



Pastor's Message: Angels From the Realms of Glory

Dear Fellow Servants in Christ,

Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! *Psalm 148:2*

This Sunday, November 28th, we are beginning a new church year and another advent season. This time of year is particularly given to singing. I'm sure short and cold days contribute to people gathering together inside, around a piano and singing together. However, the major influence has to be the celebration of Christmas and the birth of our Savior. Besides Easter, what else is more worthy of singing and praise? So, December is a month of song, and for that reason I'd like to share with you the history of another favorite hymn. Again, these histories come from the book Then Sings My Soul by Robert J. Morgan. May you have a very blessed Advent and merry Christmas.



Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan

Pastor Dan

Like all Moravians, John Montgomery had a burden for world evangelism. He was the only Moravian pastor in Scotland, but he and his wife felt God's call to be missionaries to the island of Barbados. Tearfully placing their six-year-old son, James, in a Moravian settlement in Bracehill near Ballymena, County Antrim, Ireland, they sailed away. James never saw them again, for they perished in Barbados.

Left with nothing, James was enrolled in a school in England. When he didn't do well, he was apprenticed by school authorities to a baker. Baking wasn't for James. He ran away and spent his teenage years drifting from pillar to post, writing poetry and trying his hand at one thing then another. He eventually settled down in Sheffield, England.

In his early twenties, James began working for the local newspaper, the *Sheffield Register*; and there he found his niche. He loved writing. It was a politically active newspaper, and when its owner had to suddenly flee the country to avoid persecution and imprisonment, James purchased the paper and renamed it the *Sheffield Iris*. His editorials, too, proved unpopular with local officials. On two separate occasions he was thrown into jail. But he emerged from prison a celebrity, and he used his newly acquired fame to promote his favorite issues.

Chief among them was the gospel. Despite the loss of his parents, James Montgomery remained devoted to Christ and to the Scriptures, and he championed the cause of foreign missions and of the British Bible Society.

As the years passed, he became the most respected leader in Sheffield, and his writings were eagerly read by its citizens. Early on Christ Eve, 1816, James, 45, opened his Bible to Luke 2, and was deeply impressed by verse 13. ["¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"] Pondering the story of the heralding angels, he took his pen and started writing. By the end of the day, his new Christmas poem was being read in the pages of his newspaper. It was later set to music and was first sung on Christmas Day, 1821, in a Moravian Church in England: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory."

His parents would have been proud.



ST. JOHN Outreach

DECEMBER, 2021 NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church
790 Greydene Avenue
Canon City, CO 81212
Web: stjohncanoncity.org
Phone: (719) 275-0111

Outreach: Three Big Controversies

Back in the '80's, when I was Zion Lutheran, Brighton, Colorado's pastor, there were 3 BIG controversies going on in Synod: "Communion Fellowship", "Contemporary Worship", and "Church Growth". I'd like to focus on #3 "Church Growth". These were the big topics of the day!

There were many people, especially in the Midwest, who were claiming that the Holy Spirit was being left out, as Christians relished the "**Church Growth Movement**". To these critics, it was like having the idea of growing the Church with "marketing strategies".

"1 Corinthians 12:3 ('No one can say "Jesus is Lord", except by the Spirit') is being ignored" they said. "The only way to grow the Church is with sharing the Gospel, not with gimmicky stuff!" My Associate, Jon B. and I, said that the critics of "Church Growth" in the Lutheran Church were omitting the truth that Christians work together with the Holy Spirit for outreach.

Look how Jesus increased, and sustained, God's forgiven Family, the "Church": He got people's attention with His loving miracles of healing, then told them about the Kingdom of God, which was entered by forgiveness of sins, won through Jesus' mission from the Father: John 3:16.

"Church Growth" begins with our love and common-sense-outreach strategies. After all, to share the Gospel, the Holy Spirit is counting on us to invite folks to come and be interfaced with the Gospel, along with us.

