



Sing His Praise, His Love Declare

Seward Worship Conference

Workshop and Session Information

July 27-29, 2011 ~ www.seward2011.org

Presenter Biographies

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

- 8:00 a.m. Registration and Light Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Matins
- 10:45 a.m. Plenary – Rev. Dirk Reek
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Workshop I
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. Session I
- 4:15 p.m. Break
- 4:30 p.m. Session II
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Hymn Festival
- 8:45 p.m. Reception and Social

Thursday, July 28, 2011

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 9:15 a.m. Plenary – Rev. Dr. Dien A. Taylor
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Workshop II

Thursday schedule, continued...

- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Workshop III
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. Session III
- 4:15 p.m. Break
- 4:30 p.m. Session IV
- 5:45 p.m. Travel to Harvest Hall for banquet
- 8:15 p.m. Evening Prayer
- 8:45 p.m. Reception

Friday, July 29, 2011

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Divine Service
- 10:30 a.m. Plenary – Pam Nielsen
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Plenary – Rev. Matthew Harrison
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. Session V
- 4:00 p.m. Break
- 4:15 p.m. Itinerary

Please contact the conference staff with any questions:

info@seward2011.org ~ 402-643-2983 (St. John Church Office)

www.seward2011.org

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

A Biblical, Theological, and Practical Consideration of Worship – Bryan Wolfmueller

Part 1: *The Theology of Worship: Why No One in the World Worships like a Lutheran*

Why do we worship like we do? Connecting the “what” with the “why”, this session will explore the theology of worship and how our understanding of the Gospel informs the way we worship in our congregations. To add clarity we will compare Lutheran worship to non-Christian and other Christian denominations’ worship. Participants will come away with a clarified understanding of what worship is.

Part 2: *The Devil Hates True Worship: A Survey of the Fight for True Worship in the Old and New Testaments*

This session could be titled: *Idolatry: What it is and How to Avoid It*. We will consider the First Commandment and the devil’s assaults on it through the Scriptures. What was Baalism and why was it dangerous to the Old Testament people of God? Who were the Judaizers and how does Paul defend the church from their false worship? What is gnosticism, and why is the apostle John fighting so hard against it? Bring your Bibles.

Part 3: *Contemporary Worship: A Pastoral Plea*

What is the underlying theology of “contemporary Christian music”? Pastor Wolfmueller has interviewed some of the top CCLI musicians and asked them. You might be surprised at the answers. Anyone interested in a better understanding of the “worship wars” and the risks involved will want to be here.

Accessible Organ Improvisation – Donald Rotermund

Part 1: “SOS: Tips for Quickly Expanding Your Service-Playing Resourcefulness”

Based largely on *Off the Page*, this session introduces accessible techniques for developing hymn introductions, thematic interludes, verset or partita treatments, alternate accompaniments, and organ stanzas. Most of the SOS (Simple Organ Solutions) tips use the notes of a hymnal harmonization and are designed especially to assist organists who may be hesitant to create their own settings.

Part 2: “Many More Ideas for Creating Hymn-Based Extemporizations”

This session introduces a variety of additional hymnal-based extemporization techniques, as offered in *Off the Page, Too*. These include: using scales, modifying inner voices of a hymnal setting, developing pedal enrichments, changing tonalities, ornamenting melodies, and developing pattern toccatas.

Part 3: “Developing Hymn-Based Settings ‘On the Spot’”

This is a “hands on” session where mutual sharing and experimentation are integral and heartily welcomed. Volunteering is encouraged, but optional. Observers are welcome. As most efforts will be “on the spot” explorations, the word “mistake” will not be in our vocabulary during this session! Let’s have fun and have an enjoyable “Partita Party”! (Attendees are encouraged to bring their personal copy of *LSB*.)

Building Beautiful Voices – Kathy Rausch

Part 1: “Building Beautiful Voices” covers proper pedagogical techniques and repertoire for the healthy development of children’s voices in church, school, and home settings.

Part 2: “Songs in Solfege” engages participants in music-making as a process for teaching melodic skills.

Internalization of the difference in sound between half and whole steps is encouraged as participants “build” chromatic, whole tone, and major scales. Functional relationships of melodic intervals are taught through solfege syllables and practiced in the context of canons, hymns, and lasting melodies. Once “sound thinking” has developed, those sounds are connected with musical notation.

Part 3: “Educated Ears” offers participants the opportunity to experience music theory in context -- to learn how an understanding of rhythm and meter can grow out of music used in worship. Takadimi rhythm syllables are combined with form analysis and melodic solfege to facilitate performance accuracy and confidence, to develop musical memory and to build skills in harmonization and improvisation. Active participation is encouraged as a process for teaching children is modeled and discussed.

