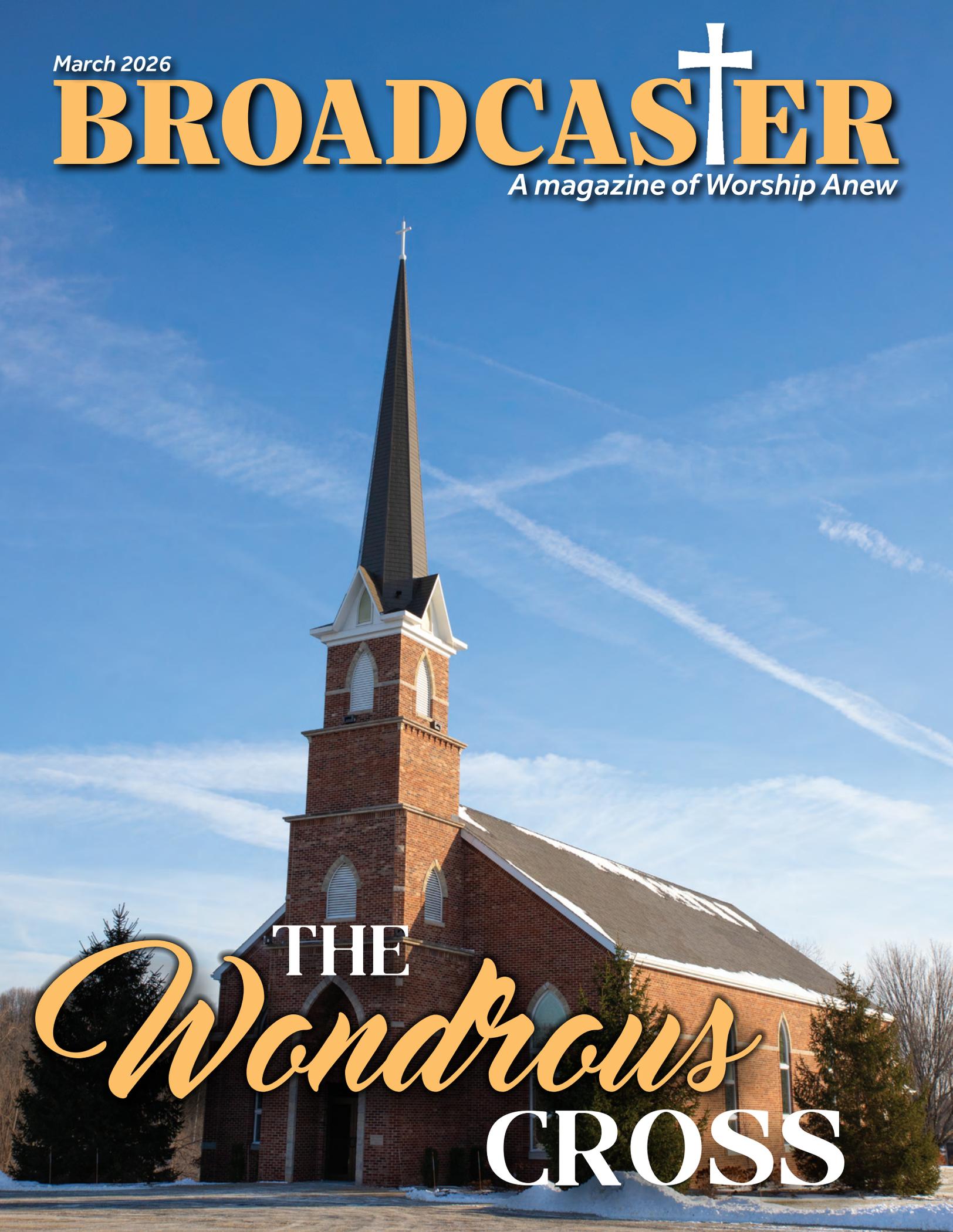


March 2026

BROADCASTER

A magazine of Worship Anew



THE
Wandrous
CROSS



WHERE SUFFERING MEETS THE CROSS

young children in a car accident.

As I prayed for this brother in Christ, I found myself wrestling with the question: What do we say to such suffering? What comfort can we offer when loss is so devastating, so complete?

We don't have to think very long to identify struggles affecting someone we know and love or perhaps even within ourselves: Divisions within our families. Divisions within our church. Physical or mental health issues that we face or we face with those we love. Violence and crime. Financial problems. Loneliness and isolation that make each day feel longer than the last.

For many experiencing just one of these burdens, the weight could be debilitating and lead to despair. The world offers countless strategies: positive thinking, finding your inner strength, or simply "staying strong." But these ring hollow when we face the genuine anguish of broken relationships, failing bodies, or hearts heavy with grief. They certainly offer no comfort to a pastor who has lost everything.

The wondrous cross of Christ does

more than demonstrate God's love; it addresses each specific suffering we face. Because Christ willingly endured the cross for us, our sufferings are transformed from meaningless burdens into places where His victory becomes ours.

When divisions tear at your family or church, remember that Christ's body was broken so that reconciliation might be possible. The One who was betrayed, denied, and abandoned, now brings peace where there was division and forgiveness where there was hurt.

When illness plagues you or your loved ones, the cross declares that Christ bore our infirmities and carried our sorrows. In His broken body, healing has come. If not always in this life, then certainly in the resurrection life to come.

