



NOVEMBER, 2025 PARISH NEWS

“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes”

by Liv Booth

Is death a normal part of life? In short - NO!

We, as the St. John family, have experienced too much loss recently. And maybe well-meaning comforters have offered you words that sound kind but are actually a terribly common lie. The world says, “Death is part of life.” But you know better! And we know that so much better is coming in the resurrection!

If your heart is aching and the tears keep coming like waves, you know that nothing in this world is enough to make you think that this loss is “normal.” It’s not normal. We were not created to accept death. It is not a part of life. It is only part of this fallen world. And like this fallen world, death itself will pass away.

In the meantime, we need someone to wipe away our tears.

Thank God that we are a church family who will feel these feelings with each other and offer support, but oppressed by our own losses and sufferings, each of us also need to take time to mourn and be comforted. We need someone stronger to wipe away our tears.

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In Revelation, the Lord promises that God will wipe away your tears! That’s not empty comfort. That’s not wishful thinking that someday, somewhere we’ll vaguely feel better. When you hear that “God” will wipe away your

tears, picture Jesus holding you while you fall into another pit of grief. When you ache with the loss of your loved one, he aches too. Jesus wept with Mary and Martha at Lazarus’ tomb. He has gut-level compassion for your pain, and he is the only one strong enough to carry it all. He wipes away your tears.

He wipes away your tears when church members reach out. He wipes away your tears with Word and Sacrament, bringing you forgiveness and strengthening your faith. And He will completely wipe away your tears in the New Creation, when we live, bodily, in a world without pain, death or loss. When life gets back to normal, the way it was supposed to be in Eden.

See, normal life is coming back. Jesus died, rose and ascended to prepare a place for you. And you and I will join him there, whether He comes for us or we go to him first. Those dear ones who have gone on ahead this year know that death is not a normal part of life. They know that eternal life is normal. Living without the weight of age, infirmity, guilt or shame is normal. Joining the fellowship of the saints in the presence of God is normal.

Here we are, left behind for the moment. The falling leaves are reminding us that we will experience seasons of loss in this sinful world, but we refuse to get used to it. Let us be unashamed to feel the sorrow, anger and confusion that comes with loss. It will not be this way forever. And God himself will wipe every tear from our eyes.

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Pastor Dan's Sabbatical Schedule

by Pastor Dan

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

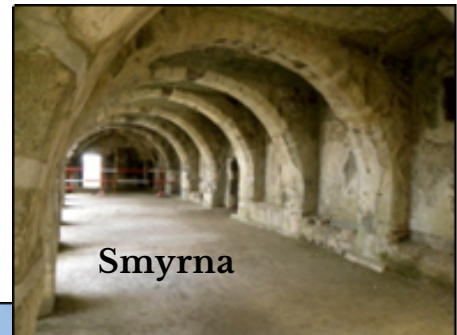
Nov. 11 – Explore Philippi & Thessaloniki

Nov. 12 – Explore Veria, Vergina, Thessaloniki

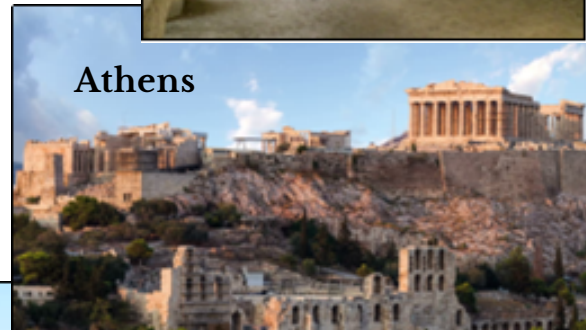
Nov. 13 – Fly to Chicago

Nov. 15 – Fly to Home

November 17 - Back in Office



Smyrna



Athens



Pergamum



Thessaloniki

“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes,” continued from page one

Comfort each other with these words this All Saints' Day. Reach out to each other in this congregation. I guarantee you, every soul here is in need of consolation.

“[Jesus] who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7:15b-17



NOVEMBER, 2025 PARISH NEWS

In Memory of Ted Schmidt

Theodore Arthur Schmidt
April 3, 1943 – October 7, 2025

Theodore (Ted) Arthur Schmidt, 82, passed away on October 7, 2025. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Nancy; his son Matthew and daughter-in-law Tiffany; his son Blair and daughter-in-law Anne; and two grandchildren: Mira and Parker.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Edith Schmidt, and his sister, Dorothy Russell.

