

Breakaway Sessions

“Solutions and Concord with Musicians Absent” by Rev. Craig Meissner

This article critiques the use of “organist service” software in Lutheran worship. Different from common utilitarian assessments, the author with insights from the realm of the philosophy of technology describes how the time-and-space separation dynamic of such services makes these unfitting for the setting where Christ teaches and promises His sacramental presence in His Word and body and blood. The author notes how through devices, distinguished from instruments, the minister by this software casts sound to prompt congregational response rather than speaking and singing God’s word. This detracts from the dialogical, responsive nature of worship and differs from the pastor’s call to preach in the place of Christ. Therewith the software fails to cultivate responsive discernment which is inherent to Christian faith. These factors thus obscure a proper view of Christ, His Church, and humanity’s renewal. The article also offers insight as to how this sort of solution came to be accepted and urges faithful alternatives.

“Theological and Practical Implications of Luther’s Deutsche Messe” by Kantor Bethany Johnson

In celebration of 500 years since Luther’s Deutsche Messe, it is appropriate for us to reflect on the history behind this form of liturgy and its hymns. This presentation will give a historical summary of this service and Luther’s attentiveness to the needs of the Church during this time. We will then discuss the theological implications of its hymnody and the practical ways in which we can incorporate various musical settings throughout this service, specifically for bells, choir, and instruments. You will take home some musical options, as well as the Reformation readings in chanted form, just as it would have been done in Luther’s day. As a bonus, we will do a bit of chanting ourselves!