



Pastor's Message: Blessed be the name of the Lord

It is Monday morning and as I write this we only have 6 days before my nieces Leena and Bea move to Georgia with their mother. It has been a quite a journey as Tricia went to Michigan to care for her brother, guide the girls through the loss of their father, move them to Colorado, and bring them into our family. And now, in spite of our best efforts, the courts have decided that the girls need to live with their mother. It will not be easy to see them go; and I can only imagine how it must feel for them to be uprooted and move again in less than 6 months. However, this is what the courts have decreed; and so we hold onto hope that we will stay in touch and will see them again.

Our Men's Breakfast is currently studying the book of Job. In chapter one, Job hears of the loss of his livestock and children. One after another the blows keep coming as his servants in rapid succession bring Job the tragic news. Raiders have killed his oxen. Lightning has struck his sheep. More raiders have killed his camels; and then a great wind has collapsed the home of his eldest son killing all of his children. It was a horrific loss that would devastate anyone. The text says that in response Job tears his clothes and shaves his head as signs of his grief and sorrow. But then the text says Job fell on the ground and worshiped the Lord saying, "**The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord**" (Job 1:21).

Now, I understand the first part. "**The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away**". In so many areas of our lives we are completely powerless. The cancer strikes. Your car is rear ended because the other guy wasn't paying attention. The house floods while you're on vacation. The courts make a decree. None of it happens because you are negligent. Things just happen. Life happens; and it doesn't really matter whether the Lord caused it to happen or allowed it to happen. The end result is the same. "**The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away**".

What is far more difficult to understand in the face of this tragedy is the second part of Job's statement. "**Blessed be the name of the Lord**". We typically have no problem blessing the Lord when life has been good to us. A new baby is born. A baptism, confirmation, graduation. A new job, promotion, retirement. It is easy to bless the Lord and thank Him for all He has done for us.

But when tragedy strikes, how can Job bless the Lord? It seems so contradictory and counter-intuitive, not to mention incredibly difficult. Well, the only way is by focusing on the love and the promise of the Lord rather than the tragedy. Even when tragedy strikes, Job knows with all confidence that the Lord still loves him. He doesn't understand why things have happened as they did. He complains and demands answers from God; but in the midst of it all, Job continues to trust in the love of the Lord, so much so that in chapter 19 Job says, "**For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another**" (Job 19:25-27). Job clings to the love and the promise of the Lord. It was literally all he had; and yet it was enough.

While Job had the promise of the Lord, we have the fulfillment of that promise in Jesus Christ. His birth is the proof that God has not abandoned us. God is with us. He is our Emmanuel! His humiliation and suffering of the cross is the answer to how much God loves you. He will go to ANY lengths to redeem and save you. And His triumphant resurrection demonstrates His unequalled power to save. Through Jesus, I KNOW That My Redeemer Lives.

And so when tragedy strikes, we may not understand what is happening or why. We can mourn and cry out to the Lord in pain; and yet, through it all, we cling to the love of the Lord shown to us in Jesus Christ. Like Job, we can bless the name of the Lord because the Lord in Jesus Christ has blessed us.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Dan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Dan



ST. JOHN News from Boards

JUNE, 2023 NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church
790 Greydene Avenue
Canon City, CO 81212
Web: stjohncanoncity.org
Phone: (719) 275-0111

From the Treasurer: Your Offerings

General Fund Donations

April 2023 \$17,926

YTD \$61,688

Budgeted YTD \$53,334

Total Contributions less Expenditures for YTD 2023 = \$13,803

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

Nichole Harms, St. John Treasurer

Missions

This is how the St. John Missions money will be spent this year:

Missions 2023

Rocky Mountain district	10,140
St. John cares and concerns	500
Mercy ministries	460
Joint seminary fund	1200
Cima family	1200
Canon City pregnancy center	700
Orphan grain train	500
Loaves and fishes	700
Worldview Academy	500
Signpost Inn	500
Adopt the seminarian	<u>500</u>
Total	\$ 16,900



St. John Missions

There has been some interest in the congregation of individuals donating money to our seminary student, Scott Missling and his family. Our church gives the \$500 minimum. If you would like to donate on top of that, put a check made out to St John Lutheran Church in Julie Barrett's mailbox. Please note "Seminary Student" on your check. Please don't put your check in the regular collection plate, as it would probably go to general funds. I will give the checks to Nichole, our treasurer. She can send your money with our congregation's amount to Scott. No donation is too small! (I look forward to learning what church Scott will be called to serve.)

