



It's Not Enough

By Brandon Booth

"What do you need, Pastor?"

"More time!"

Which is why I'm writing this month's article. I couldn't give Pastor Dan more time, but I could share a little bit of his burden and take a small weight off his shoulders.

So, what do you need? More time? More money? More support? More sleep? More pain relief? More willpower? I don't know what it is, but I know there's not enough. There's never enough. I always need more!

And, it seems, that God isn't doing much to meet my needs. He hasn't brought my ship in yet, nor has he healed my broken relationships. He hasn't guaranteed my life will be free from war, hunger, or disease, and he certainly doesn't magically give me more willpower to resist sin. So, what gives?

Here's a story I think can help. Immediately after his baptism, The Holy Spirit sent Jesus on a 40 day fast - the pattern for our Lenten season - and Matthew tells us, "After Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, *he was hungry.*" Which is a massive understatement! I cannot even imagine fasting from food for 40 days! (And for the curious, yes, it's possible to do, though not advised without some serious know-how. I looked it up.)

But see what happened next: "Then the tempter approached him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'" Are you kidding me!? Jesus is hungry, literally starving, and that's when Satan is allowed to say, "Hey, God has abandoned you. You should just take matters into your own hands. Get what you need!"

And how does Jesus respond? As only he - the perfecter of faith - could: "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Jesus, in the greatest of need, responds by trusting his Father's promises.

Oh, my friends! What is it you need? What hunger pains claw the insides of your soul? Jesus knows the feeling. He knows how hard it is to wait, to trust, to fast. There's never enough in this broken world.

But we have God's promise. We have his Word. He tells us, "Soon! Soon there will always be enough!" Hunger is temporary. Pain is temporary. Broken and lost relationships are temporary. Lent is temporary. The Easter Feast in the resurrection is forever!

But is even that enough?! Can I follow Jesus' example and say "no" to the temptation to grab and grasp whatever I need? No, the truth is, most of the time I don't have enough faith.

But here's the not-so-secret secret: The story of Jesus' successful encounter with Satan is not so much a model for us to emulate, as the good news that Jesus has taken the burden off our shoulders. He succeeded where everyone else failed. He was able to live off of God's promise and to drink the cup suffering down to the dregs without sinning. He *earned* the right to eternal life, and now he *gives* us that right.

And that's enough for us. God doesn't promise to meet our every need in this present broken world. But he always meets our one core need. Our need to be loved by God. We have not been forgotten. We have not been abandoned. We will rise with him in victory and feast with him forever - he has promised!

Of course, for now, we must wait. Perhaps you have to wait while also being tired and hungry and poor and sad. And if so, I'm sorry, that's *really, really hard!* But remember, God your Father has compassion on you, and has promised you a new birth into living hope through Jesus' resurrection. You have been adopted as his son or daughter. You have been given an imperishable, undefilable, unfading inheritance! Jesus himself keeps it and guards it for you. *Soon you will rise and feast* for all eternity with God because God said so! (1 Peter 1:3-7). Take a moment today and rejoice in that!



ST. JOHN

Missions News

APRIL, 2023 NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church
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Missions: Adopt a Seminarian

This year we have adopted a seminarian in his fourth year at Concordia Seminary - St. Lewis. Please read his interesting letter. Julie Barret, Missions Chair

Thank You!!

Dear St. John Ladies Society,

Greetings to you! This is a new update from Scot Missling, the 4th year M.Div student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis that you have offered to support through the Adopt-A-Student Program. I am profoundly grateful for the continued financial assistance you provide toward my education as I continue in my final year at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. I humbly continue to ask for your continued prayers and assistance as I work towards finishing my class work and receiving a Divine Call in April 2023!

It is hard to believe that I have already arrived at my final year of seminary education and in a few short month, Lord willing, I will receive a call to serve a parish as pastor. I am very humbled and feel very excited about God's plan for my future.

My fall semester has been quite busy this year with a variety of classes and extracurricular activities. I have the privilege of singing in the seminary choir, Laudamus. We sing for a variety of campus events from chapel services to alumni events and everything in between. We are preparing for a tour in the spring semester that will cover northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin and eastern Iowa. I am very much looking forward to that tour!

I have been taking a 7 week course on the Psalms which I have found to be a great blessing to my education and personal devotional life. I am also currently in an exegetical preaching course working on a variety of ways to build my preaching skills and how I can best preach the word in my future parish!

Veronica, Sophia, and I were blessed to be able to travel to Tulsa, Oklahoma recently to attend the wedding of a dear family friend. Weddings are always a wonderful time to reflect on the abundant blessings that God has given us in our marriage and in our growing family and we are so thankful for all God has provided. I have provided a photo of the three of us at the wedding reception for you to see.

I want to again thank you for your prayers and support throughout this final year. As my family and I look towards the spring semester and final events at Concordia Seminary and our future in parish ministry we have nothing but thanksgiving and gratitude for how you have blessed us and supported us on our journey.

