

April 2024

# BROADCASTER

*A magazine of Worship Anew*



*Christ's Presence*  
in our loneliness

# Finding hope in community



*Matthew F. Leighty*

**Matthew F. Leighty**  
Executive Director

**I**n the wake of my father's entrance into his eternal home with our Savior in heaven, like most families, we had the calling and funeral. While I was deeply touched by the outpouring of love and support from our community, I also remember those days as exhausting — both emotionally and physically. So, shortly after the funeral was over and we gathered in the church fellowship hall, I felt so moved by the generosity and hard work of so many people who prepared such a wonderful meal for our loved ones. We found sustenance not only for our bodies but also for our weary hearts. What a blessing!

I was reminded of my father's funeral luncheon when a message recently arrived from someone who had received a care package through our ministry. A now widow had stayed with some family for a little while immediately following her husband's funeral. She returned home to a pile of mail filled with bills and documents that

now needed to be completed. However, amid the practical burdens of her grief, she found solace in a care package from Worship Anew, which offered not only personalized items but, most importantly, the comforting embrace of God's Word. She mentioned how uplifting it was to have that one item sharing Christ's love with her.

In her world that had this sudden sadness, someone near and dear to her had a vital role of sharing heartfelt companionship and extended a hand of love and support when she was in such need. I hope you might think of how you can help and share love with someone through this compassionate ministry.

Our research with Barna Group through "Aging Well" confirms the significance of these findings, revealing the profound impact of companionship on the wellbeing of older adults. Married individuals consistently report higher levels of satisfaction and purpose,

**By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.**

*1 John 3:16-18 ESV*



April 2024 | Vol 2 Issue 4

Worship Anew  
5 Martin Luther Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825  
(888) 286-8002

## EDITORIAL STAFF

MATTHEW LEIGHTY  
Executive Director

ASHLEY WIEHE  
Director of Communications

THOMAS MOLL  
Director of Content & Innovation

SHEILA BANKS  
Communications Specialist

ELIZABETH PULS  
Copy Editor

PEYTON SWEET  
Content Specialist

*Worship Anew engages and equips aging adults with resources to live a full and abundant life in Jesus Christ.*





highlighting the importance of meaningful connections within our communities. However, for those facing isolation — the absence of such bonds — this can lead to profound despair.

Through our care package ministry, individuals can provide a tangible expression of Christ's love as well as the power of community. These thoughtfully, curated packages are filled with items to provide comfort and encouragement and serve as a beacon of hope in the midst of struggle. Centered in God's Word, they offer spiritual nourishment and remind recipients that they are not alone.

Reflecting on the passage in 1 John 3:16-18, sometimes words can be hard to find when someone is going through a difficult time. These verses urge us to action, demonstrating genuine care and compassion for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As I consider these thoughts, the timeless words of a beloved hymn "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" come to mind.

Through our care ministry, I'm moved every day by the commitment that so many of you provide to older adults with the love and care we have in Christ our Lord. Through acts of kindness and compassion, we extend the hand of fellowship and spread the message of hope found in God's Word.

At Worship Anew, we want to walk alongside you as we share in the boundless love of Christ.

## Blest Be the Tie That Binds

*Verse 1:*

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

*Verse 3:*

We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.

*Verse 5:*

From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
And sin we shall be free  
And perfect love and friendship reign  
Through all eternity

Throughout 2022, Worship Anew partnered with Barna Group to conduct research on the needs of aging adults and their caregivers. The results of this partnership were published in 2023 in a journal titled, "Aging Well." Learn more at [WorshipAnew.org/AgingWell](https://WorshipAnew.org/AgingWell)



## In This Issue

**6 Sharing in God's Glory**  
Exploring the solar eclipse from a Biblical perspective.

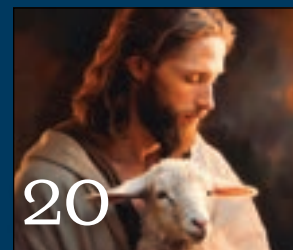
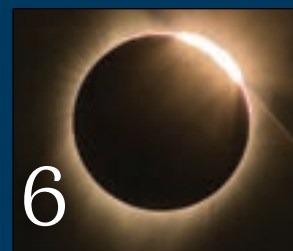
**8 Sing a New Song**  
Behind-the-scenes of the choirs on Worship Anew.

**9 Program Summaries**  
See what is on Worship Anew for April.

**12 Christ and Calamity**  
Finding God in our isolation.

**16 Charitable Gift Annuities**  
Learn of a way to give to the ministry while receiving payments for life.

**20 The Good Shepherd**  
How our God is watching over His sheep.



# WELCOMING NEW MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS



## **Kirsten Bohnke** *Database Specialist*

Kirsten Bohnke joins the staff as our Database Specialist. She is excited to begin working at Worship Anew after having been the assistant to the education executive for the LCMS Indiana District. Kirsten grew up in Lutheran schools, attending LCMS schools from Pre-K through college. Having moved to Fort Wayne, Ind., in 8th grade, she is a proud graduate of Emmaus Lutheran School and

Concordia Lutheran High School. She and her husband, Cameron, recently welcomed their first child, Elaine, and enjoy taking her to see all the sights around Fort Wayne. In her free time, Kirsten enjoys curling up with her two cats to read a book and going to the movie theater to see all the new films.

