

Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom

A Kickoff Event to Introduce *All Creation Sings*

This Kickoff Event is best used to introduce and generate excitement about *All Creation Sings*, which takes its place alongside *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* as a resource for worship and song. Host this event to introduce participants to the contents and inner workings of *All Creation Sings*, including how it can play a role in enhancing weekly worship. To further draw out the connections to creation, consider hosting this event close to the Feast Day of St. Francis (October 4) or Earth Day (April 22).

Preparation

- Follow the general guidelines on pages 5–7 for recruiting leaders and scheduling the event.
- For this event, include these milestones in your planning:
 - > 1 month before the event: If you are using the And It Was Very Good nature walk activity on page 16, plan the route around the abilities of your group and the features of your church grounds. Recruit a few volunteers to lead each small group on their walk.
 - > 1 month before the event: If you are choosing the *All Creation Sings* mosaic or mural activity on page 16, plan a place for the artwork to be displayed after the event.
- Set up enough tables and chairs to accommodate everyone who signed up for the event. Include any modifications needed to ensure accessibility for all.
- At each table, place these items:
 - > Enough *All Creation Sings* resources for people to have their own or to share in a duo
 - > An Animal Table Sign from pages 21–26 posted visibly at each table
 - > Copies of the Wit and Wisdom Word Search, Sudoku, and Coloring Page from pages 33–36
 - > Writing utensils
 - > Crayons, markers, and colored pencils
 - > Glue sticks and kid-friendly scissors for the Sudoku
- Print enough of each Animal Nametag so there is one for each chair at each table. Participants will make a nametag at the check-in table and sit at the table with the sign that matches their nametag.
- Set up a check-in table with chairs for volunteers. Make sure volunteers at the check-in table can explain the seating system. Include these items:
 - > Sign-in sheet
 - > Animal Nametags from page 20
 - > Writing utensils
 - > Items that will welcome people such as a colorful tablecloth, welcome sign, flowers, or other hospitality touches



The Work of the People

An Event about Worship

This Gather Together event invites participants of all ages into actively creating liturgical material for use in worship services and their daily lives, empowering them as co-creators with worship leaders and with God. This event could be a good fit for both congregations in which congregants are very involved in liturgical planning and those in which congregants are hesitant to step into this role. This event will allow people of all generations to gain confidence as planners and leaders of corporate worship and to explore the ways in which liturgy can be present in their day-to-day lives.

Preparation

- Follow the general guidelines on pages 5–7 for recruiting leaders and scheduling the event.
- For this event, include these milestones in your planning:
 - > 3 months before the event: Talk with the pastor and/or other worship planners about the possibility of the participants composing liturgical material to be used in upcoming services.
 - > 2 months before the event: Assemble a Worship Planning Panel (minister of music, pastor, parish administrator, altar guild member, liturgy committee member, or anyone else involved in planning worship at your parish) to speak about what that process is like. Ask them to prepare a 2-minute description of the basics of what they do in their ministry. Provide them with the questions from page 48 to help them prepare. Let your speakers know that they will be speaking to an intergenerational group that includes children about what they do in/for the worship services in this community. Ask them to bring an item that is important to their work such as a candle, some sheet music, a calendar, etc. Invite them to participate in any portions of the event, but do not pressure them to do anything beyond the agreed-upon panel discussion. If you will be serving a meal as part of the event, please be sure to invite the speaker(s) to join you. Check in with them in advance about accessibility/dietary needs.
- Set up enough tables and chairs to accommodate everyone who signed up for the event. Include any modifications needed to ensure accessibility for all.
- Make copies of Definition Cutouts from page 47, one page for each participant pair. Cut out the slips so that all the terms in capital letters are in one envelope and all the definitions are in another. Each pair will receive one of each envelope.
- At each table, place these items:
 - > Enough *All Creation Sings* resources for people to have their own or to share in a duo
 - > Definition Cutouts in envelopes, two envelopes per pair



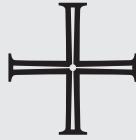
All Around the World

An Event about Our Global Lutheran Community

All Creation Sings (ACS) includes liturgy and song content from all around the world. Host this Gather Together event to explore and sing in solidarity with our global Lutheran partners. If some people in your congregation are world travelers, ask them to help plan and lead this event, especially if their travels have included meeting with Lutheran global partners.