I wish you and yours a joyful Advent and a blessed Christmas season! As always, I would love to hear from you via mail, e-mail, or phone call and I hope that you continue to be well and enjoy good health. God is gracious and generous to have provided me with supporters like you and I give thanks daily for all your support.

In Christ,

Scot D. Missling





ST. JOHN LWML & Outreach

APRIL, 2023 NEWS

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LWML News



It is time to mark calendars for LWML events for Spring.

April 15, 2023, Saturday @ 9 am is the next society meeting. We meet in Alana's Sunday School room off the Fellowship Hall. All ladies of St. John are welcome to attend.

April 22, Saturday, is the Rocky Mountain District, Southern Zone Spring Workshop. The ladies of Resurrection Lutheran Church at 4444 Moonbeam Dr., Colorado Springs are hosting the event. Registration begins at 9 am with the event beginning at 9:30. The workshop will share history and inspiration for some of our hymns. Be ready to sing! We are coordinating a carpool that will leave the church parking lot at 8 am. Please email Angela (abw@envalternatives.com) if you'd like to attend. The in-gathering is nonperishable food for Care and Share Ministry in Colorado Springs.

May 10, Wednesday @ 5:30 pm is the St. John Annual Spring Salad Supper. All ladies of the congregation are invited. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The guest speaker will be Becky Rowlands of Mercy Today Ministry.

May 13, Saturday @ 11 am is a non-denominational inspirational event offered by Aspire at Fellowship of the Rockies, 3892 W. Northern Avenue, Pueblo, CO. The 3-hour event includes Bible study, fun and lighthearted presentation and music. This is the first Aspire event in our area. Tickets are \$20. The flyer is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

We hope that one of these events will work with your schedules. We look forward to pausing with you to enjoy God's grace and fellowship with one another.

Blessings to All, Angela Bellantoni

Outreach

Nones

You have probably heard the term "nones" which came about to identify people who claim no religious affiliation. Many of them grew up in Christian homes, yet turned away from the faith. If you receive The Lutheran Witness magazine, the March issue has a few informative articles that address this disturbing trend.

What can we do? For our children, we do what we as active Christians are already doing: raise our children to attend church and Sunday School, teach them the catechism, teach them to pray, give them their own Bibles, read daily devotions and discuss Jesus with them, be role models of the faith. Deuteronomy 6:7 instructs us: *"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."* We pray for them to always cling to the truth of Scripture, learn the importance of worship and Bible study, and to be active in the local church. There is no guarantee that conscientious parents will not have children stray, but they are baptized. God hears our prayers.

Church Nursery Update

We received an offer to paint the new nursery with a mural of Noah's Ark, the Creation, or other theme. We were offered a used changing table. I found a bouncy seat at New Horizons. We could still use donations of toys, diapers, wipes, a glider or rocker, and a sign for over the door. Thank you. Gail (720) 201-8743



ST. JOHN

News & Notes

APRIL, 2023 NEWS

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Church Donations

General Fund Donations

February 2023	\$17,761
YTD	\$29,860
Budgeted YTD	\$26,666

Total Contributions less Expenditures for YTD 2023 = \$7,280

If any member would like an individual review of their contributions as it relates to the building fund and/or mortgage support, please contact Nichole Harms, Nathan Pegors or Jerry or Donna Heldt.

Thank you, Nichole Harms

Attendance

Wednesday, February 22	8/48 =	56
Sunday, February 26		97
Wednesday, March 1	18/30 =	48
Sunday, March 5th		97
Wednesday, March 8	6/33 =	49
Sunday, March 12		95
Wednesday, March 15	18/20 =	38
Sunday, March 19		= 89

Thank You

Thank you for all of the cards, kind words and prayers during this time of my brother's passing. Your support has helped me get through this very difficult time.

Your sister in Christ, Tricia

Need a Ride to Church?

If you or someone who you know needs transportation to church on Sundays, please call Ken at 719-429-4919.

Church Announcements

Please send announcements for Sunday bulletins and articles for the monthly parish paper to office@StJohnCanonCity.org. Sarah does the bulletins and Gail does the newsletters.

The Lutheran Hour

Did you know that we sponsor The Lutheran Hour? As you are getting ready for church or if you are unable to attend worship, consider tuning in to The Lutheran Hour, on KRLN 1400AM at 8:00am Sunday mornings.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide Sunday altar flowers, a sign-up chart is available near the mailboxes. Envelopes are also there for a donation of \$40 for two arrangements. Please be sure to note "altar flowers" on your check and also fill out the envelope and place the envelope in the offering plate.



ST. JOHN

April Events

APRIL, 2023 NEWS

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What is Happening in April!

April 2 - Palm Sunday

Also known as **The Sunday of the Passion.**

Our service will include a reading of the account of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, and the carrying and waving of palm branches in processional.