Composer's Workshop—David Johnson

Creating new music for the church is a challenging task. Seminar attendees will be guided by CPH's David Johnson as they explore theological and musical aspects of the church's song. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own compositions to share. (Because of its participatory nature, this course is limited to 10 participants.)

Created to Create—Terence Groth

Three speaker-led Bible study/discussions will explore: 1) God and His creative activity; 2) human beings as “co-creators” with God; and 3) creativity in worship.

Getting the RRRR Out!: Improving Choral Tone and Diction in the Church Choir—Kurt von Kampen

This seminar will focus on choral teaching techniques designed to help your church choir achieve unified vowels, properly placed (and pronounced) consonants and improved rhythmic accuracy. Special attention will be given to typical pronunciation problems and how to fix them.

Lepers, Leviticus, and Liturgy—Russ Moulds

Paul reminds us that the Old Testament was written for our instruction and that by its encouragement we might have hope (Romans 15:4). This three session workshop examines the peculiar liturgical activities God gave to all Israelites as his nation of priests—such as using leprosy, an all-year-long Sabbath, and menstruation—to communicate Law and Gospel. We will further explore how we, the priesthood of all believers, might today develop some “peculiar” activities to proclaim and practice the love of Christ.

What Songs Shall We Sing? Exploring the Full Resources of the Hymnal—Joseph Herl and Larry Peters

Somebody chooses the hymns for Sunday morning. How are they chosen? What criteria are used? This workshop explores the resources of the hymnal and how to apply them to the rhythm of Divine Service, Daily Office, and family prayers. We will look at the choices Lutherans have made in ages past and explore various influences on our choices today. We will discuss the practical matters of the church year, the lectionary, sermon planning, hymn and music selection, and the options available within the Divine Service. We'll talk about how the pastor and musicians can lead services with the focus on God rather than on the leaders. The goal is to use more fully the most basic resource common to us – the hymnal – in ways that are faithful, creative, and appropriate to the local circumstances of your parish.

Worship Wars—Mark Rockenbach

Differences in worship styles have created an enormous amount of conflict. This has caused broken relationships between pastors, church musicians and congregational members. Unfortunately, the worship wars have diminished our witness of Jesus Christ. This presentation will identify the causes of conflict over worship and provide God pleasing ways to respond to conflict.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

For Pastors

Advent Preaching Workshop—Charles Blanco

Four women find a place in Jesus' genealogy as recorded by Matthew. The workshop will offer a preaching outline for a 3 or 4 week Advent midweek service series, each week's message based on one of the women and their distinct biblical story. By the varied (and sometimes scandalous) stories proclaimed as part of Jesus' family tree, hearers will be assured that there is a place prepared also for each of them in the Savior's family, a place prepared by Christ Himself through His incarnate saving ministry.

Behold! Preaching Visually—Charles Blanco

The Word is the most important part of the sermon. God made the Word visible in Jesus. Following His lead, can we make our sermons visible too? This is most authentically done when the visuals flow from the text (Word) itself so that the visual does not replace the Word, but highlights it. This workshop will explore how preaching can communicate to the eyes as well as the ears the Good News of Jesus.

Final Victory—Bryan Wolfmueller

The death of a Christian is an important event as we receive all that God has promised. However, grief and sorrow often hinder this thinking. While presenting a theologically sound and organized way of presenting the hope and comfort of Scripture, this session will provide resources to help the pastor and mourner make and record the decisions of planning the funeral service.

Pastoral Presence: Presiding with Grace—Dien A. Taylor

In the administration of the Blessed Sacraments, pastors proclaim Christ's presence as the Word becomes flesh. Grace is proclaimed by words and by actions by pastors for the healing and hope of all. In response to Christ's mercy, pastors administer the Means of Grace that is not mistaken for "mean grace" as they themselves revel in the "meaning of grace."

Perichoretic Worship—Dirk Reek

This session will explore the basis of worship, faith, and life as founded in and reflective of the nature and actions of the Holy Trinity. It will challenge some of the simplistic notions of "Jesus only" worship fostered in our culture. It will give some basic awareness of a large body of discussion and publication in theological circles in the last fifty years, but more importantly aim at anchoring worship in the very nature of God.

Sacramental Worship—Dirk Reek

This session will embrace God's commitment to shower and feed us with His Word of grace in water, bread and wine, and seek to enlarge on that in further biblical imagery. This will be a theological exploration. Participants will need a copy of the Scriptures.

The Connected Pastor—Derek Roberts

Are pastors over-wired by technology? Can there be an iPhone or Android app for confession and absolution? What are some ways that technology is being employed as good First Article gifts in service to the pastor of the local parish?

