

# WELCOME TO



Lutheran Yes! is a way of experiencing confirmation that centers you in YES.

- God says YES to you as a beloved child.
- If you are baptized, your family said YES to making promises about raising you in the Christian faith.
- If you are not baptized, your grown-ups said YES to you being part of this confirmation program to learn more about baptism and the Christian faith.
- You are invited to say YES during the Affirmation of Baptism worship service that happens at the end of this confirmation program.
- You can say YES to being part of a larger community of Lutheran Christians in this congregation, your community, and all around the world.
- You will encounter God's YES on your faith journey throughout your whole life.

This Student Quest Book will be your guide through ten sessions where you'll learn about Lutheran worship and why it matters for growing in your Christian faith.

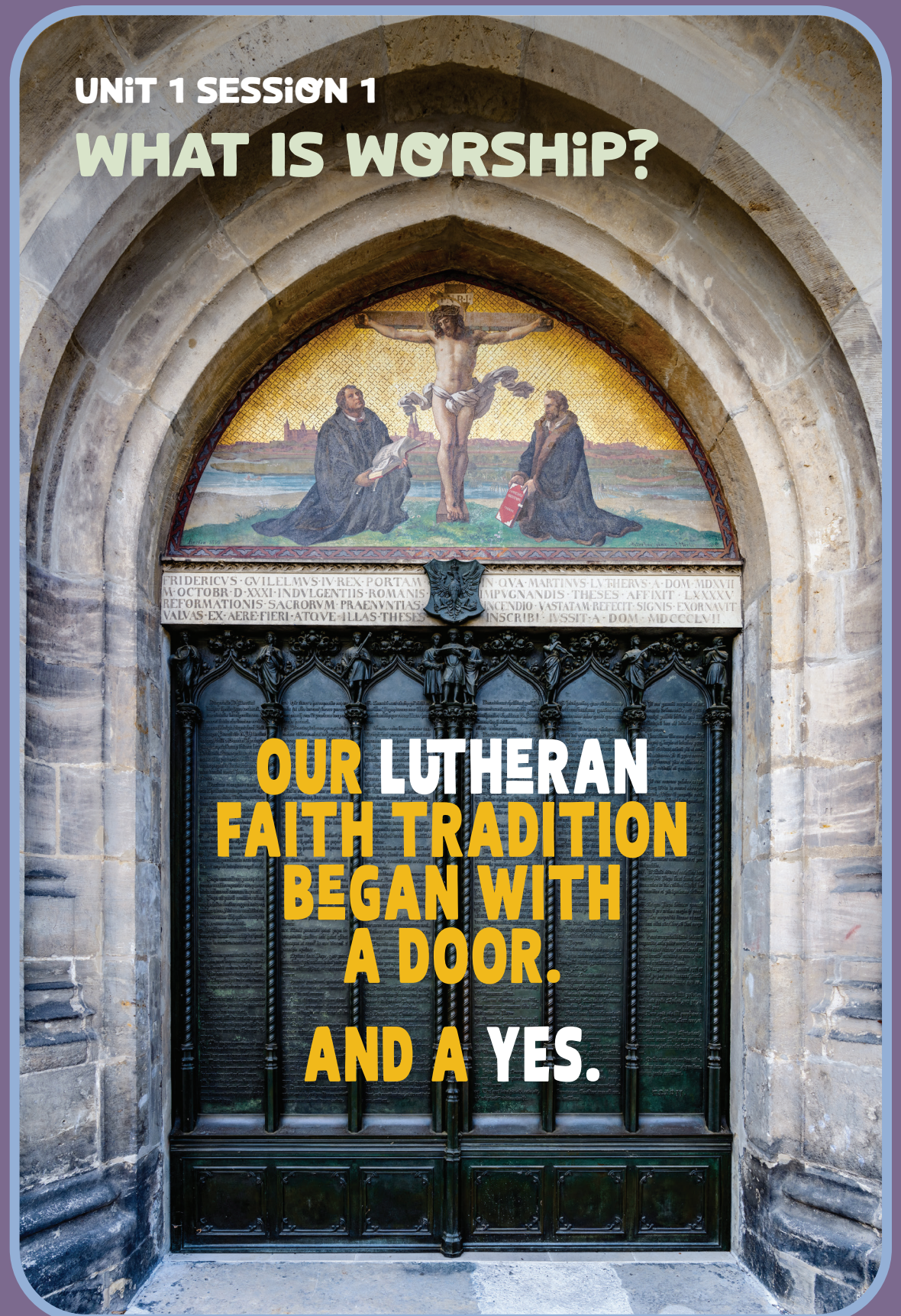
Each session features one or more Quests. Your small group leader will describe them and then you'll choose one to try. Use this book as you complete each Quest. It has places to write, sketch, and even cut out pages.