## **Monica Ochola Hartman** *Administrative Assistant*

Monica Ochola Hartman joins us as an Administrative Assistant. Monica says she is excited to be part of the ministry at Worship Anew. She is Kenyan born, although she has called Fort Wayne, Ind., home for a long time. Professionally, Monica is a fundraiser and currently venturing into the world of grant writing. She received a master's degree in education from Purdue University Fort Wayne and is currently completing a doctoral program through Bowling Green State University. Monica's husband, Travis, is a second-year seminarian at Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, and they look forward to serving the Lord joyfully. She is an avid sourdough bread baker and loves reading in her downtime.



Denny Schaefer, former board president, was honored at the February board meeting for his service.

## **Thank you to our Board Members**

Thank you to our board members for their service!

Denny Schaefer, who served on the board from 2018-2024, was recognized for his service as the board president. Lisa Slack recently completed her term as a board member, as well.

Patty Willyard, a retired educator who attends Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church, was elected to the Board.

Our new executive committee was also elected at our February meeting. Those members include:

President: Larry Graham  
Vice President: Rev. Mike Wakeland  
Secretary: Tommy Franke  
Treasurer: Jerry Fuhrmann





Throughout the year, the ministry team at Worship Anew travels around the country to attend conferences, meet with churches, and see friends of the ministry.

1. Elizabeth Puls meets with Hope-Full Living author Jane Wilke while at the Best Practices Conference in Phoenix.

2. Elizabeth Puls meets with Hope-Full Living author Don Schatz while at Best Practices. Don is also the author of “The Sound of God Breathing,” a book about the pain of loss.

3. From left to right, Julie Beers, Jon Dize, Matthew Leighty, Ashley Wiehe, and Gina Teeple attend the Faith & Fundraising Conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

4. Matthew Leighty shares about the ministry while visiting Grace Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, N.M.



***“I thank you for being such a blessing to those of us who can no longer attend church.”***

Worship Anew Viewer from Noblesville, Ind.



# The Heavens declare the Glory of God

## A scientist's view of the solar eclipse

*By Dr. Paul Edmon*

One of the most spectacular astronomical events observable with the naked eye is a total solar eclipse, and some of the country will get to experience it this year on April 8.

The startling appearance of the sun as it is slowly blocked out by the moon ...

The midday twilight that causes the birds to stop singing and the stars to shine through the darkened sky ...

The splendor of the corona as the sun is fully hidden from view ...

The bursting forth of a thousand dawns through the lunar mountains ...

All of this natural beauty is part of the elegant celestial dance which the Lord orchestrates, showing forth His power and inspiring humanity with the timeless beauty of nature.

The beauty of the eclipse is just the beginning, for as King David says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1 ESV). Solar eclipses confess the existence and work of God as one of many examples of fine tuning. The moon, though 400 times smaller than the sun, is situated in an orbit around the Earth that makes its angular size (its apparent size on the sky) the same as the sun. If the moon were further out, as happens when it is at apogee, we would only have annular eclipses. If the moon were closer, it would block out the corona of the sun. During the totality of a solar eclipse, however, the moon is nearly perfectly situated such that we can see the normally invisible corona that serves as the foundation of the solar wind.

Thus, eclipses allow us to discover things we would not normally have been able to. After all, eclipses helped the ancient Babylonians learn about celestial mechanics and discover the Saros cycle. The Saros cycle, in turn, allowed the Greeks to build handheld devices like the Antikythera mechanism which could predict the next eclipse. In the 19th century, great expeditions were undertaken to observe eclipses in order to learn more about the sun's corona. Perhaps most stunning was the confirmation of Einstein's Theory of Relativity when Sir Arthur Eddington used one of these eclipse expeditions to observe the bending of starlight by the sun's gravity. That the Lord made the earth, the moon, and the sun to syzygy





periodically and has given them roughly the same size on the sky enables great discoveries like these.

The great bodies of the heavens are also “for signs and for seasons, and for days and years” (Genesis 1:14b ESV). Eclipses have a unique place in this as we can use them to precisely date ancient events. For instance, we know that the Battle of Halys occurred on May 28, 585 BC, because a total solar eclipse occurred during the battle and caused the fighting to stop. From the precise date of this battle we can date other events in the ancient world.

The Holy Spirit also uses eclipses in prophecy. The prophet Joel says, “The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes” (Joel 2:31 ESV). St. Peter cites this prophecy of Joel as being fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. Fifty-two days prior to Pentecost “the sun’s light failed” (Luke 23:45a ESV) for three hours while Christ suffered on the cross. This was no natural eclipse, since, due to the Passover, we know that the moon was full. Rather, this is a miraculous sign that attended the crucifixion of the Lord of Light and fulfilled the prophecy of Joel.

There are also prophecies from Jesus regarding the end times:

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting

with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near (Luke 21:25–28 ESV).

So, as you watch the Great American Eclipse on April 8, AD 2024, wonder in awe at the majesty of this celestial event. Ponder the great workmanship the Lord has set in the heavens. Reflect on the sufferings and death of Jesus on the cross for your sins. Then rejoice that in Christ we no longer have to fear as the pagans did that the eclipse would signal the end of the world. We know that the loss of the sun is temporary and only a shadow of the great and last day. Then the sun will be extinguished forever and the true Son will come in all His glory to take His elect to a new heavens and earth, where His Light will never fail.

