

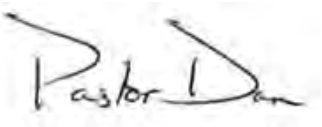
DECEMBER, 2026 PARISH NEWS

THE WORD WHO BREAKS THE SILENCE

By Pastor Dan

It is hard to believe that Advent begins in a couple of weeks. The last Sunday of November, the 29th, is the first Sunday of Advent. This year our sermon series comes from the organization 1517, the same organization that produce the Adult Bible Class study on the Church Fathers that we are currently going through. We will continue with our soup suppers on Wednesdays @ 6:00p, followed by worship with Holden Evening Prayer and a new sermon series at 7:00p. Below is a brief description of what we will be studying. I hope to see you for dinner and worship.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,



Pastor Dan

So much of the holiday season is about sights and smells: fragrant Christmas trees, warm fresh cookies, and crisp snow falling silently through the air. But what about the sounds? They, too, capture our imaginations and bring us to the reality of the Advent and Christmas seasons. When “a multitude of the heavenly host” fills the sky in Luke 2 at the birth of the Christ child, saying “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (Luke 14), it’s not the sight nor the smell that enthralls the shepherds, but the sound of a word of proclamation: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people,” proclaims an angel of the Lord (v. 10).

This good news is none other than the baby Jesus himself, born of a virgin, wrapped in swaddling clothes. He is both the light of the world (John 8:12) as well as the Word made flesh (John 1:14) in order to bring faith, life everlasting, and righteousness to all peoples.

“If the Word is spoken, all things are possible,” says Martin Luther in his commentary on Genesis. This is as true when God creates as it is when he re-creates the sinner into the justified through his gift of faith, and all the times in between. God used his prophets in the Old Testament to both reveal and hide God from his people. And in times of trouble, it’s a

(Continued on page 2)

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
CAÑON CITY, COLORADO

DECEMBER, 2026 PARISH NEWS

THE WORD WHO BREAKS THE SILENCE, Continued

By Pastor Dan

(Continued from page 1)

word from the Creator himself that the Israelites prayed for: “O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,” states David in Psalm 22:2.



The season of Advent culminates not in a silent night, but in the boisterous and powerful speech of our Creator. While we would do well to reflect on the moments when he is silent during this season, the moments where we long for his return, we must also remember that we have a God who does not remain silent for long, for his goodness, light, and love are wrapped up in his voice.

This year’s Advent Sermon series focuses on six passages throughout Scripture where God speaks to his people or where his people wait on his Word to bring them his promises. Throughout Advent, we await a particular Word from our God; a Word which comes to us on Christmas Eve when God’s silence finally breaks, and we rejoice with all the saints over God’s Incarnation in the birth of the babe lying in a manger.

2026 PASTORS REPORT

Looking Back

A few milestones from this past year:

- After diagnosis I stepped back from several responsibilities
  - Stopped prison visits with PVS
  - Stopped being vacancy pastor @ Hope Westcliffe
- Confirmed 5 youth
- 5th Annual Church Garage Sale
- Vacation Bible School in June
- Higher Things Youth Gathering in July
- 12th Annual Car Show for Missions
- Congregational Planning Retreat
  - 1. Increase the number of families and youth
  - 2. Become more mission minded
  - 3. Empower volunteers to use their gifts and strengths
  - 4. Increase knowledge of our Lutheran doctrine/teachings by getting more attendance at Sunday School, Fellowship & Bible Studies
- Sad loss of 3 families who were pillars of our community
  - Pegors
  - Booths
  - Willards

Looking Forward

What we're looking forward to:

- Dedication of new piano
- More….
  - VBS, Garage Sale, & Car Show
  - Possible Youth Gathering
  - Mission Trip??

STATISTICAL REPORT

2023		**2024**		**2025**		**2026**	
Deceased	-5	Deceased	-2	Deceased	-5	Deceased	-1
Released	-5	Released	-12	Released	-1	Released	-15
Baptisms	+2	Baptisms	+0	Baptisms	+2	Baptisms	+8
Received	+7	Received	+10	Received	+2	Received	+12
TOTAL	**-1**	**TOTAL**	**-4**	**TOTAL**	**-2**	**TOTAL**	**+4**

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS	**135**	
Confirmed	113	
Baptized	22	
Shut-Ins	2	
Inactive	26	(includes those who have moved away but not transferred)

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 87 per Sunday

St. John November Voters' Meeting



Over 30 members gathered after fellowship on Sunday, November 15th to vote on a few issues, the 2027 church operating budget, and to elect officers for 2027. The officers will be installed during the service on Sunday, January 3, 2027.

