

August 2024

# BROADCASTER

*A magazine of Worship Anew*



## *Vocation*

What God has called us to be



# ***Finding your vocation; wear it in all you do***



*Matthew F. Leighty*  
**Matthew F. Leighty**  
**Executive Director**

**Y**ou might know that my father was a minister, but you may not know of the unconventional route he took to his pastoral calling. It's common for many to enter the ministry directly from Lutheran colleges and seminaries after high school. Others serve in the military or public service before answering the call. Some even embark on this path post-retirement.

My father's journey, however, was a winding road of varied vocations. He was employed at a manufactured home factory and played in a country rock band in Watertown, S.D., where he met my mother. His career trajectory took him from being a salesclerk to insurance sales and then to a grocery store worker in Des Moines, Iowa. Later, he joined the Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company. After relocating to a

small town outside of Des Moines, he was a road surveyor for the county road department. It was there, at the age of 36 and without a college degree, that he felt the divine call to ministry. He embarked on his academic journey at Concordia College in St. Paul, Minn., and four years later, he proceeded to Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., to further his studies and become a pastor. But, God was working in him every step of the way in the vocation He had given him.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) emphasizes that vocation molds us to serve God in any situation. It reads, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

*Cover Photo by Ashley Wiehe  
A resident of Lutheran Life Villages in Fort Wayne, Ind.,  
waters the communal vegetable garden.*



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



It doesn't have to take years of college to carry out the vocation God has in store for you.

A recent conversation with one of our Worship Anew pastors continues to remind me that God has graced us with various roles — within our work, families, and communities — to embody and share His love. When this pastor was out and about and wearing a Worship Anew jacket, people would approach him. Some recognized him and expressed their appreciation for Worship Anew, but others were curious about what the name and logo on his jacket represented. I shared how I have had the same happen on many occasions. These interactions are precious as they have allowed me to share about the ministry and our abundant life in Jesus Christ.

There are countless ways that someone can live this out in their daily lives. I often wear a cross necklace that people will comment on. Perhaps you can wear a brooch, hold a cross in your hand (like the ones given out in our care packages), or keep a Bible or devotional book close by. These are great ways to spur conversation about how Christ is the center of our lives. I also find that it keeps me mindful of not just who I am but whose I am and how I can live that out in my daily life.

In this issue of the Broadcaster, we remember another inspirational man who embraced his vocational calling,

Rev. John Westra, a founding visionary of this ministry. His dedication and foresight were instrumental in shaping the television program “Worship for Shut-Ins” with the goal of disseminating God’s Word far and wide.

We are grateful to God, knowing that Rev. Westra has gloriously finished his earthly mission and has been bestowed with the divine reward promised in 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (KJV): “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

I often carry with me the dedication exemplified by those who have walked before us. May you find inspiration through the Holy Spirit each day to live out your vocation with passion and purpose that comes with Christ as the center of our lives. Know that in every act of kindness, every word of comfort, and every gesture of love, we are manifesting the good works God has prepared for us.

It is my prayer that Worship Anew may point all people to the abundant life in Christ Jesus that He wants for us now and that awaits us all in the eternal life to come.

***For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.***

*Ephesians 2:10 ESV*

## In This Issue

**6 Founding the Ministry**  
Remembering the life and legacy of Rev. John Westra.

**8 Beautiful Music**  
Learn about the start of the Worship Anew Choir.

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

**12 Finding Your Vocation**  
Finding what God has called you to be when you can't do what you used to do.

**20 Neighbors**  
We are told to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors?

**22 Dog Days of Summer**  
Activities to enjoy during these hot days of August.





# Put *love* into action

The Care Package program at Worship Anew provides an opportunity for individuals to do something for aging adults who are hurting. Care packages include biblical resources and comfort items to remind them they are loved and not alone.

## **Each package contains:**

- ▶ A comfort item (blanket or slippers)
- ▶ A coffee mug or tumbler and a beverage (coffee, tea, hot chocolate, or lemonade)
- ▶ An activity (crossword puzzle, word search, sudoku, coloring book, puzzle, or journal)
- ▶ Spiritual resources
- ▶ Personalized items

## **Who are the care packages for?**

The care packages are designed to share the love of Christ with aging adults who are hurting and/or their caregivers.

## **Can I personalize my care package?**

The order form also allows you to share the recipient's personal preferences, such as their favorite color, sports team, hobby, Bible verse, etc.

## **How much does it cost to send a care package?**

We want everyone to be able to share the love of Christ with those who are hurting, so there is no cost to send a care package. However, you will be given the opportunity to give a donation when you place your order. Your generous donations make it possible for us to continue this ministry!



**LEARN MORE AT [WORSHIPANEW.ORG/CARE](https://www.worshipanew.org/care)**





***Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.***

*1 John 3:18 (ESV)*

"Monday evening my brother called my mother very excited and grateful. He returned from his day of radiation to find a package on the porch, and it was your comfort care package. He has stage 4 cancer and has to travel 40 miles each direction five days a week to receive radiation and chemotherapy for seven weeks. He said he was sharing it with his wife, and he loved the blanket. Thank you so much for this ministry. My husband and I love your ministry, and we thank you for all of your Broadcasters and Hope-Full Living booklets for devotions and your Sunday broadcast. May our God bless you for all your efforts and gifts."

