



20 Fun Facts about ELW

1. ELW includes all 150 psalms.
2. The psalter translation was prepared especially for ELW and has since been adopted by other denominations.
3. While ELW is often called “cranberry,” it has no official color name.
4. ELW was the first North American hymnal to include artwork. Each section begins with a work of art specifically commissioned for the volume.
5. ELW was conceived as part of an unfolding family of resources, which is why “book” is not in the title, as it was in *Service Book and Hymnal* and *Lutheran Book of Worship*. The pew edition is a core rather than a comprehensive resource.
6. Since 2009, the congregation that has purchased the largest number of ELWs is a church in Omaha, Nebraska.
7. ELW contains 10 Holy Communion settings, Service of the Word, Morning and Evening Prayer, 88 service music pieces, 648 hymns, and 7 national songs.
8. The Service Music section begins at #151 to show that Psalms 1–150 are the first 150 songs in the church’s songbook.
9. There are more than 200 hymns that aren’t in LBW or WOV.
10. Existing Lutheran resources from which the hymns are drawn include LBW, WOV, LLC, and TFF.
11. Pages 1154–1159 were included to show the biblical foundations for worship.
12. The Small Catechism is included in its entirety. (Pages 1160–1167.)
13. The shade of red used for rubrics and pointing is the same shade used in LBW.
14. ELW was commended for use by the ELCA and the ELCIC in 2005.
15. It was published on October 3, 2006. Over the next 8 months, over 40,000 people attended one of 306 day-long introductory events.
16. ELW includes rites for Lent and the Three Days (Ash Wednesday, Sunday of the Passion, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil) in the pew edition to show how central these services are to the assembly’s worship.
17. 64 hymns start with “O” or “Oh.”
18. ELW was originally designed with a clear sleeve in the back cover to hold additional songs, but was removed after ten years because of the availability of SundaysandSeasons.com.
19. The Lord’s Prayer appears more than 15 times (spoken or sung).
20. The largest single ELW order was for 760 copies in 2018.