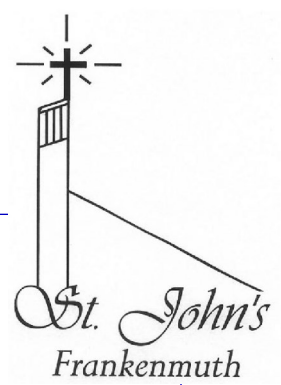


THE VICTORY



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2022

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN HYMNARY

On Sunday, December 19, 2021, the voters of St. John's decided to make the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary the primary worship resource of our congregation. Many might still be asking: What's the point of a change? Is there anything wrong with our hymnals now? Isn't it an expense that could hurt our operating budget? Is it going to be really unfamiliar and new?

I'd like to answer those questions in turn, but first remind us all of what a hymnal is for. A hymnal is a book for God's people, a book that combines Scripture, hymns, services, and educational materials all in one. The hymnal has traditionally been one of three books that form the core of Christian life: the Bible, and flowing from its truth the Catechism and Hymnal. The hymnal, with its songs and liturgies, is really the doctrine book of the people.

It's how we learn, memorize, and remind each other of the truths we find in the Bible. Martin Luther realized this, and within a few years of the start of the Reformation, Luther produced two new liturgies for the services, and hymnals were produced with gospel-centered hymns. Many of those early Lutheran hymns we still sing today.

The hymnal we are going to be using in church was produced by our church body, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). The hymnal is called Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary. Some have asked, "Why Hymnary instead of hymnal?" The ELS Committee on Worship produced this hymnal in 1996 as a combination and update to the two hymnals the synod was using at the time, The Lutheran Hymnal, which was used at St. John's for many years, and The Lutheran Hymnary, a hymnal put out by Norwegian Lutheran church bodies in the early 1900s. So when they created the new hymnal, they incorporated part of that second hymnal's name, hymnary, into the new title. "Hymnary" is just another word for "hymnal."

All in all, the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary (ELH), is a very conservative hymnal in that it didn't change much of what people were using before it. I mentioned earlier that Luther created two Lutheran service outlines in the 1520s. The two main communion services in ELH, known as Rite 1 and Rite 2, come from those two services Luther wrote. Rite 2, by the way, is basically the service from page 15 of The Lutheran Hymnal and our current hymnal, Christian Worship.

**Sunday Worship
Service 10 a.m.**

**Youth Sunday
School 9 a.m.**

Bible Classes
Sunday 9 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Service Broadcast

- ♦ Sunday 8 a.m.
Radio WKCQ 98.1 FM
- ♦ Monday 7 p.m.
Charter Cable TV
channel 191

Church Office Hours
Monday—Friday
10 a.m.—4:30p.m.

Office Phone:
(989) 652-6201

Pastor Patrick Ernst
(612) 845-9152

Continued from Page 1

The hymns in ELH are drawn from the wide span of Christian hymns, but focus on the Lutheran hymn tradition. We at St. John's are already familiar with the majority of the hymns in ELH because they were also in The Lutheran Hymnal and Christian Worship (CW).

There's nothing inherently wrong with the hymnal we are using. However, St. John's decided to change synods in the 2000s from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) to the ELS. It's not mandatory, but it can be reasonably expected that a synod church, united with the other congregations in faith and practice, will have a common unity in worship. There are many strong Lutheran hymns in ELH from the Scandinavian tradition that we do not have in CW.

As for the cost of adopting ELH, numerous families have pledged and donated money to the new hymnal which completely covers the cost outside the general operating budget.

One reason we brought up the adoption of ELH now is because our synod was offering ELH at half price between October and December 2021. This was meant to encourage congregations to use the synod's hymnal, and our synod leadership was willing to forego proceeds from the hymnal to help us buy it. For reference, we paid \$6/hymnal, while new hymnals from the WELS are \$24/hymnal and from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are \$27/hymnal.

Rest assured, the ELH will be introduced slowly. Give it time. With any hymnal, think of it as an opportunity to sit at the feet of Christians from all times and places, to learn from masters who understand deeply the good news of the Bible, and to expand the wonder you have at the great things God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" (Psalm 95:1)

Pastor Patrick Ernst

EPIPHANY PRAYER

Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us the light of Your Holy Word, the guiding star that leads us to the Christ child. Send, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive this light and make use of it for our salvation, and that we, like the wise men, when they were seeking the star, may not be afraid because of any hardship or peril, but put all our trust in Your only-begotten Son as our only Savior, devote our earthly possessions to the advancement of Your kingdom, and in all things serve Him, Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen. (ELH, p. 149)

www.evangelicallutheransynod.org/epiphany-prayer/

Emails and cell phone numbers:

The church office continues to request and update email addresses and cell phone numbers so that the church and committees can keep members up to date on events or other timely, important information. If you no longer have a home phone, have moved or your cell number is the is the best way to reach you, please contact the church office or slip the updated information into the office mailbox or the drop box in front of St. John's after hours.