The Second Temple – What Is Left Today—Mark Meehl

Dr. Meehl will focus on the appearance of the Temple at the time of the New Testament and the physical remains of the site today. He will also make connections between the different areas of the Temple and the New Testament episodes that occurred in them. Included also is a general overview of the type of worship that occurred in the Temple on a daily basis as we examine the structures.

For Musicians

Accompanying Church Choirs and Soloists Effectively—Elizabeth Grimpo

Pianists and organists do a great deal of solo playing. However, they often find themselves in the role of accompanist, playing for choirs, instrumentalists and soloists within their congregations. This session will provide practical suggestions and hands-on advice in order to help make each accompanying experience effective and enjoyable.

Basic Handbell Technique—Jessica Kite and David Held

Appropriate for handbell players and directors from beginning to intermediate levels, this workshop provides tools for developing an effective handbell choir. Topics include recruitment, ringing techniques and notation, rehearsal strategies, organizational fundamentals and resources as well as simple, but effective ways to incorporate handbells in worship. Ample time will be included for questions and answers.

Brass Players: Resources to Help the Weekend Warrior Brass Player Perform Better—Andrew Schultz

This session will provide resources to assist music directors work with brass players. The session will focus on performance techniques and literature resources for music directors to use with their brass players.

Children's Choir Reading Session

Children can sing solid, Christ-centered choral works from an early age. This session includes examples of musically excellent choral works that support Lutheran theology. Participants will explore a variety of children's choir literature, both old and new, that sings the Gospel story and provides opportunities for solid musical growth. Literature and hymnody used will be appropriate for a wide variety of age and skill levels.

Diapasons and Mixtures and Reeds: Oh My!—Chris Loemker

This session will explore those things which are "under the hood" of the organ. Organists will learn more about the mechanics of the pipe organ, will be empowered to make full use of the instrument's resources, and learn troubleshooting techniques.

Enliven Your Choir Repertoire with the Lutheran (and Other) Masters—Carlos Messerli

The true heritage of Lutheran choirs today consists of some of the greatest choral music of all time. This often unknown treasure consists of music of high quality that was written by Lutheran church musicians of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. The music is accessible, doctrinally sound, reliable, relevant to our times, and fun to sing. Examples will be available for singing.

Getting Ready for Sunday, or Any Worship Service—David Held

Topics in this workshop include principles of choosing organ music for worship services and sharing examples of organ music for manuals alone and/or with easy pedaling. Sample sections from such music will be played and/or displayed so participants may see and hear the music.

Handbell Music Reading Session—Jessica Kite

New and "experienced" handbell music selections will be highlighted, with special focus on those pieces that support and utilize the hymnody and liturgies of the church.

Hymn Adaptations in Jazz Influenced Styles—Peter Prochnow

This session will introduce a variety of arranging and notation techniques used to adapt public domain hymns to various jazz influenced styles. Contexts for the adaptations will include congregational singing and supporting music during worship. Participants will learn about chord substitutions, voicings, and lead sheet notation in various jazz influenced styles to utilize with hymnody.

Intermediate Organ Improvisation—Jeffrey Blersch

This session is designed for organists who are already comfortable with basic hymn improvisation and wish to take it to the "next level" with new techniques and inspiration.

Intermediate Service Playing—Chris Loemker

This session is designed for organists who have the basic understanding of service playing but are looking to improve their skills of leading God's people in song. Aspects discussed will include hymn and liturgy introductions, usage of altered harmonies, and other tools to improve musical leadership.

Introduction to Finale Music Notation Software—Andrew Schultz

This session will introduce the fundamental aspects of working with the music notation software called Finale. The session is primarily geared as an introduction for people with limited experience using notation software.

I've Been Asked to Be a Choir Director—David Held

Directors without extensive training in conducting a choral or instrumental ensemble will find practical, ready-to-use information from veteran conductor, Dr. David Held. Topics covered will include basic beat patterns, handling of cutoffs, the use of gestures, and making productive use of limited rehearsal time.

Let the Choir Sing: Choral Literature—David Held

Choral literature both from the present and the past will be presented, especially that which can be done well with the average church choir, usually a smaller choir. Resources from the hymnal that work well with a choir also will be explored.

Q & A: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?—Paul Bouman and Carlos Messerli

Two of the great church musicians of our time share their experiences and insights in a "question and answer" format.

Sacred Piano Reading Session—Elizabeth Grimpo

Come see and hear some of the newest and best sacred piano collections from Concordia Publishing House, Augsburg Fortress, and Morningstar Publications. Discover new repertoire ideas for your congregational or personal use.

