



DECEMBER, 2025 PARISH NEWS

Slowing Down

By Pastor Dan

While on sabbatical, Rev. Kern at Immanuel Colorado Springs encouraged me to read a book by John Mark Comer called "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry". As you can guess, the book was a great fit for my sabbatical. Ironically, it was a very quick read. I am not a fast reader, but even I was able to finish it in just two or three days. And yet although quick, the book was good enough that I've encouraged Tricia to read it; and I hope to get it on the BOOKClub's list next year.

The impetus for the book was that Rev. Comer was caught up in a fast-paced, high pressure mega-church situation; and yet he didn't like the direction his life, and especially his spiritual life, was headed. Talking over his concerns with a trusted mentor, his friend advised him, "Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life." The book goes on to explain why that's the case, especially in our current culture; and then gives some practical advice on what we can do about it.

As we begin the season of Advent, this time of year can be especially busy for many of us. There are extra parties, extra services, extra cooking, extra baking, extra shopping, extra letters, extra decorating... extra, extra, extra. Which is why I would encourage you to make an intentional, conscious effort to ruthlessly eliminate the



hurry from your life. The whole point of Advent is to prepare our hearts and spirits for the birth of our Savior; and when we repent and discover on Christmas morning that God has sent His only Son to be born as one of us, Immanuel, well that joy is unlike any other. You are not forgotten or forsaken. God has sent you hope in the form of this little baby boy; and yet all the extras and all the pressure can overshadow this incredibly joy. "Hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life."

So, please, take some time this Advent season to prepare for the birth of our Savior. Read the Lutheran Hour Devotions. Come to the Wednesday evening soup suppers and advent services. Hear the Lord, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10); and be refreshed and prepared for the joy of Christmas.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan



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Welcome 14 New Members!



Hairell family: Parents Jason & Katie, Macie & Levi



Thom family: Parents Ryan & Ashley, Landan, Caiden, Madelynn, Dylan, Waylon, Brycen, Natalee, & Rowan





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St. John News Blurbs

Sunday Attendance: November 2: 76 November 9: 83 November 16: 86 November 23: 73

Voters' Meeting - 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.

Congregation Council Opening: We need someone to serve as Council Vice President. If you are interested, please contact Nathan Pegors or any member of the Council.

Pictorial Directory: We are preparing a black and white pictorial directory, and will have a printed copy available within a few weeks in every family church mailbox.

Food Bank Sunday: December 7th is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring canned food, flour or other staples for the needy in our community.

Member News: Please notify Gail K. of any achievements, awards, promotions, milestones, graduations, recognitions, so we can celebrate them in our publication. Office@StJohnCanonCity.org. - Attn: Gail, or call (720) 201-8743.

Lutheran Center For Religious Liberty: December 1775, the Second Continental Congress labored to overcome tensions and manage the complexities of leadership during the early days of the Revolutionary War. The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty offers insights into the tensions and complexities of today's government. See www.LCRLFreedom.org.

ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

Soup Suppers: Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Advent Worship: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service: Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service: Thursday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Youth: The high school youth group will meet on Thursday, December 18th, at 7:00 p.m. Sue T. (785) 227-5653.

Church Nursery: Parents may use the nursery in back of the church. We have diaper changing tables available in three of our restrooms.

Articles for our January parish newsletter are due Sunday, December 21st. If you have news or information to share with members, please e-mail articles to Gail's attention at: Office@StJohnCanonCity.org or call or text Gail at 720-201-8743.



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Prayers and Activites

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

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: The Christmas fellowship event will be **Saturday, December 6th at 9:00 a.m.** All ladies of the congregation are invited whether you are young or in your vintage years, everyone is welcome. Each attendee please bring one wrapped, re-gifted white-elephant gift appropriate for a lady. No tags please. And no open gift bags. So, if I were to bring my granddaughter, I would bring two wrapped re-gifted white-elephant gifts. Our program speaker will be Dee Dee Clement from Loaves and Fishes Outreach. Ladies, please come, relax, and enjoy fellowship; take a break from the Christmas bustle.

Blessings to All
Angela Bellantoni



QUILTERS: We meet 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. Call Sue Willard at (231) 714-1562.



