

July 2025

BROADCASTER

A magazine of Worship Anew



*Joyfully
Aging*

Ministering to the Aging

Hope-Full Living continues to bring the joy of aging

According to His Riches



Matthew F. Leighty

Matthew F. Leighty
Executive Director

Celebrating God's provision for our ministry at Worship Anew

On October 15, 2017, our ministry celebrated a significant milestone by hosting our annual appreciation event. This occasion was particularly noteworthy because it marked the official rebranding of our ministry from Worship for Shut-Ins to Worship Anew. This new name emphasized our broader mission and vision, providing clearer insight into how our program was connecting with a much larger audience.

One of the champions of this important transition was Dr. Rich Bimler, who graciously accepted our invitation to be the keynote speaker for the event. His presence and words of encouragement were instrumental in guiding us through this season of change.

In 2020, Worship Anew took another significant step by acquiring Hope-Full Living, a beloved devotional publication

that had long been offered to viewers of our weekly televised program. Once again, we leaned on Dr. Bimler for his wisdom and guidance. Hope-Full Living was the brainchild of the late Rev. Walter Schoedel and Dr. Bimler, both respected leaders in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). Continuing his active role, Dr. Bimler served as Editor-at-Large. In the first issue under our stewardship in October 2020, he fittingly quoted Philippians 4:19 (ESV): "And my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Just as God provided Worship Anew with the opportunity to carry on the legacy of Hope-Full Living, He also blessed us with Dr. Bimler's faithful partnership during these two pivotal moments. These milestones have expanded our reach and allowed us to share God's Word with even more

Photo by Ashley Wiehe

Dr. Rich Bimler is the Ambassador of Health, Hope, and Aging (AH-HA!) and the Editor Emeritus of Hope-Full Living.



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



people. The passage from Philippians reminds us that God provides for our needs — not always in material abundance but in the richness of His grace. In this case, He has provided abundantly through the ministry and heart of Dr. Bimler, just as He provides us richly with His Word and the Holy Spirit.

During his 2017 message, Dr. Bimler offered a profound reflection on aging:

“Aging is a gift to celebrate rather than a burden to bear! Each day is a blessing from the Lord who enables us to serve and celebrate this gift with people younger and older who He puts around us — in our family, church, and community. Ten thousand people turn 65 years of age every day in the U.S. The Lord must really love older people because He sure is making more of us!”

Recognizing the growing need to reach older adults with

resources to live an abundant life in Christ, Worship Anew formally incorporated this focus into our core mission in 2021. Today, our commitment to walking alongside those facing life’s most difficult circumstances continues to drive our ministry and inspire our community.

As we now celebrate the five-year anniversary of acquiring Hope-Full Living, my heart is filled with deep appreciation for Dr. Bimler, the late Rev. Schoedel, and the many faithful leaders who made this publication possible. I thank God for working through them to serve and touch countless lives with the Gospel.

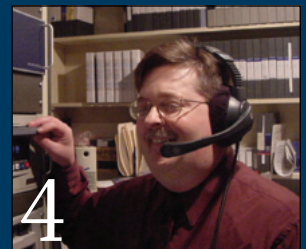
As we carry on this legacy, may we do so with humility and confidence, trusting that God will continue to provide for our needs as we serve Him abundantly through the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19 ESV

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Paul Melin has served Worship Anew for 30 years, helping to shape the worship program into what it is today.

30 *years of dedication*

Paul Melin retires after years of faithful service to Worship Anew

Over his 30 years at Worship Anew, Paul Melin has served as the director of video production and accessibility. But, for many, that title has meant something more. To them, he has been the provider of comfort in their time of need, the coordinator of song for their favorite hymns, an encourager for their family, the inspiration for their career, and the director who brought God's Word into their home.

In 1995, Melin joined the ministry as a production engineer, and since then, he has helped to mold and shape Worship Anew into the much-beloved program that it is today.

"It was important for us to always try to use any form of media ministry for Worship Anew to be shared with the community," Melin said.

Over time, Melin helped to shift how the program was organized, giving

more time for the pastors to preach; he added subtitles and closed captioning to provide more accessibility for those who wanted to watch the program; and he has photographed — including doing drone work — countless churches and stained-glass windows to show as transitions on the program.

“In 1998, St. Peter, Minn., had an F5 tornado go through, and I saw a Catholic church where it had completely blown out the stained glass windows,” he recalled. “I thought to myself, at that time, I was going to start photographing stained glass windows and use those as transitions between the pastor and the choir.”

