



September, 2025 News

GOD'S MISSION

Pastor Dan has chosen missions as the theme of his sabbatical. His absence provides a unique opportunity to consider missions, both in the world and in context of St. John. For my part, I will focus on missions at St. John.

While Pastor Dan is here, it is easy to consider the mission of St. John to be his mission. But now that he is on sabbatical, we can let go of that idea. The mission of St. John is not just Pastor Dan's mission, nor is it just my mission or just your mission. It is first and foremost God's mission. It is within the context of God's mission at St. John that you and I and Pastor Dan participate in missions.

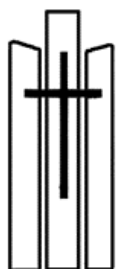
God's mission is the same as it has always been, the same as it was in Genesis 1 and the same as it will be in Revelation 22. The Bible says it many ways, for example, to create a great nation or great family on earth (Genesis 12:1-3), or to prepare the Bride of Christ (Revelation 19:7). The most familiar way to understand God's mission on earth, to my mind, is to see God calling all nations, all tribes and tongues to be part of his church, his beloved people (Isaiah 66).

Our congregation is part of that church, His beloved people. God is the orchestrator of all that our congregation is and does. He called Pastor Dan and his family here, he called you here and he called me here. We all have different roles at St. John, just as we all have different roles in the body of Christ. In this time we are given a chance to see those roles in a new light and from new angles. I am saying this not as a call to do more or different things, although that will certainly happen, but to see what you already do here at St. John as part of God's mission to humanity.

The mission of God at St. John is fulfilled by you in a myriad of ways - not just when you serve, but also when you receive the service of God and others. Singing the service hymns or listening to the beautiful organ music, meditating on the scripture passages, eating the delicious food at fellowship, connecting with your friends around the table - all of these are places where the mission of God is being fulfilled. In all these activities Jesus is making us more and more into the body of Christ. The service that so many of you offer - teaching Sunday school, replacing light bulbs and toilet paper, greeting, hanging banners, washing dishes - all these and so many more acts of service remind us, the recipients of your service, that God loves us and creates space for our congregation to be knitted closer together into the body of Christ.

Thank you for a thousand ways that you have served me and my family. Thank you for the very powerful way that you are serving Pastor Dan by creating space for him to encounter God's rest - this rest which is so central to God's mission for the people of God. I am excited to experience God's mission for us, His love for us in this time together.

Yours sincerely,
Nathan Pegors



ST. JOHN Sabbatical

September, 2025 News

St. John Lutheran Church
790 Greystone Avenue
Cañon City, CO 81212
Web: stjohncanoncny.org
Phone: (719) 275-0111

PASTOR DAN'S SABBATICAL SCHEDULE

Many have asked what I'll be doing and where I'm going on my sabbatical - especially seeing as though this is meant to be a time of rest and spiritual renewal. Over half of the time will be spent at our family's cabin in Poncha Springs praying, reading, hiking and relaxing. I am very excited about this!

But I am also someone who can't sit still for too long (undiagnosed ADHD?); so two trips have been planned. The first is to Southeast Asia to visit seminary classmates who are now missionaries: JP Cima & Paul Nelson. This will be a time to reconnect with old friends and learn about their ministries. This is something I have wanted to do for over 15 years! Perhaps, hopefully, I will discover a few new ideas for ministry and maybe even ways that we can partner with them. The second trip will be a 10-day tour of the early Christian church sites throughout Greece and Turkey with Tricia. Much like my trips to Israel, I am looking forward to learning more about the early church and St. Paul's travels through the region. No doubt there will be a lot to share from both trips; and I can imagine months of Sunday School and Bible Study material.

Here is an outline of where I'll be when.

