

Worship and Music Committee Meeting Minutes

October 11th, 2022: 6:30pm (Verona)

Attendees: Mike Harper, Sarah Iverson, Ronda Beggs, Jared Stellmacher, Barb Bredel, Judy Kalan, Karen Smith, Matt Skibo

Worship and Music Committee Minutes

1. Welcome

- a. Welcome to Matt Skibo as our new "Music Coordinator." Matt's main responsibilities include starting up Children's and Youth music opportunities, lead Church School music and assist our Director of Worship & Music with administrative duties.

2. Devotion

- a. Mike Harper
- b. In response to Good Shepherd's Strategic Plan, we as a committee might consider developing a "Worship Statement."
 - i. How do we worship? Why do we worship?
 - ii. "...through music we praise and thank God for all God has done for us, our community and our church."
 - iii. "Everyone is welcome and invited to worship." *Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them (Matthew 18:20)*
 - iv. We worship outside of Sunday mornings, including Sunday evenings, Music Mondays, Worship in the Park during the summer, and seasonal midweek services, etc.

3. Fall Worship: What's coming up?

a. Reformation Sunday – October 30

- i. It's a reminder to Lutherans that the church is ever reforming. We are part of a denomination that doesn't believe in complacency.
- ii. Video idea for eNews and/or worship: a brief history of the Reformation, and where we are now.
 - 1. Point to the resource centers in both lobbies.

b. All Saints – November 6

- i. We recognize those saints in our church that have died this past year.

c. All Worship Together at VAHS – November 13

- i. Worship at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and breakfast afterwards. A great opportunity to worship together as one. Music groups from both campuses will musically lead worship.
- ii. Many volunteers will be needed from bringing supplies/equipment to VAHS, pre-worship setup, worship volunteers, and cleanup crew.

d. Thanksgiving Eve – November 23

- i. 7:00 p.m. worship at the Madison Campus. A tradition that includes a pie social afterwards.

e. Advent 1 – November 27

4. Online Worship

- a. What are our thoughts with online worship? What is working well? How might we enhance the worship experience for those worshipping remotely?
 - i. More intentionally welcoming our online community. 50% of our weekly worship attendance is remote! More intentionally share the peace with our online congregation.
 - ii. Interesting fact: one recent new member intends to worship solely online.

- iii. We've received feedback that our online worship is more immersive than some congregations. Multiple camera angles, seeing the congregation, etc. How might we consider building on this?
- iv. Possible story to share...ask an online worshipper to talk with our committee and share their experience. Why do they worship online? What do they like? Ideas for the future?
- v. We haven't explained Communion preparations and details to our online community in a long time. Maybe we should consider preparing a welcome/pre-worship video that greets our online congregation and explains communion preparation ideas before worship begins. A post-worship video could thank our online worshippers for tuning in, list ways to remain connected virtually throughout the week and invite them to let us know who they are.
- vi. Virtual coffee hours? We haven't done this in a long time. Maybe we try this again once a month to bring our online community together after worship; to share stories and learn more about each other.
 - 1. Especially fitting on Conversation Sundays with Ryan Panzer.
- vii. Ask Ryan and/or Eric to come to our community to share their current thoughts on online and hybrid communities. Where are we now, and where are we going?
- viii. Why did we start streaming the first place? Began during the worst of the pandemic, no one could leave their homes, and we need to proclaim the Gospel. Why do we continue? Why now? Future discussion...
- ix. Challenge to the congregation: how do we continue and enhance our welcome, worship and community gatherings to and for our virtual friends?

5. Worship Numbers

- a. Our worship numbers increased once Church School began on September 18. In-person attendance increased 20-30 people per service while streaming numbers remained relatively the same. On September 18, our total weekly attendance including in-person and online was 800! This is something to be proud of!
- b. Communications team: create a story about importance of online worship, and "highlight how many people worship online" (it's more than we think!).
- c. Consider publishing one number in the monthly newsletter: "September's Monthly Average Worship Attendance (in-person and online): 664"

6. Strategic Plan

- a. More information on next steps on Tuesday, October 18 at Strategic Plan meeting. Committee representatives: Jared Stellmacher (staff liaison), Pr. Chris (strategic plan liaison), Karen Smith (committee liaison), and Betsy Johnson (board liaison).

7. Volunteer Training Sessions

- a. Thank you to Ronda Beggs and Mike Harper for conducting two successful worship volunteer training session last month.
- b. We gained a few more volunteers but still room to recruit.
- c. It seems to be more difficult at Verona with busier families and seasonal sports practices and games.
- d. We'll need all hands-on deck as we soon head into the holiday season.

8. Christmas Eve Worship Times

- a. The committee recommends the same times as 2021 – suggested by the pastoral staff. Final recommendations will be made at a staff meeting on October 19.
 - i. Verona: 10:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m.
 - ii. Madison: 4:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- b. Christmas Day (on a Sunday this year)
 - i. Recommending one campuswide service: 9:00 a.m. (Madison)
- c. New Years Day (on a Sunday this year)
 - i. Recommending one campuswide service: 10:30 a.m. (Verona)

9. The Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: November 8th at 6:30pm. Madison Campus: location to be determined.