Peace Like a River

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7

Late in 1873, Horatio G. Spafford and his family were to travel from the United States to Europe. Spafford sent his wife and daughters ahead on a French liner while he saw to some pressing business. The ship his wife and daughters were on collided with an English vessel on November 22 and sank in just twelve minutes. Spafford's wife was saved, but his daughters did not survive. After arriving in Wales, Mrs. Spafford sent a cable to her husband, "Saved alone." Spafford then left by boat to meet her. Approaching the tragic scene on the high seas, he wrote the text to this beloved hymn.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
(Verse 1)

Title: When Peace Like a River
Author: Horatio G. Spafford

We live in a time where oppression of the Christian faith is growing vigorously. The devil is at work now, just as he was in the days when Jesus was carrying out His ministry on the earth over 2,000 years ago. In Paul’s second letter to Timothy, he urged him, as he does us, to cling to God's precious Word in the face of such troubles. Through Scripture, we find the strength we need in these trying times.

Evangelism outreach is essential for spreading the Gospel. Worship Anew is sharing Christ's love with the elderly, those experiencing a mental health crisis, prisoners, soldiers, and the families who come alongside many of these people in their hour of need.

We are grateful for your prayers and support in 2021, which will be vital for us to proclaim the message of God's love. The middle insert of this publication shares the impact donors have made to this ministry to further the proclamation of the Gospel. I’m requesting that you make your gift today to ensure this vital work continues.

Even as we go through this time of being isolated, we have the peace of knowing that Christ comes to us in His Word. So many loved ones have gone on before us. And while we miss them and mourn their loss, we rejoice they are now in the loving arms of our Lord and Redeemer. We look forward to that day when we ourselves will see our Savior's face.

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul.

Refrain:
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
(Verse 4)
February 7, 2021 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27; Mark 1:29-39
“Preaching and Healing” - Sermon Text: Mark 1:29-39
Rev. Paul Shoemaker
Jesus came preaching the Good News of our salvation to establish His authority and the truth of His proclamation. He fulfilled Old Testament prophesy by healing and casting out demons.

February 14, 2021 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6; Mark 9:2-9
“Lift the Veil!” - Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6
Rev. William Mueller
When you look at the central figure on the Mountain of Transfiguration, whom do you see? The Word of God by the Apostle Paul reminds us of the constant need to repent and remove the “veils” that prevent us from seeing and believing who this person is...the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Savior!

February 21, 2021 – First Sunday in Lent
Psalm 25:1-10; Genesis 22:1-18; Mark 1:9-15
“The Lord Will Provide” - Sermon Text: Genesis 22:14 -
Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer
Whatever challenge you face today – in body or soul – know that The Lord Will Provide! He provides for and sustains your life. He provides the Way to everlasting life in Jesus Christ. And He provides the faith to receive and respond to His many gifts to us. The Lord “knows my needs and well provides me.”

February 28, 2021 – Second Sunday in Lent
Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 5:6-11; Mark 8:34-38
“True Discipleship” - Sermon Text: Mark 8:34-38
Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III
We want to be disciples of Jesus. He tells us what true discipleship means. We are to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him. Is there any good news here? Yes, absolutely!

Worship Anew is broadcast on American Forces Network (AFN) television.
For broadcast time, check local listings for Sunday on AFN Prime Atlantic/Pacific.

WorshipAnew.org
You are a blessing to all who tune in to hear God's message, especially when so many are unable to attend their church due to the pandemic. My mother and I have always listened on the mornings she doesn't feel well enough to go to church. I have told several of my friends who now always watch on Sunday mornings. Thank you." Viewer from Ohio

Television and online viewership have increased significantly for Worship Anew. Quarter two 2020 saw between a 10-120% jump in most markets. This has reinforced the vital need for the hearing of God's Word through Worship Anew during these trying times. Based on Comscore TV Ratings.

Paul Melin, Program Director, is celebrating 25 years of sharing Christ's love through the ministry.

March 2020 marked the completion of the first full year of Moments of Comfort, weekly devotional videos focused on ministering to the hurting and suffering with the comforting message of God's Word. New weekly videos can be found at WorshipAnew.org.

Thanks to donor support new media equipment was unveiled on Worship Anew on Palm Sunday featuring enhanced video quality which advanced the broadcast ministry into the next decade.