August 18-September 3 - Decompress/Reading/Hiking @ Family Cabin

September 4-29 - Trip to SE Asia

Sept. 4 – Leave DIA for Cambodia
Sept. 5 – Land in Phnom Penh
Sept. 6-11 – Explore Cambodia w/ Cimas
Sept. 12 – Fly w/JP Cima to Hong Kong and then Manila
Sept. 13 – Fly to Bohol, Philippines
Sept. 14-17 – Attend the ILC Conference in Bohol
Sept. 18 – Fly to Baguio, Philippines
Sept. 19 – Teach Homiletics @ Lutheran Seminary
Sept. 21 – Preach @ Baguio Lutheran Church
Sept. 22 – Fly to Medan, Indonesia
Sept. 23-26 – Explore Indonesia w/ Nelsons
Sept. 27 – Fly to Singapore
Sept. 28 – Preach @ Singapore Lutheran Church
Sept. 29 – Fly Home

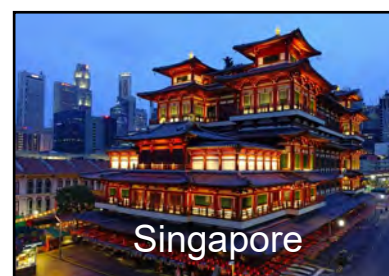
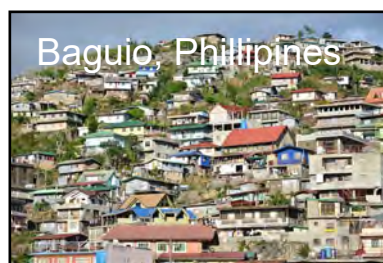
September 30-October 31 - More time @ Cabin

Sept. 30-Oct. 4 – Hosting Ferry Family @ Cabin

November 1 - 15 - Trip to Greece & Turkey

Nov. 1 – Fly to Chicago
Nov. 3 – Fly to Istanbul
Nov. 4 – Fly to Izmir & Visit Pergamum
Nov. 5 – Explore Smyrna, Sardis & Philadelphia
Nov. 6 – Explore Ephesus, and fly back to Istanbul
Nov. 7 – Explore Athens
Nov. 8 – Explore Corinth & Athens
Nov. 9 – Explore Delphi
Nov. 10 – Explore Meteora & Thessaloniki
Nov. 11 – Explore Philippi & Thessaloniki
Nov. 12 – Explore Veria, Vergina, Thessaloniki
Nov. 13 – Fly to Chicago
Nov. 15 – Fly to Home

November 17 - Back in Office





ST. JOHN News & Notes

September, 2025 News

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Snapshots Around St. John



2025 VBS Volunteers met at the Tangkawarow home on Thursday, August 14th to celebrate this year's success and next year's event.



Sunday, August 17, 2025: The Farewell and Godspeed for Pastor Dan Leaving on Sabbatical.

Thank You: Thank you one and all for your prayers for my current health issue. Your concern, calls, cards, guidance, visits and food have been greatly appreciated. Thank you. Ken Davidson

Food Bank Sunday: SEPTEMBER 7th is Food Bank Sunday. Please remember to bring a can or two of food or some kitchen staples such as flour or spaghetti sauce, etc. for the hungry and needy in our community.

Attendance:

Sun. July 27: 79 Sun. August 3: 86 Sun. August 10: 77 Sun. August 17: 89 Sun. August 24: 93

Member News: Please notify newsletter editor Gail Kirkegaard of member activities and accomplishments so we can celebrate them in our monthly publication. E-mail office@stjohncanoncity.org, Attention Gail. You can also put information and photos in her church mailbox. Please add your name so she knows can return photos.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick & Recovering: Ted Schmidt, Debbie Ledbetter, Gordon Holt (Kris' brother), Sharon Martinson, Lucy Brown, Zoey (Tangkawarow's family member) Ken Davidson, Rod Willard, Linda Kirkegaard (Bob's sister) Deb Taft, Elaine Emery (Snyders' friend), Jerrico Leason, and Nancy Mowers.

Prayer Chain: For prayer concerns please contact one of the following:

Phone prayer chain: Mary Richardson, (719) 269-1426

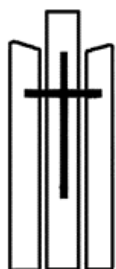
E-mail prayer chain: Sue Poehlein, cspoehlein@gmail.com

Member Shut-Ins: Orgene Reimers

Military Service Members: Ryan Lehmpuhl and Jake Langley.

