

An Introduction to UIM Worship

Flexibility: UIM Worship can be offered in a totally traditional liturgy style or with lots of UIM participation to create enthusiasm and involve every generation intentionally to reach out to meet the worship needs of all generations. DID YOU KNOW? Congregations can offer the same UIM service as traditional or contemporary. This flexibility is rare if it exists at all in any other resource(s).

Celebration: UIM Worship offers praise and celebration action and interaction to meet the needs of those who enjoy them like the clapping and shouting in the Psalms (Psalm 47, 81, 95, 98, 100, etc.). Celebration liturgy echos the words of Psalm 118:24: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!” Yet celebration must always be offered along with other styles of worship to meet the worship needs of all who attend.

Meditation: The same opportunities for meditation that occur in traditional liturgy though hymns, songs, and prayers occur in UIM Worship. While quiet meditation may not be possible in the midst of participation, some services can invite more meditation than traditional services as words are repeated to help generations learn them and take them home to meditate on and help them through their daily faith and lives.

Variety: “Variety is the spice of life” and of worship people enjoy today. Each UIM Worship service offers a variety of options. The most exciting UIM Worship will offer as many of these options as possible. Use the opportunity discomfort with any option presents to explain that it draws those who enjoy it to worship and as we combine what everyone enjoys, more people will join us in worship and God’s Church will grow!

Includes all Generations: UIM Worship offers optional reading opportunities for all generations. Even those who cannot read can have words read to them that they can repeat.

Care: Worshipers learn to give care to all who may need help: point to songs or words being used for the hearing impaired and give help for any special need. They are also reminded to care for children by helping them repeat responses to teach children how to worship and help them participate in and feel a part of worship. UIM Worship helps active children enjoy worship and be enjoyed in worship.

Self-Worth: Giving and receiving care helps generations feel valuable and loved, which strengthens them to handle, prevent, and heal the problems and tragedies caused when generations do not feel valuable or loved like depression, anger, violence, suicide, etc.

Draws People: People are drawn to worship that meets their worship needs and strengthened in their faith and lives and in active ministry. Church growth in faith and numbers is just one result of active faith and ministry.

Drama: Some UIM Worship services include skits or dramatic readings that can be read responsively by the leader and congregation or volunteers. Intergenerational teams can also be formed to practice and present skits or dramas that are short and require little or no preparation.

Participation: UIM participation is probably the biggest difference worshipers find when comparing traditional worship to UIM worship. Often, participation is simply listening for words and repeating them. Sometimes it means finding something close by or answering a question. Participation is always simple, non-threatening, and something everyone else is doing. Worshipers may participate as they desire and are able.

Sermons: People have shared that the participation of UIM sermons keeps them involved, helps them listen better, and helps them understand the sermon message more clearly. However, UIM sermons can be made traditional by preaching the outline and making the words worshipers are asked to repeat part of the sermon by saying them in the sermon as a point of emphasis. UIM Sermons have been successfully preached from (1) the front center aisle to be among the people much as Jesus did on many occasions, (2) in a more traditional style from the pulpit, or (3) in a less traditional style from the lectern. Offer UIM and traditional sermon deliveries or a combination of both at different times and draw the people who enjoy them to grow God’s Church in faith and ministry.

Worship Bulletins: Saved in Adobe (.pdf) files, they are copy-ready or words and pictures can be cut and pasted to tailor bulletins to your needs. Using the tailoring option, feel free to type in the name of your church, address, and service time. Print pages back to back or as half page inserts as directed for each service.

Bulletin Covers: Bulletin covers come in black and white, but a few give the option to print color covers. Invite generations to color black and white covers ahead of time to make color covers. You may also color one cover and reproduce *the cover only* on a color copier. If you do not have access to a color copier, take your color cover to a print shop. The remainder of each program can still be reproduced in black and white.

Hymns and Songs: are available in the Lutheran Service Book (LSB), The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH), and Lutheran Worship (LW) - *unless otherwise noted or printed in the Worship Leader's Guide.*

- 1: The same or similar hymns and songs in UIM Worship can be found in the hymnals and songbooks of other Christian denominations. You can also find the words and tunes for these hymns and songs on the web. *Make sure you have the rights to print and use the words and tunes of the hymns/ songs you choose.*
- 2: Add offering and communion hymns to each bulletin according to your custom. You may also add choir songs, play Christian music recordings, or substitute praise worship songs that provide the same message as hymns in the Worship Leader's Guide to make UIM worship a Praise, Worship Service.
- 3: **HERE'S A GREAT IDEA:** To include and draw teens to worship, play Christian songs they enjoy before or after worship, during the offering or communion, etc. **Always provide an equal number of hymns and songs every generation will enjoy in every worship service to draw them to and grow God's Church.**

UIM Worship Outreach

The following UIM Worship Outreach techniques help to make generations in every situation not only feel part of worship, but feel individually cared for by the whole family of God in His House.

Repetition: The repetition of words in UIM Worship reaches out to a growing number of older adults and any who are losing or have lost their sight. Some children and mentally challenged individuals are unable to read but can repeat and, thereby, participate and feel part of worship through UIM repetition.

Caring: UIM Worship works very hard to equip worshipers to help those with special needs and to help their families and caregivers. UIM Bulletin Inserts and Newsletter Articles equip congregations to care for each generation. As worshipers see their particular situation or struggle addressed by their congregation in UIM inserts and articles and/or in worship and sermons, they feel their congregation cares about them. Caring through Christ in any way shape or form is the goal and mission of UIM.

Large Print and Braille Worship Bulletins: UIM Worship Bulletins can easily be enlarged for the visually impaired. Even ask schools with blind students to print UIM Worship Bulletins in braille.

Printed Liturgy and Personal Help: Congregations are instructed to print words for the deaf that do not need to be printed for all worshipers like the sermon and prayers. Worshipers sitting near them are reminded to point to words or cue the hearing challenged. The deaf are also encouraged to bring people with them to sign for them. Give signers a copy of the Worship Leader's Guide.

Focus Objects: Coloring pages and quiet toys are helpful for small children but may not be a necessary when small children participate in UIM Worship. With more cases of autism and other special needs arising, congregations can provide focus objects like a rubber band, pictures, books, objects with a religious significance, such as a cross in the pocket, etc. Ask the families what items provide security at home and make them available at church as well.

UIM is a gift congregations can give that never stops giving!