

April 2025

BROADCASTER

A magazine of Worship Anew



Telling His Story

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH THE NEXT GENERATION



Matthew F. Leighty

Matthew F. Leighty
Executive Director

Despair to Redemption: Easter Resurrection

How would your life change if the greatest tragedy you faced turned into your greatest triumph?

People love a good transformation story. Whether it's in books, movies, or real life, there's something incredibly compelling about watching someone rise from the depths of despair to achieve greatness. One of my favorite stories is that of Jean Valjean from Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables." Once a hardened criminal, Valjean is transformed by a bishop's act of kindness. This single moment of grace leads him to turn his life around, becoming a successful businessman and a benefactor to many. His journey from darkness to light mirrors the transformation we celebrate at Easter.

This theme of sudden, dramatic change resonates deeply throughout scripture. It powerfully reminds us of the potential for renewal and hope we have through our powerful and almighty God.

Consider the story of David and Goliath. Young David, armed only with a sling and his faith in God, defeats the giant Goliath, turning a moment of impending doom into a miraculous victory. Similarly, with his small army, Gideon overcomes the vast Midianite forces through God's guidance, transforming a situation of hopelessness into one of triumph. And yet another powerful example is Moses holding out his staff as God parts the waters of the Red Sea, so the Israelites can cross on dry ground and deliver them from their Egyptian enemies.

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

1 Corinthians 15:20 ESV



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



This sudden transformation from despair to deliverance showcases God's power and faithfulness.

In 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, Paul paints a bleak picture of what life would be like if Christ had not been resurrected. He emphasizes the hopelessness and despair that would prevail. However, in verse 20, Paul shifts to a message of assurance and hope: "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (ESV). This verse is a cornerstone of our faith, affirming the reality of Christ's resurrection and its significance for all believers.

The term "firstfruits" signifies that Christ's resurrection is the first and very best of many, a guarantee of the future resurrection for all who believe in Him. It transforms our understanding of life and death, offering us a hope that transcends our present circumstances. This assurance of the resurrection is not just a future promise but a present reality that empowers us to live with a purpose and joy found in Christ our Lord.

Just as David, Gideon, and Moses experienced profound transformations, we too are invited to embrace the hope and renewal that come with Christ's resurrection. The journey from Lent to Easter, from Christ's death to His resurrection, is a powerful reminder that even in our darkest moments, there is always the promise of new life and redemption.

There were days at this ministry when finances were tight, and we would seriously wonder how we might pay payroll or cover our bills. My finance manager would remind me of God's power when we would pray for donations to keep things going. And sure enough, a

gift would arrive to help us through those lean times. Even as the ministry has grown and prospered under God's blessings, prayers and support are as vital now as ever before, because our impact is larger, and the work becomes more critical every day to help aging adults with resources to live an abundant life in Christ.

This ministry continues to thrive, thanks to faithful believers like you. This month kicks off our "50 Days of Blessings," a giving initiative that runs from Easter to Pentecost. Won't you please consider making a gift at this time to further the work of this important mission? Mail your donation or give online at WorshipAnew.org/5oblessings. Your support is vital for our work of sharing the Gospel with those who desperately need God's Word.

As we reflect on these powerful stories of transformation, from the inspiring journey of Jean Valjean in "Les Misérables" to the biblical accounts of David, Gideon, and Moses, we are reminded of the profound impact of faith and hope.

Just as Paul transitions from the bleakness of 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 to the assurance of Christ's resurrection in verse 20, we too can find comfort and strength in the promise of new life.

This Easter, let us embrace the renewal and joy that come with the resurrection, knowing that even in our darkest moments, there is always the promise of redemption and triumph. Your support of Worship Anew helps us continue to share this message of hope with aging adults, empowering them to live abundant lives in Christ.

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HIS DEATH IS NOT THE END

On Good
Friday, Christ
paid our sins

By Chaplain Craig Muehler

Hear the Son of God: First, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34 ESV).

First, sinful man rebelled against God and now they killed His Son. We deserve only destruction! However, Christ does not die to seal your fate and condemn you, but He announces that He dies so that you might be forgiven and live.

He speaks a second time, this time to the penitent robber, and promises, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43 ESV). Cling to these words for yourself. When death draws near, you will likely be haunted with memories of sin, but He has saved you, and paradise is yours.

He speaks a third time. To Mary, “Woman, behold your son!” To John, “Behold your mother!” (John 19:26-27 ESV). There is wonderful comfort for you. He is still at work to keep the commandments. You have no hope of salvation by keeping God’s





Law for you have not kept it perfectly, but you do have hope of salvation because Jesus has kept it perfectly for you — even as His blood was shed.