Ted was born on April 3, 1943, in El Dorado, Kansas. He graduated from El Dorado High School and received a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas. He served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970, during the Vietnam War. Ted then began a career as a trust officer, working in various banks for over 30 years. He began his career in Kansas City, Missouri and then continued this work in Sterling, Illinois. In 1977, Ted and his young family moved to Pueblo, Colorado where he worked for both US Bank and then Wells Fargo until he retired.

Ted was united in marriage to Nancy Wheeler at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lawrence, Kansas on June 27, 1970. His sons Matthew and Blair were both born in Sterling, Illinois before the family moved to Pueblo. Ted and Nancy have been members of St. John Lutheran Church in Cañon City for over ten years.

In his free time, Ted most enjoyed spending time in his yard. Over the years he tended to various vegetable and flower gardens. He devoted time and energy to redesigning and tending to his yard in Pueblo West.

Memorial service, 10 a.m., Monday, October 13, 2025 at the St. John Lutheran Church, 790 Greydene Avenue, Canon City.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. John Lutheran Church in Cañon City.



In Loving Memory Of **Theodore “Ted” Arthur Schmidt**

Entered this Life
Saturday, April 3, 1943, in El Dorado, Kansas

Departed This Life
Tuesday, October 7, 2025, in Pueblo, Colorado

Span of Life
82 Years, 6 Months and 4 Days

Memorial Service
St. John Lutheran Church
790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, Colorado
Monday, October 13, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.

Officiant
Pastor Lyle Stuehrenberg

Musician
Lori Holt, Accompanist

Cremation
Montgomery & Steward Crematorium

Arrangements By
Montgomery & Steward Funeral Directors



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News and Notes

Attendance: September 28: 74 October 5: 73 October 12: 86 October 19: 65

Voters' Meeting on December 14th: Adult members of St. John will elect officers to serve as council members and as elders, and we will discuss and vote on the 2026 annual budget for the church.

Council Opening: We are looking for a person to serve as Council Vice President. If you are interested, please contact Nathan or any member of the Council.

Honor Our Veterans: Please join us after the Divine service on Sunday, November 9th to recognize those who served our nation.

Food Bank Sunday: November 2nd is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring canned food, flour or other staples for the needy in our community.

Member News: Please notify Gail Kirkegaard of any member activities and accomplishments so we can celebrate them in our publication. Office@StJohnCanonCity.org. - Attn: Gail, or call (720) 201-8743.

"Not Home Yet: How To Be Human In An Inhuman World" is a new book by Brandon and Liv Booth. Avail. at signpostinn.org/books.

Elders and Church Council:

Elders: Brandon Booth, Curtis Eulert, David Lehmpuhl, Allan Tormohlen, George Yeatts.

Education - Connie Willyard

Evangelism - Deb Taft

Missions - Dawn Atkinson

Secretary - Kerrie Leason

Treasurer - Nichole Harms

Trustee - Bob Kirkegaard

President - Nathan Pegors

Vice President - Vacant

St. John Youth: The high school youth group will meet on Thursday, November 20th at 7:00 p.m. Sue T. (785) 227-5653

Church Nursery: Parents may use the nursery in back of the church. Diaper changing tables are available in three of our restrooms.

Articles for December's newsletter are due November 23rd. Please email information the congregation needs to know to Gail Kirkegaard: Office@StJohnCanonCity.org. - Attn: Gail, or call (720) 201-8743.

"Mountains Are Waiting: Pursuing Peaks When You're Over The Hill" is a new book by Gail Kirkegaard. Available on Amazon.com.



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Prayers and Activities

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick & Recovering: Debbie Ledbetter, Rod Willard, Sharon Martinson, Linda Kirkegaard (Bob's sister), Lucy Brown, Deb Taft, Zoey (Tangkawarow's family), Elaine Emery (Snyders' friend), Ken Davidson, Nancy Mowers, Jerrico Leason, Evie Langley, Cody Atkinson.

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.