Missionaries: JP and Aimee Cima, the LCMS missionaries in Cambodia that our congregation has adopted.





ST. JOHN

Miscellaneous

September, 2025 News

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LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY - BLURBS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

September 7, 2025

Labor Day celebrations honor the contributions and achievements of workers, recognizing their role in building the nation's prosperity and advocating for fair labor practices. The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty encourages those who labor on the "Hill" as they advocate for Religious Liberty. See www.LCRLFreedom.org to learn more.

September 14, 2025

When Benjamin Franklin was asked what type of government was created, he responded, "A Republic, if you can keep it." As the nation pauses to commemorate Constitution Day this year, we have an opportunity to "keep it." For a free copy of Supreme Court cases based on Constitutional Religious freedoms, see the Resource tab at www.LCRLFreedom.org.

September 21, 2025

The Latin phrase *omne trium perfectum*—meaning "everything that comes in threes is perfect" is better known today as "good things come in threes." Consider what you receive when you subscribe to the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty email subscription list: 1) Devotions, 2) Podcasts, and 3) Op. Ed. Pieces. You can receive your "good things" at www.LCRLFreedom.org/subscribe.

September 28, 2025

A champion is defined as someone who rises above, stands up, and makes a difference. You are invited to be a champion, someone who makes a difference in your family and your community – a Champion for Religious Liberty. Learn more at www.lcrlfreedom.org/champions.

ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

I cannot pray **Our**, if my faith has no room for others and their need.

I cannot pray **Father**, if I do not demonstrate this relationship to God in my daily living.

I cannot pray **Who are in Heaven**, if all of my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot pray **hallowed be Thy name**, if I am not striving, with God's help, to be holy.

I cannot pray **Thy Kingdom come**, if I am unwilling to accept God's rule in my life.

I cannot pray **Thy will be done**, if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot pray **on earth as it is in Heaven**, unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray **give us this day our daily bread**, without expending honest effort for it, or if I would withhold from my neighbor the bread that I receive.

I cannot pray **forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us**, if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot pray **lead us not into temptation**, if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray **deliver us from evil**, if I am not prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer.

I cannot pray **Thine is the Kingdom**, if I am unwilling to obey the King.

I cannot pray **Thine is the power and the glory**, if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory first.

I cannot pray **forever and ever**, if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot pray **Amen**, unless I honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."

Anonymous



ST. JOHN LWML News

September, 2025 News

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Lutheran Women in Mission 2025-2027 MISSION GRANTS

The Southern Zone Fall Rally will be September 20, 2025 at Faith Lutheran Church in Woodland Park. Registration begins at 9 am with the program beginning at 9:30. The program is "Boots on the Ground; Serve Where You Are". The in-gathering is for Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR). LVR is asking for unwanted coffee mugs, reams of copy paper, masking tape and gallon size zip lock bags. If you would like to attend, please talk to Angela Bellantoni or Toni Davidson. We will carpool from the church, leaving at 8 am.

LWML Sunday, traditionally on the first Sunday in October, will be celebrated January 18, 2026. New mission grants were selected at the 2025 National Convention. Please forgive the fuzzy copy of the grants list. Official LWML grants bookmarks are on the way to St. John. Mite boxes are available next to the offering plate behind the last pew. Please pick one up and begin saving change for missions.

The next regular meeting of LWML will be on Saturday, October 18 @ 9 am at church. We will be planning the November mission to our less mobile members. All ladies of the church are welcome.

The Christmas Brunch will be December 6, 2025. Please reserve the date.

