



Pastor's Message: With Us

As I write this, it is the last week of July before I go on vacation. I am making sure everything is pulled together for Gordon and Lyle in my absence, for services both here and in Westcliffe. I am making last minute plans for the Westcliffe 150th Anniversary celebration on August 21st. I am checking in on our shut-ins; and I'm writing reports for both the Elders and the Council. Even when I don't have a sermon to write, there is still more than enough to keep me busy.

Every month in my Elders report, I give a list of Cares and Concerns among our members. Well, as I was drafting the list for this month's report, it hit me that we have a lot of people who are suffering. By my count we have, at least, 10 members who are struggling, fighting, or recovering. Not every one of them wants their name and condition known, so without naming names, we have at least 3 who are fighting cancer, 2 who have broken bones, 2 who are recovering from joint replacement, 1 who is recovering from a fall, 1 who is suffering from severe burns, and 1 who is recovering from a hospitalization with an ailment that was never diagnosed. That's on top of our members who struggle with chronic conditions like arthritis, crippling back pain, breathing problems and other. That's a lot of people for our small congregation. I'm not sure we've ever had so many members struggling at the same time.

Well, with all the sickness and suffering this summer, it begs the question, "Where is God in all of this?" I mean, we know that Jesus died to forgive us and to secure our eternal salvation, which is absolutely wonderful; but where is God when I am suffering? If He cares, can't He do something about it now? Where is God when I sit quietly for hours suffering alone in silence?

There are two questions here. First, "Can't He do something about it?" And the answer is "Yes", He can and He has. Now, of course, God does heal some people miraculously. There are stories of recoveries that no doctor or scientist can explain. Miracles can and do happen. However, more frequently, God works through those who care for

you. The doctor who operated on your knee is God working through her for your benefit. The nurse who prescribed your pain medication is God working through him for your good. The physical therapist (or terrorist as Gordon calls them!) is God working through her for your healing. I do not know why God works one way or another; but God is always working for your good.

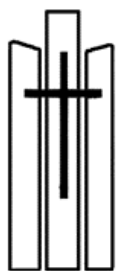
The other question is "Where is God through all of this?" The answer is that He is right here with you through it all. Our God is not some distant, disinterested deity who ignores what we are going through. Instead, He cares so much that He actually became one of us. The writer of Hebrews says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (4:15). Jesus knows your pain and suffering because He endured it too; and so He is right here with you through it all. He is with you through His Word as He reminds you of His love and salvation. He is with you through the Sacraments as He brings to your remembrance that He has chosen you and forgiven you all your sins; and He is with you through His Holy Spirit who reassures you that He will safely bring you to the shores of heaven where pain and suffering will forever be gone.

No one enjoys pain and suffering; but it is a consequence of this broken and sinful world. Yet, God has not turned His back on us. He is with you even in your pain. He is actively working for your good; and He will bring to through this veil of tears to the joys of paradise. Rely upon our Heavenly Father because He cares.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Dan".

Pastor Dan



ST. JOHN Music

August, 2022 NEWS

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

The Season of Pentecost - A Time to Plant and A Time to Harvest (part 2 of 2)

Last month my article explored the focus of the season of Pentecost. This month I would like to focus on the actions we should be taking during the season of Pentecost.

Most adults, when they hear the words: “to every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” will start humming the tune to Pete Seeger’s song, “Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There is a Season)”. Per a Wikipedia report, the song is a direct quotation of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 with only six words and a seventh, ‘turn’, (repeated three times) added by Seeger. My focus is not the song, but on “*A time to plant, a time to reap that which is planted;*” (Ecclesiastes 3: 2b King James version).

Last month I talked about how long this season is as compared to the other seasons in the church year. This seems to be in stark contrast to the growing season that this area of Colorado experiences. In comparison to the mid-west, Colorado has a very short growing season, and we learn to make the most out of the warmth that we are given. Each Spring, those of us who like to plant plants in our yards, can’t wait for May to come, and although the meteorologists warn us that it isn’t safe to plant our young seedlings until Memorial Day weekend, most of us push the season.

