



LUTHERAN EDUCATION QUEENSLAND

SCHOOL WORSHIP

Conversations and Reflections



November 2013

A resource for all school staff –

Based on “A God who Speaks and Acts” by Malcolm Bartsch
(2013) Chapter 9



LUTHERAN EDUCATION QUEENSLAND



LUTHERAN EDUCATION QUEENSLAND

WORSHIP IN A LUTHERAN SCHOOL

(the outline below is to supplement THE PATHWAYS LEARNING TRAIL 'WORSHIP')

INTRODUCTION FOR FACILITATORS

PURPOSE

This resource has been prepared to provide leaders in Lutheran schools with some starting points for enhancing and sharing their teachers' understandings of worship, and particularly of the context of worship in a Lutheran school. **It is designed to be suitable for use with all staff in the school.**

BACKGROUND

BUILDING LUTHERAN SCHOOL ETHOS Teachers bring a range of experiences and understandings of worship. Activities within this resource support the ongoing enculturation of teachers into the ethos of the Lutheran school, building on from and complimenting LEA Accreditation and induction activities. In addition, discussing issues and sharing good practices of teachers can enrich the worship life of the school.

While there is an element of flow through this series of activities, leaders are encouraged to consider the particular needs of their teachers, and be selective about what is needed. In addition, there may be other issues / topics that meet specific local needs (eg. meeting the needs of students of particular age groups, things to consider in having students lead worship, building local congregational links, linking with parents).



BACKGROUND: BUILDING THE SUITE OF RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

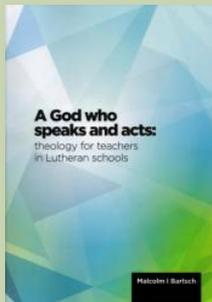
Leaders are reminded that, apart from this publication, there are other resources readily available that could be used at a school / staff group level to similarly support staff PD in Lutheran worship. These include:

- **Pathways Theological Encounter 7: Worship** – the Theological Notes provide an overview of major aspects of Lutheran worship (and issues specific to school worship) and some excellent discussion questions.
- **LEA / LCA Statement on worship** – Can be retrieved from <http://www.lutheran.edu.au/assets/Uploads/pr/policies/Mission%20Ministry%20Worship/Worship%20StatementAAAA.pdf>



LUTHERAN EDUCATION QUEENSLAND

- **CSCF Christian Church Key Idea 3:** Christians pray, worship and celebrate the sacraments (learning statements or material from units taught could be shared and school worship could be reflected on in light of key aspects of the units taught)
- **CSCF Theological Notes for CC3** provide a summary of a Lutheran approach to worship as well as biblical references, further reading and issues / questions for discussion that may be of use
- **CS Equip resources** – Module 6 deals with prayer in particular and the practices of silence and stillness, and meditation. Resources, readings and ideas for staff activities can be gleaned from the Module 6 Participant Booklet (ask one of your Equip participants) or contact an Equip facilitator for further information and resources.



This resource is based largely on materials from Dr Malcolm Bartsch's latest (2013) book *A God who speaks and acts: theology for teachers in Lutheran schools*. This book is available in hardcopy from LEA, or as a free e-book from the LEA website - <http://www.lutheran.edu.au/publications-and-policies/printed-publications/>. Please note that page references are hardcopy references, and may be different to those in the ebook version.

PART 1: WHAT IS CHRISTIAN WORSHIP?

A. Compare / Contrast / Discuss (CCD)

View 3 clips depicting Christian worship, for example:

- Orthodox Worship <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALAXvJaEqjl>
- Praise and worship (Hillsong) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVsgwHWXUco> (includes prayer at the 7.30min mark)
- Lutheran Liturgical Worship <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKFVNlcyCz8> or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dcn1rXSfeEQ> (these are videos of the full worship service – you may wish to jump around a little). *You may wish to discuss the traditional style of this worship service and how it compares with the worship style of your local Lutheran congregation. A more contemporary Lutheran worship style is shown at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6QiVP2dKG8>*

Read 2-3 of the following Bible References about worship:

- Exodus 20:1-6
- Psalm 100
- Acts 2:43-47

Discuss commonalities/differences in the videos/Bible References.



B. Define / Read / Refine

How would you define worship?

Read Reading 1: “What is Christian Worship?” – *A God who speaks and acts* Chapter 9: pp. 221 – 223

Identify, highlight and share key statements. Refine (if necessary) your definition and share.

