

September 2026

BROADCASTER

A magazine of Worship Anew



Blessings
**IN UNEXPECTED
PLACES**



Matthew F. Leighty
Matthew F. Leighty
Executive Director

Cover photo by Nick Robins
 Photography for the Association for
 Christian Fundraising
 Shirley Brooks-Jones addresses the
 crowd at the Faith and Fundraising
 Conference for the Association for
 Christian Fundraising. She shared
 about her time in Newfoundland and
 the generosity of that community
 during 9/11.

Unexpected Blessings

The battery light came on just south of Chicago, and our summer vacation took an unplanned detour into a Firestone parking lot.

We were barely underway — the whole family packed in — when the alternator failed. We quickly got off the freeway and, by God's grace, made it to a Firestone that was open on a weekend. Upon arrival, a wonderful serviceman named Tim took great care of our family. While he worked, we spent two unhurried hours exploring shops we never would have visited.

I would love to tell you we prayed right there on the off-ramp. The truth is, we didn't — though we should have. But here is the wonder: God was providing anyway, before we ever thought to ask. The shop was already open. Tim was already there. Later that day as our family praised God for His provision, my confirmation passage came to mind — a little sheepishly: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"* (Philippians 4:6). His peace, which surpasses all

understanding, had guarded our hearts all along — even when we forgot to ask for it.

Here's the thing: God had already given me this lesson just weeks earlier.

On a ministry trip, I had pulled out of the rental lot in a Mercedes SUV — a surprise upgrade — and I'll admit I was excited. The excitement lasted about as long as the washer fluid did — empty — followed by a warning that the vehicle was thousands of miles overdue for service. Then, right on cue, the SUV began to shake, and the engine light glowed to life. I eased off the interstate and coasted into a gas station just south of Indianapolis — and that time, I did pray the whole way.

God provided there, too. A kind Uber driver named Sidhu gathered me and my gear and shuttled me to a replacement vehicle. I made it to my hotel that night — later than planned — in a simple Chevy SUV rather than a Mercedes. But I learned something: A plain car that runs will beat a luxury car that doesn't, every single time.



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

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***"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."******Genesis 50:20a***

Looking back at that gas station parking lot now, I think of Joseph. He, too, looked back on a broken-down journey — betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, forgotten in prison — yet he could say with confidence, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20a). Joseph didn't find blessing despite the unexpected places; God placed blessing right in the middle of them. Through Joseph's detours, God preserved His people and kept His promise that would one day lead to Christ.

Our Lord delights to work this way. Luther reminds us that God serves us through the hands of our neighbors. Sidhu and Tim were, without knowing it, instruments of His providing care.

Perhaps you find yourself in an unexpected place right now: A hospital room. A care facility. A quiet house that used to be full. A season you didn't choose and wouldn't have planned. Dear friend, God has not left you stranded. The same Lord who met Joseph in a prison cell and met me at a gas station meets you

exactly where you are, and He brings blessings with Him.

I know, too, that not every breakdown ends in a two-hour repair. Some of you have stood at a grave side; some have waited for help that never came. God's Word does not promise that every story resolves by lunchtime. Joseph waited years in that prison, and Paul wrote "do not be anxious about anything" (Philippians 4:6a) from a Roman cell. The blessing God promises is not always the rescue we ask for. It is something greater: Christ Himself, who does not watch our breakdowns from a distance but enters into them and never leaves, even in the valley of the shadow.

This is the very heart of Worship Anew. A television broadcast might seem like an unexpected place to find the church, but every week, the Gospel travels through screens into living rooms, hospital rooms, and care facilities. Through the preached Word, Hope-Full Living, our Care Ministry, and yes, this very Broadcaster magazine, Christ comes to His people right where they are, that they may live a full and abundant life in Him (John 10:10). And He works

through unexpected instruments: your prayers, your gifts, your faithful encouragement. That includes you, right where you are: a prayer from your seat, a card to a grieving friend, a call to a lonely neighbor. Vocation has no retirement age. Like Sidhu and Tim, you may never see the rescues God works through you, but I hear about them week after week.

The greatest blessing of all came from the most unexpected place imaginable: a cross outside Jerusalem, where the Son of God gave His life for you. If God can bring salvation out of Calvary, He can certainly bring blessing out of your unexpected places, too.

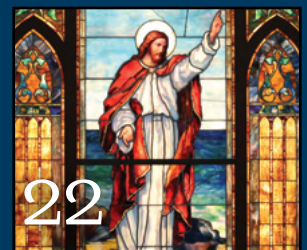
No wonder the psalmist calls all creation to join the song: "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. ... Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy" (Psalm 96:11-12). Even the trees along the interstate, I like to think.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus — wherever the road takes you.

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Above, ministry team member Thomas Moll speaks at Trinity Lutheran Church in Algona, Iowa. Below, Worship Anew was blessed to spend time at the LWML South Wisconsin District Convention.



Above left, Matthew Leighty (left) and Hope-Full Living author Jane Wilke (right) pose together at the LWML Minnesota South District Convention. Above center, ministry team member Ashley Wiehe (left) connected with Debbie Yocky (right), public relations director for the national LWML, at the LWML Michigan District Convention. Above right, Matthew Leighty speaks at the Concordia Deaconess Conference.

