

INTRODUCTION



Welcome to ELCIC + RENEWING WORSHIP! The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is a participant in RENEWING WORSHIP, a multi-year, five-phase process, undertaken by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, designed to produce the generation of worship resources to succeed the *Lutheran Book of Worship*.

In the years since the publication of *Lutheran Book of Worship* in 1978, the pace of change within the church and beyond has quickened. The past three decades have witnessed a growing ecumenical convergence and a deepened concern for the church's mission in the world. The church has embraced broadened understandings of culture, increased musical diversity, changes in the usage of language and a renewed appreciation for the central pattern of Christian worship. These shifts have had a profound effect on the weekly assembly gathered around word and sacrament. This present reality calls for a renewal of worship and of common resources for worship—a renewal grounded in the treasures of the church's past while open to the possibilities in the church's future.

RENEWING WORSHIP

RENEWING WORSHIP is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's response to these emerging realities. In the Fall of 2000, the ELCA devised a plan for worship renewal that includes five overlapping phases.

- 1 The first phase (2001-2002) was a consultative process intended to develop principles for worship based on the ELCA's statement on sacramental practices, *The Use of the Means of Grace* (equivalent to the ELCIC's *Statement on Sacramental Practices*, though more expansive). Four ELCIC representatives participated in the *Consultation on Principles for Worship*: Jann Boyd (preaching), Lawrence Haave (environment), Karen Johnson-Lefsrud (music) and André Lavergne (language and culture). All together, there were about 100 people involved representing an astonishing variety and depth of knowledge, skills, experience, etc.
- 2 The second phase (2001-2005) includes a series of editorial teams that will collect, develop and revise worship materials based on *The Use of the Means of Grace* and *Principles for Worship*. Each editorial team is matched to a development panel. Individuals on the development panels provide input to the editorial team in a variety of ways including a review of the work of the editorial team prior to publication of any trial-use resources. Development panels are made up of clergy and lay persons, and contain at least one person who was instrumental in the development of *Lutheran Book of Worship*, a bishop, together with representatives from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the ELCA's full-communion partners.

- 3 The liturgical and musical resource proposals that emerge from the editorial teams will be published during the third phase of this plan (2001-2005) as trial-use resources in the RENEWING WORSHIP series. These materials will include proposals for newly developed, ecumenically shared, or recently revised texts, rites, and music. Crucial to this phase will be careful evaluation and response by congregations and worship leaders based on these strategies and provisional materials.
- 4 The fourth phase of the plan includes regional conferences for conversation, provisional resource introduction and evaluation, and congregational feedback.
- 5 The final phase of the process (2005 and beyond) envisions the drafting of a comprehensive proposal for new primary worship resources designed to succeed *Lutheran Book of Worship*. As the plan progresses, the shape of that proposal will continue to unfold. The goal, however, will remain constant: renewing the worship of God in the church as it carries out Christ's mission in a new day.

ELCIC + RENEWING WORSHIP

In 2001, through the encouragement of Bishops Sartison and Schultz, the ELCIC was granted standing in the RENEWING WORSHIP project. Pastors Karen Johnson-Lefsrud and André Lavergne were appointed to serve as project coordinators for the Canadian dimension of RENEWING WORSHIP. The coordinators are accountable to the ELCIC's Office of the Bishop.

HELPFUL WEB SITES

We invite the people of the ELCIC to explore our participation in the RENEWING WORSHIP project. Several web sites—two in particular—can assist in this regard.

The ELCIC's *Lift Up Your Hearts* worship and spirituality web site offers a full page dedicated to ELCIC + RENEWING WORSHIP. This page focuses on the Canadian dimension of RENEWING WORSHIP in the context of many other worthwhile web-based and web-available resources.

The ELCA's RENEWING WORSHIP site is the principal project web site. It provides a comprehensive overview of the project, downloadable trial resources, together with detailed and current progress reports on all aspects of RENEWING WORSHIP.

Lift Up Your Hearts (ELCIC worship site) ~ www.worship.ca
Renewing Worship (ELCA site) ~ www.renewingworship.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada ~ www.elcic.ca
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ~ www.elca.org
Augsburg Fortress Canada ~ www.afcanada.com

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