

BROADCASTER

October 2023



WORSHIP ANEW
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

FREEDOM IN THE GOSPEL

NEWS ON EXPANDING
OUR BROADCASTER

GRACE, FAITH, SCRIPTURE



WorshipAnew.org

Embracing *Freedom in the Gospel* with Worship Anew



Matthew F. Leighty

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As I sat by my father's hospital bed during his recovery from a severe infection, the room seemed to echo with the questions that often arise in moments of vulnerability. Amid the beeping monitors and hushed conversations, an unexpected sense of freedom enveloped him — a freedom that defied physical constraints and whispered of a deeper, unbreakable bond.

My father's journey, marked by the trials of illness, revealed a perspective on freedom that transcends the boundaries of the body. This time together reminds me now of Galatians 5:13-14 — the idea that true freedom isn't just about liberation from circumstances but about embracing a love that is steadfast even in the face of suffering.

In those quiet moments, I found him living out the essence of God's call to "live in freedom." Despite physical limitations, my dad's spirit radiated boundless love and selflessness that inspired all who knew him in his final months. The journey through pain and uncertainty became a testament to the transformative power of faith, an example of how our freedom in Christ remains undimmed, regardless of life's challenges.

As we gather around God's Word this month, Worship Anew invites us on a journey into the heart of the freedom we have in Christ. Together, we'll explore the call to "live in freedom."

Galatians reveals a unique call to freedom woven with love and service. Drawing from Galatians 5:13-14, we explore the relationship between freedom and the love

poured out through Christ. In this life, we embrace freedom to humbly serve others, guided by love and selflessness.

What does it mean to be called to "live in freedom"? This divine invitation transcends common notions, leading to a purposeful life centered on God's will. It helps us focus less on personal desires and more on faith-driven choices.

Delving into freedom, Romans 6:7 emerges as a vital companion. This verse declares, "For anyone who has died has been set free from sin." At first glance, it's a simple proclamation, but within its phrasing lies a profound revelation.

The notion of being "set free from sin" aligns with themes in Galatians 5:13-14. It's a declaration of the transformative power of Christ's sacrifice — a reminder that our freedom isn't just abstract but a tangible reality. This freedom stems from our faith journey: a release from sin's chains achieved through our Savior's selflessness.

As we age, we look not just backward but forward to the glorious destination freedom in Christ promises. Our experiences, triumphs and tribulations alike, testify to the journey — a journey toward full freedom where we shed sin's last vestiges and stand fully liberated.

The timeless hymn "Amazing Grace" comes to mind. Its words resonate with the exploration — freedom, grace, God's love. "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home."

Christian freedom is rooted in God's grace. It's not earned through human effort but received as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ. This grace is the basis for salvation and the transformation of believers' lives. Just as "Amazing Grace" reminds us, faith's journey unfolds with grace's beauty, guiding us toward freedom to live in His love.

Worship Anew in October

Year 2023 | Series A



October 1, 2023 – Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Psalm 25:1-10; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Matthew 21:23-27
“By What Authority” – Sermon Text: Matthew 21:23
Rev. Shayne Jonker

By what authority? Jesus' own words and works gave witness to His authority. He told the religious authorities as much. If you don't believe His words, then look at His works. Healing the sick, casting out demons, stilling storms, walking on water, raising the dead. These are the works that God does, and only one who is authorized by God can do these kinds of things. The words and miracles of Jesus are His badge of authority.



October 8, 2023 – Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Psalm 80:7-19; Isaiah 5:1-7; Matthew 21:33-46
“Faithful Vinedressers” – Sermon Text: Matthew 21:33-46
Rev. Paul Shoemaker

In the parable of the wicked vinedressers Jesus recounts how God's chosen people, Israel, were unfaithful to their calling. The Christian Church, which is the New Israel, is to be faithful to God's calling by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.



October 15, 2023 – Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
Psalm 23; Isaiah 25:6-9; Matthew 22:1-14
“Kingly Love” – Sermon Text: Matthew 22:1-14
Rev. William Mueller

During His earthly ministry Jesus loved telling parables about banquets and parties. These parables are great ways to teach the truths of His kingdom. The truth that we discover in the Parable of the Wedding Banquet is that attendance and participation in His banquet is on His terms. And His terms are lovely and gracious!