He speaks a fourth time: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46 ESV). Jesus is now abandoned by His Father, and so He suffers hell on that cross. Why does God forsake His Son? So that He will not forsake you. Jesus suffers that abandonment for you and your sin.

Again, He speaks, a short fifth word: “I thirst” (John 19:38 ESV). At the cross, the Lord has taken the sinner’s place in judgment and death; thus, He has no life left and so He thirsts for living water. He is thirsting in your place, forsaken by God so that you might be delivered.

His sixth word is one of great comfort: “It is finished!” (John 19:30 ESV). What is finished? The plan of redemption is finished — the payment for your sin. Christ has paid in full for the sins of the world, and He will not suffer for it anymore, ever again. Neither will you.

He speaks one last time as He breathes His last: “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit” (Luke 23:46 ESV). Treasure those words, too: The Son was forsaken by His Father, but no longer. As He dies, He is once again in His Father’s care. He dies with the glad confidence, “I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord” (Psalm 118:17 NKJV).



Chaplain Craig Muehler will lead Worship Anew’s special digital-only Good Friday program on April 18.

Special Good Friday program to bring the message of Christ’s salvation to more

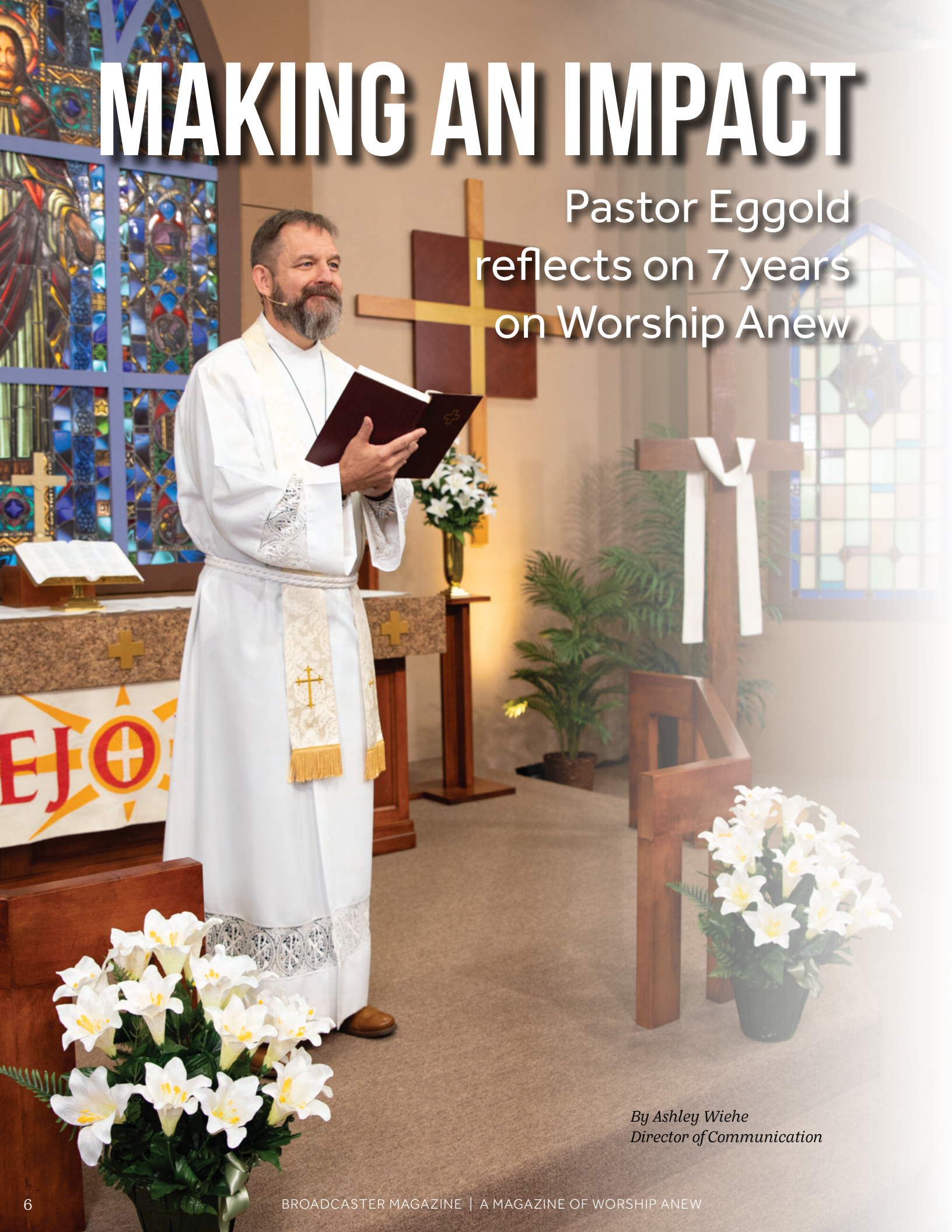
Worship Anew will offer a special Good Friday program on April 18 to bring the message of Christ’s salvation to more aging adults in need.

