



Pastor's Message: Dominus

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are not typically a good time for the Gospel of Mark. The reason is obvious enough. Advent readies us for Christmas, and Christmas is about the baby born in Bethlehem. So, this is the time of year to hear from the birth and infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. This is the time of year to hear about the incarnation of our Lord as related in the prologue of John's Gospel. Jesus's actual ministry can wait for the season of Epiphany.

Mark's Gospel begins with Jesus entering the narrative as an adult. In the space of some seven verses, Jesus is anointed with the Holy Spirit at His baptism, tempted for 40 days in the wilderness, and then begins His ministry of proclaiming the reign and rule of God. Then, in the verses that follow, His ministry begins full force as He calls disciples, teaches with authority, casts out unclean spirits, heals the sick, and so on. There is no mention of Jesus as a child in Mark's narrative, and so, it seems, there is not much use for Mark's Gospel in the season when many in our culture - even outside of the church - focus upon the birth of a baby.

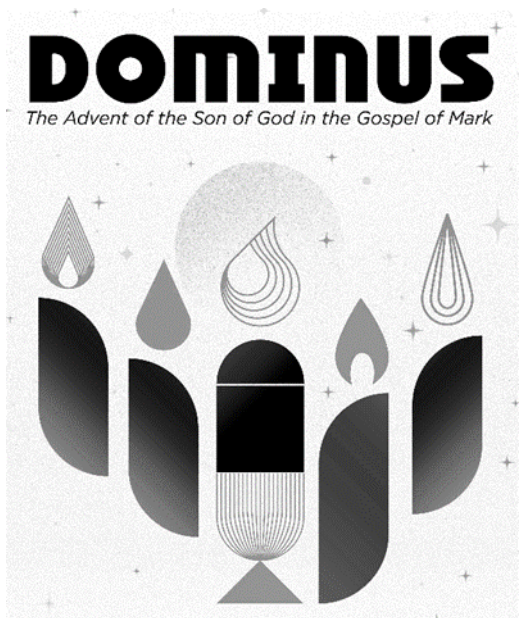
Yet there has been a reversal if we were to compare expectations during the seasons of Advent and Christmas today with those of Israel in the first century. In this time of the year Americans await the birth of a baby, and this baby is then often viewed through the lens of sentimentality. He is harmless and inoffensive. He represents God's love for everyone apart from any deep focus on fallen creation. Or for some He represents generally "the miracle of birth and new life." He poses no threat to anyone.

The people of Israel, however, were not looking for a baby, but for a *mighty ruler* who would crush their enemies. This Messiah would pose a deadly threat to all of the enemies of God - including those within Israel itself.

So, why have an Advent series that uses Mark's Gospel rather than the other three? For one thing, there is actually an advent in Mark's narrative of Jesus's ministry. Advent means arrival, and in Mark Jesus does arrive, even if this appears suddenly when he comes as an adult. Yes, He arrives as an adult in Mark's narrative, not as a baby, but He does *arrive*. Then at His baptism Jesus receives the Holy Spirit, is demonstrated to be the Messiah and Lord, is declared to be the Son of God, and then is thrown out into battle against Israel's enemies - not the Romans - but the devil, sin, and death. In this version of our Lord's advent, the dominion of these spiritual powers is defeated, we are freed, and Jesus alone has become Lord.

"I believe that Jesus Christ true Son of God has become my Lord. What is it 'to become a lord'?" asked Luther in the Large Catechism. "It means that he has redeemed and released me from sin, from the devil, from death . . . those tyrants and jailers have now been routed, and their place has been taken by Jesus Christ, the Lord of life, righteousness, and every good blessing."

(continued on page 2)





ST. JOHN LWML

December, 2023 NEWS

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



The Christmas Event will be **Saturday, December 2**. Mark your calendars. There is something for everyone. The Ladies' Brunch will begin at 9:30. The CCHS Madrigals will perform at 11:00.