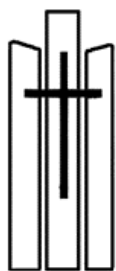
St. John's December Schedule Gives Us Rich Opportunities To Get Our Area Folk's Attention!

- Three Wednesday Advent services (12/1, 12/8, and 12/15) at 1:30 and 7:00 pm, and soup supper before each 7:00 service, served by St. John youth!
- Saturday, 12/4: LWML Christmas Brunch at 10:00 am.
- Saturday, 12/4: Cañon City High School Madrigal Singers Concert at St. John Lutheran Church at 11:30 am!
- Wednesday, 12/15: Cañon City Children's Chorale sings at St. John at the 7:00 pm Advent service.
- Friday, 12/17: Cañon City Children's Chorale Concert in the Fellowship Hall - "**Lessons & Carols**" at 7 pm!
- Sunday, 12/19: Children's Christmas Pageant, during 9:00 a.m. Worship
- Sunday, 12/19: Cañon City Children's Chorale Concert in the Fellowship Hall - "**Lessons & Carols**" at 3 pm!

Now do you see the opportunities this month to work with the Holy Spirit, Reaching Out with loving invitations to your unchurched friends, exposing them to the good news of Gospel?

Gordon Gross, Outreach Leader





ST. JOHN Sunday School and Music

DECEMBER, 2021 NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church
790 Greydene Avenue
Canon City, CO 81212
Web: stjohncanoncity.org
Phone: (719) 275-0111

Sunday School: Children's Christmas Program

On Sunday December 19 the Sunday School children will be enacting the Christmas story as remembered by Mary. St. Luke describes that *"Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart."* Luke 2:19 ESV. The program begins with the angel's announcement to Mary of her selection by God through to the hurried exodus to Egypt for safety of the infant Jesus. The children have been working on their lines and members of the congregation have assisted in creating costumes and props. The adult choir (Tenor and Bases) are learning a song in Latin to add to the ambiance of the story.

This program is a congregational effort. We hope that you make a special effort to attend as the congregation will be singing many of the favorite Advent and Christmas hymns during the program. Church Fellowship will follow the program, however, there will NOT be any Sunday School or Bible Class this day.

Lori

Music: A New Use of Technology in Music

2021 may be looked at in history as being a "not so good of year", which we had all hoped would be limited to 2020. However, for St. John Lutheran of Canon City, 2021 has been a remarkable year with many accomplishments, not even dreamed of in 2020. Let me give you one example.

Gone are the days when choir members have to spend multiple practice sessions in order to learn a piece of music when you have access to new technology along with the skills and computer equipment Andy Rath has in his music studio. His equipment and skills have recently been working in overdrive to help prepare for the Children's Christmas Program, along with assisting the adult choir in learning a piece of complicated music. For example, Andy was able to take a music score from a book in my music library and pull-out/write parts for Tenor and Bass from the accompaniment. Once Andy has the parts determined, he links the words with the notes, 'waves his magic baton' (just kidding), he has the intricate computer program print out the notes and words, all matched to the original musical score. He then is able to recreate the 'sound' of the part, in this case either Tenor or Bass and records what the choir members part sounds like. At the singer's leisure they can print out their part, then listen to what it sounds like on their computer and practice at home. When the choir gets together for a practice, the focus can be on dynamics (volume, breathing etc.) and putting the four parts together as a choir. The piece of music I have been referring to is a song called "Veni veni" by the group Mannheim Steamroller. My copy of the music is written only for keyboard, but during the Children's Christmas Program our choir and musician's will be doing our best interpretation of the song as recorded on the groups Christmas CD.