Something Old, Something New: Practical, Accessible Organ Music—Jeffrey Blersch

There is a vast treasure trove of organ music available today that supports the hymnody and liturgy of the Lutheran church. Dr. Blersch will share some of the "best of the best" with session participants.

Supporting the Singing of LSB Psalm Tones—Donald Rotermund

The growing practice of singing psalms using the Tones in *Lutheran Service Book* is heartening. In this session you will be introduced to options that offer variety and responsiveness helpful in reflecting the content and/or character of psalm texts. Whether sung by a single voice (cantor, clergy), the congregation, or combinations of these, their use can assist organist and singer(s) in a meaningful sharing. Please bring your *LSB* so you can sing along and experience the possibilities.

Writing for the Church—David Johnson

Attendees will examine theological and musical aspects of creating new music for the church. Those interested in a more intensive "composer collaborative" may choose to take Johnson's seminar entitled *Composer's Workshop*.

For Pastors, Musicians, and Others

Active and Passive Participation—Leon Rosenthal

The active center of the celebration of the Divine Service is Jesus Christ, not us. For this reason, active and passive principles unite in the words "faith active in love" as Christ unites Himself to us and us to one another. The rhythm is Trinitarian, both in and from God! This session will explore the Real Presence of Christ Himself and the active and fruitful participation of the faithful congregation and pastor in the Divine Service.

Anatomy of a Hymn—Peter Reske

Attendees will explore the basic parts of a hymn and how they work as a whole. Taking the analogy of human anatomy, we will dissect some classic hymns to explore organs, muscles, bones (meter, rhyme, rhythm, form, tune, etc.). We will then re-assemble the "body", and consider the gross anatomy: How and when was the hymn written? How does the tune interpret the text? How do all the parts work together as a whole? We'll consider mostly classic hymns as examples and look at a few examples of what didn't work (pathology?). We will study hymns as poetry, but also take into account the critical aspect of the music.

Anxiety's Hold—Mark Rockenbach

Church musicians and pastors who struggle with anxiety find it difficult to serve in the church. It is easy to become overwhelmed by thoughts of despair, hopelessness and rejection. Anxiety may be caused by situations or people we work with. While anxiety can be a healthy response to stress it can also inhibit our ability to serve. This presentation will help participants think differently about anxiety and learn ways to cope.

Beyond Portals of Prayer: Lutheran Resources for Daily Prayer and Devotion—Larry Peters

Where do you go to find resources to enrich your daily prayer? What kinds of resources are available? What resources will flow out of the weekly Divine Service and its pericopes and then lead you into the lectionary for the next week? What about saints days and commemorations? Everyone know about *Portals of Prayer*, but it is not so easy to build upon this brief resource. We will look at what resources are available, their strengths and weaknesses, and how to use them. We will investigate some musical resources you can use to give a soundtrack to this daily and weekly rhythm of Scripture, reflection, and prayer. Whether you are a pastor or lay person, the challenge of establishing and sustaining a regular time of devotion and prayer is much the same. This workshop will equip you to explore some further options beyond the most popular Lutheran resource.

Beyond Softball and Pizza: Involving Youth in Congregational Worship—Andrew Ratcliffe

There are many theories, techniques, and publications dealing with youth in the church. This session will go beyond the stereotypes and discuss concrete, Biblical ways in which youth find their place within the worship life of the Body of Christ.

Burned Out—Mark Rockenbach

Advent services, school Christmas program, Sunday school Christmas service, special music for Christmas Eve and Christmas day worship, bell choir practice, open house for choir members, cleaning the house for relatives... Ruth was exhausted. She called in sick to work, put a note on the front door, turned off her phone, and went back to bed. Within three months she resigned as church music coordinator. Ruth was burned out. This presentation will identify signs of burnout and provide ways to cope with stress in healthy ways.

Children Growing in Worship—Pam Nielsen

Come and learn about this colorful, informative and engaging worship resource from Concordia Publishing House. These weekly worship bulletins are designed to explain, engage and employ the eyes and ears of children in learning about and participating in the church's worship life. Keyed to the three-year lectionary, each Growing in Worship includes a "See," "Hear," and "Do" designed to help a child understand the meaning of the Gospel and the theme of the day. Join others and learn how to use this tool to keep kids "Growing in Worship!"

Church Copyright Law—David Johnson

Today's church musician is presented with a wide variety of resources from a variety of sources. This session will examine copyright law and the licensing options that are available to assist churches in this Seventh Commandment issue.