You'll also find helpful resources at the back—the Affirmation of Baptism part of a worship service and Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

As you begin this journey of learning about Lutheran worship, remember this: God always says YES to you!

## UNIT 1 SESSION 1

# WHAT IS WORSHIP?



**OUR LUTHERAN  
FAITH TRADITION  
BEGAN WITH  
A DOOR.  
AND A YES.**



QUEST 1

# WORLDWIDE WORSHIP

- 1 **First Lutheran Church**  
Albany, New York
- 2 **Millennium Lutheran Cathedral**  
Ngaoundere, Cameroon
- 3 **Castle Church**  
Wittenberg, Germany
- 4 **Chapel of the Snows**  
Antarctica
- 5 **La Central**  
Managua, Nicaragua
- 6 **Sea-town Church**  
Cuddalore, India
- 7 **Hallgrímskirka**  
Reykjavik, Iceland

On the next few pages, you can see and read about some places of worship all around the world. Then you can write about your own church.



**What's the name of this church?**

First Lutheran Church

**Where is it?** Albany, New York

**When did it begin?** This church dates back to 1649. The First Lutheran Church community has worshiped in four different buildings over hundreds of years. Churches like First Lutheran help us understand how a church is more than the building where the community meets. The church is the people!

**What is worship like?** Worship at First Lutheran follows the pattern of worship in many Lutheran churches, with ministers leading the congregation through songs, prayers, readings, and more.

**Fun Fact:** First Lutheran Church is the oldest congregation within our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). If you visited, you could look for the swans in the stained glass windows.



**What's the name of this church?**

Millennium Lutheran Cathedral

**Where is it?** Ngaoundere, Cameroon

**When did it begin?** The building process started in 2000 with the goal to build a church for the third millennium. The building was dedicated in 2008. The following year, the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon was installed in this church. (When a bishop is *installed*, that means that many church members gather together to formally receive the bishop during a worship service.)

**What is worship like?** Usually there are two worship services on Sunday mornings. The early service is in French. The later service is in the Fulani language.

**Fun Fact:** In October 2023, ministry partners from around the world gathered at the Millennium Cathedral to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon.



**What's the name of this church?**

Castle Church (also called All Saints' Church)

**Where is it?** Wittenberg, Germany

**When did it begin?** This church was built between 1489 and 1509. They built this church on the foundation of a castle built there in the 1300s.

**What is worship like?** People from around the world worship at this church. Ministers there lead services in German and English. This church is an important historical site visited by many people from around the world.

**Fun Fact:** This church was the place where Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses in 1517. (*Theses* are important statements or big ideas.) Lutherans from around the world visit this church in Wittenberg to see the bronze doors there now, which are inscribed with the 95 theses.



**What's the name of this church?**

Chapel of the Snows

**Where is it?** On Ross Island in Antarctica

**When did it begin?** This church was consecrated in 1956. (*Consecrated* means that it was formally set apart for the holy purpose of being a place of worship.) It was destroyed by fire in 1978, rebuilt, destroyed by fire again in 1991, and rebuilt again.

**What is worship like?** Both Roman Catholic and Protestant worship services are held in this chapel. Catholic priests lead the Catholic mass. Protestant chaplains lead the Protestant services. This worship space can hold about 60 people.

**Fun Fact:** Chapel of the Snows is one of eight churches in Antarctica. If you visited, you could look for the penguins in the stained glass windows.

What I notice about this church:

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**What's the name of this church?**  
Iglesia Luterana “Fe y Esperanza” de Nicaragua (it’s also called “La Central”)

**Where is it?** Managua, Nicaragua

**When did it begin?** The church was established in 1996. Following the consecration of Bishop Victoria Cortéz Rodríguez in 2004, the sanctuary became the central community under her leadership.

**What is worship like?** The worshipping community celebrates on Sunday mornings. They have a youth choir that leads the music, and there is high community engagement across the various liturgical spaces.