When violence and evil shake our sense of safety, the cross stands as proof that evil does not have the final word. The worst injustice in history — the crucifixion of God's innocent Son — became the means of our salvation.

When loneliness and isolation

Matthew F. Leighty

Matthew F. Leighty
Executive Director

At Worship Anew, prayer is at the center of all that we do. Prayer requests are passed along from those we serve and those on our staff. As a ministry team, we dedicate ourselves to prayer on a regular basis. Some time ago, a prayer request came to us that stood out: A pastor had tragically lost his wife and

Cover Photo by Ashley Wiehe
Faith Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Ind., has seen new life over the years with growing membership and a new building. Learn more on pages 6-7.



March 2026 | Vol 4 Issue 3

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

EDITORIAL STAFF

MATTHEW LEIGHTY
Executive Director

ASHLEY WIEHE
Director of Advancement

THOMAS MOLL
Director of Content

SHEILA BANKS
Communications Specialist

KATELIN MOQUIN
Copy Editor

PEYTON SWEET
Content Specialist

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



overwhelm you, remember Christ’s cry: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34b ESV). He was forsaken so that you would never be. He endured absolute isolation from the Father so that nothing could ever separate you from God’s love.

How do we make meaning of our suffering without trivializing it? To many, offering “the word of the cross” as an answer to profound suffering seems foolish: too simple, too spiritual, and too disconnected from real pain. As Paul writes, “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV).

The cross is not foolishness. It is God’s power breaking into our suffering. Not by pretending pain isn’t real or claiming, “everything happens for a reason,” but by revealing three profound truths:

First, suffering is not punishment for our sins. Christ has already borne that punishment. Your suffering is not a sign of God’s displeasure. Christ has absorbed God’s wrath against sin on the cross.

Second, suffering is not meaningless. It is a place where God works, shaping us and preparing us for the eternal glory that awaits. As Francis Pieper taught, Christians regard “the sufferings of this present time as light (Romans 8:18) ... (knowing that) it is the blessed hope of heaven which shapes a Christian’s life on earth into the right form” (Christian Dogmatics, Vol. 3, p. 85).

Third, suffering will not last forever. The cross leads to resurrection. The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise us. Every tear will be wiped away, every wound healed, every broken relationship restored.

We live in the tension between Good Friday and Easter, between the cross and the resurrection. Christ has decisively defeated sin, death, and the devil. That victory is ours now through faith in Him. Yet, we still experience the effects of living in a fallen world until Christ returns and we see Him face to face.

In our ministry research with aging adults, we’ve learned that many face chronic pain, limited mobility, broken relationships, fears about children or grandchildren leaving the faith, and

the sadness of losing independence. These struggles are real and often unrelenting.

Yet, the cross gives us a different lens through which to view them. As the hymn “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (LSB #427 v. 2) reminds us:

“When the woes of life o’ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me:
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.”

The cross doesn’t remove the woes, but it does ensure we’re never forsaken in them. It glows with peace and joy, not because circumstances change but because our relationship with God is secure, our forgiveness is complete, and our future is certain.

This month’s Broadcaster explores “The Wondrous Cross,” and there is perhaps no greater wonder than how the cross speaks into our deepest suffering. It doesn’t explain away our pain or suggest it isn’t real. Instead, it places our suffering in a larger story, God’s story of redemption.

“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV

In This Issue

- 4 A Call to Hear**
Call Worship Anew to hear hymns throughout the year.
- 6 Our Foundation**
Pastor Jonker shares about his church, built by his members.
- 9 Program Summaries**
See what is on “Worship Anew” in March.

- 10 Dust**
How your dust matters in your health and in your faith.
- 12 Folly?**
Trusting in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.
- 20 While You Wait**
A study for a time of waiting during the season of Lent.





The Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir from Fort Wayne, Ind., is one of the choirs featured through the call-in service. Call in to hear them sing “All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall” (LSB #562).

Call to hear comforting hymns

Did you know you can enjoy beautiful sacred music from Worship Anew anytime, right from your telephone? We’ve made it easy to listen to the talented choirs featured on our programs — with even longer performances than what you hear on television.

Simply call the Worship Anew office at (888) 286-8002 and press “4” to access our most recent choir program. Right now, you can listen to our current Lenten offering, “My Song is Love Unknown: A Lenten Musical Remembrance.” This program takes you through Christ’s journey to the cross through hymns perfect to accompany your personal devotions during this season.

Continue to call back throughout the year as our hymn programs will change. You will get to enjoy a variety of

hymns from our “Worship Anew” program in their full versions.

Whether you’re preparing for worship, seeking comfort during a difficult time, or simply want to fill your home with sacred music, these programs are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

And don’t forget — you can also listen to our complete “Worship Anew” program through our call-in service. Call the same number and select option “3.” It’s yet another way we’re committed to bringing the comfort of God’s Word and promises directly to you, wherever you are.

Call today, and may this music be an encouragement to you.

*We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,
new light, new hope, new strength, new pow’rs.*

“All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall” (LSB #562)



Show Love

SUPPORT WORSHIP ANEW

Our program sponsorships are ways to praise God for a loved one or a special occasion.

The sponsorship will be featured at the end of the program everywhere that "Worship Anew" is viewed.

If you have questions or would like to be a sponsor, please contact Julie Beers at (888) 286-8002 or Julie@WorshipAnew.org. Sponsorships are booked at least three months in advance of the airing of the program.

Contact us today to celebrate a loved one and to support the ministry of Worship Anew.



Words from those who have sponsored the program ...