It was a way to give new life to those windows and to ensure that they would live on, regardless of what happened to the church.

He also worked with Ken Schilf, retired executive director of Worship for Shut-Ins (Worship Anew’s previous name), to take the program from being recorded at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind., to its current home on the Concordia Theological Seminary campus.

“As the TV program kept growing ... it was getting more and more difficult to schedule a choir or to do a Tuesday morning pastor production when there were activities out in the church, so we spent two or three years looking for facilities in Fort Wayne,” Melin said. “In the process of moving, the seminary people had also invited us to talk about using an empty dorm room or a dorm building. God led us in the right direction where He would want us to build a TV studio and work along with the Seminary staff.”

In time, he saw pastors, staff, and volunteers come and go, but he remained a constant for the ministry and for the viewers — something about which they have expressed gratitude.

This summer, Melin retired from the ministry to pursue other interests and passions, but his footprints will forever remain a part of Worship Anew. They are ingrained in every program that he directed, every team member that he inspired, and every viewer that was blessed by Worship Anew.

“We are filled with gratitude for Paul and for the incredible work he has dedicated over the years in support of the ministry,” said Matthew Leighty, executive director of Worship Anew. “Paul’s unwavering heart for serving others and his passion for sharing the love of Christ are gifts for which we will always be thankful.”

“Paul’s unwavering heart for serving others and his passion for sharing the love of Christ are gifts for which we will always be thankful.”

~ Matthew Leighty, executive director



Watch this video in honor of Paul Melin and his service to the ministry.



Use your camera app to scan the QR code or visit youtube.com/@worshipanewonline

Getting to know our Hope-Full

Bill Biester

*By Elizabeth Puls
Copy Editor*

Finding out you are an adopted child can, for some, be a daunting realization.

But, for Bill Biester, it was a realization that he was chosen to be part of a new family — just as we are chosen by the work of the Holy Spirit — to be a part of God's family.

"I have been adopted twice," he said.

Growing up in the church led Biester to a life of service to the Lord as a Deacon in the LCMS church.

At a church worker conference in Phoenix, Ariz., Biester met members of Hope-Full Living and was inspired to become an author for the devotional. He has been a faithful author for this publication for almost five years.

His love of writing began in college when he realized that he loved taking classes in creative writing. He was always encouraged to share his writings with the class.

Writing for Hope-Full Living has given Biester the opportunity to share devotions that are important to the aging community by touching on topics that help bolster their faith and discover new ways to serve Jesus and their fellow Christians.

"If I were at their side, this is what I would want to tell them," he said.

Each issue of Hope-Full Living gives Biester the opportunity to study God's Word, discovering new insights and promises that he hadn't previously considered. With each issue, he is inspired to search the scriptures and delve into the ways in which the Lord uses the aging community to further the Gospel message.



Jill Rodenbeck

*By Elizabeth Puls
Copy Editor*

Jill Rodenbeck has been writing devotions for Hope-Full Living for three years, but she didn't begin her life in the church until she was in grade school.



After moving to a new town, her parents were unimpressed with the public school education provided there. The only private school near them was a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) school. Since her father didn't know much about Lutheran churches or their schools, he decided a visit was in order.

"We all attended St. Paul Lutheran Church that Sunday, which was Palm Sunday," she recalled. "This was a confirmation service where over 40 eighth graders dressed in white robes occupied the front pews. This was an impressive display of knowledge, so my dad decided we'd go back the next week. It was Easter. Dad heard the Easter gospel for the first time ... We all started information classes to get baptized and registered for school."

Since that time, the Lord has blessed her with His gifts to share the gospel with others.

As a Lutheran educator, she has always enjoyed reading and writing, but she was unsure about writing for Hope-Full Living when she was asked.

"I wasn't sure anyone would find what I had to say worth considering, so I was happily surprised when different members in my congregation would stop me after church and comment that a particular devotion was helpful to them," she said. "That feedback encouraged me to stay with it."

Rodenbeck finds inspiration for her devotions from worship services, Christian music, and reading scripture. She makes notes as ideas fill her head.

"I ruminate and cogitate (one of my dad's favorite phrases) until something hits me," she said. "Once I have an idea, the words flow pretty well."

