



# DISTRICT NEWS

## INDIANA

# Life as God gives it

**G**od's plan for His creation is wonderfully unique and productive. As you read through the opening chapters of the Bible, you see God's wonderful plan for humanity.



**Rev. Daniel May**  
District President

God and only God can breathe into us the breath of life. Out of the clay God creates us in His own image. Amazing! Each of us is unique, with our own DNA. We hold that breath of life as precious and do all that we can to protect and care for it. We hold on for "dear life" because life is so dear to us.

Every day and every year is lived according to God's design and plan. As we grow and move through the decades of life, we experience new and exciting things about ourselves and our place in God's creation. Babies long to walk, children yearn to be teens, teens look forward to adulthood, adults think about starting families, parents anxiously await grandchildren, and senior citizens enjoy the golden years. Time moves quickly, but every stage of our earthly journey has its own blessings and fits God's strategic plan for us and for humanity.

The first commandment reminds us



**Concordia Lutheran High School students wear shirts with the message "1/4 of our generation is MISSING." The shirt represents those who could have been in high school, but were lost to abortion.**



“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Gen. 1:27

that God is God. He is the Lord of our life, and life is best lived as He gives it. There is always the temptation to be Lord of life — of our life or the lives of others. Our Lutheran school students learn that God is the author of life, and they give thanks for that truth.

Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne, provided a powerful reminder on shirts last year about the loss of many students who are missing because of abortion. It read: “1/4

of our generation is MISSING.”

This month we celebrate God's gift of life as we resist the efforts of those who might end life in the womb or devalue the lives of those near the end of their earthly journeys. Life is God's precious gift, which He has personally designed. Please pray for those in the womb and the elderly. May we celebrate life as God gives it.

*Rev. Daniel P. May*

# Celebrate Lutheran schools!

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEEK  
JAN. 21-27

Lutheran schools are the second-greatest investment that we have for passing on the Christian faith to our children and young adults. LCMS churches are our first investment for helping us accomplish this task for children, young adults and adults.

The teaching of the Christian faith—Christian pedagogy—separates our Christian classrooms from other private and public classrooms. Christian teachers in our Lutheran schools not only invest considerable time in lesson preparation, but also intentionally look for moments throughout the day when they can share their faith and direct their students back to the cross of Jesus.

I have often written that Lutheran schools are the congregation’s porch to their community. Christian teachers in our Lutheran schools seek opportunities for students to participate in a variety of service projects and activities that engage congregation members and communities at large.

The theme for NLSW 2018 is “It’s Still All About Jesus,” taken from Heb. 13:8. Lutheran schools throughout the Indiana District involve their students in a number of activities before, during and long after National Lutheran Schools Week. Following are some examples of what our schools have done or are doing.



**Dr. Jon Mielke**  
Executive Counselor for Christian Education

► **Ascension, Fort Wayne**

Students had a “penny war” for hurricane relief. Students raised \$900 for volunteers to purchase and distribute supplies for those in need in small towns around Corpus Christi, Texas.

► **St. Peter-Immanuel, Decatur**

Students participated in Operation Christmas Child and put together boxes of goods for children. The school also collected items for Hurricane Harvey relief.

► **Trinity, Crown Point**

The church will send a team of congregation members to Guatemala this month. Students are gathering items for the trip. An eighth-grade student is participating in the trip.

► **Indianapolis Lutheran High School**

► **Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne**

► **Trinity Lutheran High School, Seymour**

Students in all three schools are helping families affected by Hurricane Harvey by purchasing gift cards or collecting needed items.

In addition, students at Indianapolis Lutheran High School participated in “Changing Footprints,” a service project that involved students donating shoes for families in need. Students at Concordia participat-

ed in the Allen County Christmas Bureau’s Adopt-A-Family program. Students purchased and wrapped gifts and provided Christmas meals.

Students at Trinity have designated their chapel offerings and collected items for families in Puerto Rico. Three students from Puerto Rico currently attend Trinity.

► **Holy Cross, Indianapolis**

Students are collecting and sending their chapel offerings to Lutheran South Academy in Houston, which was impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

► **White Creek, Columbus**

Kindergarten and second-grade teachers and students facilitated and hosted a luncheon for parents, grandparents and other family members. Junior high students performed a reenactment of the Reformation, wearing costumes representing key figures. Student narrators explained the significance of the Reformation.