October 22, 2023 – Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost
Psalm 96; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
“Turned to God” – Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Psalm 96:1
Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection turns our lives from sin's despair and certain death to a living hope that awaits His return. We wait with a “new song” in our hearts and on our lips, a “song” of love for God and our neighbors whom He has entrusted to us. Yes, we are people who, through the Gospel's power, are TURNED TO GOD!



October 29, 2023 – Reformation (Observed)
Psalm 46; Revelation 14:6-7; John 8:31-36
“The Eternal Gospel” – Sermon Text: Revelation 14:6-7
Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Our God is consistent in all that He says and does. He has given to us an eternal Gospel. We know that this eternal Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, is an unchangeable truth, promising the reward of life in heaven.



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Re-formation

By Dick Koehneke

Grace, faith, Scripture: These are the three core principles that were at the heart of the 16th century Reformation of the church that we celebrate this month. Let's look at each one briefly to consider what it means, and how it works in our Christian faith and life.

Grace

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace that came by Christ Jesus." ~ Romans 3:23-24

Never pray this prayer: "God, give me what I deserve! I want what's coming to me!" What's coming to us sinners is death and damnation. That's what we deserve for our willful, self-centered rebellion against our holy, loving God. Thank God we don't get what's coming to us.

God's Son got what you and I deserve. The Father placed our sins upon Jesus. He credits the merits and holiness of Jesus to those who believe in His Son, and He gives us eternal life with Him. He loves us not because we deserve it, but because that's who He is: Love.

God wants us to live graciously, not grudgingly. Real "gracious living" is not about the design and decoration of your home. Gracious living means treating others as God has treated you in Christ. Gracious living is rich in joy and peace and freedom. Grace really is amazing in more ways than one — as you receive it, and as you give it.



Faith

“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” ~ Romans 3:22

The faith that works for life and salvation is faith in God’s Son Jesus Christ. We hear a lot of “faith talk” these days. Sometimes it sounds like this: “You just have to have faith.” In what? In whom? Often the answer sounds like this: “Trust yourself. Look inside for the answer.” No way. Whenever I look inside myself — deep inside — I don’t like what I see. It scares me. But then I remember the Word of God that says, “Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.” I’m so thankful that Jesus lives in me. My job every day is to get out of His way! Don’t trust yourself. Trust Jesus Christ!

Salvation comes by God’s grace through our Spirit-given faith, not by our works. So please stop beating up on yourself. Give yourself a break. As you trust in the Lord, rest in the Lord. If you are hard on other people because they aren’t as active and busy as you are, please stop being so self-righteous, OK? God is not impressed with your hectic schedule. He does not ask, “What’s on your calendar?” or “What’s in your wallet?” but “What’s in your heart?” Or even better: “Who’s in your heart? Does Jesus live there? Do you trust in my Son Jesus?” That’s faith.

Scripture

“A righteousness from God, apart from Law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.” ~ Romans 3:21

How do we come to know the grace of God in Christ? Through Scripture, the Bible. How do we get the power to trust in Christ? The Holy Spirit works in our hearts through the Word of God. Martin Luther and his colleagues were very strong on this point because there were church traditions which had arisen over the centuries that were distracting people from God’s Word, and in some cases, were in opposition to the Scriptures.

Let’s talk about your personal traditions, and mine. By that I mean habits, customs, preferences, and comfort zones. Do you have a bad habit that you need to break to be more faithful and obedient to the Lord? Are there some good habits that I need to develop to enable me to walk more closely in the steps of Christ? What does your ongoing personal “re-formation” look like?

Are your personal customs helping you walk more closely with your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, or are they getting in the way? Are your preferences in alignment with God’s preferences? In other words, do you like what God likes? Are you and I sometimes more concerned with our comfort than with our faithfulness?

Let’s practice making our daily decisions based on the Word of God, not our habits and customs and preferences and comfort zones. Obey the commands of God. Trust the promises of God. Give God the last word in your decision-making.