Living authors

Rev. Paul Hoffman

*By Sheila Banks
Communications Specialist*

For the Rev. Paul Hoffman, writing a devotional for Hope-Full Living is “just a small example of writing a sermon.”

Hoffman served as a pastor for 41 years. Now technically retired, he still preaches often and visits shut-ins for his church.

Prior to writing for Hope-Full Living, which he started doing at the end of 2022, Hoffman read the devotional at his church.

“I was impressed how Hope-Full Living was geared to seniors, and it spoke to how God strengthens us to deal with our concerns,” he said. “In addition, I appreciate how the authors often told stories which meant a lot to me.”

Inspiration for his writing comes by meditating on scripture and letting the images speak to him. He also considers his life stories and scripture responses to those experiences and incorporates that into his writing.

“Hope-Full Living especially touches upon the blessings and sorrows of seniors,” he said. “We are often limited physically and mentally, and we often suffer losses, such as the loss of a spouse or a good friend. Anyone can read Hope-Full Living, but especially seniors who need reminders about God’s powerful hope in their limited lives.”



Harriet Monn Stennfeld

*By Ashley Wiehe
Director of Communications*

For Harriet Monn Stennfeld, writing has been a big part of her life — from writing poetry to writing prayers for sermons. Writing became a way for her to express her thoughts, feelings, and faith.



“I thought it was God’s gift to me to use,” she said. “Some people are good singers, but I can’t carry a tune so that used to make me feel really bad. But, then one day I came to realize that God’s gift to me was something different.”

And ever since, she has been using her gift of writing and poetry to share with others — sometimes through church, sometimes by request, and sometimes through life’s toughest moments.

In her self-published book, “The View from My Window: A Collection of Poetry,” she writes poems for birthdays, anniversaries, celebrations at her church, and family losses, including the loss of her grandson, Jonathan.

*“Tiny fingers and tiny toes
One eye that never seemed to close
Your soft and sweet, yet fragile touch
Your ‘sign of love’ we’ll miss so much.
Your little body fought to live
Until it had not more to give.
In Mommy’s arms, you fell asleep
For Jesus now to safely keep.”*

Over the years, she has written hundreds of poems and finds each of them special in their own unique way. Today, she is sharing her talents with fellow aging adults as an author for Hope-Full Living.

She has been writing for Hope-Full Living since 2015 and loves to be able share personal stories about friends and family through her writing. On July 7, you can read a special devotional written about her longtime friend, Amy, and how God provides “bonus gifts and blessings.”

“Our life is filled with God’s boundless love and blessings,” Stennfeld wrote.



At left, we are grateful for all of the volunteers and the spouses of our volunteers who allow them to give of their time to support our ministry. Below, Sue Cook, left, and Debra Leighty, right, have served our ministry faithfully in any way that we have needed.



Volunteers make our ministry possible

On June 10, we honored the more than 50 volunteers that make our ministry possible. Thank you for your service in providing resources for aging adults to live a full and abundant life in Jesus Christ!



Above, the staff and volunteers sing the doxology at the end of the luncheon. At right, Dean and Edie Rodenbeck have been longtime volunteers at Worship Anew.



The Rev. Bill Mueller, one of Worship Anew's pastors, leads prayer during the Annual Appreciation Luncheon on June 10.





Worship Anew in July

Year 2025 | Series C



Hear Me

July 6, 2025 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Shayne Jonker

It's all about the sending. The Father sends Jesus. Likewise, Jesus sends disciples as His apostles. And this sending of the seventy-two is one of the foundation stones of the Office of the Holy Ministry. His words are their words. "The one who hears you, hears me" (Luke 10:16 ESV). You have Jesus' Word on it, and His Word is sure.

Sermon Text: Luke 10:16

Readings: Psalm 66:1-9; Isaiah 66:10-14; Luke 10:1-20

Featured Choirs: LWML Indiana District Choir

Featured Art and Architecture: Mamrelund Lutheran Church, Stanton, Iowa



What Do You See?

July 13, 2025 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. William Mueller

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is a well-known and much-loved parable of Jesus. But are we missing something important if we only see a message of "love your neighbor" in it? Could this parable be a sort of theological Rorschach test? Take a deeper dive into this parable to see some truly amazing grace!

Sermon Text: Luke 10:25-37

Readings: Psalm 41; Leviticus 19:9-18; Luke 10:25-37

Featured Choir: Holy Cross Lutheran Treble Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Atlantic, Iowa



Making Good Choices

July 20, 2025 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Every parent admonishes their child to "make good choices." God also wants us, His children, to make good choices. Join us on Worship Anew as we answer the question, "What is a good choice in the eyes of God?"

