Research exercise: Perceptions of Meaning in Liturgical Music in Christian Church Communities of Various Denominational Identities
To gain a deeper understanding of how music is valued and perceived in various church communities, so as to develop my own perceptions and beliefs about music in worship.

**Interview Questions**

- What is your church community’s denominational identity?
- What is the basic style of the music at your church?
- Are there specific types of themes you notice in the music?
- Is it more complex or simplistic?
- Where does the content stem from? Is it based in Scripture? Church teachings?
- Do you use a cantor, choir, or worship band?
- How do you think your specific type of music ministry benefits the service vs. another kind?
- What do you perceive to be the purpose of the music during a service?
- What is the function of music during church services?

**Epiphany Lutheran Church**

- **Denomination:** Lutheran
- **Style of Music:** Traditional & Contemporary (depending on service)
- **Leaders /Ministers:** Choir or Cantors
- **Content:** Follows the revised common lectionary
- **Purpose:** Supplements readings/message for the day, and serves to involve the congregation in an active way

**St. Luke’s Catholic Parish**

- **Denomination:** Catholic
- **Style of Music:** Primarily hymns (traditional & modern) & occasional Taizé
- **Leaders /Ministers:** Mass Choir, Cantors, Guitar Group, Funeral Choir
- **Content:** Complex messages & themes, and predominantly based in Scripture
- **Purpose:** “Singing the liturgy” | Helps to reach people where they are | Increases faith

**United Methodist Church**

- **Denomination:** Methodist
- **Style of Music:** Traditional hymns, African-American spirituals, original compositions
- **Leaders /Ministers:** Choir
- **Content:** Complex messages & themes, and predominantly based in Scripture
- **Purpose:** Acts as a significant part of the liturgy | Lifts people’s hearts

**The Vineyard**

- **Denomination:** Non-denominational
- **Style of Music:** Contemporary; Praise Choruses
- **Leaders /Ministers:** Worship Band
- **Content:** Wide range of themes ~ some come from Scripture, some are general messages | Mostly simple, relatable themes
- **Purpose:** Music = Worship | Brings people fully into worship and praise

**Interviewees:**

- EPC: John Benjamin
- Vineyard: Scott Sliver & Dustin Smith
- St. Luke’s: David Sievers
- UMC: Robert Jones

**Goals**

- Explore different styles of worship music & their inherent meanings
- Investigate perceptions of liturgical music in church communities of various denominational identities
- Examine why and how music is used in worship