Making an Impact

This summer, several Worship Anew staff members hit the road to meet with many of you! What a joy it has been to share about Worship Anew and connect with so many at LWML conventions for the Indiana District, Iowa East District, Iowa West District, Michigan District, Minnesota South District, Ohio District, and South Wisconsin District. At the Ohio convention, the women had an opportunity to pack care packages, which will be sent to aging adults who are hurting, as well as those who are caring for them. We also had great visits with the Concordia Deaconess Conference, the quilters of Trinity Lutheran Church in Algona, Iowa, and churches in Minnesota and Iowa.



Above, (from left to right) the Rev. Michael Wakeland, Deaconess Kim Trombley, and Matthew Leighty pose for a photo at the LWML Indiana District Convention.





Above, (from left to right) Matthew Leighty, volunteer Diana Taylor, and her granddaughter pose for a photo at the LWML Indiana District Convention. Left, national LWML President Eden Keefe (left) and Matthew Leighty (right) met at the LWML Minnesota South District Convention. Right, Ashley Wiehe (left) and Rachel Potts (right) from Lutheran Braille Workers pose together at the LWML Michigan District Convention.



Show Love

SUPPORT WORSHIP ANEW

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

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

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

We have a special opening for our Christmas Eve program! Contact us to learn more.

"Thank you for the wonderful sponsorship for my wife. It was very meaningful."

~ A Worship Anew Supporter





Ministry team members Deb Myers and Katelin Moquin were blessed to connect with people at the LWML Ohio District Convention.

5 Minutes

By Katelin Moquin, Copy Editor

This summer, Worship Anew was invited to the LWML Ohio District Convention for one of the servant events. We brought care packages for attendees to pack and share with people back home (if they had someone in mind). This article reflects on those unexpected blessings.

A woman clad in a purple blouse hesitated as she approached me. She held out a form, blank in the box titled, “Recipient’s Address.”



The women packed care packages to take home to people that they know are in need as well as prepared some for us to ship out across the country.

HOW A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME CAN BRING BLESSINGS DOWN THE LINE

“That’s all right,” I told her. “You can leave it blank for now, or we are happy to find a recipient for you.”

I was standing at a table, draped in Worship Anew resources, at the front of the U-shaped assembly line. I was flanked by my trusty teammates, Deb Myers and Thomas Moll. We were ready, but we had never done anything quite like this before. Like the woman who approached me, we probably looked a little hesitant, too.

But there we all were, hesitant and hopeful, with a special mission to accomplish that afternoon. I tried to emphasize to the participants that the goal wasn’t efficiency — it was intentional prayer for whoever would receive each box. With every item placed inside each care package, from a handmade tissue holder to a mug and lemonade, to a journal and pen, to a Hope-Full Living devotional, we prompted participants to pause and pray.

Many started to make their way around the U-shaped line without a specific recipient in mind, just as the woman in the purple blouse had. Elbow to elbow with other participants, they juggled books, boxes, and blankets. “I don’t know anyone who needs a package,” they’d say. “Can you just send mine to someone who does?” Of course, I told them; we can do that. Any box left unaddressed would be sent out through Worship Anew’s Care

Ministry to an aging adult or caregiver who needed it most.

What happened next caught me off guard. By the time they'd packed their box, moved through the line, and paused to pray for those who suffer — something shifted. Many participants circled back to my table, address boxes no longer blank. The woman in the purple blouse was among them. "My neighbor just lost his wife," she said. "Can I deliver this to him myself?" Another had a former teaching partner in mind: "She was just diagnosed with cancer. Can I send this to her?" It was hard not to see the Holy Spirit at work, drawing to mind exactly who needed Christ's comfort.

Deb described the shift this way: "As I watched people move through the line, it was meaningful to see the mindset shift from a quick 'assembly line' approach to a slower, more intentional, prayerful process."

That June afternoon, we were hosting a servant event at the Ohio Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) convention to support Worship Anew's Care Ministry. Thomas knows the Care Ministry



Above, (from left to right) ministry team members Katelin Moquin, Deb Myers, and Thomas Moll take a break for a photo at the LWML Ohio District Convention. Below Volunteers colored greeting cards, which will be sent to those in need.

well and explained that the process is "about putting love into action as we're called to do as God's children." Last year, that meant 278 care packages sent out. This year, the ministry is on track to send more than 400 — 400 more people who will open a box and know someone remembered them.

Care packages are normally packed each week on-site by Worship Anew's ministry team and volunteers. The Ohio LWML servant event was our first attempt to recreate that experience in a new location — with new hands doing the packing — and it was a beautiful success.

Deb described the heart that went into the preparation for the servant event: "Careful consideration went into how we would share this process and help transform the experience for volunteers who may not have been familiar with the mission and ministry of Worship Anew."

In addition to packing care packages, scissors dulled and markers rolled as the participants cut dozens of jean pockets to hold Scripture cards for the Grief Ministry and colored greeting cards to tuck inside.

"I believe the women who participated in these activities thoroughly enjoyed their time together in conversation," Deb said.

