

An E-Communique Special

Instant Information for Church Leaders

- From the National Office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP (Or, how Cranberry is the NEW Red!)

Several years in the planning, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* - the new worship book of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and Evangelical Lutheran Church in American (ELCA) - is now physically here! And, it has been welcomed with open arms. With orders now approaching 600,000 copies, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* - also dubbed the "new cranberry book", is now in its fourth printing.

As workshops on the new hymnal continue to take place across Canada through November, organizers report that registration levels for the introductory workshops have been high.

"By the end of November, we figure 3000 or 4000 people will have attended one of our events," said Rev. André Lavergne, who, along with Karen Johnson-Lefsrud and Debbie Lou Ludolph, is one of the coordinators for the introduction of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. "Probably closer to 4000. We've never had such a large, far-ranging and all-encompassing endeavour in the history of the ELCIC!"

Many parishes in the ELCIC plan to introduce the new worship book on the First Sunday in Advent; others plan to join the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* fold in Lent or at Easter. With the introduction of the new worship book, many parishes are also asking about retiring the ELCIC's *Lutheran Book of Worship*. In response to the requests, Rev. Eric Dyck, coordinator of the ELCIC's Eastern Synod introductory workshops, has crafted a Retirement Rite that can be used with either the *Lutheran Book of Worship* or *With One Voice*. A online copy of the Retirement Rite is available by clicking on the following link - <http://www.elcic.ca/RetirementRite.pdf>

The following are some *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* **Fast Facts!**, courtesy of the national team responsible for coordinating the introduction of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, and under the auspices of the Programme Committee for Worship:

- Almost 600,000 copies have been ordered in North America (ELCIC & ELCA) and the book is in its fourth printing. That's about one copy for every nine ELCIC/ELCA Lutherans.
- In Canada, 25,000 copies have been spoken for so far. That's about one for every seven ELCIC Lutherans. As predicted, we are adopting more quickly in Canada. That was also the case with the introduction of *With One Voice* and other worship resources.
- All synods, seminaries and some other institutions have ordered copies. Approximately 175 ELCIC congregations took advantage of the prepublication price and preordered copies of the new hymnal. That means that more than one in four congregations took advantage of the special pricing.
- A significant number of congregations are expected to join the fold following the Introductory Workshop Event, which are taking place through to the end of November and/or in connection with the setting of budgets for 2007.
- The registration level for workshops has been very high across Canada and organizers are extremely pleased. (The registration fee of \$20 includes a copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and lunch.) **It still may not be too late to register for a workshop in your area!**

- Delivery of new orders is now into February of 2007. All present orders have been filled and will be delivered in the order in which they were received.
- Waterloo Lutheran Seminary was the first community to come in to the Augsburg Fortress store in Kitchener to pick up their order of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

For further information and details on the new worship book, please visit the ELCIC Worship website pages which can be found by visiting the ELCIC website (www.elcic.ca) - click on either the graphic of the new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book or look under the "more options" selection and click on "worship".

(with files from Rev. André Lavergne and Rev. Eric Dyck)

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