



## NE MN Synod Journey Elements of Worship Overview

### **2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Theme:**

“This Changes Everything.”

### **Primary scripture:**

Ephesians 2:8 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”*

### **Worship:**

One way we show honor to and love for God.

Take time to be in God’s presence and focus on our relationship with God.

***An Encounter with God***

### **Four Parts of a Worship Service in the ELCA:**

#### **GATHER:**

Welcome (and announcements)

Call to worship

Gathering Song

Confession

Assurance of forgiveness and God’s love

Prayer

During this part of worship we welcome one another to worship and we share any announcements about what is happening in our church community. We then take time to remember why we are gathering for worship. We read a “Call to worship” that includes words that remind us that we come to praise and honor God. We take time to be still and center our hearts and minds on God. We sing a song that gets us ready to worship.

Gathering time also includes Confession and Forgiveness and the Words of Assurance. This is a special time in each worship service where we tell God how we have sinned or made mistakes and ask God to forgive us for all our sins, even the ones we don’t remember or know about. The worship leader always reads “Words of Assurance” that remind us that God loves and forgives us no matter what”.

Our Gathering also includes a “Prayer of the Day”, a chance to ask God to be present and at work this day.

## **HEAR GOD’S WORD:**

Scripture Reading

Message

Message song

An important part of worship is hearing God’s word. Most worship services include a reading from the book of Psalms and one of the Gospels. Many worship services may also include an Old Testament reading and a reading from one of the other New Testament books that come after the Gospels. A leader then helps us to think about God’s word by giving a sermon. During this part of worship we are always asking “What might God want me to hear today?”

Following the reading of God’s word and the sermon, we usually sing a song that reminds us of what God’s word from today’s reading tells us. Each of our Bible readings usually has both “law and gospel”. Law reminds us of the rules for how God would like us to live. Gospel reminds us of the Good News that Jesus loves us no matter what.

## **CELEBRATE GOD’S WORD:**

Statement of faith

Prayers of the People

Communion

Offering

During most worship services we take time to remember what we believe as God’s people and confess it communally. The Apostle’s Creed, Nicene Creed or alternative statement of faith may be used. At a worship service we pass around offering plates to give us an opportunity to give back to God what we have been given. Central to our worship life is the presence of God through word and sacrament. The **word** proclaimed and the **sacraments** — both Holy Baptism and Holy Communion — are called **the means of grace**. We believe that Jesus Christ is present in these means through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we describe worship as a “gathering around the means of grace.” (ELCA Worship)

## **SENT INTO THE WORLD:**

Sending song

Blessing/Benediction

Taking time for worship, gives us time to rest in God, to hear God’s word again and get excited about what God is up to. Worship reminds us we are children of God. Worship gives us new energy to go out to do God’s work in the world. Every worship service ends with a blessing (sometimes called a benediction), a sending song, and the dismissal. Most often blessings remind us we are God’s children. They ask for God’s presence and protection with us. Most blessings end “In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Sometimes we make the sign of the cross, reminding us we are marked with the cross of Christ forever and covered in God’s love all week long. Most Lutheran worship services end with the words “Go in peace, serve the Lord!” and the people respond “Thanks be to God!”