Contemporary Worship: A Pastoral Plea—Bryan Wolfmueller

What is the underlying theology of "contemporary Christian music"? Pastor Wolfmueller has interviewed some of the top CCLI musicians and asked them. You might be surprised at the answers. This session will defend this assertion: "contemporary worship is mysticism," and discuss the dangers of mysticism in Christian worship. Anyone interested in a better understanding of the "worship wars" and the risks involved will want to be here. (This session is a duplicate of the third part of the seminar "A Biblical, Theological, and Practical Consideration of Worship".)

Developing Young Lutheran Musical Talent—Carlos Messerli

The Christian church has been singing the song of prayer and praise in worship of our Lord for centuries. Congregations have always included young people who need encouragement and training to develop the gifts within them for full participation in the church at worship. Since modern youth culture does not support faith-based activities, the task must always begin in the congregation. However, within and beyond the congregation there are people, resources, and institutions who can be of help in supporting this development. To meet the challenge the congregation can provide clear goals, and seek enthusiastic, technically competent, informed, and Spirit-filled leadership.

Getting Started with Lutheran Service Builder 2—Bob Lail

If you are new to Lutheran Service Builder, considering purchasing it, or simply do not feel quite "at home" with it yet, this session is for you.

Gems of Lutheran Service Book—Joseph Herl

How many of the hymns in *Lutheran Service Book* do you know? Here you will learn some of the best of hymns new to the book and some old, but possibly unfamiliar, gems.

God's Word for Every Age—Pam Nielsen

God's Word is for all, young, old and in between. Come learn about the Concordia Publishing House collection of Bibles for every age. Participants will learn about the Bibles CPH offers and how to use them in the home, classroom and congregation. Samples of the new Story Bible, My Very First Bible, Faith Alive Student Bible and The Lutheran Study Bible will be available. Guidance on selecting a Bible for personal use or gift giving will be offered. Ideas for helping families and students of any age use the resources found in these various Bibles will be presented. Participants will be invited to share the features they treasure most in the Bible they use.

Hi-Tech Kingdom Come: Thy Will Be Done?—Derek Roberts

Does the medium we use to communicate the Gospel in worship matter? An analysis and critique of worship practice in modern day church plants and other settings.

It All Fits: The Theory and Application of Collaborative Worship Planning— Scott Bruick and Paul Soulek

Pastors and musicians can function together in planning liturgy, message, and music that all points to the Cross of Christ. This pastor/musician team will share their insights into the relational, intentional worship planning that takes place at their congregation.

Let's Talk about Sunday School!—Pam Nielsen

Join in the conversation about the Who, What, Why and How of Sunday School. Learn how to create a vibrant Sunday School program that flows out of the church's life of worship and which points children to the source of that life – Christ who comes to us in Word and Sacrament! Learn how the Growing in Christ Sunday School Curriculum can help you instill the language of faith and the message of God's Salvation revealed through the lives of the saints of old. Exchange ideas and share with others your Sunday School joys and challenges!

Liturgical Art—Mark Anschutz

How do the visual arts in our worship spaces teach the Christian faith and express the Gospel message? Mark Anschutz serves as the managing artist for The Center for Liturgical Art at Concordia University, Nebraska and will discuss various guiding principles of these visual expressions. Examples of the Center's recent work will also be showcased.

Psalms: The Hymnbook for the People of God—Paul Holtorf

The psalms have served as the hymnbook for the people of God throughout the ages. Songs of confession, prayer, and praise, both corporately and individually, have reflected the Lord's faithfulness to His people. In his presentation, Dr. Holtorf will speak on selected psalms that are incorporated into the worship life of the congregation. He will emphasize the psalms' historical context, the christological themes, and the relationship the psalms have within the context of worship, both then and now.

Sneak Peek: LSB Hymnal Companion—Peter Reske

CPH's Peter Reske will explore the forthcoming LSB Hymnal Companion, which will provide valuable resources for pastors and musicians in utilizing the hymnal to its fullest potential.

The Theology of Worship: Why No One in the World Worships like a Lutheran—Bryan Wolfmueller

Why do we worship like we do? Connecting the "what" with the "why", this session will explore the theology of worship and how our understanding of the Gospel informs the way we worship in our congregations. To add clarity we will compare Lutheran worship to non-Christian and other Christian denominations' worship. Participants will come away with a clarified understanding of what worship is. (This session is a duplicate of the first part of the seminar "A Biblical, Theological, and Practical Consideration of Worship".)

Under the Hood of Lutheran Service Builder—Bob Lail

This session is for users who are comfortable with Lutheran Service Builder but still occasionally surprised by it, for those who suspect there are some features they aren't fully taking advantage of, and for those who are just curious about how it works.