► **Ascension Lutheran Christian School, Gary**

Faculty members are reaching out to the community by facilitating and hosting events for parents.

► **Lutheran South Unity School, Fort Wayne**

Faculty and students hosted Rep.

Students from Our Shepherd, Avon, were champions of the Indianapolis Lutheran Schools Bible Quiz Team challenge in 2016.





Faculty and students are also involved with the Hurricane Harvey Relief Project.

► **St. John's Kendallville**

Kindergarten through third-grade students participated in Operation Christmas Child and packed shoeboxes with items for families in need.

► **Our Savior, Louisville, Ky.**

Faculty and students continue to gather items and pack boxes for Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child. In addition, as part of the Hurricane Harvey Relief Project, \$650 was collected and sent to the Lutheran Education Association in Houston, and \$250 in gift cards was sent to a former staff member whose school was damaged.

► **Our Shepherd, Avon**

Faculty and students raised \$405 for Lutheran South Academy as part of the Hurricane Harvey Relief Project, and filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

► **St. Peter's Lutheran, Fort Wayne**

This is the fourth year that students have collected socks for the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission. Each year the number of donated socks has increased. Students hope to collect 5,000 pairs of socks.

See SCHOOLS, page 6



▲ **Grandparents Day is celebrated at White Creek Lutheran School, Columbus.**

▼ **Students from St. Peter's, Columbus, went to Guatemala for a mission trip.**

Bob Behning. Student ambassadors led him on a tour of the school. Behning spoke with students and parents, and he was greeted in each classroom by room hosts.

► **Wyneken Memorial, Decatur**

Faculty and students have taken part in several activities, including writing and delivering Honor Flight letters, presenting a school musical on the Reformation and life of Martin Luther, titled "Echoes of the Hammer," collecting chapel offerings for Pack Away Hunger, and hosting a "Bible Truths" night during which students creatively presented the truths of Scripture.

► **St. Peter's, Columbus**

Faculty and students continue to support Redeemer of the World Lutheran School in Santiago Zamora, Guatemala. St. Peter's recently sent 11 youth to Guatemala on a mission trip.

► **Suburban Bethlehem, Fort Wayne**

Faculty and students have been involved with Hurricane Harvey relief, supporting Lutheran South Academy in

Houston through their chapel offerings. Students have also donated food items and stocked shelves at the community food shelf at St. Matthew's on Getz Road.

► **Calvary Lutheran, Indianapolis**

Kindergarten through fourth graders partnered with senior congregation members, packing boxes for their service project, Operation Christmas Child.



Students at Our Shepherd, Avon, packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child.



## The blessing of teaching children

**O**NE OF THE  
GREATEST  
BLESSINGS

that God has given me is the blessing of children who are Christians themselves and who in turn are teaching the faith to their children (my grandchildren).



**Rev. Geoff Robinson**  
Outreach  
Executive

As I reflect on this reality, I give all glory to God the Holy Trinity! By His grace, my loved ones and I are Christian. I thank God that my mother was raised by her parents to love Jesus. And that they faithfully took her to church. My mother made sure that her children were taught about Jesus, and she saw that we faithfully heard the preaching and teaching of God's Word through our church attendance.

The truth is that God uses us — as Luther taught in the Small Catechism — to instruct our children in God's Word. I am referring to Luther's pointed statement which begins each section of the catechism: "As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household."

It is indeed a great blessing to teach your children. I suggest that you consider teaching them as soon as they are able to talk. In my family, suppertime was when we taught

our children the Word of God as it is explained in the Small Catechism, discussed theology and taught them to give thanksgiving to God for the blessings that He gives to us. Christian education is so very important! It has lasting, eternal value. It is through the preaching and teaching of the Holy Word of God that the Holy Spirit works to call people by the Gospel into true faith in Christ Jesus.

In the Gospel we learn of the marvelous grace that God showers upon us even though we don't deserve it. The Law shows us our sin, but the Gospel tells us of Jesus Christ, who took our sins upon Himself, paid the price of them with His life and death, and rose again victorious over sin, Satan and death for us. We receive this forgiveness of our sins and life eternal through the hand of faith, which the Holy Spirit calls forth in us.

Further, Holy Scripture teaches of the great gift that life is to us, and we learn that we are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made. We are all unique individuals. And even though this is absolutely true, we also learn in Holy Scripture that God intimately knows each one of us and loves us, and He desires that we come to the knowledge of truth and be saved eternally.