All ladies of the congregation are invited to the LWML Christmas Brunch that will begin at 9:30. Ladies, please come, relax, and enjoy fellowship; take a break from Christmas bustle. The Orphan Grain Train (OGT) will be our mission focus. I encourage everyone to visit the website www.ogt.org. This amazing mission organization was started in 1991 by Rev. Dr. Wallace Schulz, an Associate Speaker for The Lutheran Hour. OGT is a national and global mission outreach. We will enjoy a presentation by OGT. **Our mission focus is collecting quilts, blankets and comforters of any size for OGT.** The In-Gathering will continue through Christmas, December 25th. The collection tables are located at the front of the Fellowship Hall. This is an opportunity to clean our closets or visit one of the many thrift stores. Let's try to fill the back of Lynn's Tundra pickup with blankets. Lynn will take the blankets to the Castle Rock OGT collection center. The items will then be transported to Norfolk, NE for distribution domestically or globally, wherever there is need. That's the business for the day.



Orphan Grain Train †

The fun for the day is a Christmas Cookie Exchange. For anyone who would like to share their culinary cookie treats, please bring 3 dozen cookies, one kind, divided into 6 - ½ dozen packages. Those who participate will take home 3 dozen cookies of many varieties.

Perhaps the real fun for the day will be the CCHS Madrigal performance that will begin at 11 am. Everyone is invited to enjoy this holiday musical treat in the sanctuary. A freewill offering will be collected.

Blessings to All,
Angela Bellantoni

Pastor's Message: Dominus (from page 1)

When Jesus arrives on the scene in Mark, there is no doubt who He is. Here is the Spirit-anointed Son of God, our Lord who has come to deliver the nations of Israel, all men, and even fallen creation itself. Our Advent series will present Jesus who enters the narrative of Mark as the Spirit-anointed Messiah and Lord, and who then as Lord defeats the enemies of God who are opposed to His reign.

The first week focuses upon Jesus's baptism where he enters the narrative of Mark's Gospel and is demonstrated to be Lord. The second week focuses upon the Lord Jesus's authority and victory over the satanic realm. The third week focuses upon the Lord Jesus's authority and victory over the power of sin. And the fourth week focuses upon the Lord Jesus's authority and victory over death itself.

I hope you will take the time out of your busy schedule this December to join us on Wednesdays: 1:30pm for an afternoon service; 7:00pm for an evening service; and a soup supper at 6:00pm. Please take the time this busy season to prepare your heart and mind for the Advent of our Savior.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan



ST. JOHN

Student Report

December, 2023 NEWS

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Listen, God is Calling

Have you ever sung the hymn “Listen, God is Calling”, LSB 833? It’s a lovely hymn, written in 2006, that features a call and response between a leader and the singers to listen to the Word of God calling out to you. The tune is easy to sing, and sticky, getting stuck in your brain on repeat for days.

I have come to hate it.

Now, that seems a bit harsh so let me back up. November has provided me an opportunity to attend a mission conference held at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. Called the “Beautiful Feet” mission conference, the 3-day program focused on how to become everyday missionaries in the life around you, as well as empowering and encouraging church workers. Two days before we left for the conference, we sang this hymn in Chapel. Upbeat, played on electric guitar, it was a positive start to the day and a reminder to focus on missions and outreach in the world.

And then we sat in a bus for 7 hours. Of course, the hymn was still stuck in everyone’s mind. What could go wrong? No one could remember the words to the verses, so the chorus was sung on repeat. For an hour. Continuously. Armed with shouts of “new song!” and “sing something else!” a small group of us bus riders attempted to change the music track. However, a bunch of college guys have now decided that the chorus is hilarious!

Please don’t misinterpret my words. Yes, it was a bit annoying. However, it was all done in jest and great fun. I laughed every time the chorus was sung. I still do. The hymn became the running joke of the group. All 48 of us would whistle the tune under our breath. We would be sitting in a conference room of 200 students and the tune would drift through the room and you could see heads snapping up to look for the source.

