**2023 WELS Choral Dialogue**

**Teaching Lutheran Heritage & Hymnody**

**Lead by Joel Ungemach – Manitowoc LHS**

1. Sing Hymns Daily
   1. Schedule a daily hymn during warm-ups as part of your rehearsal structure
   2. Follow the church year
   3. Awesome sight-reading opportunity
   4. For your sopranos and to challenge the group “switch parts”
   5. Opportunities present themselves to discuss text, composers, and lyricist

Resource: [NPH 2023-2024 Church Year Calendar](https://online.nph.net/church-year-calendar.html)

Resource: [Christian Worship Planning Guide](https://online.nph.net/christian-worship-planning-guide.html)

1. Sing Psalms Weekly
   1. On Wednesday we schedule the Psalm of the week
   2. Use the Psalter with its awesome variety
   3. It is a great musical challenge! The newness of the Psalm setting is challenging for all of our singers!

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Resource: [Christian Worship Planning Guide](https://online.nph.net/christian-worship-planning-guide.html)

1. Discuss Hymns
   1. Use class time, especially with hymns, to discuss the lyrics and depth of our Lutheran hymnody
   2. If you need help, the Hymns for Life curriculum is a great resource. We bought it for our department to use in choir and General Music.

Resource: [Hymns for Life Curriculum](https://online.nph.net/search?keywords=hymns%20for%20life)

1. Sacred Concerts
   1. Purposely select some hymn-based literature that you can delve deeply into while you teach it
   2. Include a hymn concertato (or two) for the choir and audience to sing together during the concert. Nothing like raising the roof with organ, brass, mass choir, and congregation/audience!
   3. As choirs change from seat to stage, have everyone sing a seasonal hymn that fits the concert theme.
2. Have students active in the worship life of your school and congregations
   1. Senior boys present chapel devotion with assistance from faculty
   2. Student musicians active as singers and musicians in the chapel worship ensemble
   3. We use a liturgical flow to our MLHS Sunday services and follow the lectionary
   4. Opening/Responsive prayer led by LS member
   5. Readings for the Sunday are read by LS members
   6. LS leads the congregation in singing the Hymn of the Day and Psalm for the Sunday
   7. LS students have a deep understanding of the liturgical format and a healthy respect for worship
3. Other
   1. General Music students have a unit on worship as part of their class
   2. Juniors and Seniors can select a Theology elective “Lutheran Worship, Music, and the Arts” that dives deep. I teach this class and would be happy to explain resources and how I carry out this class.