Worship Anew regularly broadcasts a worship program each Sunday for viewers across the country. For the first time, Worship Anew will offer a Good Friday program for viewers, especially those who are unable to attend services at their home church. The program will be led by guest pastor, Chaplain Craig Muehler. Muehler is the director of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces. In his position, he is the chief liaison to the Department of Defense for 125 LCMS chaplains serving in all branches of the military — active and reserve — and the Civil Air Patrol.

His program, “What Does This Mean?,” will look at the words of Jesus to the world as He hangs upon the cross in suffering and pain. We ask the question, “What does this mean ... for us ... for the world?”

“We are all in a sin-sick world and poor miserable sinners, but as we go through this Lenten season, we are reminded again and again that we are forgiven for Christ’s sake — that our Lord Jesus saves us,” Muehler said. “He did live, suffer, die, and rise again to redeem us lost and condemned creatures, and He gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation.”

The program will be offered through Worship Anew’s digital-only platforms, including streaming on our YouTube channel, through our app on Roku, Apple TV, Google TV, and Amazon Firestick, as well as online on our website at WorshipAnew.org or through our app on iPhone and Android devices.



MAKING AN IMPACT

Pastor Eggold
reflects on 7 years
on Worship Anew

*By Ashley Wiehe
Director of Communication*

For the pastors on Worship Anew, they don't always see the immediate impact of their sermons. They don't know the individuals that God is able to reach through the message. It's only through viewers comments and notes that they get a small glimpse of how God has been at work.

In 2018, the Rev. Thomas Eggold joined the program as a regular pastor on Worship Anew. This Easter, he is stepping away from the program to focus on his home congregation.

As he reflected on his years at Worship Anew, it was the impact that Worship Anew has been able to have that meant the most to him.

"It was an eye opener for me. I'm always surprised by people who will come up and say that they watched me on Worship Anew or notes that I get from all over the place," Eggold said. "I think it gives you a better — a bigger — appreciation for the Church, not just your congregation, but the Christian Church."

He's shared that the more that he hears from viewers, the more he grows appreciative of the ministry of Worship Anew. Because of that, each time he was preaching, he would think about the people on the other side of the camera — the ones in need, the ones who were only able to hear the Word of God from him that week, and the ones who watched Worship Anew before heading off to their home church that day.

"There are people on the other side of the camera who really need what Jesus has

promised," he said. "Every time I preach, I think about that, and I think about my (own) grandma, for sure. But I also think about people in places that I have never been and will never go who are hearing this."

Eggold is the senior pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. He started at the church in 2003 after transitioning from his first career as a teacher. Even though he followed a long line of pastors in his family, the change was not an easy one. Progressively, he saw God working in him — and then in others.

"I was very reluctant even at my first day of Greek. It was like I was like a kindergartner. I don't want to go. I wanted to stay home," Eggold said. "But God used all of it."

Today, he is leading a large congregation in addition to the many who have been led in their faith during his years on Worship Anew.

"Your sermon was the single best sermon that we have ever had the blessing to experience. It was enlightening, pertinent, and spiritually uplifting. What a gift that you delivered to all of us that heard and watched," a viewer shared about one of Pastor Eggold's messages.

Pastor Eggold's final regular program will be shown on Easter Day, April 20, with his sermon titled, "Christ is Risen." The program will be available anywhere that Worship Anew is shown, including on the Worship Anew website at WorshipAnew.org.



Scan the QR code with your camera app to watch a special tribute video for Pastor Eggold's service to Worship Anew or watch it on our YouTube Channel at youtube.com/@worshipanewonline



The ministry team at Worship Anew celebrated the Rev. Thomas Eggold's final production and thanked him for his service.



Easter changes everything

By Rev. Thomas A. Eggold

Easter stands at the heart of the Christian faith, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ holds profound implications for humanity.

Throughout history, death has been an inescapable reality, feared by all and resisted by many. The poet Dylan Thomas passionately urged his readers, “Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light.” Yet, as much as we may fight against it, death remains a universal equalizer.

The Bible teaches that death is a consequence of sin, and it is always accompanied by physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering. This was the harsh reality faced by the women who witnessed Jesus’ crucifixion on Good Friday and then traveled to His tomb early in the morning on the first day of the week.

Their hearts were broken, their grief was raw, and their hopes were dashed. Then, in a flash, their despair turned to astonishment as they found the tomb empty and heard angels proclaim, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen” (Luke 24:1-6 ESV).

Easter is all about the triumph of life over death, and the resurrection of Jesus is the physical confirmation that God keeps His promises.