However, too much of a good thing can be too much. Having variety allows us to appreciate what is around us. Complacency is easy to fall into, lessening the impact of any activity, or hymn, that we do. Speaking mostly of hymns, we are still able to appreciate the vast collection available to us while maintaining the comfort of tradition. Because when a favorite hymn is finally played, it means so much more because of that rarity.

It will be a while before I don’t inwardly groan or cringe at “Listen, God is Calling”. However, I find myself perking up each time we sing a hymn. “Oh yeah,” I think to myself, “I forgot how much I like this one!”

Look forward to new experiences just as we take comfort in tradition. And remember to listen, because “God is calling through the word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy!”

Alana Holt - Concordia, St. Paul



ST. JOHN Council News

December, 2023 NEWS

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The Cañon City Pregnancy Center To Become A Medical Clinic

As of January 2024, the Canon City Pregnancy Center, also known now as the Abundant Life Center, will become a free medical clinic. They have been working on this for a long time!

The medical clinic will provide pregnancy tests and 3D ultrasounds of babies. These are much better than the typical ultrasound. The mother and father are able to see details of their baby, such as toes, fingers, etc. (80% of women who see their child via ultrasound choose life for their baby, 98% if the father is in the room) Their clinic will also provide STI/STD testing, and the Abortion Pill Rescue Program! (The abortion pill rescue program effectively reverses the outcome of taking the abortion pill, if taken within the appropriate time frame.)



For more information, visit www.abundantliferesources.org

I got this information from Stori Thompson, director of community communication at the Abundant Life Center.

In the future we will contribute to the center, by having a diaper drive, etc. Stori also wants as many people as possible in the community to know about the medical center, so that they can recommend it to people who are in need of this service.

Julie Barrett,
St. John Missions

Evangelism: Tell Your Family and Friends

After Jesus cleansed the demon-possessed man by sending them into the pigs, he told him to go back to his hometown and tell them what the Lord had done for him. We can't all be world missionaries. God doesn't call everybody for that. But we have loved ones and neighbors who can know that our hearts have changed, our bodies healed, our lives turned around, and our souls were saved by Jesus.

We don't need a soap box and a megaphone, but we can let people know a one or two at a time. Sometimes during conversations with friends and family, we can let others know our simple stories. The man, who was not named, told people throughout the whole city, which is pretty amazing! (maybe not everyone at once)

Luke 8:38-39: The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "**Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.**" And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Mark 5:18-20: As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, "**Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.**" And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

Gail Kirkegaard,
St. John Evangelism



I'm not sure how accurate this unsourced Facebook meme is, but it's probably about right.



ST. JOHN Reformation Potluck Pics

December, 2023 NEWS

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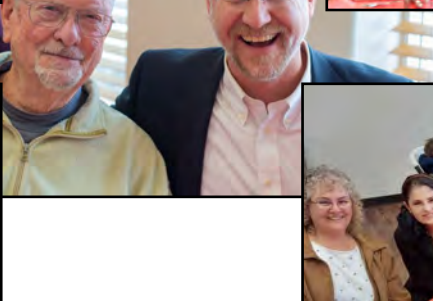
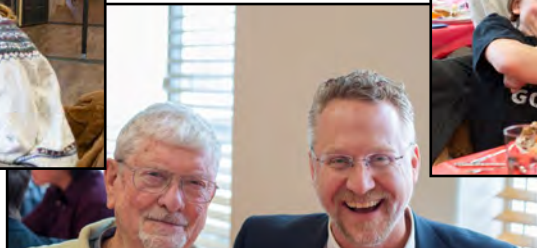


ST. JOHN

More Reformation Pics

December, 2023 NEWS

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ST. JOHN Special Events

December, 2023 NEWS

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2023 Advent and Christmas Worship at St. John

Advent 1 - Sunday, December 3, 9:00 AM
Wednesday, December 6, 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM
Advent 2 - Sunday, December 10, 9:00 AM
Wednesday, December 13, 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM

Advent 3 - Sunday, December 17, 9:00 AM
Wednesday, December 20, 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM
Christmas Eve - Sunday, Dec. 24, 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Christmas Day - Monday, December 25, 9:00 AM

Christmas Season Performances

St. John:

- **Saturday, December 2** - The Madrigal Singers, of Canon City High School, will sing at St. John Lutheran Church at 11:00 AM. A free will offering will be collected.
- **Wednesday, December 20** - The Cañon City Youth Choirs will sing during Advent III worship at 7:00 PM.

