



# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

CAÑON CITY, COLORADO

## Pastor's Message: Easter

Death is a common occurrence. Everyone knows that someday they will die, even if they don't want to think about it, plan for it or deal with it at all. It can be a surprise when it happens. Children passing away before their parents is a particularly hard reality to deal with. That's not the natural order of things. Even how it happens can be shocking. Accidents or a sudden illness surprise us when most of us expect to pass away from old age. But although there can be surprises about how and when death comes, death itself is expected by all.

But a resurrection is not. I do not know of anyone who has come back to life after being verifiably dead. Of course, hearts are re-started and people can wake up after a long coma; but someone coming back to life after they have died and been buried for 3 days is not something anyone alive today has seen or expects.

Which is why the confusion and fear of the women is so understandable. At the end of our Gospel reading for Easter, St. Mark writes, "**And they** (Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome) **went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid**" (Mk 16:8). When you expect to find and attend to a dead body, which they had probably done several times before, their astonishment and fear is understandable when the tomb is open, Jesus is nowhere to be found, and an angel tells you that Jesus has come back to life. If I had been there, I'm not sure I would've told anyone either out of fear of being considered crazy or worse.

But as incredible and unbelievable as it was, it really did happen! Jesus appeared physically to Mary Magdalene on Easter morning, to two followers on the road to Emmaus that afternoon, to ten of the twelve disciples Easter evening, to the ten disciples plus Thomas a week later, and then eventually to over 500 people. There was no shortage of witnesses to the unprecedented event. More than that, He ate with the disciples Easter evening. A week later Thomas was privileged to touch Jesus's hands, His feet and His side; and then on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus ate breakfast with the disciples. This was no phantom or group hallucination. The impossibility of someone physically coming back to life after being crucified and buried was now an incredible and yet undeniable fact.

Although the women's first reaction was fear, trembling and astonishment, the end result is joyful and exuberant celebration. If one person can rise, physically from the grave, then others can do the same...and that is the excitement. Jesus's resurrection means that peace with God has been made. The rebellion that brought God's condemnation and caused death to be the inevitable end for all of us, has now been reversed. And although death is still the end which we all expect, it no longer has the last word. As Jesus proclaims, in Him pass from death to life. We will rise, physically, just as Jesus did to live forever in peace with our God. That is our Easter joy and celebration!



What that means for you today, is that although we need to face the reality of, and plan for our own eventual death, we don't have to live in fear of it. We can approach our planning and even the funerals of loved ones and friends knowing that the best is yet to come. We will see them all again because just as Jesus rose from the grave, we will too!

Happy Easter!

*Pastor Dan*

Pastor Dan



# ST. JOHN News & Notes

April, 2024 News

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

## Missionary to Visit St. John!



The Rev. Paul A. and Genevieve (Gena) Nelson serve on behalf of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Southeast Asia, based in Medan, Indonesia. In this role, Paul works with deployed staff, partner churches and partner organizations throughout the region to provide theological training, pastoral mentoring and pastoral care. His work involves extensive travel as he creates and nurtures relationships in a variety of cultures and languages.

Rev. Nelson was a fellow Seminary student with Pastor Dan. He plans to attend our Book Club on April 4th, and will preach at St. John on Sunday, April 7th. More information is available at <https://www.lcms.org/nelson>.

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**Pro Life News:** The March for Life is scheduled to happen in Colorado on Friday, April 14th at the Colorado State Capitol building, 200 E. Colfax Avenue in Denver. The rally will be at 11 AM and the march will start at 12 PM. There will be a LCMS prayer service near the Capitol building at 10:15 AM. Information is posted on our bulletin board. There will be bus transportation from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Pueblo at 7:30 AM. For the bus ride, please register at <https://rm.lcms.org/2024-colorado-march-for-life/>.

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**Trail Mix:** Pick up a list of local trails by the mailboxes, and contact Gail about any hike that interests you. The list is not all-inclusive; there are many other trails. Gail would love to hike with you and try to gather others. The Fremont Peak sunrise hike will be rescheduled. Let her know if you are interested in participating.

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## Student Report: Blooming Faith

As someone who grew up in the Lutheran faith, being here at college has been somewhat humbling for me. I would be comfortable in saying that I am fairly knowledgeable in both biblical stories and Lutheran ideas. However, here I am surrounded by teachers and classmates alike who possess much deeper wells of knowledge and understanding than me. And some days, I struggle with these feelings of inadequacy and biblical illiteracy.

