

November 2026

BROADCASTER

A magazine of Worship Anew



Expectations



Matthew F. Leighty

Matthew F. Leighty
Executive Director

Cover photo provided by Grace Lutheran Church
Stained glass hangs at the center of the Grace Lutheran Church sanctuary in St. Petersburg, Fla.
See story on page 12.

Far More Than We Expect

What do you expect when a crisis hits? I've thought about that question a lot since April 2007 because of a memory that keeps coming back to me.

At the time, I was serving at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. I had flown into Albuquerque, N.M., on a Saturday because I was scheduled to speak the next morning at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Roswell. As I drove along U.S. Highway 285, I briefly took my eyes off the road to check my map for an upcoming rest area. The spring winds out there can be fierce, and a strong gust caught my car. When I looked up, I was veering off the highway. In that split second, I realized there was nothing I could do to regain control except pray.

My car rolled and eventually settled, thankfully right side up, in a rancher's field. Every window was blown out, front, back, and on both sides — all four tires were flat. The car was completely destroyed, and yet, I wasn't hurt. I had only a slight mark near my collarbone where the seatbelt pressed against me. I totally expected I would open my eyes in a hospital, if not see

my Savior in heaven.

I wasn't the only one who expected the worst. A man and his wife were driving toward me about a mile down the road when he saw a big puff of dust in the distance. He knew right away it was a car, and he didn't think there was any chance the driver survived. He stayed with me until the police and the tow truck made it out from Roswell, about an hour away, and he was so wonderful. The rancher whose property I "landed on" came to check on me, too. He showed me the fence post I had taken out on my way off the road and told me that if I had hit the one right next to it, it wouldn't have given way. It would have gone right through the car.

Then came the blessings I never would have thought to ask for. The tow truck driver and his wife were so kind and dropped me off where I was staying that night. Back in those days, phone chargers varied from phone to phone, but his cord fit mine so I could let people know what had happened. A nice couple from Immanuel picked me up the next morning so I could still speak at the church as planned. And



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on Monday, the extra day in town allowed me to visit with the circuit pastors at their monthly gathering, which was totally unexpected but a great blessing.

As I drove back to Albuquerque, I retraced the route where the accident happened. There were cliffs and mountains along so much of that highway, so many places where a car flying off the road would have ended up much differently. I thought back to that short, desperate prayer on Saturday. God had answered with far more than I asked or could have imagined.

I don't know why I walked away that day when so many people don't walk away from accidents like that. Some of you have gotten the phone call no one ever wants to get, and my heart goes out to you. I won't pretend to have an answer for why. What I do know is that it had nothing to do with me. As Martin Luther teaches in the Small Catechism, every good gift comes from God "only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without

any merit or worthiness in me."

And even if things had gone differently in that field, I would have opened my eyes to see my Savior. Jesus has gone through death and come out the other side. For all of us who are baptized into Him, death doesn't get the last word.

Many of you have walked through your own crisis, maybe a diagnosis, the loss of a spouse, or a phone call in the middle of the night. We can't know what tomorrow holds, but God has told us what to expect from Him. Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33b). He promises to be with us in our troubles, and in Christ, our sins are forgiven and eternal life is ours. When we know those promises ahead of time, we have something to hold on to when a crisis comes.

That's why Worship Anew comes alongside people in their most challenging times. Our "Worship Anew" program brings the comfort

of God's peace through His Word and song. Our Care Ministry provides resources on grief and extends the love of Christ. And "Hope-Full Living", along with this magazine so many of you dearly love to receive, brings comfort and encouragement that come only through the grace and mercy of Christ our Lord. I'm so grateful for your prayers and support that make all of this possible.

Whatever you are facing today, I pray you'll remember that God is able to do far more than we ask or think, and He always keeps His promises.

*"Abide With Me"
I fear no foe with
Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight
and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting?
Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou
abide with me!
(LSB #878 v. 5)*

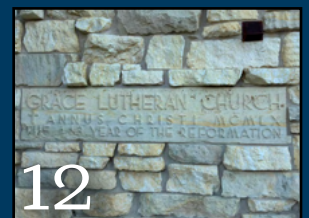
"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us."

Ephesians 3:20

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Saints that are Seen

By Ashley Wiehe
Director of Advancement

In times of struggle and grief, we all want to see Jesus and for Jesus to see us, especially around All Saints' Day.

The Rev. Daniel Eggold, younger brother of longtime "Worship Anew" pastor the Rev. Thomas Eggold, is the guest pastor for All Saints' Day this year and brings the message "The Saint in the Sycamore."

Pastor Daniel Eggold is the senior pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. He was ordained in 2005 and has served multiple churches throughout Indiana and Illinois, including serving as an admissions officer for Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo.

"In all of these contexts, my ministry has centered on preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and helping people see how the Word of God speaks into everyday life," he said.

This is his first time serving on "Worship Anew," and he has the unique opportunity of having his older brother show him the ropes.

"As the youngest of three boys, I grew up receiving plenty of advice, a fair number of hand-me-downs, and a clear sense that my brothers had gotten there first. So, this was nothing new," he joked about his older brother, Pastor Thomas Eggold. "Being invited to record a message gave me the chance to follow in my brother's footsteps, at least without having to borrow his clothes this time."

Pastor Daniel Eggold's Nov. 1 program focuses on the story of Zacchaeus, the wealthy tax collector who climbed a sycamore tree just hoping to catch a glimpse of Jesus. The program also recognizes All Saints' Day. In many churches, this is the day when those who died in the faith during the past year are remembered.

"I hope viewers hear that Jesus knows exactly where they are," he said. "Some 'Worship Anew' viewers may feel separated from the life of their congregation because of age, illness, disability, grief, or distance. They may sometimes feel as though they are watching from the edges. The story of Zacchaeus reminds us that no one is beyond the sight or reach of Jesus. Christ sees us. He knows our names. He comes to us with forgiveness and makes His home with us. Our identity as saints rests in His gracious call and His saving work."



The Rev. Daniel Eggold leads the Nov. 1 All Saints' Day program on "Worship Anew."

As Luke 19:5-6 says, "And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully."

This is a reminder that as Christians, we are saints, seen and forgiven by God, even in times of struggle and grief.

"As with Zacchaeus, a saint is someone whom Jesus has seen, called, forgiven, and claimed as His own," said Pastor Daniel Eggold. "Zacchaeus becomes a picture of every Christian — found by Jesus and given a new identity through His grace."

You can watch Pastor Daniel Eggold's program on local broadcast stations or streaming through Worship Anew's app or YouTube channel. Learn more by visiting worshipanew.org/where-to-watch.



