

October 2025

BROADCASTER

A magazine of Worship Anew

60 years
OF WORSHIP ANEW



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Celebrating God's Faithfulness

carry it forward. Each character serves faithfully for a season, contributing to a purpose far greater than themselves.

Their story reminds us that God often works through generations — calling each person to play their part in His unfolding plan. Just as Frodo could not bear the burden alone, we too are invited into community, each serving a role in advancing the growth of God's kingdom.

"The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 103:17).

This October, we celebrate three significant milestones:

- ▶ **60 years** since the founding of what was then known as Worship for Shut-Ins (now Worship Anew).
- ▶ **45 years** since we became incorporated as Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.
- ▶ **15 years** since the dedication of the Elsie Rossman Media Center and the Wolf Chapel.

These are not just markers of time but testimonies to God's constant faithfulness and the legacy of those who have faithfully carried out their ministry in service to our God and King.

As we celebrate, we do so with gratitude for those who came before us and with hope for those who will follow. The work of sharing God's Word through Worship Anew continues, not because of any one person, but because of the steadfast love of the Lord, "from everlasting to everlasting."

The beloved hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," authored by Isaac Watts, captures this truth so beautifully: "O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home."

This hymn echoes Psalm 90:1-2 (ESV): "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations ... from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

Matthew F. Leighty

Matthew F. Leighty
Executive Director

One of my favorite stories is "The Lord of the Rings," which was adapted into a movie trilogy in the early 2000s. Every December, you would find me in a theater eagerly awaiting the next installment.

In both "The Lord of the Rings" and its precursor, "The Hobbit," we witness Bilbo beginning a journey that ultimately leads to the discovery of the One Ring. In time, he passes this burden to Frodo, who relies on the steadfast support of Sam to



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



It reminds us that, while our time on earth is brief, God's word is eternal.

As Isaiah 40:8 (ESV) affirms: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Time and again, I'm reminded of the Lord's blessings in allowing us to carry out a ministry that touches so many lives. Through Worship Anew, we walk alongside aging adults and their caregivers, providing resources for their spiritual, mental, and physical wellbeing.

By God's grace, we're reaching more and more people with the love of Jesus Christ through our weekly televised program "Worship Anew," our daily devotional Hope-Full Living, our Care Ministry, and this monthly Broadcaster magazine.

For so many years, Worship Anew has brought the Word of God into homes across the country. Today, our programs are available on local

broadcasts, TCT, the American Forces Network, and streaming through Smart TVs and YouTube. Each program shares the Good News of Jesus Christ and speaks to the unique struggles of older adults.

These anniversaries serve not as a conclusion but as a springboard for future growth. As we look ahead, our prayer is that Worship Anew continues to be a beacon of hope for aging adults and their caregivers, offering Christ-centered resources that speak to the heart in this critical season of life.

I am humbled and grateful to have served with this ministry for more than 10 years. I've witnessed firsthand how God uses your prayers and support to transform lives with the Gospel.

As we look back on these milestones, we do so with hearts full of gratitude — and with eyes fixed on the future. This ministry has

never been about one person or one generation; it has always been about Christ and His unchanging Word.

Would you join us in celebrating God's faithfulness?

- **Pray** for this ministry and for those we serve.
- **Share** Worship Anew's resources with someone who needs the comfort of God's Word.
- **Support** this mission through your gifts, ensuring that the Gospel continues to reach those who need it most.

Together, we proclaim the truth of Psalm 100:5 (ESV): "For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. May God bless you as we rejoice in His help in ages past and trust Him as our hope for years to come.

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children.

Psalm 103:15-17 ESV

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Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege will serve as a guest pastor on “Worship Anew” on Oct. 26.

HOMECOMING

Rev. Brege returns as guest pastor for Reformation

For 27 years, Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege served as a pastor on “Worship Anew.” After seven years, he is returning to the program as a guest pastor for Reformation Sunday on Oct. 26.

Brege served as a pastor on “Worship Anew” (then known as “Worship for Shut-Ins”) from 1992 to 2018.

He returns to the ministry to share the message of God’s Law and His Gospel.

“We need a clear proclamation of Law and Gospel and how the Law shows us our sins,” he said. “The Law does not save us. It is God’s Law that is summarized with love.”

Brege wants viewers to hear through this message that we have all sinned — we are a slave to sin — but Christ’s death on the cross shows us His love for us.

“He gave His perfect love for us and died and paid for our sins so that we get

to dwell in the house of the Lord forever,” he said.

Brege’s return to the Worship Anew studio was like a homecoming for him. Many of the same familiar faces greeted him, including staff and volunteers, and he appreciated the consistency that has stuck with the program over the years.

“I don’t remember everybody’s name, but I certainly remember the faces,” he said. “What a treasure it is to have these (individuals) who give of their time and talents to make this program work.”

For Brege, it was very familiar stepping back in front of the camera. “Worship Anew” program has been able to keep a similar format for the message, similar readings, and a style that he knows the viewers appreciate.

“It was, of course, nostalgic. I wondered whether I would be able to just shoehorn myself back into it, and I thought it went really well,” he said. “As far as the actual recording, it’s very, very similar to what it was when I finished (on the program).”

Brege is currently semi-retired and fills vacancies as needed at various churches. He previously served as a pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Decatur, Ind. (known locally as St. Paul-Preble) as well as serving as the Indiana LCMS District president, a position he took on when he left Worship Anew. He served as district president from 2018 to 2022.

Viewers can hear Brege’s message, “In Christ’s Word,” on “Worship Anew” on Oct. 26. He brings the powerful words of Martin Luther from the Protestant Reformation, which will be celebrated that day.

“Christ’s Word is what Christians must continually hear,” Brege said. “That Word spoken again and again by Jesus includes the harshest Law and then the sweetest Gospel.”

Check your local listings or visit WorshipAnew.org/where-to-watch to see a full list of where to watch or listen to “Worship Anew.”



Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege served as a pastor for “Worship for Shut-Ins” (the previous name of “Worship Anew”) from 1992 to 2018.

“What a treasure it is to have these (individuals) who give of their time and talents to make this program work.”

~ Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege

A vision to support the homebound

By Lucy Moll
Worship Anew Intern



The weekly televised worship service, then known as “Worship for Shut-Ins,” began in Toledo, Ohio, with the Rev. Oswald Henry Bertram.

Bertram starts Worship for Shut-Ins in 1965 in Ohio

In 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV), the Lord commands to “use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” One man of God who made these words his mission was the Rev. Oswald Henry Bertram, the founder of Worship for Shut-Ins, now named Worship Anew.

Bertram was born in Iowa and attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. In 1964, he was working at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio, and pitched the idea of a church service that would be recorded and broadcast to a local television station. Bertram had seen the need to make the worship of God accessible to the many homebound believers who were unable to attend church in person, calling his new program “Worship for Shut-Ins.”

The first service was aired by WSPD-TV in 1965 and continued weekly through the next decade. As Bertram worked tirelessly to spread God’s Word, he continued to care for his wife, Lorna Kern, and daughter, who blessed him with two grandchildren. Kern died in 1970, and Bertram later married Sarah “Sally” Martin.

After many years dedicated to spreading the Gospel through the program, Bertram died of cancer in 1979.

Bertram’s legacy endures today with more than 60 television stations proclaiming the Gospel all over the world.

Since 2007, faithful volunteers of Worship Anew are honored with the The Rev. Oswald Bertram Award. This honor is presented to volunteers who give of their time and energy to share God’s Word through this ministry just as Bertram did.



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, WORLDWIDE REACH

The “Worship Anew” program began on one station and has grown to a worldwide presence on more than 60 stations, nationwide on TCT, worldwide on the American Forces Network, and streaming anywhere on Smart devices and YouTube.

***On your Local
Broadcast & Streaming***



@WorshipAnew.LMM



@WorshipAnewOnline



@WorshipAnew

***On Social
Media***

***On your
Phone & Tablet***



Learn more at WorshipAnew.org/where-to-watch

Advancing technologies help advance the Gospel

*By Thomas Moll
Director of Content & Innovation*



When Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Castle Church door on October 31, 1517, he couldn't have imagined that Johannes Gutenberg's printing press would carry his words across Europe within months. The Reformation coincided with a communications revolution that God used to advance His kingdom.

From Gutenberg's movable type to today's digital streaming, each technological leap has transformed how we share the Gospel. The printing press mass produced Scripture, putting God's Word directly into believers' hands. Radio brought church services into homes during the 1920s, while television in the 1950s allowed congregations to see their pastors and experience worship visually.

The evolution of video technology has been particularly transformative for this ministry. In 1964, Rev. Oswald Henry Bertram embodied this vision when he approached WSPD-TV in Toledo, Ohio, with a bold idea: using television to reach shut-ins with Christ's love. His program, "Worship for Shut-Ins," first aired in 1965 using the bulky television cameras and expensive equipment that limited religious broadcasting to visionary pioneers like Bertram.

The internet revolution of the 2000s created unprecedented opportunities, and in 2010, the ministry achieved a milestone with a state-of-the-art media center on Concordia Theological Seminary's campus. This facility expanded the reach of the program to thousands worldwide.

Today's smartphones contain video capabilities that surpass professional equipment from just decades ago. High-definition recording, instant editing, and immediate global distribution are literally at our fingertips, and because of this, Worship Anew was able to expand its offerings to provide video and written content on mobile apps and smart televisions.

Each advancement — from Luther's pamphlets to today's global streaming — reminds us that the message remains constant while the methods evolve.

Worship Anew continues to faithfully share God's unchanging Word. We rest on the assurance of Isaiah 55:11, which reminds us that God's Word will not return empty but will accomplish His purpose.





Worship Anew in October

Year 2025 | Series C



Fan Into Flame

October 5, 2025 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. William Mueller

The apostle Paul, while imprisoned and most likely very near his upcoming execution, writes one more letter to Pastor Timothy. Through this text God is reminding us — who are the people He has used in our life to bring and grow us in faith in Jesus Christ? And He is challenging us — who are the people God is using us to encourage and grow someone in faith in Jesus Christ?

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Readings: Psalm 62; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10

Featured Choirs: St. John Lutheran School, Plymouth, Wis.;

Holy Cross Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: St. John's Lutheran Church, Lexington, Ky.



Thankful for Being Thankful

October 12, 2025 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Paul Shoemaker

The miracle of healing the 10 lepers reminds us of the earthly healing and support we receive from God. The one thankful leper reminds us of the miracle of true faith in Jesus, a faith that heals us eternally.

Sermon Text: Luke 17:11-19

Readings: Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:1-13; Luke 17:11-19

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

Featured Art and Architecture: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hamler, Ohio



What Will Jesus Find?

October 19, 2025 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Prayer is one of the gifts that God has given to us. Sometimes it is easy to pray and other times it seems difficult. The Good News is we always have help when we pray and a loving Father who always listens.

Sermon Text: Luke 18:1

Readings: Psalm 121; Genesis 32:22-30; Luke 18:1-8

Featured Choirs: Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.;

St. Peter's Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.

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



In Christ's Word

October 26, 2025 – Reformation Day (observed) ~ Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege, Guest Pastor

Christ's Word is what Christians must continually hear. That Word spoken again and again by Jesus includes the harshest Law and then the sweetest Gospel. Martin Luther realized this truth.

Sermon Text: John 8:31-32

Readings: Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

Featured Choir: Choir of the Council of Presidents of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

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



PROCLAIMING PURE GOSPEL

LCMS Council of Presidents records hymns for Worship Anew

On the morning of April 28, the studio boomed from the awe-inspiring praise coming from the voices of the Council of Presidents of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS).