Blessings to All,

Angela Bellantoni

- 1. Regional Disaster Response LERT Shower Trailers**
LCMS Office of National Mission,
Disaster Response Ministry, U.S. \$81,500
- 2. Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons**
Orphan Grain Train, Europe \$100,000
- 3. Portable Laundry Trailer**
Forged by Fire Services, U.S. \$100,700
- 4. The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers**
LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S. \$100,000
- 5. Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print**
Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S. \$100,000
- 6. Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients**
Phil's Friends, U.S. \$100,000
- 7. Light of Jesus Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers**
A Place of Refuge Ministries of South WI, Inc., Wisconsin ... \$75,000
- 8. Building a Place of Care**
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota \$60,000
- 9. Introducing Muslims to the Savior**
Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Global \$100,000
- 10. Healing Your Heart — Faith-based Child Counseling**
Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of
Wisconsin, U.S. \$100,000
- 11. NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis**
Lutheran Family Service, Iowa \$92,500
- 12. Gospel Outreach through the Digital Mission Field**
Lutheran Hour Ministries, U.S. \$100,000
- 13. Reaching God's Children in Haiti**
Trinity HOPE, Haiti \$61,782
- 14. Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel**
The Apple of His Eye Mission Society, Asia \$100,000
- 15. Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA**
Concordia Publishing House —
Concordia Gospel Outreach, U.S. \$125,000
- 16. The Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa —**
Sierra Leone and Liberia
Project: Pastoral Education West Africa \$86,000
- 17. Mobilizing After School Care for Teens**
Our Place After School Care Inc., Hastings, Nebraska \$69,500
- 18. Scholarships to Support International**
Deaconesses — Tanzania
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Africa \$100,000
- 19. Support Rev. Roberto and Katie Weber**
LCMS Missionaries to the Dominican Republic,
North America \$10,000
- 20. Mercy Triumphs: LCMS Prison Ministry**
LCMS Office of National Mission, U.S. \$84,500



ST. JOHN 2025 VBS

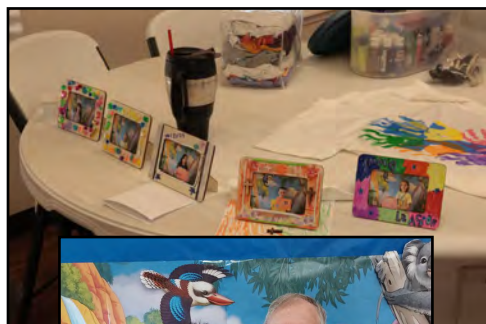
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EPIC AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE: An Unforgettable Journey With Jesus!

"We had 15 kids and it was a lot of fun. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make the week an enjoyable event. I feel that the leaders and young Australian Adventurers all had a great time and were a blessing to all."

- Connie Willyard





ST. JOHN 2025 VBS KIDS

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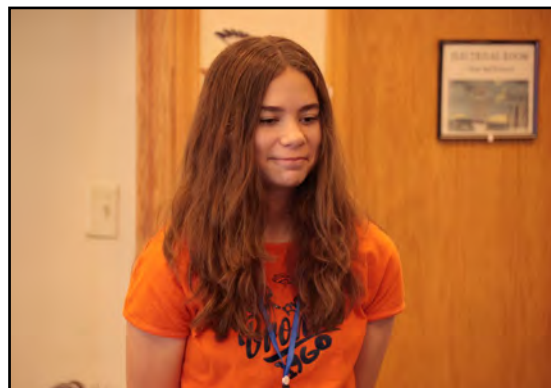




ST. JOHN 2025 VBS STAFF

September, 2025 News

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ST. JOHN

St. John Trail Mix

September, 2025 News

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Four Women, Four Mountains

On Thursday, July 24, 2025, four hikers from St. John Trail Mix - Gail Kirkegaard, Carla Lehmpuhl, Katherine Zeerip, and Gail's friend Laura Macdonald from Buena Vista summited the Kite Lake 14ers (aka the DeCaLiBron) near Alma, CO. Mt. Democrat, Mt. Cameron, Mt. Lincoln, and Mt. Bross are close together in the Mosquito Range and can all be summited in an eight mile loop hike. After a group picture at the trailhead, we hit the trail at 6:30 AM taking the loop counter-clockwise, hiking in pairs. Carla and Gail summited three of the peaks. Katherine and Laura got all four. It started out chilly but the activity warmed us up before we reached the first summit. The sky was cloudy, but we could still see the neighboring peaks and lakes below. A mountain goat nicknamed Lincoln by hikers that day wandered up with us and settled down on the summit to enjoy the views. We had about ten minutes of graupel that did not stick or slow us down. Gail and Carla opted out of summiting Mt. Democrat, the last and steepest peak of the four. First to finish the loop was Katherine, followed by Laura, then Carla, and finally Gail a few minutes after 1:00 PM. Congratulations are due to Carla, Laura, and Katherine for adding a few unique peaks to their 14er lists! Gail did them twice before. We all had a very challenging but gratifying day! It was hard to choose from over 50 pictures! Call Gail for more information about St. John Trail Mix (720) 201 - 8743.