***GRACE, FAITH, SCRIPTURE:** Three core principles of the 16th century Reformation of the church. These same principles are at the heart of the ongoing “re-formation” of every follower and friend of Jesus Christ, as God in His grace, through faith in His Son, working by His Word, transforms us more and more into the likeness of Christ, until that great, glorious, eternal day when we shall be perfectly like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*



The Power of a Positive Review

By Gina Teeple
Director of Development
and Ministry Relations

My stomach lurched and my hands began to sweat as I stared up at the twisted metal overhead. I shifted my weight from one foot to the other, gently rocking back and forth. I tried slowly breathing in through my nose and out through my mouth, but it didn't seem to help.

I was standing in line to ride the Millennium Force at Cedar Point. At the time, it was the tallest roller coaster and the first to top 300 feet. It also had the longest drop and the fastest speed, topping out at 93 miles per hour. All my friends were riding it, so I clearly had to ride it, too. But adrenaline was rushing through my body, and all I wanted to do was run far, far away.

Desperate, I turned to the smiling 9-year-old boy standing in line behind me.

"Have you been on this before?" I asked.

"Yes!" He said enthusiastically.

"Is it scary? Did you like it?"

"Yes!" He said enthusiastically. He pointed to everyone getting off the ride. "See — they liked it, too!"

I looked where he was pointing and, sure enough, everyone getting off the ride was smiling and talking animatedly. I looked back at the boy and thought, if he can do this, I can do this. And I did.

It was AMAZING! Two thumbs up! 4.8 out of 5 stars!

I never would have gotten on that roller coaster if he had not shared his personal experience with me. Apparently, I am not the only one who relies on recommendations. Nielsen studies on trust in advertising found that 70 percent of people will trust a recommendation from someone they don't even know (think online reviews), while 92 percent of people will trust recommendations from people they know.

Personal recommendations are powerful, and not just when it comes to buying things. Throughout scripture, we see how someone's recommendation, or testimony, leads others to Christ.



"Worship Anew gave us the fulfillment that we needed."

WORSHIP ANEW VIEWER FROM ILLINOIS



“Great way to share God’s blessings.”

WORSHIP ANEW VIEWER FROM ARIZONA

We see this in the Gospel of John as we read about Jesus calling his disciples:

The next day John (the Baptist) was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter). John 1:35-42

Did you notice there are TWO trusted recommendations in this story? First, John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God, and his two disciples begin to follow Jesus. Then one of those disciples, Andrew, finds his brother and brings him to Jesus.

The story of the Samaritan woman at the well is another excellent example. After talking with Jesus at the well, John 4:28 tells us the Samaritan woman left her water jar, went back to town and said to the people, “Come, see

a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be Messiah?”

From her conversation with Jesus, we know this woman had a bit of a reputation. There was a chance the townspeople would not even listen to her, let alone believe her. Yet “they came out of the town and made their way toward him (29)” and “many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony ... (39).”

Not just SOME of the Samaritans — MANY. Personal recommendations are powerful!

At Worship Anew, we are reminded of this when we receive testimonials from people who are positively impacted by our ministry. Many began watching our television program or reading our daily devotional based on a recommendation from a family member or friend, and their lives were changed by the Gospel message!

The next time you have an opportunity to share your faith with others by inviting someone to church, passing along a devotional booklet, or telling them about ministries like Worship Anew, remember your recommendation is impactful. That is why we can boldly do what the Psalmist encourages us to do:

“Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” (Psalms 96:2-3)

REFLECTION

- » Can you think of a time when someone else decided something based on your recommendation? How did that make you feel?
- » Was your faith ever influenced by someone else’s recommendation? What did they recommend?
- » What are some things you can recommend to others to share your faith?

Did you know?

That most retirees are Christians but not churchgoers?

This and other important information for aging adults is found in our new journal in collaboration with Barna, *Aging Well*.

We highly recommend picking one up starting October 17 at shop.barna.com



*Information from Barna’s “Aging Well”

This December, we are expanding our monthly Broadcaster into a magazine! It will still have the same great content that you enjoy, but it will have even more helpful and inspiring articles.



Subscribe to our new and expanded Broadcaster magazine! We have created a new magazine thanks to a grant from the Lutheran Women in Mission – LWML.

Sign up to receive the Broadcaster for free in print or by email by contacting us at info@worshipanew.org or (888) 286-8002



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

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