

Worship Assistant Updates (Covid) – February 2022

With all things during this COVID pandemic, we have taken steps in stride as we continue to consider THE NEXT RIGHT THING in all we do at Bethel. This has created an opportunity for us to evaluate and expand many of the ways we worship, reconsider how we serve in worship and what roles are needed, and also how we move forward into a NEW DAY at Bethel Lutheran Church. We are adding new opportunities to serve. We are adjusting how roles work with one another, and we are seeing the Spirit speak through different approaches to how we all work together to worship and witness through worship together. As life returns to “normal” (whatever “normal” is anymore!) we will re-evaluate and communicate any updates or changes to the best of our ability.

A few reminders and considerations:

- † The worship assistant schedule is compiled from:
 - Your currently submitted Ministry Response Form.
 - Any previously submitted Ministry Response Form that placed you in our database.
 - Dates are assigned by going down the list of names, and then beginning at the top again.
- † At this time, Worship Assistant schedules will be created seasonally.
 - March through May (*Spring*)
 - June/July/August (*Summer*)
 - September/October/November (*Fall*)
 - December/January/February (*Winter*)
- † If you are not available on a date that you are scheduled, please:
 - Switch with someone else on the schedule and notify George Donovan.
 - If you cannot switch with someone, please notify George Donovan.
 - If life happens and you cannot make it at the last minute, please let George Donovan or Pastor Dave know ASAP.

Acolytes: **NEW MINISTRY COMING LENT 2022!!!**

- † Acolytes participate in worship by lighting and extinguishing the altar candles. The lighting of the altar candles in worship is a symbol of Christ’s presence amongst us. Before lighting the candles at the beginning of worship, the Acolyte may bow at the altar out of respect. At the conclusion of worship, before the extinguishing of the last candles, the acolyte relights their “candle lighter” and then processes out, symbolizing that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. It also symbolizes the light of Christ going out into the world that we are called to serve.
 - This ministry generally is a way for children, youth and families to be involved in worship ministry. However, all ages are welcome to participate.
 - If you are an adult who has signed up for this ministry, we encourage you to invite a child or youth to assist you in lighting the altar candles.
 - Training in this ministry will begin ASAP.
 - Altar Candles will be lit during the Gathering Music. This is usually a congregational song, but sometimes is a musical reflection.
 - Generally, we use the two candles on either side of the altar
 - On certain festival Sundays we also use the Pascal or Baptism candle
 - Seasonally, there may be additional candles (*i.e., Candelabras*)

Scripture Reader:

- † Readings are included in our weekly worship bulletin and are sent out by Thursday evenings via email to the reader scheduled on the following Sunday.
 - If you would like to read the scriptures from a Bible, please be sure to read from the New Revised Standard Version
 - If there are multiple readings, direction will be given in the email as to which reading to read. (i.e., Sometimes the pastor will share the Gospel reading; sometimes there may be a Psalm that is sung between readings, etc.)
 - The Prayer of Illumination is read before the First Reading. There are pre-written prayers on the Pulpit which you may choose to use, or you are welcome to write your own prayer
 - Please begin moving forward to the pulpit to read at the beginning of the Children's Sermon.

Gathering Prayer & Prayers of Intercession:

- † The Gathering Prayer is a prayer of invocation which focuses us as we begin worship, and follows the Gathering Music.
 - You are invited to write your own short Gathering Prayer. However, if you prefer assistance, please reach out to Pastor Dave or George Donovan and they would be happy to help you create a prayer for use.
 - Please begin moving forward to the pulpit during the Gathering Music.
- † The Prayers of Intercession are generally pre-written and included in the worship bulletin.
 - If you would like to write and insert additional prayer petitions, please insert them where indicated in the bulletin.
 - Always use the congregational response printed in the bulletin.
 - Please begin moving forward to the pulpit during the Hymn of the Day (Hymn following the sermon). Be sure to grab the prayer list from the Narthex before you move forward and name those prayers where indicated in the bulletin.

Welcome Table: *Rebranding of Greeters, Ushers and Security Team*****

- † Arrive at least 30 minutes before worship.
- † Responsibilities:
 - Greet and welcome worshippers as they arrive, and direct them to the Welcome Table.
 - Hand them a bulletin.
 - Ask if their children would like handouts from the "Little Lutheran Worship Supplies".
 - Ask visitors to fill out a guest card. Advise them of the locations of the restrooms and nursery.
 - Ask if they have any questions.
 - As worship begins, please help worshippers find seats if necessary, particularly when the Sanctuary is getting full.
 - Stay near the Narthex to welcome latecomers.
 - **** NEW **** At the beginning of communion, one or two team members will assist with directing pews of worshippers to come forward to the altar area to receive their communion elements.
 - **** NEW **** Approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of worship, please make sure that the double doors at the Narthex entrances are closed and locked. Please ensure that the side entrance single red door is locked, also. At least one team member should remain in the Narthex at all times to secure the offering plates, and the locked entrances admit late worshippers as needed.

- If anyone needs the restroom, please direct them toward those in the Missions Hallway, and not to those near the nursery.
- If anyone needs the nursery, please direct them there.
- As worship concludes, two team members are asked to stand on either side of the Welcome Table with the offering plates, in the event that folks did not see them when they arrived. Two team members are also asked to take the money to the office workroom where the loose cash is counted and noted on an envelope. The entire offering is then deposited in the safe. Return the offering plate to the Welcome Table.
- An additional team member is asked to stand in the back and greet people as they leave, especially any visitors. Invite them to join us again for worship and if they have not already, invite them to fill out a guest card. Accompany or direct guests to the Fellowship Hall or to Sunday School classrooms if needed.
- Whenever worshippers and guests have left, ensure that all Narthex doors are locked. Please also double check that the single red side entrance door is locked as well.
- In the event of an emergency, please call 911.

Communion Assistants: ***Beginning Ash Wednesday!***

† Beginning with our Ash Wednesday Worship, we will have ONE communion assistant scheduled. During communion the congregation will be invited forward to receive their communion elements, to return to their seats, and commune. As worshippers come forward, the Communion Assistant uses the words, *“The Body & Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.”*

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