

Music Notes

The Hymn Sing

Music and the church are practically inseparable throughout the course of history. Hymnody, or the singing of hymns, in the Lutheran tradition, is almost as old as the Reformation and creation of the reformed church. It is noted in Volume 53 of *Luther's Works* (riveting read for those interested) that Luther had begun the practice of singing hymns in 1523. In January 1524, the first hymnal, *Hymnal of Eight*, containing, you guessed it, eight hymns was published in German. Some of the hymns have survived to this day.

During J.S. Bach's tenure in Leipzig, he cultivated a new approach to hymnody, writing a full cantata, or music for an entire service, every week of the year. This astonishing addition to the tradition was recognized during the time as parishioners and those with heightened music curiosities would travel on Tuesday nights, though perhaps others as well, to listen to Bach play hymns on one of the two organs in the sanctuary. They might have sung along if they could. Bach was a master improviser and would often transition the hymns into lengthy efforts of improvisation incorporating aspects of fugue and toccata techniques.

Following Bach's Tuesday nights, the Lutheran church developed a more structured approach to this practice and began inviting the congregation to sing hymns on the traditional Tuesday evening. This offered an opportunity for those in attendance to practice singing the hymns, sometimes for hours on end, as a form of entertainment, worship, or practice.

This year marks the 3rd Annual Hymn Sing here at Faith Lutheran Church. The aim of this event is to relive the old tradition by singing favorite hymns accompanied by the Faith Singers and Ringers of Faith. All are invited to attend either to listen or sing, but above all, to worship the God who inspired such beautiful music. The program includes a variety of hymns young and old, prepared specifically for this event.

It will be held on May 18 at 6:30 p.m. in Faith Lutheran's sanctuary, with a time of fellowship to follow immediately. This year we will also feature old hymnals on display for those in attendance to view. If you have an old hymnal you would wish to see on display, please contact Mike or the church office.

Best, Mike Lauer



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The Music & Worship Committee of FLC
would welcome volunteers to help in the following areas:

_____ Reading during Services

_____ Drama (in Costume)

_____ Special Music during Services

_____ Loading/Unloading Equipment Trailer for Summer Services in the Park

Please send your name, phone number and e-mail address to mikel@faithlc.com or
wendym@faithlc.com or call Mike or
Wendy at 320-587-2903.

If you are available to share your time with the congregation, please call today.
We appreciate your consideration and thank you!