13th Annual Elsie Rossman Memorial Golf Outing

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual golf outing on Sept. 24. We had 27 teams and many generous donations in our Ticket-to-Win-It and live auction. Thank you to our sponsors and to our event sponsor, Passage Wealth. See more photos from the event on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WorshipAnew.LMM.

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The golf cannon serves as a popular attraction at the golf outing, allowing golfers to fire their initial shot.



The Rossman team smiles for a picture at the outing. Elsie Rossman is the namesake of the memorial outing.



Passage Wealth was the event sponsor this year. We are thankful to Andy Barthel and his team.

Save the date!

The 14th Annual Elsie Rossman Memorial Golf Outing will be on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2027, at Autumn Ridge Golf Course.



Reflections on a crossroad

FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN AS AN ARMY OFFICER

By Gayle Jones

On any given day, I believe our actions provide God with laughter as well as heartache. Some days we just don't remember God's words from Jeremiah where He tells us He knows what He has planned for us.

I was at a crossroad. We've all been there. The circumstances aren't the same for everyone, but as one looks at the road, it appears as an immense, empty, scary, insurmountable hole. The conversation I had with God at my crossroad sounded like this: "What should I do next? I'm losing my research job. The one I know You chose for me, but it's gone. What am I supposed to do now?"

I really wanted God to send me a postcard with options. After careful consideration, I'd choose the appropriate one. Then, He could let me hear the quiet voice, "This is the way, walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21), confirming my choice of a God-pleasing path. I'm sure He shakes His head at my childish arrogance. Looking back, I certainly do.

Instead of sending a postcard, He sent a Women's Army Corps recruiter to the Kansas State University campus looking for volunteers — the primary source for women officers at that time. (Historical note: The WAC was disbanded in 1978. Army ROTC began commissioning women officers in 1976 and the academies in 1980.)

My husband, Chuck, and I followed very different paths into the military.

His family prayed and planned for his appointment to West Point. I just prayed, "OK, God, I hope this is what You intended me to do." Then told my family what I'd done.

Our initial experiences were also very different. Chuck was sent to Vietnam after graduation in 1968. He suffered not only the horrors of war but also the horror of returning to a disrespectful nation where he was physically and verbally attacked when in uniform.

In late 1975, I was sent to "Learn to Salute School," i.e., New Officer Orientation followed by Signal Officer Training. It was a time of relative peace between Vietnam and the desert wars in which there seemed to be renewed respect for the military within the country.

Being an Army officer was daunting for someone who knew almost nothing about the military. I remember the day while on a training exercise that I was supervising the installation of our mobile signal equipment. I suddenly realized that if I didn't do my job — properly training the people who worked for me — they could die. I was shocked, scared, and humbled at the same time. The Army gave me that responsibility, but God gave me strength to fulfill it.

Being an Army officer and an Army wife at the same time felt like being two magnets which repel each other if not properly aligned. At that time, women

officers, in anything except administrative positions, were still an anomaly. The officers' wives in my assigned unit didn't know whether to invite me to Wives' Club events or treat me as one of the guys. The officers' wives from Chuck's unit had never had a wife/officer before. The fact that I had responsibilities to my own unit for 30 people and millions of dollars of signal equipment was foreign to them. It was a learning experience for everyone. I believe it helped pave the way for present day officer-wives.

At the end of our second year of marriage, we decided that our marriage was more important than two military careers which were badly out of sync. Chuck had 12 years of service and a clear career progression to retirement. I had four years of military service, but also God-given experience as a researcher useful at any major university. I resigned my commission and returned to civilian life.

We were blessed by that decision. Chuck's last three military assignments were to positions which had direct correlation to possible civilian jobs for him. Two of the three were located in large metropolitan areas which boasted medical schools with active research facilities. Therefore, I was able to seamlessly return to the vocation God gave me before the crossroad. He just planned a little five-year maturing detour I needed to make.

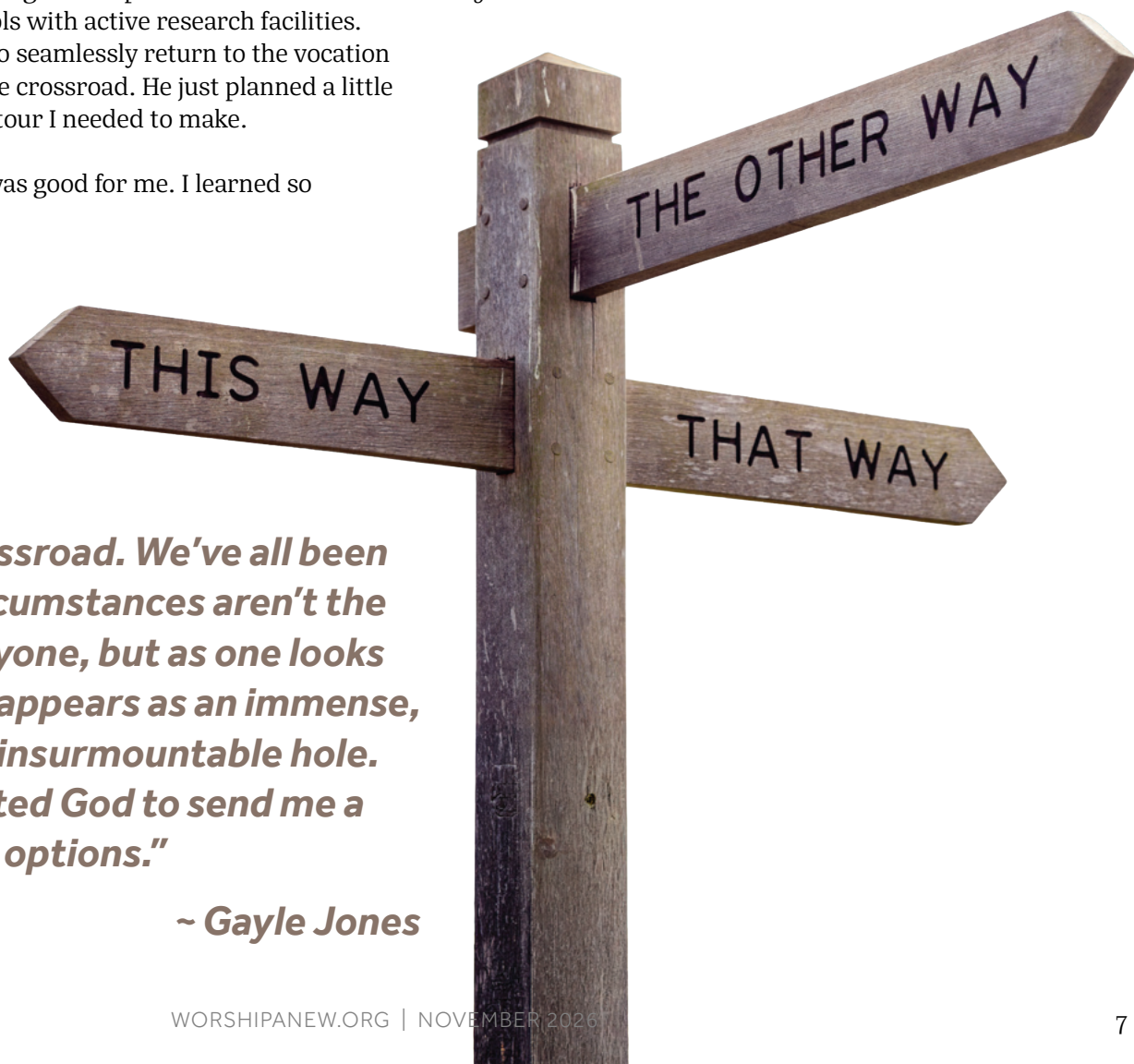
Being in the military was good for me. I learned so