~ Family of a Care Package Recipient

"To everyone who helped in making sure I got a package. Every day is a struggle, and when the package came, I cried happy tears. It showed me someone out there does care, and I'm not alone. Being ill and having your whole life change instantly is hard. The gifts you sent are the best I've ever gotten before. I smiled today for the first time in a while because of all of you sweet people. I'm so thankful for you all."

~ Care Package Recipient

"I am still basking in the love that filled the gift box sent to me. From the note from the lady who packaged the box, the persons who crafted the prayer shawls, and your generous supply of Worship Anew note pads, thank you, thank you! It is comforting to know there is a community praying for us."

~ Care Package Recipient



Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III enjoys the game. Dr. Maier is one of the pastors on Worship Anew.

## Take me out to the Ballgame

On June 18, we enjoyed a night out at the Fort Wayne (Ind.) TinCaps with many of our volunteers and supporters. Play ball!



Above, we had a great group of volunteers, staffers, and supporters come out to the game. Below, Thad Goff, video editor and production specialist, throws out the first pitch at the game.



# 'Well done, good and faithful servant'

Celebrating the life of Rev. John Westra

*By Ashley Wiehe  
Director of Communications*



**Rev. John Westra**

December 5, 1945 - June 16, 2024

*"We wouldn't have Worship for Shut-Ins if it wasn't for Pastor John Westra." ~ Ken Schilf, former executive director of Worship for Shut-Ins*

Rev. John Westra was a charismatic and gifted individual. His heart for ministry led him to not only serve in multiple churches around the country, but also to ensure that Worship for Shut-Ins (now Worship Anew) would continue.

"He did something incredible back then that now has led to what we have today in the ministry that is Worship Anew," said Matthew Leighty, current executive director at Worship Anew.

In 1980, Rev. Westra was the associate pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. His work, alongside Minister of Education Ray Huebschman and Senior Pastor Jim Stalder, helped to revitalize and re-establish "Worship for Shut-Ins" after the passing of the original founder, the Rev. Oswald Henry Bertram.

"By the grace of God using Pastor Westra, he was able to make (this ministry) happen," Schilf said. "He was the cornerstone of bringing Worship for Shut-Ins to Fort Wayne and now it's coast to coast and around the world."

Along with establishing the new format for Worship for Shut-Ins, Rev. Westra also shared the responsibilities of delivering the messages on the program each week with Rev. Stalder during the early years of the ministry.

"It's God's Word coming into your home, coming to you directly," Rev. Westra said during an interview with Worship for Shut-Ins in 2005. "And that's the power and the blessing



Rev. John Westra was one of the first two pastors on Worship Anew (called Worship for Shut-Ins then.)



of Worship for Shut-Ins, and that's what we've been able to share. ... (God) has never failed this ministry. He continues to bless it."

Now, 44 years after his vision began, Rev. Westra was called to his heavenly home on June 16, 2024.

"He had a heart for those we were serving, all the way back then, especially those who were homebound — people who couldn't get to church," Leighty said. "Worship Anew will always be eternally grateful for the ministry of Rev. John Westra for his incredible gifts that he used throughout his ministry to be able to proclaim the gospel and to be able to see this amazing way we could evangelize and reach so many people with God's Word."

Rev. Westra was born in Italy but was raised in Kalamazoo, Mich. He graduated from Western Michigan University in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in religious studies. He served as transportation officer in the U.S. Army at Fort Eustis, Va., and in Vietnam. After working for General Foods Corporation, he was ordained in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1975 after graduating from Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill.

In addition to serving at Holy Cross and for Worship for Shut-Ins, he was a pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Owensboro, Ky.; St. John Lutheran Church in Wheaton, Ill.; and Zion Lutheran Church in Holland, Mich. In 2012, he completed his active



ministry at Messiah Lutheran Church in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. He was a member and Pastor Emeritus at Trinity Lutheran Church in West Chicago, Ill., until his death.

Rev. John Westra returned to the program to speak in 2015 during the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Worship for Shut-Ins in Toledo, Ohio.

Rev. Westra is survived by his wife, Nancy, his three children, and several grandchildren.

Rev. Westra's impact on the ministry is still evident today as Worship Anew (the new name since 2017) continues to provide for the needs of aging adults and delivers a spiritually uplifting program into their homes each week.

"We will always be grateful to him. We will always hold him in high esteem, and as this ministry continues, he will never be forgotten because he will always be a part of our history, our present, and he will always be a part of this ministry in the future," Leighty said.

***"Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:21a (ESV)***

***Watch this video as we pay tribute to Rev. John Westra for his service to Worship Anew.***



Use your camera to scan the QR code or visit our YouTube Channel at [youtube.com/@worshipanewonline](https://youtube.com/@worshipanewonline).