For more information on how to safely view the solar eclipse, go to [science.nasa.gov/eclipses/safety](https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/safety).

*Dr. Paul Edmon has his Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Minnesota and works as liaison between Research Computing and the Center for Astrophysics at Harvard University. He is also on the Board of Regents for Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and attends First Lutheran Church in Boston. The views expressed here are his own.*



Image credit: NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio



# Sing a Holy Song

We have some wonderful music on our April programs and all of our programs throughout the year! Over the years, many people have asked how it works when we have choirs on Worship Anew.

Our choir recordings are separate from our pastor recordings. Our regular pastor recordings are typically on Tuesdays, and we have three in one day. But, choirs come in on any day of the week to record.

We have choirs of all ages and types who come into our studio to record. Just in April, you'll see 170 choir members from seven different choirs from five different cities. One choir is the Angelis 4th-5th grade children's choir from Holy Cross Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, Ind., featured on the April 14 program. Another choir is the Kammerchor chamber choir from Concordia University Wisconsin on April 21. If you're a regular viewer, you've probably noticed that we have our own Worship Anew Choir that will often sing the "Hymn of the Day" that is used in many Lutheran churches all over the world. The choir is made up of choir directors and members based out of Northeast Indiana. This choir comes in to record three to four times a year and has been such a blessing to our ministry.

We are grateful to all of the groups who have come in to record here at Worship Anew. All of the choirs you see on the program



At top, the Angelis Choir from Holy Cross Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, Ind., smile for a photo before their recording last year. Above, the Worship Anew Choir records the "Hymn of the Day" for upcoming programs.

are volunteer groups who love sharing their musical gifts in order to share the Word of God.

We pray that the music you hear and sing along to on Worship Anew will continue to bless you in your faith.

If you are interested in bringing in your choir for a recording session, please contact Paul Melin, Director of Video Production & Accessibility, at [Paul@WorshipAnew.org](mailto:Paul@WorshipAnew.org) or (888) 286-8002.





# Worship Anew in April

Year 2024 | Series B



## Living Vicariously

April 7, 2024 – Second Sunday of Easter

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

If the description of your favorite food makes your mouth water or if you feel someone else's joy as if it is your own, then you have lived vicariously. In a much, much, much greater way, the Christian life is Living Vicariously through the perfect life, death, and resurrection of our beautiful Savior, Jesus Christ!

*Sermon Text: 1 John 1:1-4*

*Readings: Psalm 148; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31*



## Resurrection Assurances

April 14, 2024 – Third Sunday of Easter

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Because Jesus arose from the dead, we have the greatest, the most important assurances. These assurances give us tremendous peace.

*Sermon Text: Luke 24:36-48*

*Readings: Psalm 4:1-8; 1 John 3:1-3; Luke 24:36-48*



## Our Good Shepherd

April 21, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Thomas Eggold

Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, came to call us by name. He came to lay down His life for the sheep. He came to seek and save the lost. Through the voice of our Good Shepherd, we are brought back to the Father.

*Sermon Text: John 10:14-15*

*Readings: Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18*



## Vine, Branches, and Fruit

April 28, 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Shayne Jonker

Jesus is the Vine, you are the branches, and the Father is the vinedresser. That is today's picture of your union with Christ through faith from the Gospel according to St. John. Joined to Jesus in faith, you are alive and fruitful, as living branches joined to a living vine. Apart from Jesus, you are dead and fruitless.

*Sermon Text: John 15:5*

*Readings: Psalm 150; 1 John 4:1-21; John 15:1-8*



# SEND *love*

Share the love of Christ with an aging adult who is hurting by sending a care package today.

The care package program provides an opportunity to do something for aging adults who are hurting, as well as those who are caring for them. The physical and spiritual resources included in each care package remind them they are loved and not suffering alone.

Each package includes:

- ▶ A Comfort Item (blanket or slippers)
- ▶ A mug or tumbler and a beverage
- ▶ An activity or puzzle
- ▶ Spiritual resources, including our Hope-Full Living Devotional
- ▶ Personalized items
- ▶ A note sent with a prayer for each person

**Send a Care Package  
today by visiting**  
[WorshipAnew.org/Care](http://WorshipAnew.org/Care)







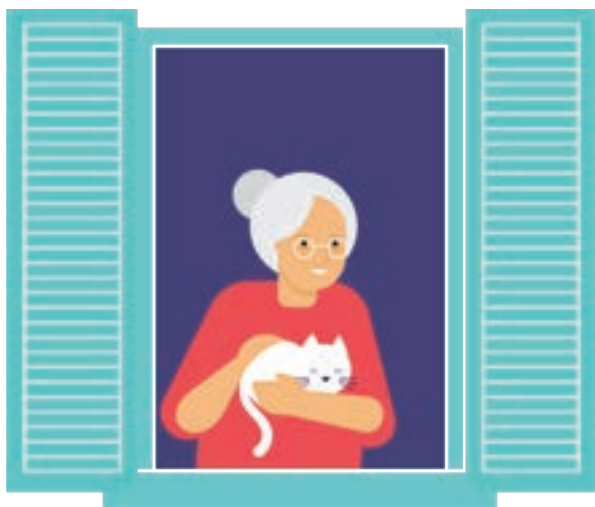
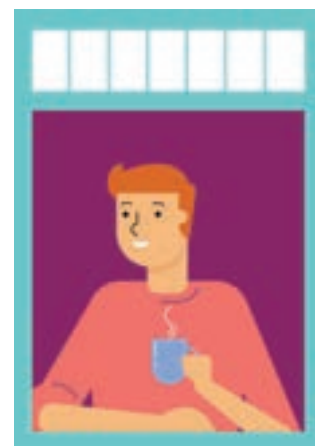
# Sharing Christ's Love