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Snapshots Around St. John

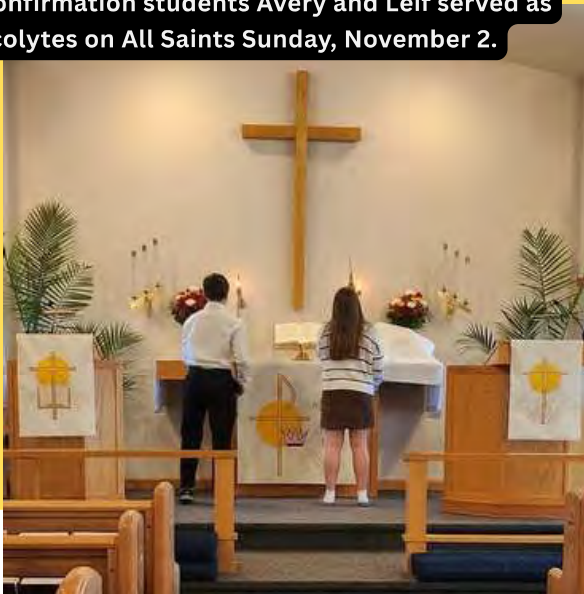
Pastor Lyle preached on Reformation Sunday, October 26, 2025.



Gail Kirkegaard's husband, Bob, surprised her on November 2nd with a celebration of her 70th birthday.



Confirmation students Avery and Leif served as acolytes on All Saints Sunday, November 2.



Torben and Avery acolyted on the Last Sunday of the Church Year, also called Christ The King Sunday, November 23, 2025





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Welcome Back From Sabbatical, Pastor Dan!

Congregational Potluck - November 23, 2025





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Welcome Back From Sabbatical, Pastor Dan!

MORE PICS from the Congregational Potluck - November 23, 2025



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH * 790 GREYDENE AVE., CAÑON CITY, CO 81212
OFFICE PHONE: (719) 275-0111 * WEBSITE: STJOHNCANONCITY.ORG



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December 8 - Solveig Booth



December 18 - Diane Lund



December 12 - Ron Smith



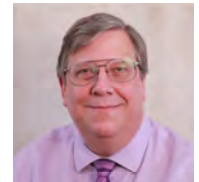
December 21 - Judith Crider



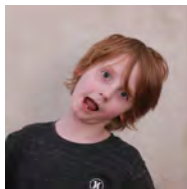
December 13 - Beverly Kane



December 22 - Kris Holt



December 15 - Jeremiah Jones



December 23 - Lucille Brown



December 16 - Joan Foster



December 27 - Avery Harms



December 18 - Gene Foster



Happy Anniversary

December 11 - Robert & Sue Tangkawarow

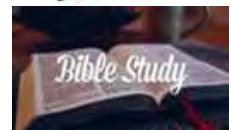
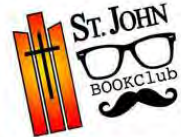


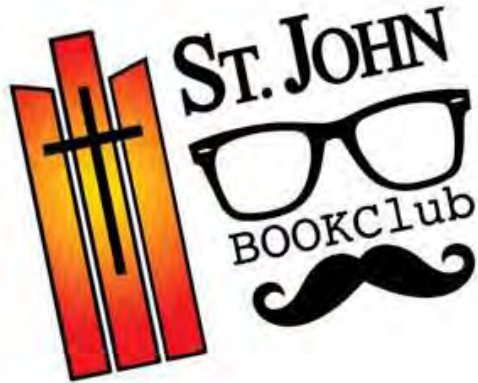
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St. John To-Do List

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

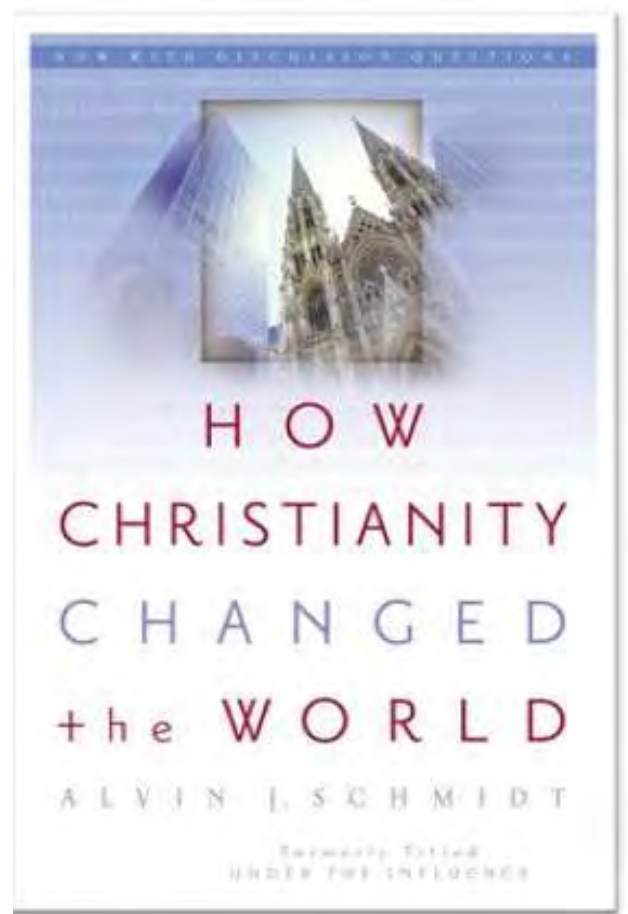
Our next book by Rev. Dr. Alvin Schmidt (a former Ft. Wayne professor) is entitled *How Christianity Changed the World* (ISBN 978-0310264491). The description reads:

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!



