



CUSTOMARY FOR WORSHIP AS THE NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop

INTRODUCTION

As the people of God, we proclaim Christ and prayerfully participate in Jesus' own work of reconciling the world to God's very self. One of the ways we do this is by worshiping together at synod events. When we worship together as a synod, we expect to encounter God and be renewed in the Spirit to do the work to which God has called us.

According to our synod constitution, the first two responsibilities of the bishop are to "preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church" and "have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ordained ministers, and its other rostered leaders." Assisting the bishop in this essential ministry, the synod worship committee advises, plans, and coordinates worship for synod events.

WHAT IS A CUSTOMARY?

This "customary" provides a process, a pathway, to help synod leaders charged with planning and leading synod worship and the bishop to celebrate our synod's life and mission as the Triune God gathers us around Word and Sacrament. The customary is intended to help leaders know what to prepare, how to prepare, and what to expect.

At synod events, worshippers come from a variety of congregational traditions and styles. As the synod's worship committee, we strive to plan services that strike a balance between unity and innovation, between making people feel at home and giving them the opportunity to experience something new. The customary is not intended to regularize synod liturgies but to celebrate the freedom and flexibility of the guidance and direction provided in *The Use of the*

Means of Grace and Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The customary aims at establishing some parameters while leaving room for variety and adaptation.

The customary also has a catechetical dimension as, where appropriate, it provides rationale for preferences. This dimension is balanced by the need to keep the customary a reasonable length. For a more detailed treatment of Bishop Satterlee's approach to worship, please read his *Presiding in the Assembly* (Augsburg Fortress 2003).

Please read this customary carefully as you plan and contact Pastor Rachel Laughlin should you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to celebrating our unity in Christ as God's beloved Church through our worship and witness as together we prayerfully participate in Christ's own work of reconciling the world to God's very Self.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Satterlee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail on the "e".

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THE MINISTRY OF THE BISHOP

- Bishop Satterlee is our synod's pastor and is therefore responsible for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod. Most of the time, the bishop is the primary worship leader at synod events.
- Worship planners may consult with the bishop about someone other than the bishop preaching or presiding. The request will be balanced by the bishop's role and responsibility as the synod's pastor. An invitation to any leader other than the bishop to preach or preside at synod worship events will come from Bishop Satterlee.
- When Bishop Satterlee preaches and presides, we follow his customary for visits from the bishop when planning worship.
<http://www.craigasatterlee.com/bishop-satterlees-customary.pdf>
- When multiple bishops are present at multi-synod events, all of the bishops of those synods will have visibly equal roles in worship leadership.
- When other bishops or churchwide representatives are guests at synod events, we will seek to include them in worship leadership.

MUSIC

- We recognize that quality of musical leadership at synod events is indispensable. We strive to find musicians who are able not only play the music well, but who can also lead the church's song. Our emphasis is on leading worship, not on performance.
- We strive to provide a variety of musical styles for synod worship. This variety may be reflected in the choice of hymns in a single service or in the choice of multiple styles of liturgy throughout an entire event. Again, the goal is to achieve a balance between unity and innovation.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

- We seek worship leaders that represent the diversity of the church we desire and the breadth of our synod's congregations and ministries.
- We seek worship leaders that are proficient in their roles so that worship might be inspirational.
- We are committed to preparing and rehearsing with worship leaders so that they are comfortable in their serving.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

- The synod worship committee is responsible for coordinating worship at the following events:
 - Synod Assembly
 - Rostered Leader Event
 - Bishop's installations
 - Special events
 - Other synod functions as required
- The committee prepares liturgies for these events, which are then reviewed by Bishop Satterlee.
- The committee also makes available resources, workshops and worship events to the congregations of the synod.
- The bishop appoints committee members upon recommendation of the synod council.
- The bishop appoints the committee chair.

QUESTIONS

We expect this customary will evolve; it is different today than it would have been had it been written a year ago. We also recognize that every worship service and every worship space is unique. If you have particular questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Rachel Laughlin, chair.

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