Julie Barrett, Missions

2023 Vacation Bible School June 12 - 16

JESUS SAVES THE WORLD! Discover the wonder at VBS! For children pre-K through 6th grade. **Registration form is in this newsletter!** VBS will be June 12 - 16 from 9 AM to noon.

Pastor Lyle, Education Chair



Miraculous Mission VBS Registration Form
June 12 - 16, 2023 9 a.m. - Noon

St. John Lutheran Church
790 Greydene Avenue
Cañon City, CO 81212
(719) 275-0111

1. Child's Name _____ Date of birth _____

Grade in September 2023 (must have completed JK to attend VBC) _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

2. Child's Name _____ Date of birth _____

Grade in September 2023 (must have completed JK to attend VBC) _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

3. Child's Name _____ Date of birth _____

Grade in September 2023 (must have completed JK to attend VBC) _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

Parent/Guardian name _____

Street address _____ City _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____ Email _____

All reasonable precautions for the safety and health of the participant will be taken. He/she will be properly supervised in activities. In the event of accident or sickness, St. John Lutheran Church, its staff and volunteers are released from any liability. In the event of injury requiring medical attention, I authorize treatment for the participant and understand that reasonable attempts will be made to contact me, should such a situation occur.

Participant's Health card number: _____

Participant's Family Physician: _____ Phone: _____

In case of emergency, contact _____

Name of home church, if any _____

Staff or associated volunteers of St. John Lutheran Church might use photography to document events like VBS. Images may be used for documentary or promotional purposes relating to events connected to St. John Lutheran Church. I hereby grant permission for St. John Lutheran Church to photograph my child(ren) and use such images on official digital or printed publications without further consideration.

Check to Consent

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____



ST. JOHN

News & Notes

JUNE, 2023 NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church
790 Greydene Avenue
Canon City, CO 81212
Web: stjohncanoncity.org
Phone: (719) 275-0111

Attendance

April 30	96
May 7	105
May 14	92
May 21	

Cañon City Pregnancy Center Annual Walk For Life

Walk or run 2 miles or 5 K to benefit the Cañon City Pregnancy Center, a prolife nonprofit that has supported families for over 38 years. Gail Kirkegaard signed up and hopes others will walk with her on the River Walk, beginning at 8:30 AM at Raynold's Park on **Saturday, June 10th**. It's \$38.10 for registration, T-shirt, and processing fee. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board. See <https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/CanonCity/run4abundantlife> for info.

St. John Garage Sale

Thank you to all the volunteers and shoppers! We collected \$1,149.25.

St. John Business Directory

We would like to give members an opportunity to provide business services for other members. Forms to submit businesses are on the table by the mailboxes. We are collecting submissions through August. The pdf business directory will be e-mailed to members. If you have any questions, please contact Gail at (720) 201-8743.

Church Nursery

Bri Jones is painting Noah's Ark in our nursery. Please let her know if you would like to help. (661) 476-1997.

For Sale

Ladies Bass Accordion, white pearl finish, \$300. Merlin enhanced vision magnifier, table included, \$500. Call Arlene Stolp (719) 285-8231.

Altar Flowers

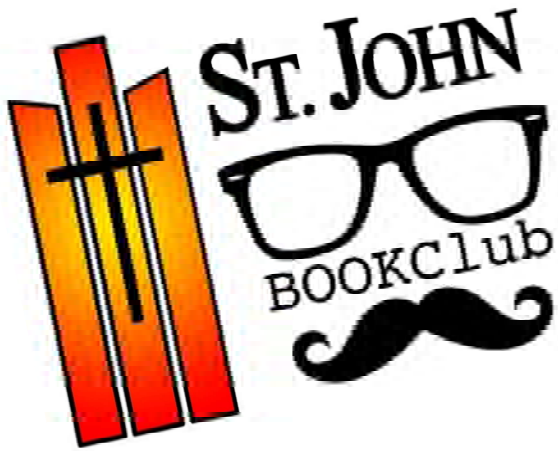
A sign-up chart is near the mailboxes. Envelopes are also there for a donation of \$50 for two arrangements. Please note "altar flowers" on your check, fill out the envelope and place the envelope in the offering plate.