Sure, they labored, but they also lingered and laughed.

In just under two hours, 80 care packages were ready to be hand-delivered by those in attendance or mailed through Worship Anew's care package ministry.

"The assembly line style had me locked in, and I had a great time going round and round putting together the care packages," said Rebecca Lichtenberg from Lutheran Special Education Ministries, a servant event attendee. "Worship Anew was so considerate and intentional with what was included in the packages. It was so apparent just how meaningful this ministry was to them. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of that."

That afternoon reminded me how Christ never needs five minutes or a trip around an assembly line to call to mind — by name — someone who needs His care. Christ does not hesitate. In fact, "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4a).

Worship Anew's mission to the aging, the homebound, the suffering, and the caregivers reflects Christ's own ministry to those who can feel marginalized. Worship Anew's care packages are a tangible reminder that Christ never forgets any of His lambs, and we're honored to facilitate even a small part in feeding them (John 21:15-17).



Joseph's story points to perfect grace

*By Thomas Moll
Director of Content*

When Joseph's brothers stood before the most powerful man in Egypt, as described in Genesis 37-50, they were bracing for the worst. They had sold him into slavery, lied to their father, and spent years pretending he was dead. Now the truth was out, and they were certain the account was about to be settled. They knew what men like them deserved.

What they did not expect was tears. Joseph wept over them. He drew them close. He told them not to be angry with themselves, and in place of revenge, he offered a home, bread for the famine, and a future. The grace was so far outside what they had imagined that they could scarcely trust it — even after their father died, they were still half-convinced Joseph would finally even the score.

Joseph's grace was real, but it was not flawless. He hid his identity, tested his brothers, and let them sit in fear before the reunion came. His mercy still bore the marks of a wounded man.

Yet, even imperfect grace, offered by an imperfect brother, points to something true: We are called to extend to others the forgiveness we have been given, even while our own hearts are still healing.

And Joseph points us to Someone greater. Many people picture God as a kind of Zeus — short-tempered, keeping score, and punishing for sport. But that is not the God who meets us in Scripture. The God of the Bible surprised the entire world. Rather than settling the account against us, He gave His own Son to settle it for us.

That is the grace that still catches people off guard when they come to know Him through His Word. They arrive expecting a verdict and find a Father running down the road to meet them (Luke 15:20).

Like Joseph's brothers, they discover that the One with every right to condemn has chosen instead to save through His Son, Jesus, and His sacrifice on the cross for them. For you.



Worship Anew in September

Year 2026 | Series A



A Word from His Mouth

September 6, 2026 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Paul Shoemaker

God's Word is of love, forgiveness, and restoration. It is also a Word of correction and discipline. Ezekiel, the prophet, spoke this Word of God to Israel. God entrusts His Word to us so we, too, may share His Word so all may know His love and forgiveness and that we are restored to Him for all eternity.

Sermon Text: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Readings: Psalm 52:1-7; Ezekiel 33:7-9; Matthew 18:1-20

Featured Choir: St. Paul's Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.

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



Forgiveness Cancels Paybacks

September 13, 2026 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. William Mueller

The account of Joseph forgiving his brothers appears to be so nice and neat. We read it and marvel at the grace Joseph extends to his (at one time) ruthless brothers. But then we are confronted with the truth that we are also called to forgive like Joseph. How can we? We begin to discover the answer when we examine the "payback."

Sermon Text: Genesis 50:15-21

Readings: Psalm 103:1-12; Genesis 50:15-21; Matthew 18:21-35

Featured Choir: Holy Cross Treble Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.



God Is Not Fair!

September 20, 2026 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Scott Zeckzer

We want things to be fair. I want what I deserve, but God does not work that way. Thanks be to God that He is not fair but generous.

Sermon Text: Matthew 20:15

Readings: Psalm 116:12-13, 15-17; Isaiah 55:6-9; Matthew 20:1-16

Featured Choirs: Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw, Mich.; Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Centralia, Ill.

Featured Art and Architecture: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rockford, Ill.



The Sins of Our Youth

September 27, 2026 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

The sins of our youth and all of our past sins can rise up to haunt us. But the Good News of Jesus our Savior gives us comfort, reassurance, and the strength to move forward in life as mature Christians.

Sermon Text: Psalm 25:7

Readings: Psalm 25:1-10; Ezekiel 18:25-32; Matthew 21:23-27

Featured Choir: St. Paul Preble Adult Choir, Decatur, Ind.

Featured Art and Architecture: St. Peter Lutheran Church, North Judson, Ind.

How to prevent falls at home

By Jim Miller

The risk of falling is a common concern for millions of elderly seniors and their families. Each year more than one in four older adults fall, making it the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries for those age 65 and older. However, many falls can be prevented. Here are some tips that can help avoid further incidents:

Exercising: Reduced muscle strength and poor balance are two of the biggest risk factors that cause seniors to fall. Walking, strength training, and Tai Chi are all good for improving strength and stability. You can also try simple exercises at home like sit-to-stand exercises (sitting down and standing up from a seat without using hands for assistance), standing on one foot for 30 seconds then switching to the other foot, and walking heel-to-toe across the room.