Easter assures us that death is not the end, but instead, it is the gateway to a new and eternal life.

Isaiah captures this transformation when he writes, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (v. 9:2 ESV). The resurrection of Jesus changes everything, altering our experience in the present and shaping our understanding of the future.

Despite the world’s skepticism and attempts to discredit the resurrection, the truth of Easter remains central to the Christian faith. As Paul wrote, “If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied” (1 Corinthians 15:19 ESV). Yet, he affirmed, “in fact Christ has been raised from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:20-22 ESV), a declaration of Christ’s victory over death.

Easter changes everything. The resurrection of Jesus empowers us to live with confidence and purpose. It transforms our view of death and life, enabling us to face life’s challenges with hope and perseverance.

Our faith is anchored in the Gospel reality of the Risen Christ, and this Easter message of life and hope resonates through the ages: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.



Worship Anew in April

Year 2025 | Series C



A New Covenant

April 6, 2025 – Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Jesus tells the parable of the wicked vinedressers to illustrate the unfaithfulness of the children of Israel to the covenant God so graciously made with them. A new Israel, the Christian Church, will emerge as a new covenant is set in place.

Sermon Text: Luke 20:9-20

Readings: Psalm 126; Luke 20:9-20



Palms to Passion

April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday ~ Rev. Shayne Jonker

Holy Week begins on the road to Jerusalem. The King makes His grand entrance into Jerusalem, riding atop a borrowed donkey, as the people greet their Messiah: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" The mood, however, shifts quickly from palms to passion, from triumph to crucifixion. This King, this Messiah, came to lay His life down, to die for His people on the cross.

Sermon Text: John 12:13b

Readings: John 12:12-19; Luke 22:1-23:56



What Does This Mean?

April 18, 2025 – Good Friday ~ Rev. Craig Muehler (Guest Pastor)

It is fitting that we take a look at the words of Jesus to the world as He hangs upon the cross in suffering and pain. We ask the question, "What does this mean ... for us ... for the world?"

Sermon Text: John 19:17-30

Readings: Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 19:17-30



Christ is Risen

April 20, 2025 – Easter Sunday ~ Rev. Thomas Eggold

The empty tomb means that our bodies will rise from the grave! The empty tomb means that we will be reunited with loved ones who have died in the faith. The empty tomb means that we will live forever with God in holiness, innocence, and blessedness. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ has changed everything!

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20

Readings: Psalm 16; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12



I Believe ...

April 27, 2025 – Second Sunday of Easter ~ Rev. Scott Zeckzer

We confess in the Apostle's Creed that Jesus, on the third day, rose again from the dead, and we believe in the resurrection of the body. Why is it important we believe in the resurrection? Hear why the resurrection of Jesus changes everything for you.

Sermon Text: John 20:28

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

How to effectively talk with your doctor

By Jim Miller

How can I improve communication with my doctors? Over the past few years, I have felt at a loss for words during appointments and need suggestions on how to be sure my concerns are addressed.

Communication difficulties between patients and their doctors are nothing new. Many patients feel as if doctors are dismissing their concerns, which can be frustrating and potentially lead to missed diagnoses and delayed care. If you believe your doctor is not listening to you, here are some tips offered by the National Institute on Aging that may help.

Prepare for your appointment: Before your exam, make a written prioritized list of any questions and concerns you want to discuss with your doctor. If you have done any online research, print it out and bring it to your appointment to ensure all information gets discussed. If it is a diagnostic visit, you should prepare a detailed description of your symptoms, when they started, and what makes them worse.

Be honest and upfront: Even if the topic seems sensitive or embarrassing, it is important to be honest and upfront with your doctor. You may feel uncomfortable talking about memory loss or bowel issues, but these are all important to your health. It is better to be thorough and share detailed information than to be quiet or shy about what you are experiencing or feeling. Remember, your doctor is trained to talk about all kinds of personal matters.

Ask specific questions: If you and your doctor are not communicating well, ask specific questions that require a response. For example: What might have caused the problem I am dealing with? What is the specific name of my diagnosis? Is the problem serious? Will it heal completely or require ongoing management? What future symptoms might suggest the need for emergency care or a follow-up visit? When and how will test results be received? If you do not understand something, do not hesitate to ask, "Can you explain that in simpler terms?" or "Can you give me more details about that?"

Take someone with you: Bring a family member or friend to your appointment. Your companion can help you ask questions or raise concerns that you may not have thought of, help you understand the doctor's advice, and provide you support.



Be persistent: If your doctor is not addressing your questions, repeat them or rephrase them. If there is still no progress, follow up by saying, “I am worried that we are not communicating well. Here is why I feel that way.” or “I need to talk with you about X, but I feel like I cannot. Can we address this together?” If you feel as though you are being dismissed, ask your doctor to include in the notes that they are declining to provide care of the particular symptoms.