many life lessons that I could write a book. I learned the importance of being a good example, especially to the young men and women who served with me. They had to trust that I would do what I said, so that they could trust the orders I gave.

The primary lesson I internalized from my military years is found in Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." I could not have made it through those complicated years without God carrying me over the rough spots.

I'm thankful for the blessings which came from that long-ago crossroad and from the detour. Despite my youthful arrogance at wanting a postcard, God had a wonderful plan for that part of my life. I didn't doubt that He was there. I didn't doubt that He loved and saved me. And, I can't wait to see Him at the next crossroad!

Gayle Jones lives in Littleton, Colo., with her husband Chuck and is a regular author for "Hope-Full Living" daily devotionals.



"I was at a crossroad. We've all been there. The circumstances aren't the same for everyone, but as one looks at the road, it appears as an immense, empty, scary, insurmountable hole. ... I really wanted God to send me a postcard with options."

~ Gayle Jones



Zion Lutheran School of Decatur, Ind., gathers in the Worship Anew Studio. One of their hymns will be featured on the Nov. 8 program.

SCHOOL BRINGS ENTIRE STUDENT BODY TO RECORD FOR 'WORSHIP ANEW'

By Lucy Moll

Worship Anew Intern

If you watch “Worship Anew” this month, you’ll be in for a special treat. Zion Lutheran, a grade school in Decatur, Ind., brought the entire school to film three hymns to air on “Worship Anew.”

About 75 students, plus all their teachers, were greeted by our incredible staff when they arrived. Kristin Nussbaum, a teacher at the school, described her experience: “They were so kind, so accommodating. I felt like we were the King’s Choir.”

Nussbaum explained that she came up with the idea of recording for the program when she heard that their school theme was “Make a Joyful Noise.” Their school collects offerings for a different organization every year, and this year they graciously decided to donate those offerings to Worship Anew. They thought that it would be a good experience for the students to see where their donations were actually going, so they prepared three hymns to share with the viewers of the program.

Their choir director, Carl Risch, has been teaching since

1984. He taught all of the students three songs that they loved and, according to Nussbaum, “knew backward and forward.”

This is not the first time that Zion Lutheran has come together to support their community. In previous years, they have supported the Hope Center and other mission projects through chapel offerings and visited congregation members’ homes to do basic yard work.

While it may seem challenging to coordinate a recording with the entire school, Nussbaum said that she encourages every school to do it if possible. She hopes that her students saw how they could be witnesses for Christ through their singing, no matter their age. This matches their new school theme for this year, “Rooted in Christ.”

The Zion choir will share their talents on the program on Nov. 8. Tune in to “Worship Anew” on your local broadcast station or stream through our app or on YouTube. Learn more at worshipanew.org/where-to-watch.



Worship Anew in November

Year 2026 | Series A-B



The Saint in the Sycamore

November 1, 2026 – All Saints' Day ~ Rev. Daniel Eggold – Guest Pastor

Zacchaeus, the wealthy tax collector, climbed a sycamore tree just hoping to catch a glimpse of Jesus. But Jesus saw him first — calling him down, staying at his house, and bringing salvation to a sinner. On this All Saints' Day, rejoice that Jesus spots you, too.

Sermon Text: Luke 19:1-10

Readings: Psalm 130; Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Luke 19:1-10

Featured Choirs: St. Peter's Adult Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Holy Cross Treble Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.



Does Jesus Know You?

November 8, 2026 – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Jesus is coming. Are you ready for His coming again? While it is important to know Jesus, it is more important that Jesus knows you.

Sermon Text: Matthew 25:13

Readings: Psalm 70:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Featured Choirs: Zion Lutheran School, Decatur, Ind.; Holy Cross Sanctuary Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Wellspring Lutheran Services, Monroe, Mich.



The Breastplate and Helmet

November 15, 2026 – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Our spiritual enemies — the devil, the unbelieving world, and our own sinful nature — are constantly trying to put fear, worry, discouragement, and sinful anger into our hearts, and falsehood and deception into our minds. Thus, the apostle Paul urges us to put on the breastplate and helmet — equipment from God.

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Readings: Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Featured Choir: St. John Lutheran School, Plymouth, Wis.

Featured Art and Architecture: St. John Lutheran Church, Marysville, Ohio



We Are What We See!

November 22, 2026 – Last Sunday of the Church Year ~ Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

What are your eyes fixed upon? In Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats, two groups stand before the King equally surprised; yet their lives were shaped by entirely different visions. Discover how focusing on yourself blinds you to Christ, while focusing on Jesus opens your eyes to the people and needs He places before you. Truly, we are what we see!

Sermon Text: Matthew 25:37, 44

Readings: Psalm 95:1-7a; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46

Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Angelis Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.;

Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Centralia, Ill.

Featured Art and Architecture: Christ Our King Lutheran Church, Saline, Mich.



Come, Lord, Come

November 29, 2026 – First Sunday in Advent ~ Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Are you ready for the Lord's coming? He is coming on the Last Day in power and might, but until that time, He comes in humbleness and mercy.

Sermon Text: Isaiah 64:1

Readings: Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 11:1-10

Featured Choirs: St. Peter's Adult Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Michael Adult Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul's Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Ind.