The ministry acquired Hope-Full Living in September of 2020, a daily devotional for living life to the fullest and written for seniors by seniors. It is published quarterly and available online at HopeFullLiving.org. You can also download the app or call our customer service at 1-800-779-0846 to begin receiving yours today.

In 1980 Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. was established as the parent company that restarted Worship Anew, then known as Worship for Shut-Ins. We give thanks to God for allowing the ministry to share Christ's love for 40 years.
Power Over Fear

“Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” (Luke 5:12)

Leprosy was life-altering in the ancient world. If you contracted the disease, you became a social outcast. You were on your own. Your survived on what you could scrounge from the shadows of society. You were dependent on the mercy of others. Could you make it through today? Will you survive tomorrow? It was a fear-filled existence.

When this leper in Luke’s Gospel encountered Jesus, he saw someone who might be able to help him. Maybe just for the day. “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” It was more than a call for mercy. It was an expression of faith – and hope! “I will; be clean,” Jesus said. And that was a word of power! And the leper was healed immediately.

Some days, my “leprosy” pulls me down. I have anxiety and a steady fear about the progression of the COVID pandemic and its restrictions on my life personally. I am shocked and stunned, saddened and fearful over the societal and governmental changes, upheaval, and transitions. Will my fear-soaked life of 2020 continue on in 2021?

It will, because my “leprosy” is sin. “Lord, if You are willing, You can make Jim clean,” is my prayer. And amazingly, before I called, God has already answered:

“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

What Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, is what God wants you and me to know and believe and hold to in 2021. Put fear aside. Our Lord and God has overcome this world and holds you and me in His love and care. That's our power on which we rely every day.

And that’s the focus during February on Moments of Comfort. Join me each week as we consider “Power Over Fear.”

Rev. Jim Elsner

February Moments of Comfort
Theme: Power Over Fear
February 3 – A Power Package – 2 Timothy 1:7
February 14 – Strong Alone? – 2 Timothy 2:1
February 21 – Keeping On – 2 Timothy 2:3
February 28 – Obtaining Salvation – 2 Timothy 2:8

Moments of Comfort is an online video ministry of Worship Anew, which speaks to the sufferings we face in this life with the comforting message of God's Word.

Rev. James Elsner has served Worship Anew as a speaker and contributor since 2008.
The season of Lent begins each year, on Ash Wednesday. This year, we start our Lenten journey on Wednesday, February 17. Lent is a time to slow down and meditate on what Christ endured in order to gain for us salvation. In the early Christian Church, Lent was also a time of preparation for the baptism of new believers. This season is a great time for all of us to reflect on the new life we have in baptism and what it took for that salvation to be earned and then delivered to us.

Below are some resources to help you walk through Lent in 2021.

**Lenten Devotions**

**The Marks of Love: Lutheran Hour Ministries**

Lutheran hour ministries puts out a free devotion for download each Lent. This year the devotion titled *The Marks of Love*, follows the narrative of Mark's Gospel. In this devotional, you'll learn of Jesus' deep compassion for those He loved and served, including those who put Him to death.

You can download the full devotional, read it online, or listen as a podcast at www.lhm.org/lent. There’s also an option to print the devotion after you set up a free account with Lutheran Hour Ministries.

**Eyes on Jesus: Concordia Publishing House**

Forty-seven days of devotions help you fix your eyes on Jesus throughout the Lenten season. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through Easter, each passage encourages you to consider what you see when you look at Jesus. These daily devotions connect with the corresponding Eyes on Jesus Lenten sermon series.

You can purchase this devotion at www.cph.org for $2.49.

**Daily Devotions**

*Lutheran Hour Ministries*: www.lhm.org/devotions  
*Hope-Full Living*: www.hopefullliving.org
Did you know that two-thirds of the people who make New Year’s resolutions abandon them by the end of January? Wow! What if we all made a resolution that sticks, to stay in God’s Word, daily?

Help those you love to stay in God’s Word by ordering a gift subscription to Hope-Full Living. You can order by going to www.HopeFullLiving.org or by calling 1-800-779-0846. You can also follow along with the daily devotion on our Hope-Full Living app or on the website.

Don’t miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to Worship Anew. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt.

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Because the ministry sends mail at the nonprofit rate, seasonal mail is not forwarded. Therefore we ask that you please notify the ministry if you have a seasonal address in order to ensure important ministry news and information arrives at your home.

Sharing Christ’s love through ministry and media!