By Rich Bimler

Hope-Full Living Editor-at-Large

**T**hink of the people the Lord has placed into our lives. What a great “mission field” we live in! Try out these ideas for being intentional about “Sharing Christ” with those around you, and learn from others as well:

1. Bring a gift to a neighbor. Learn the names of the children in your neighborhood.
2. Call people on the phone who you know and haven't seen or talked to for a while — just to say HI!
3. Learn more about people, not by only talking to them, but by also listening to their joys, struggles, and backgrounds. Offer to pray with them.
4. Talk and visit with people of all ages. We all need to talk to the older and the younger.
5. Choose a friend or three who you can talk to at any time about anything so that you can share challenges and joys.
6. If you like singing, practice sharing your voice by singing your favorite hymns with and for others. If they walk away, perhaps only try humming!
7. Look for the lonely, the lost, and the “left outs” in order to share and listen to their thoughts, struggles, and history.







# When You Are Alone, Christ is with You

*By Rev. Dr. Harold L. Senkbeil  
Author of "Christ and Calamity"*

**N**othing lasts forever. You and I know that rationally, but emotionally we would rather not face it. And we aren't the first generation to avoid this truth: Early Spanish explorers came to these shores looking for the fabled Fountain of Youth. In America, we've commercialized their search and made it into a science. Health clubs, diet systems, and exercise programs are lucrative ventures for entrepreneurs to cash in on America's perpetual quest for beautiful bodies and youthful vigor.

Don't get me wrong, health and fitness are important. But many of us are in denial. Though we know we're not immortal, we prefer to live as if we are. The thought of giving up familiar daily work in retirement is bad enough, but dying? That's off our radar! So each generation mimics the generation after it. Grandparents pretend 60 is the new 40. Most of us actually come to believe we're younger than we really are. So we keep pushing off the inevitable. Optimism has its place but only accompanied by a healthy dose of realism. Sooner or later we're all going to die, unless the Lord Jesus returns to usher in his eternal kingdom. The psalmist sets us straight with a jolt of reality:

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You return man to dust and say, 'Return, O children of man!' For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers" (Psalm 90:1-6 ESV).

*continued on page 14*

In this Psalm we are forced to face facts. “Here today and gone tomorrow” is no cliché; it accurately sums up the transience of human life.

In comparison to the vastness of eternity, the passing of a thousand years is nothing; our own short lives are even less. We need to face the relentless course of decline and decay. Just as grass that thrives in the morning dew is cut down that same evening for cattle fodder, in this fallen world we humans are born to die. Like it or not, this is our common destiny after Eden.

The prophet Isaiah paints a similar picture of human decay and death, but he then injects God’s promise of eternal hope.

“All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever” (Isaiah 40:6–8 ESV).

The prophet Isaiah writes, “The word of our God will stand forever.” Because God himself is eternal, his word lasts to all eternity. Nothing else endures.

Check your mirror: have you noticed a stray gray hair showing up unexpectedly or unwelcome wrinkles appearing? We seem surprised that we grow older, as though somehow we can avoid the passage of time.

We should know better, of course. Most adults notice how children seem to grow by inches every passing month and how suddenly babies turn into toddlers. But, for some reason, we think that when we at last arrive at the

prime of life, we’re going to stay there permanently. In this decaying world, nobody gets a pass on death.

It’s not only the frail elderly who die. I’ve buried little children as well as women and men in the prime of life. No doubt death has touched you, too; you likely already know intimately the pain of loss and the grueling ache of grief.

Here’s the unvarnished truth: death is here to stay until Jesus returns to claim his bride, the Church. On that final day, he will raise all the saints in the power of his resurrection, out of the dust of death into risen eternal glory. But Jesus has not abandoned us until then. We aren’t just biding our time, running out the clock in this dying world. We have an anchor in eternity. Jesus promises to be with us every step of the way, even in calamity and the darkest valleys of our lives. He ties his eternal presence to his living and abiding word.

Jesus told Peter, “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63 ESV). When tragedy interrupts our lives or adversity strikes, we need to listen to Jesus. He links his life-giving Spirit to the words he speaks. Peter was listening carefully. So when Jesus asked his disciples if they were going to leave — like many others who rejected his teaching — Peter spoke for them all. “Lord, to whom shall we go?” he said. “You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68 ESV).

Perhaps in your own personal world, facing decline and loss, you’ve begun to wonder if Jesus has abandoned you to muddle through as best you can. When everything seems stacked against you, people often begin to think that God is against them, too. Whether you’ve faced





long days of ongoing distress or one short hour of deep darkness, you might sense you've been abandoned by both God and everyone you know. Don't believe it for a minute. Christ Jesus has promised to be with you in his abiding word of grace and hope.

