

What do you love about our worship services?

Responses from a Voters' Meeting at Zion Lutheran, Maryland Heights, on June 19, AD 2021

At the Zion Voters' Meeting on June 19, AD 2021, Pastor Femmel said at Thanksgiving Dinner at Grandma's House no one enjoys every food and dessert on the table. We all have our favorites. When one person's favorite is not something you enjoy, instead of taking someone else's favorite off the table, it is the path of love to let others have their favorites on the table and that they let you have your favorites on the table as well, side by side.

In worship, we can get confused and think that if something pleases me, it must also please God and, therefore, if I don't like something, then it must be wrong. We often mistake **our** preferences of style and genre as being **God's** preferences. Pastor discussed Acts 15 and shared that God works through old music, new music, traditions, and new ideas.

Pastor then asked,

"What do you love about our worship services? What parts do you deeply value?"

Here is a summary of the responses:

Matthew and Reilly Brynildsen really appreciate the **contemporary music** and also appreciate the **traditional hymns**. They love that it is **a mix of old and new** most of all. Their young son even sings the contemporary songs later on during the day and week because he really enjoys them, too.

Jan Foss really appreciates the **blended services** having both the **beloved hymns** and the more **contemporary songs** at the services. Like David who played the lyre and even danced, we should praise God and not get stuck in any particular style of music.

Nancy Cooper likes the **contemporary music**. It was the words and the music of contemporary that got her through the things she is going through right now and helped her find Jesus. She says her soul was saved by contemporary music and she loves enjoying that when she gets to be in God's House.

Mary Beth Mayer likes the **traditional music**, but she also really enjoys the **contemporary music** because it is fun and definitely reaches and brings in young people. She listens to contemporary music all week long. She also loves the **great family atmosphere** of Zion.

Nick Otz really enjoys **both styles of music** which we use. The words touch him.

Lori Otz loves **getting the Lord's Supper every week**.

Susie Kitrel likes the **traditional hymns** because she knows them by heart and even some of the **older contemporary songs** because she is not very familiar with the newer contemporary songs. She also likes **the "Why do we...?" explanations** in the bulletin because they give her knowledge of Church history which she never knew about before, so now each service is more meaningful for her.

Ginny Golchert grew up with and appreciates the **traditional hymns**, but she really enjoys the **contemporary songs** and listens to them throughout the week. Her Preschool students love to sing and dance along with all the newer songs in her classroom during the week. She also likes getting the **Lord's Supper every week**.

Karen Jansen likes getting the **Lord's Supper every week** and how **Pastor explains the Bible readings** before reading them because that helps to follow along and understand so much more. She also likes the **Children's Messages**.

Matt Foss likes **Pastor's jokes**. He likes the **contemporary music** because his kids sing along and follow along because they hear it at home. He would even like, at some time in the future, to have a full contemporary service.

Sylvia Grannemann likes the **contemporary music**. Since she teaches young people, she hears her students sing the contemporary music because they enjoy those songs and want to listen to them throughout the week. The kids even sing the contemporary songs with their moms at their dance school! She likes **both music styles**. She also likes **Pastor Femmel**. She thinks "he is everything in one package."

Marlina Femmel loves **Pastor's sense of humor** and how Pastor connects everything in the service into one theme, so that **everything in the service is connected**, from beginning to end. She loves **the blend of traditional and contemporary music**. We are here to praise God and both styles of music do that.

Vicki Lichtenegger loves **the blend of traditional and contemporary music**.

Russ Fuchs loves **to hear that he is forgiven** every week. He likes the **contemporary music** and he knows the words because he listens to it in his truck all day every day at work. He appreciates **having both the traditional music and the contemporary music**. He loves **everything** about the service.

Sierra Dertinger loves the **sermons** every week. She likes **Pastor Femmel** because he jokes, talks about his personal life, moves around, is reachable, and is human. He talks about how he likes ice cream, just like we do. She also likes the **contemporary music**.

Vickie Osterloh shared that Steve, her husband, was Roman Catholic before they were married and that they were going to Church, but he was only going to Church; he was not really worshiping or getting anything out of the service. She likes that at Zion they get to **spiritually grow** and they have really grown. She likes **the traditional and contemporary music**. She loves to hear **the Benediction** at the end and it gives her such a peace. When Steve got sick, they felt **the prayers, the love, and the concern of the Church Family**. When she talks about her church, people say "Is that the church where **the Pastor knows your name?**" She loves to say "Yes! That's my church!"

Katlyn DaSilva is deeply touched **how she and her children are accepted and loved** at Zion. She loves how Pastor even discusses how welcoming we need to be of children who may have a little more energy than others and may be a little more talkative than older people. If children act like children, people do not give her ugly looks. She is so deeply touched by the love and it gives her such **a sense of peace**. She enjoys the **older music** which she heard while growing up in Church, "even if I can't sing them," and she loves that her children love to sing the **contemporary songs** and even dance along.

Kayla Foss loves the **blended service** because "it's the perfect mix for my family. I get my **contemporary music** and Matt gets the **traditional**. Over the years I have grown a love and appreciation for the traditional hymns, and **having both music styles** allows my family to worship together."

Christi Femmel is thankful for **the people at Zion** and the love they show her and her family.

Joyce Hicks loves **the traditional music and the contemporary**. She likes **Pastor Femmel** and thinks he is a good Pastor. She also likes **the "Why do we...?" explanations** in the bulletin because they are very interesting. She also treasures **the friendliness** of the Congregation and Pastor and that our friendliness brings new people into Zion. She also noted that **Pastor never repeats his sermons**; they are always fresh and deep.

After 40 minutes, Pastor summarized:

We all have our favorite parts of the worship service. When we get to a part which is not your personal favorite, rejoice that with that part of the worship service you are helping someone else be deeply moved and feel connected to God in that moment. When we get to a part of the service which is one of your personal favorites, rejoice that you get to share that part with others in the Family of God in God's House.

We would love to hear which part(s) of the service you love! To add your voice to this collection, even if it is something someone else has already said, please chat with Pastor or send him a note.

God is at work, moving among us, and we get to be a part of that!
Let us praise Him together! Let us enjoy Him together!

Alleluia!