"I have been sponsoring a 'Worship Anew' program for many years in remembrance of my husband. The staff at Worship Anew is so very helpful in arranging a Sunday available according to your wishes. My special day is near the date of my husband 'meeting his Lord and Savior' in heaven."

~ Marilyn Kiess, Decatur, Ind.

"My parents always watched 'Worship Anew' (then 'Worship-for-Shut-Ins') every Sunday morning. When my mother passed away, my dad made a Gift of Love in memory of her and my brother. When my dad passed away, I continued the Gift of Love in memory of the three of them. Setting up a sponsorship is easy to do. This is a wonderful way to honor my loved ones by supporting Worship Anew."

~ Sandy (Rupel) Gentry, Leroy, Mich.

"My parents were longtime viewers of 'Worship-for-Shut-Ins'/'Worship Anew,' and my mother was a supporter in her final years. It is a fitting remembrance of them to support the broadcast that they enjoyed so much."

~ Frederick Baatz, Florence, S.C.

"My family and I feel it was an easy and thoughtful way to give a sponsorship in my husband's memory to Worship Anew. We were happy to make this donation."

~ Ruth Von Deylen, Fort Wayne, Ind.

ON THIS ROCK

CHURCH BUILT ON THE BACKS OF ITS MEMBERS

*By Ashley Wiehe
Director of Communications*

In a little town in northeast Indiana sits a church at the top of a hill — a church that found new life when others were struggling, a church that was built on the backs of its congregation, a church that stands as a rock today.

Faith Lutheran Church was founded in 1996 in Roanoke, Ind., a small town just outside of Fort Wayne. It started 30 years ago in a pole barn, but the dream was always to build a traditional church. That dream came true, beginning in 2011.

“It was always their goal,” said the Rev. Shayne Jonker, their pastor who was called to the church in 2009. He also serves as a pastor on “Worship Anew.”

The construction began on the backs of the congregation.

“Our general contractor was a member. We have crane operators. We have excavators; we have all kinds of tradesmen here,” Jonker said. “We did a lot of the work ourselves.”

They reused items from the old church building — the pews, the fixtures, and the altar. Other items, they made by hand. They hand carved the woodwork throughout the church from the doors to the molding to the pastor’s desk.

“That’s a neat thing — a lot of the wood came from members’ properties,” Jonker said.

Piece by piece, the church began to be shaped into their dream.

“We went and found all the ideas from other churches that we liked,” Jonker said. “We went to all the old churches in the Fort Wayne and Decatur areas — all these 175-year-

**“On this rock I will
build my church.”**

Matthew 16:18b

old churches — and used the ideas that we liked.”

The church was then dedicated in 2014, but they weren’t done yet. Soon a member was calling for stained glass windows. She donated to make the first one happen.

By 2020, the white vinyl country church was showing its wear. And again, a member came forward to pay to have the entire church bricked.

“We always wanted to brick it. We put a brick ledge on it with the intention, generations down the road, that we would put up brick,” Jonker said. “I thought I’d never see it in my lifetime.”

This work was done during a time when a global pandemic was sweeping the world. And, while the building was seeing new life, the church body was growing.

“This place was just swamped. We grew during COVID,” Jonker said.

While neighboring counties were closed, their area never fully shut down. With social distancing and nine services each Sunday, the church safely provided the message to its growing population.

Now, years later, the congregation is still flourishing. They are now looking into maintenance for the building, including improvements to the original concept.

“We’re tweaking all the small stuff now,” he said. “We’re kind of redoing and doing it better for the things that we couldn’t afford to do in the past.”

Today, the church worships with about 100 people each week and has about twice that much in its baptized membership — a number that is rapidly growing with 25 new baptisms in the last five years. And as the town has grown and reshaped over the years, the church continues



to see more growth in its congregation.

“We’re a very non-geographic congregation. I have people coming from everywhere,” Jonker said.

And they continue to come — each week, up the hill, to the little church. While only 30 years old, the church with its steeple has an old soul, one built on the rock of Jesus Christ.



At top, Faith Lutheran Church (the new building) stands as a shining beacon at the top of the hill in Roanoke, Ind.

Above, the doors were handcrafted by members in the congregation as well as the pulpit (at left).

Far left, the original church building still stands behind the new church and is now being used for the preschool, a day care, and as the fellowship hall.

WHAT IS PALM SUNDAY?

By Thomas Moll

Director of Content & Innovation

The Sunday before Easter, known as Palm Sunday, marks one of the most dramatic entrances in history. On this day, Jesus rode into Jerusalem, not as a conquering warrior on a warhorse, but as a humble king seated on a young donkey. The crowds who gathered that day couldn't contain their joy — they spread their cloaks on the road before Him, waved palm branches, and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 21:9b ESV). What they witnessed was the fulfillment of ancient prophecy, though they didn't yet understand the full meaning of the week ahead.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PALMS

In the ancient world, palm branches carried powerful symbolic meaning. They represented victory, triumph, and celebration — much like ticker tape parades or flag-waving today. When people waved palm branches to greet a dignitary, they were acknowledging that person's authority and celebrating their arrival.

For the Jewish people specifically, palms held even deeper significance. They had been symbols of Jewish nationalism since the Maccabean period, appearing on coins and in celebrations of military victories. During the Feast of Tabernacles, one of Israel's most joyful festivals, the people traditionally carried palm branches as part of their worship.