This wonderful advancement is also allowing the choir to tackle the long and somewhat overwhelming Hallelujah Chorus by Handel. It will be sung as the Song of Praise or Gloria in Excelsis during the liturgy for worship on Sunday December 26. This piece of music is very familiar and many have likely sung or heard it sung in the past. The choir would love to 'share' this singing opportunity with the congregation. If you would like to review a part of the Hallelujah Chorus, please give me or Andy your email address. Andy will then add you to his email announcements giving you access to the web page where the parts and sounds of the part are loaded. You are welcome to practice just on your own, or with the choir during our practice time, which is Sunday's from 11:30 to around 12:30pm. Please do not worry, singing the Hallelujah Chorus with the choir will not commit you to continue singing in the choir, but everyone is always welcome.

In addition to the Hallelujah Chorus the choir is doing something different for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Instead of learning a piece that only the choir sings, we will be focusing on learning harmony of several of the hymns chosen for the worship services. This allows choir members to be able to sit with their families rather than sitting together as a group. This way the beauty of hearing a song sung in harmony will be throughout the congregation, filling the Sanctuary.

In this Advent, the season of waiting and looking forward, we not only will look forward to hearing again the story of how God kept his promise to send a Savior, but how computer technology has positively impacted a small church congregation's choir the ability to sing praises to God.

Merry CHRISTmas,

Your musical servant in Christ

Lori

The CCHS Madrigal Singers



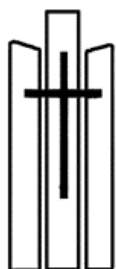
*The CCHS Madrigal Singers will be
performing at St. John*

Saturday, December 4th at 11:30 a.m.

*All members of St. John are invited to a
wonderful Christmas concert
put on by these very talented
young singers from our local
high school.*

*Please join us on this date to enjoy a
musical presentation. If you have any
questions, please contact
Sue Willard -- 285-8211*

*Just a note: 3 of the singers are related to
our members.*



ST. JOHN LWML News

DECEMBER, 2021 NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church
790 Greydene Avenue
Canon City, CO 81212
Web: stjohncanoncity.org
Phone: (719) 275-0111

LWML News

Please check your church mailbox for information on upcoming LWML events.

Honor Pastor Dan!

Celebrate! On Sunday, December 19th, during the Fellowship hour (after the Sunday School Christmas Program) the congregation will honor Pastor Dan for his 10 years of service to St. John. There will be a basket for cards.

Thank You!

The ladies of the LWML would like to thank the congregation for food, money, and misc. donations for our Fall Baskets. We visited ten members and enjoyed the fellowship with each of them.

Pregnancy Center Needs Your Help

The LWML Christmas Brunch will be on Saturday, December 4 at 10 AM (NOT on the 5th as stated in the invitation). All women and girls are invited to attend. The meal is provided by LWML. There will NOT be a gift exchange this year. Instead, we ask for donations for the Pregnancy Center. Your donations can be brought to the Brunch.

Cañon City Pregnancy Center is currently serving over 500 families in our area, and they are in great need of the following:

- Large size (4, 5, and 6) disposable baby diapers, any brand.
- Diaper wipes, unscented.
- Winter clothes for kids, especially coats, hats, and mittens. They can be new or gently used.

There will be plastic tubs for your donations under the mailboxes and also a table in the fellowship hall beginning November 21st through December 12th. If you would like to give a monetary donation please make your check out to Cañon City Pregnancy Center and give it to Sue Willard. If you have any questions, please contact Sue at (719) 285-8211 or sewillard@juno.com

*Dear Ladies, Girls and Guests of St. John,
You are cordially invited to the Annual
LWML Ladies Christmas Brunch*

*Date: Saturday, December 5th
4th*

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: St. John Fellowship Hall

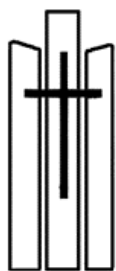
*Please come for a morning of good food
and fellowship. The food will be
provided by the LWML members.*

*This year instead of a gift exchange we
will be supporting our local*

Pregnancy Center

*with either needed items or monetary
donations.*

*Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the
Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend. All
women and girls of the congregation are
invited.*



ST. JOHN Mercy Meals & Misc.

