
The Pastor's Page



NUMBERS, NUMBERS, NUMBERS?

There is an old story about a group of people who worked together so long and heard the same jokes so often, they numbered them. When someone hollered a number, everyone would laugh. Sometimes they laughed a lot and sometime they just giggled. When a newcomer ask why two people could say the same number and sometimes people laughed harder, this answer was given: "Some people just know how to tell a joke!"

So what happens when the numbers change?

For about 25 years we have been using the "Green Hymnal," more properly the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW). The "Blue Book" beside it in our pews is *With One Voice* (WOV). On the first Sunday of September, we will replace them both with the "Cranberry Hymnal" named *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW). Many of the songs will be the same, though the numbers will be different.

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is not 228-229 anymore, it's 503, or 504, or even 505 – the last is a more traditional translation of Luther's words. "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" goes from 448 to 779. It's still as sweet a tune with similar double numbers. Sweet indeed!

New hymns which are not now in our pew like "Change My Heart, O God" (801) or "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" (536) are included. While

they are in neither of our former hymnals, they will be sung a lot, I'm sure. And how about "Jesus Loves Me! This I Know" (595). Songs for all tastes and ages.

WHICH HYMNS DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

"Why don't we sing more of my favorite hymns in church?" That sounds like such an easy question until you stop to realize that your "Top 40 Favorite Hymns" may be completely different from someone else's favorites. Some people would love to sing only songs that they learned in the '40's and 50's, while others think that those hymns are old-fashioned and boring, and want more new songs that are fresh and lively. It is impossible to always please every person's musical tastes. A variety should ensure that everyone can regularly have some of their favorites.

The new hymnal contains a wide variety of hymns and songs. Some are new, some are old, and some are VERY old. Most come from our familiar American/European traditions, while some come from other lands and cultures. Our goal is to use hymns which are inspiring, uplifting, and which "resonate" with those who come to worship at Zion.

You can help by making your favorites known. Leaf through the *ELW* hymnal and make a list of the hymns you enjoy singing. Record your favorite hymns so a list can be compiled of favorites from the congregation. That list can serve as a guide so these can be included along with other hymns chosen to reflect the day's Scripture themes

I think we will enjoy the old and new of the new hymnal. Lutheran's have always been known as a singing church. Are you ready to continue that tradition?

- RHV