Functional exercise for everyday activities in the aging population

By Janet Smith, MS, NSCA-CSCS

As we age, maintaining strength, mobility, and balance becomes increasingly important for preserving independence and quality of life. Functional exercise focuses on improving the physical abilities needed for everyday tasks, helping us perform daily activities safely and confidently.

Functional exercises mimic daily tasks and provide intentional practice and training for life. These exercises can be performed in a gym or right in your own home with household items such as canned food, water jugs, and towels.

Let's first look at the daily tasks of reaching into cabinets or overhead shelves and picking up items from the floor. These movements require shoulder and hip mobility, upper-body strength, and balance. Start by standing or sitting by a wall and sliding your hand up



and down, side to side, on the wall. Maintain mobility and strength by reaching overhead with no weight and gradually adding light weights or resistance bands. You can also twist and reach from side to side, or hold a bath towel in both hands and gently stretch and pull to help maintain strength and flexibility.

Getting in and out of a seat — whether it be a chair or a vehicle — and climbing stairs rely on lower-body strength. Start with a seated exercise by looping a towel or resistance band around the bottom of your foot and pushing your leg toward the ground. From a standing position, complete a squat with your body weight or add resistance by holding a weight or household item. Use a repeated stand-to-sit exercise from a sturdy chair with or without using your hands to build strength in your quadriceps and glutes.

Carrying groceries, laundry, or other household items requires upper-body and grip strength. Whether in a seated, standing, or walking position, continue to challenge yourself by simply holding a heavy household item or weight in each hand while maintaining an upright posture. Add to this exercise by bending your elbows to do bicep curls or moving your arms backward to create a rowing motion. These exercises help maintain and improve your ability to safely transport objects throughout the home and community.

Preserving the ability to do personal hygiene activities, such as taking a shower, requires standing with balance and stability, and involves slippery surfaces. Start with single-leg stands and heel-to-toe walking and work toward marching in place and standing side leg raises to help improve balance and strengthen the muscles that support stable standing. These exercises will also assist your ability to maintain balance and strength for climbing stairs, reaching into cabinets, and catching yourself from a potential fall.

Overall, functional exercise helps us maintain independence by improving the physical abilities required for everyday life. By regularly performing exercises that support reaching, standing, bending, climbing, carrying, and balancing, we can continue to complete daily tasks with greater ease and confidence. Consistent participation in these activities not only enhances physical function but also increases confidence and contributes to a healthier, more active lifestyle.

Janet Smith is an assistant professor of health and exercise science at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Ind. She is also the LutheRun Cross Country coach for the Fort Wayne Lutheran Schools.



'God has blessed us'

Church reflects on two years after Hurricane Milton

By Ashley Wiehe
Director of Advancement

It was Oct. 9, 2024, just two weeks after Hurricane Helene had hit the Florida Gulf Coast. Families were displaced from their homes and communities were devastated. But for Grace Lutheran Church and School in St. Petersburg, Fla., the worst was yet to come.

Amid supporting their church families and the cleanup in their community, they hadn't given much thought to the warnings of another hurricane headed for the area. They had taken normal precautions — sandbags and evacuations where necessary — but the church was not in a flood zone so the danger seemed minimal.

"At Grace, we've never really thought too much about it," said the Rev. Kevin Loughran, senior pastor at Grace. "The wind has always been a concern, but Grace has always been a safe place to stay from a hurricane because we're high. We really shouldn't have the threat of being flooded."

However, Hurricane Milton changed everything.

"Right away I could see this was like no other storm we had ever had before," Loughran said as he saw reports coming in from his parishioners.

During a 24-hour period, more than 20 inches of rain had fallen in their area — 14 of those inches came in a four-hour timespan. They experienced 120 mile-per-hour wind gusts. They lost part of their gym roof, and that was only the start.

The drains in the courtyard were clogged with debris from trees, and soon, their offices,

classrooms, cafeteria, and sanctuary began to fill with storm water.

"Hurricane water is not like normal rain. It's polluted in and of itself, ... and whatever that water touches is compromised," Loughran said. "The water very quickly got high enough that every single one of our classrooms or spaces that surrounded our courtyard got filled with water anywhere from a foot and a half to three or four inches."

Grace is located a few miles inland in St. Petersburg — a city surrounded by water on Florida's Gulf Coast. It sits at the tip of a peninsula between Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Also, the church and school campus is large. It's an outdoor space where students, staff, and church members can walk outside between rooms. However, that caused a problem because most of their spaces were

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Photos provided by Grace Lutheran Church

Above left, in some spaces, four inches of water flooded in, destroying flooring and walls. Above right, in the sanctuary, pews had to be lifted on to blocks while the floor was ripped out and dried.



Photo provided by Grace Lutheran Church
The sanctuary was not saved from the floodwaters.

continued from page 12

then connected to the outdoors and the floodwaters.

“Our sanctuary was completely full of water, probably four inches of water,” he said. “We have 24 classrooms on campus. Only nine of them were untouched.”

The situation seemed dire, but God’s plans were bigger.

Within 24 hours, there were more than 100 volunteers on campus helping with cleanup.

“They tore all of the flooring out of the church. They raised all of the pews up on blocks. We started the process of tearing all of the flooring out of those 15 classrooms that had water in them,” he said.

They also had to purify the air in these spaces before they would be declared usable. They were in the middle of school and holding weekly worship services.

“We basically needed to bring in these plumbing machines that pull impurities out of the air, shut the sanctuary down for 48 hours, then have the air quality tested. So early the next week, that space got declared usable again,” he explained.

They closed spaces and got to work. All in all, Grace missed one weekend of worship services and got their

school back up and running after two weeks with some creative rearranging. Everything was operating — albeit in an adjusted format — by Oct. 28.

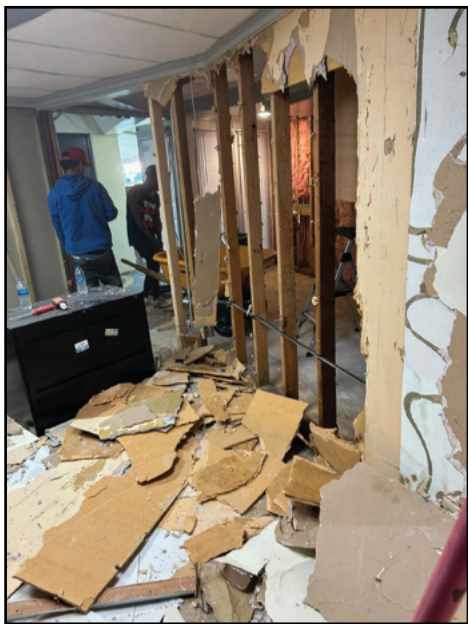
“We were able to move our whole early childhood program into the gym with partitions,” he said. “We were able to use our sanctuary and set it up in such a way that we could have five middle school classes meeting in the sanctuary during the week at the same time.”