When the crowds greeted Jesus with palms, they were proclaiming Him as their king — the long-awaited Messiah who would deliver them. The Gospel of John tells us that people "took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him" (John 12:13a ESV), deliberately echoing how crowds would welcome a victorious king returning from battle. The prophet Zechariah had foretold this very moment: "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9a NIV).

Yet Jesus' kingship would prove radically different from what the crowds expected. Within days, those same crowds would cry out for His crucifixion. The palms that welcomed the King of Peace would give way to the cross of suffering love.





Worship Anew in March

Year 2026 | Series A



Land, Legacy, and Life!

March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday in Lent ~ Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

God holds your entire world in His hands through three special gifts: Land, Legacy, and Life! Learn how these gifts, promised to Abraham more than four thousand years ago continue to share our past, present, and future.

*Sermon Text: Genesis 12:1-3**Readings: Psalm 121; Genesis 12:1-9; John 3:1-17*

Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Jr. Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. John Lutheran Adult Choir, Indianapolis, Ind.
Featured Art and Architecture: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.



Living Water

March 8, 2026 – Third Sunday in Lent ~ Rev. Shayne Jonker

Our sin has left us parched and thirsty. No mere water can quench our thirst for God. Oh, how we try the alternatives. But, the polluted puddles of this world's religions and spiritualities can't quench the deep thirst we have for righteousness, for wholeness, for peace. Only God can provide that Living Water which flows freely like a Stream. Only God in the flesh opens up that stream to us so that we may drink and live.

*Sermon Text: John 4:10**Readings: Psalm 95:1-9; Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-26*

Featured Choir: Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.

Featured Art and Architecture: Christ Lutheran Church, Woodburn, Ind.



Eyes That See

March 15, 2026 – Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Jesus performs a miraculous sign, giving sight to a man born blind. What a tremendous gift! But the leaders, who were spiritually blind, refuse to see with the eyes of faith that the Man before them is the Christ. We thank God for spiritual sight and the opportunities we have to lead others to spiritual sight.

*Sermon Text: John 9:1-7, 15-17, 34-39**Readings: Psalm 142; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-7, 15-17, 34-39*

Featured Choirs: Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Centralia, Ill.; Indiana District LWML Choir
Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Woodburn, Ind.



Is, Not Was

March 22, 2026 – Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ Rev. William Mueller

John 11 brings us to one of the greatest miracles of Jesus: raising Lazarus from the dead. In this account, Jesus also teaches us two powerful truths: He shows what it means that He is the Resurrection and the Life, and He moves us to discover that believing this resurrection truth greatly impacts our life.

*Sermon Text: John 11:17-27, 38-53**Readings: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:17-27, 38-53*

Featured Choirs: Saint Paul Singing Saints, Concordia, Mo.; Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.
Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Van Wert, Ohio



Do You Understand?

March 29, 2026 – Palm Sunday ~ Rev. Scott Zeckzer

We are told that the disciples did not understand what was going on during the first Palm Sunday. The crowds were excited about Jesus but were confused, too. What about you? Do you understand Palm Sunday?

*Sermon Text: John 12:16**Readings: Psalm 118:19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; John 12:12-19*

Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Angelis Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Ind.

YOUR DUST MATTERS

By Rev. Jonathan Meyer

Dust! It's everywhere! All you need is a flat surface, and it will build up quickly. Dust can make you cough, or sneeze — it might even make you set an alarm for 6 a.m. on a Saturday morning! I know it can because it made me do that exact thing.

When I was a kid, all I wanted to do after a long hard week of school was to sit down on Saturday morning and watch cartoons. However, as soon as my mom would rouse from her slumber, I'd have a can of Pledge in one hand and a rag in the other, and every surface in the house would have to be dust free. So, if I wanted to watch cartoons, I had to get up early.

So, I set my alarm for 6 a.m., and I would wake up and silence it quickly, so that I wouldn't wake anyone else. I would creep down the stairs and flip the power switch on the TV while simultaneously turning the volume knob all the way to the left (I had to be quiet after all). If I did it all right, I got to enjoy my cartoons. Eventually, mom would wake up, and I'd be stuck cleaning up useless dust.

Dust is something that rings in our ears during the season of Lent. It starts out with Ash Wednesday and the reminder we hear: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19b ESV). It's not as though that's just a Lenten idea either; it's all over God's Word. We find it in the psalms reminding us how fleeting our days are, or the preacher in Ecclesiastes reminding us that our life's pursuits are like grasping after the wind. It even carries into the Gospels as



Christ talks about what will come. He makes the pointed statement about the temple and reminds us of a potent reality.

The temple was a magnificent collection of stones, but Christ reminds them: It's all destined to be dust (Luke 21:5-9). We are reminded in this season that what Christ said about the Temple is what God's Word says about us: It's all dust. Everything we are, everything we work toward, everything we seemingly want in this life, it's all just dust. Whether it's the fleeting fancies of fame, or the meaningless movement toward more money, it's just dust. Even the noblest tasks of pursuing virtue and raising a family all amount to something that one day will be nothing more than a Saturday morning job for a kid armed with a can of Pledge and a rag.

Unlike my mother and myself, God loves dust. He loves it so much that He carefully formed the pinnacle of His creation from it and breathed into it the breath of life. When that same dust chose evil or prideful sin, that same God took on dust, and with it all our sin, our finality, and even our futility. He nailed it all to the cross so that He might redeem you to Himself.

