



August 2023 NEWS

Pastor's Message: Don't Talk About Religion or Politics

No doubt that is the advice that your parents gave you when you were younger. When going to a party or a corporate event or even a family gathering, one way to avoid arguments is not to talk about beliefs that others hold very strongly and that may differ from your very strongly held beliefs. Broaching these subjects seems like an accident waiting to happen; and I would suspect that your parents' sage advice has saved countless relationships.

Lately I have also heard the argument that the lack of discussion around religion and politics has created a culture that is largely ignorant about both. Not only that, but we then surround ourselves with like-minded people, never learn how to listen to, evaluate, and civilly disagree with one another.

St. Paul gives us some guidelines in Romans 14. Throughout the chapter he is discussing issues that are adiaphora (things that are neither commanded nor forbidden in Scripture). He uses issues of eating meat and days of worship as examples; and his conclusion is that it doesn't really matter. Eat meat or don't. Worship on Sunday or Tuesday. These are issues of Christian freedom, and each person "should be fully convinced in his own mind" (14:5). In other words, know why you hold the position you do, but love and respect your neighbor enough to let him disagree with you. If you find freedom on an issue, don't flaunt it; and if you are strict on another issue, don't expect others to be strict like you.

And then the guiding principle is found in verses 7 & 8. "For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord." So, the one thing that trumps all of the issues is Christ: His love and His sacrifice. Hold the Lord above everything else and know that he loves your neighbor too!

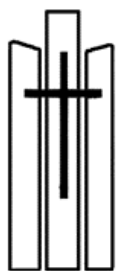
In just a few days I will leave for the 68th synodical convention of the LCMS in Milwaukee which runs from July 29th through August 3rd. In contrast to your parents' advice, this might be considered the very worst of all situations - a week dedicated to both religion and politics. But among the very strongly held beliefs of both pastors and laymen alike, I have hope that Christ will be exalted above all. He is the common ground that unites us all.

Please pray for me; and I will give you a full report when I return.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Dan".

Pastor Dan



ST. JOHN Music

August, 2023 NEWS

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

Music: Saying Good-Bye

If you haven't yet heard Alana Holt will be leaving St. John to pursue a Director of Christian Education (DCE) degree at Concordia College, St. Paul, Minnesota. We are planning a 'celebration' for her during fellowship the last Sunday of August.

Besides the fact that Alana is my daughter, you might be asking why mention this as part of the Music section of the newsletter. As anyone who regularly sits on the chairs in the back of the sanctuary can attest, Alana is a HUGE assistant to me in making sure that the music in the worship service flows seamlessly.

With her leaving there are several opportunities for others to share in their talents. Please consider how you may fill one of the following roles either on a regular or intermittent basis. If you are willing to pick up one of these roles, please let me know. You will not need to fill this role every week, I will make alternate arrangements if the need arises. The best outcome is to have multiple people available, to make everyone's workload lighter.

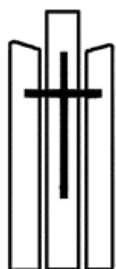
Here are the roles that are needed:

- A computer savvy person, who is willing to sit in the back and 'jump up' to manually change the slides when the remotes decide to not work. (Doesn't happen often)
- Be available to 'ring' the bell on the Clavinova at start and close of service. Don't worry if you don't know what note, I'll be happy to mark it for you.
- Serve as substitute 'clicker' of the slides when the Wright family goes to communion.
- Assist me in taking down music, turning pages, and/or being my prompter during communion, so I get the music timed just right. You DO NOT need to read music. (Angela Bellantoni has offered to do this, but will occasionally need a substitute).
- Work with me before service (I arrive 1 ½ hours before service starts for my final run through) to review hymn melodies that aren't familiar and then sing out during service to support others until they become more familiar with the tune. I would let you know in advance when this type of hymn will be sung.
- A computer savvy person who can occasionally create timed slide shows, like was done for this past Good Friday and Easter services.

Alana has been my right-hand support in my role as music director for the past four years. She will be missed immensely for many reasons. However, this educational opportunity will allow her to share her God-given talents of teaching, music, leadership, singing, artistic and listening skills and a personality of befriending anyone in need, plus a giver of 'great hugs' as I was told recently. St. John is blessed with many talented members; through our loss we will be sharing our wealth through Alana with other brothers and sisters in Christ.