That is certainly something to teach to your children and grandchildren!

## Get a life!

In 1971, there was a young, married working couple who decided to adopt a child. Adoption is a wonderful way to form a Christian family. The child's biological parents were unmarried and decided to give their son up for adoption rather than have an abortion.



**Ken Schilf**  
Council of  
Resources

In Indiana in 2015, there were 7,954 abortions, compared to 1,245 adoptions. Although the abortion rate is dropping, we as Christians need to continue to promote adoption as the God-pleasing alternative.

Those children could have been raised to be Christian stewards, serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Undeserving as we are, God uses us as His hands, feet and mouth.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." — Eph. 2:10

Just think how many more could be witnessing stewards if those babies hadn't been aborted.

We have four baptized children. One is already in heaven. But there is no difference between our adopted son and our two girls. The writer of Hebrews tells us that regardless of our heritage or occupation, we are called to "serve the living God." (Heb. 9:14).

And no matter our age, we serve God by serving others. We're in a new year and have a chance to give someone a new life in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As Christian stewards, we give because God first gave:

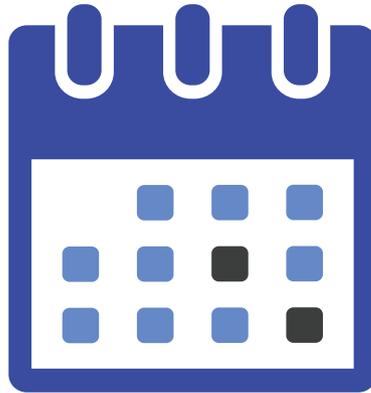
"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."  
— John 3:16

As forgiven and redeemed people filled with God's grace, we respond with gratitude and thanksgiving for who God is and what He does for us. Giving of our time, talents and treasures becomes a privilege and an opportunity, rather than an obligation.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JANUARY

- 1**  
Happy New Year
- 14**  
March for Life, *Chicago*
- 16-19**  
Symposia Series 2018  
*Concordia Theological Seminary,  
Fort Wayne*
- 19**  
March for Life, *Washington, D.C.*
- 21**  
Public Lecture Series  
*Concordia Theological Seminary,  
Fort Wayne*
- 21-27**  
National Lutheran Schools Week



- 19-20**  
Circuit Visitors Conference  
*District Office, Fort Wayne*
- 26-28**  
NDCE Tri-State Conference, *Toledo*

## FEBRUARY

- 9-11**  
Katie Retreat for Pastors' Wives  
*Inn of DePauw, Greencastle*
- 9**  
Deadline for overtures to be sent to the Indiana District president for the 2018 Indiana District Convention

## MARCH

- 1**  
Deadline for calls for candidates and vicarage applications to be in the president's office
- 15**  
Indiana District board of directors meeting

# Share your news!



Do you have exciting news you'd like to see published in the Indiana District *Lutheran Witness*? We'd love to share your news and see photos of what's happening in our district! Be sure to send in your submissions.

**The deadline for the March issue of *The Lutheran Witness* is Jan. 10.**

Your stories and photos are welcomed and most appreciated. Please send all submissions to Jan Koenig at [jan.koenig@in.lcms.org](mailto:jan.koenig@in.lcms.org) or by postal mail to:  
**Lutheran Witness Editor**  
**Indiana District LCMS**  
**1145 South Barr St.**  
**Fort Wayne, IN 46802**

Please remember that photos sent electronically should be in high resolution, with a minimum of 300 dpi.

# January Prayer List

### Week of January 1

- > Mid-South District
- > Circuit 9
- > Ascension, Fort Wayne
- > Concordia, Fort Wayne
- > Gloria Dei, Fort Wayne
- > Promise, Fort Wayne
- > St. Peter, Fort Wayne
- > Prince of Peace, Grabill
- > Emanuel, New Haven
- > Martini, New Haven
- > St. Paul, New Haven
- > Christ, Woodburn
- > Zion, Woodburn
- > Mission: Campus Ministry, Ball State University
- > RSO: Camp Lakeview, Seymour

### Week of January 8

- > Minnesota North District

- > Circuit 14
- > Christ, Brownsburg
- > Holy Cross, Crawfordsville
- > Peace, Greencastle
- > Messiah, Indianapolis
- > Our Shepherd, Avon
- > Immanuel, Terre Haute
- > Living Christ Plainfield
- > Mission: Campus Ministry, University of Louisville
- > RSO: Camp Lutherhaven, Albion

### Week of January 15

- > Minnesota South District
- > Circuit 22
- > Concordia, Evansville
- > Immanuel, Evansville
- > Messiah, Evansville
- > St. Paul, Evansville
- > Trinity, Evansville

- > Trinity Darmstadt
- > St. John, Vincennes
- > St. Peter, Vincennes
- > Mission: Campus Ministry, Indiana State University
- > RSO: Cedar Lake Lodge, LaGrange, Ky.