Preparation

- Follow the general guidelines on pages 5–7 for recruiting leaders and scheduling the event.
- For this event, include these milestones in your planning:
 - > 2 months before the event: If anyone in your congregation or broader community has experience traveling to and working with the global Lutheran community, invite them to attend this event and share some of their experiences and/or items they have collected during their travels.
 - > 1 month before the event: This event involves singing a song. Ask your Music Leader to prepare for leading and/or teaching a group of people the Setting 11 Gloria found on pages 12–13 of ACS. Consider any amplification or instrument needs.
 - > 1 month before the event: If you are choosing the art activity, plan a place for the long table to be displayed after the event.
- Set up enough tables and chairs to accommodate everyone who signed up for the event. Include any modifications needed to ensure accessibility for all.
- At each table, place these items:
 - > Enough *All Creation Sings* resources for people to have their own or to share in a duo
 - > Nairobi Statement Diagram from page 96 and Nairobi Statement Prefixes from page 97 at each table
 - > Writing utensils, one per person
- Print enough of each Country Nametag so there is one for each chair at each table. Participants will write their name on a nametag at the check-in table and sit at the table with the Country Table Card that matches their nametag. The reproducible nametag sheet on page 107 includes 20 countries/regions with musical representation in *All Creation Sings*. Choose the number of countries that match the number of tables you'll set up.
- Print Passport Waystation cards from pages 99–103 to set up the space for the passport activity. Place the cards around the room or in different areas of the church. Be sure these are very easy to find! Wherever there is a Passport Waystation card, place a stamp, stickers, or a marker for people to mark their passport.
 - > A Passport Waystation card from pages 99–103 posted visibly at each table



God Is Here

An Event When Traumatic Things Happen

All Creation Sings includes many new resources centered on processing difficult events and emotions. This event is geared toward helping a congregation work together after a specific traumatic event that has caused anxiety and grief.

Preparation

- Follow the general guidelines on pages 5–7 for recruiting leaders and scheduling the event.
- For this event, include these milestones in your planning, keeping in mind that planning time may be briefer than indicated here if you schedule this event soon after a traumatic event:
 - > 2 months before the event: Invite the Music Leader to attend the event and sing solo or lead a group of people singing “Before the waters nourished earth” (1049). Consider any amplification or instrument needs.
 - > 2 months before the event: Plan to set up a separate safe space in the building, such as a chapel or warmly lit room with tissues, bottles of water, and comfortable seating. Depending on the type and severity of the traumatic event, consider contacting pastoral or counseling care providers to offer services. Service animals, synod staff, or hospice or funeral home staff may even be appropriate, depending on the situation.
- Set up enough tables and chairs to accommodate everyone who signed up for the event. Include any modifications needed to ensure accessibility for all.
- At each table, place these items:
 - > Enough *All Creation Sings* resources for people to have their own or to share in a duo
 - > I’m Feeling pages from page 130, one per participant
 - > Box of tissues
 - > Pitcher of water and cups
- Set up a check-in table with chairs for volunteers. Make sure volunteers at the check-in table can explain the seating system. Include these items:
 - > Ground Rules from page 137 in a prominently placed sign holder
 - > Sign-in sheet
 - > Nametags
 - > Writing utensils
- Prepare the spaces for your chosen Celebrate activities that happen later in the event. See the activity descriptions for the list of needed volunteers and supplies. It will be helpful to have one space that has a keyboard instrument for musical leadership. If you make use of the “Serving Those in Need” activity, a space with tables to hold supplies in an assembly-line fashion will be helpful.