Sermon Text: Luke 10:38-42

Readings: Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 18:1-10a; Luke 10:38-42

Featured Choirs: Lincoln Lutheran High School Choir, Lincoln, Neb.; Zion Lutheran of Woodburn, Ind. and Mt. Calvary Lutheran of Antwerp, Ohio Adult Choir

Featured Art and Architecture: Trinity Lutheran Church, Winterset, Iowa



Lord, Teach us to Pray

July 27, 2025 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Scott Zeckzer

God calls us to get to know Him. He has a big surprise of what He wants us to call Him. He also has a big surprise of what He wants us to talk about with Him.

Sermon Text: Luke 11:1

Readings: Psalm 138; Genesis 18:17-33; Luke 11:1-13

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. John Gospel Light Chorus, Plymouth, Wis.

Featured Art and Architecture: Faith Lutheran Church, Orange City, Iowa



For Seniors, By Seniors

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF HOPE-FULL LIVING

*By Ashley Wiehe
Director of Communications*



In 2011, two visionaries set out to create a devotional that would speak to the issues, concerns, and activities related to the needs of older adults. From there, Hope-Full Living was established.

For 14 years, the devotional has operated as a publication that is written for seniors, by seniors with more than 60 authors contributing to it each quarter.

The devotional was the brainchild of the Rev. Walter Schoedel and Dr. Rich Bimler, both well-respected older adults in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Hope-Full Living originally began at Creative Communications, a Christian publishing company based out of Missouri, and grew with the model that it still holds to today — to have aging adults writing to aging adults.

“When this devotional was first started, there was very little material out there specifically for Christian seniors. The thought was that there was a need in the church, and the hope was that it would speak directly to older adults

continued on page 12

Dr. Rich Bimler smiles in his home office during a recent visit with the Worship Anew ministry team.



continued from page 11

in their walk of faith,” said Mark Zimmermann, senior product developer for Creative Communications. “What makes the devotional so special is that each reflection is written by a senior about living out their faith in the world today.”

The team originally began by reaching out to Lutheran Senior Services in the St. Louis, Mo., area to be recipients as well as writers for the publication. The editorial staff at the time held focus groups to receive feedback on the theological content in the devotions and then established guidelines to create the publication.

Bimler was named the honorary editor, and both he and Schoedel wrote for the publication.

In 2020, Creative Communications decided to transition away from Hope-Full Living, and Worship Anew was

contacted to pick up the mantle of the publication.

“Worship Anew had been promoting and sending out Hope-Full Living to our viewers for a couple of years before we acquired the publication. It had become a dearly loved devotional, aligning with our primary audience of older adults,” said Matthew Leighty, executive director of Worship Anew. “While we thought about creating our own devotional, Hope-Full Living proved to be such a good fit that it didn’t seem necessary. When the opportunity arose, the ministry and our board recognized that it would be an excellent addition to our mission.”

In the transition, Schoedel continued as writer until his passing in 2023, and Bimler continued on as the Editor-at-Large, working alongside the ministry team at Worship Anew.

“Dad felt that Worship Anew coupled with Hope-Full Living was critical to keeping older adults connected to

their church and their Savior,” said John Schoedel, son of the Rev. Walter Schoedel.

Since taking on the publication, Hope-Full Living has continued to grow through more contributors and subscribers, and most importantly, in its mission “to inspire God’s seniors with the assurance that “This very day, I have a body, a mind, a spirit and a message — God’s rejuvenating Gospel message to and through me

— to share with my world, my friends, and my Lord,” as shared by Bimler.

“The vision we had then has truly come to pass and then some through the work that Worship Anew has done, not just through the devotional, but through their outreach efforts,” Zimmerman said.

