

Acknowledgments

S. Anita Stauffer's original work for altar guilds has been a fixture in churches everywhere since it appeared in pamphlet form in the 1970s. This fourth, revised edition of her classic reflects recent developments in liturgical practice and gives attention to the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* family of resources.

Resources which paved the way for the publication of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* in 2006, as well as resources that were published by Augsburg Fortress to assist its use and interpretation, have provided much of the updated content in this edition of *Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook*. Chief among these are *The Use of the Means of Grace*, a statement on the practice of word and sacrament adopted for guidance and practice by the Fifth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (1997); *Principles for Worship*, volume 2 of *Renewing Worship* (2002); and the Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship volumes, which include *The Sunday Assembly* (Lorraine S. Brugh and Gordon W. Lathrop, 2008), *The Christian Life: Baptism and Life Passages* (Dennis L. Bushkofsky and Craig A. Satterlee, 2008), and *Keeping Time: The Church's Years* (Gail Ramshaw and Mons Teig, 2009). Other sources of inspiration and expanded content for this revised edition include books in the Worship Matters Series (2004–2011), *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Leaders Edition* (2006), and *Leading Worship Matters: A Sourcebook for Preparing Worship Leaders* (2013).

Chapter 2, "Space," includes a discussion and descriptions of "centers of liturgical action." This content is drawn from both *Principles for Worship* and D. Foy Christopherson's *A Place of Encounter: Renewing Worship Spaces* (2004).

Commentary on the altar-table (pp. 26–27) and the ambo/pulpit (pp. 28–29) in chapter 3, and on albs and chasubles (pp. 35–37) in chapter 4, has been augmented with content drawn from *The Sunday Assembly*.

Chapter 5, “Nuts and Bolts,” provides significantly expanded suggestions and instructions for dealing with stains of all kinds as well as caring for worship appointments (pp. 48–52). It also provides practical, at-a-glance lists of standard sacristy supplies and equipment and inventory information (pp. 52–54). All of this newly added content is reprinted from the Altar Guild chapter by Maggie Akhavan in *Leading Worship Matters: A Sourcebook for Preparing Worship Leaders*.

This edition devotes an entire chapter to an explanation and exploration of the liturgical year. The content in chapter 6, “The Church Year,” is drawn from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Leaders Edition (pp. 55–59), *Keeping Time: The Church’s Year* (pp. 59–71), and Stauffer’s original work (throughout).

Chapter 7, “Holy Communion,” preserves much of Stauffer’s discussion of linens, vessels, and preparing the altar-table, all supported more explicitly by principles excerpted from *The Use of the Means of Grace*. This chapter also offers a thorough consideration of the principal service of Christian worship (pp. 73–75), as well as the specific vessels, food, and drink used in its celebration (pp. 78–79, 81–85). This expanded content is drawn from *The Sunday Assembly*.

Chapter 8, “Holy Baptism,” and chapter 9, “Life Passages, Daily Prayer, and Occasional Services,” preserve much of Stauffer’s original content, slightly reorganized. Both chapters include updated content drawn from *The Christian Life: Baptism and Life Passages*, notably the sections on healing (pp. 95–96), funeral (pp. 96–99), and daily prayer (pp. 100–102).

Appendix A (pp. 119–122) reproduces the church year calendar as presented in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Appendix B offers communion bread recipes from *Leading Worship Matters: A Sourcebook for Preparing Worship Leaders*. Appendixes C and D reproduce rites for recognition of ministries and installation of leaders in the congregation from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly* (2009).

Throughout this edition, references to *Lutheran Book of Worship* have been updated to reference *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and its ancillary resources.

Suzanne Burke, editor