Check medications: If you take any medications that cause you to be dizzy, sleepy, or lightheaded, make a list of all the drugs you take, as far as prescriptions, and over the counter (OTC), and contact your doctor or pharmacist for a drug review and adjustment.

Numerous medications for blood pressure, anti-anxiety treatments, antidepressants, anti-seizure medications, antipsychotic drugs, diuretics, sedatives, tranquilizers, certain pain relievers, and OTC drugs that cause drowsiness are frequently responsible for falls related to medication.

Get vision and hearing tests: Even small changes in sight and hearing can increase someone's risk of falling. As such, it is important to get your eyes checked every year to be sure your vision and eyeglasses are functioning properly. Hearing loss can also double the risk of falling, so have your hearing checked, as well. If you use a hearing aid, be sure it fits well and that you wear it.

Fall-proof the home: There are several simple household modifications to help make a living area safer. Start by arranging or moving the furniture so there are clear pathways to walk through and pick up items on the floor that could cause someone to trip like newspapers, shoes, clothes, and electrical or phone cords. If there are throw rugs, remove them or use double-sided tape to secure them.





For the bathroom, use non-skid rugs on the floors and a rubber mat on the floor of the tub or shower. You should also consider having a carpenter install grab bars in and around the tub, shower, and toilet for support.

Additionally, ensure the entire house has adequate lighting. Install some affordable plug-in nightlights for the bathrooms and hallways. If the house has stairs, you should also put in handrails on both sides.

For more tips, see the National Institute on Aging's resource page titled "Preventing Falls at Home: Room by Room" at [NIA.NIH.gov/health/fall-proofing-your-home](https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/fall-proofing-your-home).

Choose safe footwear: Going barefoot or wearing slippers or socks at home can also cause falls, as can wearing backless shoes and shoes with heels or smooth leather soles. The safest option is rubber-sole, low-heel shoes.

Purchase some helpful aids: If you require assistance with balance or walking, consider using a cane or walker.

For an extra level of safety and peace of mind, also consider getting a medical alert system with a wearable emergency help button or voice-activated software that allows you to call for help if you do fall or need assistance.

To help you evaluate your future risk of falling, use the National Council on Aging's "Falls Free CheckUp®" tool at [NCOA.org/tools/falls-free-checkup](https://www.ncoa.org/tools/falls-free-checkup).

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

Photo from iStock

A piece of steel girder from the World Trade Center commemorates lives lost during September 11 and the compassion of local people in Gander, Newfoundland, Canada.



Lead me to the Rock

Brooks-Jones, 90, reflects on 25 years since 9/11 changed her life

By Ashley Wiehe, Director of Advancement

"On the northeast tip of North America, on an island called Newfoundland, there's an airport – it used to be one of the biggest airports in the world. And next to it, is a town called Gander."



TOWN OF
GANDER

COME
FROM
AWAY

OUR TOWN
WELCOMED
THE WORLD

Sept. 11, 2001. Even 25 years later, you probably remember exactly where you were and what you were doing. Maybe you were at work, getting ready to start your day. Maybe you were just waking up and rubbing the sleep out of your eyes. Maybe you were making breakfast for your kids to get them off to school. But Shirley Brooks-Jones, now 90 years old, was on a plane.

She left early that morning from Germany and was

headed home to Columbus, Ohio. As their plane began to approach the East Coast of the United States, the captain came over the intercom and indicated a problem. They were being diverted to Gander, Newfoundland, Canada, for what the passengers were told at the time was for emergency repairs. They would quickly learn that the U.S. was under attack.

"I'm looking at Jo (her travel companion), and she's looking at me, and we're wondering what in the world is
continued on page 14

continued from page 13

going on,” Brooks-Jones said. “The captain tells us that a plane had gone into one of the Twin Towers in New York City. Well, I’m old enough that I remember in 1945 that there was one of our military planes that had gone into the Empire State Building. It was a storm or something, and it had killed a bunch of people. And I’m thinking, but why would they close the borders?”

From there, the full scope of the attack was shared.

“I have never experienced such silence as our plane was,” she said.

For more than 28 hours, they had to wait — on the plane. In total, 38 jumbo jets were diverted to Gander and were told to wait. There were about 6,600 international travelers



Photos provided by the town of Lewisporte
Small towns in central Newfoundland provided food for stranded travelers in the days following 9/11.

diverted to a town with a population fewer than 10,000.

By the next morning (Sept. 12), Brooks-Jones received word that the passengers could deplane. They were allowed to take their personal items — and Brooks-Jones made a special request to take the plane’s blankets and pillows — but they were not permitted to take their checked luggage.

They were loaded up on local school buses and taken into area towns. Brooks-Jones was headed to Lewisporte.

“All these little, tiny towns got together to figure out how many people they would be able to take care of,” she said. “I tell people this so many times — the logistics of what those people did just still absolutely blows my mind. It was amazing.”

Not only were they given places to stay in area churches, schools, and service clubs, but the people of these towns provided food, clothing, and even toys and diapers for the children.

“All we had were the clothes on our backs and whatever we had if we had a carry-on,” she said. “They had thought of everything.”