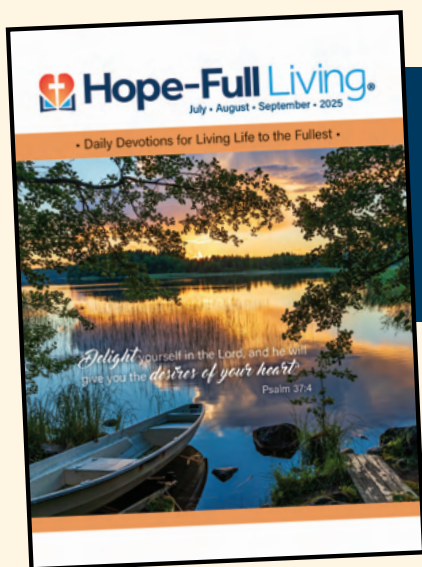
Celebrate more about Hope-Full Living on page 14

“I regularly visit the homebound and hospitalized as well as conduct services at nursing homes and retirement homes. Hope-Full Living has been enthusiastically received and appreciated by the many who have come under my care from its first publishing.”

~ Hope-Full Living Subscriber

Subscribe to Hope-Full Living

“God has a perfect path for our lives. He made us His children in baptism, forgives our sins, and feeds us with His holy supper. He directs and encourages us through His Word as we journey through life to heaven.”



Devotions written for seniors, by seniors

Hope-Full Living is a quarterly devotional that provides a daily dive into God’s Word to inspire and uplift you. Learn more or subscribe at HopeFullLiving.org.

**REQUEST A FREE SAMPLE AT
INFO@WORSHIPANEW.ORG OR (888) 286-8002**





Dr. Rich Bimler poses with his wife Hazel while in their Chicago home.

HONORING DR. RICH BIMLER AS EDITOR EMERITUS

Dr. Rich Bimler always has a smile on his face and a joke in his pocket. He is the Ambassador of Health, Hope, and Aging (AH-HA!), and he “joyfully” lives up to that mantra.

For five years with Worship Anew and for nine years prior with Creative Communications, Bimler has served as the Honorary Editor and Editor-at-Large of Hope-Full Living. Today, as he steps away from his work as the Editor-at-Large, Bimler is being honored with the title of Editor Emeritus of Hope-Full Living.

“Dr. Rich Bimler has brought his personal style to this beautiful devotional publication. His humor and joy for the Lord resonate in his own writings and are infused into the devotions authored by our much-loved authors,” said Matthew Leighty, executive

director of Worship Anew. “As Dr. Bimler moves into his new role as Editor Emeritus, we are so grateful to know that his legacy will carry on through Hope-Full Living as it will continue to share the hope we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Bimler has spent years as a champion of older adults and says it is important to find the joy in aging and to celebrate the gifts that God has given them.

“Aging is a gift,” said Bimler, who is currently 84. “Joyfully aging is true because of the Lord.”

The title of Ambassador of Health, Hope, and Aging was given to him along the way in his career, but he has definitely owned the “AH-HA!” of the title and lived it out in his life.

Watch this video in honor of
Dr. Rich Bimler and his service
to Hope-Full Living.

Use your camera app to scan the QR code or
visit youtube.com/@worshipanewonline



“Every time he talked, he’d bring 87 buttons to pass out. ‘You wanna be an ‘AH-HA’ person? Here’s a button,’” his wife, Hazel, laughed as she recalled.

As faithful readers of Hope-Full Living over the years would recall, he signed each letter at the start of the devotional with “Dr. Rich Bimler, Editor at Large, Ambassador of Health, Hope, and Aging (AH-HA).”

“I go around saying it to people, and they look at me kind of weird, but it’s a good way to say we’re here to celebrate the Lord’s presence,” Bimler said. “That’s the joy that we have had to bring joyfulness rather than, oh golly, another year older and this hurts and that hurts. But, it’s to say that the Lord is still there in the midst of it.”

His messages in Hope-Full Living and through his work in his books and other areas of his career have shared the same message:

“It is so good to keep saying, ‘AH-HA.’ Sometimes I don’t feel like AH-HA, but that’s OK because our Lord is still with us,” he said.

As he transitions out of his role with Hope-Full Living, he’s blessed to see how the authors are continuing the work to provide devotionals that are shaped for aging adults and by doing it in a way that keeps the “AH-HA.”

“I think the writers get as much of a blessing with their writing as the people who read the devotions because that’s therapy for them, as well — to share their life, what’s happened in their life, what’s lifted them up, what’s made them go on, and what’s helped them to age joyfully,” Hazel shared.

“There’s a lot of devotional booklets out there, but the authors that you have put together are so real. They are living it,” Bimler added. “They are not just church professionals, but they’re doing it because they’ve got a gift for writing, and more than that, they’ve got a relationship with our Lord, and that’s just marvelous.”

