

Liturgical Language

Convener: Jennifer Baker-Trinity (bakertrinityj@augsborgfortress.org) is Program Manager for Worship Resource Development, a joint position with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Augsburg Fortress is the publishing ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Members in Attendance: Jennifer Baker-Trinity, David Gambrell, Cheryl Lindsay, Gail Ramshaw, Martin Seltz

Visitors in Attendance: James Hart Brumm, Clayton Faulkner, Michael Wilke

Description of Work: Our seminar discussed the use of liturgical language through a paper about trinitarian imagery, a look at hymn translation, a wider discussion of metaphor, and the use of liturgical language at funerals. Overall, we continually examine questions around liturgical language in our worshiping assemblies, especially in work our members are doing in their denominations and congregations.

Papers and Presentations:

- Jennifer Baker-Trinity presented work in progress regarding a commission for new liturgical rite that is sensitive to those less connected to the church.
- Gail Ramshaw presented the chapter “The First Person, Figuratively Speaking” from her book *Mystery Manifest* (Fortress Press, January 2025). The seminar engaged in a discussion on how we address the first person of the Trinity in our liturgical speech was guided by questions prepared by David Gambrell.
- Martin Seltz presented “Translating Luther Hymns after 500 years,” and we discussed approaches to translating these historic texts.
- Visitor Michael Wilke presented a paper, “Non-Literal Language and Liturgy” that he prepared for his seminary studies.

Other Work and Plans for the Future: Our seminar had a robust joint seminar session with the Ecology and Liturgy Seminar. We looked at a compilation of liturgical texts, “Praying Green” by Gail Ramshaw, and considered how we pray, lament, and praise in ways that take seriously care of the Earth. We also chose a new convener, David Gambrell. As we look to future work, consideration of the proposed ecumenical “Feast of Creation” will merit discussion and new work in terms of language.