When they arrived, they finally began to comprehend what had happened. They gathered around a small TV in the Lewisporte Lions Club to see what had unfolded the day before.



Photo by Nick Robins Photography for the Association for Christian Fundraising

Shirley Brooks-Jones addresses the crowd at the Faith and Fundraising Conference for the Association for Christian Fundraising. She shared about her time in Newfoundland and the generosity of that community during 9/11.

“We were seeing it with our eyes, but it was hard to really realize that it was real,” Brooks-Jones said.

Brooks-Jones began to keep a journal — something she is hoping to publish as a book soon. Hour by hour she documented the watchfulness of the people of Lewisporte. The town and its businesses were shut down (all but the essentials) to care for these unexpected visitors.

“They set up the TVs, the phones, and everything — just to help the ‘plane people,” she said.

By Friday, Sept. 14, the passengers learned that they would finally be going home. They offered their hosts money as a thank you, and they wouldn’t take it.

“They looked at us and shook their heads,” Brooks-Jones said. “They

said, 'No, you would do the same for us.' When we got back to the buses to head back to the airport, I don't think anybody said a word. I mean they were just so shocked at what we had just experienced."

They found blessings in unexpected places.

"We had experienced the absolute best of mankind," Shirley Brooks-Jones said. "We had experienced the very best in some of the worst times."

As Brooks-Jones and her fellow passengers boarded their plane again, they began talking about their experiences and what they could do to support this town that gave so much to them.

The residents had fallen on hard times, and many of the kids had dropped out of school. For Brooks-Jones, it took her back to a time as a young girl in the Appalachian area.

"I understood that kind of thinking. There were no jobs," she said.

The idea then came to start an endowed scholarship for the children in the areas of Lewisporte and Gander to support them at the present time and for many years to come. The challenge was that this plane had limited time before it landed at their next stop in Atlanta, Ga. From there, passengers would scatter. She had to get the word out.

But a flight attendant who had been watching this plan unfold helped her out, and she was able to give an intercom announcement to the entire plane.

"The pledge sheets went through the plane like crazy," she said. "It was absolutely wonderful."

From that day, 25 years ago, one single plane of people started a scholarship that has since helped 438 students.

"Each year, it keeps growing and growing," she said. "It's amazing to me what those people did for us. They didn't have to do anything. They could have looked the other way. They didn't do that. They really, truly cared."

Brooks-Jones knew that God had placed her in a unique place, in a certain circumstance, to make a difference. And that impact has continued over decades as she has been able to share her story.

The story of the Gander airport and the weeks following 9/11 were turned into a musical titled "Come From Away." Brooks-Jones, who is portrayed in the musical, has also been awarded the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, the highest honor of the province.

As Brooks-Jones reflects on that time, she holds on to the words from Psalm 61:2b, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I" — a fitting verse from her time because Newfoundland is known as "The Rock."

"I can't believe all of the wonderful things that have happened to me in my life," she said. "I am blessed, and I know it."

Today, Brooks-Jones continues to live in Columbus, Ohio, and still works with the scholarship fund to support those families in Newfoundland who made such a difference for her and so many others on that fateful day 25 years ago.



Photo provided by the town of Lewisporte
Travelers to their town were given food, supplies, and shelter until they were able to return home.





And the executor is ...

Choosing the right executor for your will

By David Mahlan

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger is famous for more than just his time on the bench. When he died in 1995, he left a 176-word will that gave no specific power to his executors. As a result, he reportedly cost his estate tens of thousands of dollars in attorney's fees, according to the Washington Post (2023).

Burger's case shows that even law-savvy individuals can make mistakes when it comes to writing their own legal documents. But giving executors the proper power is only one piece of the puzzle. How do you choose an executor? Can anyone do it? What makes an individual a good choice?

Many people choose a spouse, sibling, child, or close friend as executor. In most cases, the job is

fairly straightforward. Still, you might give special consideration to someone who is well-organized and capable of handling financial matters. Someone who is respected by your heirs and a good communicator may also help make the process run smoothly.

Above all, an executor should be someone trustworthy since this person will have a legal responsibility to manage your money, pay your debts (including taxes), and distribute your assets to your beneficiaries as stated in your will.

If your estate is large or you anticipate a significant amount of court time for your executor, you might think of naming a bank, lawyer, or financial professional. These individuals will typically charge a fee, which



would be paid by the estate. In some families, singling out one child or sibling as executor could be construed as favoritism, so naming an outside party may be a good alternative.

Whenever possible, choose an executor who lives near you. Court appearances, property issues, and even checking mail can be simplified by proximity. Also, some states place additional restrictions on executors who live out of state, so check the laws where you live.

Whomever you choose, discuss your decision with that person. Make sure the individual understands and accepts the obligation — and knows where you keep important records. Because the person may predecease you — or have a change of heart about executing your wishes — it's always a good idea to name one or two alternative executors.

The period following the death of a loved one is a stressful time and can be confusing for family members. Choosing the right executor can help ensure that the distribution of your assets may be done efficiently and with as little upheaval as possible.