All this calls for faith, of course. But in the deepest valleys and most anxious moments of life, faith is frequently in short supply. Where will you find the faith you need to survive and thrive? The same place you find Jesus: in his word. "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17 ESV).

See how that works? Instead of retreating into your head to cope with misery, you need to get out of yourself. In stressful times fears and doubts cycle endlessly through our minds in a continuous loop of anxiety and distress. Break that ugly cycle. Find a quiet place where you can talk out loud. Open up your Bible, and read aloud the words of Jesus. His words are Spirit and life.

Those very words of Jesus will give you the faith you need to speak aloud your prayers and praises, petitions, and thanksgivings. Don't hold anything back. In his calming presence you can pour out the contents of your anguished heart in confident prayer.

There's only one place to be when calamity strikes or the darkness of this decaying world engulfs you in its fearful grip. Isolation is your enemy — there's no way to tackle personal distress or public tragedy alone. But you don't need to. Go to Jesus; he has the words of eternal life.

And those words are life for you.

*The Rev. Dr. Harold L. Senkbeil is the author of "Christ and Calamity," and since July 2008, has served as both adjunct professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, as well as executive director with DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel. A chapter from his book is featured here.*

**"All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."**

*Isaiah 40:6-8 ESV*





# Charitable Gift Annuities

*Well done, good and faithful servant*

By Jon Dize, CFRE

Director of Operations & Legacy Giving

**W**ould you like to support the broadcast and print ministry of Worship Anew AND receive a fixed payment for the rest of your or a loved ones' life?

We would like to introduce you to our new Charitable Gift Annuity program at Worship Anew. Charitable Gift Annuities have been in existence since the 1830s, and now with Worship Anew you, too, can benefit the ministry by donating cash, appreciated assets, such as stocks, or other non-income-producing assets, such as land, and receive a fixed payment for you or up to two lives for the rest of your life. Your gift may also qualify you for a federal charitable tax deduction if you itemize, and your payments may be tax-advantaged, as well. This, and you will know that the balance of your gift will support the ministry at Worship Anew for generations to come.

If you would like additional, no-obligation information on Charitable Gift Annuity options for you or a loved one, please contact Jon Dize, CFRE, Director of Operations and Legacy Giving at (888) 286-8002 ext. 107 or [Legacy@WorshipAnew.org](mailto:Legacy@WorshipAnew.org).

You may also learn more at our website at [WorshipAnew.org/Legacy](http://WorshipAnew.org/Legacy) to see what Charitable Gift Annuity options may be possible for you.

## **The Parable of the Talents**

*14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him,*

***'Well done, good and faithful servant.'***

*You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*



**This sounds too good to be true; how can I donate to Worship Anew and receive a payment for life?**

History records that the first Charitable Gift Annuity was created by the American Bible Society in 1831, and universities, hospitals, and other ministries have offered them ever since! Charitable Gift Annuities were created for supporters like you who want to support our ministry but still want or need income for you and/or a loved one.

**What can I donate to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity?**

The minimum donation for a Worship Anew Charitable Gift Annuity is \$10,000 with a maximum of \$1,000,000. Donations may be through cash, appreciated securities (such as stocks, bonds, etc.), or other assets that have a value (such as land, your home, etc.). Many of our supporters may also be able to transfer funds from their IRA (via the Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD) tax-free to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity. Please contact us for more details.

**How can I determine what my Charitable Gift Annuity payment rate would be? Does it change if I include my spouse or a relative?**

Worship Anew follows best practices and adheres to the rates suggested by the American Council on Gift Annuities. Rates are based on the age of the beneficiary(ies) that will be receiving payments from the Charitable Gift Annuity. Rates will also vary if the Charitable Gift Annuity is for one life or two lives. In addition, the older you are, the higher the possible rate! Supporters may also defer the first or additional payments, thereby making it possible for even higher payout rates. Contact us for more details.

**Will my annual payments fluctuate with the state of the economy?**

The Charitable Gift Annuity is a contract. The payment rate is set at the time of the gift and is based on the lives of the beneficiaries and will not change, regardless of the state of the economy or stock market in the future.

**Is the Charitable Gift Annuity managed by Worship Anew?**

Worship Anew has partnered with the LCMS Foundation to manage our Charitable Gift Annuity program. For a small fee paid by Worship Anew, the LCMS Foundation will invest the gift, make your yearly payments, and ensure all needed tax information is mailed and processed. However, rest assured that your gift will eventually benefit the ministry you love at Worship Anew.

**Are Charitable Gift Annuities legal in every state?**

Each state can regulate Charitable Gift Annuities; however, Worship Anew supporters in every U.S. state, other than Hawaii and New York, are eligible to participate in the Charitable Gift Annuity program.

**Are Charitable Gift Annuities guaranteed like insurance?**

Charitable Gift Annuities are not insurance. They are a contract backed by the full faith and credit of the issuing organization. Worship Anew has chosen to utilize the services of the LCMS Foundation with more than \$2 billion in assets to house and manage our Charitable Gift Annuity program.

**Can I see what my rate would be today without committing to anything?**

Yes! There is a calculator available on our website at [WorshipAnew.org/Legacy](https://WorshipAnew.org/Legacy) where you can enter your age and basic information to learn more without making any commitment to give.