After your appointment, if you are uncertain about any instructions or have other questions, call or email your healthcare provider. Do not wait until your next visit to make sure you understand your diagnosis, treatment plan, or anything else that might affect your health.

For more tips, the National Institute on Aging offers a free booklet called “Talking with Your Doctor: A Guide for Older Adults” that can help you prepare for an appointment and become a better and more informed patient. To order a free copy or see it online, visit order.nia.nih.gov/publication/talking-with-your-doctor-a-guide-for-older-adults.

Consider moving on: If the communication problem with your doctor persists, it may be time to start looking for a new provider. Depending on how unsatisfied you are with your care, you could also notify your doctor’s medical group and your insurance company or leave feedback on their online profile. If you are dealing with a serious issue — like a doctor who prescribes the wrong medication or fails to provide test results in a timely manner — it might be appropriate to file a complaint with the state medical board.

Savvy Living is written by Jim Miller, a regular contributor to the NBC Today Show and author of “The Savvy Living” book. Any links in this article are offered as a service and there is no endorsement of any product. These articles are offered as a helpful and informative service to our friends and may not always reflect this organization’s official position on some topics. Jim invites you to send your senior questions to: Savvy Living, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.





TELLING HIS STORY WHILE TELLING OUR STORY

By Dr. Rich Bimler

Consider this: Perhaps the Lord is allowing us older people to live longer on earth so we can have more opportunities to share our faith in the Lord with more people. Intriguing thought, isn't it?

Let us take it for granted that this is the Lord's plan. Let's help each other "tell the story ... of Jesus and His love" ("I Love to Tell the Story," A. Katherine Hankey, 1866). I sure wish someone would write a hymn about it!

That was the tongue-in-cheek comment I made a few years ago at a pastors' conference in Michigan. I asked, "Why doesn't someone write a stanza for older adults about sharing our faith with others?" Here is what Pastor Tim Azzum handed to me after my presentation. (At least he used my presentation time wisely!)

*We love to tell the story
That Jesus is the Way.
It gives us all a reason
To live another day.*

*In every generation,
Each age, its story tells
Of how our God is faithful
To people aging well!*

What a great statement of faith for older adults! The Lord gives us added years of life so we can share and celebrate our faith in the Lord Jesus. If we are not telling the story, who is?

Dr. David Walsh of "Mind Positive Parenting" puts it this way: "Whoever tells the stories defines the culture." Ask yourself, "Who is telling the story to people young and old today, in your neighborhood and community? What is the story they are telling?" We might honestly answer by saying it is the television shows, the commercials, the songs, the movies, the front-page headlines, the

continued on page 14

political promises. It is all these and more that are telling the stories of what life is all about. Unfortunately, what their life is all about is not what a life in Jesus Christ is all about!

I am not in any way suggesting that we bad-mouth popular stars of today or throw out our flat-screen TVs or banish popular music from our homes, but I am saying that the story we have of Jesus Christ is a story of love and forgiveness and joy because Christ has come for all of us, young and old alike. He has come to us, not by saying “no” to us, despite our sins; rather, He has come to us saying “yes” because of what He has done for us in His death and resurrection. Paul says it well: “As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in Him it is always Yes” (2 Corinthians 1:18-19 ESV).

We are “yes” people in the Lord! Older adults are called to be encouragers, affirmers, and cheerleaders in the Lord! True, young people need to know right from wrong; they need to see their sins and repent of them, just like adults. However, one of the many gifts older adults have as we age is the knowledge and the experience to know that we have a Lord who will never forsake us. We have a Lord who has seen us through all of our “uh-oh” days of pains and problems and pettiness. We know about this Lord who gives to all of us, young and old, His promise of life everlasting.

His story comes alive in us as we tell younger people our story of God’s love and forgiveness for us. His story becomes our story as we model and talk about our memories and remembrances of God working through our sin-filled lives. We tell this story, not because we have to, but because we get to! That is the joy of living a life in the Lord.

Here are some questions to start us thinking more specifically about what story we want to tell and to whom we want to tell it. Add some of your own. Share these with others, especially family members and friends close to you:





1. What is it that I want my family and friends to know about my faith, my core values, and my life's experiences?
2. For what do I wish to be remembered?
3. What blessings, stories, and traditions do I want to leave with my loved ones?
4. What can I do now to celebrate life in the Lord to enable my family to continue the celebration in their lifetime?
5. What can I do today that will help me to live out the telling of my stories to others?

Celebrate every day by telling the story of Jesus and His love in your own way. He has blessed each of us with faith in Jesus Christ. We get to share it in many ways with younger and older people around us. What a gift! What a joy to shout out and live out our faith. What a God!