On Oct. 26 during Reformation Sunday, you will be able to hear those voices for the first time on “Worship Anew.”

This group of men, the Council of Presidents, are the presidents and vice presidents of the 35 LCMS districts across the country as well as the International Office in St. Louis, Mo. The Council of Presidents meets four times per year for “mutual counsel regarding the doctrine and administration of the Synod and to edify and support one another in the work that they share, those responsibilities found throughout the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod,” according to the LCMS website. For their April meeting, they were at the Concordia

Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, which provided an opportunity to record at Worship Anew.

“I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the visit to Worship Anew by members of the Council of Presidents. It was truly an honor to host the group, and their presence was a tremendous blessing to our ministry,” said Matthew Leighty, executive director of Worship Anew. “The support and encouragement from the Council of Presidents means a great deal to us. The hymns sung by the Council of Presidents Choir will be a great blessing to our viewers.”

They recorded two hymns, “The Church’s One Foundation” and “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word,” and both will be shown on the Oct. 26 program of “Worship Anew.”



On April 28, the Council of Presidents recorded two hymns for "Worship Anew," which will air on Oct. 26.

"What a blessing it is for the pure Gospel to be proclaimed to edify people through Worship Anew," said the Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan, president of the Missouri District of the LCMS. He helped to organize the men to come and sing. "We hope that our participation simply supports the ongoing work to share God's Word through the various media platforms."

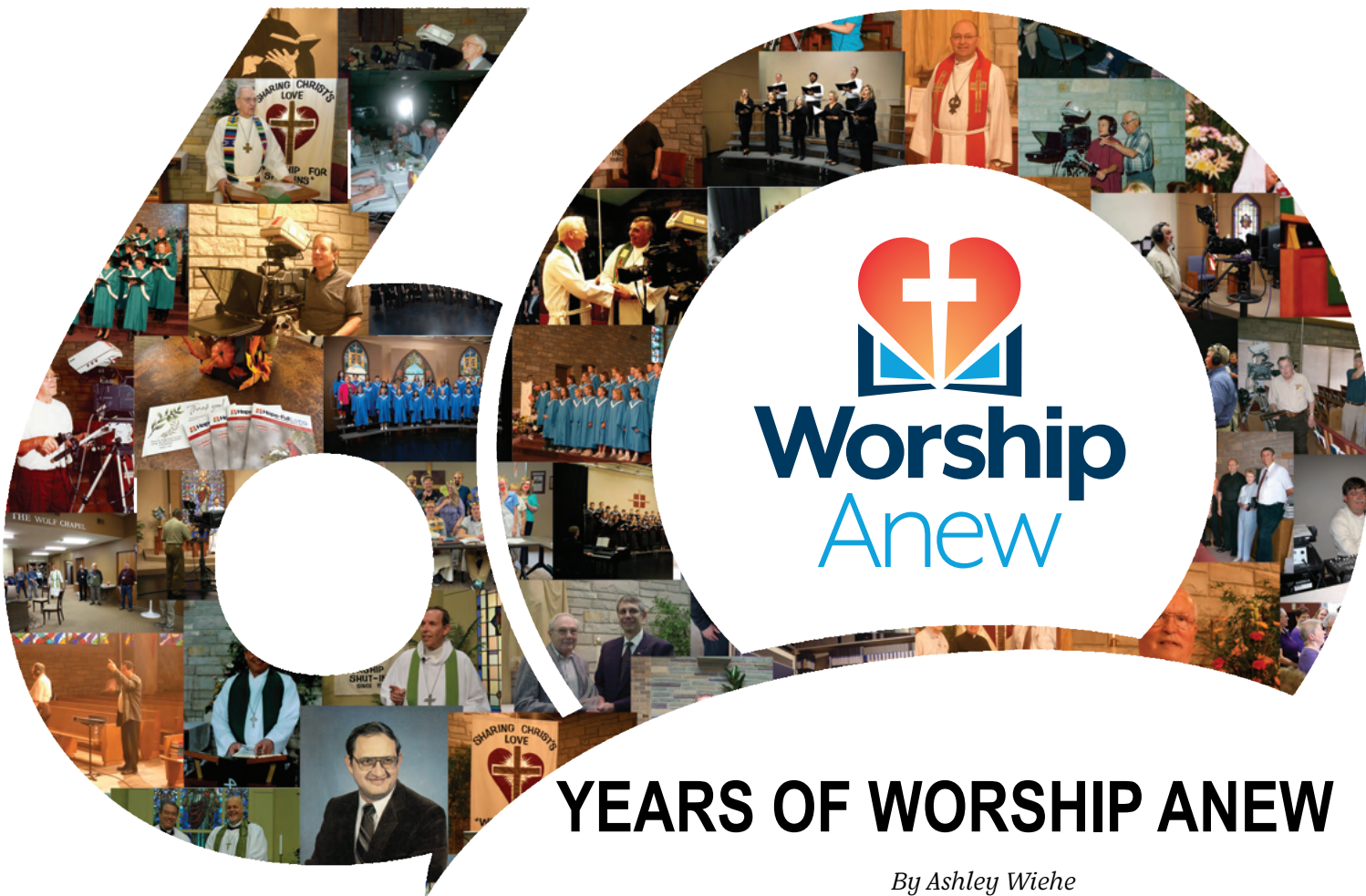
The men were led in song by the Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor, president of the Atlantic District of the LCMS.

"All those voices singing in chorus was a treat," he said. "Faith in Christ crucified and risen for us undergirds the musical gifts shared by these holy men and this informs

their pastoral desire to bring the Good News of Jesus to people through the recording of hymns."

These men hope that Christ will be shared to all their districts through the message in their music, and that they would continue to hear the messages each week through Worship Anew.

"These recordings are a treasure and gift that can be used in congregations, schools, and agencies to share the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord," Taylor said. "How blessed we are that Worship Anew makes these and other resources available to us as we are 'Making Disciples for Life' in the mighty name of Jesus!"



