



**CENTER FOR
WORSHIP
LEADERSHIP**

The central graphic features a white circular logo with a stylized blue 'W' and 'L' intertwined. Below the logo, the text "CENTER FOR WORSHIP LEADERSHIP" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a dark blue background.

**CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY**
IRVINE



OUR MISSION

As a ministry of Concordia University Irvine, the Center for Worship Leadership (CWL) exists to encourage leaders of worship — music directors, church musicians, tech directors, and preachers — with confessionally Lutheran, contextually artistic, and gospel-rooted resources and experiences.



WORSHIP THEOLOGY



MINISTRY LEADERSHIP



PRACTICAL SKILLS

We promote theology, ministry leadership, and practical skills as the three core competencies of worship arts ministry.



Welcome

Every worship service is an opportunity to hear and experience the heart-turning, lifegiving Word of God, and every leader of worship has been given a part to play in its proclamation. If you are involved in leading worship, we hope that you find something here that encourages and helps you in your craft for the sake of the Gospel. Our team is proud to devote our work to encouraging and supporting leaders of worship — we give thanks to God for the many gifts he has given His people to serve in His kingdom!

Rev. Steve Zank

Director, Center for Worship Leadership



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SUPPORT CWL



VISIT the CWL YouTube channel for music videos, Podcast Episodes, Interviews, and more!



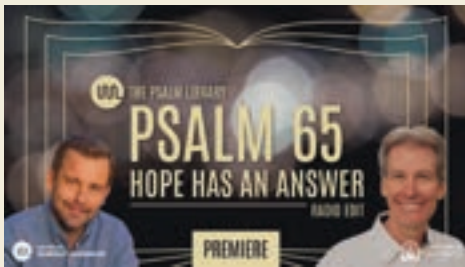
Worship as a Wormhole | Zac Hicks @ 2022 WALi Summit



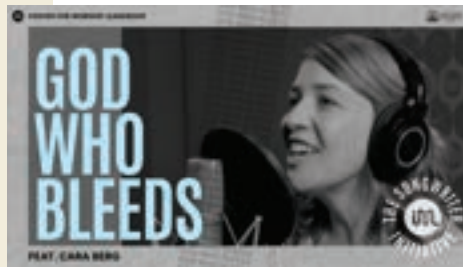
The Songwriter Initiative: Who Are We We Are



The Psalm Library - Psalm 1 (That Man) [Official Video]



The Psalm Library - Psalm 65 (Hope Has An Answer) Radio Edit [Premiere Video]



The Songwriter Initiative - God Who Bleeds [OFFICIAL VIDEO] - feat. Cara Berg



A History of Contemporary Praise and Worship Part 1 (Lim, Ruth)



WALi Summit 2024



The Songwriter Initiative - Songwriter Retreat 2023



The Psalm Library - Psalm 56 (Your Promise) [Lyric Video]

Connect with CWL

SOCIAL MEDIA

For regular updates, song releases, encouragement, and more, follow the Center for Worship Leadership on these Social Media Platforms.



Facebook.com/cwlcui



Instagram.com/cwl_cui



Twitter.com/cwl_cui



Youtube.com/@cwl



QUESTIONS?
Visit CUI.EDU/CWL



CONTACT us
CWL@CUI.EDU



SCAN the QR code to
connect with CWL.



WALi THE WORSHIP ARTS LEADER INITIATIVE

THE WORSHIP ARTS LEADER INITIATIVE (WALI) exists to gather leaders of worship for experiences of common support, empowered learning, and professional inspiration.

CONNECT WITH WALI



WALI FACEBOOK GROUP
Join the Worship Arts Leader Initiative (WALi) Facebook group, where practitioners ask questions and share insights to a variety of ministry situations.



WALI TECH-ARTS SLACK CHANNEL
A digital workspace platform where tech-directors share ideas, send messages, and work together on techsolutions to support the proclamation of the gospel in their congregations.

The Worship Arts Leader Initiative

2024 WALI SUMMIT

Join us **October 1-3, 2024** at Risen Savior in Chandler, AZ for the 2024 WALi Summit.



The 2024 WALi Summit is intentionally designed to address the needs of worship arts ministry staff, volunteer leaders, team members, Pastors, and students preparing for church worker vocations.

Through built-in time for one-on-one conversations with friends and presenters/clinicians alike, our hope is that the Summit will give you the opportunity to find answers that will help you, and people who can readily support you.



Scan the QR code to learn more and register.