DECEMBER, 2021 NEWS

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

Meals of Mercy

The Meals of Mercy Ministry is a group of people who are ready and able to provide meals during a life event for our church family.

The team is in place to prepare (or purchase) and deliver meals to your door after a life event such as a hospitalization, injury, loss of a loved one, or any other event where some temporary assistance with meals would be a blessing!

It's rarely easy to reach out for help or accept the offer! Please, if you know anyone who could benefit from this ministry, reach out to Peggy Rath at peggyrath10@gmail.com.

Soup Suppers are Back!



This year, with the National Youth Gathering next summer, the soup suppers will be hosted by our youth as a fundraiser for their trip. Please come out for these three Wednesday evenings of Advent (December 1, 8 & 15) for good soup, great fellowship, and to support a fantastic cause.

Bulletin Board

CHURCH ATTENDANCE: October 31: 81

November 7: 82

November 14: 80

November 21: 98



FREE FIREWOOD: Bob Huebner has approximately 65 Cubic Ft. of mixed kindling firewood (scraps from woodworking projects and tree logs) to give away free. You haul.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? If you or a member you know needs transportation to church on Sundays, please call Jan Wilman at 719-947-2057.

MENS' BREAKFAST: Please join us on Thursday mornings at 7:00 AM at Village Inn or Mugs. **Not every week** - our breakfast dates vary. Please check [the church website](http://thechurchwebsite) or Sunday bulletins for scheduled dates and location.

DECEMBER BULLETINS: Please email any information to bulletin@stjohncanoncity.org or in Sue Poehlein's church mailbox. You may also call her at 719-458-1008. **Information is due by Wednesday afternoon** as the bulletins are printed on Thursday mornings.

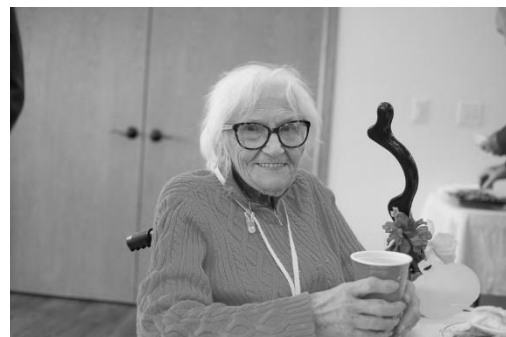
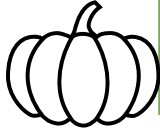
SPECIAL PRAYERS: Please call Pastor prior to the Sunday service for special prayers.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you have a prayer concern to send through a prayer chain, we have two options.

- To send the prayer through a phone prayer chain, please contact Mary Richardson at 719-269-1426.
- To send the prayer via email, please contact Carolyn Westlund at her email address 1956cew@gmail.com.

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to provide Sunday altar flowers, a sign-up chart is available near the mailboxes. Envelopes are also there for a donation of \$40 for two arrangements. Please be sure to note "altar flowers" on your check and also fill out the envelope and place the envelope in the offering plate.

**REFORMATION
SUNDAY
POTLUCK
OCTOBER 31, 2021**





In mid-October, the Asia personnel for the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod gathered for a "virtual work group" over three evenings. Though country closures have prevented in-person meetings, LCMS Asia missionaries are using the venues they can to keep learning! Each day began with a devotion from a local church representative. We were thankful to hear God's Word proclaimed by leaders from Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Cambodia. Each day also included a presentation, broadly themed around culture and anthropology. We heard from one of the region's own, [Dr. Steven Oliver](#) on Chinese culture as a bridge for the gospel. This is a key topic in a region where so many cultures are influenced by China. [Dr. Walter Steele](#), from the Africa region, gave a basic introduction to anthropology and its importance for the mission task. He urged us to do the work of getting to know the cultures we serve. J.P. was also fortunate to present on the book [The 3D Gospel](#) and its implications for a faithful contextualization of theology in Asia. We also enjoyed breakout sessions around specific issues like music in ministry, third culture kids, and prayer. The event was the product of labor and love from Aimee, along with another colleague, [Matt Wasmund](#). As a part of the Asia regional leadership, they planned it from the ground up and hosted it. It was a HUGE success! Participation was over 95%, and feedback was positive across the board. Praise God for these opportunities to **GROW TOGETHER** as cross-cultural servants and as a team!