LWML NEWS: The mustard seed is used in scripture to impress the importance of small opportunities in the mission field. In like manner, your mites have mighty impacts in the LWML mission field. The 2025-2026 mission grant goals were inserted into the bulletin on Reformation Day. Please join LWML in contributing your pocket change to the mites collection. The mite box is in the back of the sanctuary next to the offering plate. Thank you for your small but mighty offering. The traditional LWML November mission is visiting our less active members and shut-ins. If you would like to be part of the visitation teams, please either attend the **November 15th LWML meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** or contact Toni Davidson or Angela Bellantoni.

LWML will honor our veterans on November 9th during fellowship hour. Please join us after worship in recognizing our members who served our nation.

Mark your calendars on **December 6, 2025 for the LWML Ladies' Christmas Brunch**. All ladies and girls of the congregation are welcome. More details will be shared.

Blessings to All,
Angela Bellantoni



QUILTERS: We will resume meeting on Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.- not every week, but depending on availability of participants. All ladies are welcome to join us. We make quilts by layering the fabric and tying them. If you can tie a knot or thread a needle, it would help. The finished quilts are presented to St. John confirmands and those who are baptized. Contact Sue Willard at (231) 714-1562.



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Snapshots Around St. John



St. John Head Elder Brandon Booth with 14 children at the Children's Message on October 19th.



Guest Pastor Randy Bolt preached at St. John on October 19, 2025.



An outdoor wedding reception was held at St. John on Saturday, October 18th, for Michael and Katherine (Zeeriep) Dacey.



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November Special Days



November 1 - Connie Willyard



November 16 - Nichole Harms



November 3 - Justin Jones



November 16 - Allan Tormohlen



November 6 - Gail Kirkegaard



November 17 - Mona Appel



November 9 - Solana Pegors



November 20 - John Trujillo



November 15 - Rod Willard



Happy Anniversary!

November 17 - Gene & Joan Foster

November 28 - Danny & Kathy Walker

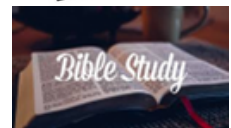
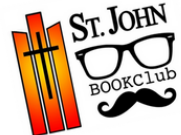


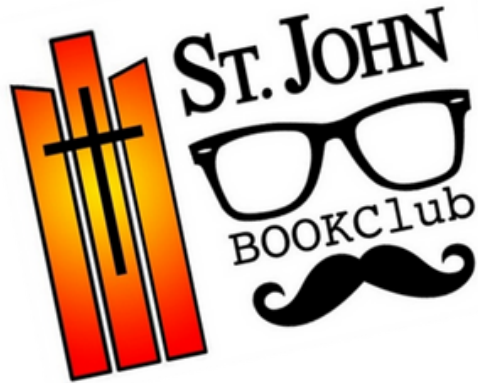
NOVEMBER, 2025 PARISH NEWS

St. John To-Do List

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, and Facebook.
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 - Welcome 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 Holy 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 life's challenges.





Fall 2025

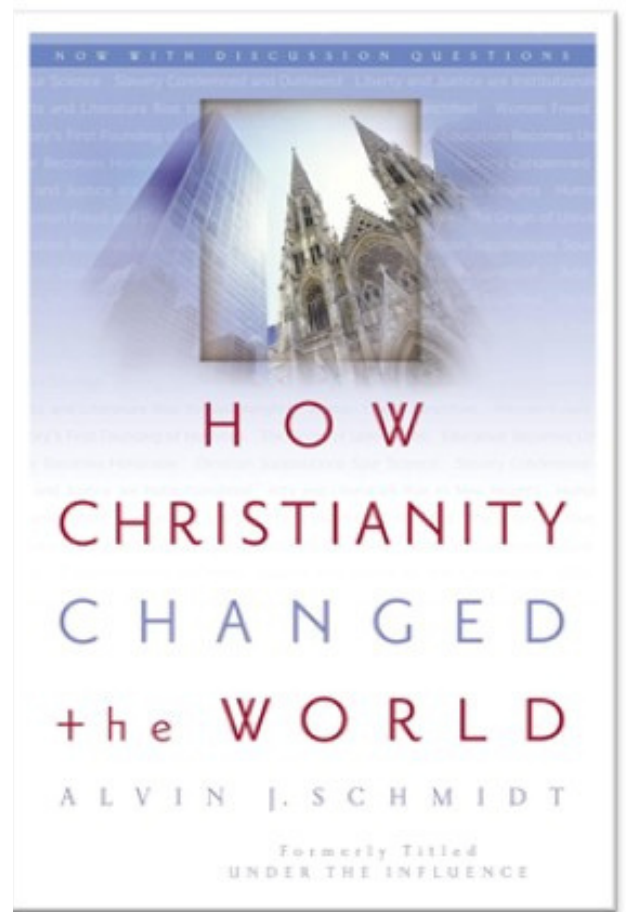
Our next book by Rev. Dr. Alvin Schmidt (a former Ft. Wayne professor) is entitled *How Christianity Changed the World* (ISBN 978-0310264491). The description reads:

