

REPORT: STANDING WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Consideration of Modern Lutheran Hymnals

The previous convention asked the worship committee to provide information for congregations regarding recently published confessional Lutheran hymnals (*2012 Proceedings*, p. 31). This involved researching and evaluating several hymnals as well as compiling this information.

Three hymnals were considered and compared to the commonly used *Lutheran Hymnal* of 1941. These were *Christian Worship* (Northwestern, 1993), the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* (MorningStar, 1996), and the *Lutheran Service Book* (Concordia, 2006). *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006) was not included in the review at this time.

Although each hymnal has its strengths and weaknesses, the committee feels that all three of the newer ones considered present God's Word faithfully in Law and Gospel and could find use in our congregations.

We have intentionally refrained from recommending one specific hymnal for our churches. Adopting an official "synodical hymnal" could well discourage an individual congregation from carrying out its rightful role in the preparation and exercise of its worship. In the end, the choice of a hymnal is a congregational decision and those contemplating replacing the *Lutheran Hymnal* in their pews should be free to select what they feel best suits their needs and ministry.

Instead, we have pointed out the main differences between each of these hymnals (the tendencies of each in their approach to liturgy and hymns) and shown what sorts of things congregations will want to consider when selecting a hymnal.

Our document entitled *A Comparison of Lutheran Hymnals for Use in Corporate Worship* is available in electronic form (PDF) at <http://clclutheran.net/worship>

Worship Material Distribution Cycle

Pursuant to the purposes of the CLC Worship Committee (*2010 Proceedings*, p. 74) which include evaluating emerging worship material, providing assistance in worship planning, and educating the body concerning Lutheran worship, the committee intends to make worship resources available to our fellowship on a quarterly basis according to these seasons of the church year: Christmas, Lent and Easter, Ordinary Time, and Minor Festivals.

Each quarter we hope to publish or point to a resource (or resources) in at least two of the following categories:

Hymns
Worship Liturgies
Choir Music

Children's Music
Worship Education
Resources for Worship Committees

The distribution cycle will be so arranged that the material will be available one season previous to its intended use. This will give pastors and congregations time to implement any new material if they wish.

We realize that individual congregations may well want the freedom to adapt worship material to suit specific needs. We plan to give preference to resources that have free use licenses (such as a Creative Commons license) or resources that can be used easily in connection with the popular OneLicense.net blanket license. We do not intend to provide or suggest worship material that is difficult or unreasonably expensive for congregations to obtain permission to use.

We look forward to researching various Lutheran worship materials and sharing them with our congregations.

CLC Worship Committee

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Mr. Barry Hay (Chairman)
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