YEARS OF WORSHIP ANEW

*By Ashley Wiehe
Director of Communications*

Amid sickness, isolation, and in the final moments of life, countless viewers have turned to Worship Anew for the words of comfort in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“Thank you for filling an important part of our life.”

“It is always a blessing to me, and the most important part of my day.”

“It has meant so much to me.”

For decades, the “Worship Anew” program has come into the homes of those in need across the country and around the world to share the Gospel. This month, Worship Anew joins with viewers in celebrating 60 years of this television ministry.

THE BEGINNING

The weekly televised worship service, then known as “Worship for Shut-Ins,” began in Toledo, Ohio, with the Rev. Oswald Henry Bertram.

Bertram had a vision for using technology to reach

those in need, especially those who could not attend church on a regular basis, to share Christ’s love and salvation. In 1964, Bertram approached a local television station about creating a televised weekly worship service, ultimately convincing them to produce the program. The program was filmed at WSPD-TV in Toledo and first aired in 1965.

The program enjoyed over a decade of successful broadcasts until the Lord called Bertram home. As a result, production of Worship for Shut-Ins ceased, leaving a tremendous void.

Knowing the importance of the program for so many who were homebound, the leadership of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind., took the issue to their congregation. “Worship for Shut-Ins” was re-established, and Lutheran Ministries Media Inc. was founded. On Oct. 5, 1980, the program aired on WPTA (Fort Wayne’s local ABC station) with the Rev. Jim Stalder giving the first message.

The program was filmed in the Lupke Memorial Chapel on the campus of Holy Cross with leadership from Ray Huebschman, minister of Christian education at

Holy Cross, and the pastoral leadership of Stalder and the Rev. John Westra. The program continued with this format through the 1980s and into the 1990s, eventually adding a rotation of other pastors from the Fort Wayne area, as well as guest pastors from across the country.

“It’s been amazing how God has blessed the message that has been shared, so it was important and specific to that day and that hour, not because we planned it, but because He blessed it — and He continues to bless us,” Westra said during an interview for the 50th anniversary of the program in 2015.

“Lutheran Ministries Media is made up of so many volunteers, besides the staff, that make the ministry tick, so to speak, and to be functional,” said Ken Schlif, who served with the ministry from 1984 to 2014. He was honored with the title of executive director emeritus upon his retirement in 2014.

By 1992, the ministry added Don Luepke as the host to provide a regular face for viewers as the pastors would rotate in and out each week.

Luepke provided a “welcoming voice,” as he shared, for the viewers that would then pave the way for the pastors to share their message and the choirs to share their music.

“I wanted (the viewers) to be a part of the service,” Luepke said. “They were shut in, but they were not shut down. We didn’t want them to be shut out from worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ.”

MAKING CHRIST’S MESSAGE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE

In the late 1990s, the program grew into other areas of the Midwest, expanding into markets in southern Illinois, Michigan, and Chicago, and by the early 2000s, “Worship for Shut-Ins” was aired nationwide with the partnership with TCT, an all-Christian television network.

Growth in the ministry, as well as growth within the congregation at Holy Cross, created the need for a new facility to film the program.

“Holy Cross’s ministry was growing too so we started looking,” Schlif said. “After some extensive talks with Concordia Theological Seminary here in Fort Wayne,

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1965

The Rev. Oswald Bertram hosts the first broadcast of “Worship for Shut-Ins” on WSPD-TV, reaching homebound Christians in Toledo, Ohio.

1979

Rev. Bertram dies of cancer on May 29, and weekly broadcasts end.

The Rev. Jim Stalder and the Rev. John Westra at Holy Cross Lutheran Church form Lutheran Ministries Media to continue the “Worship for Shut-Ins” program. Ray Huebschman is named the executive director of the ministry.

1980



Huebschman steps down, and Ken Schlif leads the program.



Worship for Shut-Ins

1984

The television program begins to expand into other markets.

1990

Don Luepke is named the first host of the program.

1992



The television program airs nationwide on TCT.

2000s

Ken Schlif is named the full-time executive director of the ministry.

2003



The ministry breaks ground on a new facility on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

2009



2010

The Elsie Rossman Media Center and the Wolf Chapel open.





2014

Matthew Leighty is appointed executive director of the ministry.



2017

The program expands to benefit a broader audience of Christians, prompting a name change to Worship Anew.

Eric Kaschinske replaces Don Luepke as host of the weekly services.

2018



Worship Anew starts publishing Hope-Full Living devotionals after acquiring this much-beloved publication.

2020



2021

The Care Ministry is launched, and care packages are provided to aging adults in need.

The Broadcaster newsletter expands to a monthly magazine, thanks to a grant from the Lutheran Women in Mission – LWML.

2023



2025



Use your camera app to scan the QR code to watch the video or visit our YouTube channel at youtube.com/@worshipanewonline

Worship Anew celebrates 60 years of the television program, 45 years since the start of Lutheran Ministries Media in Fort Wayne, and 15 years in the current facility. Watch this anniversary tribute video.

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they offered several facilities to us.”

When two adjacent buildings became available, the ministry knew it had found its new home.

Construction began on April 21, 2009, to take an early childhood center and the adjacent building and turn it into a TV studio, editing spaces, a meeting room, and offices that were needed for the growing ministry.

The two buildings were combined with an atrium, and a 2,500 square foot television studio was added on the back of the two buildings. Donald Amt was brought in to design the chancel area that is seen where the pastors stand.

“I tried to give the impression of a vaulted ceiling, including the stained-glass windows. I wanted the space to look like a real chancel (in a church),” he said. “It was a privilege to have designed this space to the glory of God.”

The Elsie Rossman Media Center opened in 2010. It was named in memory of Elsie Rossman, who died after a 17-year fight with cancer. She and her husband, Glenn, were longtime volunteers at the ministry. The first program recorded in the Wolf Chapel (named for W. Paul Wolf, a major supporter of the ministry) aired on Oct. 3, 2010.