However, the next challenge came — the price of the



Photo provided by Grace Lutheran Church

Above, volunteers came together to work to help to restore the church and school after the flood.



Photos provided by Grace Lutheran Church

Above left, many spaces had to be completely torn out to be restored from the floodwaters. Above center, open walls showed the work continuing after the hurricane flooded their campus. Above right, classroom and church materials were moved outside while workers and volunteers cleaned up the mess from Hurricane Milton.

restoration. Numbers were staggering and seemed out of reach. But again, God exceeded their expectations. The LORD brought together contractors, city permitting personnel, and volunteers to put the project within reach. They even worked with FEMA for disaster assistance.

“I don’t know how we did this — by the grace of God only,” Loughran said. “We were having an unbelievable outpouring of donations. ... Somehow, some way, we were able to keep going.”

Connections began to form with their church members — contractors, tree removers, city permits — and it was all coming together quicker than expected.

“By the very end of the school year, at that point in time, we had somehow done almost \$800,000 worth of work, rebuilding work, on the \$400,000 that we actually had,” he said. “Oh, wow. You see God’s hand, right?”

People were cutting rates and doing work gratis, and donations were being made monetarily and for supplies and equipment needed for the facility.

“A lot of these spaces hadn’t been touched since the 1980s, and all of a sudden, the spaces that are being rebuilt, we’re going from flickering lights that needed ballasts replaced to brand new state-of-the-art LED lighting,” he said. “It was remarkable to see.”

Today, two years later, the church is on the cusp of its 100th anniversary — quite a feat for a Florida church. But they are still in the midst of restorations. Some spaces still haven’t returned, and some spaces had just become available.

Teachers and staff are celebrating their spaces, so happy to be in an upgraded facility. Some of these teachers and staff had felt the devastation at home but were brought together to help restore the church facility. Just two years ago, they were working in closets and in rooms without walls. Today, they are celebrating the community, and the campus, they rebuilt together.

Even just recently, Pastor Loughran was working with FEMA for the final work on their funding. It’s been a long road, but in reflecting on those days, it had a positive impact on Grace as a whole.

“God has blessed us. It’s just brought our community together,” he said. “(Our church and school) are unbelievably knit together. It’s really a remarkable thing.”

Pictures hang in a common room on campus. They show the water that crept into the sanctuary. The classrooms lost to the flooding. The campus changed by one night. But it was a night that brought a community together — far beyond the church and school community.

Pastor Loughran had one word to describe it: “Miraculous.”



Photo provided by Grace Lutheran Church

Today, the sanctuary is fully active and serving its congregation. They are still feeling the effects of the hurricane from two years ago and are working toward full restoration.



Tax benefits for charitable giving

By Bill Stanczykiewicz, Ed.D.

Retirement planning is one thing. Retirement living is quite another. Whether you are putting the final touches on that plan or putting that plan into action, a new federal policy can help you save on taxes through your charitable giving, preserving more of your retirement funds for you.

The new federal tax law, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill or OneB3, creates a Universal Charitable Deduction (UCD) that allows all taxpayers, regardless of their income levels, to receive a charitable deduction for their charitable giving.

The UCD provides a deduction of up to \$1,000 for individuals and up to \$2,000 for married households filing jointly. There are at least three reasons why this new law is in place.

First, while people donate mainly because of their philanthropic values, many people also donate to receive a tax deduction. While taxes are never the first or only reason why people financially support nonprofits, taxes still matter. According to a new study from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 8 million people likely will start donating to their favorite charities because of this new tax policy.



Second, the new UCD allows all taxpayers to receive tax consideration for their charitable giving. Previous tax policy only rewarded wealthier Americans for their donations to nonprofits. Now everyone, regardless of income or the size of their charitable gifts can enjoy a tax deduction for the philanthropic contributions.

Third, the new policy helps senior citizens stretch their retirement dollars. Tax policy already allows seniors to donate some or all of their qualified or mandatory distributions from their retirement funds to nonprofits and not be taxed on those distributions. For donations to nonprofits that are not made from retirement funds, the new UCD provides another tax advantage for senior citizens.

If all of this sounds a bit complicated, perhaps a family member or a financial adviser who you trust can help you sort out the details. Importantly, there are many ways you can help the nonprofits you care about without donating money. You can volunteer, even online. You can promote the nonprofit and the organization's cause, even through social media. You also can tell your friends and family about the nonprofits you support.

However, if you are making financial donations to nonprofit organizations, including your church, the new UCD can help you stretch your retirement funds further.

Bill Stanczykiewicz, Ed.D., serves as director and Rosso Fellow of The Fund Raising School within the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, where he also serves as senior assistant dean for external relations.

Why does the church start the new year in November instead of following the normal calendar?

While the world waits for January, the church begins the year in the dark of late November, on the First Sunday of Advent — and has kept time this way nearly as long as there has been a church.

The first Christians gathered on Sunday because that was the morning the tomb was found empty. Every Sunday became a little Easter, a weekly return to the resurrection. For a time, that was the whole church calendar. From that center it grew outward: once a year the church had a greater Easter celebration, with Lent to prepare for it and 50 days of joy flowing out to Pentecost. Later, at the far end of the year, the church added the celebration of Christ's birth and a season of longing before it — Advent.

To be sure the whole story gets told, the Sunday readings follow a three-year plan, walking one year with Matthew, the next with Mark, and the next with Luke. This new Church Year, which begins this month, is the year of Mark.

Season by season, the Church Year sets the risen Christ before us — and for those who have kept many of these years, the rhythm holds fast as the church keeps bringing Christ to us, again and again. We all need to be reminded, in every season, what God has done to show His love to us through Jesus.

How should Christians think about Thanksgiving with it being an American holiday, not a church festival?

For the Christian, Thanksgiving is not just a day on the calendar. Long before kids were tracing their hands on construction paper to make turkeys, Scripture tied thanks not to a good harvest but to God Himself. The Bible teaches us to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

For many Lutherans, this idea of Christian gratitude has been expressed since school days through Luther's Small Catechism. The First Article's confession is that all we are and have is God's gift, "for all which it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him;" the petition for daily bread; table prayers spoken over meals. The holiday does not create our thanksgiving, it lends a day to something the Christian does all year, giving thanks to God, the Giver of all good things.

