

Hymn Selection Committee – August 2011

The purpose of this committee is to select hymns for Sunday worship. The committee is led by the Worship and Music Ministry council member. Members come from volunteers from the congregation, the church secretary, the music director/organist, and the Pastor. Musical ability is NOT needed to serve on this committee.

The committee meets 4 times a year, generally in the months of February, May, August and November. Each session lasts 2-3 hours, during which time music is selected for up to 14 Sundays.

The publication, Sundays and Seasons, is used as the primary guide. Copies are available for members to use for preview and planning prior to each planning session. The publication includes information about the theme for each Sunday, the lessons, psalms and gospel for each Sunday and corresponding hymn suggestions. The hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, is the main resource of suggested hymns, but the committee does not limit itself to that book. Hymns and songs of a wide variety of styles are available for review at the meetings and members are encouraged to bring suggestions for the committee to consider to the meetings.

The music director is available to play any unfamiliar song on the piano or organ. The committee attempts to achieve a balance of traditional and contemporary hymns/songs that lend themselves to a variety of instruments, including, but not limited to, the organ, piano, woodwinds, trumpet, guitar, violin, and percussion. Also, the committee attempts to incorporate familiar hymns, but also looks for new songs to introduce to the congregation.

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For each Sunday, the committee selects the following:

- An Opening or Gathering song
- Hymn of the Day – this usually relates directly to the Gospel
- At least 3 communion hymns
- A sending song

At times, the committee also selects the hymn of praise, the offertory song, and/or the post communion song. The committee may at times be called upon to plan music for special services such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Christmas Eve/Christmas Day.