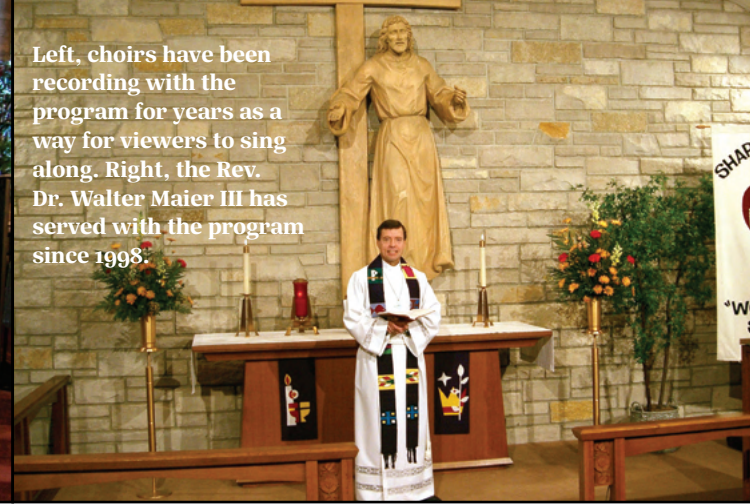
In 2017, the ministry changed its name from Worship for Shut-Ins to Worship Anew and expanded the ministry to not just focus on those who are homebound but to support the spiritual, mental, and physical wellbeing of aging adults and those who minister and care for them.

In time, the reach of the program grew to more than 60 markets nationwide. It gained an international presence with the addition of the American Forces Network, which airs the program for those serving abroad, as well as the addition of streaming options.

“Worship Anew has grown from a regional ministry into a nationwide presence, now reaching viewers across the U.S. and even globally,” said Matthew Leighty, who has served as the executive director since 2014. “I see us expanding not just digitally, but relationally — through deeper partnerships with churches, care communities, and individuals. Our goal is to make Christ’s comfort and hope available to everyone, in every place, in every way possible.”



Left, choirs have been recording with the program for years as a way for viewers to sing along. Right, the Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III has served with the program since 1998.



BEYOND TELEVISION

As the ministry has grown, the needs of aging adults are growing even more rapidly. Over the next two decades, the number of people 65 and older in the United States is expected to grow from 54.1 million in 2019 to 80.9 million in 2040. Many of these aging adults are experiencing some of life's most difficult circumstances, including illness, loss, fear, regret, and sadness.

To help to meet these needs, the ministry has spent the last five years growing its resources, including the addition of publications and a Care Ministry.

In 2020, Hope-Full Living, a daily devotional for seniors, was coming to an end with its current publisher. This was a much-beloved publication for viewers of Worship Anew so the team worked to bring the publication to the ministry.

"We knew the people who were dearly engaged with the work of that devotional, and we knew that that was something that we did not want to see come to an end," Leighty said. "Especially as we minister to older adults, we knew this was going to be a marvelous fit for our organization and for the work that we did in sharing God's Word."

Shortly thereafter, the need grew again.

"As we think back to 2021 and when the board of directors set a new strategic plan, one of the key aspects of that was to strengthen the relationships that we had with the people we're ministering to," Leighty said.

The Care Ministry was created to provide care packages for aging adults who are facing some of life's hardest times. Hundreds of care packages have been sent out since that time. However, a trending need among the recipients began to surface: Many who were receiving these comfort items were facing a loss. Worship Anew is

currently working to launch a Grief Ministry to meet that need.

"It's a great, very well thought out care package that really touches the hearts of people who receive them, and especially for those who send it," Leighty said. "They are just so encouraged to be able to have this way to share Christ's love."

As the ministry began to examine how to support the spiritual, mental, and physical wellbeing of aging adults, a grant was sought to expand the current Broadcaster newsletter into a full, 24-page magazine. The new monthly magazine launched in December 2023 and is available for free to any individual or church who is interested in subscribing.

"More than utilizing the newest technology, it's about making Christ's message available to everyone, in every way possible," Leighty said. "The continued growth of the Broadcaster magazine is a powerful sign of that mission in action — bringing hope and encouragement directly into the hands of aging adults and those who care for them."

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Sixty years ago, the Rev. Oswald Henry Bertram had a dream to share the Gospel with those who were unable to go to church. Whether at home, in a care facility, or reaching into the arms of their Savior in their last moments, Bertram's vision continues to be fulfilled, to grow, and to reach more and more each day.

The future brings increasing needs but increasing opportunities to share the Gospel with aging adults.

As Bertram shared, "Let Christ be glorified in all undertakings and all presentations."



The Rev. Paul Shoemaker, left, has been a regular pastor on “Worship Anew” since 1994 and has appeared the most times on the program. He smiles here with the Rev. Terry Cripe, right, who served as a guest pastor on the program.

Double your impact for the ministry

By Jon Dize, CFRE
Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”

Mark 16:15 ESV

This year marks a big milestone for us — 60 years of proclaiming the Gospel through the airwaves, reaching hearts and homes across the nation and beyond. From humble beginnings in Toledo, Ohio, to a thriving ministry across the world, we stand in awe of what God has done through your faithful partnership with us.

As we celebrate this 60th anniversary, our mission is far from over! While we are on the air in more than 60 markets across the country and for the military around the world, there are still many regions, and seniors, that do not yet receive the Gospel every week.

Today, we invite you to be part of a powerful opportunity.

Will you help us raise \$60,000 this fall to support and grow our ministry?

Please consider a gift of \$60, \$560, \$1,060. We ask you to prayerfully consider a gift over and above your usual year-

end giving that you may already be planning in the next few months.

Thanks to a generous donor, every gift will be matched — dollar for dollar — up to \$60,000, for a total goal of \$120,000 to proclaim the life-saving truth of Jesus Christ to seniors and others in need in your area and around the world.