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!

Hope-Full Living drops subscription fee for individuals

Hope-Full Living is a dearly loved daily devotional publication written for seniors. Beginning with the first quarter issue of 2027, there will no longer be a subscription fee for individual subscribers of Hope-Full Living.

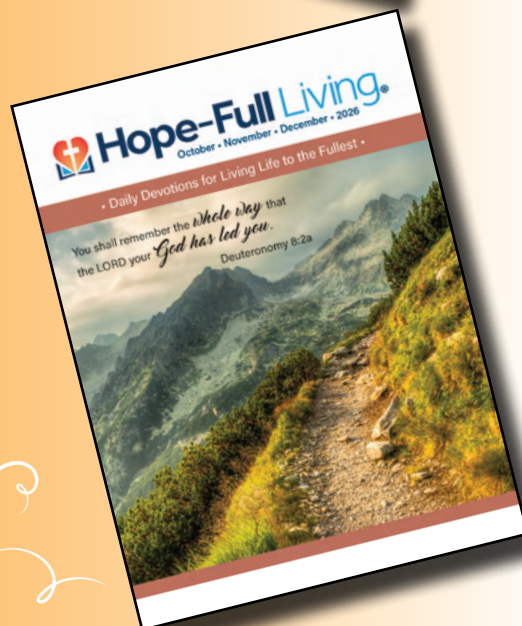
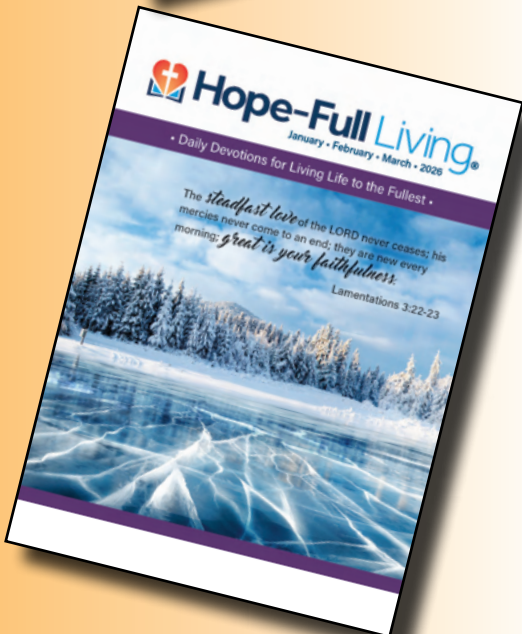
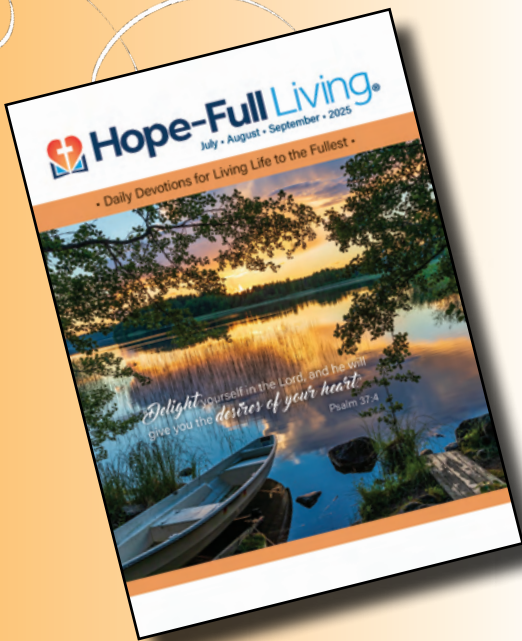
Perhaps Hope-Full Living is already familiar to you — sitting on your kitchen table, on your app or email, or picked up at your church. If it is new to you, here is the whole of it: a larger-print booklet that arrives four times a year, with a passage of Scripture for each day, a simple reflection on God's Word, and a prayer. Easy to read, and easy to pick up each morning. Worship Anew has been honored to steward it since 2020.

Throughout our history, our weekly broadcast has gone out at no cost to the viewer. The Broadcaster magazine arrives at no cost. Our Care Ministry reaches out at no cost. Widely available, at no cost, to any senior who needs them — that is simply how this ministry has always worked. We have trusted that the children of God would see the need and respond — and they have, faithfully, year after year, which is how this ministry still exists.

Hope-Full Living has worked differently. It carried a subscription fee. We have wanted to change that since the day it came to us. This devotional is a gift to the wider church — one the Lord has entrusted to us to give away rather than to sell.

This summer, our Board of Directors took a step of faith. They voted unanimously to set aside income this ministry has long counted on, trusting that the Lord's people would carry this devotional so that it could go further than it has ever gone.

There are seniors in every corner of this country who have yet to hear God's Word shared with them, and others who know it well but have not



"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Isaiah 40:8

had it brought to them in years. They are in apartments and farmhouses, in care facilities and hospital rooms. Homebound members who have not been in church for years. Caregivers carrying the weight of providing for a dear loved one. Widows in a first hard year. Every one of them is a person the Lord loves, and every one of them could be opening God's Word tomorrow morning.

If you are not yet receiving Hope-Full Living directly as a print subscription, we invite you to subscribe. There is no fee. Once a year we will simply check in to be sure you still want it. And if a name came to mind while you were reading — a mother, a friend at church, a neighbor who no longer drives — invite them to subscribe. We would be glad to welcome them, and their own copy will arrive four times a year at no cost.

To subscribe, as well as to support this important ministry, please visit HopeFullLiving.org or call us at (888) 286-8002.

Thank you for standing with this ministry. Our God does not set His people aside as the years go by. He promises, "Even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save" (Isaiah 46:4).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2026

Always and for Everything

Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:20

"Always and for everything" pretty much sums up the whole of life. Through all the ups and downs, a Christian life is designed to always give thanks. Of course, it's easy to be thankful when we're feeling well and enjoying love and support from friends and family. It is not so easy when body parts hurt or malfunction and no one stops by or calls.

Then and always, we look to God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. We remember that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17). We remember that "he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7b). We remember Jesus saying, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Through faith in Jesus, we remember and gratefully sing, "The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation" (Exodus 15:2).