**Fun Fact:** The church operates as a multi-purpose building. In addition to worship, it is used for community workshops; pastoral meetings for children, youth, and women; assemblies; and various other activities.

What I notice about this church:



**What's the name of this church?**  
Sea-town Church, part of the Arcot Lutheran Resurrection Church (ALRC)

**Where is it?** Cuddalore, India

**When did it begin?** This church was built in the year 1930.

**What is worship like?** Weekly worship services follow the traditional Danish Lutheran order of worship. Special revival prayers and meetings are periodically conducted.

**Fun Fact:** When you visit the Sea-town Church, one of ALRC’s oldest congregations, you can hear the bell that was brought from Germany and view nearly a century-old exquisite stained glass that shows the resurrected Christ.

What I notice about this church:



**What's the name of this church?**  
Hallgrímskirkja (pronounced HALL-grims-keer-ka)

**Where is it?** Reykjavik, Iceland, which is the capital city of Iceland

**When did it begin?** An architect began designing this church in 1937. Construction on this church began in 1945. It was finally consecrated in 1986.

**What is worship like?** Weekly worship services are held at Hallgrímskirkja on Sunday mornings. The church also holds baptisms, weddings, funerals, and confirmation services. Each week, church staff members also welcome many visitors who want to see this beautiful, unusual church.

**Fun Fact:** Hallgrímskirkja is named to honor Hallgrímur Pétursson, one of Iceland’s greatest and most beloved poets. The exterior of Hallgrímskirkja is designed to look like the basalt rock formations found throughout Iceland.

What I notice about this church:

Sketch your church here. Then add a star to the map to show its location.

**What's the name of your church?**

**Where is it?**

**When did it begin?**

**What is worship like?**

**Fun Fact:**

**NOW THAT YOU HAVE SEEN  
SOME LUTHERAN CHURCHES  
AROUND THE WORLD,  
ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:**

Which church would you like to **visit** and why?

What looks **different** about these buildings compared to our church?

What do you think might be **similar** to our church?

**NOW IT'S YOUR TURN  
TO GET BUILDING!**

**LOOK AT THE MAP ON PAGES 6-7.  
CHOOSE A PLACE ANYWHERE IN  
THE WORLD TO BUILD A CHURCH.  
SKETCH YOUR IDEAS FOR THE CHURCH  
EXTERIOR IN THE SPACE TO THE RIGHT.  
THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.**

What's the **name** of this church?

**Where** is it?

**When** will it be built?

What is **worship** like?

**FUN FACT:**

What I think people will **notice** about this church is:

# DRAWN TO WORSHIP

**FOR MORE THAN 500 YEARS, LUTHERANS ALL AROUND THE WORLD HAVE BEEN WORSHIPING TOGETHER.**

Our buildings, our languages, and our communities may look different, but many parts of Lutheran worship have been the same across all these years.

Take a look at the nine **Elements of Worship**. (They are listed in alphabetical order, not the order they happen in worship.) In your pair or small group, read each part out loud. Then try the next part of the activity on page 16.

The words in quotation marks come from an important book called *The Use of the Means of Grace*. This book describes many of the ELCA's teachings about worship.

## BAPTISM

**Holy Baptism** is one of two sacraments in our Lutheran faith. As Lutherans, we believe this: "A person is baptized once. Because of the unfailing nature of God's promise, and because of God's once-for-all action in Christ, Baptism is not repeated" (page 22).

## COMMUNION

**Holy Communion** is one of two sacraments in our Lutheran faith. As Lutherans, we believe this: "Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith" (page 36).

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

**Confession** happens when we confess our sins to God. We can do this during worship or individually. Then we receive **forgiveness** for all our sins! (Sometimes this is called absolution.) As Lutherans, we say: "Confession and absolution continually reconcile the baptized to the mission of Christ" (page 56).

## CREEDS

A **creed** is a statement of belief. Lutherans use three Creeds that have all been around for more than 1,000 years: Apostles' (kinda long), Nicene (pretty long), and Athanasian (very long). The Apostles' Creed is the creed Lutherans usually say during worship. All three creeds affirm that Jesus Christ is both God and human.

## MUSIC

As Lutherans, we believe that "**Music** is a servant of the Gospel and a principal means of worshiping God in Lutheran churches" (page 16). Usually, Lutheran worship includes music before, during, and after the service.