Steeple Event Center, 701 Macon Ave., Cañon City Youth Choirs:

- **Saturday, December 9** - Lessons & Carols, at 6:00 PM. \$10 adults, \$5 12 and under; free under age 5.
- **Sunday, December 10** - Lessons & Carols, , at 3:30 PM. \$10 adults, \$5 12 and under; free under age 5.



The Madrigal Singers



December Happy Anniversary!

14 - Chad & Destynie Larson

December Happy Birthdays!

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Evelena Langley | 16 - Joan Foster | 23 - Suzie Burks |
| 8 - Solveig Booty | 18 - Gene Foster | 25 - Mike Critchett |
| 12 - Ron Smith | 21 - Judith Crider | 27 - Avery Harms |
| 13 - Beverly Kane | 22 - Kris Holt | 27 - Linda Stuehrenberg |
| 15 - Jeremiah Johnson | 23 - Lucy Brown | 31 - Amy Wright |





ST. JOHN

News & Notes

December, 2023 NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church
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Church Attendance

| | |
|--------|----|
| Oct 29 | 75 |
| Nov 5 | 76 |
| Nov 12 | 91 |
| Nov 19 | 84 |

Please Help! We need several people to decorate the church sanctuary and the fellowship hall for Christmas on Saturday, November 25th at 9:00 AM.

LWML Christmas Brunch: All ladies of St. John are invited to the Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 2nd at 9:30 AM.

Altar Flowers: The whole month of December is open on the Floral Chart. Please consider signing up for a Sunday! \$50 for two arrangements. You might share with someone. Thank you, Mary Richardson

CCHS Madrigals Christmas Performance: Everyone is invited to enjoy this musical event at St. John Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 2nd, at 11:00 am. A free will offering will be collected.

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

Announcements: Please e-mail announcements for the Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters to Office@StJohnCanonCity.org. Sarah makes the bulletins and Gail makes the newsletters. Thank You.

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

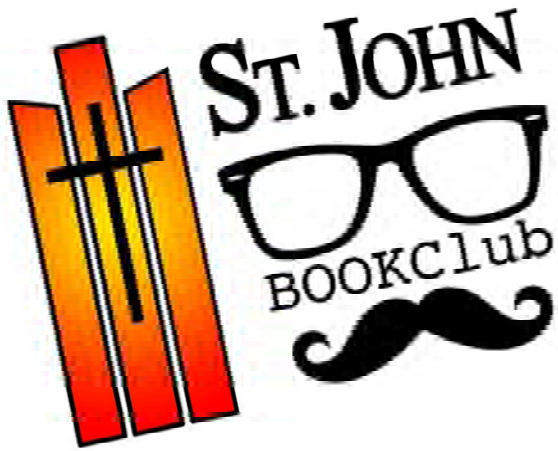
Trail Mix: A hiking group, "Trail Mix" is starting for St. John members and friends who like to explore on foot. See Gail Kirkegaard if you have questions. She put schedules on the table near the mailboxes.

Missionaries: Please remember to pray for JP and Aimee Cima in Cambodia and Chuck and Cheryl Ferry in Taiwan, asking God to protect them all and use them to spread His gospel.

Prayer Chain: For prayer concerns we have a phone chain and an e-mail chain. Please contact one of the following: **Phone:** Mary Richardson, (719) 269-1426, **E-mail:** 1956cew@gmail.com .

Food Bank: The first Sunday of every month is when we share our blessings with the needy in our community. Please bring basics such as sugar, flour, or canned food for the box near the mailboxes.

We Welcome All in the name of Jesus Christ. Guests are invited to sign our guestbook in the Narthex. You will also be offered a visitor packet. Thank you for blessing us with your presence at worship.