What's more, He took that dust we all consider useless

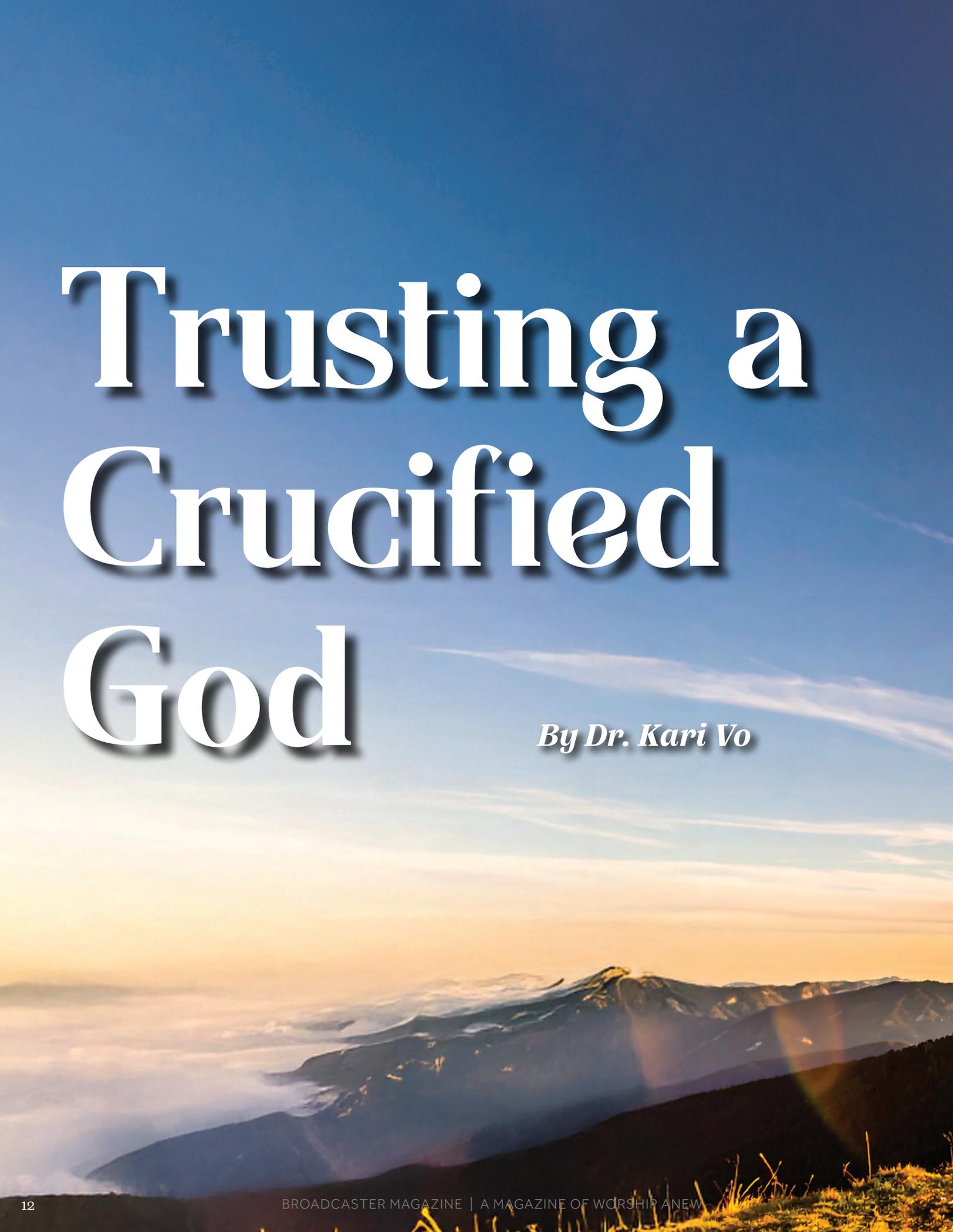
and transformed it with just a little water in our Baptism. He joined His Word to that water and because of that there is something useful about all this dust. It's true that one day it will all be dust again, but until that day, there is important work to be done and that means you should be ready to go when called upon.

What will that look like? I have no idea. However, you have every reason to take care of your dust — your body, mind, and soul. Because of what Christ accomplished for you, and what He promises to accomplish through you, it has important work to do.

No matter where life finds you, your dust matters because of what God is working out. One day, soon, the work will be done, and what a day that will be! We will see just what it was that God was working out so wonderfully, never to be dust again!

The Rev. Jonathan Meyer is a theology teacher and the Dean of Chapel for Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Ind.





Trusting a Crucified God

By Dr. Kari Vo

It's not easy to explain to your non-Christian friends why you follow Jesus. If they know anything about His story, they will probably wonder why you're interested. After all, He's the One who got crucified, right? He's a loser with a capital L. Why would you follow someone who couldn't even keep Himself alive? What good can He do you in this world where the strong and powerful win and the weak and disabled get crushed?

continued on page 14





continued from page 13

St. Paul understands the problem very well. He writes, “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart! Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:18–25 ESV).

We follow Jesus because we love Him because the Holy Spirit has planted faith in our hearts, and we can do nothing else. We didn’t set out to follow Him because we chose our God in cold blood, like someone doing a job interview for the position — “And what exactly can you do for me? Can you heal me, give me money, promise me peace, guarantee me a family that will always support me and never fight?”