## PEACE

In many congregations, after praying for the whole world in the prayers of intercession, people share the gift of Christ's **peace** with each other. People hug, shake hands, show the peace sign, or make another sign of peace. Christians have been sharing the peace with each other for 2,000 years.

## PRAYERS

A worship service usually includes many kinds of **prayers** sung or spoken at different times. Sometimes a worship leader says the prayer, sometimes the whole congregation says the prayer together, and sometimes worshipers say silent prayers heard only by God.

## READINGS

During worship, **readings** from the Bible may be from the Old Testament (also called the Hebrew Scriptures), one of the New Testament letters, and one of the Gospels. Sometimes a psalm is sung or read as a response to the first reading. Lutheran Christians believe that the story of God's steadfast love and mercy in Jesus is the heart and center of what the scriptures have to say.

## SERMON

A pastor, deacon, or other leader preaches a **sermon** during the worship service. As Lutherans, we believe this: "Preaching is the living and contemporary voice of one who interprets in all the Scriptures the things concerning Jesus Christ. . . . The preacher proclaims our need of God's grace and freely offers that grace, equipping the community for mission and service in daily life" (page 15).

# WHOLE BODY WORSHIP

**DID YOU KNOW? THE BIBLE DESCRIBES MANY WAYS THAT OUR BODIES CAN MOVE TO WORSHIP GOD. SOMETIMES WE CALL THOSE POSITIONS WORSHIP POSTURES.**

**Look up** these verses about worship. Draw a line to **connect** what each one says about a posture for worship to the image of that posture.



Psalm  
22:27

Matthew  
28:9

Psalm  
95:6

Psalm  
96:9



Genesis  
24:26



Nehemiah  
8:6



**NOW THAT YOU'VE LEARNED A LITTLE MORE ABOUT EACH ELEMENT OF WORSHIP, CHOOSE ONE OF THEM TO INVESTIGATE.**

**Circle it.**

Find a place in the worship space or other spot where this Element of Worship happens.

Sit or stand in that space for a few minutes. Imagine what it looks (and sounds and feels and smells) like during worship.



Then **sketch** that scene in the space below.

**NOW, ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP POSTURES.**

Which of these worship postures have you tried during worship?  
Put a **checkmark** by those.

Which would you like to try? Write **“I’ll try it!”** by those.

Which would you like to say “pass” to? Put an **X** by those.

Which would be the most fun to see your congregation do during worship?  
Put an **exclamation point** by those.



Do you need to be **inside a church building** to use any of these postures of worship? Why or why not?

If you were planning a worship service, which **posture** would you want to include?

If you introduced a **new** posture of worship, what would it be?

**ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP PRAYERS**

**READ THROUGH THESE PRAYERS.**  
**EACH PRAYER IS CONNECTED TO ONE**  
**OF THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP.**



<p><b>BAPTISM</b> Thank you, Holy Spirit, that you have claimed us as your own in baptism.</p>	<p><b>COMMUNION</b> Thank you, Lord, that we get to eat at your table with you and each other.</p>	<p><b>CONFESSION &amp; FORGIVENESS</b> Praise to you, Jesus, that we can confess our sins and be forgiven.</p>
<p><b>CREEDS</b> Thank you, Creator, Healer, and Sustainer, for inviting us to believe in you.</p>	<p><b>MUSIC</b> We praise you, God, that our joy for you overflows into song and music and art.</p>	<p><b>PEACE</b> Praise to you, Holy Spirit, for giving us the peace that surpasses all understanding.</p>
<p><b>PRAYERS</b> Thank you, God, that you hear our prayers and will always listen to us.</p>	<p><b>READINGS</b> We praise you, Lord, for the stories of your saving grace passed down to us through generations.</p>	<p><b>SERMON</b> Thank you, Jesus, for your servants who preach the good news to all.</p>

**PSSSST.**  
**ON THE BACK OF EACH PRAYER**  
**IS THAT ELEMENT'S ICON.**



## UNIT 1 SESSION 2

# ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

**REMEMBER THESE? HERE ARE SYMBOLS FOR NINE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP. WRITE THE NAME OF EACH ONE BY ITS SYMBOL. (IF YOU NEED A HINT, LOOK AT PAGES 14-15.)**



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