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I've noticed the Scripture readings on "Worship Anew" are often the same ones I hear at my own church on Sunday morning. Why is that?

You've spotted one of the quiet gifts of the historic Church. For centuries, Christians have followed a lectionary — a shared calendar of appointed readings that carries the whole family of God through Scripture together. We use the LCMS three-year lectionary that many Protestant churches use. As for finding something new: the Word of God is living and active, and no sermon ever exhausts it. Our preachers return to these familiar texts in prayer and study, trusting the Holy Spirit to draw out exactly what this moment needs. A well you've drawn from a hundred times is still deep.

When I fill out the care package request form on your website, what happens next? Who actually puts the package together and sends it?

When you fill out a care package request on our website (worshipanew.org/care), a real person on our care ministry team receives the request. Staff and trained volunteers prepare each package by hand, including a personal note written for the recipient from you. We also include a Bible when someone doesn't have one of their own. The package is then mailed with a prayer for the person who will open it. Behind every box is a group of believers who want that individual to know they are seen, loved, and never alone.

I'd love to watch "Worship Anew" regularly. What are all the ways I can tune in?

On television, you'll find us on local broadcast stations across the country and on the TCT network nationwide with additional access through DISH and many public-access channels. Online and on demand, you can watch anytime at worshipanew.org, on our mobile app for phone or tablet, and through Roku, Apple TV, Google TV, Amazon Firestick, and YouTube. You can even sign up to receive each week's new program by email. And we're always adding new stations. Most recently, we joined the Kansas City area on KMCI-TV 38, airing Sundays at 6:30 a.m. and moved stations in the Indianapolis area and now air on WTTV 4 (CBS) at 6 a.m. Sundays. Please keep these areas, and all of our broadcast stations, in your prayers as we share the love of Christ with aging adults across the region.

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!

FINDING WAYS TO SERVE

By Lucy Moll
Worship Anew Intern

While helping others certainly blesses those around us, we often overlook how service to God can add to our own satisfaction and happiness. When we help others, we carry out part of God's plan for us.

Martin Luther described sin as “incurvatus in se,” which translates to “curved inward.” The basis of sin is an obsession with the desires of the flesh. When we are trapped in our sinful nature, we only care about ourselves. This self-centeredness leads us to put our own desires before the needs of others. As long as we put our neighbor's needs above our own, we are actively resisting sin's hold on us.

This came up in my conversation with the Rev. Thomas Eggold and his wife, Sonya. Both are faithful servants of the Lord at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. Pastor Eggold explained that much of a pastor's work takes place outside of the church, counseling members and guiding them spiritually. He estimated that he spends five to 10 hours a week on pastoral care and visits.

“This is not a job; it's a lifestyle,” he said. “There are no hours.”

He explained that his job can take a toll on him, especially when there are multiple funerals and





emergencies, but expressed his thankfulness for the opportunity to help others grow closer to God.

Sonya Eggold works mainly behind the scenes, helping Pastor Eggold through his tasks and supporting him.

We are told in Matthew 6:3b-4 (NIV), “Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” In keeping our service to ourselves, we fight our sinful, self-centered nature.



The Gerontological Society of America has conducted extensive research on the impact of service on aging adults. They found, through several studies, that people who volunteered consistently reported fewer symptoms of depression than those who did not. The benefits included a stronger sense of community, increased activity, and improved mental well-being. One participant in the studies described how service affects them in this way: “Volunteering saved my life. I literally would be dead if I didn’t have this to do. ... (It is the) reason that I get up in the morning” (Landry, 2017).

While it seems obvious that it’s good to help out, it’s another story when it comes to finding a way to serve. The first place that many people look for an opportunity is their church. There are so many ways for you to use whatever skills God has gifted you with, including singing in the choir, serving as an elder, helping with church administration, or volunteering with children’s ministry. Romans 12:4-8 says that every member has a role in the body of Christ. Many churches also focus on community outreach. This could be serving at a food pantry or

spreading the Word of God to those who haven’t heard it.