Vocations in Worship: Our Callings with One Voice to Declare His Love—Paul Holtorf

Dr. Holtorf will explore the meaning of vocation and calling as it relates to worship. Reflecting on such authors as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Gene Veith and others, Dr. Holtorf will highlight and affirm the Christian's calling within the life of the worship community.

Worship Publications—Paul Soulek

Printed publications can support or hinder the worship services of the church. This session examines issues of formatting, printing music notation, and other ways to inform, encourage, and educate the worshipping community. This session will be useful for pastors, secretaries, musicians, or anyone else engaged in producing publications for worship.

Worship Space in the Tabernacle, Second Temple, and Early Church—Mark Meehl

In this session we will examine the worship space used in the Tabernacle and Second Temple, how that space was used, and then how that space, along with the Book of Revelation, influenced early Christian architecture in Byzantine churches.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Mark Anschutz serves as the managing artist for The Center for Liturgical Art, an outreach program of the Concordia University Nebraska Department of Art. Anschutz has made a career of service to the church in the arts as a professor, designer, and consultant. He has completed major commissions of stained glass windows at the Mulvane Museum of Art at Washburn University, in Topeka, Kansas. Anschutz also serves Concordia University as an instructor in the area of ecclesiastical arts where his students get involved in real world design implementation. He received an M.A. in painting from Pittsburg State University and an M.F.A. in sculpture from Wichita State University.

Charles Blanco is Assistant Professor of Theology and Director of the Pre-Seminary Program at Concordia University, Nebraska (2002 to present). He was pastor of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Ft. Lupton, Colorado, from 1984 to 2002.

Jeffrey Blersch is Professor of Music at Concordia University Nebraska. He has been an active church musician since being appointed organist of Peace Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, at age eight. Best known for his creative hymn interpretations, he regularly performs recitals and hymn festivals across the United States. He holds degrees in organ performance and music education from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Over fifty of his compositions and collections are published exclusively with CPH, and four of his original hymn tunes are included in Lutheran Service Book. Blersch also serves as an organist and choir director at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Staplehurst, NE. He and his wife Carla, also an organist, have three children.

Paul Bouman served as director of music at Lutheran churches and schools in Wisconsin and Illinois, and is minister of music emeritus at Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest, Illinois. A graduate of Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, he earned a Masters degree in organ and theory from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, and has studied at the Westphalian Church Music School in Herford, Germany. In 1971 he co-founded with Carl Schalk the Bach Vesper Cantata Series at Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest, Illinois, and was a staff member and choir director at Lutheran Summer Music since 1986. Throughout his career, he has actively contributed his leadership and musical gifts to the training of children's choirs and continues to compose music for the church.

Scott Bruick is pastoral leader at St. John Lutheran Church, School, and Child Development Center in Seward, Nebraska, Prior to entering the pastoral ministry, he served in the teaching ministry as an early childhood educator and principal in a Lutheran school. He and his wife Jan have two children.

Elizabeth Grimpo is Assistant Professor of Music at Concordia University, Nebraska, a position she has held for the past three years. Additionally, she serves as one of the organists at Christ Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. She is also an active collaborative artist, accompanying for conferences, honor choirs, and musicians in the area.

Terence Groth was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Edwardsville, Illinois, from 1985 to 2006. Since 2006 he has been an assistant professor of theology at Concordia University Nebraska.

Matthew Harrison is the 13th president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Before becoming president, he served for nine years as the executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care. He was parish pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church, in Westgate, Iowa, and Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He and his wife Kathy live in Ballwin, Illinois, and have two sons. Harrison is an avid bluegrass banjo player and builder of guitars, banjos, and mandolins.

David Held was teacher and director of music at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Iowa, and at St. John Lutheran Church, Orange, California, prior to coming to Concordia University Nebraska in 1979. He served the Synod as national leader of the introduction of *Lutheran Worship*, as a member of Synod's Commission on Worship, as a member and chair of Synod's Board for District and Congregational Services, and currently as a member of the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. In 2000, Dr. Held retired from full time service at Concordia, where he taught courses in music education, church music, and organ, and directed the Concordia Singers and Handbell Choirs. He continues to serve as a supervisor of student teaching.

Joseph Herl is associate professor of music at Concordia University, Nebraska. He is an academic, a practicing church musician, and a composer of church music. His book *Worship Wars in Early Lutheranism* (Oxford University Press, 2004) was awarded the Roland Bainton Prize of the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference for best book in its field. He was an editor of the Lutheran Service Book (2006) and is co-editor of the *Lutheran Service Book Companion*, to be published in late 2012. His choral and organ music is published by CPH, Oxford, and MorningStar.

