

Why worship in a Lutheran School/ECS?

LEA National Ministry Conferences
2017



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Relationships, Relationships, Relationships

- Your relationship with your school or ECS
- Your relationship with your principal, director, chaplain, or school pastor
- Your relationship with the church
- Your relationship with the LCA
- Your relationship with your own faith
- Your relationship with God

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What is the school/ECS?

What is the church?

What is worship?



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The church, as a human institution, is essentially a worshipping community.

*A Lutheran approach to the theology of worship (1990/2001)
Doctrinal Statements and Theological Opinions*

Communities of worship and service showing and living the good news of Jesus Christ.

Growing Deep: Leadership and Formation Framework, Lutheran Education Australia

The Lutheran understanding of worship is that of a divine mystery in time and space by which the living God is present and active with his people.

Neal Nuske, St Peters Lutheran College

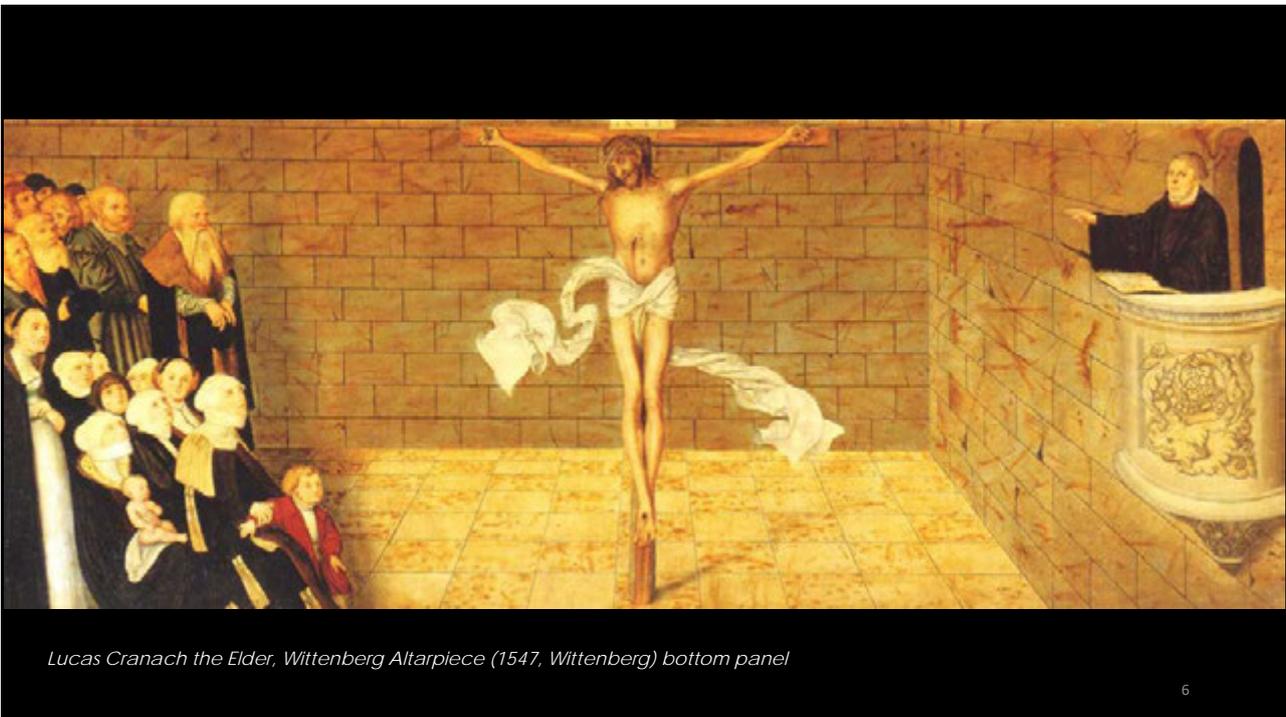
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Word and Sacrament

Means of Grace

- word
- baptism
- communion

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Lucas Cranach the Elder, Wittenberg Altarpiece (1547, Wittenberg) bottom panel

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2015, *The New Yorker*, Issue 1, 23 February, Front cover

These days people frequently demonstrate their self-obsession through their on-line behaviours

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Curved in on itself

incurvatus in se

'... our nature has been so deeply curved in upon itself because of the viciousness of original sin that it not only turns the finest gifts of God in upon itself and enjoys them (as is evident in the case of legalists and hypocrites), indeed, it even uses God Himself to achieve these aims, but it also seems to be ignorant of this very fact, that in acting so iniquitously, so perversely, and in such a depraved way, it is even seeking God for its own sake.'

Luther's works, vol. 25: Lectures on Romans p. 291

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At the same time a saint and a sinner

