



MAY, 2026 PARISH NEWS

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## THE BODY OF CHRIST

**By Pastor Dan**

In last Sunday's sermon I talked about how the body of Christ, the brothers and sisters in the faith, encouraged and supported me in difficult times. The Church is not just a social club or a service institution. The Church is the body of Christ as He moves and works in the world today.

St. Paul writes in First Corinthians, "*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*". This one verse reveals the whole mystery of the Church. Jesus is not just the founder of the church - He is its living head; and the Church is, in the most profound sense, His body on earth.

This means that the Church is, first and foremost, a creation of God's Word. Where the Word of God is proclaimed and the Spirit works faith in the hearts of people, there the body of Christ is present.

It also means that Jesus does not govern the Church from a distance. He is actively and continuously present to His body – through His Word, through His sacraments, and through the Holy Spirit who unites us to Him through faith. We, as His body, receive our very life from Christ; and every gift in the the Church – forgiveness, faith, hope, love, holiness – all of it flows from Christ to us, the members of His

church. The church is an incredible and unique institution.

Unfortunately, there are far too many people who claim to be Christian but they want nothing to do with the Church. They have been hurt, they see the church as an antiquated, hypocritical institution, or they have grown out of the habit of attending service. While I would never dismiss their experience, that most certainly isn't what I have seen.

Whether it has been in times of unemployment or times of transition, times when Tricia and I were expecting our kids or times of sickness, times of celebration or times of sorrow – the church has always been there to support and encourage us: baby showers, pantry showers, fundraisers, unexpected checks, prayers, hugs, cards, flowers, words of encouragement, and of course, food...always lots and lots of food. The support we have received from the Body of Christ is truly amazing and incalculable.

But what also fascinates me is that the benefits of belonging to the church is also recognized by the outside, secular world. I did a quick AI inquiry on the benefits of

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## THE BODY OF CHRIST, Continued

### By Pastor Dan

belonging to the Body of Christ, the church; and here is what it returned:

- **Spiritual Benefits:** Shared worship, gift discovery, biblical guidance, and mentorship
- **Mental/Health Benefits:** 20-30% lower death rates, 29% lower depression risk, and increased optimism
- **Relational Benefits:** 25-50% lower divorce rates and a lifelong sense of radical belonging
- **Practical Benefits:** Financial aid, crisis navigation, career networking, and grief support groups

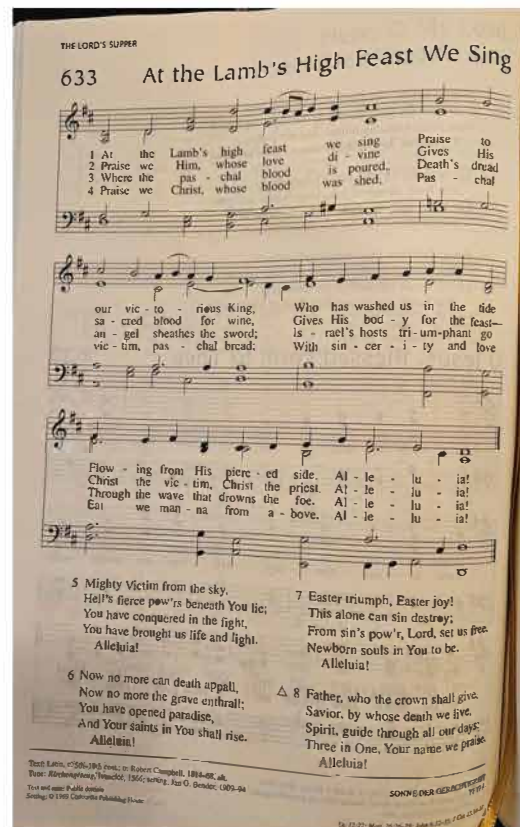
All of this is, first, to highlight the very special community we have at St. John. We are the body of Christ here in this time and place, brothers and sisters in faith, brought together by God’s Word, who genuinely love and care for one another. You can find community in lots of different places throughout our little town, but nothing is quite the same or really compares with the fellowship we have at St. John.

And secondly, to say Thank You. Over the last 14+ years you have always been there for me and my family; and most recently through my cancer diagnosis. Thank You for the hugs, prayers, visits, donations, words of

encouragement, and of course, food – always lots and lots of food. You are a blessing beyond words. Thank You!

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan





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## IN OUR PRAYERS

**Shut-Ins:** Lucy Brown, Dale Kletke

**Sick or Recovering:** Debbie Ledbetter, Rod Willard, Zoey (Tangkawarow's Family Member), Robert Tangkawarow, Cody Atkinson (Dawn's son), Elaine Emery (Snyders' friend), Pastor Dan Kletke, Mary Richardson, Don Kirkegaard (Bob's brother), Toni Davidson, Steve Tabb, Lenny Williams, Lyle Stuehrenberg, Donna Heldt, Carolyn Westlund, Lucy Brown.