The Worship Anew Choir records the week's hymn in front of the new stained glass windows.

# Worship Anew Choir brings the hymn of the day each week

“Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer” — This is the sound of the warm and encouraging music that comes into the homes of our viewers each week from the voices of the Worship Anew Choir.

This choir was formed during the COVID-19 pandemic out of a need because many of the choirs that had appeared on Worship Anew had disbanded or had shrunk in numbers, and the ministry wanted to guarantee that viewers would still be able to see their favorite hymns on the program.

“We had thought about doing something like the Worship Anew Choir for a while, but the pandemic introduced a new challenge,” said Matthew Leighty, executive director of Worship Anew. “We also know that our viewers love to have their favorite, traditional hymns on the program and having the Worship Anew Choir to record those hymns was a great blessing.”

The first appearance of the choir was on Oct. 20, 2022, during the Reformation program.

“The choir came out of necessity, but it resulted in a great

blessing,” Leighty said.

The choir is composed of eight to 10 choir directors and vocal instructors from the Fort Wayne, Ind., area who volunteer their time to record the hymns throughout the year.

“I enjoy singing the familiar hymns and being able to collaborate with other music directors and singers,” said Stephanie Maxson, director of the Worship Anew Choir as well as the music director at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne.

The Worship Anew Choir complements the many other church, school, college, and organizational choirs that are still consistently shown on the program.

“We still continue to this day to have our favorite college choirs, high school choirs, grade school choirs, children’s choirs, and other church choirs on the program proclaiming God’s praises, and we can continue to then have the Worship Anew Choir on the program on a regular basis,” Leighty said. “It’s really the best of both worlds in that respect.”

***“I am glad to be a part of a worship service that reaches out to so many individuals. In this group, I am a singer and not the leader. That opportunity does not happen very often for church choir leaders. I have the opportunity to sing with very good friends who love singing our rich hymnody.”***

~ Phyllis Hockemeyer, Worship Anew Choir member





# Worship Anew in August

Year 2024 | Series B



## Food That Endures

**August 4, 2024 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

Jesus tells us we are to labor for the food that endures to eternal life (John 6:27). That means we are to plan properly for the long term. Christians are to be long-range planners.

*Sermon Text: John 6:22-35*

*Readings: Psalm 145:10-21; Exodus 16:2-15; John 6:22-35*



## I Am the Bread of Life

**August 11, 2024 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. William Mueller**

Jesus tells us He is the Bread of Life. This is one of the great “I Am” statements in John’s Gospel. But what does Jesus mean by this? He gives Himself for us.

*Sermon Text: John 6:35-51*

*Readings: Psalm 34:1-8; 1 Kings 19:1-8; John 6:35-51*



## Ideal-Ordeal-New Deal

**August 18, 2024 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer**

Our walk with Jesus, like so many of our relationships, appears so wonderful in its early days. Then comes an issue or crisis that intrudes upon our faith. God be praised that our Savior has “words of eternal life” (John 6:68 ESV) that can offer the “new deal” of forgiveness and life when our ideal has become an ordeal.

*Sermon Text: John 6:60-69*

*Readings: Psalm 34:12-22; Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; John 6:51-69*



## Without Wrinkle

**August 25, 2024 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III**

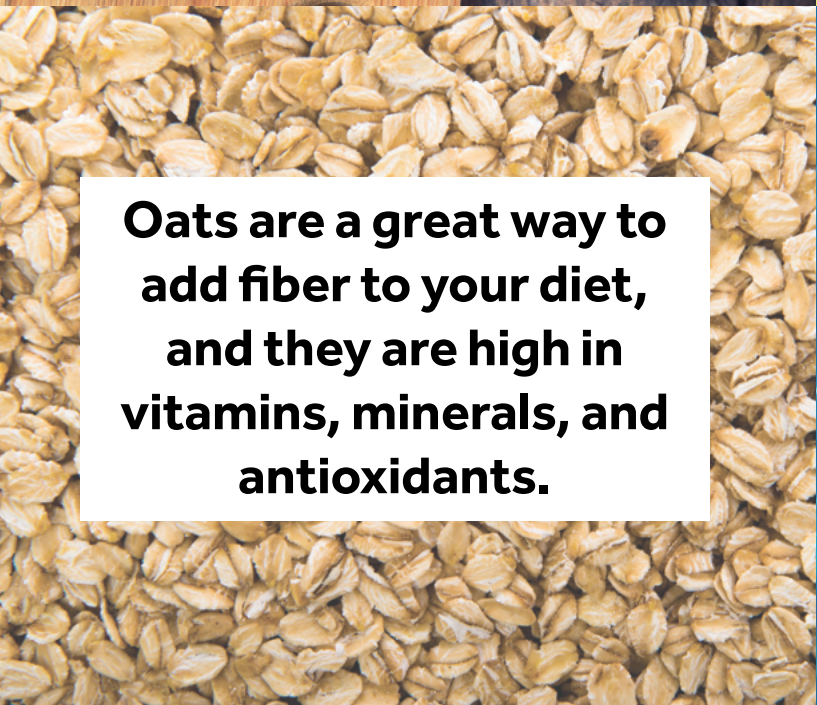
Wrinkles — we want to avoid them, but cannot. The good news is that God sees us, and all believers, as without wrinkle, in a way which is far more important than in the physical sense. This means that we will live forever.

