



All Church Worship Brainstorming for Fall Worship

Sunday, August 9, 2015

Diane Thompson's House

5:30 pm Potluck Dinner

6:30-8:30 pm Brainstorming for Worship

The Worship Design Teams are looking for a few ideas for upcoming worship services. Members of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate. You might be surprised to see how much fun (and insightful) worship planning can be.

Join us at 5:30 pm for dinner. Diane is grilling chicken. Please bring a dish to pass. Suggestions: Salad(s), dessert, veggies, bread or rolls, beverages.

RSVP's are helpful but not mandatory. Sign up at church or contact the church office (213-798-2181 or lakeharbor@aol.com), Diane Thompson, or Karen Booth. Carpooling is encouraged, but not critical. Please read the scripture and message synopses and preview the videos before we gather if at all possible.

September 13, 2015:

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: to be determined

Synopsis: Today will be a celebration of ministry and mission at LHUMC in worship and at Charge Conference (between worship services).

Felt need: To celebrate our ministry and mission

Visuals: Jellybeans

Media possibility:

- "The Time You Have" by Ze Frank. Length: 2:44. Cost: Free. How will you spend the time you have? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOksW_NabEk.

Activity: Mission Trip Sharing

Music: "Do Something" by Matthew West

The "E" Word – Evangelism Means Sharing "Good News"

September 20, 2015: "Come and See"

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: John 1: 43-51

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

New Living Translation

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me."

⁴⁴Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown.

⁴⁵Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth."

⁴⁶"Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

"Come and see for yourself," Philip replied.

⁴⁷As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of

complete integrity.”

⁴⁸“How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.”

⁴⁹Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”

⁵⁰Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” ⁵¹Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.”

***Scripture:** Matthew 9: 35-38 **The Workers Are Few** Contemporary English Version

³⁵ Jesus went to every town and village. He taught in their meeting places and preached the good news about God’s kingdom. Jesus also healed every kind of disease and sickness.

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them. They were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He said to his disciples, “A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. ³⁸ Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in.”

***Scripture:** Luke 10: 1-2 **Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two** Contemporary English Version

¹ Later the Lord chose seventy-two other followers and sent them out two by two to every town and village where he was about to go.

² He said to them:

A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in.

*We will use Matthew 9: 35-38 or Luke 10: 1-2.

Synopsis: Personal invitation is the most effective way to bring new people into a church. Jesus meets us where we are. His invitation to each of us is personal - to be in relationship with him. But it doesn’t stop there. When we experience that personal relationship with him, then we also take the initiative to invite others in the same way he invites us: “Come and see.” Our challenge today is much the same as it was for the disciples - that there are many who could be invited, but not enough people inviting. We cannot wait for people to come through the church door; we must engage people where they are in the world.

Felt need: To invite people into a relationship with Jesus

Visuals: Invitation (written or Evite/Facebook event). Pictures of places around Muskegon: coffee shop, bar, lake, restaurant, symphony, hospital, school

Media possibilities:

- “Stranger.” Length: 4:00. Cost: We own it. Used on 9/28/14 and 4/2/15. Man takes foot washing to the streets.
- “It’s Your Move.” Length: 3:25. Cost: \$14.99. The world is full of people hurting, searching and hoping for more. What are you going to do when it’s your move to step in and show them the light against all the darkness of the world? Will you make that move? (<https://skitguys.com/videos/item/its-your-move>).
- “It Starts with an Invitation.” Length: 2:11. Cost: \$19.98. People are especially responsive to

an invitation to your church services when invited by a friend, co-worker, family member, or neighbor. (<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/56427/it-starts-with-an-invitation>)

- “Invite 2.” Length: 2:15. Cost: \$20.00. We all need to invite someone to church.

<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/33887/invite-2>

Activity: Cards in the bulletin – one side with FRAN acronym (Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors). Invite people each week to put down names, praying for those people and then inviting them. Other side – space to write things like why they like their church, what it means to them, how to sum up in 25 words or less why they think church is important to them.

Music: #569 “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”; #572 “Pass It On”

September 27, 2015: “Know Your Own Story – and Tell It!” 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Galatians 1: 13-24 **Paul Called by God** Contemporary English Version

¹³You know how I used to live as a Jew. I was cruel to God’s church and even tried to destroy it.

¹⁴I was a much better Jew than anyone else my own age, and I obeyed every law that our ancestors had given us. ¹⁵But even before I was born, God had chosen me. He was kind and had decided ¹⁶to show me his Son, so that I would announce his message to the Gentiles. I didn’t talk this over with anyone. ¹⁷I didn’t say a word, not even to the men in Jerusalem who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went at once to Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸Three years later I went to visit Peter in Jerusalem and stayed with him for fifteen days. ¹⁹The only other apostle I saw was James, the Lord’s brother. ²⁰And in the presence of God I swear I am telling the truth.