### Week of January 22

- > Missouri District
- > Circuit 1
- > Grace, Dyer
- > Concordia, Hammond
- > Trinity, Hammond
- > Redeemer, Highland
- > Trinity, Lowell
- > St. Paul, Munster
- > Peace, Schererville
- > Mission: Campus Ministry, Fort Wayne
- > RSO: Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



### Week of January 29

- > Montana District
- > Circuit 10
- > Peace, Berne
- > Immanuel, Decatur
- > St. John, Decatur
- > St. Paul, Decatur
- > St. Peter, Decatur
- > Zion, Decatur
- > Zion (Friedheim), Decatur
- > Emmanuel (Soest), Fort Wayne
- > St. John, Monroeville
- > Bethlehem, Ossian
- > New Hope, Ossian
- > Faith, Roanoke
- > Prince of Peace, Hartford City
- > Mission: Asian Ministry, Cornerstone, Carmel
- > RSO: Cranach Institute, Fort Wayne



## Trinity gets special 'visitors'

On Oct. 15, following their annual loyalty banquet, members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Darmstadt, received "visits" from Lutheran hymn writers. These included Johann Rist, Johann Heermann, Paul Gerhardt, and, of course, Martin Luther. After each of these men shared details about their life and work, the banquet-goers joined in singing one of their hymns.



## Blessings in La Porte

The Rev. Kendall Schaeffer was installed as assistant pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church and School, La Porte, on Oct. 22. Pictured are, from left (front row) the Revs. David Solum, Immanuel, Michigan City; Schaeffer, Ronald Brauer, St. John's senior pastor; Joel Zipay, St. John, La Crosse, and St. John, Wanatah; (back row) Josh Osbun, First, Hanna; Melvin Meyer; Richard Ungrodt, and Steven Latzke, Our Redeemer, South Bend.

## SCHOOLS

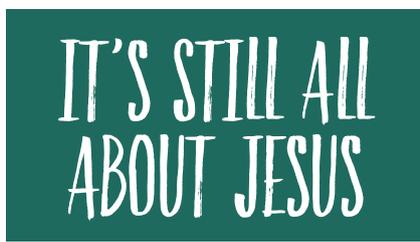
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### ► St. John's, Indianapolis

Faculty and students partnered with congregation members for the Hurricane Harvey Relief Project, setting a goal of raising \$1,065. That amount was selected because Houston's Lutheran South Academy is 1,065 miles from Indianapolis. They raised \$3,862 to support the Houston school, far exceeding their goal.

### ► St. Paul's, Fort Wayne

Faculty and students partnered with Lutheran Social Services for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program. Students donated items and chapel collections to families in need. The gifts were wrapped by students and taken to Concordia Lutheran High School for distribution.



2018 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

### ► Central, New Haven

Faculty and students participated in two service projects: Operation Christmas Child and the Hurricane Harvey Relief Project.

Lutheran schools throughout the Indiana District keep Jesus Christ as their cornerstone. Lutheran schools continue to offer students a rigorous curriculum that is integrated with various

service projects to share the love of Jesus with many.

A parent whose children attended Peace Preschool, Fort Wayne, summed it up perfectly: "I'm waiting on Max to get out of preschool. I'm standing here and it is really hitting me that in just a few weeks this preschool won't be a part of our everyday lives anymore because Max is starting kindergarten. I feel so thankful and blessed that each of our children was able to experience the love these amazing teachers and staff have for them! How do you properly express such a grateful feeling?"

We give thanks to God for Lutheran schools and Lutheran congregations. We give thanks that Lutheran schools continue to teach that "It's Still All About Jesus."