Paul Holtorf served as parish pastor in the Nebraska District: Zion Lutheran Church in Thayer, and St. John Lutheran Church in Seward. Currently, he teaches religion and theology at Concordia University Nebraska and serves as chair of the theology department. Along with his teaching responsibilities, Dr. Holtorf is the director of the Center for Rural and Small Town Ministries and the book reviews editor for *Issues in Christian Education*.

David A. Johnson, a 1989 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, recently returned to Concordia Publishing House to serve as the Director of Worship Arts Resources, after completing a brief tenure as Executive Director of the Commission on Worship for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (2008–2010). Formerly, David held the position of Director of Music and Worship Resources at Concordia Publishing House (1994–2008) Prior to serving synod agencies David was a parish pastor in the New England District. David holds advanced degrees in music from the University of Colorado, and Valparaiso University, specializing in both organ performance and church music, with concentrations in piano, voice, choral conducting and handbell practice and performance. Throughout his years of service David has sought to hone his skills in a variety of musical expressions and is thoroughly vested in confessing Christ through liturgy, hymnody, psalmody and song!

Jessica Kite received her B.S. in Music Education from Concordia University, Nebraska and received her Masters in Music Education from University of Nebraska, Lincoln. In addition to her experience in classroom music and vocal performance, Kite directs a vibrant handbell program at her alma mater, Concordia University, Nebraska.

Bob Lail graduated with a BA in Psychology from Concordia University, NE in 2003, and with a MDiv from Concordia Seminary, St Louis in 2008. He has worked for Concordia Publishing House since 2006, writing software for the church.

Chris Loemker serves as head organist and music director at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, Illinois. He holds an organ performance degree from Indiana University-Bloomington and has been involved in Lutheran church music in various capacities for the past 25 years., including working as a Production Editor in the music department of CPH and serving as Kantor of the Higher Things Lutheran Youth Conferences. During the week, Chris is a corporate pilot. He and his wife Carmen have three daughters.

Mark Meehl, theology professor at Concordia University Nebraska, has participated in excavations in Israel, Jordan, and Syria. He is the lead author of *Tel Miqne–Ekron Excavations, 1995–1996, Field INE East Slope, Iron Age I (Early Philistine Period)*. He lived in Jerusalem for two and half years, serving as Program Director for the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, before coming to CUNE in 1991. He has led two study tours to Israel, and is planning a third for the summer of 2012. Dr. Meehl earned his Master of Arts, Religion, from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Carlos Messerli is Founding Executive Director Emeritus of Lutheran Music Program, a summer academy and festival for young musicians, now in its 30th year. Earlier, he had been an elementary, high school, and college teacher, retiring from Concordia, Seward, as Professor of Music after a 20-year tenure. Throughout, he has always been a choir director and church musician. Dr. Messerli was a two-term president of Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and a long-time member of the LCMS Commission on Worship. He now lives with his wife, Susan, in the Chicago area.

Russ Moulds has served as a Lutheran high school teacher and chapel director, college professor, and instructor in the parish. He writes and presents frequently on topics related to the teaching ministry. Moulds earned his M.S. in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola University and his Ph.D. from University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Pamela Nielsen is passionate about raising children in the family of God and encouraging and assisting others to do the same. For nearly nine years she has been privileged to serve as the Senior Editor for Sunday School, VBS and Youth Materials at Concordia Publishing House. Prior to coming to CPH she served as Director of Community Services at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN and as parish deaconess in several midwestern congregations. Pamela earned the Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Deaconess Certification in 1985 at Concordia University, River Forest, IL. In 1994, she earned her M.A. in Religious Studies from Concordia Theological Seminary. The mother of three children, Pam is married to Jeffrey Nielsen. They live in Ballwin, Missouri and are active members of Hope Lutheran Church in St. Louis.

Larry Peters is senior pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, Tennessee. He writes worship materials for CPH and authors a blog called “Pastoral Meanderings” (pastoralmeanderings.blogspot.com).

Peter Prochnow is Assistant Professor of Music and Worship Arts Program Director at Concordia University Nebraska. He received a Bachelor of Arts in music from Concordia College (NE) and a Master in Music Education from Florida State University. Before returning to Concordia, Prochnow served as minister of music or teacher for several Lutheran congregations. While teaching in Florida, he received an excellence in teaching award from the Orange County Commissioner. He is the founder and director of Lutheran Music Missions, a not-for-profit organization providing resources for worship. Prochnow received a Grammy nomination for the album "Jazz for Christmas" in 1994 with Cexton records. He and his wife Beth have one daughter, Natalie.