I ask that you keep her in your prayers.

Your Musical Director in Christ,
Lori



ST. JOHN News & Notes

August, 2023 NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church
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Church Attendance

June 25	90
July 2	80
July 9	69
July 16	93
July 23	75

Car Show: The 9th annual St. John Benefit Car Show will be on Saturday, the 23rd of September. St. John members Bri and Justin Jones, and Kevin Wright and his boys Elliott and Alexander will fill the atmosphere with their home-grown musical entertainment. They will show the community some of the wonderful talent we have at St. John. So far, we have Eugene & Joan Foster, Chuck and Sue Poehlein, Ken and Toni Davidson, Sue Willard, Paul Dreger, and Julie Barrett for volunteers. We hope several youth and young adults will also help!

Anyone who may have a speaker system and oldies music that we could borrow would be appreciated. This will give the bands a break for lunch and allow the entertainment to continue!

Please contact Carol Skoda, (719) 320-9812, if interested in volunteering. Thank you.

Missions Report: All of our mission funds have been sent out (a special thank you to Nichole our treasurer). We have received thank you letters from the Seminary, the Cimas, and the Orphan Grain Train. Our money is doing a lot of good!

Ride to Church: If you or another member who you know needs transportation to church on Sundays, please call Ken Davidson at 719-429-4919.

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.

St. John Business Directory: If you have a business, you can have it listed in our business directory. Forms and an envelope to submit your business are by the mailboxes. We are collecting submissions through August. The pdf business directory will be e-mailed to members. If you have questions, please call Gail (720) 201-8743.

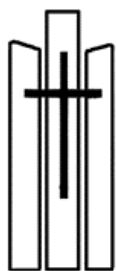
Church Nursery: Parents may use the nursery in back of the church. We are still in the process of painting and equipping it, but it can still provide a retreat for you and your little ones. This is an unattended nursery.

Announcements: Please e-mail any announcements for the Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters to office@StJohnCanonCity.org. Sarah does the bulletins and Gail does the newsletter. Thank You.

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 in the offering plate.

Special Prayers: Please contact Pastor Dan prior to the Sunday service for special prayers.

Family Activity Album: Gail is starting a record of St. John Memories, for people and faces (not pictures of cars) and asks for any of your church event photos from over the years. Anyone can contribute and help it grow.



ST. JOHN LWML and Outreach

August, 2023 NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church
790 Greydene Avenue
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The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has been an official auxiliary of LCMS since 1942. The LWML Mission Statement is "As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others."

LWML's focus is to affirm each woman's relationship with Christ by encouraging and equipping all women to be active in missions both

locally and abroad. In other words, LWML is an opportunity for all women at St. John to encourage and serve each other along with women in our community and throughout the world.

The 2023-2024 LWML season will begin September 16, 2023. All ladies of St. John are welcome to attend. The meeting will begin at 9 am and will last between 1 hour and 1 ½ hours. We meet at church in the Sunday School room off the fellowship hall. The meeting begins with fellowship, then we have devotion and prayer. Even though business topics occupy most of the meeting, it is rewarding and fun to work together to serve our church, our community as well as learn about and serve missions globally.

I encourage any lady at St. John with an idea or project or event that would benefit by more hands and eager hearts to join us on Saturday, September 16th.

Blessings to All.
Angela Bellantoni

Outreach: The Five W's

I am not a trained theologian or evangelist, but God expects us all to be His witnesses. We want everyone to know about God's free gift of salvation, and to grow in faith at whatever Biblically-sound Christian church they decide to call home. In personal relationships we can find out who needs to hear about Jesus. If someone is struggling and needs us to understand their heart, we can encourage them to share their thoughts. Maybe someone is looking for a church, wants information about our faith, or asks why as Christians we live as we do. This is an opportunity to share our faith. If we are blessed with such openings, the **Five W's** of journalism (who, what, when, where, why) might help as questions arise.