The 2027 Church Council:

President - Kris Holt
Vice President - Ann Eulert
Education - Alana Holt
Evangelism - Sue Tangkawarow
Missions co-chairs:
Katherine Dacey
Angela Bellantoni

Treasurer - Nichole Harms
Trustee - Bob Kirkegaard
Youth - Alana Holt
Elders: Curtis Eulert
David Lehmpuhl
Robert Tangkawarow
Allan Tormohlen
George Yeatts



DECEMBER, 2026 PARISH NEWS

In Our Prayers

Shut-Ins: Lucy Brown, Dale Kletke, June Maw, Joan Foster

Sick and / or Recovering: Debbie Ledbetter, Zoey (Tangkawarow Family Member), Pastor Dan Kletke, Tessa Sandoval, Steve Tabb, Bob Kirkegaard, Sarah Bedford's daughter Hope and unborn baby girl, Tom Haynie, Helen Wallin, Carroll Smiley, George Yeatts, Curtis Eulert.

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

If you would like to join either prayer chain, please contact Mary or Sue respectively. If you would like a Christian greeting card from St. John sent to your loved one listed on the above prayer list, please contact Mary Richardson, with the address where it should be sent.

Service Members: Jake Langley (U.S. Navy), Jerrico Leason (U.S. Customs and Border Protection), April Collins (Albuquerque Police Dept.), Dietrich Kletke (Hartsel Fire Dept.).

Missionaries: JP & Aimee Cima - missionaries in Cambodia that St. John has adopted.

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

News and Notes

From Rod and Sue Willard: Rod and I moved to South Carolina and I wanted our new address to be put in the newsletter: 2 Cedar Brook Ct., Greenville, S. Carolina 29611. Our cell phone numbers are the same. We no longer have a land line. Thank you, Sue Willard.

The new address for Connie Willyard and Mona Appel:
2385 Pellam Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

December 6th Is Food Bank Sunday: The first Sunday of the month is Food Bank Sunday at St. John for the hungry and needy in our community. The shelter needs food for the kitchen, such as flour, sugar, other cooking ingredients, and non-perishable foods, such as soup and other canned food.

Worship Attendance:
Sunday, November 1: 73
Sunday, November 8: 88
Sunday, November 15: 80

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
PSALM 122:1

St. John LWML December Report

December is the last month to contribute to the **Red Sock Mission project**. The contribution is 12 dimes or equivalent. Missions to be considered include the Orphan Grain Train Christmas boxes, Rocky Mtn District's Mission of Utah, Phil's Friends of cancer victims, LCMS Disaster Relief to Pagosa Springs and the Bridge Youth Ministry. The mission recipient will be decided at the Ladies' Christmas Brunch. Thank you for your monthly dedication to the Red Sock Mission.

The Ladies' Christmas Brunch will be Saturday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m. Katherine Dacey will make a presentation about the local Bridge Youth Ministry. The holiday fun will be a cookie exchange. Please bring 3 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie or treat packaged into 6 bags of 6 cookies or treats. All ladies of the congregation are invited. Consider inviting a friend or family member to the fellowship time. Please indicate your intention to attend on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Saturday January 16th will be the regular Ladies' Society meeting. We will meet at church at 10 am. Every effort is made to limit the meeting to one hour. We will be planning the 2027 Spring projects. All ladies of the congregation are welcome.

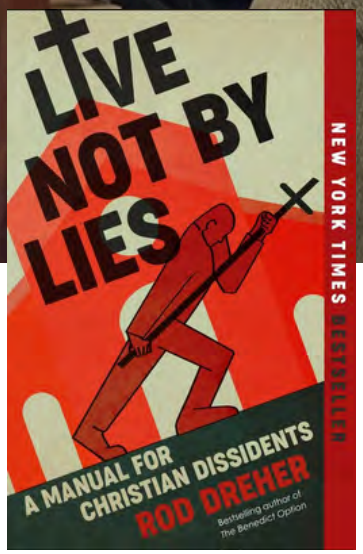
Blessings to All
Angela Bellantoni



St. John BookClub, Thursday, October 29, 2026

Nine talkative bibliophiles showed up at Pastor Dan's house on Thursday evening, October 29th, to discuss the book, “Live Not By Lies: A Manual for Christian Dissidents,” By Rod Dreher. Attendees left to right: Michael Dacey, Dustin Kletke, Toni Davidson, Martha Kletke, Pastor Dan Kletke, Gail Kirkegaard, Katherine Dacey, and Julie Barrett. Tricia Kletke arrived after taking care of a car tire emergency.