*Marj Maynard
Pipe Creek, TX*

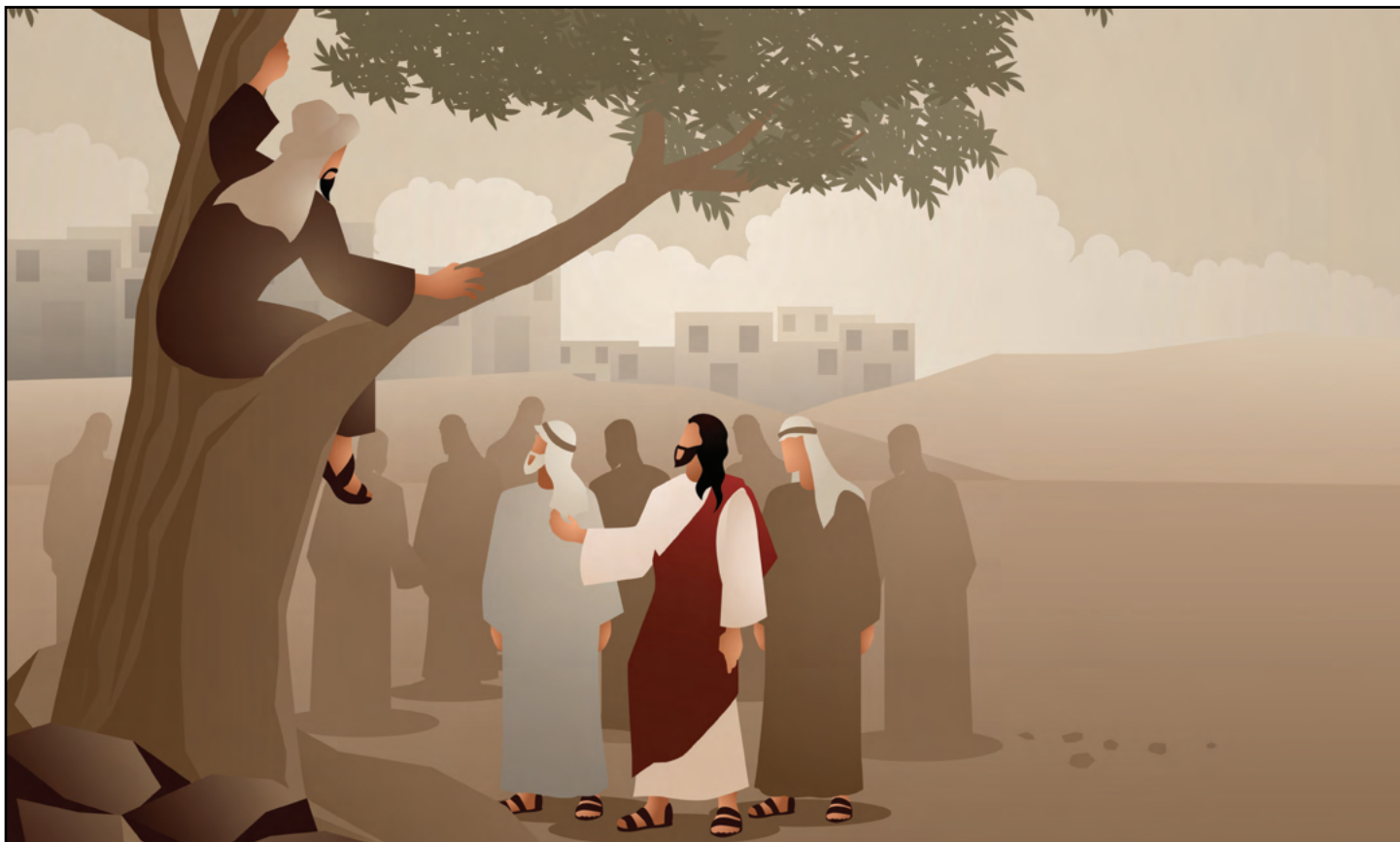
Lord above, may I lift up Your name with thanks always and for everything. Amen.

Reflect: Look to examples like David and Paul, who modeled thankfulness even in difficult circumstances.

Read: Psalm 107:1-9 and Philippians 4:6-7

This is a sample of a devotion from Hope-Full Living for Nov. 26.

Subscribe at HopeFullLiving.org



THE SAINT IN THE SYCAMORE

By Rev. Daniel Eggold

All Saints' Day gives us an opportunity to remember those who have gone before us in the faith (Hebrews 12:1). Some were steady, faithful people whose lives seemed to fit our picture of a saint. Others were more complicated. Their lives included struggles, poor decisions, strained relationships, and seasons when faith seemed fragile.

That makes Zacchaeus a fitting person to meet on All Saints' Day.

Jesus Sees Zacchaeus

Read Luke 19:1-5.

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, which meant he had become wealthy through a system that many of his neighbors considered corrupt. He worked with Rome, collected money from his own people, and probably carried a reputation throughout Jericho.

Yet, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus.

Because he was short and could not see over the crowd, he climbed a sycamore tree. Perhaps he simply wanted a

glimpse of Jesus as He passed by. Instead, Jesus stopped underneath the tree, looked up, and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today" (v. 5). Before Zacchaeus says anything, Jesus knows his name. Before Zacchaeus makes a promise or changes his behavior, Jesus comes looking for him.

'The Guest of a Sinner'

Read Luke 19:6-7.

The crowd is scandalized. They know Zacchaeus' reputation, and they cannot understand why Jesus would choose his home. Sharing a meal in the ancient world was an act of fellowship. By entering Zacchaeus' house, Jesus was publicly associating Himself with a man others had pushed to the margins.

This pattern appears throughout Luke's Gospel. Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners (Luke 5:29-32; 15:1-2). He touches the sick (Luke 5:12-13). He receives people whom others overlook (Luke 7:36-50; 18:15-17). Again and again, Jesus moves toward people in mercy.

That is an important reminder for All Saints' Day. Saints



are people whom Jesus has approached in grace. Their hope rests in Christ's mercy and His desire to seek and save the lost.

'Salvation Has Come'

Read Luke 19:8-10.

Zacchaeus responds dramatically. He promises to give half of his possessions to the poor and to repay anyone he has cheated four times over. Jesus then declares, "Today salvation has come to this house" (v. 9).

Notice the order. Jesus comes to Zacchaeus, calls him by name, enters his home, and then Zacchaeus responds. His generosity grows out of an encounter with mercy.

Jesus also says something remarkable about Zacchaeus: "He also is a son of Abraham" (v. 9). The man whom his neighbors treated as an outsider is called family.

Jesus has come "to seek and to save the lost" (v. 10). He is already traveling toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51;

18:31-33), where He will accomplish that salvation through His death and resurrection (Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-7). The mercy Zacchaeus receives in Jericho will soon be secured at Calvary's cross.

Who Are the Saints?