**How can I learn more?**

Please contact Jon Dize, CFRE, Director of Operations and Legacy Giving at (888) 286-8002, ext. 107 or [Legacy@WorshipAnew.org](mailto:Legacy@WorshipAnew.org).

Please visit [WorshipAnew.org/Legacy](https://WorshipAnew.org/Legacy) to see what Charitable Gift Annuity options may be possible for you. You may also utilize our no-obligation rate calculator to see what rate you and/or your loved ones might be eligible for.

*Want to learn more?*

Watch this video to learn more about Charitable Gift Annuities and how you can support the ministry at Worship Anew with your gift. Use your camera to scan the QR code or visit [WorshipAnew.org/cga-video](https://WorshipAnew.org/cga-video)



# Growing Old in Community

*In 2023, Worship Anew partnered with Barna Group on a research project called “Aging Well.” Below is an excerpt of the research journal on the power of community in the lives of older adults.*

*“Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread.” Psalm 37:25 NLT*

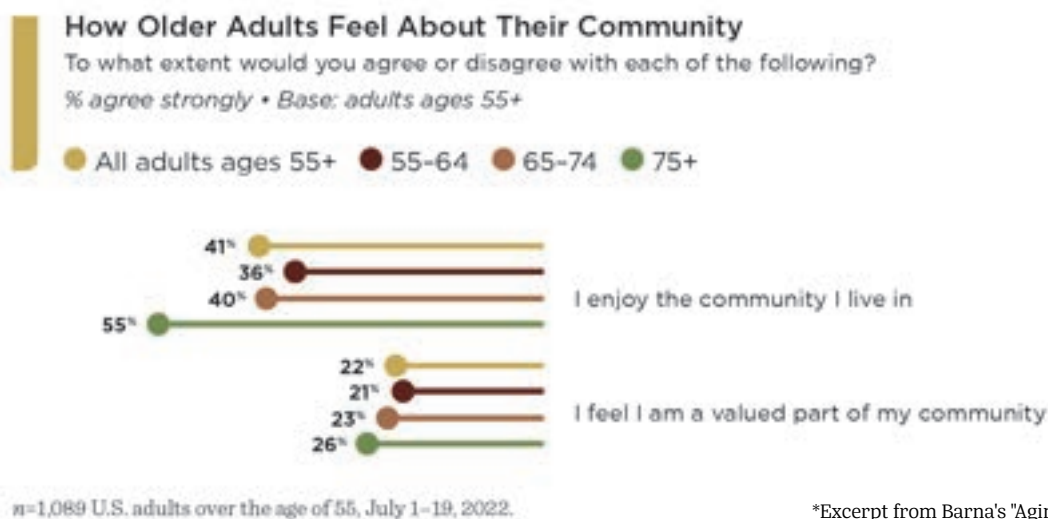
The psalmist David penned these words from the perspective of a long-life lived. Knowing his personal history through scripture, this verse carries added significance. At times, David praised God and rejoiced in victory, while at other times, he felt low and abandoned. Yet, by the end of David’s life, he sees the full picture of God’s faithfulness and forgiveness. Whether in biblical or current times — as the expression goes — there is no substitute for experience.

Seniors have much to offer based on what they’ve been through, but confidence can waver when it comes to sharing who they are with the world. What, then, might nudge more seniors to fully embrace where they are in life and make a difference in society? A good place to start is with how older generations are engaging with others in their community. After all, connection is key to purposeful discipleship and spiritual formation.

## The Power of Connection

Generally, as older adults age, they express more satisfaction in their connections with others, their communities and society at large. More than three in five older adults also say their friendships are core to who they are (22 percent) or mean “a great deal” (40 percent). In contrast to these experiences, data reveals that one in four adults ages 55-plus (27 percent) at least “sometimes” feels neglected by those around them. A plurality of senior adults (41 percent) also strongly agree they enjoy the community they live in, but only 22 percent strongly agree they are a valued part of that community.

These insights put the power of community in an older adult’s life into proper perspective. Amid the second half of their lives, senior adults seem to have a need, fondness, and appreciation for the relationships that remain.



\*Excerpt from Barna’s “Aging Well”





## Family Relationships

Older adults have the healthiest relationships with family, particularly those in their nuclear/immediate families, as well as grandchildren. Among adults 55-plus who are married, nearly three-fourths (73 percent) say their relationship with their spouse is “very healthy.” The majority of senior adults also report experiencing very healthy relationships with their children (67 percent), grandchildren (67 percent), mother (57 percent) and father (54 percent). As seniors age, these relationships improve.

### What does this mean?

As we get older, we all have things we need to push out of our lives in order to make room for new things. If you have children, you may have thought to yourself, “What did I do with all that extra free time I used to have?” Whenever something new comes into our lives, something else has to go. But, what happens when we start losing the things we love, such as our friends or family members? As we age, we learn to value more and more the relationships God has given us.

Thank God for the close connections you have now. Nurture those relationships. If you find that your social circles are getting smaller, look for new opportunities to connect with others around things you enjoy doing such as reading, watching sports, or making a craft.

Reach out to those who may not have the same connections you do. Maybe you can be the family someone is lacking. As we all strive for connection, pray that God would encourage you with those near, and make you a blessing to those who are alone.



