for expanding worship variety
- Discussing blending styles of worship
- Discussing how worship and outreach coexist

God bless you as you plan and carry out worship in your schools and congregations! Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Mark H. Schewe

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