



The following are suggestions to nurture worship in a congregation. Check the ELCA Worship Web site [www.renewingworship.org](http://www.renewingworship.org) for more suggestions.

- 
- Make plans for a special Rally Day kickoff celebration of your call to discipleship. Celebrate "Affirmation of Baptism" as part of a service of renewal and rededication. Use the service to lift up the themes of baptismal covenant and faith practices.
  - Use *The Use of the Means of Grace* and the study guide that accompanies it to study worship in your congregation. Follow through on suggestions for change and improvement.
  - Use the video *These Things Matter* with its study guide to understand present worship practices that might not be familiar and to study and evaluate your congregation's sacramental practices. The video builds on the statement *The Use of the Means of Grace*.
  - Study the new course *Gathered and Sent* from Augsburg Fortress. (A leader's guide and a participant book are available.)
  - Initiate the catechumenate in your congregation. Contact the Division for Congregational Ministries worship team and/or use the *Welcome to Christ* catechumenate resources referenced in Section C. Show the *Welcome to Christ: Preparing Adults for Baptism and Discipleship* video, available through Augsburg Fortress, to build interest. Contact your synod office to learn of catechumenate training events in your area.
  - Consider welcoming younger baptized persons to Holy Communion. Preparation materials for young children and parents include *My Place at God's Table* and *The Welcome Table*.
  - Celebrate the anniversaries of baptism in your congregation by remembering these anniversaries on the Sunday nearest the date of baptism and including the people celebrating their baptisms in the intercessions and announcements.
  - Explore the meaning of the liturgy. Use *Holy Communion Narrative for Adults* or *Holy Communion Narrative for Children* as a guide.
  - Add a special concern to your intercessions that asks God to "deepen our worship life."
  - Begin a new ministry for and with children: a summer day-camp ministry or a weekly after-school ministry designed to reach, serve and disciple unchurched youth and their families.
  - To deepen your worship life, explore the resources in *This Far by Faith*, *Libro de Liturgia y Cántico*, and *Worship and Praise*. These new worship resources enrich celebration from the African-American, Latino and American praise traditions. A compact disk of music from each of these books is available.
  - Use *Between Sundays* for home devotions to connect to the Sunday lessons.
  - Do a "pots and pans" of worship tour with interested persons and families. Explore the interesting features of your church's worship space and the items it contains, including their history, symbolism and use. Helpful resources for this conversation include *Altar Guild Handbook* and *Worship Wordbook*.
  - Train lay ministers to take Communion after worship to those who are absent- shut-ins, the ill and those in nursing homes.