# The Good Shepherd

*A Reflection on John 10:11-18*

*By Rev. Gene Brunow*



**A**pril 21 is Good Shepherd Sunday. A shepherd was someone who made a living looking after sheep. He led his sheep to pasture and water. He looked after them and protected them from danger. When a sheep was lost, the shepherd went out to search for it. At night, he brought the sheep home, checking to see they were all there by counting them as they passed under his shepherd's rod or staff.

Even as adults, we need someone to guide and protect us from the dangers of this world. We have sufferings that come from within and outside of us. What we need is someone and something upon which we can put our complete trust. Jesus is that someone.

With his opening statement, Jesus assures us who he is. All other possibilities are eliminated. That leads to just the benefits Jesus the Good Shepherd provides for us. Below we have a few examples:

- » First and foremost, he gave up his life for us on the cross. That means that every sin we have committed or will commit has been forgiven. Romans 8:32 ESV is a great assurance of that declaration, “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”
- » Romans 8:34 ESV points to the fact Christ did not stop with his death on the cross, but provides ongoing care for us: “who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”
- » Jesus’ whole life is completely given over to meet our needs. Jesus holds nothing back.
- » As our Good Shepherd Jesus has intimate knowledge of each of us. He knows us at a glance as well as our characteristics and idiosyncrasies.
- » Thanks to his faith producing action he opens himself to us so we trust coming to him at any time or in any circumstance.
- » Jesus and the Father had a perfect relationship. They were of one mind. It is breathtaking to realize that that is what Christ wants for us.

These blessings are for all people of all times. And, he punctuates it in John 10:18 where Jesus states that he has all authority and can do anything.





## This month's study text:

### *The Good Shepherd*

*11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."*

**John 10:11-18 (ESV)**

### **Prayer:**

**Lord Jesus, thank for being my Good Shepherd and taking care of me. Amen.**

### **Reflection Questions:**

One of the ways we know God loves us is because of the sacrifice He made for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. What is it about sacrifice that shows love for someone else? How are we called to sacrifice for others in order to show them God's love?

Some believe that God set this world in motion and then walked away, leaving us to our own devices. This parable reminds us that Jesus seeks and saves the lost. He is active in this world and in our lives. What does this parable say to believers about our work with the Holy Spirit to help the lost know Jesus, their Good Shepherd?

Our sinful natures don't like being dependent on anyone else. How can we embrace being dependent on God; content being His sheep?

There are dangers in this world we need protecting from. Think about the specific dangers in your life that have the potential to attack your faith. Pray to God to give you His protection and strength as your Good Shepherd.

*Rev. Brunow is a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. Find more of his devotionals at [genesbrunotes.com](http://genesbrunotes.com).*

## 15 Minute Beef Bulgogi

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 2 tsp. vegetable oil
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 1 tsp. ginger (fresh or ground)
- 2 tsp. red pepper flakes (to taste)
- Splash rice wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. sesame oil
- 1 tbsp. minced garlic (or as much as your heart desires)
- 1 bunch green onions – chopped, separate the white and green parts

Mix together brown sugar, soy sauce, ginger, rice wine vinegar, red pepper flakes and sesame oil in a small bowl or measuring cup. Brown ground beef in vegetable oil until cooked through. Add garlic after the beef is cooked. Continue stirring so the garlic doesn't burn. Drain any excess grease. After a minute or two, add the white parts of your green onion and your sauce. The sauce will thicken after a few minutes, then you're ready to serve. Serve over rice and garnish with the green parts of the green onion and sesame seeds. Serves 2 people with enough for leftovers.

*Submitted by Ministry Team Member Kirsten Bohnke*

## Pork Burritos

- 1 lb Ground Pork
- 1 Can of Diced Tomatoes
- 1-2 Diced Zucchini
- 1/2 Cup of Diced Onions
- 1 tbsp. Minced Garlic
- 1 tsp. Garlic Salt
- 1 tsp. Onion Powder
- 1 tsp. Ground Pepper
- 1-4 Wraps
- Shredded Mozzarella Cheese

Cook the onions and zucchini and then add the minced garlic. Brown the ground pork and mix with vegetables. Add seasonings and diced tomatoes. Simmer for 10 minutes. Serve in wraps and top with cheese.

*Submitted by Ministry Team Member Ashley Wiehe*



# IN THE KITCHEN





# FILL-IN, OR CRISS-CROSS, CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Fill in the blanks with the words. To help you get started one letter is already in place.