Who we worship (the Triune God),

What our worship is like (the liturgy, hymns, prayers, creeds, Sacraments),

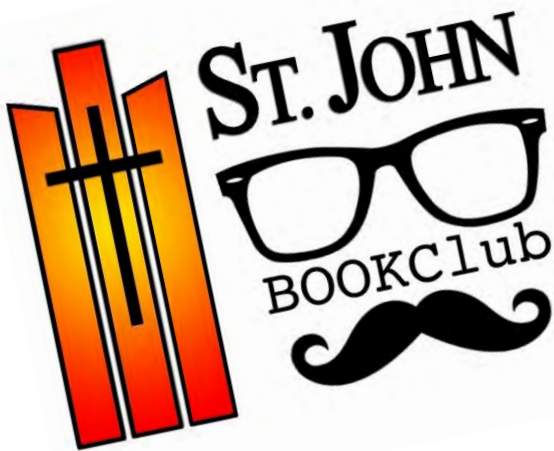
Where we worship (St. John at Field and Central),

When worship occurs (Sundays at 9 AM and other times throughout the church year),

Why we worship there (because we have been saved by grace through faith and need faith nourishment, growth in knowledge of Scripture, and to serve God in the fellowship of believers).

1 Peter 3:15 - "... *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*"

Gail Kirkegaard,
Chair of St. John Outreach



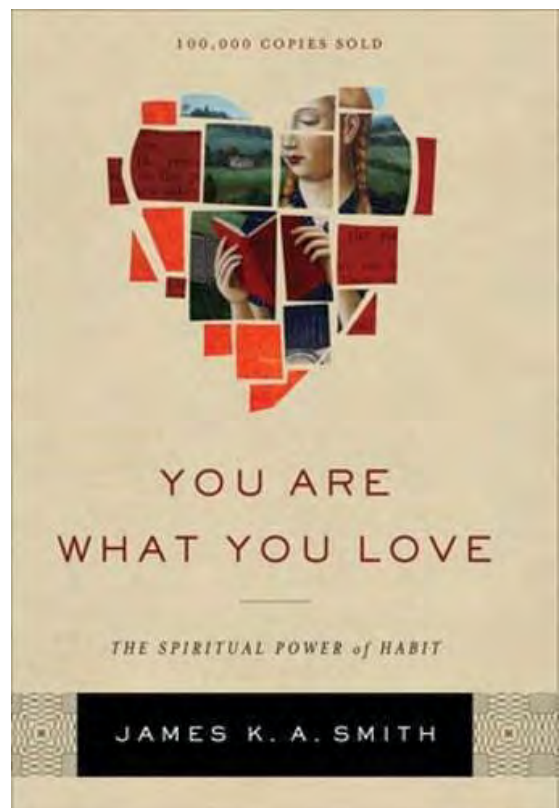
August & September 2023

Here is what is happening at the BOOKClub:

The next book on our list is **You are What You Love** (ISBN 978-1587433801) by James K. A. Smith. This book was recommended by a speaker Lyle and I heard this past spring. The description reads:

You are what you love. But you might not love what you think.

In this book, award-winning author James K. A. Smith shows that who and what we worship fundamentally shape our hearts. And while we desire to shape culture, we are not often aware of how culture shapes us. We might not realize the ways our hearts are being taught to love rival gods instead of the One for whom we were made. Smith helps readers recognize the formative power of culture and the transformative possibilities of Christian practices. He explains that worship is the "imagination station" that incubates our loves and longings so that our cultural endeavors are indexed toward God and his kingdom. This is why the church and worshipping in a local community of believers should be the hub and heart of Christian formation and discipleship.



The author creatively uses film, literature, and music illustrations to engage readers and includes material on marriage, family, youth ministry, and faith and work. He also suggests individual and communal practices for shaping the Christian life.

3 copies have been ordered for the church. Used copies are available on Amazon for \$9, and a Kindle edition for \$14, 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 Wednesday September 20th, 6:30pm.

Pick up a book & join us at the BOOKClub!



