

Top 20 Reasons to Purchase Lutheran Service Book

By Rev. Michael Poynter

1. Our current hymnal, The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH), is now 65 years old—enough said.

—Then again, maybe not. Here are another 19 reasons.

2. We have really only one Divine Service available for our use on Sunday morning from The Lutheran Hymnal—Page 15. Page 5 has the same musical settings as page 15, and in fact, these services are essentially the same except that page 5 does not have the communion liturgy.

Because of our entertainment/media-oriented society, a majority of people look for variety. LSB fulfills this desire, yet at the same time keeps this variety strictly in line with the historic liturgy of the church.

The new hymnal—Lutheran Service Book (LSB) has 5 Divine Services with communion available for our use on Sunday morning, all of which could be used on non-communion Sundays. This in a sense means we would actually have 10 services we could utilize for worship.

In addition to these, the service of Prayer and Preaching, Matins, and Morning Prayer, could also be used on non-communion Sundays, which would give us a total of 13 different services our congregation could choose to use on Sunday morning.

There are also the services of Vespers, Evening Prayer, and Compline, which we would have available for our use in our evening services.

3. There is sequential numbering of the pages in LSB. In other words, there is one set of page numbers. Currently, if one were to say, “turn to page 15 for our liturgy,” most non-LCMS visitors, not realizing that there are two sets of page numbers in our hymnal, would turn to hymn 15 and wonder where we are at. This confusion is not possible with LSB.
4. 100 hymn texts or hymn tunes are “new,” which were never included in any LCMS hymnal or supplement prior to LSB. There are over 300 hymns in the Lutheran Service Book, which are not in The Lutheran Hymnal. We will have such new hymns as: “Amazing Grace,” “On Eagles Wings,” “The Lamb,” and “Go my Children with My Blessing”.
5. Occasional Services are included in LSB. Whenever our congregation has a Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage or Funeral, we can turn to that order of service in the hymnal. There would no longer be a need to print these services in the bulletin.
6. We will not be losing our hymnal, we will be gaining another. Everything good that we have in our current hymnal can be found in LSB. That was one of the grand goals of the LCMS Commission on Worship—to take the best of both hymnals and combine them into one. Page 5 and 15 are in the new hymnal.
7. Our current hymnal uses the Queen’s English, which is difficult for our modern ears to understand. It will update such words as: ye, thee, thou, thine, brake, Ghost, verity, quick, sitteth, passeth, liveth, reigneth, believeth, proceedeth, hast, didst, wouldst, etc. There are a few exceptions to this rule. Some of these words will be found in the Lord’s Prayer, in certain parts of the Common Service, which are sung (TLH p.15), and in some hymns where its wording has secured a place in history.

8. Our current hymnal uses the King James Version of the Bible for the Psalms and other scriptural text. Most of our members do not use this version for their personal devotion. The generations of GenXers and Millennials more than likely do not use KJV, nor will many in future generations.
9. In the old days many will remember that the congregation would stand for the last stanza of a hymn when it was a doxology, that is, words of praise addressed to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This has been lost in some of our congregations, but with LSB it can be quickly recovered since each doxological stanza is indicated by a triangle (Δ) encouraging the congregation to stand in honor of the Triune God.
10. LSB includes Luther's Small Catechism, Bible readings and services for family and personal devotions.
11. Many of the words and phrases used in our hymnal have taken on different meanings since it was first published. Examples: The new hymnal will use the words Holy "Spirit" rather than Holy "Ghost," which has taken on a completely different meaning within the last few generations. Again, there are exceptions to this rule when these words are found in a hymn or in certain parts of the liturgy.
12. Throughout LSB, the parts of the liturgy have scriptural references indicating to our members, and especially our visitors, that our Divine Service is based wholly on the Word of God and nothing else.
13. The liturgy in the LSB is much easier to read and follow. The pages of TLH are cluttered, which makes it difficult to find one's place. This is especially difficult for visitors and perspective members. The LSB uses the format found in the Hymnal Supplement 98.
14. There are a number of prayers that can be said before, during and after the Divine Service (many of which are printed each Sunday in our bulletin) that will be easily accessible to the congregation on the inside front cover of LSB. The Lord's Prayer and the Creeds are easily accessible on the back inside cover as well.
15. Bulletins work too, but LSB has 2 bookmarker ribbons attached to the binding of the hymnal to help you keep your place during the service.
16. There are nearly 100 prayers arranged by topic, which can be utilized during the Divine Service and at home for your own devotion.
17. LSB includes 107 of the Psalms compared to 93 in TLH. All 150 are included in the Altar Book for LSB.
18. Divine Service—Setting 3 in the LSB, which is our pg 5 and 15, gives us the option to say the Apostles or Nicene Creed.
19. There is a very nice glossary provided in LSB, giving people a full explanation of certain terms used in the hymnal, the pronunciation of non-English terms, and page numbers giving one example of the term being used in the hymnal.
20. The index to the hymnal is found at the beginning of LSB so that one can find things more easily. The index for TLH (What! There's an index?) is found on page 837.