When I moved out here to Minnesota, I was blessed to receive many gifts. Among them was an African Violet plant and a plaque reading "When flowers bloom, so does faith." These both sit on my desk, and are some of the first and last things I see each day.

Recently, my violet has begun putting up flower stems. And as I watch the first bud begin to swell and unfurl, I can feel God's calming hand on my anxious heart. I am reminded of Psalm 121:1-2 "*I lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth*".

The beauty of the created universe is all around us. We find calmness in the quiet splendor of flowers. Peace in the gentle noise of running water and strength from the mighty forests. Spring is a time of renewal, both for God's creation and for us.

God's peace,  
Alana Holt, Concordia - St. Paul

**St. John Trivia:** What is the name of the missionary who will visit in April?  
Answer: Paul Nelson, who serves the Lord in Indonesia.



# ST. JOHN Music & Misc.

April, 2024 News

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790 Greydene Avenue  
Canon City, CO 81212  
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## Absence on the Organ Bench - Explanation

I wanted to share with everyone the reason why I haven't been playing much since the start of 2024. First let me start with a large THANK YOU to my dear friend and colleague, Angela Bellantoni, who has bailed me out of my jam.

October 2023 was when my exhaustion and despair started. My job at UCCS was becoming more stressful by the week, and I knew that within a few short weeks, we would be starting the festival season of Reformation, All Saints Day, with Thanksgiving and then the start of the Advent/Christmas season. In addition, I had been asked to play for my niece's wedding in early November. Weddings haven't been part of my repertoire for the past six years, and unfortunately, I was asked to learn multiple new pieces of music in addition to relearning forty-five minutes of pre and post-service music.

I felt that I was on the brink of breaking. After sharing my feelings with Pastor and Brandon Booth, the Elders presented me the offer of a sabbatical from my responsibilities at St. John. Which is when Angela stepped in and offered to play every service, until I was ready to return. The time off came just in time, as I realized that I had lost the joy of playing the organ, even the beloved Christmas hymns. What I feared most was if I continued to play on a regular basis, that my despair would soon be heard in my playing of music.

These past two and a half months have been a struggle for me emotionally. It is very scary when you haven't touched a keyboard for one and a half months and to then force yourself to play for the two Ash Wednesday services. As hard as it was, it was a good way to force me to get back up on the horse, or the bench in this case. I have subsequently played for three services since Ash Wednesday and each one gets easier to play.

This newsletter article is my way of informing the congregation that while all the joy in playing that I am used to experiencing hasn't returned, with each service it is returning a little bit more. Moving forward, Angela has graciously agreed to split the services with me. I am hopeful that with time all the joy that comes from playing and leading our congregation in worship returns.

Your musical servant in Christ,  
Lori Holt

## Church Attendance:

Feb. 21 Wed: 41  
Feb. 25 Sun.: 87  
Feb. 28 Wed.: 42  
Mar. 3 Sun.: 129  
Mar. 6 Wed.: 32  
Mar. 10 Sun.: 75  
Mar. 13 Wed.: 46  
Mar. 17 Sun.: 76  
Mar. 20 Wed.: 48  
Mar. 24 Sun: 100



Apr. 5 - Ken & Toni Davidson  
Apr. 7 - Paul & Lynne Dreger



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

**St. John Trivia:** What is our church mission statement?  
Answer: *"We Rejoice in Christ's Saving Love and Gladly Share It!"*

# St. Patrick's Day Brunch



# Church Activities

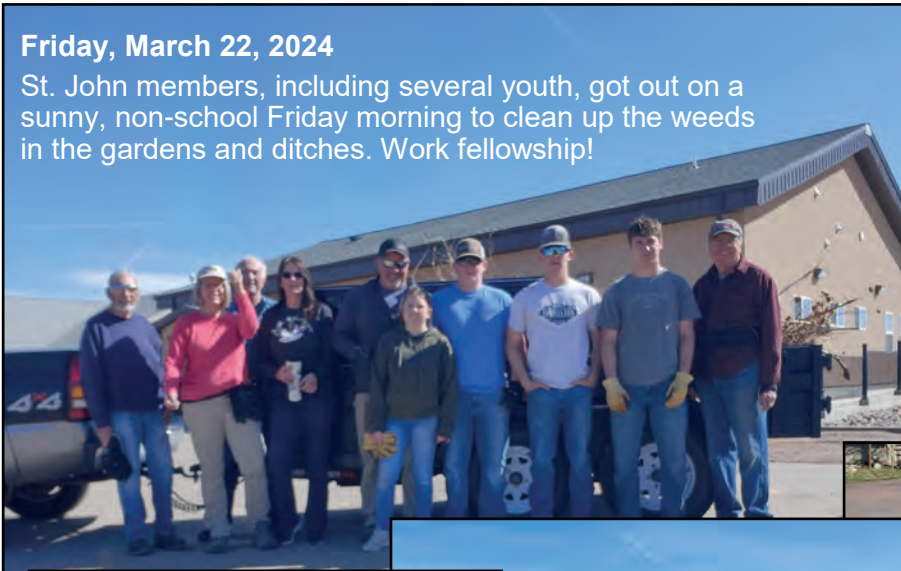
Book Club - Quilters - Soup Supper - Wednesday Bible Class - Church Portraits