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!



in Cambodia

We were thrilled to welcome Pastor Dan Kletke, of St. John Lutheran Church in Canon City, CO, to Cambodia in September. St. John has been a long time supporter of our family as we serve in Southeast Asia, and Pastor Kletke had long wanted to visit. The connection goes even further back, as Pastor Kletke and J.P. went to seminary together! So this trip, as a part of Pastor Kletke's sabbatical, was truly decades in making! Aside from eating [strange foods](#), Pastor Dan engaged with J.P.'s day-to-day ministry, including joining his regular [Book of Concord class](#). But the highlight was traveling to [Tbong Khmum](#) to team-teach the Small Catechism in a local church. As always, we traveled with Mr. Khorn Sopha, the Director of the local office of [Lutheran Heritage](#)

[Foundation](#), who provides each student with a copy of the Small Catechism. Tbong Khmum is the last of five planned locations for Small Catechism teaching, and this was the first of three planned seminars in that location. Each morning started with [singing](#) before a full day of teaching on the Ten Commandments. Pastor Kletke is a gifted teacher, and the students (and myself!) benefitted so much from his involvement. Many students traveled quite far to participate, even though [their mode of transportation](#) was not ideal. What amazing commitment from these students to study God's Word! Thanks for coming from farthest away, Pastor Kletke!

Other teaching opportunities in September:

- Scripture alone [seminar](#).
- [Day of prayer and reflection](#) at a local business.

Square Two

The Cima Family Newsletter
Vol. 19, No. 9, September 2025
John.Cima@lcms.org
Aimee.Cima@lcms.org



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."

After adventures in Cambodia, J.P. and Pastor Kletke, along with three representatives from the Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC), traveled to Bohol, Philippines to attend the [International Lutheran Council's](#) (ILC) World Conference. The ILC is a worldwide association of confessional Lutherans. This conference gathered member church representatives from every corner of the globe—some 55 countries were represented ([see the whole list](#))!—for learning, networking, and fellowship as a global Lutheran community. For someone like Pastor Bun Sopheap, the head of the CLC, there are rarely opportunities to gather with other Lutherans in one's own country, let alone with Lutherans from across the world. This was a precious time for Pastor Sopheap to realize that the CLC is a part of a much larger whole. This unity with a larger global community was the theme of the event. In addition to [Bible studies](#) and [topical presentations](#), each day included orders of worship, group meals, and even fun [cultural outings](#). For J.P., this was a great chance to spend time with the CLC colleagues who joined, but also to make new connections with leaders from other Lutheran bodies across the world.

Praises: for Pastor Kletke's visit; for a good start to the Small Catechism in Tbong Khmum; for the ILC World Conference. **Prayers:** for Aimee's travel to Germany Oct. 15-22; for Deaconess Hem Horn's church, which had a [ceiling collapse](#); for those affected by recent flooding in the height of rainy season; for project planning.

in the Philippines



NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30 Elder's Meeting <u>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS</u>	2 6:30p Confirmation	4 <u>ELECTION DAY</u>	5 10:00 Bible Study	6 7:00 Men's Breakfast	7	1 f 8
9 22ND SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30 Council Meeting	10 6:30p Confirmation	11	12 10:00 Bible Study	13	14	15 9:00 a.m. LWML Meeting
16 22ND SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	17 6:30p Confirmation	18	19 10:00 Bible Study	20 7:00 Men's Breakfast 7:00 p.m. Youth Group	21	22
23 LAST SUNDAY OF CHURCH YEAR 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	24	25	26 7:00p Thanksgiving Eve Service	27 <u>THANKSGIVING</u>	28	29
30 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	 ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212 http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org 719-275-0111					