C. Visually Summarise

Use an app to create a graphic of individuals’ definitions. Or, develop a symbolic representation of your group’s definition of worship. Include summary statements from the last paragraph p. 223.

PART 2: LUTHERAN WORSHIP PATTERNS

A. Paired Pattern Matching / Conversations

In pairs, examine the blue cards (God’s Action in Worship) then look at the yellow cards (Human Response).

Endeavor to ‘match’ the cards and to build a picture of the ‘ebb and flow’ of worship. Explain / discuss your reason for pairing the cards as you did.

Refer to “The dynamic of Christian worship” – *A God who speaks and Acts* Chapter 9: p.225 as a guide to lead the conversation.

B. Verbally or visually summarise

Identify key information to build a verbal or visual summary. Each participant either provides a summarizing sentence or creates a mind-map visual to share.

C. Individual / Community challenge

Conclude by having each individual reflecting on what has been affirmed and what is challenging for them. Discuss how this ‘new / re-affirmed’ information could best be shared with your worshiping community / professional peers / students.

<p>Baptism Questions for Discussion</p>
<p>Worship Talk Card 1 Matthew 28:19 John 3:1-8 What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?</p>

PART 3: ORIGINS OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

A. Bible Exploration / Worship Talk Cards

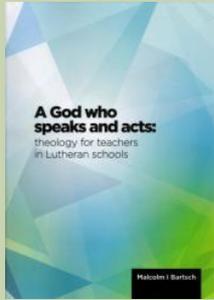
Read the Bible texts on each individual card and answer the question “What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?” Answer additional Card - Questions.



LUTHERAN EDUCATION QUEENSLAND

B. Worship Talk Card Sequence

Re-visit the Bible texts and see if there is a sequence to the aspects of worship mentioned in the reading. You may locate a resource that outlines the typical sequence of aspects of worship (in a Lutheran tradition), or have your school pastor / chaplain talk about why worship is usually sequenced in a particular way.



C. Read and Reflect (R and R)

Read “The form of Christian worship” – *A God who speaks and Acts Chapter 9: p. 227-229*

What are the most important messages you are hearing?

PART 4: THE LANGUAGE OF WORSHIP

A. Read and Reflect (R and R)

Read “Aspects of a Lutheran approach to worship”, “A life of worship” and “Prayer” – *A God who speaks and Acts*

Have pairs / small groups focus on either ‘liturgy’, ‘sacraments’, ‘prayer’.

B. Q and A Pairs

If parents asked, how would you answer the following questions? (You may want to hone in on 1 of the following)

- What is ‘liturgy’? When / how will my child be involved in the liturgy of worship?
- What are the ‘sacraments’? Are they celebrated in the school? If so, how does the school ensure individuals are respected?
- What is Prayer? When / where will prayer be done? How do staff support students’ spirituality through prayer? How do staff show respect for different student beliefs at prayer time?

C. Pair with another pair.

Compare your answers to another pair. How have the responses been similar? Different? Why do you think that is so?



PART 5: CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Bring and Share: iTunes / MyTunes / God’sTunes / CD

Each participant brings a favourite new / old Christian song / hymn to share. Talk about why this song / hymn has significance for you, plus anything you know about its author / composer, biblical references or context.



LUTHERAN EDUCATION QUEENSLAND

PART 6: CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Bring and Share / Discuss / Creative Writing

- A. Have teachers bring and share a prayer that has been important at some stage in their life.
- B. Examine the “Lion Prayer Handbook” or other resources in the Library / on-line. Discuss the important components of Christian Prayer (and perhaps some prayer ‘formats’ such as ACTS).
- C. Create a staff prayer book.

Another option would be to access one (or more – there are 4) of the Readings in Module 6 of Equip as a basis for discussion about Prayer, and how to engage students in prayer.

LEQ has a number of books on children and prayer. Please contact us if you would like to access them.



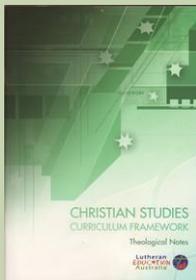
PART 7: WORSHIP IN A SCHOOL CONTEXT

A. Document comparison / Expert Jigsaw

Form groups of three. Have each person read one of the following documents. Share the main messages of each of the documents that were read.