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer concern we have a phone chain and an e-mail chain. Please contact one of the following:
Phone: Mary Richardson, (719) 269-1426 **E-mail:** Sue Poehlein, cspoehlein@gmail.com

Special Prayers

Please contact Pastor Dan prior to Sunday services to include any special prayer requests in the service.



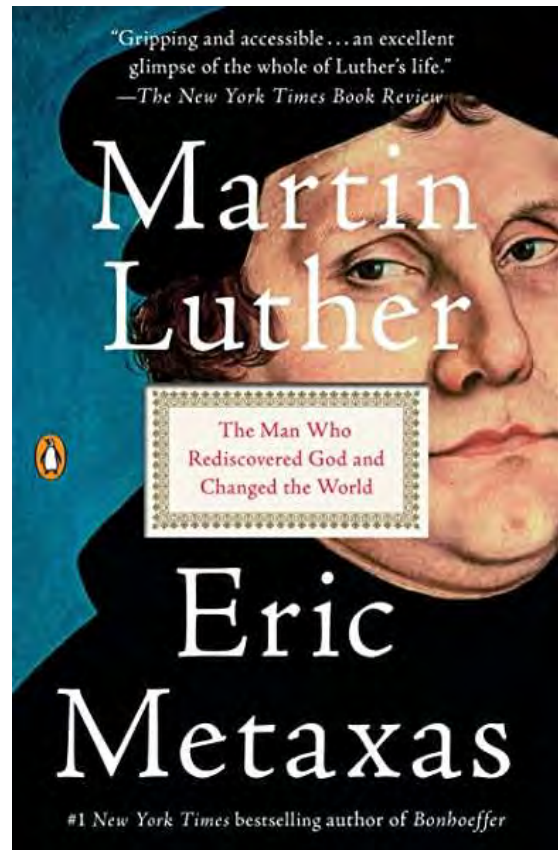
June & July
2023

Here is what is happening at the BOOKClub:

The next book on our list is Martin Luther The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World (ISBN 978-1101980019) by Eric Metaxas. This book comes *HIGHLY* recommended by Gordon. The description reads:

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Eric Metaxas comes a brilliant and inspiring biography of the most influential man in modern history, Martin Luther.

On All Hallows' Eve in 1517, a young monk named Martin Luther posted a document he hoped would spark an academic debate, but that instead ignited a conflagration that would forever destroy the world he knew. Five hundred years after Luther's now famous Ninety-five Theses appeared, Eric Metaxas, acclaimed biographer of the bestselling Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy and *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery*, paints a startling portrait of the wild figure whose adamant faith cracked the edifice of Western Christendom and dragged medieval Europe into the future. Written in riveting prose and impeccably researched, Martin Luther tells the searing tale of a humble man who, by bringing ugly truths to the highest seats of power, caused the explosion whose sound is still ringing in our ears. Luther's monumental faith and courage gave birth to the ideals of liberty, equality, and individualism that today lie at the heart of all modern life.