By doubling the impact and continuing this legacy of faith, your support will help us:

- ▶ **Strengthen our current resources.**
- ▶ **Launch into new regions hungry for God’s Word.**
- ▶ **Equip our ministry to reach you and those you care about.**

Together, we can ensure that this message of hope continues to echo across the world for the next 60 years and beyond.



How your impact counts

2,306

***“Worship Anew”
Programs created
since 1980***
**As of Dec. 31, 2024*

66

***Markets showing
Worship Anew
nationwide***

15,761

***Hope-Full Living
devotionals
distributed
each quarter***

4,983

***Broadcaster
magazines
distributed
each month***

656

***Care Packages
mailed to those
in need since
the start of the
program***

Why do you have six regular pastors on the “Worship Anew” program?

Our rotation of six Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) pastors allows viewers to connect with different preaching styles and personalities. Having multiple pastors also provides continuity if one pastor retires or becomes unavailable, ensuring the ministry continues without interruption.

We’ve had fewer in the past but have found that having six pastors works well for our recording schedule. On most Tuesday mornings throughout our production season, we have three pastors who come in to record (one at 9:00 a.m., one at 10:00 a.m., and one at 11:00 a.m.). With six pastors, we can alternate the schedule, and it works well with our team and with our amazing pastors who volunteer their time.

What’s the significance of Worship Anew being on both traditional TV and streaming platforms?

Many of our older viewers learned to watch us on traditional television and prefer that familiar format, while streaming allows family members to share the program with loved ones anywhere in the world. This dual approach honors our history while embracing the future, ensuring no one is left behind due to technology preferences. Being on military networks through the American Forces Network (AFN) also allows us to minister to service members and families stationed globally who may be far from their home churches.

How are the choirs and hymns selected?

We have relationships with many amazing church and school choirs from across the country who come to our studio in Fort Wayne, Ind., to record. Many are in and around the Fort Wayne area, but we also have touring choirs who come through and include us as one of their stops. We have a list of favorite hymns, thematic hymns, and the hymns of the day that we ask choirs to record for use on our program. Choirs also come with music they’ve selected that highlight their unique gifts, and we love to feature those songs, as well. Contact us if your choir would like to record for our program!

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!

The importance of caring for the homebound

By Rev. Richard “Kip” Smith

God created us social beings. We were divinely designed to interact and communicate with one another. That’s why God said in Genesis 2:18 ESV, “It is not good that the man (or woman) should be alone.” All of us have an innate need to see people, hear people, and talk with people. For extroverts, this need is more constant. For introverts, it’s more sporadic. But, we all have this need. Just spend a little time with a 2-year-old, and they will prove this to you, especially when you are talking with someone else on the telephone.

As we age, however, the opportunities to have our communication needs met become more limited. Kids leave home and start their own lives. Retirement brings an end to daily chit-chat with coworkers. Night blindness keeps us from going out to social functions after dark. (I have experienced all of these firsthand.) The loss of a spouse — or our own failing health — can leave us feeling even more cut off from social interaction. And it is lonely.

When I was still active in parish ministry and my mother was still alive, I tried to call her about twice a week. I could tell within the first minute of our conversation whether she had been out or talked with anyone in the past two days. If she had been out and interacted with people, we had a normal back and forth, give and take, conversation. But, if she had not talked with anyone recently, I had no choice but to just listen, and listen, and listen.

You see, she had lots of people talk at her on the television. She was up on the news, but she didn’t have anyone to listen to her thoughts, feelings, and ideas. She needed to get them out.

My mother taught me a most valuable lesson that adult children, healthcare workers, pastors, and medical personnel need to remember. Older adults need to be heard every bit as much as babies, adolescents, and newlyweds. But, some no longer have the opportunity to get that need met.

The most loving thing we can give them is the gift of listening. Their knowledge — cloaked in memories and old stories — needs to be honored. Their feelings need to be accepted and respected. Their concerns need to be heard, acknowledged, and understood.



The Rev. Richard "Kip" Smith served as a pastor on "Worship for Shut-Ins."

Here is where Worship Anew needs the help of all of our listeners.

As a former pastor on "Worship Anew," and in service with the other current and past pastors, we have the great privilege of sharing Jesus' saving Gospel with older adults, some of whom are shut-ins. We can tell them all the great things God has done for them in Jesus Christ. We can assure them that Jesus loves them. He forgives them. He is with them. He has prepared a glorious, pain-free eternity for them with Himself in heaven. We get to be God's mouthpiece to them.

But, our pastors cannot be His ears for them. Nor can we hold their hands, hug them, drop by and visit them, ask them how they are, or ask what's on their mind.

My favorite was to ask the elderly members of the congregations that I served, "How did you meet your spouse?" Boy were those stories entertaining and memorable! They loved telling them, and I loved hearing them. Then just listen.

Give them the gift of your ears and your attention. You will learn something from them, and they will love you for it.

Happy Listening!

The Rev. Richard "Kip" Smith previously served as a pastor on "Worship for Shut-Ins."

"The most loving thing we can give aging adults is the gift of listening."

~ Rev. Richard "Kip" Smith



Jesus frees us by giving us righteousness

By Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege

Read verse 34 of our study text on the opposite page. Jesus gives double verification (“truly, truly”) to the fact that everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin. That makes everyone a slave of sin, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We need to be freed from this slavery. Read verse 36. Jesus concludes this section by declaring that if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. How are we freed from slavery to sin? Jesus sets us free from sin by giving us righteousness! Let us then consider this theme of God-given righteousness.