~ Thank You!!

Ninth and Tenth Commandments

Small Catechism

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not craftily seek to gain our neighbor's inheritance or home, nor get it by a show of right, but help and serve him in keeping it.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not tempt, force, or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Large Catechism

These two commandments, taken literally, were given exclusively to the Jews; nevertheless, in part they also apply to us. The Jews did not interpret them as referring to unchastity or theft, for these were sufficiently forbidden in the previous commandments. They also thought that they were keeping all the commandments when they outwardly did precisely the works commanded and did not do the ones forbidden. God therefore added these two so that people would also think that coveting a neighbor's spouse or property, or desiring them in any way, is sinful and forbidden.

Above, the Seventh Commandment prohibits seizing or withholding someone else's possessions to which you have no right. But here it is also forbidden to entice anything away from your neighbor, even though in the eyes of the world you could do it honorably, without accusation or blame for fraudulent gain. The last commandment, therefore, is not addressed to those whom

Confessions Corner

the world considers wicked rogues, but precisely to the most upright.

This occurs most often in lawsuits in which someone sets out to gain and squeeze something out of a neighbor. For example, when people wrangle and wrestle over a large inheritance, real estate, etc., they resort to anything that has the appearance of legality, so varnishing and garnishing it so that the law must support them, and they gain such a title to the property that no one can raise an objection or initiate legal action.

The same thing also happens in ordinary business dealings, where people cunningly filch something out of another's hand so that the victim is helpless to prevent it. Or, seeing an opportunity for profit, they hustle and harass the person until they get it for half price or less.

First, we are commanded not to desire to harm our neighbors, nor to assist in doing harm, nor to give occasion for it. Instead, we are gladly to let them have what is theirs and to promote and protect whatever may be profitable and serviceable.

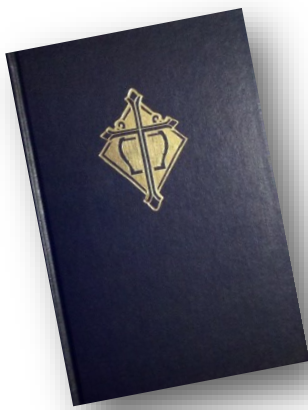
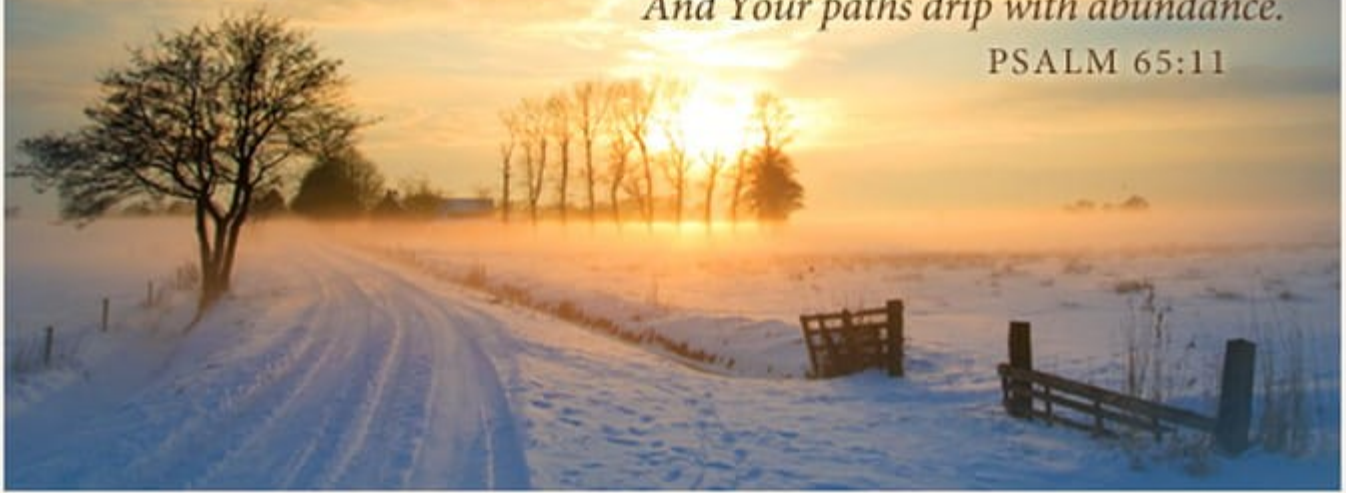


JACOB COVETS LABAN'S FLOCK
(GENESIS 30)

Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

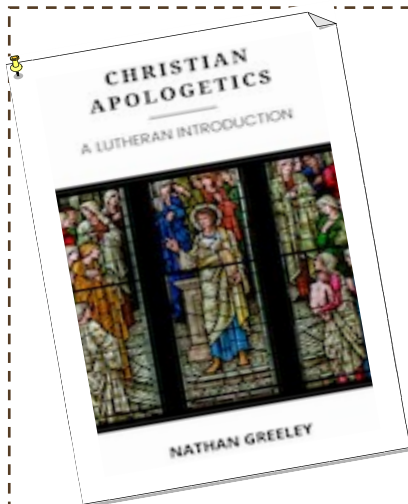
PSALM 65:11



What Will Our New Hymnary Look Like?