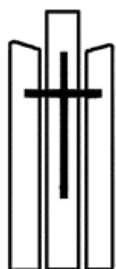
The ‘growing’ season for Colorado seems short, but it is the same length as the ‘long’ season of Pentecost. Ironically, the season of Pentecost starts in late May/early June, mirroring the time of the calendar for planting and ends the weekend before or after Thanksgiving, when we celebrate the harvest. It makes sense that the liturgical color for this season be green.

A quick review of our congregations ‘growing season’ shows that early in June we wrap up the teaching or ‘planting the seeds’ in Sunday School and VBS. Most families take their vacations during this time of the year, visiting the ‘ends of the earth’, which provide opportunities to ‘spread’ the Word of God. Others of the congregation remain close to home, and share with their neighbors. “...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, ... and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8, ESV). At the end of the season, we celebrate the harvest, in our celebration of “All Saints Day” (first Sunday in November), remembering those of our congregation whose work on earth is done.

I am glad that I took the time to study the ‘season of Pentecost’. Writing these past two newsletter articles has given me a new appreciation of the importance of this time of the church year. “*To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven:*” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Wishing a Blessed Growing Season,

Your musical servant in Christ,
Lori



ST. JOHN

News and Notes

August, 2022 NEWS

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

The Altar Guild

The primary purpose of the Altar Guild is to SERVE God in His house and serve God's people. Some of the duties are:

- Prepare our place of worship (chancel and sanctuary) for the times and seasons of the Church Year;
- Proper paraments and linens are put out, maintained and stored;
- Setting up, cleaning and putting away the sacramental vessels and linens;
- Maintain the oil-burning candles;
- Caring for the vestments of the pastor and acolytes;
- Floral chart, plants and floral arrangements for the chancel area;
- Organize and display appropriate banners for each worship service;
- Maintaining and verification of hymn board posting;
- Ordering appropriate supplies

Currently, we have ONLY four members serving on the Altar Guild: Mary Richardson, Sue Willard, Nancy Schmidt and Carolyn Westlund. If you are willing to serve, in any area mentioned above, *we welcome you to be part of the Altar Guild*. If you have any questions, please see our team leader, Mary, or any of the members.

Attendance

Sunday, June 26 - 70

Sunday, July 3 - 72

Sunday, July 10- 74

Sunday, July 17 - 62

Sunday, July 24 - 72

Meals of Mercy Ministry

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 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.

Need a Ride to Church?

If you or someone who you know needs transportation to church on Sundays, please call Ken at 719-429-4919.

Church Announcements

Please send announcements for Sunday bulletins and articles for the monthly parish paper to office@StJohnCanonCity.org. Sarah does the bulletins and Gail does the newsletters.

Food Bank Sunday

The first Sunday of every month is Food Bank Sunday. Please remember to bring a can or two of food to help the hungry and needy in our community.

BEFORE WE LEFT CAMBODIA...

Just before departing for the US, the visitation team of the Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC), including J.P., made one more visit, this time to Kampong Chhnang Province. The first stop was with pastor Kimhai, a passionate and busy leader who shepherds not only a church that meets at his home, but also helps several groups in the nearby area. All this he does while also serving as a Bible teacher at the local Garuna school. At one of Kimhai's groups, to which J.P. had previously traveled by boat during the flood season, it was amazing to see how the group had grown. Dozens of kids (pictured here), along with lots of adults, gathered to sing, hear God's Word, share resources, and eat a little snack. This growing group still needs a lot of help, not least in basic instruction in God's Word. An interview with the group leader, to learn more about the group's joys and challenges, was a key element of the visitation as the CLC looks to address needs. J.P. looks forward to further partnership in that regard. This trip also included visits to other leaders and locations.



SQUARE TWO

The Cima Family Newsletter
Vol. 16, No. 6, June 2022

John.Cima@lcms.org

Aimee.Cima@lcms.org



WANNA HELP US IMPACT THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA? Give online here, or mail a check to 1) P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 (payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod), OR 2) 40718 Highway E-116, Mapleton, IA 51034 (payable to Mission Central). For ALL checks, in the memo line write "Cima family-Cambodia."