- LEA / LCA statement on School Worship – can be retrieved from <http://www.lutheran.edu.au/assets/Uploads/pr/policies/Mission%20Ministry%20Worship/Worship%20StatementAAAA.pdf>
- LEQ Exemplar policy on Worship - can be retrieved from http://secure.netols.com/schools/thirdgen/form/show_attachment.cfm?attachmentId=105168
- Issues and attitudes about why Worship is compulsory in school setting “**Worship in the Lutheran school context**” – *A God who speaks and Acts* Chapter 9: p. 237-8 and 242 - 244

These readings can be complemented and contrasted with the general teachings on Lutheran worship found in the CSCF Theological Notes for CC3 (if using this resource, form groups of 4).



B. Community Challenge

Where and how should the information in these documents be shared? With whom?



LUTHERAN EDUCATION QUEENSLAND

PART 8: WORSHIP IN ACTION: LEADING CHAPEL

This is an opportunity for you to share and build common understandings about what is required when leading worship at your school. Discussions will be tailored to your particular context but may include aspects such as:

- Who teachers can go to for assistance in preparing worship (e.g. School Pastor / Chaplain, Deputy, experienced teaching partner...)
- What resources the school has for school worship (e.g. Liturgies, song banks, library resources)
- What elements must be included in the worship service
- What needs to be prepared in advance (e.g. PowerPoints, list of selected songs given to musicians, prayer requests, technical requirements)
- Themes for worship (e.g. Linking to church seasons and celebrations, school events, values, Christian Studies learnings)
- If the chapel service is to be led by or feature students, how can this be done? What pitfalls can be avoided?



Reference to material covered elsewhere in this resource is foundational to the planning of chapel worship – how do teachers develop a sense of action / response through the worship service? How do we manage the diversity of student spiritual commitment? How do we maintain a worship focus (rather than a performance focus if students are involved)?

PART 9: PREPARING CLASS DEVOTIONS

A: School expectations

Begin by emphasizing again that classroom devotions are worship times for your class, and are distinct from the classroom teaching time of Christian Studies. Discuss the school's expectations about class devotions, for example:

- How often class devotions should happen
- Expected or suggested times of the day (and duration)
- Expected worship elements to be included (e.g. the Word of God, prayer)
- The worship space in the classroom (note: this aspect is developed further in Part 10)



LUTHERAN EDUCATION QUEENSLAND

B: Enhancing worship experience through attention to a sacred space – Expert groups.

Have teachers choose one of the following topics to explore and discuss:



- Church seasons and colours – find information about the seasons and festivals of the church year and the colours associated with them. Brainstorm ways of using this information to enhance classroom or whole school worship.
- Engaging the senses in worship – consider how sounds, songs and music, images, art, etc. may be used in worship
- Special objects – how might natural objects, objects that represent students' talents or gifts, objects that represent blessings etc. be used effectively in devotions?

C: Personal reflection and planning time

Have teachers reflect and plan for their classroom worship space. What do they already have? What more do they need? How can they create a space (physically and atmospherically) that is sacred in the busy classroom? What can they add at different times to engage students and draw them into the worship space?

PART 11: WORSHIP EXPERIENCES



Worship can take a wide range of forms. Staff members will likely have a range of worship experiences to share and reflect on and will likely respond to particular worship experiences and styles in different ways. Gary Thomas' book *Sacred Pathways* describes different styles of spirituality and relating to God. Experiencing worship embodying/enabling different expressions of spirituality may be worthwhile in leading staff to reflect on ways of communicating (listening, speaking, acting) with God in worship. This may be done individually and shared/reflected on or collectively.

Conduct / attend one of the following:

- Worship at dawn or out of doors (eg. bush, beach)
- Attend a worship service steeped in ritual and/or symbol (eg. Taize Worship)
- Benedictine 'Office of the Hours'
- A silent retreat or period of stillness
- Visit and worship with another denomination (different to your own). Return and discuss what you saw and experienced.

Meg Noack



Resource for 2A The dynamic of Christian worship cards (drawn from Bartsch 2013, p225)

God's action	Human response
God calls to worship	Humans respond with the Spirit's help
God forgives	Humans confess
God speaks	Humans listen
God listens	Humans pray
God gives His gifts to people	Humans bring an offering of gifts
God gives Himself in the LORD's supper	Humans give themselves in loving service
God blesses	Humans praise Him
God sends people out into the world	Humans go out to serve others



Resource 3A

WORSHIP TALK CARDS – Print, cut on solid lines and fold down centre line

Front side of card

Back side of card

Worship Talk Card 1

Matthew 28:19

John 3:1-8

What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?

