

Think about it like this. God's Spirit calls us together. God speaks to us through readings from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, through preaching, prayer, and song. God feeds and nourishes us in a saving way. And God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Taken together, the **Word** proclaimed and the **sacraments** -- both Holy Baptism and Holy Communion -- are called **the means of grace**. We believe that Jesus Christ is present in these means through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we describe worship as a "gathering around the means of grace." This is a way of saying we trust that God is genuinely present with us in baptism, in preaching, and in sharing the bread and wine of Holy Communion. In that sense, Lutherans believe that God's presence permeates all of Christian worship.

The cross is the central symbol that marks our worship spaces and when Lutherans worship, singing fills the air. The voices of all the people joined in song and the participation of all the people in the worship is a witness to our conviction that in worship we are being drawn in to God's own saving story."

from "How We Worship," www.elca.org

RESOURCES

If you'd like to know more about worship about Sammamish Hills, here are folks to contact:

THE PASTORS

Pastor John LaMunyon
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SANCTUARY CHOIR DIRECTOR

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WORSHIP COORDINATOR

Trev Wilson
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BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WORSHIP

at Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church



Sammamish Hills
LUTHERAN CHURCH

22818 SE 8th Street - Sammamish, WA 98074
425-392-7799 ▲ www.shlc.org

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to worship at Sammamish Hills! To worship someone or something is to give them your total attention. At the core of our life together is the discipline of gathering, week after week, season after season, year after year, to turn toward God in worship. Although our worship services come in different forms, the same ancient practices of sharing the sacraments of holy bath and meal and participating in the Word proclaimed in preaching, singing, praying, and silence run through our entire worship life.



SUNDAY SERVICES

EVERY Sunday service includes the celebration of Holy Communion, Baptisms, and other rites of the church (e.g. Confirmation, etc.). As well, the same Bible passages for preaching are used at both services.

DURING THE 9:00 A.M. SERVICE we are gathered around the traditional liturgical rites and hymns of Evangelical Worship. Singing is led by cantors and the Sanctuary Choir and accompanied by organ and piano. Readings can include:

- The *Old Testament* Lesson
- The *Psalms* (usually from the Book of Psalms)
- *New Testament* Lesson (from Acts through Revelation)
- One of the *Gospels* (in a three year reading cycle through Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are found throughout the three year cycle)

THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE is more free in form, with songs ranging from contemporary Christian music to traditional hymns of the church led by a variety of acoustic and amplified instruments in configurations from one or two singer/guitar players to full blown bands.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

In addition to the order of each Sunday, there is a full “liturgical year” which shapes our life together as followers of Jesus Christ. The year is divided into two halves. The first half (Advent – Pentecost Sunday) focuses on the life of Christ. The second half (Trinity – Christ the King) focuses on the life of the Church.

Further broken down, the FIRST HALF (life of Christ) consists of two cycles of *Preparation-Celebration-Realization*.

Specifically, in the Season of Advent, we are preparing for the coming of Christ, both the baby Jesus at Bethlehem and the adult Christ who will come to judge the nations. During the twelve days of Christmas we celebrate the birth of Christ. From the Sunday of the Epiphany (which means “appearing”) through Transfiguration Sunday, we spend time living into the realization of what Christ’s coming means to the world then and now.

This process is repeated as we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent and Holy Week are seasons of preparing for the crucifixion of Christ. During the season of Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Finally, on Pentecost Sunday and the Sundays after the Pentecost we spend time reflecting on the realization that Christ is risen and calls all to follow Him in the resurrection life.

The SECOND HALF (life of the Church) calls our attention to the life of faith and development of the life of the Church both in ancient days and today.

Sound complicated? Here’s a bit simpler description of Lutherans at worship:

“There is a basic pattern for worship among Lutherans. We gather. We encounter God’s Word. We share a meal at the Lord’s table. And we are sent into the world. But we do not think about worship so much in terms of what we do. Worship is fundamentally about what God is doing and our response to God’s action. Worship is an encounter with God, who saves us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.