PRAISES: for God's provision during our first weeks Stateside; for blessed reunions with family. **PRAYERS:** for Pastor Kimhai and other leaders, along with their churches, in Kampong Chhnang; for safe travels to Houston, Virginia Beach, Bozeman, and back to Cambodia; for a spiritually rich time at the youth events; for the Asia region's vacant business manager position.



AFTER WE ARRIVED IN THE U.S...

Despite our best efforts to juggle shifting flight schedules, pandemic-era entry requirements, logistics for visiting congregations, and family commitments, all our planning came to naught when we tested positive for COVID-19 three days after our arrival. We likely contracted the disease during our air travel. Fortunately, our symptoms were mild and manageable, and we all recovered quickly. But unfortunately, the required isolation meant that we missed a beach vacation with J.P.'s family. Aimee's father provided gracious hospitality throughout the isolation (even though we gave him COVID-19!). After 5 days cooped up, we celebrated our freedom by going on a hike at a quiet nearby park, enjoying donuts along the way (pictured here). Nonetheless, we waited another several days before traveling to see J.P.'s family, due to his dad being in an at-risk group. Another casualty was the planned visit to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Virginia Beach. J.P. was mortified to cancel on them the day before he was scheduled to preach and lead Sunday school, but the church leaders were very understanding, and graciously allowed us to reschedule. See below for our remaining schedule before we return to Cambodia on July 27. We'd LOVE to see you!

- July 8-13 - National Youth Gathering - Houston, TX
- July 17 - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Virginia Beach, VA (J.P. preaching and teaching)
- July 19-22 - Higher Things Youth Conference - Bozeman, MT (J.P. teaching)

I write this on an airplane to Houston for the National Youth Gathering. As I reflect on the past few weeks' challenges and blessings, I am struck by the youth gathering's theme: In All Things. Jesus is in all things (Col. 1:16-21), and that includes the things that don't go to plan. Indeed, we have felt his presence and care especially in all these unplanned challenges and blessings. Praise God!

CARL FERDINAND WILHELM WALTHER

Pastor, Professor and Synod Founder

BORN: **OCTOBER 25, 1811** *Langenchursdorf, Saxony, Germany*

DIED: **MAY 7, 1887** *Saint Louis, Missouri*

OF ALL THE FOUNDERS of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the best known is C.F.W. Walther — and deservedly so. Walther was the Synod's first president; president and professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; pastor of the first four Lutheran churches in St. Louis; and the Synod's most prominent and influential theologian.

Walther's story begins in Germany. He was born into a pastor's family, and his formal education equipped him to follow his father's footsteps into the ministry of the Lutheran church. And so he did. He was ordained on January 15, 1837, and installed as pastor of a small rural parish.

By that time, Walther was under the influence of Pastor Martin Stephan, who had given him comforting spiritual advice while Walther was a student. So when Stephan sent word that it was time for everyone to leave the corrupt Lutheran church in Germany for the United States, where they could confess the faith and practice it freely according to the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions, Walther decided to go. There were several other young pastors and would-be pastors, along with members of the congregations they served, who joined the Stephanite migration in 1838–39, about 700 people in all.

By the spring of 1839, they had made it to Missouri, founded the first Lutheran church in St. Louis, and purchased land about a hundred miles south of St. Louis in order to establish communities and congregations committed to pure Lutheranism. Then disaster struck.

A handful of women in the congregation confessed to sexual immorality with Pastor Stephan. Although he denied the charges, the clergy and lay

leadership, including Walther, believed the women and exiled Stephan from their midst.

But now what? Several of the clergy, including Walther, felt very guilty for following a hypocrite and for misleading people into abandoning their homeland. Walther himself fell seriously ill and had to give up his ministry.