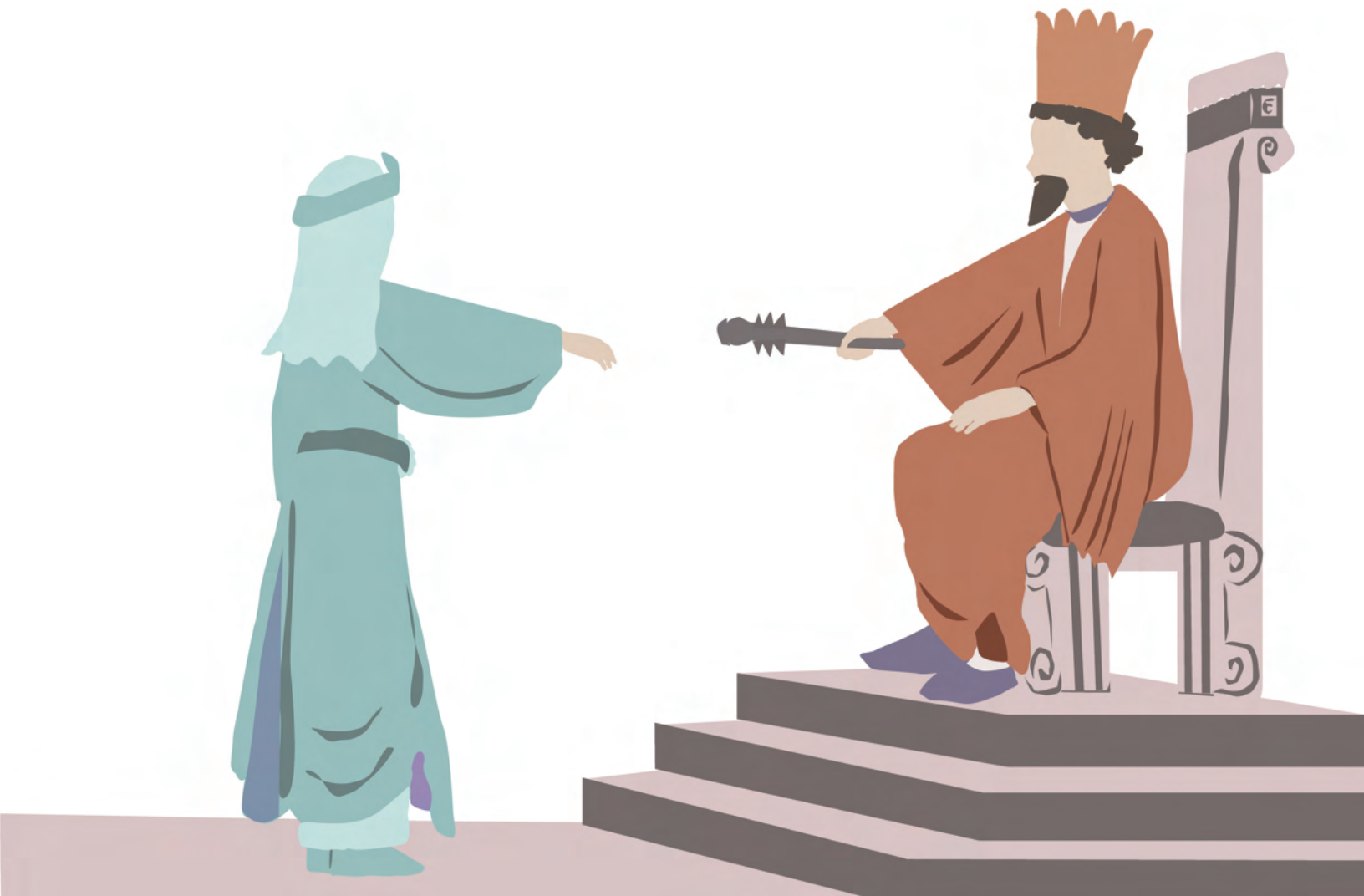
If you are unable to help in-person for whatever reason, there are still many opportunities for you to serve the Lord through your actions. Reconnect with old friends, coworkers, or family members and ask how you can pray for them. Often a simple conversation can make a lasting impact on someone’s outlook on life.

Pastor Eggold highlighted that the most important work that the church community does is to look out for each other and help each other through hard times. As he put it, “there’s always someone who needs somebody else,” whether they are your next-door neighbor, a distant family member, or the person in the pew next to you every week.

If you are able, look into ways to volunteer at your church or in your community. If not, reach out to someone who could use a listening ear. As 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us, every believer has received gifts from God, and we are called to use them faithfully in His service.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

By Deaconess Kim Trombley

Placing ourselves in Esther's shoes is not an easy thing to do as Americans living in our time. We do not serve an earthly king, and we pride ourselves on being independent. When we read about Esther in Chapter 4, she is anything but independent. She belonged to the king, and her life was in his hands. He could choose whether she lived or died, just as he could for any of his subjects.

By earthly standards, she was not in a place to make demands. She was certainly not in a place to ask the king to spare a whole group of people. Mordecai was a family member and a fellow Jew, and he appealed to her to influence the king. She was skeptical at first, but heard his words that "who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14b). She heard him and was faithful. She asked everyone to pray and fast, and ultimately, she appealed to the king

and the Jews were spared.

The Lord used Esther's unassuming position in the king's palace to deliver the Jews. It was an unexpected blessing. No one could have anticipated that her dependence on the king would save a whole group of people.

When we look at our own lives, we can see how God has worked in unexpected ways. As baptized children of God, we are His sons and daughters. He has named us His heirs in the kingdom. We have direct access to Him through prayer, and it is powerful. How has the Lord blessed you or used you to bless another person in an unexpected way?

Deaconess Kim Trombley is the executive director of Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML).

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, give me the boldness to bring my petitions before You and the courage to trust in Your power and mercy. Help me to remember my Baptism and Your deep love for me so I can be bold to pray. Give me patience and assuredness of the hope that can only be found in You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

This month's study text:

"Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, 'Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?' Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, 'Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.'"

Esther 4:13-16

Reflection Questions:

Can you identify a recent unexpected blessing that was an answer to prayer?

What is one petition you could bring before the Lord today?

Who has reminded you of God's deep love for you recently? Was it expected or did it catch you off guard?