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Greetings in Jesus' name, friends at St. John in Cañon City, from Phnom Penh!

It is a joy to write this email in celebration of God's global mission and in gratitude for your partnership in it. Because of the prayers and generosity of so many, including you, our family is in our 19th year in Southeast Asia. Who ever thought that would happen!!?? God did, and He is using YOU to keep us going! THANK YOU for praying for our family and for sending your financial gifts. They are an incredible encouragement to us. Here's some snippets on what's been happening the last several months.

J.P. continues to focus much of his time on teaching and discipleship. The youth group of Christ Lutheran Church (Phnom Penh) is always a highlight of the week, and this past week we had our largest group in some time! Speaking of Christ Lutheran Church, J.P. also completed three seminars on the "solos" of the Reformation—grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone—for that community. J.P. also recently received an invitation to teach for a Christian company in Phnom Penh, one of whose staff is a dear friend and fellow church member.

Often, teaching takes J.P. out of Phnom Penh and into rural communities. J.P. is nearing completion of a series of seminars, in multiple locations, on Luther's Small Catechism. Most recently, he completed teaching the Catechism in Kampong Seila, and has now started in Tbong Khmum (your very own Pastor Dan helped to begin this training!). Tbong Khmum will be the final location in an effort that has taken 2 years! Other times, teaching takes J.P. to other countries. J.P. was excited to teach one course and co-teach another at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines. He also recently did some teaching in Bangkok, Thailand.

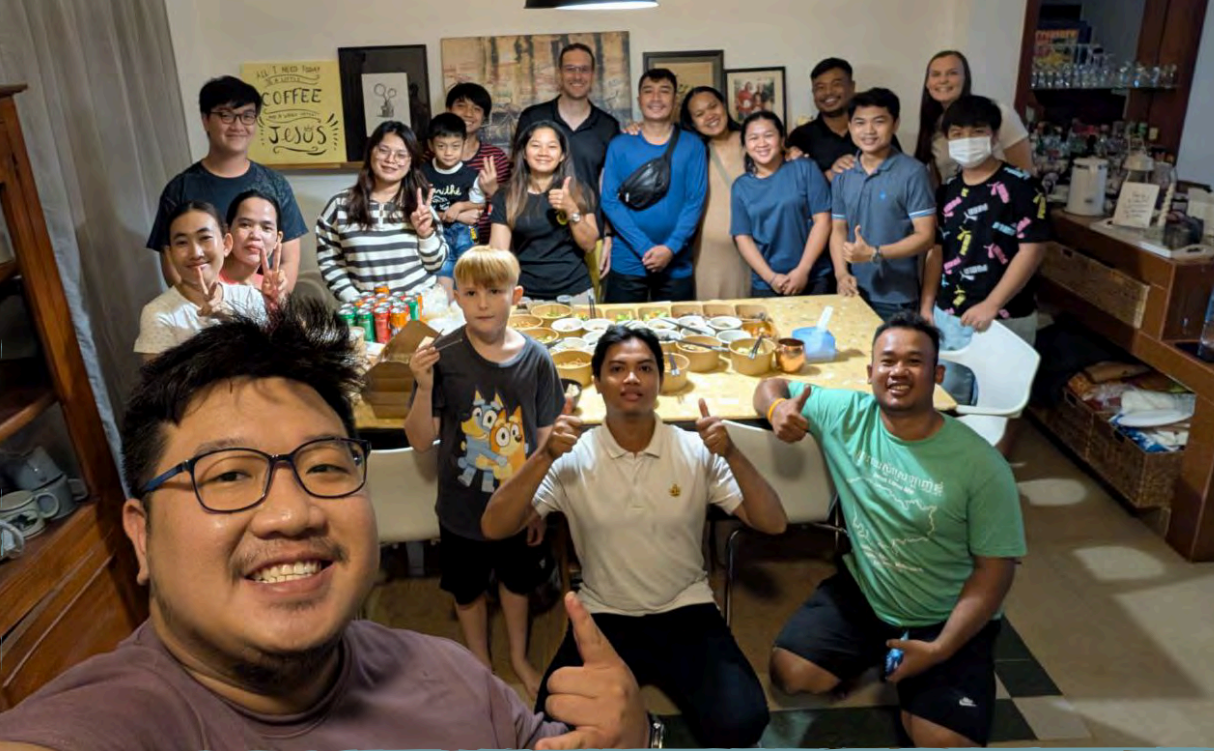
Meanwhile, Aimee continues in her new role as Coordinator of Care and Development for Asia missionaries. The whole job is geared towards providing holistic care for missionaries and their families so that they can do what God has called them to do as well as possible for as long as possible. She loves it. She's been full on the past weeks solidifying plans for our regional workgroup meetings in Taiwan in early November, as well as a family retreat in Germany in June. But she still manages to stay active in Cambodia, too, most recently by coordinating a retreat for deaconesses.

