

**Course Number:** MN 106W

**Course Title:** Foundations of Lutheran Worship

**Instructor:** Rev. Dr. Clayton Faulkner, Dean of the Chapel

**Semester and Year:** Fall 2026

**Registration Details:**

- 3 credit hours
- Required course for first-year MDiv students
- Eligible as specialization elective for MADM students
- Eligible as ministry course for MA students
- Grading is credit/no credit

**Course Description:** An initial study of Lutheran worship focused on contemporary practice and the development of good liturgical leadership, with attention to biblical, theological, historical, and ritual foundations. The Sunday assembly around word and sacrament and the celebration of the church year will be highlighted, together with the distinctive features of Lutheran theology and practice. The course is intended for anyone who will be involved in preparing and leading worship in the congregation as well as for those who desire a general introduction to the study of Lutheran worship.

**Course Objectives:**

- To identify the biblical foundations of Christian worship.
- To name the diverse historical origins of Christian worship.
- To articulate Lutheran sacramental theology.
- To evaluate best practices for Lutheran worship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including diverse sources, inclusivity, and global awareness.
- To reflect critically and theologically on liturgical decisions in the Lutheran parish.
- To analyze one's own worship leadership accurately.

**Procedures:** Class sessions include lectures, practical demonstrations, discussion, and sharing written reflections. Practicum workshops provide opportunities to evaluate the skills of presiding in worship.

**Evaluation:** Students are evaluated on written assignments, class participation, practicum workshops, and Voice Thread posts and responses (for asynchronous students).

**Bibliography (required texts):**

*All Creation Sings: Pew Edition* (2020).

Brugh, Lorraine S. and Gordon Lathrop. *The Sunday Assembly*. (Using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, vol. 1) Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2008.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Pew Edition* (2006).

González, Justo L. and Catherine Gunsalus González. *Worship in the Early Church*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2022.

Ramshaw, Gail and Mons Teig. *Keeping Time: The Church's Years*. (Using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, vol. 3) Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2009.