



## 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Moment

“He who promised is faithful” (Heb 10.23)

### THE HYMNALS OF FIRST SAINT PAUL’S: A MULTI-COLORED HISTORY

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has had only five hymnals in its nearly 175 years of existence. The hymnals used at First Saint Paul’s parallel—for the most part—that of the LCMS.

The first hymnal of the Missouri Synod came from its first president, C.F.W. Walther, who developed it for his congregation, Trinity Lutheran in St. Louis. It was accepted in 1847 shortly after the formation of the synod. It had a long title: *Kirchen-Gesang-Buch für evangelisch-Lutheran Gemeinde ungeänderter Augsburgischer Confession* (Church Song Book for Evangelical Lutheran Congregations of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession). This hymnal was the only German-language hymnal of the LCMS.



Some English ministries began soon after the formation of the Synod, in an attempt to reach out to local English-speaking communities. The *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn Book* appeared in 1889 for the English Synod. When the English Synod merged with the Missouri Synod in 1911, they brought their hymnal with them. About half of its hymns were translations of German originals, while the other half were hymns in English or translated from other languages. The *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn Book* also contained a liturgy called the “Common Service,” which we have still today in Setting 3 of *Lutheran Service Book*. At some point First Saint Paul’s adopted this hymnal, as the congregation began worship services in English.

The first hymnal that some members at First Saint Paul’s may remember is the “red” hymnal, called *The Lutheran Hymnal*, published in 1941. It had a slightly broader selection of hymnody, but otherwise it didn’t vary significantly from its predecessor.

In the 1960s, the LCMS began work with Lutherans in the other two major bodies; the result was *Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW)*, the green hymnal. But before the LBW arrived, the LCMS produced the “first” supplement: *Worship Supplement* (1969). This small book had a complete musical setting of the Holy Communion, and a number of new hymns that we sing today. We first used this book in 1969, just as the congregation was transitioning to its new building.

While the LCMS was a full participating member of the planning committee of *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1978), ultimately it did not approve the *LBW*, but instead chose to produce a revised hymnal called *Lutheran Worship* (1982). First Saint Paul's waited for the LCMS revision, but then opted for the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, introducing it to the congregation in Lent 1983. *LBW* was used by a number of Chicago-area congregations and an estimated one-sixth of all LCMS congregations. Throughout the time of *LBW*, First Saint Paul's also kept *The Lutheran Hymnal*, and used it quite regularly.

In the 1990s, Augsburg Fortress Publishers produced a supplement to *LBW*, called *With One Voice*, our blue hymnal in the pews. This book includes newer material, some of which is piano-based.

In 2006, both the LCMS and the ELCA produced new hymnals, each designed to meet the needs of their respective worshiping congregations. *Lutheran Service Book* (our burgundy hymnal) provided some new hymnic and liturgical material, but its most significant mission was to attract users of both *TLH* and *LW*, so that LCMS congregations could once again be more united around a single hymnal. Within two years the print and/or electronic versions were adopted by 70% of the congregations in the LCMS. First Saint Paul's dedicated this hymnal on the Eighth Sunday after Epiphany, February 27, 2011. With the adoption of *LSB*, both *TLH* and *LBW* were taken out of use. In our current worship practice, our hymns come mainly from *LSB*, but we also draw from our previous books and other resources through our licensing arrangements.