Despite changes in his life, Bimler still continues to live joyfully and hold up his mantle of being an Ambassador of Health, Hope, and Aging. He

continues to pass out Hope-Full Living devotionals in his church and anyone that he comes across. He sees Hope-Full Living as a way to open the door to have a conversation with someone who is hurting.

“It’s easy to talk about Hope-Full Living. A couple of times (when I visited a nursing home), they were so elated that someone brought something to them,” Bimler said. “They are so pleased because it touches them. That’s just a powerful thing.”

“See, joyfully aging, that is because aging is a gift,” Bimler said.

Dr. Rich Bimler has spent years as the Ambassador of Health, Hope, and Aging.

***“Aging is a gift. Joyfully aging
is true because of the Lord.”***

~ Dr. Rich Bimler





Important reasons to have a Will in place

By Jon Dize, CFRE
Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives

As we age, planning for the future becomes increasingly important. Ensuring that our wishes are respected and our loved ones are cared for requires careful consideration and preparation. Three critical documents that every senior should have are an up-to-date Will, a Power of Attorney, and an Advanced Healthcare Directive. These documents provide peace of mind and ensure that our wishes and desires are honored in the future and should be discussed with your family before they are needed.

Up-to-Date Will

A Will is a legal document that outlines how your assets and property will be distributed after your death. Having an up-to-date will is crucial for several reasons:

Clarity and Avoidance of Disputes: An updated Will clearly states your intentions, reducing the likelihood of disputes among family members. It also ensures that your assets can be distributed according to your wishes.

Protection of Loved Ones: A Will allows you to designate guardians for children and grandchildren if you have custody, ensuring their care and financial security.

Charitable Giving: Including a charity in your Will is a meaningful way to leave a legacy and support causes you care about.

Power of Attorney

A Power of Attorney (POA) is a legal document that grants someone you trust the authority to make decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated and cannot conduct needed business or communicate decisions. There are two main types of POA:

Financial POA: This allows your designated agent to manage your financial affairs, such as paying bills, managing investments, and handling property transactions.

Healthcare POA: This grants your agent the authority to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to do so yourself (similar to the Advanced Healthcare Directive below).

Having a POA is essential because it ensures that your affairs are managed according to your wishes, even if you are unable to communicate them. It provides a trusted individual with the legal authority to act in your best interest, preventing potential financial or medical crises.

Advanced Healthcare Directive

An Advanced Healthcare Directive, also known as a living will in some states, outlines your preferences for medical treatment in case you are unable to make decisions for yourself. This document typically includes provisions for the following:

**I have poor eyesight. Is Hope-Full Living available in large print?**

Hope-Full Living is printed in a larger, 14.5-point font and is printed on light paper to make the publication very readable. If you need a large print version that is recognized by the American Council of the Blind, we have partnered with Lutheran Braille Workers to provide a special devotion that is provided at no cost. To learn more or to order a large print Hope-Full Living devotion, contact Lutheran Braille Workers at 800-925-6092 or visit their website at LBWloveworks.org.

How many authors do you have and where do they come from?

We have more than 100 authors who regularly contribute to Hope-Full Living. For each quarter, we have anywhere between 60 to 75 authors who have one to two devotions published. Our authors are all over the United States and are all older adults because our devotions speak to the issues, needs, and challenges that older adults are facing.

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!

End-of-Life Care: Your wishes regarding life-sustaining treatments, including resuscitation, mechanical ventilation, and feeding tubes.

Pain Management: Your preferences for pain relief and comfort measures.

Organ Donation: Your decisions about organ and tissue donation.

This document ensures that your medical care aligns with your values and desires, providing guidance to healthcare providers and loved ones during difficult times. Discussing your wishes with family members now allows time to make difficult decisions before an emergency arises.

Our Annual Write-A-Will Time is Here

We want all of our friends to have these documents ready to go. To help remove a common impediment to completing these goals, we want to help you find an attorney that can help you create or update these documents during the national Write-A-Will promotion in August. If you are willing to include a charity in your will, such as your church, university, or even Worship Anew, we have resources that can help find a Christian attorney in your area. Please contact us at (888) 286-8002 or legacy@worshipanew.org.

Biblical Perspective

The Bible encourages us to plan wisely and care for others. In Proverbs 13:22 (NIV) we read, "A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous."

This verse highlights the importance of thoughtful planning and leaving a legacy that benefits future generations.

