

## The Augustana Service Book and Hymnal

### 1. The ASBH is the best hymnal available.

I went through the history of American Lutheranism (July 2022-January 2023) in order to show that the establishment of a Lutheran church faithful to the Book of Concord and following a truly Lutheran hymnal has not been very successful.

- The lasting effects of Pietism, rationalism and finally ecumenism continue.
- The use and introduction of an English language hymnal has also been not very successful.
- The development of the Common Service was the best attempt to unite Lutherans. When the various groups published their version, changes were made (e.g. The Lutheran Hymnal).
- The ASBH successfully finishes the job of a common Lutheran Service!

### 2. The ASBH follows the historic Lutheran liturgy.

I went through a study of the Common Service liturgy (Feb 2023-June 2023) to show and explain the similarities and differences.

- Similar: The vast majority of it is the same as TLH, LW, etc.
- Different: The changes include The Confession/Absolution, The General Prayer, and The Exhortation.
- It rejects the “advances” of the modern Liturgical movement (eucharistic prayer, etc.)

**Augsburg Confession XXVI, 40.** We on our part also retain many ceremonies and traditions (such as the liturgy of the Mass and various canticles, festivals, and the like) which serve to preserve order in the church.

**Formula of Concord, Epitome, X. Church Usages 5.** We believe, teach, and confess that no church should condemn another because it has fewer or more external ceremonies not commanded by God, as long as there is mutual agreement in doctrine and in all its articles as well as in the right use of the holy sacraments, according to the familiar axiom, “Disagreement in fasting does not destroy agreement in faith.”

### 3. The ASBH will allow Eldona to have concord in practice.

Eldona pastors along with our bishop are united in wanting this hymnal.

- We are coming up on 20 years since Eldona’s founding. We still have congregations in three different hymnals. We desire to have a hymnal that does not belong to another synod. We desire to show forth our unity by conformity to the same hymnal. We desire to show our unity by concord in practice.

### 4. The introduction of ASBH was well-planned to ease our members into it.

I knew that introducing a new hymnal would be very difficult for our members.

- April 2021 Eldona Synod: New hymnal begun; April 2022 Bp.Heiser’s book
- Nov, 2022 The calendar, propers sheets, and hymns (Choir teaching us.)
- Nov 2023 Order of ASBH **Divine Service-up to Sermon** (use hymnal for hymns)
- Dec 2023 Began using the full ASBH for Minor Festivals, Jan 2024 Elders’ Meeting
- Feb 2024 Elders’ Meeting, Order of ASBH **Divine Service-up to Communion**
- April 2024 At Eldona’s synod: the completed hymnal would be done before the end of 2024
- June 2024 Elders’ Meeting: Put on hold the plan to use the communion in ASBH in May/June
- End of 2024 Once we receive the new hymnal, the Elders will decide when over the next year we should begin to use it (Dec 1, Jan 5, March 9, or June 8)

### 5. The research and production of a hymnal belongs to the bishop, who works in conjunction with the pastors of the diocese. The introduction of a hymnal belongs to the pastor, who works in conjunction with the elders/congregation.

**AC XXVIII. Ecclesiastical Power** <sup>-53</sup> ...To this our teachers reply that bishops or pastors may make regulations so that everything in the churches is done in good order, .... <sup>55</sup> It is proper for the Christian assembly to keep such ordinances for the sake of love and peace, to be obedient to the bishops and parish ministers in such matters, and to observe the regulations in such a way that one does not give offense to another and so that there may be no disorder or unbecoming conduct in the church.