**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](mailto:cspoehlein@gmail.com)

**Congregational Service Members:** Jake Langley (United States Navy), Jerrico Leason (United States Customs and Border Protection), April Collins (Albuquerque Police Department), and Dietrich Kletke (Hartsel Fire Department)

**Missionaries:** JP & Aimee Cima - LCMS missionaries serving in Cambodia that St. John has adopted, asking God to protect them and use them to spread His gospel.

**Special Prayers:** Please talk to the Pastor prior to the Sunday service for special prayers.

Sunday adult class on April 12th, beginning a study of Luther's catechism.

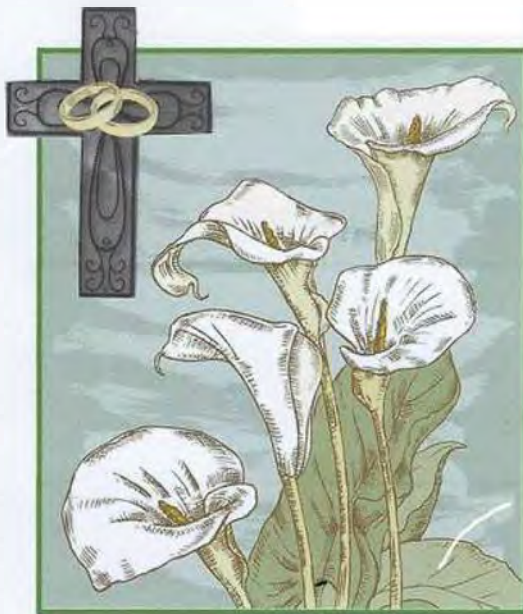




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## ST. JOHN NEWS AND NOTES

### You Are Invited!



To Chuck & Sue's Church Family at St. John  
Please join them in celebrating a very blessed  
60 years of marriage covenant with God

Open House

St. John Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 9, 2026

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Hosted by their children & grandchildren

What therefore God hath joined  
together, let not man put asunder

Matthew 19:6

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 22:	66
Wednesday, March 25	33
Palm Sunday, March 29	99
Maundy Thursday, April 2	64
Good Friday, April 3	74
Easter Sunday, April 5	28 / 100
Sunday, April 12	94
Sunday, April 19	88

**LWML:** Thank you for your dimes in the Red Socks! \$75.95 has been collected as of April 19th. May is FIVE dime month. When you have a good mission recipient for the Red Sock Dimes, share your suggestion with Toni Davidson or me. Blessings to All,  
Angela Bellantoni





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## EASTER BREAKFAST SERVERS





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## Snap Shots Inside and Outside of St. John



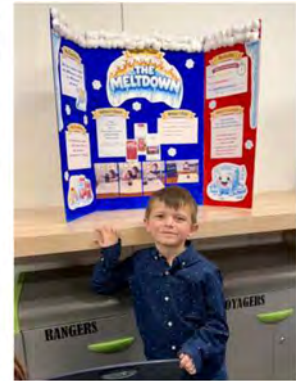
Caiden



Dylan



Madelynn



Waylon

Four of the Thom children participated in the science fair at Cañon Exploratory School.

Waylon Thom's art was exhibited at Pueblo Community College



The children's message about the Bible with Pastor Dan on April 19th.



May 4 - Elias Urban



May 15 - Macie Hairell



May 5 - Ean Urban



May 16 - Lori Holt



May 8 - Dale Kletke



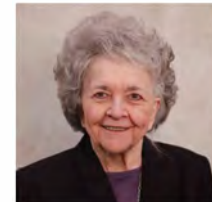
May 23 - Sandy Smith



May 8 - Nathan Pegors



May 25 - Carolyn Westlund



May 8 - Bill Pushchak



May 29 - Gerri Haynie



May 9 - Sue Poehlein



*Happy Anniversary!*

May 9 - Carol Skoda



May 5 - Rob & Sharon Godwin

May 7 - Chuck & Sue Poehle

May 26 - Dave & Carla Lehmpuh



# St. John Trail Mix Hike on Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Four women, four trails, in four hours



Bob Kirkegaard dropped off Katherine Dacey, Gail Kirkegaard and her dog Kyra, Rachel Lyons and her dog Riker, and Lilly Stader at Royal Gorge East Ridge Campground. They summited scenic Fremont Peak, then hiked to the top of Royal Cascade, meandered down the beautiful Royal Cascade Trail to Tunnel Drive, and finished at Tunnel Drive trailhead, where their cars waited. It was almost 8 miles total. The weather was very nice.

