**wORSHIP: WHERE HEAVEN MEETS EARTH**

**Session Ten, Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, 17 February 2019**

**9:20 to 10:10**

**“Favorite Hymns Survey”**

Comments and Observations

Over the past two weeks, opportunity was given for people to nominate seven of their favorite hymns. The survey was designed to reflect only the frequency of choice, not the degree of “favoritism.”

Participation was wide-spread: 108 ballots were cast, with 169 different hymns being nominated at least once.

The tabulated nominations were limited to Lutheran Service Book (LSB) hymns 331 through 966. In cases where more than seven nominations were made on a given ballot, only the first seven listed were recorded.

It is obvious that no single hymnbook can contain everyone’s favorites. Favorites from within the various LSB liturgies and outside of LSB in other hymnals are certainly affirmed as valid, although not included in the tabulated results. Indeed, as the favorites we sing today will reveal, Christian hymnody is truly an ecumenical achievement – from all corners of the church and from all generations.

This project reveals that people of all ages and backgrounds feel strongly about their favorites and that most have far more than just seven favorite hymns. It is also apparent that people choose their favorites for a variety of reasons: expressing or eliciting strong doctrine, bold faith, personal experience, fond memories, and so forth. As the attached results indicate, what defines a favorite hymn is very much an individual matter – nearly every worship service includes someone’s favorite hymn!

***LOOKING AHEAD***

*February 24 . . . Reformation Era Hymnody*

*March 3 . . . Lent*