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

**DEC. 7**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wheeler, 57  
St. Peter's, Brownstown

**DEC. 27**  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Peters, 54  
St. Peter's, Brownstown

**Jan. 1**  
Mr. & Mrs. Will Doehrman, 63  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Nehrt, 63  
St. Peter's, Brownstown

**Jan. 2**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hession, 53  
St. James, Lafayette

**Jan. 3**  
Mr. & Mrs. Vern Holzhauser, 60  
Faith, Demotte

**Jan. 5**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rodenbeck, 63  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

**Jan. 6**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Kovener, 66  
Immanuel, Seymour

**Jan. 7**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Drochner, 62  
Calvary, Plymouth

**Jan. 8**  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Owens, 52  
Faith, Louisville

**Jan. 9**  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Nieman, 53  
Immanuel, Seymour

**Jan. 11**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Davis, 60  
St. John, Indianapolis

Mr. & Mrs. Don Hartig, 65  
Our Redeemer, Evansville

**Jan. 12**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Woodard, 61  
Immanuel, Seymour

**Jan. 15**  
Mr. & Mrs. John Leisge, 63  
Faith, Demotte

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wheeler,  
52 Immanuel, Seymour

**Jan. 16**  
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Hancock, 58  
St. John, Lanesville

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoffman, 58  
Zion, Decatur

**Jan. 17**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Price, 55  
Concordia, Louisville

**Jan. 18**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Hall, 60  
Immanuel, Seymour

**Jan. 21**  
Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Elwood, 51  
Our Redeemer, Evansville

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Harvey, 52  
St. Peter, North Judson

Mr. & Mrs. Gwin Kahl, 51  
Grace, New Albany

**Jan. 24**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hiser, 65  
St. John, Lanesville

**Jan. 25**  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Zoll, 65  
Heritage, Valparaiso

Mr. & Mrs. Don Lantz, 60  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

Mr. & Mrs. Don Schuppert, 60  
Grace, New Albany

**Jan. 27**  
Mr. & Mrs. John Willenbrock, 55  
Cornerstone, Carmel

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Ray, 50  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

**Jan. 28**  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kalberer, 68  
Trinity, Hobart

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Spurgeon, 67  
St. Peter's, Brownstown

**Jan. 29**  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Pierz, Jr., 52  
Faith Demotte

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Siefker, 52  
Immanuel, Seymour

**Jan. 30**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Brooks, 53  
Immanuel, Seymour

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip DeBolt, 59  
St. John Bingen, Decatur

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Minick, 58  
Trinity, Hobart

**Jan. 31**  
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Prentice, 65  
Immanuel, Avilla

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Griswold Sr., 60  
St. James, Lafayette.

**Need help sharing your faith?**

**L** CMS WITNESS AND OUTREACH MINISTRY has announced a new Lutheran evangelism resource, *Every One His Witness*, now available through Concordia Publishing House ([cph.org](http://cph.org) or 822-325-3040).



The Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, director of Witness and Outreach, notes, "Every single baptized believer in Jesus is called to be a witness of His love to the world" while acknowledging that Christians often feel "inadequate, unfit and unqualified" for such work.

Says Wood: "If you want to share the love of Christ with the people in your life, *Every One His Witness* is good news for you! We talk not only about the 'what' and the 'why' of witnessing but the 'how to.' We don't burden you with a bunch of scripts and memorization and all those things that make witnessing seem daunting. Instead, we encourage you to rely on the Holy Spirit, who guides His witnesses into sharing this Good News with the very people He's put into their lives."

Each kit includes one DVD plus materials for 12 people. The cost of the kit is \$129.99 (plus shipping). Supplemental items also are available.

For more information about the program, please visit:

- ▶ [lcms.org/witness-outreach](http://lcms.org/witness-outreach) or
- ▶ [facebook.com/EveryOneHisWitness](https://facebook.com/EveryOneHisWitness).