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: _____

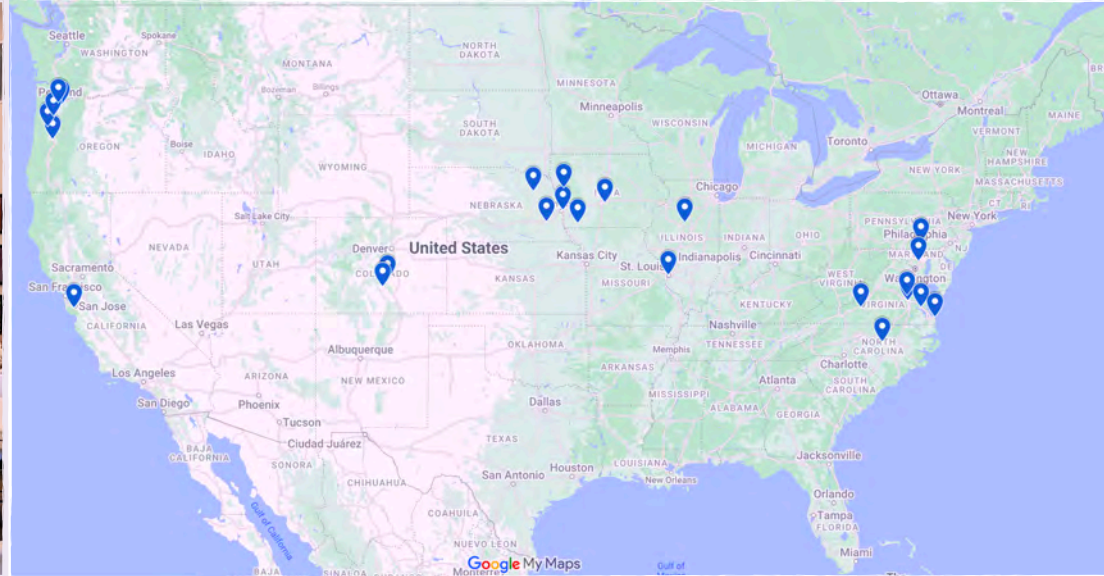
All Makes and Models Welcome!

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



OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN IMMENSELY BLESSED, especially after a sad and turbulent start to the summer, by the chance to visit with SO MANY of you, our dear partners in ministry. Many of you began partnering with us when we started 16+ years ago! From West Coast to East Coast, some visits were long in the planning while others came together at the last minute. Whatever the case, we saw God's hand in each and every one. In these travels we have witnessed your enthusiasm for what God is up to in Southeast Asia—by welcoming us into your homes and churches, by giving us opportunities to share about our work, by asking thoughtful questions, by praying for us, and by financially supporting us. What a gift all of this is! **THANK YOU FOR SENDING US TO SOUTHEAST ASIA!** We still have a few visits left before our return to Cambodia, but by the time all is said and done, here are a few stats from our summer in the US:

- 10 states
- 17 flight segments
- 22 different institutions (church or school)
- 35 different speaking engagements (sermon or presentation)

CIMA FAMILY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 17, NO. 6, JUNE 2023


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AIMEE.CIMA@LCMS.ORG



PRAYERS: for fruitful remaining visits in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina; for safe travel back to Cambodia on August 5; for a [youth group](#) member whose mother just died; for J.P.'s mom as she continues to adjust to widowhood; for Celeste as she received her learner's permit and has started practicing driving; for J.P. and Aimee's sanity as Celeste drives.

WANNA HELP US impact the people of Cambodia and beyond? 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.”

AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212 http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org 719-275-0111</p>		1 7:30a Morning Prayer	2 7:30a Morning Prayer	3 7:30a Morning Prayer	4 7:30a Morning Prayer	5
		Pastor Dan Out of the Office – LCMS National Convention				
6 10TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Adult Bible Class 11:30 Elder's Meeting	7 7:30a Morning Prayer	8 7:30a Morning Prayer	9 7:30a Morning Prayer	10 7:00a Men's Breakfast	11 7:30a Morning Prayer	12
13 11TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class 11:30 Council Meeting	14 7:30a Morning Prayer	15 7:30a Morning Prayer	16 7:30a Morning Prayer	17 7:30a Morning Prayer	18 7:30a Morning Prayer <i>Pastor Out of the Office- Prison Ministry</i>	19
20 12TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Adult Bible Class	21 7:30a Morning Prayer 4:00p Cañon City Youth Choirs	22 7:30a Morning Prayer	23 7:30a Morning Prayer	24 7:00a Men's Breakfast	25 7:30a Morning Prayer	26
Pastor Dan Out of the Office - Vacation						
27 13TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class	28 7:30a Morning Prayer 4:00p Cañon City Youth Choirs	29 7:30a Morning Prayer	30 7:30a Morning Prayer	31 7:30a Morning Prayer		
Pastor Dan Out of the Office - Vacation						