By having an up-to-date Will, Power of Attorney, and Advanced Healthcare Directive, you can ensure that your wishes are respected and your loved ones are cared for, reflecting the Biblical principle of wise stewardship.

Having these essential documents in place is crucial for seniors. They provide clarity, protection, and peace of mind, ensuring that your wishes are honored and your loved ones are cared for.

If you are concerned with how to find a Christian attorney to help you with your needs, please contact us and we will help find you options.

And most of all, please don't delay. If you wait until you need these documents, it may be too late.

Outstanding service to the ministry

Pastor Thomas Eggold and Merv Koehlinger honored
with the 2025 Rev. Oswald Bertram Award



**Watch this video
in honor of our
award recipients.**

Use your camera app
to scan the QR code or
visit youtube.com/@worshipanewonline

Worship Anew operates, gratefully, through the work of volunteers. They give of their time, talents, and energy to help to provide resources for aging adults to live a full and abundant life in Jesus Christ.

Two of those volunteers are the Rev. Thomas Eggold and Merv Koehlinger who are being honored this year with the Rev. Oswald Bertram Award for their outstanding service to the ministry.

The award is named in honor of the Rev. Bertram who conceived of the idea of Worship Anew in 1965, then known as Worship for Shut-Ins.

Rev. Bertram dedicated his life to serving the Lord and spreading God's Word through television ministry until his passing in 1979. The Rev. Oswald Bertram Award now recognizes individuals who have devoted their time, talents, and energy to assist Worship Anew in its ministry, making significant and outstanding contributions by sharing Christ's love.

"This year, we are honored to present the Rev. Oswald Bertram Award to two exceptional individuals," said Matthew Leighty, executive director of Worship Anew. "Their service and commitment to sharing Christ's love through Worship Anew are a blessing from the Lord."

Pastor Eggold has served as a pastor for Worship Anew since 2018. Over the years, he has given freely of his time and his exceptional talent to share the Word of God through the Worship Anew program.

"Worship Anew has been a real blessing for me, and it's helped me to understand the church in a different way," Pastor Eggold said. "It's completely humbling to receive this award. There are so many other people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make this ministry possible. ... But it's a team — it's a team effort top to bottom truly."

Pastor Eggold has concluded his time at Worship Anew but will continue to be an integral part of this ministry.

"His compassion and enthusiasm for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ have inspired many," Leighty said. "As he moved his time to other important initiatives, we thank Rev. Eggold for his vital contributions to our ministry, which have been immeasurable, and we are grateful for his faithful dedication to serving the Lord."

Merv Koehlinger has been a volunteer on the production team for more than 10 years. He has served as a camera operator as well as assisting with closed captioning. He also currently serves on the Worship Anew Board of Directors.



The Rev. Thomas Eggold (left) and Merv Koehlinger (right) were recognized with the 2025 Rev. Oswald Bertram Award on June 10 at Worship Anew's Annual Appreciation Luncheon.

"Merv's commitment to excellence and his unwavering support of furthering our mission has made a profound impact on Worship Anew," Leighty said.

Koehlinger first became connected with Worship Anew through his parents, who were regular viewers. Many years later, he got to know Paul Melin, Worship Anew's director of video production and accessibility, who asked him to help with the production of the program.

"I continue now to help out whenever I can and however I can," Koehlinger said.

In his retirement, he gives freely of time and talents and anything else asked of him.

He volunteers through Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Fort Wayne, Ind.) Senior Saints and donates platelets at the Red Cross every two weeks.

"I volunteer because I can give back to many people," he said. "(Worship Anew specifically) gives me a chance to allow thousands of people to experience spiritual growth."

In his career, Koehlinger studied engineering and worked with the Atomic Energy Commission. After needing a career change, he gave back by teaching high school physics at his alma mater, Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Ind.

In retirement, it's important for him to keep going, and there's no better way to do that than to give back.

"If you are asked for and given an opportunity to volunteer, if it's something that you think would be fun, go ahead and do it. Learn something. I've enjoyed everything that I've done in retirement. I keep learning. I keep trying new things. That's the best way to live out of retirement," he said.



James – The Epistle of Joy?

By Rev. Scott Zeckzer

My grandmother and my mother said many times that the letter of James was their favorite. My grandmother would comment that James was a “very practical” letter. I agree with her.

James wrote “Be doers of the Word and not hearers only.” (1:22 ESV) James was criticized by Martin Luther as an “epistle of straw.” When Luther wrote that, he was fighting against the “we are saved by our works” belief. Luther did quote from James in the Large Catechism. Luther did come to appreciate James.