Psalm 145:4 (ESV) says it this way: "One generation shall commend Your works to another." That's good enough for me.

Dr. Richard Bimler, Ambassador of Health, Hope and Aging (AH-HA), is the Editor-at-Large of Hope-Full Living and the author of "Joyfully Aging: A Christian's Guide." This chapter was reprinted with permission.



Embracing the gift of giving through Charitable Gift Annuities

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.” ~ Matthew 6:20 (NIV)

By Jon Dize, CFRE

Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives

As we navigate the golden years of our lives, many find joy in reflecting upon the blessings received and seek ways to give back. One way to leave a lasting legacy and continue your stewardship is through Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs). This financial arrangement not only supports causes close to your heart but also provides several practical benefits.

1. Steady Income Stream: With a CGA, you can make a charitable donation and, in return, receive a fixed income for life. This is particularly comforting for those who appreciate the stability of a steady income source and the ability to manage finances with confidence. The income you could receive is often higher than what traditional fixed-income investments like CDs and commercial annuities might offer.

2. Peace of Mind: In uncertain times, the stability and security of a CGA can provide peace of mind. Knowing that you have taken care of your financial needs while

also supporting charitable work offers a profound sense of fulfillment and contentment.

3. Support Your Passion: One of the most fulfilling aspects of a CGA is the opportunity to support organizations and causes that align with your values and

REASONS YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO GIVE THROUGH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

- » Can include yourself, and up to one other person (such as a spouse).
- » You want an easy solution where you can rely on someone else's expertise for fund management.
- » You want to support Worship Anew while also receiving fixed payments for life.



beliefs. Whether it's your church or a local charity like Worship Anew, your contribution can make a significant impact.

4. Legacy and Stewardship:

Establishing a CGA allows you to leave a meaningful legacy. It reflects a life lived with purpose and generosity, passing on the values of philanthropy and stewardship to future generations.

5. Simplified Giving: Setting up a CGA is a straightforward process. Many charitable organizations, like Worship Anew, have professionals who can guide you through the steps, ensuring that your gift aligns with your financial goals and philanthropic desires. This simplicity makes it an accessible option for those who may not be familiar with complex financial instruments.

6. Tax Benefits: Charitable Gift Annuities come with attractive tax advantages. When you establish a CGA, a portion of your gift may be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction. Additionally, part of the annuity payments you receive could be tax-free for a period of time. This can be especially beneficial if you are looking to manage your taxable income effectively.

Charitable Gift Annuities offer a beautiful way to intertwine financial security with heartfelt generosity. By embracing this form of giving, you can enjoy the benefits of a steady income, tax advantages, and the joy of making a positive impact.

As we walk in faith, let us remember the importance of giving and the blessings it brings to both the giver and the receiver.

How did the Apostles' Creed come about?

We don't know exactly how the Apostles' Creed came to be. The first mentions of the creed are around 390 A.D. and evolved from earlier statements of faith. It's not named for any specific group of apostles but for all the believers who confessed the words that would later be brought together into one common Christian creed. In Lutheran churches, the Apostles' Creed is typically used in non-communion services with the longer Nicene Creed being used for communion services.

Have crosses always been a symbol of Christianity?

Edward Riojas has a great series on Christian art in The Lutheran Witness. One article in the series addresses early Christian symbols. You know what wasn't on the list? The cross. A crucifix or any version of the cross wasn't widely used by the church for at least 100 years after the ascension. It's hard to imagine a Christian church without a cross, but also try to imagine what it would be like to see a crucifixion, or to know of someone who had been crucified, and then to hold a cross as a symbol of victory or even comfort. Crucifixions were public, brutal, and shameful. This makes it all the more jaw-dropping that God would allow His Son to die in such a way for us.

One version of the crucifix that came to prominence in the 4th century was the Christus Rex, Christ as King. In this version of the crucifix, Jesus is robed and wears a crown. This is the reality we embrace. We have a God who suffered, died, and now reigns victorious. He suffered and died a gruesome death for you so that your sins could be placed on the cross, the instrument of death. May we not be naïve about what Jesus suffered for us, but may we also find comfort and hope in the incredible, sacrificial love our God displayed for us.

Why are the special programs only offered in a digital format?

Right now, our agreement with the TV stations allows us to broadcast one Worship Anew program each week, but we know that these extra dates are important to provide a worship program for our audience who may not be able to attend church. One way that we can easily add additional programs throughout the week is by using our digital platforms. The other great thing about our digital programs is that you can watch Worship Anew anytime that works for you! You can watch our program (including past programs) on our website (WorshipAnew.org), our iPhone and Android apps, and streaming on our YouTube Channel, Roku, Apple TV, Google TV, and Amazon Firestick.