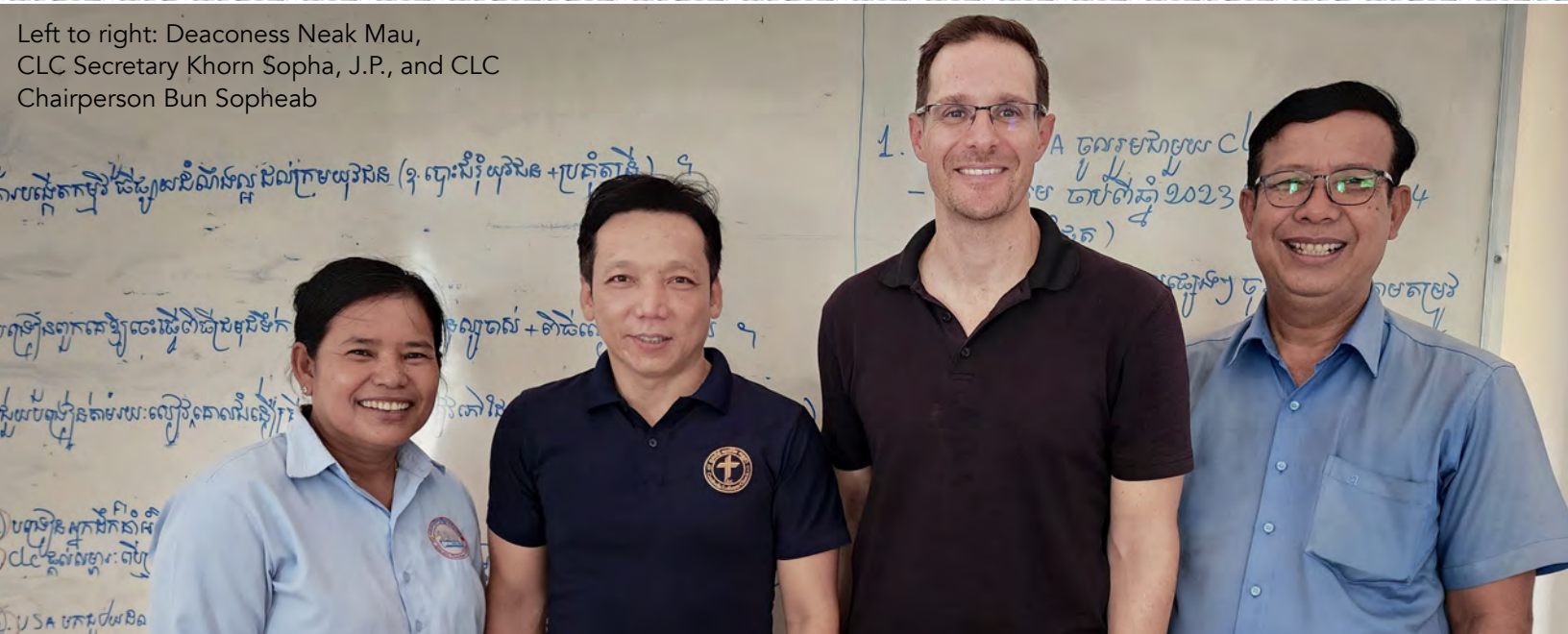
3 copies have been ordered for the church and will be in shortly. Used copies are available on Amazon for \$5-6, and a Kindle edition for \$16, and an Audible audiobook for \$7. If you have any problems finding a copy, please call Pastor Dan.

The date for discussing this book is July 13th, 6:30pm.

Pick up a book & join us at the BOOKClub!

Mission work is...whiteboards!?

Left to right: Deaconess Neak Mau, CLC Secretary Khorn Sopha, J.P., and CLC Chairperson Bun Sopheab



Four of us standing in front of a white board perfectly captures the substance of J.P.'s recent two trips to [Kampot Province](#). These trips were the culmination of the Cambodia Lutheran Church's (CLC) [program of intentional visitation](#) (supported by the LCMS). Begun just over [a year ago](#), the main component of the project was visitation to each and every congregation of the CLC, in order to build common identity, teach and distribute resources, and [collect data](#) for understanding the ground level situation of churches. This would provide a stable foundation for the CLC's strategic planning. Having completed all the visits and collected all the data, our visitation team [sat down in March](#) to begin understanding what the data was telling us. J.P. analyzed the data and created basic pie and bar graphs to visualize the results. J.P. led a discussion on each data point, from which we identified the CLC's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This resulted in over 65 points that filled three large whiteboards, far too much for the CLC to accomplish given its small size and modest resources. On his [second trip](#) in April, J.P. sought to help the CLC narrow down to 4-6 priorities (fitting on a single whiteboard!) that would guide the work of the CLC over the next 2-3 years. This step was difficult (because everything seems so important!), but after multiple rounds of discussion, and lots of writing and erasing on the whiteboard, 6 priorities naturally emerged as most critical. After nailing down our priorities, we discussed each of them to identify action steps that will help us to address it. Finally, we had a blueprint of the CLC's strategic plan! We'll share more about the content of the plan as it is formalized and publicized, but the story here is the importance of the process we went through. Due to internal challenges years ago, and COVID-19 in recent years, the CLC has struggled with a lack of momentum. This process of visitation → data → understanding → priorities → action helps the CLC to build momentum for service that is grounded in the real needs of church communities. J.P. was honored to facilitate this process! (And is now happy to be done with whiteboards for a while.)