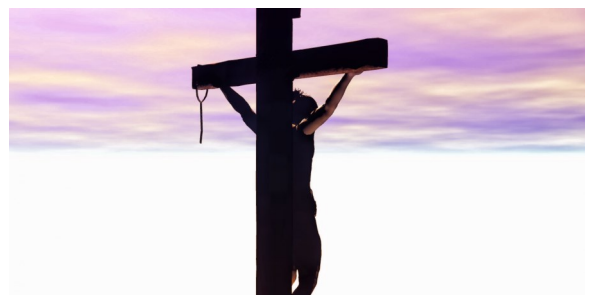
April 6 - Maundy Thursday

"Maundy" means "Command" and comes from the words of Jesus: *"A new command I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another"* (John 13:34). After they had eaten the Passover meal, Jesus gave the disciples his body and blood together with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. The altar is then stripped, which symbolizes the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion.



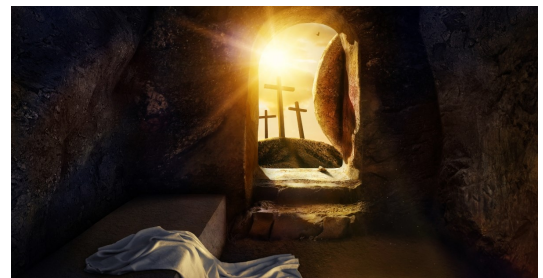
April 7 - Good Friday

Good Friday occurs two days before Easter Sunday. It is the day when we commemorate Christ's crucifixion. We call it Good Friday because it is the day that Jesus took the punishment for our sins (past, present, future). Though Jesus died a brutal death, it was in line with God's purpose which God had earlier revealed through His prophets.



April 9 - Easter Sunday

Easter is the most important day of the entire church year. The Bible states that *"(Jesus) was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification"* (Romans 4:25). Jesus' resurrection was God's way of demonstrating that He had accepted the payment that Jesus made for us. Easter is the symbol of *new life* from the dead. As believers in Jesus, we have a new life.



He is Risen! He is risen indeed!



ST. JOHN Signpost Inn

APRIL, 2023 NEWS

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Signpost Inn Events

Stations of the Cross Tour

April 1, 2023

8:00 am - 4:00 pm Mountain Time

Stations of the Cross Shrine, San Luis, Colorado

Total cost: \$0

Register

Jesus said, "Watch with me." ~ Matthew 26:40

Join us for an unforgettable Lenten experience! Come and tour the Stations of the Cross Shrine in San Luis Colorado and stand still with the Lord as you contemplate Christ's journey to the cross to save us all.

The Stations of the Cross, also called The Way of the Cross, The Way of Sorrows, *Via Dolorosa* or the Path to Calvary, refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. The installation in San Luis, Colorado features 15 exquisite and impressive sculptures, created by Huberto Maestas, a native Colorado artist whose work has captured international attention.

Liv will take you on a journey of contemplation as you move through all 15 stations, which will create space for you to come face-to-face with the overwhelming reality of God's love.

Please note: this event begins in Cañon City with an introduction to the Stations of the Cross. You will be responsible to drive / carpool yourself to San Luis (approximately a two hour drive) and back.

Virtual Workshop: Contemplative Prayer

April 15, 2023

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Mountain Time

Location: Zoom Virtual Workshop

Cost: \$0

Prayer does not have to be another requirement. It doesn't have to be more work. This short workshop will provide simple, structured guidance for how to practice contemplative prayer.

Contemplative Prayer Retreat


April 28-May 1, 2023

Location: Westcliffe, Colorado

Cost: \$550

This retreat provides space and structure so you can slow down, relax, and connect with God. We take care of the details so you don't have to. Located high in the beautiful Colorado Rockies, the views are second to none.

APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 PALM SUNDAY 9:00a Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30a Elder's Meeting	3 7:30a Morning Prayer	4 7:30a Morning Prayer	5 7:30a Morning Prayer	6 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Quilters 1:30p Lent Srvc. 7:00p Lent Srvc.	7 7:30a Morning Prayer 1:30p Lent Srvc. 7:00p Lent Srvc.	1 <hr/> 8
9 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30a Sunrise Service w/ Holy Communion 7:30a Easter Breakfast 9:00a Divine Service w/ Holy Communion	10 7:30a Morning Prayer 4:00p Children's Chorale 6:30p Confirmation	11 7:30a Morning Prayer	12 7:30a Morning Prayer	13 7:00a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Quilters	14 7:30a Morning Prayer	15
16 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00a Divine Service 10:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30a Council Meeting	17 7:30a Morning Prayer 4:00p Children's Chorale	18 7:30a Morning Prayer Sarah Out of Office	19 7:30a Morning Prayer 6:00p Youth Group	20 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Quilters	21 7:30a Morning Prayer	22
PASTOR DAN AWAY AT CONFERENCE						
23 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00a Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	24 7:30a Morning Prayer 4:00p Children's Chorale 6:30p Confirmation	25 7:30a Morning Prayer	26 7:30a Morning Prayer 10:00 Bible Study 6:00p Youth Group	27 7:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Quilters	28 7:30a Morning Prayer Prison Ministry – Pastor Out of Office	29
<u>Deadline for May Newsletter</u>						
30 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00a Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30a Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212 http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org 719-275-0111</p> </div>					