ST. JOHN BOOKClub

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
CAÑON CITY, COLORADO

DECEMBER, 2026 PARISH NEWS

All Saints Sunday - November 1, 2026

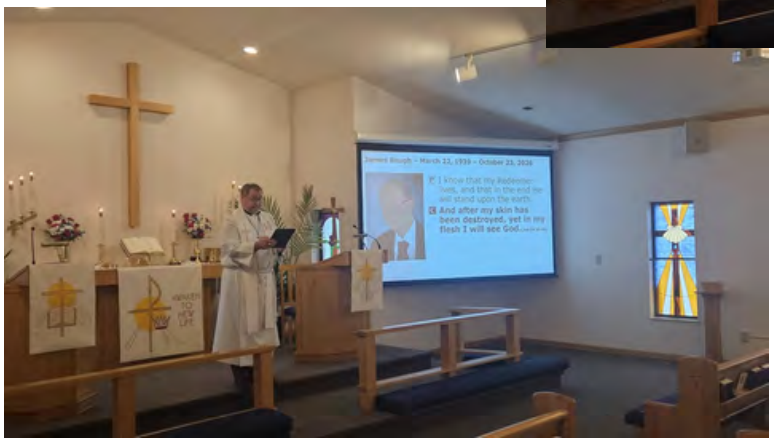
We remembered the three St. John Saints who passed away this year. Orgene Reimers, Doris Cunningham, and James Baugh.



Orgene Reimers
July 10, 1936 - December 5, 2025



Doris Cunningham
February 15, 1935 - June 26, 2026



James Baugh
March 22, 1939 - October 23, 2026

St. John December Birthdays



Dec 11 - Chuck Tappe



Dec 12 - Ron Smith



Dec 13 - Beverly Kane



Dec 16 - Joan Foster



Dec 18 - Gene Foster



Dec 18 - Diane Lund



Dec 21 - Judith Crider



Dec 22 - Rob Godwin



Dec 22 - Kris Holt



Dec 23 - Lucy Brown



Dec 25 - Mike Critchett



Dec 27 - Avery Harms

St. John December Anniversaries





Dec 11 - Robert & Sue Tangkawarow



DECEMBER, 2026 PARISH NEWS

St. John To-Do List

Ways to be involved 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.
BookClub - 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.
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.
Tidy the Pews - Pick up trash and re-rack service books after worship services.
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 - Our youth discuss their faith as it applies to life's challenges.



























J.P. spent the last days of October with the Board of the Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC; pic above), at a strategic planning retreat in Kampot. This was the culminating part of a program of intentional visitation, funded by the LCMS, that began in the spring, wherein each congregation of the CLC was visited and given a standard survey. The survey covered topics like worship, leadership, stewardship, outreach, and discipleship.

The results of this survey were the basis on which the CLC met for strategic planning. Board members considered: what does the data tell us? Gathered outdoors in a lovely veranda (pic top right), Pastor Khorn Sopha ably led the group in these discussions, based on data analysis completed by J.P. and compiled in a PowerPoint slide deck that covered each data point. Most of the time, leaders are focused on their own congregations and ministries, so this baseline data gave the group a rare opportunity: to get to know the CLC as a whole. At each step, Pastor Sopha asked the group, "What strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats does it reveal?" The responses were documented. Getting through all the data was a very full day's work, resulting in over 120 strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats—far too much for any one organization to tackle!

The myriad strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats became the basis of the second part of the retreat: establishing priorities for the CLC's next triennium. Pastor Sopha asked the group to consider, "Out of all these strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, which are the most pressing? Which can we feasibly address?" The goal was to get that list of over 120 down to five priorities that would guide the CLC's work over the next three years. Praise God that, through multiple stages of selection and discussion, the CLC Board was able to unanimously agree on five priorities.

Having priorities is not only helpful in focusing the CLC's work, but it is also a blessing for missionaries like J.P. and organizations like the LCMS that partner with the CLC. We want to work in ways that are truly supportive of the CLC while matching our capacity and resources. In addition to this important work, time was also spent exploring Kampot and enjoying fellowship.

SQUARE TWO

The Cima Family Newsletter
Vol. 20, No. 10, October 2026

Praise with us: for the completion of the visitation and strategic planning process with the CLC; for Isaac's role in a recent chapel service at school. **Pray with us:** for the CLC as it begins to address identified priorities; for Bella, who will begin applying to colleges this month; for annual regional LCMS meetings in Taiwan.

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."

DECEMBER 2026

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