“ *The relationships, support, and skill-building opportunities that I have found within The Songwriter Initiative community have been an incredible blessing to me as an individual and as a developing songwriter. I wondered initially if I had a place within this group, and quickly found that I do — it is not just for “established” writers or church workers. I found a family here amongst friends of all different backgrounds and walks of life, that are unified and likeminded in their faith and love for creativity and worship. It’s truly a place where you can be who you are, bring what you have, and be met with encouragement, support, and love.*

EMILY BARTELS



WELCOME

Songs are a gift from God. The Songwriter Initiative (TSI) exists to find, connect, and develop songwriters of all levels so that they might find joy and fulfillment in their craft and better serve their church and neighbor through song. If you enjoy the craft of songwriting, if you are looking for a community that will encourage you, we would love for you to join us!

KIP FOX

Director, The Songwriter Initiative



THE TSI COMMUNITY



DAILY Slack

A digital workspace platform where over 120 writers are currently sharing songs, sending messages, and working together on song development.



MONTHLY Zoom

A virtual session held once a month with an average of 30 members submitting and sharing new songs while also learning from special guests.



SCAN the QR code to listen

The Songwriter Initiative



TSI ANNUAL RETREAT

This three-day annual retreat, held on the campus of Concordia University Irvine, provides an intimate experience that encourages and celebrates the talents and gifts of TSI members. Attendees spend the majority of their time co-writing with other songwriters. Register early, as a limited number of spaces are available to provide an intimate experience for attendees.

TSI PUBLISHING

As a bi-product of this community of Lutheran songwriters, TSI records and releases songs written by TSI community members in an effort to serve the Lutheran church and the church-at-large.

SONGS & SONGWRITERS

Surrounding Me

Colby Key - St. John Lutheran, Beaumont, TX
Nick Taylor - Summit Community, Buckey, AZ
Tom Zelt - Prince of Peace Lutheran, Fremont, CA

God Who Bleeds

Cara Berg - Prince of Peace Lutheran, Fremont, CA
Benji Cowart - Nashville, TN
Jon Gruen - Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Lee's Summit, MO
Matt Preston - Christ Greenfield, Gilbert, AZ

Without Hesitation

Kevin Bueltmann - Shepherds Canyon, Wickenburg, AZ
Kip Fox - St. Luke Lutheran, Mesa, AZ
Matt Preston - Christ Greenfield, Gilbert, AZ
Marlene Lamb - Christ Greenfield, Gilbert, AZ

Inhale

Emily Bartels - The Way Church, Columbia IL
Kip Fox - St. Luke Lutheran, Mesa, AZ

Take Me With You

Emily Bartels - The Way Church, Columbia IL
Adam Lamb - Christ Greenfield, Gilbert AZ
Ben Lange - Faith Oakville, St. Louis, MO

Even This

Benji Cowart - Nashville, TN
Heather Choate Davis - Faith Lutheran, Venice, CA
Adam Lamb - Christ Greenfield, Gilbert AZ
Ben Lange - Faith Oakville, St. Louis, MO

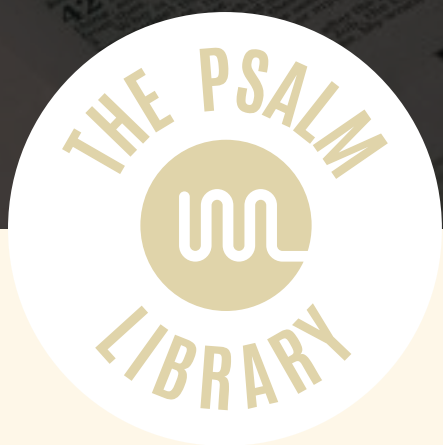
Come to Bethany

Heather Choate Davis - Faith Lutheran, Venice, CA
Hayden Lukas - St. Martin Lutheran, Clintonville WI
Stephan Nosrat - St. John's Lutheran, Orange, CA

What I Found

Nyssa Lytikainen - Messiah Church, Midland, MI
Adam Lamb - Christ Greenfield, Gilbert AZ
Heather Choate Davis - Faith Lutheran, Venice, CA
Benji Cowart - Nashville, TN

The Psalm Library



“ We tried to break down barriers which put cultural distance between the psalm and the reader, so they can think about the text in ways they might not by just reading an English translation. To do that, we had to find the theological themes that really made it tick, pull those out and express them in a modern idiom that makes sense.

- REV. DR. PAUL ELLIOTT ”



Scan the QR Code to listen

The Psalm Library exists to encourage the collaboration of theologians and songwriters in producing Psalm arrangements for the church. Collaborations involve songwriters from The Songwriter Initiative and theologians from a variety of LCMS Universities and Seminaries.