*Sermon Text: Ephesians 5:25-27*

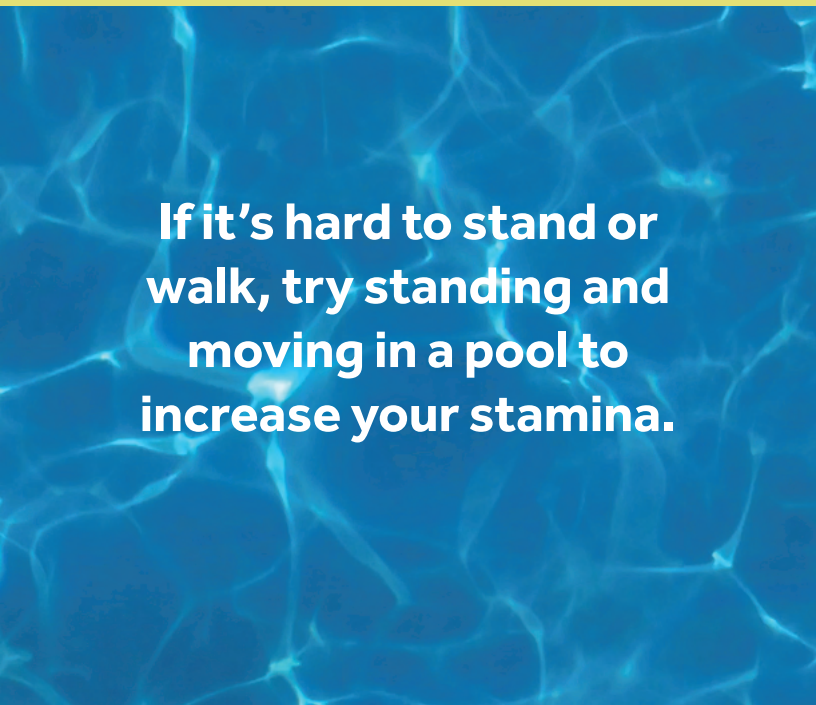
*Readings: Psalm 14; Ephesians 5:25-27; Mark 7:1-13*



**Avocados are a super food and are high in fiber, potassium, and vitamin C. Try swapping in avocado for your breakfast or afternoon sandwich.**



**Oats are a great way to add fiber to your diet, and they are high in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.**



**If it's hard to stand or walk, try standing and moving in a pool to increase your stamina.**

**Add fresh fruit or flavor packets to your water to make it more interesting.**







# Do **SMALL** things to make a **BIG** difference

**O**ften, suggestions for improving physical health are a bit overwhelming. For example, the thought of starting an exercise program when you haven't been exercising can be intimidating! However, doing small things to love and care for yourself can have a BIG impact on your health and wellbeing! This summer, try doing these small things:

## **Stand Up**

If you are able, standing is surprisingly good for your health. Standing not only burns more calories than sitting, but it engages all of your postural muscles. Strengthening these muscles can help to prevent neck and back pain in the future. Additionally, research shows that standing for 30 minutes a day can lower your risk of death from cardiovascular disease. You can actually lower that risk by 33 percent if you stand for 90 minutes a day!

## **Eat More Fiber**

We know you have probably heard this before, but fiber is REALLY great for you! It positively impacts so much more than your bowel health. Studies suggest that eating more fiber is associated with a reduced risk of dying from cardiovascular disease and all cancers. Fiber also helps to control blood sugar levels and lowers cholesterol. The daily recommended amount of fiber for adults aged 51 and older is 30 grams for men and 21 grams for women.

## **Incorporate More Whole Foods**

Incorporating more whole foods (foods in their natural state) is a great way to get more fiber and nutrients in your diet. Whole foods are lower in sugar and higher in nutrients than processed foods. They also contain antioxidants, which help fight disease. Summer is an ideal time to do this, as a wider variety of fresh fruits and vegetables are usually available.

## **Drink More Water**

In our last issue of the Broadcaster, we talked about the importance of staying hydrated. As it turns out, appetite and thirst tend to diminish with age. That means you may not drink as much as you need to stay healthy. You also may be taking medications that increase dehydration risks. The best way to stay hydrated is to drink more water. Not a fan of water? Try adding fresh fruit slices or flavor packets to your water to make it more interesting. You can also replace sugary soda with flavored sparkling water, typically available in the same aisle at the grocery store.