December & January 2023

Here is what is happening at the BOOKClub:

The next book on our list is Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy (ISBN 978-1400224647) by Eric Metaxas. After reading his biography on Luther, the group is very excited to read his biography on Bonhoeffer. The description reads:

As Adolf Hitler and the Nazis seduced a nation, bullied a continent, and attempted to exterminate the Jews of Europe, a small number of dissidents and saboteurs worked to dismantle the Third Reich from the inside. One of these was Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor and author.

In this New York Times bestselling biography, Eric Metaxas takes both strands of Bonhoeffer's life--the theologian and the spy--and draws them together to tell a searing story of incredible moral courage in the face of monstrous evil.

In Bonhoeffer, Metaxas presents the fullest account of Bonhoeffer's life, including his:

- heart-wrenching decision to leave the safe haven of America to return to Hitler's Germany
- involvement in the famous Valkyrie plot and in "Operation 7," the effort to smuggle Jews into neutral Switzerland
- lifelong dedication to sharing the tenets of his faith

Praise for Bonhoeffer:

"Metaxas has created a biography of uncommon power--intelligent, moving, well researched, vividly written, and rich in implication for our own lives. Or to put it another way: Buy this book. Read it. Then buy another copy and give it to a person you love. It's that good." --Archbishop Chaput, author, First Things

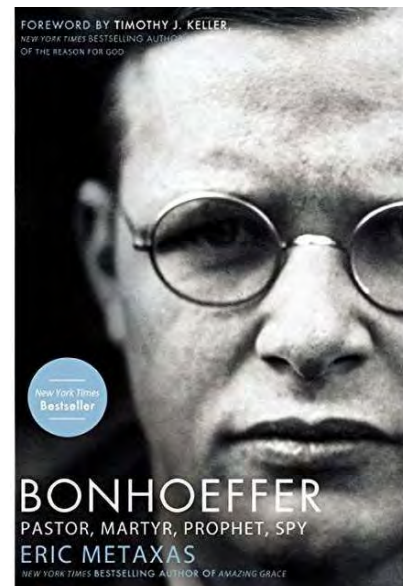
"Metaxas tells Bonhoeffer's story with passion and theological sophistication." --Wall Street Journal

"Metaxas presents Bonhoeffer as a clear-headed, deeply convicted Christian who submitted to no one and nothing except God and his Word." --Christianity Today

Used copies are available on Amazon for \$14-\$15, a Kindle edition for \$15, and an Audible audiobook for \$7. If you have any problems finding a copy, please call Pastor Dan.

It is rather long, so start soon!! The date for discussing this book is Wednesday January 17th, 6:30pm.

Pick up a book & join us at the BOOKClub!





ST. JOHN

Things To Do

December, 2023 NEWS

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Every Member is needed! Some of these need more people!