Katherine, Gail, Carla, Laura



Mt. Democrat



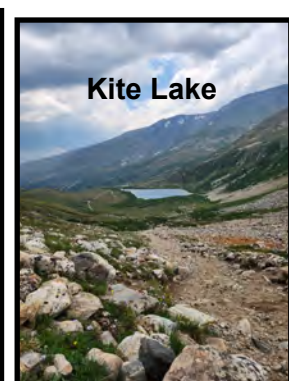
Columbine



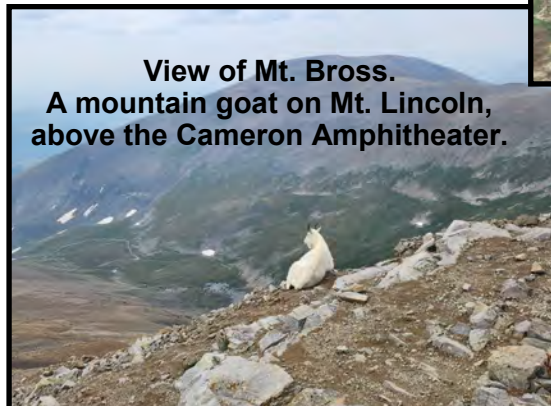
Waterfall



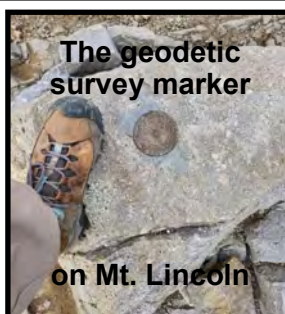
Aerial view of the four 14ers



Kite Lake

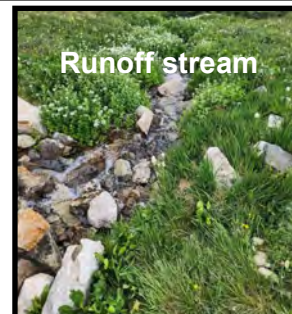


View of Mt. Bross.
A mountain goat on Mt. Lincoln,
above the Cameron Amphitheater.

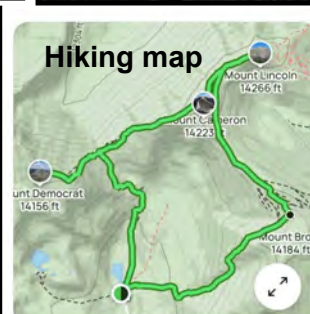


The geodetic
survey marker

on Mt. Lincoln



Runoff stream



Hiking map



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH



11th Annual Benefit Car Show

Saturday, September 6th, 2025

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

All Makes and Models Welcome!

Vehicle Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____

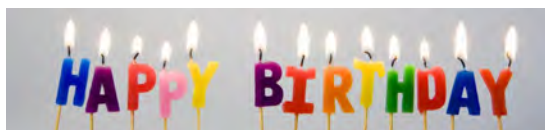
Please mail registrations to Dawn Atkinson / 1461 Stone Pl. / Cañon City, CO / 81212
For more information call Dawn @ 505-377-4776



ST. JOHN Special Days

August, 2025 News

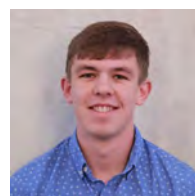
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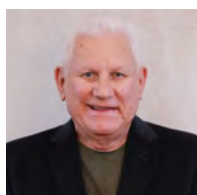
September 2 - Tricia Kletke