A note from the Editor ...

In our letters to the editor section, we would like to answer any and all questions that you have about scripture, aging well, and our ministry. Please send your questions to editor@worshipanew.org. Please know that we will try to answer as many questions as we can. Thank you and enjoy!

A Positive View of Change

By Jennifer Boen
Ministry Team Writer

Mary Ann Heiser-Stinson has faced an abundance of changes in her 87 years on this earth. The lifetime resident of Indiana has seen 15 U.S. presidents come and go, seen people shuttled to and from space, and observed the country at war on multiple foreign fronts, including terrorist attacks on home soil.

As she was coming of age in the 1950s, advancements in technology, science, and industry were rapidly making life easier, yet more complicated — faster yet more tiresome, prosperous but more costly, and healthier but still harmful.

Even positive, desired change is most often a mixed bag of pros and cons. One can focus on the negatives, the “what ifs,” or, like Mary Ann, choose to look at the upside.

“I’ve never dwelled on the negatives. It doesn’t do any good,” said Mary Ann, who moved to Fort Wayne

from Akron, Ind., in 1957 to take a job with the Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.

Psychologist Dr. Dan Boen of Auburn (Ind.) Christian Counseling Center agrees that too many people get stuck in negative mode. The negativity toward change, particularly as we age, is related primarily to past painful or fearful experiences.

“Our imagination is tied to memory,” he said. “When we feel pain in a tooth every time we eat, we may not initially recall that negative experience we had at the dentist as a young child. But as we head to the dentist, fear sets in, and we can hardly force ourselves out of the car.”

If someone is told their health is worsening and they must move to a different residential setting, they may have all these underlying memories of certain childhood experiences — the times they sat alone in the lunch room or when they got lost in a new



Photo by Jennifer Boen

Mary Ann Heiser-Stinson smiles in her home. While many changes have happened in her life, many are good so she lives for the positive changes.



Tips from Mental Health Professional, Dr. Dan Boen

- ▶ Don't let change get you down: Slow down, look to God, and wait.
- ▶ Arm yourself with information, whether it's from a tax attorney, physician, or other professional.
- ▶ Stick to a routine. We thrive on routine.
- ▶ Slow down and take a breath. Important things are usually not urgent.
- ▶ Eat healthy and keep hydrated.
- ▶ Women are wired for companionship, and men are more so to have a purpose — to do something meaningful. Find your niche.
- ▶ Look for positive experiences to offset past fears.
- ▶ Remember to always pray and read your Bible.
- ▶ Seek counsel from godly people you respect.

neighborhood walking home from school.

"Our subconscious exaggerates everything," he said. "We carry all that stuff with us."

Dr. Boen recommends the individual focus on a pleasant memory, perhaps a favorite vacation spot or a recent conversation with a grandchild that brought laughter or the look and smell of a flower garden on a warm sunny day.

"Change does bring stress," he said, but he offers a word of caution. "A lot of fear is based on perception, not reality."

Studies have shown the more people watch crime reports on TV, the higher they indicate the crime rate is in their community, even if reported crimes were not local, so be aware of what you are feeding your brain.

Relationships with others are also key in dealing with change, Dr. Boen advises. Several recent studies have looked at quantity versus quality of relationships through the lifespan.

"As we age, the quantity of relationships goes down, but the quality goes up. Companionship becomes the primary value as we age," he said. "People need that support of others."

Like so much else in life, loving deeply has another side, too. COVID-19 struck Mary Ann in 2023, the same year she buried her second husband, Max Stinson. They were married 20 years. She was first widowed in 1999 after a 40-year marriage to Fred Heiser. Smiles light up her face as she talks about how she met both husbands — Fred at the former Gardener's Drive-In in downtown Fort Wayne and Max at a grief support group.

"I think when these things happen it's meant to be. You just have to move on," said Mary Ann, who has three children, eight grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

The desire for companionship and friendship was key in helping her make the decision to move from the home she loved to an independent living community in September 2024. Her positivity in dealing with change has not waned.

"I like it here. I've made a lot of friends. My kids and grandkids visit a lot," she said.

Her strong faith and a servant's heart keep her on the lookout for ways to help others, whether it's helping push someone's wheelchair or aiding someone with memory problems to play a game.

"I'm a people person. Always have been," she said.



He is not here, but has risen

By Rev. Gene Brunow

The gospel for Easter Sunday is Luke 24:1-12. This is Luke's version of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Sunday began by Jewish time at sundown on Saturday. Spices could then be bought, and they were ready to set out early the next day.

When the women started out, it was dark, and by the time they arrived at the tomb, it was still early dawn.