The start



Fremont Peak



Katherine



Gail



Rachel



Lilly



Tunnel Drive Trail



The finish





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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

## **St. John Lutheran Church Annual Garage Sale**



FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH FROM 8 AM TO 2 PM  
SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH FROM 8 AM TO 1 PM

You might find exactly what you are looking for among our assortment of used housewares, home decor, furnishings, tools, clothing and accessories, electronics, pet supplies, books, music, camping and hiking gear, patio, lawn, and garden, sporting goods, toys, small appliances, and more!

**HAVE ITEMS TO SELL?** Drop off items ahead of the sale on  
Wednesday, June 10th from 9 AM to 1 PM and  
Thursday, June 11th from 1 PM to 5 PM.  
**NO tires, batteries, or large furniture.**

If you have any questions, call Richard Mowers at (719) 458-1618.

**VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED. PLEASE WATCH FOR A SIGN-UP SHEET SOON.**



# ***AN EVENING WITH MARTIN LUTHER***

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 1:00pm-3:30pm  
@ Bethany Lutheran Church  
Pueblo**

“There are a lot of people out there who are not aware of who Martin Luther was. . . . He changed how religion was looked upon,” says retired Air Force Lt. Col. Dwight Johnson about what led him to create his one-man, three-act play *An Evening with Martin Luther*. Being able to share with his brothers and sisters in Christ how God worked through Luther has been a blessing to Johnson and all who see his play.

In 2017, when reflecting on the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting the Ninety-five Theses, Johnson, a member at Salem, Colorado Springs, Colo., wondered if there was a play he could perform to honor the anniversary. He was unable to find one but felt inspired to write his own. With encouragement and guidance from his pastor, James Seiltz, Johnson began to create a play not only to teach others about Luther but also to share God’s Word.

Johnson reflects on the moment that inspired the play: “I think that was God’s way of saying, you need to study a little bit about Martin Luther.”

During the research and writing process, Johnson discovered two themes: the importance of *sola Scriptura* (by Scripture alone) and standing firmly in one’s faith. Luther clearly embodied each of these throughout his life as Johnson depicts in the three acts. “We are letting people know that there were strong Christians who were not afraid to stand up,” remarks Johnson.

Johnson has presented *An Evening with Martin Luther* at his home church as well as at other WELS churches, conferences, and schools. It was before one of his shows that Seiltz changed how Johnson viewed his performances. The two prayed together over the phone and Seiltz prayed to bless Johnson’s ministry. While at first Johnson did not think performing the play could be described as ministry, he soon saw how God was working through him. “I’ve embraced that and said, ‘Yes, this is my ministry,’” he says.

Johnson is looking forward to continuing these performances, ultimately sharing God’s Word through the medium of theater.

Back in February, Aimee had the pleasure to host 12 women in Phnom Penh for a [women's retreat](#) for missionaries on staff with LCMS' Office of International Mission (OIM) or missionaries who are wives of those on staff. It had been far too many years since Asia held a gathering specifically for women. Missionary women, whether formally on staff or not, bear unique cross-cultural, family, and/or professional challenges. Seeing a real need to care for these women (herself included!), Aimee began planning the event a year ago. Women came from Taiwan, Indonesia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and the USA to participate in the three-day event, which included time for learning from God's Word, daily prayer and singing hymns, and connecting and relaxing. Deaconess [Heidi Goehmann](#), a licensed social worker and therapist, traveled from the USA to facilitate study of God's Word. Using Ecclesiastes 3, they explored mental health issues during seasons of change and transition, all towards a renewed appreciation for the hope of Jesus that dwells with us through all life's transitions. This was a rare opportunity together, but one Aimee hopes to repeat. In her work as Regional Care Coordinator for Asia, Aimee has seen that worker wellness leads to longevity on the mission field, which itself fosters consistency in our mission efforts.



**HE HAS MADE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL IN ITS TIME. HE HAS ALSO SET ETERNITY IN THE HUMAN HEART; YET NO ONE CAN FATHOM WHAT GOD HAS DONE FROM BEGINNING TO END. ECCLESIASTES 3:11**

In March, J.P. was thrilled to host visitors from [Resurrection Lutheran Church](#) (RLC) in Cary, NC. RLC has supported our family throughout our nearly 19 years of service in Southeast Asia, so they were long overdue for a visit! One of the visitors was the pastor of RLC, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke, who is a former colleague with LCMS OIM in Asia, having served in Japan for more than 20 years. He traveled with Mr. Paul Brandt, who heads RLC's Cross-Cultural Mission Engagement Team. This team has adopted Cambodia as a mission field in which RLC would like to engage. When they reached out asking J.P. to help them learn about Lutheran mission in Cambodia, especially the work of the Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC), he was excited to oblige. They traveled to three provinces to witness what God is up to in rural areas. A highlight was visiting several churches of the CLC—in [Kampot](#) (where they got to witness [two baptisms!](#)), in [Kampong Chhnang](#), and in [Kampong Thom](#). While in the provinces they also visited [Stronghold Cambodia](#) and three [Garuna schools](#). In Phnom Penh the guests [visited the local offices](#) of [Lutheran Hour Ministries](#), [Lutheran Heritage Foundation](#), and [Garuna Foundation](#). What a joy to introduce these dear guests to the amazing people and organizations we work with!