No, those are all good things, but they are why we follow Jesus. We belong to a God who willingly got Himself crucified and not for any advantage to Himself. He did it for us. And why? Because He loves us. Because He wanted us to be with Him forever — because heaven will not be enough for Him without us by His side to love Him and enjoy His glory. Jesus said so when He prayed the night before He died: “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world” (John 17:24 ESV).

And so, we love and trust Jesus Christ crucified, the one who got Himself killed for us. That act of weakness, of foolishness — because you know he could have saved Himself anytime He wanted to! — that act of love is the reason we have hope. Because Jesus chose the cross in order to bring us home to Himself — to rescue us from the power of death and evil so that we can be His own dearly beloved children forever.

Photos by Kati Q Photography, provided by Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

At left and right, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, located in St. Louis, Mo., and was founded in 1956.

So, we put our hopes in a “weak” God, a “foolish” God — at least, in the eyes of our world. But, we know the truth — that He chose weakness, shame, pain, and death so that He could claim us to be His own. That is how much He loved us — how much He still loves us and always will. He has written our names on the palms of His hands (Isaiah 49:16).

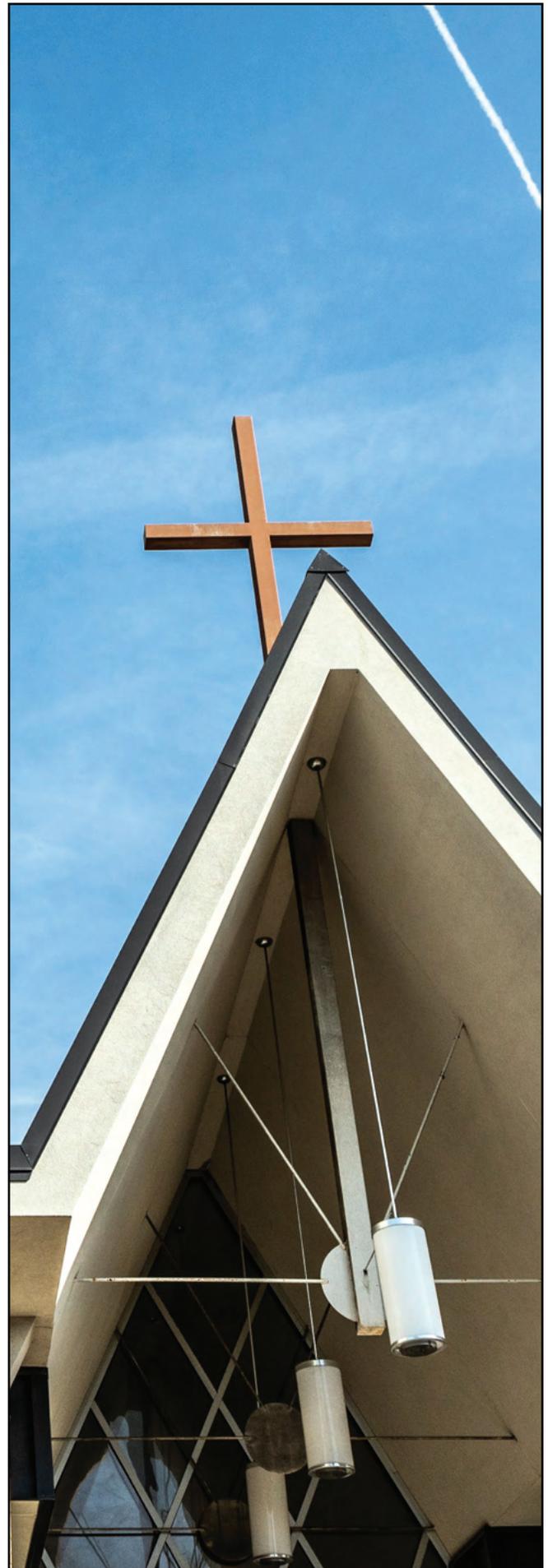
Jesus has joined us to Himself so that our suffering and death become His own and His resurrection and life become ours. We are His beloved — His body, His bride (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:25-32). Nothing will divide us from Jesus — not suffering, not disability, not old age, and not death. Even if we develop dementia, even if we lose our memories of Him, He will not forget us! We are His forever because He loves us. And nothing is strong enough to take us away from Him. He has walked through suffering and death before, and He will do it again with our hands safely clasped in His.

And this means we have something to look forward to because Jesus has risen from the dead, and He lives forever, never to die again. We go where He goes because we belong to Him. And so, our future is assured. We will be with Him, and we will see his face (1 John 3:2). And we will rejoice in Him forever.

Jesus will allow nothing to separate us from Him — on earth or in heaven.

As St. Paul reminds us, “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:31-39 ESV).

Dr. Kari Vo is an author and a theological writer for The Lutheran Hour Ministries.





ANNUITY OPTIONS FOR YOU

*By Jon Dize, CFRE
Director of Development*

According to a recent article in the Wall Street Journal, “Vanguard Group plans to start letting workers buy an annuity within a new 401(k) target-date fund.” Vanguard is the nation’s largest target-date fund and plans to roll out the new fund sometime in 2026 and will make the option available to older workers and retirees.

As the article notes, one goal of adding an annuity is to help retirees replicate the predictable monthly income of an old-fashioned pension plan (remember those?). In addition to predictable income, annuities don’t change if stock market or gold prices decline.

As a downside, annuities may have higher fees, more complex rules, and lower overall returns compared to traditional stock-based plans. That is the classic investment trade-off: trading higher returns for steady income.