Zacchaeus helps us understand what it means to be a saint. A saint is someone Jesus knows, seeks, forgives, and claims as His own (1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 2:19). Some lived remarkable lives of service. Others have carried wounds, weaknesses, and regrets throughout their lives. All of them live by grace (Ephesians 2:8-10).

The same Jesus who stopped beneath Zacchaeus' tree still comes to His people. He knows your name (John 10:3, 14). He knows your story. He brings forgiveness and calls you His own. His word to Zacchaeus still gives comfort today: "Today salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9).

The Rev. Daniel Eggold serves as the senior pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for seeking the lost and calling sinners by name. Come into our homes and lives with Your mercy. Forgive us, renew us, and shape our lives through Your grace. Keep us with all Your saints in faith until the day we gather around Your table in Your eternal kingdom. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

How does Zacchaeus' story change or deepen the way you think about what it means to be a saint?

Where in your own life do you most need to hear that Jesus knows your name, your story, and still comes to you with mercy?

Zacchaeus' life changed because he received Christ's grace. How might the grace you have received from Jesus shape the way you live, give, forgive, or treat others this week?

This month's study text:

Jesus and Zacchaeus

He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. 4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." 8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:1-10

Recipes for your Thanksgiving

From Deb Leighty, Worship Anew Volunteer Baker

Pumpkin Roll

INGREDIENTS

Powdered sugar
¾ cup flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon salt
3 large eggs
1 cup granulated sugar
⅔ cup canned pumpkin

FILLING

1 8 oz cream cheese, softened
1 cup sifted powdered sugar
6 tablespoons butter, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 15x10 inch jelly-roll pan and line with wax paper. Grease and flour paper. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, and salt in bowl. Beat eggs and granulated sugar in mixer bowl until thick. Beat in pumpkin, stir in flour mixture, spread evenly into prepared pan.

Bake for 13-15 minutes or until top of cake springs back. Immediately loosen and turn cake onto prepared towel. Carefully peel off paper, roll up cake and towel together, starting with narrow end, cool on rack.

Beat cheese, powdered sugar, butter, and vanilla in bowl until smooth. Unroll cake, remove towel, and spread cheese mixture over cake. Reroll cake. Wrap in plastic. Refrigerate at least 1 hour. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving. Makes 10 servings.



Spiced Cranberry-Orange Salad Mold



INGREDIENTS

1 package 8 oz raspberry Jello
1 ½ cups boiling water
1 can 16 oz whole cranberry sauce
1 cup cold water
1 tablespoon lemon juice
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
⅛ teaspoon cloves
1 orange section, diced
½ cup chopped walnuts

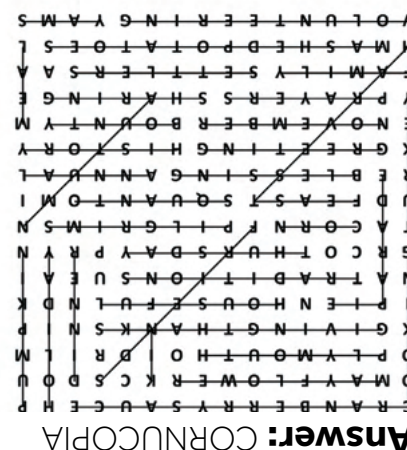
DIRECTIONS

Dissolve gelatin completely in boiling water in bowl. Stir in cranberry sauce, cold water, lemon juice, cinnamon, and cloves. Refrigerate 1 ½ hours. Stir in oranges and walnuts. Pour in mold. Refrigerate 4 hours or until set.



HAPPY Thanksgiving

Find and cross out all the listed words. The words may go horizontally, vertically, diagonally, not backwards. Ignore spaces, dashes and diacritics, if any. The remaining letters will spell a secret word.



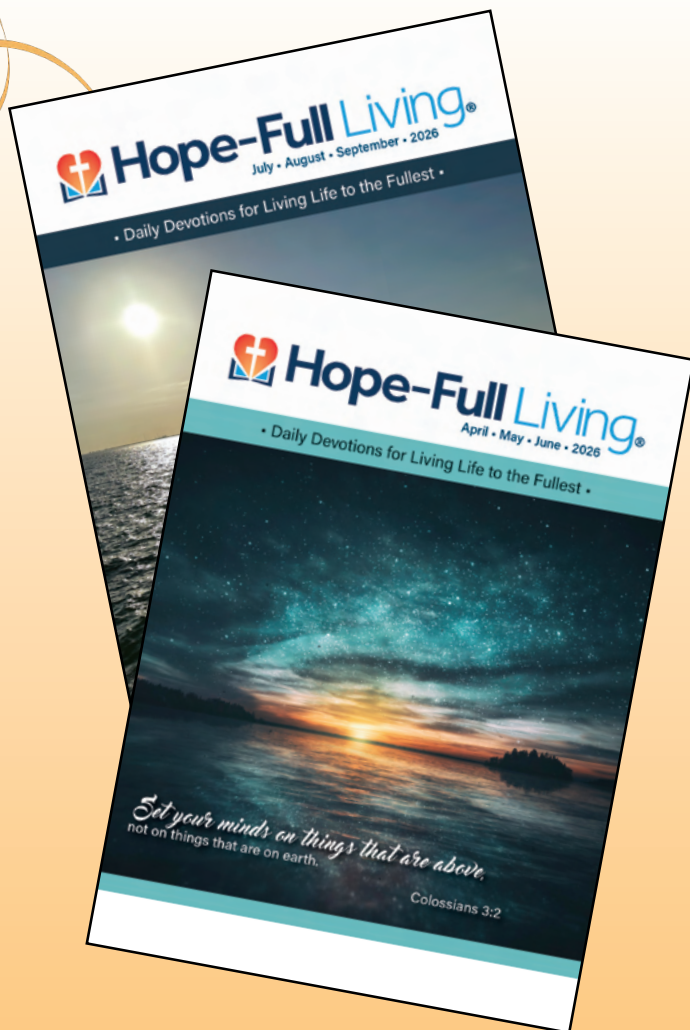
ANNUAL
AUTUMN
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BOUNTY
COOKING
CORN
CRANBERRY SAUCE
DINNER
FAMILY
FEAST
FRIENDS
GIVING THANKS
GREETING
HARVEST
HISTORY
HOLIDAY
HOUSEFUL
KIN
MASHED POTATOES
MAYFLOWER
MEAL
NOVEMBER
PARADE
PIE

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PILGRIMS
PLYMOUTH
PRAYERS
PUMPKIN

SETTLERS
SHARING
SQUANTO
THURSDAY

TRADITIONS
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