

# BROADCASTER

March 2023



WORSHIP ANEW  
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

MOMENTS OF COMFORT

A SNEAK PEEK  
INTO HOPE-FULL LIVING

WHY LENT MATTERS



**WorshipAnew.org**

# A Living Sacrifice

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:1-2

We live in a society where people want to be seen as doers. If we look busy, people will hold us in high esteem. Take the tag line for world's largest home improvement retailer Home Depot, "How doers get more done." It seems in life we are often judged by what we're able to accomplish. Yes, God wants us to be good stewards of our time, talents, and resources. Yet, we can sometimes put being busy in place of being a good and wise steward of what God has put in front of us.

Lent is a period of 40 days that begins on Ash Wednesday and is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. Lent is also a time for us to consider that less is more. Less time scanning e-mails, filling up our daily calendar, and just doing things that feed that desire to always seem busy.

Rather, take the time to be in God's Word, in prayer, and in worship.

Consider the words to the great Lenten hymn, Jesus I Will Ponder Now, by Sigismund von Birken, back in the 17th century.

*Jesus, I will ponder now  
On Your holy passion;  
With Your Spirit me endow  
For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith  
May the image cherish  
Of Your suffering, pain, and death  
That I may not perish.*

Worship Anew is blessed by a mission to engage and equip aging adults with resources to live a full and abundant life in Jesus Christ. It is our hope and prayer that over these 40 days of Lent you will join us to focus on being a living sacrifice, reflecting on the mercies we have in Christ Jesus, and the transformation God began in us at the time of our Baptism.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew F. Leighty".

**Matthew F. Leighty**  
Executive Director



# Worship Anew in March

Year 2023 | Series A



**March 5, 2023 – 2nd Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-8; John 3:1-17**

**“Gospel in a Nutshell” – Sermon Text: John 3:1-17**

**Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

John 3:16 is well known in the Christian community. But outside of the church this Bible reference has little meaning, if any. God, through the apostle John, has given us the words we need to clearly proclaim His Gospel message to all.



**March 12, 2023 – 3rd Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm 95:1-9; Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-30, 39-42**

**“The Man at the Well” – Sermon Text: John 4:5-30, 39-42**

**Rev. William Mueller**

John 4 gives us the beautiful details of an encounter a woman had with a man at a well. In this encounter we enjoy a window into the grace of God, and we ultimately see this man at the well is no mere man. He is the God-Man, Jesus Christ!



**March 19, 2023 – 4th Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm 142; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39**

**“The Measure of a Life” – Sermon Text: John 9:3**

**Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer**

What makes for a good life? One traveled on a smooth and successful path? Or does Jesus have something even greater in mind amidst the trials and struggles we all face? We see what Jesus says about *The Measure of a Life*.



**March 26, 2023 – 5th Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm 130; Romans 8:1-4, 11; John 11:17-44**

**“The Resurrection and the Life” – Sermon Text: John 11:17-44**

**Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III**

Death is the enemy all of us must face. We will, in fact, die. But more can be said. Someone met and defeated Death for us: Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life.

## WHY LENT SHOULD MATTER TO EVERYONE

by Rev. Dr. Todd A. Peperkorn

Lent can be a really strange time, both for the Christian and the non-Christian. For the non-Christian, it is a time when there is all kinds of religious “stuff” going on that nobody can really explain. Unless you are Roman Catholic, Lutheran, or Eastern Orthodox, in all likelihood Lent is as much a mystery to you as it is to the non-Christian. It may even be downright wrong. “Lent? Isn’t that some weird thing they did in the Middle Ages?”

Let me try to take some of the mystery out of Lent for the non-believer, and put some mystery back in for the Christian.

Lent (which basically means “spring”) is a time when Christians all over the world prepare for Jesus Christ’s resurrection of the dead. It starts on Ash Wednesday, which is 47 days before Easter. You may recognize hearing the term “40 days of Lent.” This is because the Sundays are not considered a part of Lent.

Historically, there are three practices associated with Lent: Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving or works of mercy.

It is a time when Christians mourn over their sin (called repentance) and learn again to trust in their Savior, Jesus Christ. Just like you don’t only go to a doctor once, in the same way a Christian can benefit from a “checkup” on their faith, to remind them who they are as baptized children of God.

In connection with this, Lent can be a time of great focus for the Christian. Our culture is inundated with input. As I sit here writing this on my iPad, I am watching my son do his homework, listening to another child crying, checking Facebook on my phone, all while drinking a Diet Coke at McDonald’s. Sometimes it’s a wonder we can think at all!

But in order to focus more on one thing, one must also learn to focus less on other things. In our secular culture, we can see this with the rise of minimalism in everything from apps on our phone to architectural design to how we lay out our kitchens. Great design leads to simplicity, not complexity.

And because our lives are increasingly complex, something has to change in order for us to get out of the continual spin cycle of life. While these ideas are often held up as Buddhist in our day, they really belong to the Christian tradition just as much.

In Christian terms, this is really why we “give up” things for Lent. Roman Catholics have historically done this the most, but other Christian traditions are learning to embrace it as well. By giving up something that is a regular part of your life (e.g. a kind of food or drink, games, or maybe even Facebook), this allows you to focus more on one thing. For the Christian, that one thing is Jesus Christ, who gave up everything for us, even life itself.



