

# Christ the King Worship Team

The most important element of the life of our community of faith is our corporate worship. When we gather to worship God, we do so to receive from Him His grace and blessing through the Word and Sacrament and to offer him our sacrifices of prayer, praise and thanksgiving. It is the responsibility and privilege of the Worship Team to assist the Pastor in the preparation, planning and conduct of these services. This is a service we render to God with and for His people.

The worship volunteer is herself or himself a part of the worshipping congregation, with a particular role to perform in the service, just as the pastor, the organist or the choir director have unique roles to play. Whatever that role is, we carry it out faithfully, remembering that it is done “as to the Lord and not unto men.”

## Preparation for Worship

### The Administrative Assistants

The office staff assists the committee with the preparation and production of all worship folders and weekly announcement sheets, as well as any additional bulletin inserts, promotional flyers or posters. They also are responsible for scheduling of all worship volunteers and the distribution of readings, prayers and instructions to same. The Administrative Assistants are paid part-time staff members.

### The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild cares for the chancel and its appointments and prepares it for each service, including providing and preparing the elements for the Lord’s Supper. The Altar Guild furnishes and serves as custodians of the altar linens and paraments, clerical and acolyte robes and vestments, banners, candles, and communion ware. They maintain a yearly flower chart and arrange the floral offerings contributed by members for weekly services. Working with the Worship Committee, they oversee the work of the acolytes, and work to foster a better understanding of the liturgical heritage of the Lutheran Church. They plan and supervise the decoration of the sanctuary for festival services weddings, and other occasions and work with the custodian for special cleaning as needed.

The Altar Guild maintains a membership of 12 to 15 members, who meet regularly to conduct the business of the group and work in teams of two or three for one month of service, on a rotating basis. Work parties for special projects and activities are held.

### Video Production and Projection

The Video Production team works with the Contemporary Service planners to create appropriate video images and music lyrics and manages the computerized projection during the service.

## Assisting During Worship

### Sound Engineers

The Sound Technicians are responsible for distribution and/or set up of microphones needed for each service and operating and monitoring the sound board during the entire service.

### Ushers

The role of the usher is to see that the worshippers are made to feel welcome in God's house and comfortable participating in the service. This involves more than directing people to their seats, distributing worship folders and passing the offering bags. It includes directing the flow of those communing and controlling access to the service at appropriate points. In addition, ushers are responsible for maintaining a sense of quiet reverence in the sanctuary, preparing the church building for the arrival of worshippers, assisting those with special physical needs, being aware of visitors and their possible need for assistance in following the service, and generally acting as hosts for God and our congregation at Christ the King.

### Worship Stewards

The Steward of the Worship assists with spiritual aspects of the public worship service. This includes assisting with the communion distribution, speaking with visitors about their desire to commune, counting and recording total attendance and personal attendance records of members, representing the congregation in the Baptismal Service, assisting with offering collection, and coordinating the ushers and greeters, particularly with respect to visitors. The Worship Steward also consults with the Pastor and assists with any special requirements of the service.

### Lectors [Scripture Readers]

Lay members of the worshipping community read the Old Testament and Epistle lessons from the pulpit during every Sunday service. While these lessons are usually printed in the worship folder, the oral presentation of these lessons from God's Word is a high point of a Lutheran worship service, and has the weight of historical tradition and scriptural example behind it. It is very important, therefore, that the readers have studied the texts in advance, practiced clear, well-paced articulation, and cleared up any questions about emphasis or pronunciation with the Pastor before the service. Readers with good voices who are of high school age and older are eligible.

### Intercessors

Lay members of the community lead the Prayers of the Church for the congregation. The prayers are written by the worship committee or pastor to include specific themes and needs for the season, the week, or the community, and are sent to the assistant in advance by e-mail or printed. He or she may choose to include additional petitions as needed. The assistant may open the prayers with a simple statement of the circumstances of some requested prayers, and offers petitions for the church, the world and the congregation. During the prayer, the worshipping community has the opportunity to offer

individual petitions. In some services the Intercessor may serve as the prayer bidder, instead. Intercessors are comfortable with the practice of public prayer.

### Children's Lesson Leaders

Children are welcome and encouraged to be part of our worshipping family. Two services each month include a brief lesson related to a theme or text of the day planned just for them. The children are invited to join the leader in the chancel for this informal, yet important, presentation. Older brothers and sisters or parents may accompany them, as needed. These lessons may be planned with the assistance of the Pastor, should be directed specifically to the children, and may include simple visual aids or props.

### Puppet Team

The Puppet Team presents the Children's Lesson on occasion in both services, using a portable puppet theater and high quality hand puppets. The scripts are written to coordinate with the lessons for the day, and presented by two or more puppeteers. David Jensen directs the Puppet Ministry.

### Acolytes

Boys and girls age ten and older may assist during the service by lighting and extinguishing candles, carrying the Bible to the center of the congregation for the reading of the Gospel, and assisting with the communion trays. Acolytes are trained and overseen by the Altar Guild, and instructed by the Pastor. They wear robes to set them apart for this special role.

### Banner Bearers/Crucifers

Middle or High School youth who have sufficient stature to balance the heavy poles carry banners and/or the processional cross into and out of the sanctuary as part of a processional/recessional during festival or other special services. Banner Bearers and Crucifers are robed like the acolytes, and are instructed by the Altar Guild Directress and the Pastor.

### Cantors and Worship Assistants

Cantors are selected by the Organist and Choir Director to lead the congregation in sung parts of the liturgy. Worship Assistants are selected by the Worship Committee and may assist with spoken parts of the liturgy and/or prayers, or other elements such as the Imposition of Ashes. Cantors and Worship Assistants may or may not be robed, depending on the service.

### Offertory Procession Bearers

During some services, communion elements, LWML mitebox, food baskets or other ministry items may be brought forward with the money offering during the Offertory. Bearers are selected from among members of the worshipping community, particularly if they represent a ministry being emphasized.