SONGS & SONGWRITERS

Psalm 1 (That Man)

featuring Ben Lange

Ben Lange – Faith Oakville, St. Louis, MO

Kip Fox – St. Luke Lutheran, Mesa, AZ

Chad Bird – Scholar In Residence, 1517

Psalm 16 (Resurrection Day)

featuring Kip Fox

Kip Fox – St. Luke Lutheran, Mesa, AZ

Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing - Concordia St. Paul

Psalm 42 (The Longest Night)

featuring Kip Fox

Kip Fox – St. Luke Lutheran, Mesa, AZ

Rev. Dr. Timothy Saleska - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Adam Countryman – Houston, TX

Psalm 56 (Your Promise)

featuring Emily Bartels

Emily Bartels - The Way Church, Columbia IL

Kip Fox - St. Luke Lutheran, Mesa, AZ

Rev. Dr. Paul Elliott - Concordia University Irvine

Psalm 65 (Hope Has An Answer)

featuring Kip Fox

Kip Fox – St. Luke Lutheran, Mesa, AZ

Rev. Dr. Mike Middendorf - Concordia University Irvine

Psalm 72 (Long Live the King)

featuring Kip Fox

Kip Fox – St. Luke Lutheran, Mesa, AZ

Rev. Dr. Paul Elliott - Concordia University Irvine

Psalm 130 (Out of the Depths)

featuring Ariel McMahon

Kip Fox – St. Luke Lutheran, Mesa, AZ

Rev. Dr. CJ Armstrong - Concordia University Irvine

Song Resources

Songs written by The Songwriter Initiative and The Psalm Library are created to resource your church with modern, Lutheran songs. Both congregational and presentational in nature, it is our sincere hope that these songs would serve your church as you seek to proclaim the Gospel and lead your people in confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord! Here is how you can find the music and the FREE lead sheets and rhytm charts.

Join the growing list of churches using CWL songs!



SCAN
for resources

Streaming on the following platforms and more!



The Liturgy Initiative



2024 LITURGIES

Lent

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter

Advent

Christmas



A good service order, liturgy, or planning template builds meaning and connection at each step. To provide turnkey resources and curate helpful liturgical models, CWL annually produces liturgies in both modern and traditional formats.



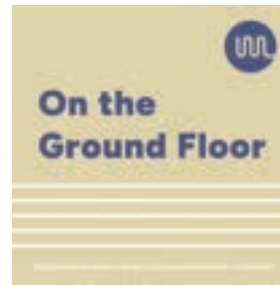
DOWNLOAD
one of our liturgical
resources today!

The Podcast Network & The Center Blog



THE PODCAST NETWORK

We explore the three core competencies of worship arts ministry — theology, ministry leadership, and practical skills — through the Center for Worship Leadership Podcast Network. Check out one of our podcasts today in your preferred podcast app!



THE CENTER BLOG

The CWL Center Blog features articles written by a variety of contributors. Read our accessible blogs on our website at CUI.EDU/CWL or listen to them on our Blogcast wherever you listen to podcasts.



The Songwriter Initiative's "Take Me With You" Theological Review - By Rev. Dr. Leo Sanchez



Reckless Love and The Different Things People Mean When They Sing - By Rev. Steve Zank

Theology of Worship Certificate



“ The Theology of Worship certificate was valuable to me in growing my understanding of broad concepts of theology through a Lutheran lens, a building of confidence with a support network of my peers, and new insights into deciphering appropriate lyrics and postures for worship settings. I’m so glad I had the resources of this program at my fingertips each week as our worship planning team was preparing services. If you are considering signing up for the Theology of Worship certificate, I highly encourage you to find a way to make it possible. You will be enriched in your faith, knowledge and confidence.

- DR. TIMOTHY JONES
VICE DEAN,
UNLV COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS



Concordia University Irvine offers an in-depth, affordable and online certificate for those looking to further their theology of worship education.

- Overall cost of the program is \$1500 and the learner will participate in three 7-week experiences over the course of a year, avoiding the busiest seasons of the church calendar.
- Students earn 9 continuing education units (CEUs) through three modules: (1) biblical theology of worship, (2) worship design, (3) issues of worship and culture.
- CEUs are for continuing education and as such do not bear academic credit or earn grades. This allows the program to be affordable and manageable while providing a robust and meaningful experience of learning.

Learn more about the Theology of Worship Certificate or reserve your spot in the 2025 online cohort by scanning the QR code.



Reserve your spot!

Support CWL



Any donations made to the Center for Worship Leadership will be used to further equip and encourage leaders of worship with confessionally Lutheran, contextually artistic, and gospel-rooted resources and experiences.





CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
IRVINE

Concordia University Irvine, a comprehensive Lutheran Christian university guided by Christ's Great Commission, develops wise, honorable, and cultivated citizens to serve society and the church.

CUI.EDU/CWL