CIVIL RIGHTEOUSNESS

We usually think of righteousness as a behavior and an attitude in line with God’s law. This is not wrong. From a purely human perspective, a righteous person is one who is good and godly. In Luke 1:5–6 (ESV), Zechariah and Elizabeth are observed to be outwardly righteous: “... there was a priest named Zechariah ... and he had a wife ... and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments

and statutes of the Lord.” Zechariah and Elizabeth were each outwardly righteous. As Christians we realize that this outward “righteous” behavior makes for a stable civilization — even among non-Christians. We may refer to this as “civil righteousness.” (See also below, Zechariah’s and Elizabeth’s sanctification-related righteousness.)

RIGHTEOUSNESS MAKING A CLAIM BEFORE GOD

At the time of the Reformation, Martin Luther wrestled with the loftiest righteousness, the righteousness that makes a claim to stand before God. Civil righteousness (as just identified with Zechariah and Elizabeth) cannot make a claim of righteousness before God. Luther, like Saint Paul centuries before, came to realize from Scripture that a righteousness that is derived from keeping God’s Law is totally insufficient in God’s presence. Those in Paul’s day who claimed that such a “good-works-righteousness” had merit before God were the Pharisees. In Luther’s day, it was the warped doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church that claimed our righteous works had

merit before God. Scripture indicates that before God, our righteous deeds are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). We need God’s righteousness; we need a righteousness that is bestowed upon us by God.

“Justified” = “Declared Righteous”

Understand that in Scripture, when speaking of our relationship before God, the word “justify” means simply to “declare righteous.” In fact a literal translation of the Greek word for justify is “righteousify.” This is not an actual English word, yet it is much like the real English word “purify” — which identifies making something pure — so “righteousify” is to make someone righteous — to declare someone righteous. Thus, when the Bible speaks of someone being “justified,” we can replace that word with “declared righteous.”

CREATING OUR JUSTIFICATION

In order to declare us righteous, Christ had to remove the filthy robe of our

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we unrighteous humans thank and praise You for creating a new righteousness for us by Your perfect life, death, and resurrection. We continually give You thanks that by faith in You through Your Word and Sacraments You have then declared us righteous. We now realize by faith alone that we have been totally freed from our slavery to sin. In Your Holy Name. Amen.



sins. He did this by bearing our sins in His body on the cross (1 Peter 2:24). He then would clothe us with righteousness. Such righteous clothing is especially associated with His resurrection. Here, we see a two-sided coin identifying our righteousness: First, when our sins are removed, we must be, in a sense, righteous. Second, when we are raised to new life — as surely as Christ rose from the dead — then we are indeed made new, declared newly righteous! Christ accomplished this, setting us free from sin, by both His death and His resurrection — both bestowed on us in our Baptism.

JUSTIFICATION DRAWN FROM JESUS' SINLESS LIFE

From another perspective, the righteousness given to us by faith is the righteousness performed by Christ in His perfect life. Unlike each of us, Jesus lived a completely righteous life, committing no sin! When we are in Christ by faith, God the Father sees Christ, and He then sees us as sinless — righteous.

RIGHTEOUS WORKS FOLLOW JUSTIFICATION

Now, having been declared righteous (justified) by faith in Jesus, we are sanctified to live outwardly righteous lives. Such righteous living is sanctification, which is the result of being justified. Along with civil righteousness, Zechariah and Elizabeth had this sanctification-related righteousness. This righteous living counts nothing toward our salvation, but it is a righteousness that naturally flows from being saved.

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege was a longtime pastor on "Worship for Shut-Ins" Read more about him on pages 4-5.

This month's study text:

The Truth Will Set You Free

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

John 8:31-36 (ESV)

Reflection Questions:

Relate civil righteousness to Romans 13:3-5. Should a Christian have such civil righteousness? Why?

Read Philippians 3:4b-9. Observe how Saint Paul relates having been a Pharisee. Instead of righteousness that comes from the Law (the teaching of Pharisees), what kind of righteousness did Paul make a claim to?

Read Romans 3:21-25. What in these verses shows the insufficiency of righteousness from good works? Realize that faith is not some "good work" we perform; it is a gift of the Holy Spirit whereby we cling to Christ.

How does such faith come into play in these verses? Note how these verses state that "the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe." Paul is indicating here that to be declared righteous by faith is not a new thing, for the Old Testament ("**the Law and the Prophets**") bear witness to it. Consider verses like Genesis 15:6 and Habakkuk 2:4 and note how Paul references these verses in Romans 1:16-17, Galatians 3:6-11, and Romans 4:2-3. Some are convinced that from Psalm 71 Luther realized that only God's righteousness mattered, and thus our righteousness had to be given to us by Him, drawn from His righteousness. Read the Psalm and write the verses that magnify God's righteousness.

Look up Galatians 2:15-16. Re-read these verses and replace the word "justified" with "declared righteous."

In Romans 4:25 what did Jesus do to remove our trespasses — our unrighteousness? (Read also verses 22-24.) Then, according to this verse, what did He do to clothe us with righteousness (justify)? How does this relate to Baptism in Colossians 2:12-13, Romans 6:3-4, and Titus 3:4-7 ("washing" here is Baptism)?

How do 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:22 present the righteous life of Jesus, whose righteousness is then ours by faith?

Explain how 1 Peter 2:24, Romans 6:4, and Ephesians 2:9-10 describe the "righteous" life that flows from our justification.

Remembering 1980 ...

By Sheila Banks
Communications Specialist

Worship Anew was reincorporated in Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1980. We celebrate 45 years of Lutheran Ministries Media this year. Here are some fun memories from 1980. What's your favorite memory from back then?



CULTURAL HAPPENINGS:

The Rubik's Cube is introduced.

The video game "Pac-Man" is released.

Fans of the popular TV show "Dallas" were asking "Who shot J.R.?"

"Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back" is in theaters.

Top TV shows: "Dallas," "The Dukes of Hazzard," "60 Minutes," "M*A*S*H," "The Love Boat."

U.S. population: 226 million

World population: 4.44 billion

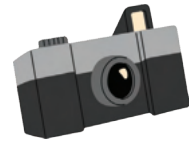
SPORTS:

Pittsburgh Steelers win Super Bowl.