Lutherans believe that babies or adults can be baptised. Baptism can occur by sprinkling or immersion. *"Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word."* Luther

Baptism

Questions for Discussion

What is your experience of baptism?

What does (your) baptism mean to you?

Do you have questions about immersion or sprinkling? Or about the baptism of adults or children?

Worship Talk Card 2

John 20:23

Psalms 51

(Possibly Jeremiah 31: 18-19, 33-34)

What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?

Confession in worship acknowledges that humankind is flawed and in need of forgiveness. Absolution means that – no matter what- God acts and forgives.

Confession and Absolution

Questions for Discussion

What does forgiveness feel like to you?

What metaphor is useful to you in thinking about forgiveness?

Have you had a powerful experience of forgiving or being forgiven?

Worship Talk Card 3

Luke 24: 46-47

Colossians 4:2

1 Timothy 2:1

What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?

Reading the Bible in worship is like reading a love-letter. The Christian God who cares and loves wants to speak to humankind.

Reading / Preaching the Word

Questions for Discussion

What helps you to understand and / or remember parts of the bible (or sermons at church)?

What is a bible passage that has been of great importance in your life? Why is it significant?



WORSHIP TALK CARDS – Print, cut on solid lines and fold down centre line

<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Talk Card 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 7:7-8; Colossians 4:2; Matthew 6:5-13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?</i></p> <p>A loving Christian God wants to hear from His people. Praying, saying thank you and asking for important needs is part of the communication process.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer and Thanksgiving Questions for Discussion</p> <p><i>Do you remember anyone ever praying for you? How did you feel about it?</i></p> <p><i>What were your childhood experiences of prayer?</i></p> <p><i>'Pray without ceasing' (1Thes. 5:17) What does this mean to you?</i></p> <p><i>What do you find yourself often praying about?</i></p> <p><i>What times / places / events make you feel ready to pray?</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Talk card 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 26:26-28</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?</i></p> <p><i>The Lord's supper is a special meal, begun by Jesus with his followers. Christians believe that is a 'special meal' still today. Lutherans believe that Christ is truly present in and through the bread and wine at this time.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LORD's Supper Questions for Discussion</p> <p><i>What does Holy Communion mean to you?</i></p> <p><i>What helps you prepare for participating in Holy Communion?</i></p> <p><i>What did your preparation for first taking Holy Communion (e.g. First communion, confirmation) involve?</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Talk Card 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Luke 24: 50-51</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Romans 1:7b2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Corinthians 13:13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?</i></p> <p>Christians believe that being in God's presence during worship a very special time. At the start we call upon God to be present with us in words used at a Baptism. Saying Amen means 'so be it, it is true!' Before leaving, the blessing provides warmth and encouragement for the Christian journey.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Invocation & Blessing Questions for Discussion</p> <p><i>How do we open and close worship? What does it mean to be blessed?</i></p> <p><i>Are there particular words of blessing (or a song of blessing) that have special meaning for you?</i></p>



WORSHIP TALK CARDS – Print, cut on solid lines and fold down centre line

<p>Worship Talk Card 7</p> <p>Revelation 5:13</p> <p>Psalm 8</p> <p>Psalm 148</p> <p><i>What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?</i></p>	<p>Praise</p> <p>Questions for Discussion</p> <p><i>What things in life make you want to praise God?</i></p> <p><i>Do you have a favourite song / hymn / verse of praise?</i></p>
<p>Worship Talk Card 8</p> <p>1 Timothy 2:5</p> <p>2 Timothy 2:11-13</p> <p><i>What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?</i></p> <p><i>Lutherans state a summary of their Christian beliefs during worship. Often ancient Christian creeds are used because this also expresses solidarity with Christians of previous eras of time.</i></p>	<p>Confession of Faith</p> <p>Questions for Discussion</p> <p><i>Why do you think Confessions of Faith (such as the Apostles Creed) are included in worship services?</i></p> <p><i>If you were to write your own 1-sentence creed, what would it be?</i></p>
<p>Worship Talk Card 9</p> <p>Romans 12:1</p> <p>Philippians 2:1-11</p> <p>Philippians 4:8-9</p> <p><i>What aspect of worship features in this Bible Reading?</i></p>	<p>Going Out to Serve</p> <p>Questions for Discussion</p> <p><i>Do you see service as worship? In what way?</i></p> <p><i>How do you see your faith and your actions as connected?</i></p>

RESOURCE 10A: Worship space images