# *Serving God when you can no longer serve the same way*

## Finding vocation in all parts of life

*By Gina Teeple  
Director of Development & Ministry Relations*

- ✞ *Frank has always been good at anticipating difficulties and finding solutions. He has put this gift to good use by serving on boards and committees for years at his church. However, it has been difficult hearing what is being said at the meetings lately. He was also told by his doctor that he should limit his driving at night, which is when most of the meetings happen.*
- ✞ *Mary has served on the altar guild for as long as she can remember. She loves preparing for worship. Unfortunately, her arthritis has gotten worse, making it difficult to navigate the steps to the altar and prepare for communion.*







### Perhaps you are in a similar situation.

Perhaps you, like Frank and Mary, can no longer serve the same way that you have faithfully done for so many years. Perhaps, you find yourself questioning whether God can still use you.

I have good news. The answer is a resounding **YES!**

Scripture tells us, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10 ESV). Not only has God given each of us work to do; He has uniquely created us for that work!

To better understand how this is true at every stage of life, we are going to talk about vocation. When people hear the word “vocation,” they often think of what someone does to earn a living. In Martin Luther’s time, the word was only used to describe church-related callings (for example, monks, priests, and nuns) because these positions were considered holier than others. However, Luther used the word “vocation” for **any** calling a Christian might fulfill, including the relationships God has placed us in — child, parent, spouse, sibling, friend, neighbor, coworker, etc.

*continued on page 14*

Not only has  
God given  
each of us  
work to do; He  
has uniquely  
created us for  
that work!

*continued from page 13*

According to Luther, all of these vocations are holy because God works in and through them to love and care for us. For example, in the Lord's Prayer, we pray for God to give us our daily bread. How does God provide this daily bread? He provides it through the farmer who grows the wheat, the bakery that bakes it, the delivery truck driver that brings it to the grocery store, and the worker who places it on the shelf.

What does this mean? It means God is at work in everyone, everywhere, always. It means God is at work in YOU. More specifically, God is loving your neighbor through YOU. God is providing for your neighbor through YOU.

You may be wondering — who are my neighbors? This is the beautiful part! Your vocation brings your neighbors into your life: your family, friends, fellow congregation members, your actual next-door neighbor, the neighbor down the street ... even the stranger in line at the grocery store.

You may also be wondering — how do I love my neighbor? If your neighbors are those God has placed closest to you, you don't have to

worry about whether you should be doing something else, somewhere else, for someone else. Instead, Jesus reminds us in the Gospel of Matthew to do what is in front of us *today*. He tells His disciples, "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (6:34 ESV).

Sometimes doing what is in front of us involves something big.

Most of the time loving our neighbor is an accumulation of small things, though. Mother Theresa noted that while "not all of us can do great things, we can do small things with great love." She encouraged people to "always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."

Something as simple as a smile can remind someone they are loved and not alone. It is important to remember that we show our love for God when we love and care for

**"Not all of us can do great things, (but) we can do small things with great love."  
~ Mother Theresa**





our neighbor. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says:

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”*

*“Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’*

*“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me’ (25:35-40 ESV).*

If the thought of serving God and others differently than you have in the past makes you nervous, remember you are not alone. God is with you! Jesus tells His disciples (and us) in the Gospel of John, “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you” (14:16-17 ESV).

Additionally, God has placed people in your life to help you. We read in Ecclesiastes:

*“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!*

*“Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?*

*“And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him — a threefold cord is not quickly broken” (4:9-12 ESV).*

Instead of looking back at what you used to do, I encourage you to look at who God has placed in front of you today. Even as your abilities and relationships change, your purpose and calling remain the same — to share the love of Christ with those God has placed in your life!

# Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

LSB Hymn 826

1

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,  
“Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting —  
Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth;  
Rich reward He offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
“Here am I, send me, send me”?

2

If you cannot speak like angels,  
If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus,  
You can say He died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked  
With the judgment’s dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children  
To the Savior’s waiting arms.

3

If you cannot be a watchman,  
Standing high on Zion’s wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven,  
Off’ring life and peace to all,  
With your prayers and with your bounties  
You can do what God commands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron,  
Holding up the prophet’s hands.

4

Let none hear you idly saying,  
“There is nothing I can do,”  
While the multitudes are dying  
And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task He gives you gladly,  
Let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth,  
“Here am I, send me, send me!”

*Text: Public domain*



# Creating a Will & where to start

By Jon Dize, CFRE

Director of Operations & Legacy Giving

**Y**ou may think that wills are just for the wealthy and that you don't have "enough" to create a gift plan. But, it's not true. Wills are important for everyone, and the time is now to set one up if you haven't already done so.

A will, also known as a last will and testament, is a legal document that outlines your wishes regarding the distribution of your assets (everything that you own) after you are called home to heaven. It allows you to specify who will inherit your property and in what proportions, designate an executor to manage the estate (someone who organizes who gets what and when after your death, i.e. Power of Attorney), and address other important matters, such as charitable donations or funeral arrangements.

As you begin to plan or review your current will, you should examine all of your assets and write down what they are (and where they are at). You should also check and update your beneficiary designations at least every decade and after all major life events, such as marriage or divorce, moving to a different state, new grandchildren, etc. These beneficiary designations would be found in your 401K accounts, life insurance plans, etc. We can recount several cases where a former spouse was still the listed beneficiary in their retirement plan, and how surprised their current spouse would have been if something happened to them before they reviewed their plans!