The Cover Design

At the center of the logo is the Cross, a reminder that the source and focus of our worship is Christ Jesus the Crucified. The Latin cross buds forth at the end of each of its arms as a symbol that the Cross, the Tree of Life, will bring life to the four corners of the world. Behind the cross we see the lyre, the symbol of praise and worship. We are reminded of David, the sweet singer of Israel, and all the judges, prophets and priests who proclaimed the Word of God in their services of worship. The lyre also reminds us of the great service of liturgical music that has been the mark of the Christian Church throughout the ages. The ultimate background in the design is a diamond shape. This shape is more than a pleasing geometric. It is an example of musical notation called "hobnail". This diamond shaped notation was used in the sixteenth century, and it reminds us of the great reawakening of Gospel proclamation brought about by the Lutheran Reformation. It also reminds us of the work of Luther, the renewer of congregational song, and the glorious traditions of evangelical music making that culminated in the work of J. S. Bach.



December's book recommendation:

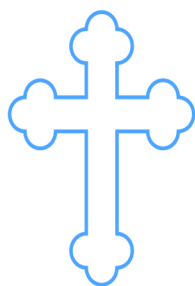
By Jeremy Aiello

Christian Apologetics: A Lutheran Introduction By Nathan Greeley

In this day and age, the truth of Christianity is rarely taken for granted. Many are outright skeptics. Even among churchgoers, there are widespread doubts about the truth and credibility of central doctrines of the faith.

This all creates serious difficulties and challenges for both the Christian life and witness. It is therefore crucial that all Christians, even ordinary laypeople, learn about apologetics, which is the art of showing the plausibility of Christian claims.

In this accessible guide to apologetics for Lutherans, you will be shown how to make simple yet convincing cases for the most foundational Christian beliefs, such as the reality of God, the trustworthiness of Scripture, the deity of Jesus, and the factuality of the resurrection. Strategies for answering popular objections to Christianity, such as those that arise from evolutionary theory, the existence of evil and suffering, and the widespread acceptance of relativism will also be discussed. Last but not least, the question of which Christian tradition one should belong to is explored in a chapter outlining the major reasons to be a confessional Lutheran. After reading this book, you will be more confident in the truth of your faith and more prepared to share that faith with others. This book can be ordered at jspublishing.org or you can see Jeremy Aiello for purchasing a copy.



Thoughts and Prayers

I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone~ for kings and all those in authority.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

The family and friends of Gary Bierlein, Theo Conzelmann, Andi, Adler, Alton Jammer and Lee Keinath, who have fallen asleep in Jesus, have given memorials in their memory. May God's comfort surround them and give them peace in knowing that their loved one has found eternal peace.

December Memorials:	General Fund:	\$455.00
	Altar Guild:	\$ 60.00
	Jammer Scholarship:	\$120.00
	Cemetery Fund:	\$ 25.00
	Media Ministry:	\$ 20.00

Name: _____

Date: _____

BIBLE BOOKS WORD SEARCH

OLD TESTAMENT



ZECHARIAH
ISAIAH
OBADIAH
EZEKIEL
DEUTERONOMY
RUTH
JONAH
GENESIS
HAGGAI
JUDGES
LAMENTATIONS
NEHEMIAH
HOSEA
JOSHUA
PSALMS
EXODUS
AMOS
EZRA
NAHUM
MALACHI
JOEL
ECCLESIASTES
DANIEL
SAMUEL
JOB
SONG OF SONGS
PROVERBS
ESTHER
ZEPHANIAH
KINGS
NUMBERS
JEREMIAH
MICAH
CHRONICLES
LEVITICUS
HABAKKUK

Y U K Z E C H A R I A H T R E D S J A D E Q
Z C F W H O X V S S P H U D U S H P N L Z G
C C Z E C C L E S I A S T E S T T G O L E S
D A N I E L W O F S L J P U I V H H Y L K T
A H A B A K K U K G L H S T R J J M E G I Q
Q W O R A G E N E S I S A E K O O O M R E D
H C P R O V E R B S B O L R I B N E A L L Y
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G R S O N G O F S O N G S N G D H O A M L N
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O I S U V B D C N H H N I A E U U O E N R M
B A R S K X D E X O D U S P E D F G L S S V

MAY YOU SHINE
THE LIGHT OF
CHRIST IN THE
NEW YEAR!

"THE PASTOR WANTS US TO
SMILE IN CHURCH. YOU KNOW
HOW I HATE TO TRY NEW
THINGS!"