September 24 - Matt Harms



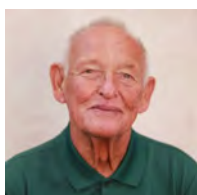
September 4 - Joe Brown



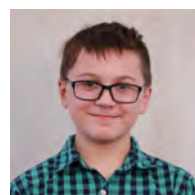
September 25 - Dietrich Kletke



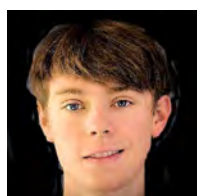
September 4 - Jim Estes



September 28 - Leif Booth



September 4 - Luke Lehmpuhl



Happy Anniversary!

September 6 - Richard & Nancy Mowers

September 6 - Larry & Sharleen Vargas

September 7 - Kris & Lori Holt

September 5 - Lynn Wetters





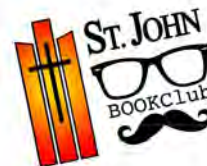
ST. JOHN To-Do List

August, 2025 News

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ACTIVITIES AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

- Acolyte** - Altar candle duty for boys and girls at worship services.
- Adult Bible Class** - Sunday mornings at 10:30am after our time of fellowship.
- Adult Choir** - Join your voice with others on special festivals.
- Altar Guild** - Prepare vestments, candles, banners, etc. for worship.
- Audio-Visual** - Operate the slides and video production during worship service.
- Book Club** - Discuss books about once a month in member homes or at church.
- Bulletin Help** - Print worship bulletins a few times per year as needed.
- Car Show** - Annual fundraiser on the church grounds that needs many helpers.
- Christmas Program** - Help or take a part in the Sunday School program.
- Church Council** - Serve on a church board, or as church president, etc.
- Communications** - Publish events on the Website, newsletter, Facebook, etc.
- Confirmation Class** - Teens meet with Pastor for Christian instruction.
- Door Keeper** - Open the door and welcome people arriving at church.
- Driver** - Provide transportation for those who cannot drive to church.
- Elders** - Men who assist the Pastor with the spiritual life of the congregation.
- Evangelism** - Carry out evangelism programs in the church and community.
- Fellowship** - Serve refreshments after worship, and assist with special events.
- Garage Sale** - Annual fundraiser at St. John that needs many helpers.
- Gardener** - Keep the flower beds in neat and weed-free condition.
- Greeter** - Meet and offer Sunday bulletin and visitor packet to worshippers.
- LWML** - Women's Auxiliary of the LCMS supports LCMS missions.
- Men's Breakfast** - Men of St. John have breakfast about twice a month.
- Missions** - Direct monetary resources for LCMS missionaries and missions.
- Morning Prayer** - Almost every weekday at 7:30am in the sanctuary.
- Nursery** - Volunteers assist parents who need help in the nursery.
- Prayer Chain** - Receive notice of prayer requests and pray for those in need.
- Quilters** - Construct quilts almost weekly for charities and individuals.
- Readers** - Read assigned Scripture passages at the lectern during services.
- Shut-In Visitation** - Spend time with members who cannot attend church.
- Sunday School** - Classes for kids at 10:30am after worship and refreshments.
- Teach** - Help children learn about their Savior, Preschool through High School.
- Trail Mix** - Hike on local and other Colorado trails with members and friends.
- Trustees** - Oversee maintenance, repair, cleaning of buildings and grounds.
- Ushers** - Assist people with special needs, direct worshipers for communion.
- Vacation Bible School** - A children's short-term summer educational activity.
- Wednesday Bible Class** - Study at 10:00am Wednesdays with Pastor Dan.
- Youth Group** - High schoolers discuss their faith as it applies to everyday challenges.