In today's world, your list of assets are often far greater than just your checking or savings account. In fact, you probably have more items of value (and sentimental value) than you think. You want to ensure that the right person gets your grandmother's engagement ring, or that someone takes the box of your genealogy research so that it's not misplaced or accidentally destroyed. It's also important to have this

## ✓ WILL PLANNING CHECKLIST ✓

As you are determining a plan for your wishes after you are called home to heaven, consider this list as a place to start:

- ☐ Bank accounts
- ☐ 401Ks, IRAs, and other retirement funds
- ☐ Life insurance proceeds
- ☐ Stocks and other security accounts
- ☐ Your home(s) (including vacation homes and timeshares)
- ☐ Vacant Land or Investment property
- ☐ Vehicles (including boats, tractors, RVs, etc.)
- ☐ Collectibles and artwork
- ☐ Family Heirlooms
- ☐ Photographs and other family mementos
- ☐ Charitable Designations
- ☐ Passwords, Account Numbers, Billing Information
- ☐ Advanced Healthcare Directives
- ☐ Funeral Arrangements/Wishes

conversation between spouses so that your spouse is designated on all of your accounts, property, and vehicles and has access to important information, such as passwords, account numbers, billing information, etc.

After compiling your list, you should decide who you want to benefit and enjoy these items in the future, including children, grandchildren, your church, and ministries and charities that have meaning to you. All of God's children possess gifts provided by the Almighty, and even the humblest gifts can make a positive impact. Remember what Jesus said about the Widow's Offering in Luke 21?

Your plans should also include Powers of Attorney (as we said, someone to execute your will after your death), Advanced Healthcare Directives (such as who will make healthcare decisions if you cannot and the extent of treatment that you would like in certain circumstances), and even pre-planning of funeral arrangements.

A valid will must meet specific legal requirements, such as being





in writing, signed by the testator (the person making the will), and witnessed by witnesses who are not beneficiaries. Attorneys and estate planners will work with you through this process. Also, please know that if you wait or decide not to have a will, then your local state will most likely create a will for you, which may not match up with your plans for caring for your family after you are gone.

While some of this may seem daunting to you, perhaps the greatest reason to have a plan and to keep it all updated is for your **Peace of Mind**. It will be comforting to know that, once you're called home to heaven, your assets will be distributed exactly as you wish. Think of it this way: ***By creating a gift plan for tomorrow, you'll be giving yourself the gift of peace of mind today.***

As you make your plans, don't forget to pray and reflect on **God's plans** for you, as well.

If you don't know where to start, contact us, and we can connect you with a valued professional partner that can help you meet your goals. We also strongly encourage you to discuss your plans and goals with your family now while you still can share your hopes and dreams for the future.

## HELP IN WRITING YOUR WILL

During the month of August, Worship Anew is helping our faithful readers to create a will during **Write a Will Month**. If you are willing to include a gift to a charity, such as the ministry of Worship Anew, we can provide resources to help you complete these documents for free!

If you live in the greater Fort Wayne area, we will have attorneys willing to create these documents with pre-set appointments during the month of August. Contact us at (888) 286-8002 or [Legacy@worshipanew.org](mailto:Legacy@worshipanew.org) to find an appointment that works best for your schedule. If you live in other parts of the country, please contact us, and we can help to find a suitable attorney in your area.

Please note that if your situation requires more advanced work than a typical simple will, the attorney will advise you of any potential costs.

## What is the Sabbath and how did people practice it in the Bible?

One of the Ten Commandments given to God's people in Exodus 20 (ESV) is to "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." For God's people in the Old Testament, the Sabbath day (Saturday) was a day of rest. This day was a day to be set aside for the Lord. As God rested on the seventh day of creation, His people were to also rest from their work. In Leviticus 25, we see that even the land and work animals were to be given a Sabbath rest every seven years. This was practical in that it allowed fields to be left uncultivated and restore nutrients. In that seventh year, whatever the land produced would be used for people and animals, but not sold commercially. This was a reminder of the importance of rest and reflection on God's gifts, but it was also a very poignant lesson that the days we have, the things we enjoy on this earth, don't really belong to us. When God's people rested on a day or rested their land, they were reminded that these things belong to the Lord. He has control.

## Do Christians still observe the Sabbath? What do Lutherans believe about keeping the Sabbath day?

In Martin Luther's Small Catechism his explanation of the Sabbath day commandment is, "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

Participating in regular worship is one way we keep the Sabbath day holy. And as we return to God's Word and His teachings, we find that He truly gives us the rest we need from our labors. When Jesus says in Matthew 11:28 (ESV), "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," we can trust that He means it. We make it a practice to go to God's Word in worship and in our own personal study knowing that we will receive God's guidance, encouragement, and Words of life. This is rest compared to the efforts of our sinful nature to justify our bad behavior, control every situation that might make us feel vulnerable, and search for purpose and direction outside of our Savior. The ultimate Sabbath rest we look forward to is when we rest from all of our labors in our eternal home with Jesus.