²¹Later, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²²But no one who belonged to Christ’s churches in Judea had ever seen me in person. ²³They had only heard that the one who had been cruel to them was now preaching the message that he had once tried to destroy. ²⁴And because of me, they praised God.

Scripture: Philemon 1: 4-7 **Thanksgiving and Prayer** The Message

⁴Every time your name comes up in my prayers, I say, “Oh, thank you, God!”

⁵I keep hearing of the love and faith you have for the Master Jesus, which brims over to other Christians. ⁶And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it. ⁷Friend, you have no idea how good your love makes me feel, doubly so when I see your hospitality to fellow believers.

Synopsis: Taking the time to write down our story in a way that makes it easy to tell is important as we seek to make disciples. Our story is unique, and God is glorified through our story. Sharing faith with honesty and integrity helps others to know God’s grace, and telling our faith story helps us to grow in faith.

Felt need: To know and tell our own faith story

Visuals:

Media possibilities:

- “An Atheist Find Answers.” Length: 6:09. Cost: \$15.00. This former atheist shares her testimony about how she came to the realization of Christ. <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/47225/an-atheist-finds-answers>
- “Testify.” Length: 4:02. Cost: \$20.00. Girl needs Christ. Girl meets Christ. Girl’s life is revolutionized by Christ. <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/6029/testify>

Activity: Share testimony

Music: #156 “I Love to Tell the Story”; #593 “Here I Am, Lord”; “Words I Would Say” by the Sidewalk Prophets

October 4, 2015: “Get Out of the Way!”

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 19: 1-10 **Zacchaeus the Tax Collector** Today’s New International Version

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.

²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

Synopsis: Zacchaeus is a model of total transformation. His encounter with Jesus changed his life completely. We cannot predict how God will move in people’s lives, and we have to remember that God does the work of transformation. Our witness is vital, but God is at work in ways that are surprising and unexpected. Our role as followers of Jesus is to invite, make room, and witness to God’s grace in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

Felt need: To invite, make room, and witness God’s grace in our lives and in the lives of those around us

World Communion Sunday, Bring a Friend Sunday, CROP Walk

Visuals:

Media possibilities:

- “Zacchaeus in the Tree.” Length: 0:28. Cost: \$12.00. Black and white clip from a very old movie. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/18251/zacchaeus-in-the-tree>
- “Old Guys.” Length: 0:51. Cost: \$20.00. You are now free to share your faith. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/9928/old-guys>

Children’s video: “Jesus and Zack.” Length: 1:46. A short, funny animation about “Jesus and Zack” – a prime example of how Jesus loves everyone, even those who people despise.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUQWsYwu3F4

Activity: Holy Communion
Music: #617 "I Come with Joy"

How We Think About Money or Money Matter: Earn, Save, Give

Jesus talked about many things, including money and treasure. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, sought to give clear direction on how followers of Jesus should relate to money. In one of his sermons call "The Use of Money," Wesley offered three directives: "Having, first, gained all you can, and secondly saved all you can, then give all you can." In Scripture, "the love of money," not money itself, is call "the root of all kinds of evil." Money itself isn't the issue, but our relationship to it – how we view money, how we use it – is the bigger issue. It's a spiritual issue, and giving is a spiritual discipline.

These two parables may provide an overall theme:
Luke 16: 1-13 **The Parable of the Dishonest Manager**
Luke 12: 13-21 **The Parable of the Foolish Farmer**

October 11, 2015: "Earn All You Can"

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Proverbs 31

Contemporary English Version

¹These are the sayings that King Lemuel of Massa was taught by his mother.

²My son Lemuel, you were born in answer to my prayers, so listen carefully. ³Don't waste your life chasing after women! This has ruined many kings. ⁴Kings and leaders should not get drunk or even want to drink. ⁵Drinking makes you forget your responsibilities, and you mistreat the poor. ⁶Beer and wine are only for the dying or for those who have lost all hope. ⁷Let them drink and forget how poor and miserable they feel. ⁸But you must defend those who are helpless and have no hope. ⁹Be fair and give justice to the poor and homeless.

In Praise of a Good Wife

¹⁰A truly good wife is the most precious treasure a man can find! ¹¹Her husband depends on her, and she never lets him down. ¹²She is good to him every day of her life, ¹³and with her own hands she gladly makes clothes. ¹⁴She is like a sailing ship that brings food from across the sea. ¹⁵She gets up before daylight to prepare food for her family and for her servants. ¹⁶She knows how to buy land and how to plant a vineyard, ¹⁷and she always works hard. ¹⁸She knows when to buy or sell, and she stays busy until late at night. ¹⁹She spins her own cloth, ²⁰and she helps the poor and the needy. ²¹Her family has warm clothing, and so she doesn't worry when it snows. ²²She does her own sewing, and everything she wears is beautiful.

