

October 2018 Newsletter for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

CHANGES COMING TO WORSHIP

The Background to this Story

When the building of the former St. John's Lutheran Church in Oliver was sold, it meant that all their worship items had to be removed. Most members of St. John's had already transferred their membership to Our Redeemer some years prior, when the congregation as legal entity was disbanded, so it made sense for those worship items to come to ORLC as well.

Among the various items are 54 of the "new" (©2006) red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) books, which are now the standard worship books and hymnals in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and our sister denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The fact that we now have these books and that they have come to us as a gift inspired Pastor Curtis to make a pitch to the Worship & Music Committee that we set aside our current worship resources for a time and try out the ELW. As the ELW has much of the hymnody in the WOV, Pastor Curtis also suggested having the green Songs for a Gospel People books (of which we also received a generous number from St. John's adding to those we already have) instead of WOV to broaden the hymn choices. The Worship & Music Committee discussed all this and agreed to try the ELW for a time, perhaps until the spring, before

reassessing, to give us a chance to get used to the new books.

What to Expect

To allow for ample notice, and for the musicians to have time to practice, we will begin using the ELW together with the Songs for a Gospel People on October 14, the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

The ELW has ten settings of the liturgy and a wide and varied hymn selection that preserves (as mentioned) much of what is in WOV and the "best" hymns of the LBW, and also adds many newer hymns.

Learning new music is a challenge, so it was decided that we would begin by learning Setting 10, which is probably the easiest of the settings to learn. In Setting 10 the liturgical texts (Kyrie, Gloria/Hymn of Praise, Gospel Acclamation, Sanctus/Holy Holy Holy, Eucharistic Responses, and Agnus Dei/Lamb of God) are all set to hymn tunes.

The order of our service will be the same, as we are simply moving from one Lutheran resource to another. So there will still be two main hymns and a number of communion hymns. In certain places in the service where we have been used to having the same piece of music ("As the grains of wheat," and "Thanks be to you"), the ELW suggests choosing music from the extensive Service Music section of the ELW. Those choices are being worked out between Pastor Curtis and the musicians at this time.