**SQUARE** The Cima Family  
**ARE** Newsletter  
**TWO** Vol. 20, No. 3  
**March 2026**

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**PRAISE:** for a spiritually and emotionally refreshing women's retreat; for a fruitful visit from RLC; for [news](#) that kids from [February's VBS](#) have started coming to church; for great progress on the [church repair](#). **PRAYERS:** for safe travel to Vietnam in April; for the upcoming visitation and grant projects with the CLC; for Celeste, Bella, and Isaac as they wrap up their school year.

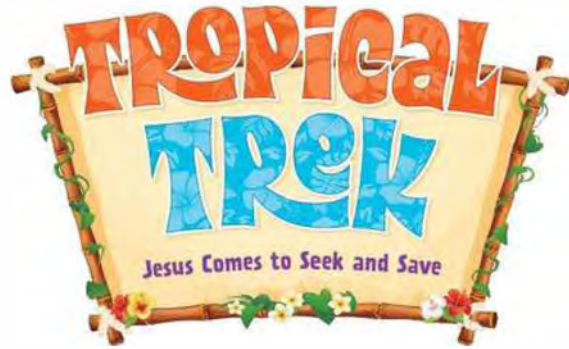
**WANNA HELP US IMPACT THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA?**

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."



# MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3 5<sup>TH</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	4	5	6	7	1	2
<i>Pastor Dan at Tri-Circuit Conference</i>					8	9
<b>10 6<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>11:30</b> Council Meeting  <u>MOTHER'S DAY</u>	<b>11 6:30p</b> Confirmation	12	<b>13 10:00</b> Bible Study	<b>14 7:00</b> Men's Breakfast	15	<b>16 1:00p</b> Poehlein 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  <u>ARMED FORCES DAY</u>
<b>17 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>9:00</b> Divine Service <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	18	19	<b>20 10:00</b> Bible Study	21	22	23
<b>24 PENTECOST SUNDAY</b> <b>9:00</b> Divine Service w/ Holy Communion <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	25	26	<b>27 10:00</b> Bible Study	<b>28 7:00</b> Men's Breakfast	29	30
<b>31 HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY</b> <b>9:00</b> Divine Service w/ Holy Communion <b>10:30</b> Confirmation Questioning	 <p> <b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>            CAÑON CITY, COLORADO            790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212  <a href="http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org">http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org</a> 719-275-0111         </p>					



**Tropical Trek - St. John Lutheran Church 2026 Vacation Bible School**  
*Free for children from Pre-K through Grade 6*

**Jesus Comes to Seek and Save**

Get ready to embark on a Tropical Trek where kids will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the lost based on Luke 19:10! As kids travel to fun and exciting places, like a dormant volcano and island caves, they'll discover how God finds us and helps us in every challenge we face in life.

Diving deep through five Bible stories will show kids that God is always there for them, finding them when they're having troubles, feeling lonely, lost, hopeless, or not good enough. In fact, God the Father loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us. Because Jesus died and rose to life, we have hope and new life in Him!

**DAY ONE: God finds me when I have troubles.**

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you." (Psalm 50:15)

**DAY TWO: God finds me when I'm lonely.**

"Fear not, for I am with you." (Isaiah 41:10)

**DAY THREE: God finds me when I'm lost.**

"You are precious in My eyes...and I love you." (Isaiah 43:4)

**DAY FOUR: God finds me when I think there's no hope.**

"You, O Lord, are my hope and trust." (Psalm 71:5)

**DAY FIVE: God finds me, no matter my sin.**

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." (1 Timothy 1:15)

**MONDAY, JUNE 22 through FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026**

**Tropical Trek – CHILD REGISTRATION** (One form per child please)

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in September, 2026 \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian first & last name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Health card number \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

All reasonable precautions for the safety and health of participants will be taken. Children will be properly supervised in activities. In the event of accident or sickness, St. John Lutheran Church, its staff and volunteers are released from any liability. **In the event of injury requiring medical attention, I authorize treatment for child(ren) and understand that reasonable attempts will be made to contact me should such a situation occur.**

Photography might be used by St. John Lutheran Church staff or volunteers to document VBS events. **If you consent to photography of your child(ren), please check the box.**

I give my consent to photograph my child

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date