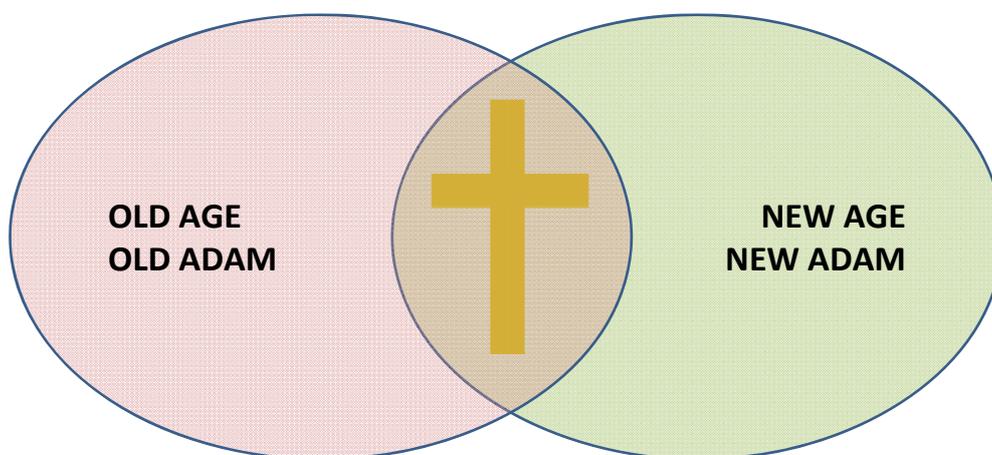
simul justus et peccator

With my whole heart I agree with the Law of God. But in every part of me I discover something fighting against my mind, and it makes me a prisoner of sin that controls everything I do. What a miserable person I am. Who will rescue me from this body that is doomed to die? Thank God! Jesus Christ will rescue me.

Romans 7:21–25 CEV

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At the same time a saint and a sinner

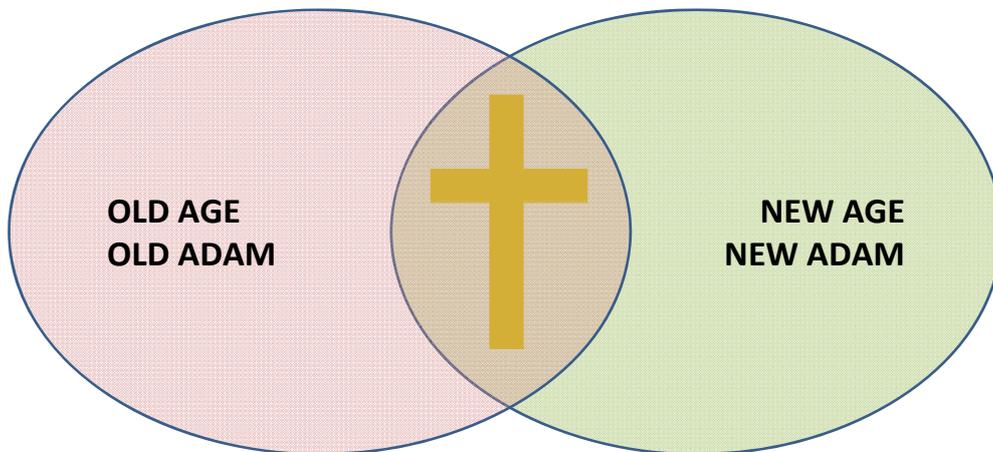


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Lucas Cranach the Elder: Allegory of Law and Grace. 1530



At the same time a saint and a sinner



Law

1. tells us what to do, but does not help us do it.
2. uncovers our sins, but doesn't help us get out of them, resulting in despair.
3. makes us sorry for sin, but offers only guilt.

Romans 7:7-11

Matthew 19:22

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Gospel

1. produces faith and trust.
Rom 1:16
2. gives peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Acts 16:25-31
3. does not ask for anything to gain God's approval
Eph. 2:8-10

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Law and Gospel

For by grace you have been saved
through faith, and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God—not the result of works,
so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

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Law and Gospel

*For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish
but have eternal life.*

Can you distinguish Law and Gospel in John 3:16?

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Worship

1. Worship is a mystery, because God is present and active in worship.
2. In worship we participate in the divine, eternal life of the Holy Trinity.
3. The Trinity is active in worship: God calls us into God's presence, forgives us, and speaks to us. God listens to us, gives us God's gifts, and invites us to the heavenly banquet.

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Worship

4. The essential features of worship are: baptism, confession and absolution, reading and preaching the word, prayer, and the sacrament of the altar.
5. In worship the church begins to do in time what it will do in eternity
6. The Triune God wants all people to worship and enjoy him forever.
7. No particular order of service is essential, but all orders should confess the Christian faith.

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Why worship in a Lutheran school?

- The LCA expects there to be worship in a school setting.
- It will be different in certain ways from a congregational setting.
- In the school setting a congregation can mean a community of baptised believers who share a common confession of faith, hear the word of God, celebrate baptism and the lord's supper, and are led by a called and ordained pastor.
- School worship refers to a variety of worship contexts within the school where attendance is seen as part of the program of the school.



Statement on School Worship (2002)

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Why wouldn't you worship in a Lutheran School/ECS?

- The school/ECS isn't a church
- Worship should be voluntary
- You can't assume everybody is a Christian
- The school/ECS community is closed
- What happens when the school years are over?

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Why wouldn't you worship in a Lutheran School/ECS?

1. The school/ECS isn't a church

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Why wouldn't you worship in a Lutheran School/ECS?

2. Worship should be voluntary

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Why wouldn't you worship in a Lutheran School/ECS?

3. You can't assume everybody is a Christian

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Why wouldn't you worship in a Lutheran School/ECS?

4. The community is not an open community

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Why wouldn't you worship in a Lutheran School/ECS?

5. What happens when the School/ECS years are over?

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Documents

1. A Lutheran approach to the theology of worship (1990/2001)
Doctrinal Statements and Theological Opinions
Volume 2. K. Worship
2. Public worship and its environment (1988/1998)
Commission on Worship Statement 14
3. Statement on School Worship (2002)
Board for Lutheran Education Australia/General Church Council

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