



WORSHIP

Worship

Bethel Lutheran Mentor Program- Packet One

If you watch from the hill you can see the tiny village come to life. First, an old woman winds her way through the silent streets to the church. Then, the gentle ringing of the bell. Slowly, the people leave their homes and find their ways to the doors of the church. All ages, all sizes, they come from every corner of the town, moving with one accord toward the place of worship. The bell rings again and voices rise in song. An hour passes and they begin to trickle back out of the doors, hanging in knots in front of the church, reluctant to leave. Children chase each other while young women giggle at the young men in their awkward suits. Slowly, they leave and again the town is still.

Through all of the ages worship has been a part of the Christian life. Sometimes it is a quiet time along with God. At other times it is a celebration with trumpets as the whole people of God gather with one cause. We would like you to spend some time thinking about, experiencing, and talking about worship with another member of the worshipping community of Christ.

This packet has four parts, three activities and an evaluation. Each activity contains its own set of directions. Here is an overview of the packet.

Activity One is **“Experiencing Worship.”** In this activity you will attend one of the Sunday morning worship services at Bethel. During the worship you will think about the worship and write down some thoughts.

Activity Two is **“Together in Worship.”** In this activity the mentor and teenager attend a non-Lutheran worship service together. Again, you will think about the worship service and write down some of your thoughts.

Activity Three is **“Reflecting on Worship.”** In this activity the two of you reflect on and discuss the worship experiences and worship in general. You will need all of the activity sheets with you for your discussion.

Experiencing Worship

Activity One

Directions: The purpose of Activity One is to have you focus on the many events which occur within congregational worship. Take this Activity One sheet and a pen or pencil to worship. Read over the questions first, and then answer those questions which can be answered **BEFORE** worship. Some questions will have to be answered **DURING** worship, and some will be answered **AFTER** worship. Save this Activity One sheet because you will be using it for parts of Activity Three.

COMPLETE BEFORE WORSHIP

Church Season _____ Day _____

Look at the altar and circle the color of the church season or day.

green white blue purple red

What is your mood before worship?

Happy sad bored excited nervous

mad other _____

Who do you most enjoy worshipping with, and why?

Parents Friends Grandparents Family

Other _____

Where do you usually sit, and why?

Front Back Middle Sides

COMPLETE AS YOU WORSHIP

Are there any special events within worship? (Circle)

Holy Communion Baptism

Special Prayers

New Members

Special Speaker

Installations

Special Liturgies

Other _____

What do you see, hear, or smell at worship that catches your attention?

Is the order of worship as printed in the bulletin easy to follow?

Tell what one of the lessons is about.

What is the sermon about?

Name one story or example that the preacher used that you liked.

How did the sermon make you feel? Why?

Excited Sad Anxious Happy Confused

Other _____

What did you learn in the sermon that you didn't know before?

Circle the things below that were included in the prayers.

the sick	the dying	peace	poor and homeless
thanks	justice	birth	baptism
communion	guidance	faith	

Other _____

How did the prayers make you feel? Why?

Sad Happy Compassionate Confused Other _____

COMPLETE IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP

Who besides the pastor helped to lead worship?

Assisting Ministers Readers Choir Acolytes

Musicians Communion Assistants Technicians

Cantors Others _____

Did you greet and welcome people at worship who were visiting?

Did your mind wander during worship? If Yes, which part of worship?

Which part of worship was most meaningful to you? Why?

What detracted from your worship experience?

What do you think the overall theme of this day's worship was?

Say something about the music that was included in the worship today.

On this particular day, how did worship make you feel? Why?

Happy Sad Energized Compassionate Challenged Other _____

Together in Worship

Activity Two

Directions: The purpose of Activity Two is to have the mentors and teenagers gain a fuller understanding and appreciate of worship by comparing their usual worship experiences with a non-Lutheran worship experience. Mentor and teenager are to travel together to a non-Lutheran church and participate in a worship experience. Date, time and congregation are to be mutually agreed upon by mentor, teenager, and parents. As in Activity One you will complete a portion of this sheet before, during, and after worship. **Bring your entire Worship Mentor Packet with you to this worship experience.** During the worship you will complete Activity Two. After the worship you will use Activity Three to discuss Activities One and Two.

COMPLETE BEFORE WORSHIP

Name and City of church attending.

Why did you pick this particular church?

How is this church building different from your own?

How is this church building similar to your own?

Did you feel welcomed to this church? If yes, what made you feel welcomed? If no, why not?

COMPLETE AS YOU WORSHIP

Are there any special events within worship? (Circle)

Holy Communion

Baptism

Special Prayers

New Members

Special Speaker

Installations

Special Liturgies

other _____

What do you see, hear, smell at worship that catches your attention?

Is the order of worship as printed in the bulletin easy to follow?

Tell what one of the lessons/readings is about.

What is the sermon/message about?

Name one story or example that the preacher/pastor/speaker used that you liked.

How did the sermon/message make you feel? Why?

Excited Sad Anxious Happy Confused

Other _____

What is one way in which the sermon is different from your pastor(s) sermons?

Circle the things below that were included in the prayers.

the sick	the dying	peace	poor and homeless
thanks	justice	birth	baptism
communion	guidance	faith	

Other _____

How did the prayers make you feel?

Sad Happy Compassionate Confused Other _____

Did this congregation pray in a way that was similar or different from your own?
How?

COMPLETE IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP

Who besides the pastor helped to lead worship?

Assisting Ministers	Readers	Choir	Acolytes
Musicians	Communion Assistants	Technicians	
Cantors	Others _____		

Which part of worship was most meaningful to you? Why?

What detracted from your worship experience?

What was similar or different with the music in worship today, compared to the music in worship at your church?

On this particular day, how did worship make you feel?

What is one thing you would like to take from this service to improve worship at your own church?

Was there anything that was uncomfortable, troubling or embarrassing for you at this worship? If so, what?

Reflecting on Worship

Activity Three

Directions: The purpose of this activity is to grow in understanding and appreciation of worship by comparing your worship experiences with another worshipping Christian. You will need the entire **WORSHIP MENTOR PACKET** to complete this activity. Do this activity immediately after you worship together. These are discussion questions. You do not need to write your answers.

1. Use Activities One and Two to compare your worship experiences. What were the differences? What were the similarities? Read through the sheet together.
2. If you could change one thing about worship, what would it be?
3. If you could keep only one part of worship, which part would it be?
4. Describe an experience outside of congregational worship in which you felt close to God. Where was it? What did you experience? How did you feel? Why was it special?
5. What do you think worship attendance means for:
 - a. Adults
 - b. Teenagers
 - c. Children
6. What difference would it make if you were not regular in attendance yourself?
7. In your opinion, what do you think sermons **should be** most like?

a poem	a song	a movie	a picture
a school lesson	a lecture	a hug	a story
8. If you could change one thing about sermons, what would it be?
9. Name two things you think **YOU** yourself can do to get more out of worship.