- Acolyte** - Altar candle-lighting duty for pre-teen and teen boys and girls at worship services. See Pastor Dan.
- Adult Bible Class** - Age 18 and older meet on Sunday mornings at 10:30am after our time of fellowship.
- Adult Choir** - Join your voice with others on special festivals, directed by Liv Booth, (314) 973-6930..
- Altar Guild** - Prepare communion, vestments, candles, banners, etc. for worship. Mary R., (719) 269-1426.
- Audio-Visual** - Operate the slides and video production during worship service. Contact Pastor Dan.
- Book Club** - Meet to discuss books at 6:30 pm about once per month in member homes or at church.
- Car Show** - An annual fundraiser on the church grounds that needs many helpers. Carol S., (719) 320-9812.
- Childrens' Choir** - Community group that meets at St. John on Mondays at 4:00 pm. Liv Booth, (314) 973-6930.
- Christmas Program** - Help prepare or take a part in the Sunday School program. Nathan P., (952) 738-1424.
- Church Council** - Serve on one of the church boards, or as President, Vice President, or Council Secretary.
- Communications** - Website, newsletter, Facebook, publish events in The Daily Record. Gail, (720) 201-8743.
- Confirmation** - Teens meet at church on most Mondays at 6:30pm - 7:30pm with Pastor for instruction.
- Door Keeper** - Greet people approaching church and open the door for them. Brandon, (314) 973-7294.
- Elders** - Men age 21+ who assist the Pastor with the spiritual life of the congregation. See Pastor Dan.
- Evangelism** - Carry out evangelism programs in the church and community. Gail K. (720) 201-8743.
- Fellowship** - Serve refreshments after worship, and during special events. Carol Skoda, (719) 320-9812.
- Garage Sale** - An annual fundraiser at St. John that needs many helpers. Richard Mowers, (719) 458-1618.
- Greeter** - Welcome members and visitors in the narthex area and offer them a worship bulletin. See Pastor Dan.
- LWML** - Women's Auxiliary of the LCMS supports synod missions. Contact Angela Bellantoni, (719) 429-8950.
- Men's Breakfast** - Men of St. John have breakfast at church about twice a month at 7:00 am on Thursdays.
- Missions** - Direct monetary resources for the missionaries and missions we support. Julie B., (714) 431-1169.
- Morning Prayer** - Almost every weekday at 7:30am in the sanctuary. Come start your day with prayer!
- Nursery** - Volunteers to assist parents who take their children to the nursery or might need help with children.
- Quilters** - Group constructs dozens of quilts annually for charities and individuals. Sue Willard, (231) 714-1562.
- Readers** - Read assigned Scripture passages at the lectern during worship services. Contact Pastor Dan.
- Sunday School** - Classes for kids at 10:30am after worship and refreshments. Nathan Pegors, (952) 738-1424.
- Teach** - Help children learn about their Savior, Preschool through High School. Call Nathan P., (952) 738-1424.
- Trustees** - Oversee maintenance, repair, cleaning of buildings and grounds. Contact Bob K. (720) 201-8104.
- Ushers** - Assist people with special needs, direct worshipers for communion during services.
- Vacation Bible School** - A short-term educational activity that needs children and volunteers every summer.
- Wednesday Bible Class** - At 10:00am Wednesdays with Pastor Dan.
- Youth Group** - St. John High Schoolers meet on Wednesdays at 6:00pm.

Birthday and Anniversary lists for your reference. This will not be available in every issue of the newsletter.

ST. JOHN BIRTHDAYS

updated November 19, 2023

JAN

2 - Gabriel Mize
6 - Tedi Tormohlen
6 - Larry Vargas
10 - Ethan Urban
12 - Nancy Mowers
21 - Toni Davidson
30 - Collin Leason

FEB

2 - Lily Booth
2 - Alexander Wright
10 - Valerie Langley
11 - Lenny Williams
12 - Emmanuel Urban
14 - Nate Harms
14 - Ada Pendarvis
16 - Elizabeth Wallestad
18 - Sherie Huebner
18 - Carla Lehmpuhl
25 - Doris Cunningham
25 - Nancy Schmidt
26 - Florence Pegors

MAR

4 - Jack Jones
8 - Isaac Larson
14 - Kevin Wright
20 - Myron Martinson
21 - Sage Rosales
22 - Emmie Leason
24 - Dawn Atkinson
25 - Chris Pushchak
28 - Dan Kletke
28 - Ethan Moffit
29 - Destynie Larson
30 - Ryan Lehmpuhl
31 - Donna Heldt

APR

1 - Gordon Gross
3 - Ted Schmidt
5 - Torben Booth
11 - Arlene Stolp
12 - Søren Booth
16 - Bill Barrett
24 - Natalie Urban
25 - Pat Schuch
27 - Dustin Kletke

MAY

4 - Elias Urban
5 - Ean Urban
8 - Dale Kletke
8 - Nathan Pegors
8 - Bill Pushchak
9 - Sue Poehlein
9 - Carol Skoda
16 - Lori Holt
23 - Sandy Smith
25 - Carolyn Westlund
29 - Gerri Haynie
30 - Doug Westlund