Andrew Ratcliffe, associate pastor at Saint John Lutheran Church in Seward, is a graduate of Concordia University Nebraska. Upon graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, he was ordained and installed at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sac City, Iowa. While at St. Paul, he enjoyed serving as a pastoral leader for Camp Okoboji's Junior High Week, as well as on the Iowa District West Youth and Family Ministry Task Force. He is married to Angela, a music teacher and CUNE grad.

Kathy Rausch's goal as a homeschooling mother of four is to integrate faith, music, and practical skills into everyday life. Kathy pursued undergraduate degrees in choral Music Education and Elementary Education at northern Arizona University and earned a Master's degree in Kodaly Music Education from Holy Names University in Oakland, California in 1998. She has taught in Germany, Greenland, and in the United States.

J. Dirk Reek came to Concordia's faculty in the fall of 2004. He served for 23 years in the parish ministry in Central Illinois, Indiana, and Nebraska Districts, serving in a variety of parish settings. From 1997 to 2004 he served as a trained intentional interim pastor in four settings. He is currently enrolled in doctoral studies at Trinity College and Seminary, Evansville, Indiana.

Peter C. Reske is Managing Editor of Music and Worship at Concordia Publishing House. He was the editor and project manager for the production of *Lutheran Service Book* and its companion products. He holds a BA in English literature from Marquette University and a MA in historical musicology from The Pennsylvania State University, where his research focused on the music of Heinrich Schütz. He is the co-editor with Joseph Herl of the forthcoming *Lutheran Service Book: Hymnal Companion*.

Derek Roberts is associate pastor at First Lutheran Church and School and LCMS campus pastor at the Univ. of Tenn. Knoxville. He is also the web and blog editor for LOGIA: A Journal of Lutheran Theology. Roberts is a former computer technician from South Dakota who later served his vicarage in Silicon Valley at the LCMS church where Steve Jobs dropped out of catechesis. Roberts promises an honest and healthy discussion of technology, worship, and vocation from a Lutheran perspective.

Mark Rockenbach is currently serving as the Church Worker Health Executive for the Nebraska District-LCMS. He received his B.A. from Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska, M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, and M.A. in Counseling from Doane College, Lincoln, Nebraska. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in general psychology through Capella University. Pastor Rockenbach is a licensed mental health practitioner (LMHP) and also a trained reconciler.

Leon Rosenthal is Associate Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska. He received a Ph.D in History of Christianity from the University of Chicago, Illinois, in 1989.

Donald Rotermund, minister of music emeritus at Zion Lutheran, Dallas, is a member of the Dallas AGO chapter (and a past Dean), the Dallas Bach Society Advisory Board, and the metroplex Lutheran Hymn Festival Executive Committee. His recent publications include *Off The Page, Too; Introductions/Interludes/and Codas (Set IV)* by MSM; and *Intonations and Alternate Accompaniments for LSB Psalm Tones* (organ) by CPH. He has received degrees from Concordia University Chicago (including a doctor of letters) and a master in music from the University of North Texas.

Andrew Schultz is Director of Bands at Concordia University, Nebraska. In addition to directing both large and small instrumental ensembles, Prof. Schultz teaches studio trumpet at the University and has performed extensively for worship services on trumpet.

Paul Soulek serves as Kantor / Director of Parish and School Music. Since kantor literally means “leader of the people’s song,” so much of Mr. Soulek’s work relates to education and encouragement of the congregation’s singing. Whether in the office, at the organ, or in the classroom, Paul’s primary goal is to teach the faith. Paul is a 2007 graduate of Concordia University, Nebraska, where he majored in Parish Music, Organ concentration. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Church Music program at Concordia University, Chicago.

Dien Ashley Taylor, Ph.D. is the Pastor of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx, New York, the Assistant to the Atlantic District President, the Chairman of the Board of Regents of Concordia College—Selma, and an adjunct professor for Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

Kurt von Kampen is Professor of Music at Concordia University, Seward, and director of the University A Cappella Choir, University Chamber Choir, and the Concordia Male Chorus. He currently serves two local congregations with church choirs ranging from 12 to 25 singers (depending on the Sunday).

Bryan Wolfmueller is the pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Aurora, Colorado. He is married to Keri, and they have four wonderful children. Pastor Wolfmueller graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 2005. He is the co-host of a radio show called “Table-Talk Radio” and has written a number of things, including *Portals of Prayer* and a little book about funerals called “Final Victory” (CPH). He is a regular speaker at theological, youth, and evangelism conferences, and at last summer’s Synodical Convention was elected to serve on the Board for National Missions. On a trip to Germany last year he confirmed that he is, indeed, related to J.S. Bach - just don’t ask him to play the organ.