CIMA
NEWSLETTER
VOL. 14, NO. 10
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GROWING TOGETHER

JOHN.CIMA@LCMS.ORG
AIMEE.CIMA@LCMS.ORG

As mentioned in [our last newsletter](#), Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) published the first of two volumes of the [Book of Concord in Khmer language](#). Our local partners were eager to expose people to this historic resource, and so during a recent public holiday we held a seminar for 15 students. The seminar was planned, supported, and/or joined by leaders from LHF, of course, but also [Lutheran Hour Ministries'](#) office in Cambodia, the [Cambodia Lutheran Church](#), [Christ Lutheran Church Phnom Penh](#), and the [Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod](#). J.P. was asked to teach the seminar. But how to distill such rich theological content, steeped in concrete historical circumstances, to people far removed by time and culture? To keep it manageable, J.P. focused only on the [Augsburg Confession](#) and its [Apology](#), taking a topical approach that highlighted key historical controversies (e.g. indulgences, purgatory and the treasury of merits, repentance and penance, the cult of the saints, the Lord's Supper, and the relationship between faith and good works) and unfolded the reformers' response to those issues. J.P. played the role of "tour guide," providing a basic historical introduction to issues and guiding students to relevant selections from the Book of Concord. He then asked questions to help them discover the theology within and apply it to everyday issues in their lives. What a joy to **GROW TOGETHER** in our knowledge of all that God has done then and now!



DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212 http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org 719-275-0111</p>			<p>1 1:30p Advent Svc. 6:00p Soup Supper 7:00p Advent Svc.</p>  <p><i>E. Langley B-Day</i></p>	<p>2 7:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Quilters</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 10:00 LWML Xmas Brunch 11:30 CCHS Madrigal Singers Concert</p>
<p>5 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Elders Meeting</p>	<p>6 4:00p Children's Chorale 6:30p Confirmation</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 1:30p Advent Svc. 6:00p Soup Supper 7:00p Advent Svc.</p>  <p><i>S. Booth B-Day</i></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Council Meeting</p> <p><i>R. Smith B-Day</i> </p>	<p>13 4:00p Children's Chorale 6:30p Confirmation</p>  <p><i>B. Kane B-Day</i></p>	<p>14 Circuit Pastors' Meeting – Office Closed</p>  <p><i>Larson Anniv.</i></p>	<p>15 1:30p Advent Svc. 6:00p Soup Supper 7:00p Advent Svc. w/ Cañon City Children's Chorale</p>  <p><i>J. Foster B-Day</i></p>	<p>16 7:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Quilters</p>  <p><i>J. Foster B-Day</i></p>	<p>17 Prison Ministry – Office Closed 7:00p Children's Chorale Concert of Lessons & Carols</p>  <p><i>G. Foster B-Day</i></p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:00 Divine Service: Children's Christmas Pageant 3:00p Children's Chorale Concert of Lessons & Carols</p>	<p>20 6:30p Confirmation</p>	<p>21</p>  <p><i>J. Crider B-Day</i></p>	<p>22</p>  <p><i>K. Holt B-Day</i></p>	<p>23</p>  <p><i>L. Brown B-Day</i></p>	<p>24 4:00p Christmas Eve Service 7:00p Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion</p> <p><u>CHRISTMAS</u></p>
<p>26 1ST SUNDAY AFT CHRISTMAS 8:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion</p>	<p>27 <i>A. Harms & L. Stuehrenberg B-Days</i>   <i>Stolp Anniv.</i></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31  <i>A. Wright B-Day</i> <u>NEW YEAR'S EVE</u></p>	