JUN

1 - June Maw
3 - Richard Mowers
3 - Annie Wood
6 - Martha Kletke
11 - Elliot Wright
12 - Jerry Heldt
12 - Susan Smiley
14 - Brandon Booth
16 - Danny Walker
20 - Sandra Kohler
21 - Alana Holt
26 - Lyle Stuehrenberg
28 - Andrew Pape
28 - Lily Rosales
29 - Bob Huebner

JUL

1 - Zachary Larson
2 - Bob Kirkegaard
7 - Jericho Leason
7 - Sharleen Vargas
10 - Sean Kane
10 - Orgene Reimers
13 - Mary Richardson
16 - Julie Barrett
20 - Maddy Leason
21 - Lynne Dreger
22 - Anita Schneider-Jahn
28 - Ann Eulert
31 - Peter Gammell

AUG

1 - Dave Lehmpuhl
3 - Kerrie Leason
5 - Linda Beermann
7 - Liv Booth
9 - Brianna Jones
18 - Heather Pegors
26 - Sharon Martinson
29 - Curtis Eulert
30 - Sue Willard

SEP

2 - Tricia Kletke
4 - Joe Brown
4 - Jim Estes
4 - Luke Lehmpuhl
5 - Lynn Wetters
10 - Hannah Willard
20 - Rain Rosales
24 - Matt Harms
25 - Dietrich Kletke
28 - Leif Booth

OCT

2 - Cody Harms
3 - Ben De Nise
7 - Angela Bellantoni
9 - Ken Davidson
18 - Shirley Shafer
20 - Kathy Walker
21 - Chad Larson
23 - Chuck Poehlein
30 - Tallan Rosales

NOV

1 - Connie Willyard
3 - Justin Jones
4 - Paul Dreger
6 - Gail Kirkegaard
8 - Kay Pape
9 - Solana Pegors
15 - Rachel Gammell
15 - Ken McNeill
15 - Rod Willard
16 - Nichole Harms
16 - Allan Tormohlen
17 - Mona Appel
20 - John Trujillo

DEC

1 - Evelena Langley
8 - Solveig Booth
12 - Ron Smith
13 - Beverly Kane
15 - Jeremiah Jones
16 - Joan Foster
18 - Gene Foster
21 - Judith Crider
22 - Kris Holt
23 - Lucy Brown
23 - Suzie Burks
25 - Mike Critchett
27 - Avery Harms
27 - Linda Stuehrenberg
31 - Amy Wright

ST. JOHN ANNIVERSARYS

updated November 19, 2023

Jan 7 - Joe & Lucy Brown

Jan 12 - Bill & Chris Puscchak

Feb 14 - Carroll & Susan Smiley

Feb 27 - Jim Estes & Judith Crider

Mar 3 - Jericho & Kerrie Leason

Mar 17 - Sean & Beverly Kane

Mar 30 - Doug & Carolyn Westlund

Apr 5 - Ken & Toni Davidson

Apr 7 - Paul Lynne Dreger

May 7 - Chuck & Sue Poehlein

May 26 - Dave & Carla Lehmpuhl

Jun 12 - Kevin & Amy Wright

Jun 14 - Nate & Nichole Harms

Jun 16 - Nathan & Heather Pegors

Jun 26 - Jerome & Donna Heldt

Jun 27 - Ted & Nancy Schmdt

Jul 4 - Curtis & Ann Eulert

Jul 14 - Myron & Sharon Martinson

Jul 28 - Bill & Julie Barrett

Aug 4 - Brandon & Liv Booth

Aug 6 - Daryl & Suzie Burks

Aug 6 - Rod & Sue Willard

Aug 7 - Dan & Tricia Kletke

Aug 9 - Bob & Gail Kirkegaard

Aug 12 - Lynn Wetters & Angela

Bellantoni

Aug 15 - Justin & Brianna Jones

Aug 17 - Bob & Sherie Huebner

Aug 27 - Lyle & Linda Stuehrenberg

Aug 28 - Ron & Sandy Smith

Sep 6 - Richard & Nancy Mowers

Sep 6 - Larry & Sharleen Vargas

Sep 7 - Kris & Lori Holt

Oct 25 - Allan & Tedi Torhohlen

Nov 2 - Peter & Rachel Gammell

Nov 17 - Gene & Joan Foster

Nov 28 - Danny & Kathy Walker

Dec 14 - Chad & Destynie Larson

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 (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."