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**DEC. 2**  
John Lose, 95  
Faith, Louisville

**DEC. 4**  
Vivian Spurgeon, 91  
St. Peter's, Brownstown

**DEC. 15**  
Ruby Fosbrink, 92  
St. Peter's, Brownstown

**DEC. 27**  
Lynn Hinnefeld, 94  
St. Peter's, Brownstown

**JAN. 1**  
Sigrid Haertel, 91  
Redeemer, Louisville

**JAN. 2**  
Ruth Kunkel, 91  
Zion, Decatur

**JAN. 4**  
Vernon Samson, 96  
Our Redeemer, Evansville

Ruth Nicolet, 95  
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

**JAN. 5**  
Alvea Knipstein, 95  
St. John (Bingen), Decatur

**JAN. 7**  
Helen Brooks, 91  
Trinity, Hobart

**JAN. 11**  
Virginia Peck, 92  
St. John, Monroeville

Norma Holst, 90  
Heritage, Valparaiso

**JAN. 12**  
Dick Schnute, 91  
Cornerstone, Carmel

**JAN. 14**  
John Osborn, 92  
Concordia, Louisville

Dorothy Boze, 90  
Emmaus, Fort Wayne

**JAN. 15**  
Elmer Klinstiver, 93  
Grace, New Albany

**JAN. 16**  
Iona Wampner, 94  
St. John, Indianapolis

Lucille Wessel, 92, Immanuel, Seymour

**JAN. 19**  
William Knipstein, 91  
Zion, Fort Wayne

**JAN. 21**  
Lorene Baumgart, 101

**St. John, Lanesville**  
Libby Lantz, 98  
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

Janet Kuehner, 91  
Grace, New Albany

**JAN. 22**  
Fred Roeder, 90  
Our Redeemer, Evansville

**JAN. 23**  
Elvira Preuss, 95  
Immanuel, Seymour

**JAN. 24**  
Katherine August, 96  
Zion, Decatur

Jeannette Wobith, 91  
St. Peter, North Judson

**JAN. 25**  
Jewell Wehmiller, 90  
Emanuel, Dudletown

**JAN. 26**  
Wilma Orton, 91  
Concordia, Evansville

Raymond Steinkuhl, 90  
Trinity, Darmstadt

**JAN. 27**  
Doris Cottingham, 95  
St. James, Lafayette

**JAN. 29**  
Kenneth Ranney Sr., 90  
Calvary, Plymouth

**JAN. 30**  
Ralph Imler, 91  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

# New name, same program

*Worship for Shut-Ins is now...*



Since 1965, *Worship for Shut-Ins* has shared the love of Jesus Christ through a weekly television program. During that time, the ministry has experienced tremendous growth.

Lutheran Ministries Media, the producers of *Worship for Shut-Ins*, reports that viewership has more than doubled in the past year.

After thorough research and prayerful consideration, the Board of Directors of Lutheran Ministries Media has announced that the weekly televised service *Worship for Shut-Ins* would become known as *Worship Anew*. The first program with the new name was broadcast on Sunday, Dec. 3.

As Lutheran Ministries Media concluded the 50th anniversary of *Worship for Shut-Ins* and began to prepare for its next decades, the board launched an intensive study to better understand the program's viewers. According to Matthew Leighty, executive director of Lutheran Ministries Media, the findings of the research were surprising.

"We learned that 71 percent of those who regularly watch the program do not consider themselves shut in," Leighty said. "In fact, we consistently heard that many in our audience are uncomfortable being labeled as a shut-

in. Our board carefully listened to this input and prayerfully decided to act on it."

Leighty added the program's new name was inspired by the new life we find in Jesus Christ. "You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and enduring Word of God" (1 Peter 1:23).

"This program name is uplifting and reaches out to all who seek to celebrate new life in Jesus," Leighty said. "It turns hearts heavenward and invites viewers to worship again. Through this transition, we remain steadfastly focused on the mission and purpose that has guided our ministry for more than 50 years. We will continue to minister to the homebound, aging and all those who yearn to hear God's Word."

He noted that the format and emphasis of the weekly program will not change and that the same six Lutheran pastors will continue to serve into 2018.

Over the next several weeks Lutheran Ministries Media will familiarize viewers, donors and friends with the new program name and the reasons for its selection. Leighty said the ministry has been encouraged by the support and positive response of many church leaders and pastors. They ask for prayers as they prepare for their next 50 years of ministry.

With a mission of "sharing Christ's love through ministry and media," *Worship Anew* televises its 30-minute program every week across the United States and around the world. Its traditional format includes Scripture readings, a pastor's sermon and hymns of the church.

Visit [WorshipforShutIns.org](http://WorshipforShutIns.org) for more information, and for stations, broadcast times and sermon topics.

**“ We consistently heard that many in our audience are uncomfortable being labeled as a shut-in. Our board carefully listened to this input and prayerfully decided to act on it.”**

— Matthew Leighty