## *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](mailto:editor@worshipanew.org). Please know that we will try to answer as many questions as we can. Thank you and enjoy!



# Counting your blessings

*By Krista Koch*

There are many religious wall hangings and decorations in my house. I will admit that they are there as a witness to others who might visit, but they are a needed reminder for our family, as well.

This past fall, I had some health issues. One Saturday morning I was engaged in my own little pity party when I happened to notice a wall hanging that says, “We are blessed.” I started to contemplate the many blessings that I have including family, food, shelter, and most importantly, eternal life! There is much to be grateful for in our lives, and I started a list.

Somehow my health issues did not seem as prevalent as they had just moments before. Then, I looked at the large wall hanging that says, “God is in Control” and smiled. My brother has teased me about the size of the wall hanging on several occasions, and I always come back with the comment, “That’s something I really struggle with.” Boy, do I ever! God is in control at all times. There are countless hours spent worrying and fretting

and engaging in pity parties when He’s got me.

I read the following in a devotional recently: “Into His hands we commit all of our yesterdays — all of our failures, our sins, and our regrets. We commit today, a day of mercy and of grace. And into His hands we commit tomorrow. His mercies which have been ‘new unto us every morning’ will be just as new, just as sure, and just as all-sufficing tomorrow as they are today. His promises are sure. His compassions fail not.”

What a comfort to know that God is in control! He handles the big stuff and the tiny details for each of us. I can commit it all to Him!

This is easier said than done sometimes, however, especially when trials come upon us. Thus, the need for my wall hangings.

May you find hope, joy, and encouragement in the fact that: We are truly blessed because God is in control!

*Krista Koch is a teacher at Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Ind., where she has served for nearly 20 years.*



## Give thanks always

**In the film “White Christmas,” Rosemary Clooney’s character sings the advice to “count your blessings instead of sheep.” It turns out that this isn’t just a good way to rest our anxious brains at night, there’s research that has concluded that the practice of gratitude can actually lead to improved happiness and will help to lessen feelings of isolation. Here are a few prompts you can use each day to thank God for the blessings He’s given you:**

What is one relationship you can thank God for today?

What is one thing God has put in your life you can look forward to today?

Reflect on the love God has for you and all that He’s done for you. What has God the Father given you to enjoy as our Great Creator?

Think on all that Jesus has done to earn your salvation and how he continues to be with you. How does the Holy Spirit continue to guide and direct your paths while reminding you of the faith He created in you?

How can you show your gratitude to someone else today, giving them the opportunity to feel the gift of God’s love that you feel now?

***Take time to write out what you are thankful for today.***



*“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.”*

*Isaiah 12:4-5 (ESV)*



# Who is my neighbor?

*By Gina Teeple*

*Director of Development & Ministry Relations*

**W**ho is my neighbor? It is a great question that, if we are being honest, we all ask from time-to-time. It is also the question Jesus is answering when He tells the parable of the Good Samaritan.

A lawyer, or scholar of the law, decides to put Jesus to the test by asking Him what he needs to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asks him what the law says, to which the man replies: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27 ESV).

Jesus affirms his answer. If this man can keep the Law by perfectly loving God and his neighbor, he will inherit eternal life.

At this point in the story, I think we can all identify with the lawyer a little bit. Love God with all my heart? Got it. Love my neighbor as myself? Ummm ... that depends. Who is my neighbor?

Jesus’ answer to this question turns everything upside down. He tells the story of a man who is robbed, stripped, beaten, and left for dead on the side of the road. Two “religious” people walk by (a priest and a Levite), but do not help. Eventually a Samaritan comes along and has compassion on the man.

Wait — what?!?! A SAMARITAN?!?!

If you were sitting amongst Jesus’ audience, his words would have shocked you. Samaritans were NOT neighbors to the Jews. Rather, the two groups were openly hostile toward one another. The Jewish people cursed the Samaritans publicly in the synagogue. To eat Samaritan food was considered equal to eating swine’s flesh.

Yet it is the Samaritan — not the priest or Levite — who was a neighbor to the man beaten and left for dead. How is he a neighbor? He does what is in front of him. He cares for the man’s immediate needs using the things he has.

*Gina Teeple is a Deaconess in the LCMS Lutheran Church. She serves at Worship Anew as the Director of Development and Ministry Relations.*





He binds the man's wounds and pours oil and wine on them (the oil would have been soothing, while the wine would have acted as an antiseptic). He then puts the man on his animal, takes him to a nearby inn, and pays the innkeeper two days' wages for the man's ongoing care.

This parable can be challenging. It isn't always easy to love your neighbor, especially when everyone is your neighbor. Sometimes you will want to pass by on the other side of the street, like the priest and Levite. As you consider how to share God's love with those around you, however, it is important to remember that God is always with you, working in and through you, providing for all that you need!