SOAR FALL SEMINAR



2025 ANCHORED IN FAITH SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

KEYNOTE
SPEAKER

**REV. DR. R.
REED LESSING**

DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER
FOR BIBLICAL STUDIES
CONCORDIA ST. PAUL
DELIVER US: GOD'S RESCUE
STORY IN EXODUS



GUEST SPEAKER

**ALYSSA
PETTY**

CHIEF
DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER
LUTHERAN BIBLE
TRANSLATORS



GUEST SPEAKER

**REV.
JOHN
LARSON**

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
SOAR 30 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY



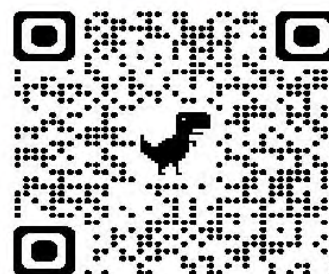
ENTERTAINMENT
A TOUCH OF
GRASS



**PEACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

5675 FIELD STREET
ARVADA, CO 80002

A full day, 8:45-3:45 including lunch for \$30 per person. Half off for first time attendees. Registration information on rm.lcms.org or by contacting Greg Prosser @ 303-775-0567 or gmail_357@comcast.net
Registration deadline Sept. 13





LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

2025 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

GREAT WOLF LODGE,
COLORADO SPRINGS
SPEAKERS

Fearfully
and
Wonderfully
Made



le



Jim Daly •
Jack Phillips •
Judge Ruth Neely •
Joy Pullman •
and many more •

SEPT 24-26, 2025

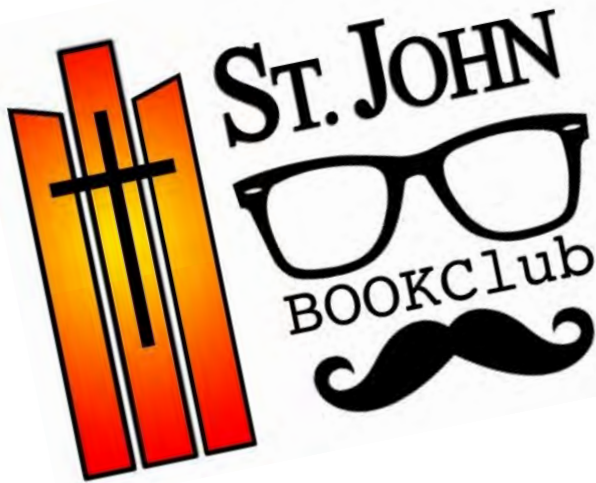
REGISTER TODAY

Learn More
lutheransforlife.org



Contact Us
888-364-LIFE
(5433)





Fall 2025

Our next book by Rev. Dr. Alvin Schmidt (a former Ft. Wayne professor) is entitled *How Christianity Changed the World* (ISBN 978-0310264491). The description reads:

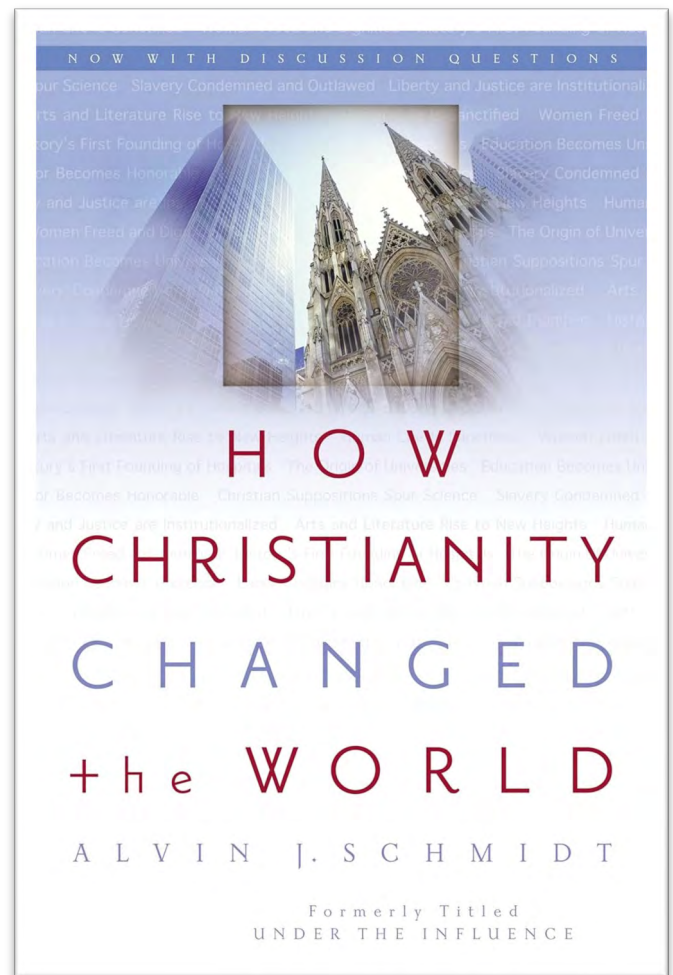
Western civilization is becoming increasingly pluralistic, secularized, and biblically illiterate. Many people today have little sense of how their lives have benefited from Christianity's influence, often viewing the church with hostility or resentment. *How Christianity Changed the World* is a topically arranged Christian history for Christians and non-Christians. Grounded in solid research and written in a popular style, this book is both a helpful apologetic tool in talking with unbelievers and a source of evidence for why Christianity deserves credit for many of the humane, social, scientific, and cultural advances in the Western world in the last two thousand years. Photographs, timelines, and charts enhance each chapter. This edition features questions for reflection and discussion for each chapter.