Though it was hard to say goodbye, Celeste has adjusted well to life in Richmond, VA, living with J.P.'s mom while studying at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). We are thankful for strong community she has in Richmond—with family, with Redeemer Lutheran Church, and with VCU—that has made her transition so smooth.

You are a part of all this. THANK YOU for being our team that prays for, encourages, and sends us to do this critical work in such a remarkable part of the world. It is our joy and privilege, but we can't do it without you. Please reach out anytime and/or stay connected using the info below. We LOVE hearing from you.

God bless and keep you!

In Christ,
JP, Aimee, Celeste, Bella, Isaac



During October, Christ Lutheran Church's [youth group](#) had the largest group we've had in some time, with 17 people joining for the usual Saturday night activities. What a blessing to have so many sacrifice time from their busy lives for fellowship and study of Scripture! While we rejoice when everyone can turn up at the same time, the week to week reality is different. Some weeks we are a smaller group, for a variety of reasons. People get called away to work. They have family obligations. They cram during exam season. Or, they just don't come. While that can be disappointing in the moment, we always try to take a long-term view. We do this in a couple ways. First, if at all possible, we will meet even with a small group. This builds consistency and routine. Second, when someone returns after an absence, we welcome them back enthusiastically. We want Saturday nights to be a blessing rather than a burden. We don't want people to avoid joining out of fear of judgment, but rather we want them to join out of freedom and acceptance. That doesn't mean that confrontations don't happen—difficult discussions are essential to discipleship—but Saturday nights are not for that. We want these young people to know that no matter how they feel, or how busy they are, or how long they've been away, or how disconnected from Christian community they've been, or what sin or problem they are struggling with, they

have a place at this table. They have a community that cares about them. And most of all, they have a God who loves them fiercely and still speaks to them through His Word. Indeed, that night we studied the Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8), in which Jesus encourages us to pray and not lose heart as we live in a sinful world, knowing that God loves us and has brought justice in Jesus, even as we wait for the final justice he will bring at the end.

SQUARE TWO

Cima Family Newsletter
Vol. 19, No. 10, October 2025

PRAISES: for the opportunity to encourage and be encouraged by the youth of Cambodia; for Aimee's productive trip to Germany; for encouraging recent workgroup meetings with fellow OIM Asia missionaries.

PRAVERS: for clarity on some recent health concerns for Isaac; for upcoming Small Catechism training; for the launch of a grant program for congregations of the Cambodia Lutheran Church (funded by LCMS);

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."

Aimee traveled to the Wittenberg, Germany to attend LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) Africa region's conference. Why would Aimee go to Germany to attend an Africa Gathering!? Since Wittenberg was the starting point of the Lutheran Reformation, an [International Lutheran Center](#) has been established there. While OIM missionary gatherings are usually close to home, recently each region has planned one for Wittenberg, like this Africa gathering. Indeed, Aimee is planning Asia's gathering in Wittenberg for June 2026, and went to get a firsthand view of the transportation logistics, meetings spaces, lodging, excursion possibilities, and food options. Finally, while there, Aimee was able to meet with OIM staff from other regions who also care for missionaries (pictured from left: [Shara Osiro](#), [Melissa Pflug](#), and [Tirzah Krey](#)). After countless meetings on Zoom, what a gift it was to meet in person!



DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30p Confirmation	2	3 10:00 Bible Study 6:00p Soup Supper 7:00p Advent Svc.	4 7:00 Men's Breakfast	5	6 9:00 LWML Christmas Brunch
7 2 ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30 Elders' Meeting	8 6:30p Confirmation	9 <i>Circuit Pastors' Meeting – Pastor Out of Office</i>	10 10:00 Bible Study 6:00p Soup Supper 7:00p Advent Svc	11	12	13
14 3 RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Voters' Meeting	15 6:30p Confirmation	16	17 10:00 Bible Study 6:00p Soup Supper 7:00p Advent Svc	18 7:00 Men's Breakfast 7:00p Youth Group	19	20
21 4 TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	22	23	24 4:00p Christmas Eve Children's Program 7:00p Christmas Eve Service <u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u>	25 9:00 Christmas Day Service w/ Holy Communion <u>CHRISTMAS</u>	26	27
28 1 ST SUNDAY AFT CHRISTMAS 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	29	30	31 <u>NEW YEAR'S EVE</u>	 ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212 http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org 719-275-0111		