## Reflection Questions:

The priest and Levite avoid the man, passing by on the other side of the road, but the Samaritan is moved with compassion. The word Jesus uses here is the same word used to describe Jesus' compassion for the crowds in Matthew 9:36. How does God's compassion help us love our neighbor?

Jesus lifted up a Samaritan as the unlikely hero of this parable. How have you been inspired by the work of an unlikely hero — someone you wouldn't have expected to be the one who acted to do God's work? Did the work of this unlikely hero encourage you to do the same for someone in your life?

Caring for our neighbor can be overwhelming at times. It is especially tempting to feel like we always need to do *more* for our neighbor. This parable is an excellent illustration of how it is okay to ask for help. The Samaritan takes care of the man's immediate needs and then pays the innkeeper to continue caring for the man. What are some ways you can ask others for help when you are overwhelmed?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you have called me to love my neighbor. Help me to not avert my eyes from the needs of those around me. Give me strength and resolve to love those in need. I know I can't do everything to save others. Thank you for sending your Son to do what I couldn't by being the sacrifice for my sins. It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## This month's study text:

### *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*

*25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."*

*29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."*

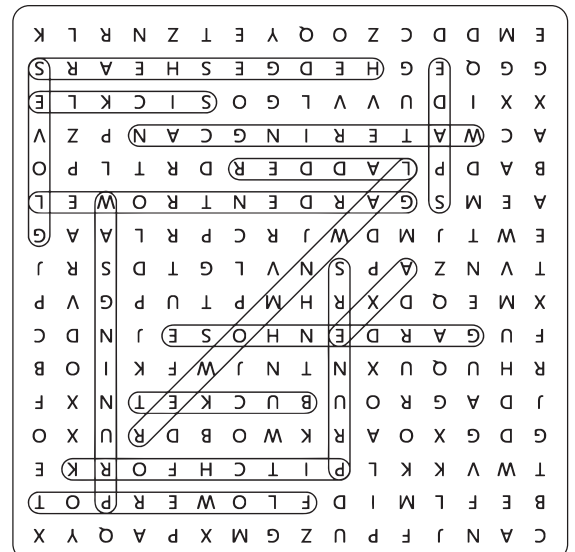
**Luke 10:25-37 (ESV)**

# Wag the Dog Days of Summer away

By Elizabeth Puls  
Copy Editor

The Dog Days of Summer are upon us! We may be tempted to stay indoors and turn on the air conditioner, but with more hours of sunlight, why not take advantage of some of these August activities:

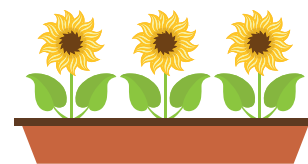
- ▶ Consider taking classes through your local Parks and Recreation Department. They offer a wide array of classes geared toward seniors, such as pottery, painting, gardening, aquatics classes, and fitness classes.
- ▶ If you love to read, start a Breakfast and Book Club. You can meet in your home or at a local café. Start the day in the company of friends while enjoying a delicious breakfast and discussing a good book.
- ▶ Be a tourist in your own hometown. Find the hidden gems that you have been meaning to visit and make a day of exploring your city.
- ▶ Many towns have a thriving art and music community. When it's too hot to be outside, explore the museum, take in a play, or attend the symphony or a concert.
- ▶ Invite the grandkids over for a sleepover. Have them help you plan and prepare their favorite meal. After dinner, play a board game, put together a puzzle, or watch a movie together. Spend this time getting to know all about each other.
- ▶ Spend the morning at your local Farmer's Market. Most Farmer's Markets have more than just produce. You can find meat and dairy products, baked goods, homemade jams and jellies, and even handmade jewelry and crafts.







# WORD SEARCH



## FUN FACT:

England has a Poison Garden. It grows 100 deadly plants.  
Visitors are not allowed to smell or touch these plants.

C	A	N	J	F	P	U	Z	G	M	X	P	A	Q	Y	X
B	E	F	L	M	I	D	F	L	O	W	E	R	P	O	T
T	W	V	K	K	L	P	I	T	C	H	F	O	R	K	E
G	D	G	X	O	A	R	K	W	O	B	D	R	U	X	O
J	D	A	G	R	O	U	B	U	C	K	E	T	N	X	F
R	H	U	Q	U	X	N	T	N	J	W	F	K	I	O	B
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☐ AXE☐ GLOVES☐ WATERING CAN☐ LAWN MOWER☐ BUCKET☐ LADDER☐ SICKLE☐ PITCHFORK☐ SPADE☐ PRUNERS☐ GARDEN HOSE☐ PRUNING SAW☐ GARDEN TROWEL☐ FLOWERPOT☐ HEDGE SHEARS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*You're Invited*

**STAINED GLASS  
WINDOW DEDICATION  
2 PM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

Worship Anew, 5 Martin Luther Drive,  
Fort Wayne, Ind. 46825

All are welcome as we dedicate the windows  
from Trinity Lutheran Church.

Program will begin at 2 PM.