## 4 letter words

CAVE

COMB

COPY

RARE

## 5 letter words

DIGIT

PERTH

SENSE

STAMP

## 6 letter words

EDITOR

PARSEC

SECRET

SPIDER

## 7 letter words

BRISKET

CARAVAN

CASHIER

DEAD SEA

DEWDROP

DOLPHIN

DRYDOCK

FEATHER

ICE CUBE

NOONDAY

OCTAGON

ORCHARD

## 8 letter words

PLATEAU

PRINTER

REPTILE

SENATES

CREATURE

DOMESTIC

ROTATION

SEAFARER

## 9 letter words

ACCESSORY

CONSONANT

MEGAPIXEL

PEACH TREE

SASKATOON

SEVENTEEN

## 10 letter words

EQUESTRIAN

OPTIMISTIC

## 11 letter words

BARRIER REEF

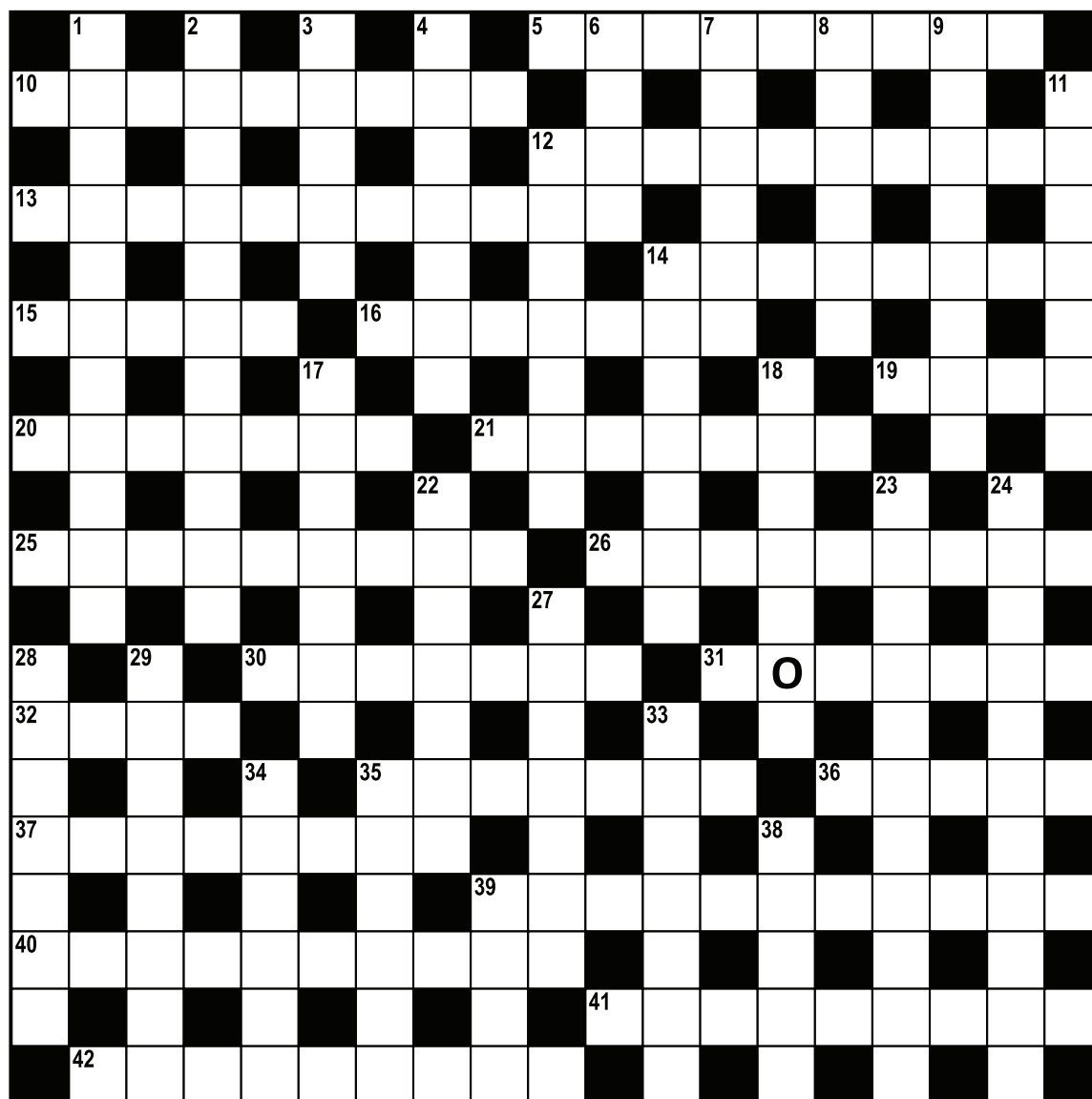
CANDLESTICK

OIL PAINTING

PRELIMINARY

## REMINISCENT

SKELETON KEY



## ANSWER:

**Across:** 5 Accessory, 10 Saskatoon, 12 Optimistic, 13 Preliminary, 14 Domestic, 15 Perth, 16 Cashier, 19 Comb, 20 Printer, 21 Drydock, 25 Seventeen, 26 Megapixel, 30 Plateau, 31 Dolphin, 32 Rare, 35 Senates, 36 Digit, 37 Seafarer, 39 Candlestick, 40 Equestrian, 41 Consonant, 42 Peach tree.

**Down:** 1 Barrier reef, 2 Skeleton key, 3 Stamp, 4 Noonday, 6 Copy, 7 Editor, 8 Spider, 9 Rotation, 11 Ice cube, 12 Orchard, 14 Dead Sea, 17 Reptile, 18 Octagon, 22 Feather, 23 Oil painting, 24 Reminiscent, 27 Caravan, 28 Brisket, 29 Creature, 33 Dewdrop, 34 Parsec, 35 Secret, 38 Sense, 39 Cave.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BY THIS WE KNOW

*love*

THAT HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US, AND  
WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR  
THE BROTHERS.

1 JOHN 3:16