Topics include: Sanctification of Human Life, Women Receive Freedom and Dignity, Hospitals and Health Care, labor and Economic Freedom Dignified, Science: Its Christian Connections, Liberty and Justice for All, Slavery Abolished, and more.

Two copies have been ordered for the church. Used copies are available on Amazon for about \$13.50. There is an Audible version available for \$7 and a Kindle version for \$13.50.

This is a longer book than we typically tackle – almost 450 pages. Due to the length and Pastor Dan's sabbatical, we will meet in 5 months on January 13th to discuss the book.

Pick up a book & join us at the BOOKClub!



WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD ALWAYS FOR
ALL OF YOU. CONSTANTLY MENTIONING
YOU IN OUR PRAYERS.

1 Thess. 1:2 ESV

HOME SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS.

- 2 months in the United States.
- 7 states traveled to.
- 17 congregations/institutions/groups visited.
- 19 beds slept in (J.P.).
- 20 flight legs flown.
- 23 presentations/sermons delivered.
- 2,500+ miles driven in 5 different cars.
- Countless blessings received!

PRAISES for fruitful reconnections with family, friends, and partners; for the gracious hospitality shown to us in so many places; for Celeste's summer job; for J.P., Bella, and Isaac's safe return to Cambodia on Aug. 3; **PRAYERS** for a seminar J.P. is teaching on Aug. 16; for Celeste as she starts college classes at VCU on Aug. 19; for Aimee's travel to Cambodia on Aug. 25; for a busy travel schedule in September and October; for planning for upcoming projects with the Cambodia Lutheran Church.

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."

CIMA NEWSLETTER

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S Q U A R E T W O

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This summer was our biennial "home service," when we are granted limited time in our passport country to reconnect with those who partner with us, reporting on our work and thanking them for their partnership in it. As usual, ours was a whirlwind home service! You, our network of partners and prayer warriors, encouraged us so well—you prayed for us, you opened your homes to us, you asked great questions during presentations, you treated us to meals, you shared your heart for God's mission—all of it was just what we needed to energize us as we continue to serve the Lord's work in Cambodia. THANK YOU! One of the many joys of home service is the reunions; we got to meet so many former colleagues in international service. It was a wonderful reminder of all the special people we have had the privilege of knowing and serving with. Each of them have made us better missionaries and people. A particular highlight was J.P. attending the National Youth Gathering alongside Bella. They enjoyed attending Bible study sessions and mass events together. Moreover, J.P. served as an adult chaperone and also gave a talk to over 130 youth (pictured here)! The talk was aimed at inspiring a new generation of young people to answer the call to international missionary service. Finally, this was a special home service for our family because we said goodbye to Celeste, who will remain in Virginia to begin studies at VCU. Tears flowed, but those tears were filled with joy for what God has done, is doing, and will yet do in and through Celeste. We send her into this next chapter with hope and excitement!

SEPTEMBER 2025

[illegible]