Philadelphia Phillies win World Series.

Los Angeles Lakers are NBA champs.

New York Islanders win NHL Stanley Cup.



NEWSWORTHY EVENTS:

Ronald Reagan wins presidential race, beating out incumbent Jimmy Carter.

Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state erupts.

The U.S. men's hockey team won the gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y., despite low expectations. The winning game became known as "The Miracle on Ice."

The U.S. boycotts the Summer Olympics in Moscow in protest of the USSR invading Afghanistan. Numerous other countries follow suit.

The Cold War persists between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.



COST OF LIVING:

Average income per year: \$21,020

Cost of a house: \$64,600

Cost of a new car: \$6,735

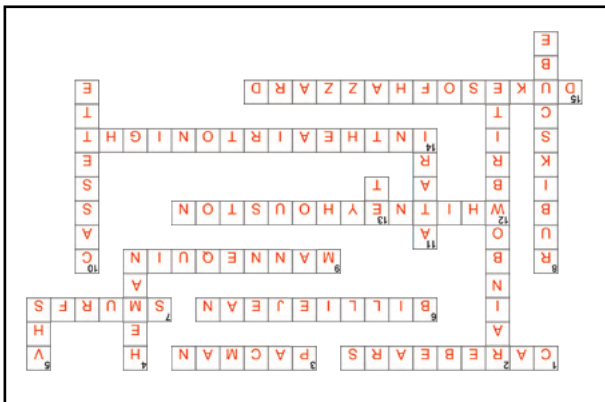
Gallon of gas: \$1.19

Gallon of milk: \$1.29

Dozen eggs: \$0.83

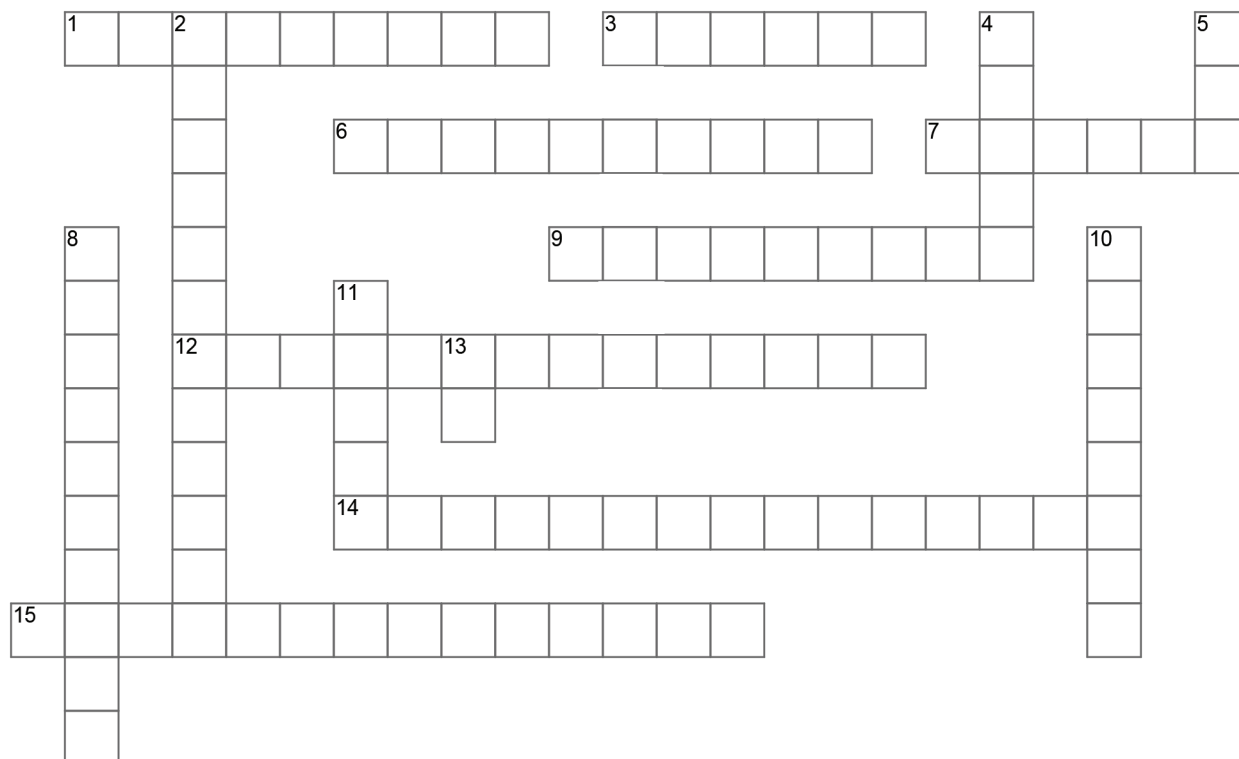
Loaf of Bread: \$0.51

First-class stamp: \$0.15





80s Crossword



ACROSS

1. Multi-colored bear characters painted by artist Elena Kucharik for American Greetings in 1981.
3. Famous arcade game first released in Japan on May 22, 1980.
6. Michael Jackson's hit single from the album, Thriller.
7. TV series cartoons with more than one hundred small characters, and their names are based on their characteristics.
9. Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now song from Starship was Featured as the theme to the romantic comedy film _____.
12. "I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)"
14. Hit single song from Phil Collins.
15. TV series with a red 1969 Dodge Charger called General Lee.

DOWN

2. A girl named Wisp with the mission to bring color to the world by locating the Sphere of Light.
4. Masters of the Universe
5. In the 80s you needed a VCR and what else for TV recording.
8. Red, yellow, blue, green, orange and white 3-D combination puzzle.
10. Was great for recording music from the radio.
11. Console to play arcade games and home video games.
13. Movie that tells the story of a lonely boy who befriends an extraterrestrial who is stranded on Earth.

ANSWERS ON OPPOSITE PAGE



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