Praises: for a [recent trip to Hanoi, Vietnam](#), our first since departing 5+ years ago; for [fun opportunities](#) to bless Cambodian youth; for the completion of [two cohorts](#) of Small Catechism training; for a [meaningful Holy Week](#); for the recent [visit of a friend](#) from Vietnam; for Aimee's recent trip to Hong Kong to support missionaries there.

Prayers: for the CLC's strategic planning efforts, that those plans would bear much fruit for the Gospel in Cambodia; for the kids as they finish the school year; for our home service planning and travel; for a time of separation as J.P. travels to the U.S. before the rest of the family.

Wanna help us impact the people of Cambodia? Give online [here](#) or mail a check to 1) P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 (payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod), OR 2) 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034 (payable to Mission Central). For ALL checks, in the memo line write "Cima family-Cambodia."

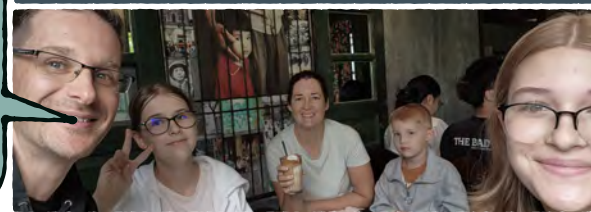
We are coming to the United States!

We will be in 10 states over 10 weeks and would LOVE to share about how God is shaking things up on the other side of the world. [Check out our schedule here](#), and contact us to schedule a visit!

SQUARE TWO 2

Cima Newsletter
Vol. 17, #4 April 2023

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Aimee.Cima@lcms.org





**ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



9th Annual Benefit Car Show

Saturday, September 23rd, 2023

790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO 719-275-0111

Display Cars Park on Grass

9:00am to 2:00pm

Food & Drink Available

One Free Lunch for Car Owners

Dash Plaques for Registered Cars

Registration / Donation--\$20.00/Car

*Optional additional donation of \$5/car for drawing
to have your car on the 2024 Dash Plaque*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

All Makes and Models Welcome!


Vehicle Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____

Mail pre-registrations to Carol Skoda / 1112 Field Ave. / Cañon City, CO / 81212

For more information call Carol Skoda @ 719-320-9812 or Gene Foster @ 719-315-2232

**All Proceeds to benefit the St. John's Mission Teams & Youth Group
Spectators Free: Come One – Come All**

JUNE 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 790 Greystone Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212 http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org 719-275-0111</p>				1 7:30a Morning Prayer 7:00a Men's Breakfast	2 7:30a Morning Prayer	3
4 HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Adult Bible Class 11:30 Elder's Meeting	5 7:30a Morning Prayer	6 7:30a Morning Prayer	7 7:30a Morning Prayer 6:00p Youth Group	8 7:30a Morning Prayer	9 7:30a Morning Prayer <i>Pastor Out of the Office-Prison Ministry</i>	10
11 2ND SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class 11:30 Council Meeting	12	13	14	15	16	17
	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 8:00a - Noon					
18 3RD SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Adult Bible Class <u><i>Father's Day</i></u>	19 7:30a Morning Prayer	20 7:30a Morning Prayer	21 7:30a Morning Prayer 6:00p Youth Group	22 7:30a Morning Prayer	23 7:30a Morning Prayer	24
25 4TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class	26 7:30a Morning Prayer	27 7:30a Morning Prayer	28 7:30a Morning Prayer 6:00p Youth Group	29 7:30a Morning Prayer 7:00a Men's Breakfast	30 7:30a Morning Prayer	