Regardless, if you have funds with Vanguard, we wanted to provide this brief summary because other management and IRA firms may follow Vanguard’s lead and offer similar plans soon and you may be asked to consider the option.

As an additional alternative to these for-profit annuity options, many nonprofits, including Worship Anew, will sponsor Charitable Gift Annuities that can offer similar secure annual income, coupled with a charitable gift, tax-advantaged treatment, at possible above-market rates.

As we always caution, please talk to your investment and tax adviser before considering potential annuity investments to ensure they fit your unique needs, goals, and risk tolerance.



Who was Lazarus? I know Jesus raised him from the dead, but what was their relationship?

Lazarus was a dear friend of Jesus who lived in the village of Bethany, just outside Jerusalem, with his two sisters, Mary and Martha. The Gospel of John tells us that Jesus loved this family deeply. When we read that Lazarus had fallen ill, the sisters sent word to Jesus saying simply, “Lord, he whom you love is ill” (John 11:3b ESV). They knew Jesus would understand exactly who they meant.

What makes the raising of Lazarus so remarkable is that he had been dead for four days when Jesus arrived. By Jewish understanding, the soul was believed to linger near the body for three days, but after that, death was absolutely final. When Jesus commanded the stone to be rolled away from the tomb, Martha protested, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days” (John 11:39b ESV). There was no question — Lazarus was dead.

Yet, Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” And the man who had been dead walked out of the tomb, still wrapped in his burial cloths. This miracle was unlike Jesus’ other healings or even the raising of Jairus’ daughter, who had just died. This was a complete reversal of death itself after days in the grave. It pointed directly to Jesus’ own words: “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25a ESV). This miracle was such a powerful testimony to Jesus’ divine authority and His power over death.

What is the process like for choirs to record on the program?

We’re blessed to welcome choirs of all ages and types into our Fort Wayne, Ind., studio throughout the year! Unlike our pastor recordings, which typically happen on Tuesdays with three programs recorded in one day, choirs come in on any day of the week that works for their schedule.

All the choirs you see on “Worship Anew” are volunteer groups who generously share their musical gifts to spread God’s Word. We welcome groups ranging from four members up to 60 (our studio size limit). You might see children’s choirs from Lutheran schools, adult church choirs, high school chamber groups, or our own Worship Anew Choir, which records three to four times a year. These talented musicians perform the beloved hymns that our viewers cherish.

We are located on the Concordia Theological Seminary campus in Fort Wayne so we are easy to access and can accommodate buses. If your choir would like to participate, please contact Jeremy Klopfenstein, our director of production, at Jeremy@WorshipAnew.org or (888) 286-8002.

How are authors selected for your Hope-Full Living devotionals?

Our Hope-Full Living devotionals are truly written for seniors, by seniors. We carefully select authors who demonstrate a deep love for God, a genuine love for others, and a passion for sharing God’s promises through the lens of everyday experiences. These writers, who are aging adults themselves, understand the unique joys and challenges of aging because they’re living them. Their devotions reflect real life — the small moments of grace, the struggles with health or loss, the unexpected blessings, and the eternal hope we have in Christ. This authentic voice is what makes Hope-Full Living so meaningful to our readers. If you are interested in learning more about the writing process, please contact Katelin Moquin, our Hope-Full Living editor, at Katelin@WorshipAnew.org or (888) 286-8002.

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!



When to worry about your memory

By Jim Miller

Many adults experience memory lapses as they age and may wonder if these are signs of Alzheimer's disease or another type of dementia. To better understand memory lapses, here are some tips and resources you can turn to.

WARNING SIGNS

As we grow older, some memory difficulties — such as forgetting names or misplacing items from time to time — are associated with normal aging. However, the symptoms of dementia are more severe than mere memory lapses.

While symptoms can vary greatly, people with dementia may experience issues such as short-term memory loss, keeping track of a purse or wallet, paying bills, planning and preparing meals, remembering appointments, or traveling out of the neighborhood.

To help you distinguish between typical age-related memory loss and signs of a more serious condition, the Alzheimer's Association provides a list of 10 warning signs that you can review at 10signs.org.

The Alzheimer's Association also provides information including the signs and symptoms of the different types of dementia, including vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, frontotemporal dementia, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, and others.

MEMORY SCREENING

A great resource to help you address your memory concerns is the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, which offers a National Memory Screening Program. This free,



confidential service provides face-to-face memory screenings virtually and in real-time. The screening takes about 10 to 15 minutes to complete and consists of questions and tasks to evaluate your memory status. Once the screening is complete, the screener will review the results with you.

Available to everyone, these memory screenings are done daily, Monday through Friday, and are administered by doctors, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, or other healthcare professionals across the country.

A smart phone, computer, tablet, or any other device with a webcam and internet capability is all that is needed. Appointments can be requested online at [ALZFDN.org/memory-screening](https://www.alzfdn.org/memory-screening) or by calling (866) 232-8484. It is important to note that this screening is not a diagnosis of any condition but helps determine if you should consult with your doctor for a more thorough evaluation.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR

If you find that you need further evaluation, make an appointment with your primary care doctor

for a cognitive checkup and medical examination. Depending on what is found, you may be referred to a geriatrician or a neurologist who specializes in diagnosing and treating memory loss or Alzheimer's disease.

Experiencing some memory lapses does not necessarily mean you have dementia. Many factors like stress, depression, thyroid disease, side effects of medications, sleep disorders, vitamin deficiencies, and other medical conditions can affect memory. Addressing these underlying causes can often reduce or eliminate memory concerns.