James assumes we are saved by God’s grace. We are “hearers” of God’s word. James goes on to say that our faith does not end with us just hearing God’s Word. He calls us

to be “doers” of the word.

James wrote “So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (2:17 ESV) We say we are saved by faith alone, but faith is never alone. As theologians would say, we are justified before God by His grace through faith. Now being justified we are motivated in how we live. We call this sanctification, living the way God would want us to live.

James starts his letter with words, “Count it all joy ... when you meet trials.” James is writing to the church who is being persecuted. Some things never change. We who live in our world today suffer persecution. James tells you “Count it all joy” When persecutions and trials come we can ask the Lord to help us.

James also tells us to “Be Patient” (5:7 ESV) until the Lord’s coming. It can be very frustrating when things do not happen the way we want it to happen. The older I get, the more my body does not do what I want it to do. James reminds me to “Be Patient.”

James ends his letter with, “confess your sins to one another and pray for one another.” (5:16 ESV) Confessing and praying is faith in action. “Count it all joy” brothers and sisters when sins are forgiven.

The Rev. Scott Zeckzer is the senior pastor at Emanuel Lutheran Church in New Haven, Ind., and is a pastor on Worship Anew.

Prayer:

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



This month's study text:

Testing of Your Faith

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

James 1:2-18 (ESV)

Reflection Questions:

What are some blessings that bring you joy?

Read chapter 3. What does James write about our tongue?

Read chapter 5:7-11. What are some of the practical words James tells us?





Getting time with the grandkids

*By Elizabeth Puls
Copy Editor*

For those grandparents that are blessed to live near their grandchildren, the year can be spent doing weekend activities, but for those of us who may only get to spend time together during summer vacations, those times together are very precious. Below are a list of activities you can do with your grandchildren at any age. Make the most of this time!

YOUNGER CHILDREN

- ▶ Visit the zoo.
- ▶ Build a blanket fort and read books together.
- ▶ Go on a nature walk.
- ▶ Make popsicles.
- ▶ Read to them from a children's Bible before you tuck them into bed.

ELEMENTARY AGES

- ▶ Go fishing, hiking, or swimming.
- ▶ Go on a treasure hunt in the yard. Create the map ahead of time with the treasure being a special treat or prize.
- ▶ Paint rocks together.
- ▶ Play lawn games such as corn hole, balloon volleyball, or croquet.
- ▶ Memorize a scripture passage as a theme for your time together.



Sudoku

5		6						9
	7			1	9	5		
8			2			3		4
		5		7		2	9	
3			9		6			
		4		3		6		8
2	4						6	
	6	8			3			
9		7						
7			3		5			9
4			8	1				6
		6				1	5	
	3		2					
		1	4	3		2		
8		4		7			1	3

3	1	9	6	7	5	4	2	8
8	6	2	9	3	4	1	7	5
4	7	5	1	8	2	9	3	6
7	5	1	2	4	9	6	8	3
6	2	3	7	1	8	5	9	4
9	8	4	5	6	3	2	1	7
1	3	8	4	2	6	7	5	9
2	4	6	3	5	7	8	9	1
5	9	7	8	1	9	3	4	2
8	1	9	2	3	5	4	6	7
7	5	4	6	9	8	1	2	3
3	9	2	1	7	4	5	8	6
4	7	3	5	6	2	9	1	8
6	8	5	9	1	3	2	7	4
9	2	1	7	4	8	6	3	5

TEENAGERS

- ▶ Play miniature golf or frisbee golf.
- ▶ Have a build-your-own-pizza night.
- ▶ Attend a summer festival or parade.
- ▶ Make a campfire and enjoy s'mores together.
- ▶ Study and memorize a verse from Proverbs each day.

COLLEGE AGE

- ▶ Go garage sale hunting for something for their dorm room.
- ▶ Attend a community theater production.
- ▶ Have them teach you how to use a new technology, such as Marco Polo. It's a great way to stay in touch.
- ▶ Have them create a bucket list of activities they would like to do with you.
- ▶ Go to church together and then out to brunch. Catch up on what is happening in their life.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**“AND MY GOD WILL SUPPLY EVERY
NEED OF YOURS ACCORDING TO HIS
RICHES IN GLORY IN CHRIST JESUS.”**

PHILIPPIANS 4:19 ESV