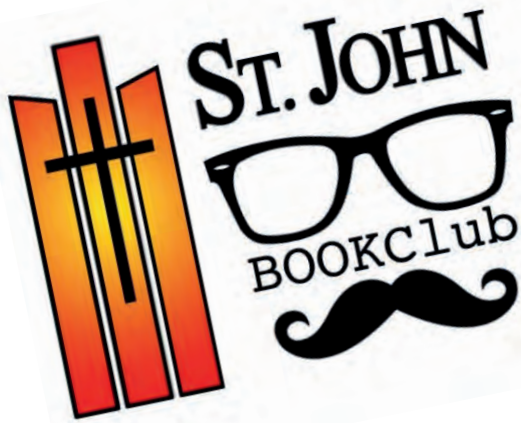


# Weed Clean-Up Day

Friday, March 22, 2024

St. John members, including several youth, got out on a sunny, non-school Friday morning to clean up the weeds in the gardens and ditches. Work fellowship!





# April 2023

Here is what is happening at the BOOKClub:

The turnaround from our last meeting is very quick; but we have selected a short book to discuss with our visiting missionary, Rev. Paul Nelson. The next book on our list is *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships* (ISBN 978-0801026478) by Sherwood G. Lingenfelter. This was a book we were required to read in seminary and should provide a good start to learn what missionary life is like in other cultures. The description reads:

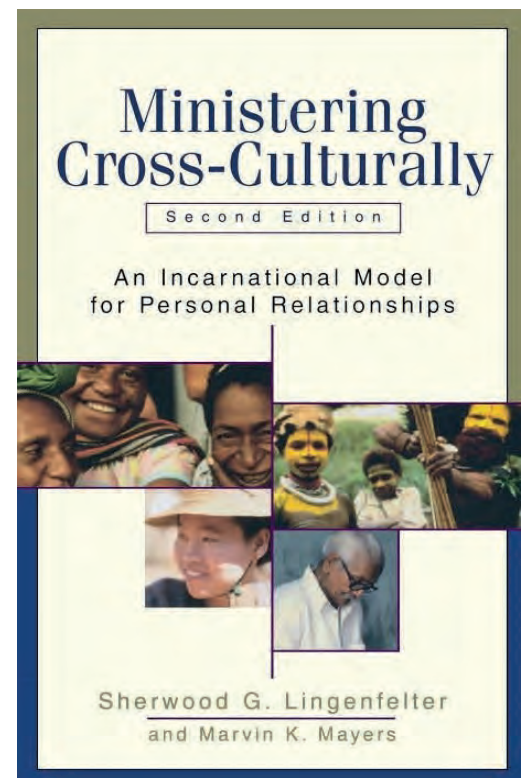
In *Ministering Cross-Culturally*, the authors demonstrate that Jesus needed to learn and understand the culture in which he lived before he could undertake his public ministry. The authors examine how this can help us better understand what it means to establish relationships of grace with those from different cultural and social backgrounds.

With more than 70,000 copies of the first edition in print, this incarnational model of ministry has proven successful for many people. Several sections in this second edition have been rewritten, and the entire book has been updated to reflect development in the authors' thinking. Drawing from the authors' rich experience on the mission field, this book will benefit anyone who wants to be salt and light in a multicultural and multiethnic world.

The book is short (128 pages) and a very easy read. Because of the quick turnaround, multiple copies have been purchased for the church and can be found on the narthex counter next to the mailboxes. Unfortunately, Audible and Kindle editions are not available.