They are coming to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body because they think Jesus is dead. This is the attitude of those who are still living in the old covenant: They have confidence in the resurrection on the Last Day, as Martha says in John 11:24, but they certainly do not expect resurrection *now*. So, the women are perplexed when they find that the tomb is empty. The stone has been rolled away, but upon entering they did not find the body of Jesus. Luke uses the word "find" in an ironic way to emphasize the emptiness of the tomb. Luke leaves absolutely no doubt that the resurrection is historical fact.

As angels announced Jesus' birth, they also announce His resurrection. *Gleamed like lightning* is a similar phrase that is used for Jesus' clothing at His transfiguration, reflecting God's splendor.

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for rising again on the third day just as your divine plan called for. Help me to never let the greatness of each Easter ever become mundane. Amen.



The living is translated “*the living one*” because of the article. This is not just any living being, but “the living one,” who is the source of life. Luke emphasizes that the resurrected Christ is alive and is the one who gives life.

When the angels say *remember how He told you*, they remind the women who were from Galilee that Jesus had predicted His death and resurrection on a number of occasions, but the

disciples failed to comprehend or accept what He was saying.

When women tell the disciples, it says that the disciples *did not believe*. In the Greek it translates as “they were not believing,” which indicates ongoing disbelief of the report despite the fact that the women continued to speak.

Just like the disciples, we can get set in some preconceived notions and

miss the point. We are bombarded with anti-Christ information and it seems to go on like a constant drumbeat. We may have celebrated decades of Easter Sundays, and it may even take away the thrill of this special day. But, we can be thankful that each year we are privileged to hear the great news that Jesus has power, even over death. We have a living Savior who helps us celebrate each day as Easter.

Rev. Brunow is a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. Find more of his devotionals at genesbrunotes.com.

Reflection Questions:

The angels say to the women “remember how he told you.” We need to be reminded of God’s promises. What are some promises of God you need to be reminded of right now? What are you struggling with that God could speak to?

The women didn’t find Jesus’ body in the tomb. We could say that they were surprised by the way in which Jesus kept His promise of resurrection. Think of a time that you’ve been surprised by the way in which God had answered one of your prayer requests. What did that situation teach you about God and the way He can work?

We know that the Holy Spirit works through the Bible to strengthen our faith. When you have a hard time believing as did the disciples, what are some regular practices you can build into your day to return to God’s Word?

This month’s study text:

The Resurrection

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” 8 And they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, 11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

Luke 24:1-12 (ESV)



Egg-stra special meaning at Easter

Family shares how a tradition began and grows

By Julie Beers

Easter has always been a special time for our family. In 1987, our daughter was born on Palm Sunday, and we got to bring her home on Easter Sunday. What a blessing to bring this tiny baby home on the day we, as Christians, get to celebrate new life.

Starting the next year, my mom (“Nanny” to the kids) began painting Easter eggs every year until they were 18. She would paint an egg that would go with something special that happened in their life that year, such as starting kindergarten, getting their driver’s licenses, going on a mission’s trip to El Salvador, playing hockey and flag football, and starting a new job. These eggs are truly treasured by her four grandchildren.

Now I have three grandchildren, and I love making Easter baskets for them. I always put bubbles in their baskets, and we blow the bubbles to heaven to the loved ones that are no longer with us here on earth. I also always give them play dough (clay) because I’m reminded of the Bible verse that says, “God is the potter, we are the clay” (Isaiah 64:4 KJV). The verse reads, “But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you, our potter; and we all are the work of your hand.” I feel this is a great message to my grandchildren about how God is shaping their lives to follow Him.

Easter — and their Easter baskets — will continue to hold a special place in our family!

Julie Beers is a grandmother, avid crafter, and the Donor Relations & Volunteer Engagement Coordinator at Worship Anew.





EASTER

word search

N P Y Q H N L P W M E R T M U T V W Q
K G B Q A V Y T Y I E W A B R G E S K
O P R B K A N Z Q N G V W B M I B D R
X A C O K A Q Y L Z G I L Y B U S G K
Q R V N P E J I U Q S T W O F I X E J
L A W N O N R H L G S T T O M R T L N
M D O E O P A B Y C N P E X E S A H L
I E E T A N R Z O E Q C J A I A G Z A
R O Q M M Y P Y L U T B P M S Q B L A
A H R F G H P N V E Q I V P D T Y U Q
C I F C J U S F K F L U W Z C B E B R
L Z P R I N F S S U T Y E X U R B R J
E Y O O U T A L T Y Q Q E T Q H S S C
O L G S P B K O A Z P P E E P S Q B C
Q O P S C G J C H I C K Y X S C G W Z



APRIL
BONNET
EGGS
BASKET

RISEN
PARADE
PEEPS
TULIP

MIRACLE
HUNT
RABBIT
CROSS

LENT
BOUQUET
EASTER
CHICK

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