So Lent can become a time of beautiful simplicity, hearing again the words of the Bible, and coming to God in repentant joy for what He has done for us.

Now some Christian traditions have largely rejected these practices as being too “Roman Catholic” or just plain weird. I can remember growing up in the Midwest and being taught that giving things up for Lent really amounted to works righteousness. For a Lutheran, them’s fightin’ words!

It is possible that practices such as fasting, prayer, or acts of charity might lead to works righteousness, or trying to get to heaven by what we do, rather than by what we believe. If I do these things in order to show off how good a Christian I am, then they really are of no benefit to me or anyone else.

This is why in the historic Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, Jesus starts each section like this:

“...when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others.” (Matthew 6:2 ESV)

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others.” (Matthew 6:5 ESV)

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.” (Matthew 6:7 ESV)

In each of these cases, Jesus exhorts us not to do these things as a show. There is no room in the Christian faith for works righteousness. But Jesus does assume that the Christian will be doing these things.

In my experience, the greatest danger today lies in rejecting these ancient practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, because I think I know better than thousands of years of Christian and pre-Christian history. American culture is much more inclined to overindulgence and entitlement than we are to works righteousness. At the risk of being labeled a “closet catholic,” I’m going to go out on a limb and say that for most of us, we could use a little less indulgence, and a little more discipline in our lives.

So I would like to issue a challenge to my Christian and non-Christian friends alike this Lent. Try focusing more by doing less. Don’t take the second helping. Drink less. Give your eyes a break from the glowing rectangles. Pray more. Give to those in need. By doing less, you may find that your focus sharpens and you can see more clearly.

For the Christian, that means focusing on the One who gave His life as a ransom for the whole world. That seems like a pretty good focus to me.

*The Rev. Dr. Todd A. Peperkorn has been a member of the Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) faculty since 2021. He serves as assistant professor of pastoral ministry and missions, and as director of vicarage and internships.*



# HOPE-FULL *A Look Inside* LIVING

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

## Seniors Share Good News

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news.

*Isaiah 61:1*

As a senior, I am often able to share with people the good news of God's promises.

This is not because I am perfect. I have just lived long enough to become well acquainted with sin. Asking for God's mercy and forgiveness for my mistakes has restored my relationship with him and others.

I feel so grateful to God that I want everyone to know him. I frequently meet individuals who seem to need a faithlift, especially in difficult times. I offer them consolation, encouragement, and hope. I also suggest that they pray to God for help. In addition, I let them know how God has assisted me in similar situations.

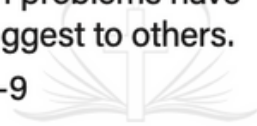
We can always be a light in this world.

*Jan Kilby  
San Antonio, TX*

**Dear Lord,** help me be available to those who can benefit from learning about you. Amen.

**Reflect:** Realize that many human problems have spiritual solutions that you can suggest to others.

**Read:** Job 12:12 and Psalm 145:8-9



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**Hopefulliving.org** or call **1-888-286-8002**



# Spring Forward, *Get Back Growth*



## Plant a Gift Annuity, *Grow a Garden of Lifetime Benefits*

### Growth You Can See

*Spring brings the promise of new beginnings. The season reminds us that new life is always around the corner. We can take inspiration from this growth and create a little spring of our own. With a charitable gift annuity and its fixed, lifetime payments and tax benefits, you will grow a beautiful garden every time.*

### Turn the Seed of an Idea Into a Garden of Benefits

*When you plant the seed of a gift annuity, you will grow:*

- Fixed payments for life
- Income tax deduction this year
- Favorable payment rates
- Possible capital gains benefits

*Best of all, after a lifetime of payments to you, your gift annuity can go on to support Worship Anew. Contact us to learn more about how to grow your new gift annuity. Call or email us if you have any questions about making your gift to Worship Anew:  
[Gina@WorshipAnew.org](mailto:Gina@WorshipAnew.org), (888) 286-8002.*

#### Gina Teeple

Director of Development  
and Ministry Relations  
Worship Anew





# Moments of Comfort

## When Does the Joy Come?

*Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.*

**John 16:22**

As we walk through this season of Lent, we take a humble posture. We recognize the consequences of our sin. We recall what our lack of discipline and love have led to. We reflect on how we have failed to love others as we are called to.

When does the joy come?

Easter is just around the corner. On Worship Anew we'll play favorite hymns and we'll celebrate that death has lost its sting. We are made alive in Christ!

But now, we wait. We wait for Easter, but we also wait for the promises of Christ to be made true in our own resurrection, when pain and regret will be no more.

Moments of Comfort is a weekly video devotional of Worship Anew which ministers to the hurting and suffering we face in this life with the comforting message of God's Word.

This ministry was developed by Rev. Elsner and our production team in 2019. In honor of Jim and his love for those who are touched by this ministry, we will be posting Moments of Comfort videos featuring Rev. Elsner during the month of March.

You can find all of our current and past videos at [www.WorshipAnew.org/MOC](http://www.WorshipAnew.org/MOC).



**Our mission is to engage and equip aging adults with resources to live a full and abundant life in Jesus Christ.**

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