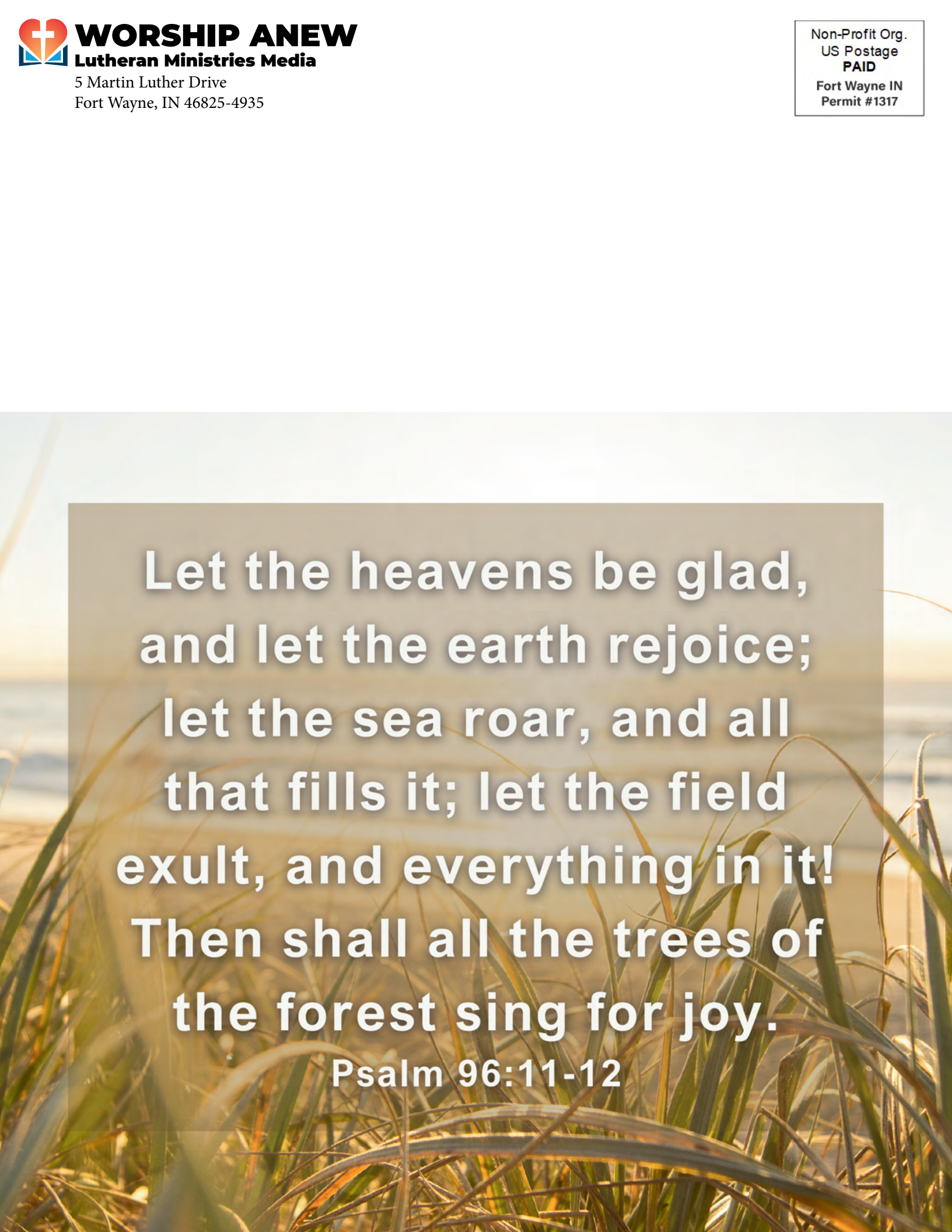


BE IN COMMUNITY BINGO

By Katelin Moquin, Copy Editor

Mark the 5x5 bingo card below. Throughout the month of September, try to get a bingo! When you have a completed BINGO, email a photo or mail a copy (with your contact information) to Worship Anew, and we will send you a prize (our magnet, at left, based on our stained glass windows). Email info@worshipanew.org or mail a copy to Worship Anew, 5 Martin Luther Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825 by October 15, 2026. **We would love to see how you are blessing your community in unexpected ways, and we will mail you a prize for your effort!**

B	I	N	G	O
Read the Bible study on page 20	Play a board game	Watch a game show	Notice one new thing on a familiar route	Write a friendly letter/email
Attend an activity for seniors	Sing yourself a song or hymn	Drink 3 glasses of water today	Learn the name of a neighbor	Compliment a stranger
Tell someone a joke	Watch "Worship Anew" with someone	FREE SPACE	Write down a blessing daily for one week	Memorize a Bible verse
Tend a plant	Pet an animal	Exercise your fingers and toes	Pray for a child starting school	Inhale and exhale deeply
Spy something wonderful in nature	Sketch or draw an autumn scene	Thank a worker who does their job well	Savor a cup of tea or coffee	Download the Hope-Full Living app



Let the heavens be glad,
and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all
that fills it; let the field
exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of
the forest sing for joy.

Psalm 96:11-12