SQUARE TWO

BUILDING A TEAM



In late October Aimee traveled to Chiang Mai, Thailand to participate in a training seminar on a method of community engagement called [Community Health Evangelism](#) (CHE). Aimee's first experience with the method was some [10 years ago](#). In her current role as Mercy Manager for Asia, Aimee is working to build a team of people trained for mercy work. To that end, Aimee invited two fellow missionaries (pictured with Aimee in the car), [Chenhshi Hanson](#) (serving in South Korea) and [Gena Nelson](#) (serving in Indonesia) to join her in the training. They are already working or looking to work in areas of community development in their countries of service. CHE provides them a methodological framework to engage local communities to assess their own needs and find ways to address those needs with local capacity and resources, in partnership with local churches or in fields where new churches are being planted. Aimee, Gena, and Chenhshi attended daily sessions on the philosophical foundations of the CHE model, but also practical steps for implementation and discussion of specific cases. Ultimately, CHE trains them to be facilitators of conversations with local people towards community transformation. This approach gives dignity and control to local community residents as the key agents of change, rather than the all-too-common model of outsiders who plan, decide, and pay. By working from the inside out rather than the outside in, the CHE model aims at sustainability for long-term change. With more LCMS personnel trained, Aimee aims to build LCMS Asia's capacity for Christ-centered AND quality mercy work (the two are sometimes sadly mutually exclusive).

READ MORE HERE!

GENA NELSON DOING A ROLE PLAY



WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS!

PRAISE: for the opportunity for J.P. to attend a international school leadership conference (as a part of his membership on the Board of [Concordia Hanoi](#)); for [Saray and Sreyleak's wedding](#) (two [youth group](#) members); for a [recent article](#) on Cambodia in The Reporter; for [continued Catechism training](#); for [Isabella's Confirmation](#)
PRAY: for upcoming seminars; for preparations for a visiting team in February; for the Cambodia Lutheran Church and its leaders; for J.P.'s dissertation writing.

DECEMBER 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| 3 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30 Elder's Meeting | 4 7:30a Morning Prayer 4:00p Canon City Youth Choirs -rehearsal at Steeple Event Center 6:30p Confirmation | 5 7:30a Morning Prayer | 6 7:30a Morning Prayer 10:00a Bible Study 1:30p Advent Srvc. 6:00p Soup Supper 7:00p Advent Srvc | 7 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Quilters | 1 7:30a Morning Prayer <hr/> 8 7:30a Morning Prayer | 2 9:30a LWML Christmas Luncheon 11:00a Madrigals Performance <hr/> 9 6:00p Youth Choir Performance |
| 10 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30 Council Meeting 3:30p Youth Choir Performance | 11 7:30a Morning Prayer 6:30p Confirmation | 12 7:30a Morning Prayer | 13 7:30a Morning Prayer 10:00a Bible Study 1:30p Advent Srvc. 6:00p Soup Supper 7:00p Advent Srvc | 14 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Quilters | 15 7:30a Morning Prayer | 16 |
| 17 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class | 18 7:30a Morning Prayer 4:00p Canon City Youth Choirs 6:30p Confirmation | 19 7:30a Morning Prayer Sarah Out of the Office | 20 7:30a Morning Prayer 10:00a Bible Study 1:30p Advent Srvc. 6:00p Soup Supper 7:00p Advent Srvc | 21 7:30a Morning Prayer | 22 7:30a Morning Prayer | 23 |
| 24 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 7:00p Christmas Eve Service | 25 CHRISTMAS 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Communion | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

31 1ST SUNDAY AFT CHRISTMAS
9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion
10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