The date for discussing this book is Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm at Pastor Dan's house. *Whether you are able to find a copy and read the book or not, please join us for the discussion, as we welcome Rev. Paul Nelson and learn about cross-cultural ministry and missions.*

*Pick up a book & join us at the BOOKClub!*



This picture captures well the joy and fun had by all during the visit of a mission team from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Los Gatos, CA. The church had previously sent a team to partner with us in 2011. Some 13 years later, they have blessed Southeast Asia once again! The group of 7 (pictured below) landed just in time to celebrate Isaac's 7th birthday. While in Phnom Penh, the team joined youth group just as it started a new series of lessons on questions they want to ask God. They also visited some key cultural sites in the city to understand the harsh recent history of Cambodia. The group then traveled to Chhuk for the heart and purpose of their time in Cambodia. In partnership with the Cambodia Lutheran Church, Prech Lutheran Church in Chhuk, and the nearby Garuna Christian School, the team put on a two-day Vacation Bible School (VBS). Day one's lesson on the parable of the lost sheep included an activity in which students made cotton-ball sheep (pictured here) to remind them that they are like lost sheep and Jesus is their good shepherd. Day two's lesson was on the parable of the mustard seed. God has planted the seed of

faith in each of us, and it grows larger and larger. Each day included singing, crafts, and sports. After the time in Chhuk, the team traveled to Siem Reap, where mini-VBS events were held at another Garuna school and a budding Lutheran congregation. All in all, through the efforts of the Holy Cross team, over 300 kids heard about, sung about, and crafted about Jesus' love for them! Most importantly, all of the team's work was done alongside of local church and school leaders, supplementing the ministry that they do day in and day out. These cross-cultural partnerships exemplify what Paul wrote to the church in Corinth: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12). Holy Cross was a great team to work with, taking in stride constantly shifting plans and intense heat. We are thankful to God they could join what He is doing in Cambodia!



SONARIE  
TWO


**GIVE THANKS:** for the Holy Cross team's service; for Isaac's 7th birthday on Feb. 16 and Celeste's 17th birthday on Mar. 8.  
**PRAY:** for J.P. and Aimee's travel in March; for planning for a national youth camp in October; for a final draft of J.P.'s dissertation proposal and the scheduling of his defense.

CIMA FAMILY NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 18, No. 2 FEB. 2024  
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**Wanna help us impact the people of Cambodia?**  
Give 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."



# APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer  <b>4:00p</b> Canon City Youth Choirs	<b>2</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer	<b>3</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Sarah Out of the Office</div>	<b>4</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer <b>9:00a</b> Quilters  <b>6:30p</b> BOOKClub	<b>5</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer	<b>6</b>
<b>7 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>9:00</b> Divine Service <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class <b>11:30</b> Elder's Meeting  <u>Indonesian Missionary</u> <u>Rev. Paul Nelson Visits</u>	<b>8</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer  <b>4:00p</b> Canon City Youth Choirs <b>6:30p</b> Confirmation	<b>9</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Sarah Out of the Office</div>	<b>10</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer  <b>10:00a</b> Bible Study <b>6:00p</b> Youth Group	<b>11</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer <b>7:00a</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:00a</b> Quilters	<b>12</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer  <b>Prison Ministry – Pastor Out of Office</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>9:00</b> Divine Service w/ Holy Communion <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class <b>11:30</b> Council Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer  <b>4:00p</b> Canon City Youth Choirs <b>6:30p</b> Confirmation	<b>16</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer	<b>17</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer <b>10:00a</b> Bible Study  <b>6:00p</b> Youth Group	<b>18</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer <b>9:00a</b> Quilters	<b>19</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer	<b>20</b> <b>9:00a</b> LWML Meeting
<b>21 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>9:00</b> Divine Service <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	<b>22</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer  <b>4:00p</b> Canon City Youth Choirs <b>6:30p</b> Confirmation	<b>23</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer	<b>24</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer <b>10:00a</b> Bible Study  <b>6:00p</b> Youth Group	<b>25</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer  <b>7:00a</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:00a</b> Quilters	<b>26</b> <b>7:30a</b> Morning Prayer	<b>27</b>
<b>28 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>9:00</b> Divine Service w/ Holy Communion <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	<b>29</b> <b>4:00p</b> Canon City Youth Choirs  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Pastor Dan Out of the Office</div>	<b>30</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">  <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>CAÑON CITY, COLORADO</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;">790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><a href="http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org">http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org</a> 719-275-0111</p> </div> </div>			