²³Her husband is a well-known and respected leader in the city.

²⁴She makes clothes to sell to the shop owners. ²⁵She is strong and graceful, as well as cheerful about the future. ²⁶Her words are sensible, and her advice is thoughtful. ²⁷She takes good care of her family and is never lazy.

²⁸Her children praise her, and with great pride her husband says, ²⁹"There are many

good women, but you are the best!”

³⁰Charm can be deceiving, and beauty fades away, but a woman who honors the Lord deserves to be praised. ³¹Show her respect—praise her in public for what she has done.

Synopsis: This may sound very strange to our ears, and yet Scripture consistently lifts up the positive results of hard work, and Wesley was clear that each of us has a calling to pursue. We’re called to gain all we can by honest industry, with common sense, without paying too high a price - not at the expense of your health, your soul, or your neighbor - and by honoring God.

Felt need: to value hard work and work hard

Visuals:

Media possibilities: “Made to Work.” Length: 1:20. Cost: \$20.00. “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” Colossians 3: 23.

<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/48002/made-to-work>

Activity:

Music: #344 “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

October 18, 2015: “Save All You Can”

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 6: 19-24

Treasure

The Message

¹⁹“Don’t hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars.

²⁰Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it’s safe from moth and rust and burglars. ²¹It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

²²“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. ²³If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!

²⁴“You can’t worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you’ll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can’t worship God and Money both.

Synopsis: There is wisdom in saving - in gaining all we can gradually. We’ve seen the outcome of some who “come into wealth” quickly. “Get rich quick” isn’t a formula for fruitful living; rather, making wise investments is a part of being a faithful steward of all of God’s gifts. Prudence in terms of our finances is an important characteristic in a world where we wait for nothing and we want it all - and we want it now! How do we make a plan that honors God as the Giver of all and that we can follow consistently and faithfully?

Felt need: To save and invest wisely

Visuals:

Media possibility:

- “A Sound Investment.” Length: 3:32. Cost: \$15.00. It’s a normal day at the financial planning office...until a man comes in looking for investments that will last for eternity.

<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/61405/a-sound-investment>

- “You Can’t Take It with You.” Length: 0:55. Cost: \$5.00. This video points to the folly of

storing up treasures on earth.

<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/15503/you-cant-take-it-with-you>

- “Free After Four.” This split-screen video illustrates the meaning of “saving to give.”

<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/53303/free-after-four>

Activity: Introduce a 10-10-80 plan (10% for God, 10% for the future, 80% to live on)

Music:

October 25, 2015: “Give All You Can”

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 12: 41-44

The Widow’s Offering

New International Version

⁴¹Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

⁴³Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Synopsis: Jesus’ teaching on how we use money is powerful when we consider proportionate giving. He is much more concerned with how our giving personally affects us rather than how our giving affects the church or anyone else. Our giving to God should be sacrificial and make a difference in our lives. Charitable giving is important, but faithful stewardship is a deeper, transformational experience. It affects every part of our lives.

Felt need: To give proportionately

Commitment Sunday, New Members Received, Reaffirmation of Holy Baptism

Visuals:

Media possibility:

- “Total Surrender.” Length: 3:58. Cost: \$20.00. Here is a living illustration of an African woman who lost her children and husband in the wars, laying down the greatest gift during the offering. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/26457/total-surrender>
- “Heart of Giving.” Length: 1:47. Cost: \$20.00. A modern day look at the widow’s offering. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/26457/total-surrender>

Activities:

Music: #399 “Take My Life, and Let It Be”; #354 “I Surrender All”

November 1, 2015: “No More Tears”

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Revelation 21: 1-6

New Jerusalem

Contemporary English Version

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and so had the sea.

² Then I saw New Jerusalem, that holy city, coming down from God in heaven. It was like a bride dressed in her wedding gown and ready to meet her husband.

³ I heard a loud voice shout from the throne:

God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people. ⁴ He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever.

⁵Then the one sitting on the throne said:

I am making everything new. Write down what I have said. My words are true and can be trusted. ⁶ Everything is finished! I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give water from the life-giving fountain to everyone who is thirsty

Synopsis: Revelation is full of strange images, but the idea of an end to grief captures our hearts. We trust in God's promise to make all things new - maybe not right now - but ultimately. God is with us even as we grieve. There will be peace and comfort.

Felt need: To find comfort in God's promise of "no more tears"

Visuals:

Media possibilities:

Activity: Holy Communion, reading names of those who have died since last All Saints Day

Music: "There Will Be a Day" by Jeremy Camp; #383 "This Is a Day of New Beginnings"