

Revitalizing Worship at Bethel

Crafted by the Transforming Worship Initiative Task Force

Component #1

Bethel's New Worship Schedule (Launching September 14th, 2008)

9:00am – Traditional Liturgical Worship

10:30am – Contemporary Worship

10:00am to 10:30am – Fellowship / Coffee time

9:15am to 10:15am – Kid Connection

9:00am – Adult Education Session #1, 10:30am – Adult Education Session #2

Component #2

Diversify the use of liturgy at the 9:00am service by introducing the new “Evangelical Lutheran Worship” hymnal that includes both old (LBW Setting #2) and new liturgies as well as an increased selection of hymnody.

Component #3

Increase and diversify the musical offerings at the 9:00am service. This will include increased participation by the adult choir and a renewed emphasis on identifying and cultivated musical talent within the worshipping community. We will be emphasizing spirited creativity utilizing our vast heritage of high quality sacred music.

Component #4

Increase and diversify the musical offerings at the 10:30am service. This will include increased participation by the adult choir, an ongoing emphasis on identifying and cultivating musical talent within the worshipping community and an expanded song repertoire, including both current music and hymns. We will continue to rock the house with praise each week.

Component #5

Continue Bethel's long history of innovation at the 10:30am service by increasing the use of video, drama and other experiential worship methods. Our goal is to go beyond the realm of “contemporary” worship and create new pathways for worshipers to connect with God.

Component #6

Develop and multiply small groups as the primary method for adult education, assimilation and spiritual growth at Bethel. The two worship surveys revealed that there is both an abiding spiritual hunger and a sense of disconnectedness in our community. We believe small groups will address both these issues.

FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

Why move to a two-service schedule?

Our greatest hope is that this move will allow us to better focus our time, energy and resources on creating two of the most vibrant worship services in Silicon Valley. Additionally, we anticipate this move will facilitate greater participation by our volunteer musicians and create a semi-formal fellowship time between services to increase congregational unity.

Why move the service times to 9:00am and 10:30am?

First, we set the service times based on your overwhelming response in the second survey. You voted by a 2 to 1 margin for this schedule. Second, we sought to create year-round service times that will not shift in the summer.

What impact will this have on Kid Connection?

The task force spent more time on this single issue than any other. While we recognize the potential drawbacks of asking families with children to arrive at church 30 minutes earlier, we pray that this shift will not detract from this crucially important ministry. This fall we will also be “beefing up” the Kid Connection program with an increased emphasis on mentorship utilizing the skills and creativity of our 7-12 grade youth.

What impact will this have on adult education?

The task force had to make some tough choices and eliminating a dedicated Sunday morning education hour was by far the toughest. In the end, we agreed that revitalizing the worship services was a more important goal. We will continue Bethel's long history of providing adult education classes on Sunday mornings on a rotating basis at both 9:00am & 10:30am. In addition, we will be transitioning to an emphasis on small groups in the fall.

A short note from the task force

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

After four months of meetings, two surveys, numerous visits to other churches and consistent prayer, we are pleased to offer a worship revitalization plan for your consideration. This is your plan, not ours. Your responses to the two surveys and in countless conversations, both formal and casual, helped shape the foundation of this proposal. At the same time, we trust that God's grace is the beating heart that powers us forward. Thank you to all who participated in the process. We hope you are as excited as we are for where God is leading Bethel. Peace,

The Transforming Worship Initiative Task Force

(Janice Martinson, Jean Teed, Ordetta Hovland, Kris Halvorson, Norita Hoegel, Pastor Randy, Pastor Rick, with special help from Randy Shattuck)