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



When God is at work while you wait

By Rev. Joe Hoem

Waiting is never easy. Whether you're a child excited to open a birthday present, an adult longing for a loved one to return, or facing life's many challenges, waiting tests our patience. At times, it can feel as though life has slowed to a standstill while the world continues to move around us.

But here's some hope: Even in the quiet, God is at work. When we wait on Him, we are not idle or forgotten. God is always faithful and always working for our good, even when we cannot yet see it.

LENT'S INVITATION TO HOPEFUL WAITING

As Lent draws to a close and we anticipate the joy of Easter, the church offers us a simple yet powerful word: wait. It's not meant to frustrate us; it's meant to shape and strengthen us. Waiting teaches us to trust God more deeply. Most of us want answers, clarity, and progress. We want life, and those around us, to move on our schedule.

Psalms 27 reminds us that waiting isn't wasted time when the Lord is the One who promises to act. Lent shows us that even the quiet, challenging moments of life are full of

God's presence.

This Lent, we've waited in repentance, under the cross, and while saying prayers that sometimes feel unanswered. God's Law humbles us, pointing us to our need for a Savior. Lent reminds us that our waiting is not empty; instead, it is an invitation to trust God's timing and His faithfulness.

TRUSTING WHILE WE WAIT

Think of a child who scrapes a knee. The child doesn't heal the wound by trying harder. They wait, hurting and helpless, until a parent comes. The strength isn't in the child; it's in the parent. The child's waiting is full of hope and trust.

That's exactly how God invites us to wait. Life may leave us scraped, bruised, or uncertain. Yet we are reminded that we cannot fix ourselves. But we can place our trust in the Lord. He comes to bind what is broken, heal what is hurt, and restore what sin has damaged.

"Be strong, and let your heart take courage."

This strength doesn't come from within. Christ went to the cross because we are weak, and He rose to

give us courage and hope. Even when life feels overwhelming, Lent reminds us that God is our strength.

GOD IS STILL AT WORK

Waiting can feel slow, even invisible, yet Lent reminds us that God is never idle. On Good Friday, everything seemed finished. The Son of God lay in a tomb. Silence and sorrow filled the world. However, even then, God was at work.

The waiting of the church is never empty because the Lord is always working. Even when we feel weak, unseen, or uncertain, Christ is accomplishing our salvation.

On Holy Saturday, nothing appears to happen. The tomb is sealed. Death seems victorious. But God is still working. What looks like a delay is a victory waiting to unfold. Easter proves it: The crucified One is raised! The promises of God are real and fulfilled. The hope we've been waiting for is already alive.

LIVING IN JOYFUL HOPE

Until Easter fully arrives, we continue to wait, not anxiously, but faithfully. We wait at the font, remembering that we have been buried and raised with Christ. We wait at the altar,



trusting that the risen Lord comes to us through His Word and promises.

“Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”

Even when life feels uncertain, God is at work. Even in the struggles of this life, Christ brings hope. Even when the path is unclear, His promises are sure. Because of this, we can face each day with courage, peace, and joy, as we wait for His return.

The Rev. Joe Hoem is a pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Reflection Questions:

How does it feel to know that God is at work even when you cannot see it?

Where have you seen God bring hope or strength into your life recently?

How can you “be strong” and let your heart take courage while waiting on His Easter promise?

How does the hope of Easter fill you with encouragement and joy in your waiting?

This month’s study text:

The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation Of David.

*7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!*

8 You have said, “Seek my face.”

My heart says to you,

“Your face, LORD, do I seek.”

9 Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger,

O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not,

O God of my salvation!

*10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
but the LORD will take me in.*

*11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.*

*12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out violence.*

*13 I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!*

14 Wait for the LORD;

*be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!*

Psalm 27:7-14 (ESV)

A PRAYER FOR WAITING

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You that You are always at work, even when we cannot see it. Help us to wait for You with hope and confidence, trusting that You bring healing, forgiveness, and new life. Strengthen our hearts and give us courage, especially when life feels heavy. Let us see Your salvation unfolding, even in quiet moments, and remind us that Christ, who died for us, now lives for us, working all things together for our good. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE BEATITUDES FILL-IN



Fill in the blanks in the following quotes from the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10).

1. Blessed are the poor in _____,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
2. for they will be _____

3. Blessed are the _____,
4. for they will inherit the _____

5. Blessed are those who _____ and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
6. for they will be shown _____

7. Blessed are the _____ in heart,
8. for they will see _____

9. Blessed are the _____,
for they will be called children of God.

10. Blessed are those who are _____ because
of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

ANSWERS BELOW

Reprinted from Our Daily Bread "Bible Word Search & Activity Book" with permission.

10. persecuted
9. peacemakers
8. God
7. pure
6. mercy

5. hunger
4. earth
3. meek
2. comforted
1. spirit

**WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS
ON WHICH THE PRINCE OF GLORY DIED,
MY RICHEST GAIN I COUNT BUT LOSS
AND POUR CONTEMPT ON ALL MY PRIDE.**

**SEE, FROM HIS HEAD, HIS HANDS, HIS FEET
SORROW AND LOVE FLOW MINGLED DOWN!
DID E'ER SUCH LOVE AND SORROW MEET
OR THORNS COMPOSE SO RICH A CROWN?**



**“When I Survey the
Wondrous Cross”
LSB #425 v. 1, 3**