During his convalescence, however, Walther devoted himself to studying the Scriptures, the Confessions and Luther himself, so that, about two years after Stephan's fall, Walther began providing biblical answers about the situation of the Saxons. At just about the same time, the St. Louis congregation called him as their pastor. A few years later he began publishing a church paper, *Der Lutheraner*, with a motto that summarized Walther's theology: "God's Word and Luther's doctrine shall never pass away." These twin commitments summarize his preaching, teaching and writing.

By the time the Missouri Synod began in 1847, Walther was already recognized as a gifted theologian. The Synod chose him to be its first president and a few years later to lead the seminary.

For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit lcms.org/175.



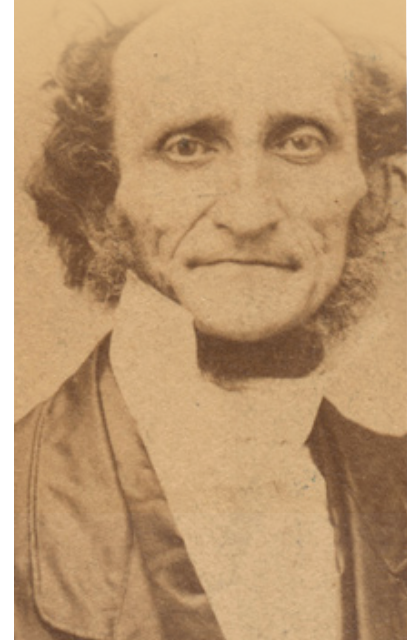
DISCOVER MORE

Lewis W. Spitz, Sr.
The Life of Dr. C. F. W. Walther.

August R. Suelflow.
Servant of the Word: The Life and Ministry of C. F. W. Walther.

Walter O. Forster.
Zion on the Mississippi: The Settlement of the Saxon Lutherans in Missouri 1839–1841.

Walther Exhibit
at Concordia Historical Institute,
Clayton, Missouri.



1847 2022

ONLY JESUS
NO OTHER NAME

– 175 YEARS –

CARL FERDINAND WILHELM WALTHER

Lutheran Theologian

BORN: **OCTOBER 25, 1811** *Langenchursdorf, Saxony, Germany*

DIED: **MAY 7, 1887** *St. Louis, Missouri*

C.F.W. WALTHER PROVIDED THEOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP TO THE MISSOURI SYNOD through the first four decades of its history. As president and professor of the St. Louis seminary, through frequent lectures at conventions and conferences and by numerous publications, Walther gave shape to beliefs and attitudes that characterize the Synod even today. First among them was a scriptural basis for everything the Church teaches. Second was his conviction that the Lutheran Confessions were a true and faithful expression of what the Bible taught. For Walther, being a Lutheran meant being a true Christian. For many years, he lectured on the theme, “The Doctrine of the Lutheran Church Alone Gives All Glory to God.”

But what was it that the Bible and therefore the Confessions taught? For Walther, the center of everything was the Gospel of God’s free grace on account of the saving work of Jesus Christ received by people through faith alone. But did people need to be saved? Certainly. That was the message of the Law. So the proclamation of Law and Gospel was the purpose of preaching, and Walther’s Friday evening lectures to his students on how to do that correctly remain a classic expression of his theology.

Virtually all of Walther’s theological works addressed issues of significance for his times. One of the most important was the doctrine of the Church. There was no official church in the United States as in the old country. But God’s Word and Sacraments were here, so believers were here. For Walther, that meant the Church was here, commissioned by God to do the work of the Church, including calling pastors.

Walther also taught that Christians, organized in congregations, had an obligation to work together when

they could do so in good conscience. In America, this meant seeking out fellow Lutherans and uniting with them in organizations like synods and conferences. But many Lutherans in America, as in the Germany that Walther had left, were not willing to follow the Scriptures and the Confessions faithfully — in deeds as well as words. So agreement in doctrine and practice was essential before churches preached the Word together or members communed together.

Standing for God’s Word the way Walther did sometimes led to controversy, and toward the end of his life there occurred one of the worst. It dealt with predestination which Walther understood as the guarantee of the salvation that God truly offers to all. We bring nothing to God, not even our faith. God saves us because He loves us in Jesus Christ — and always has!

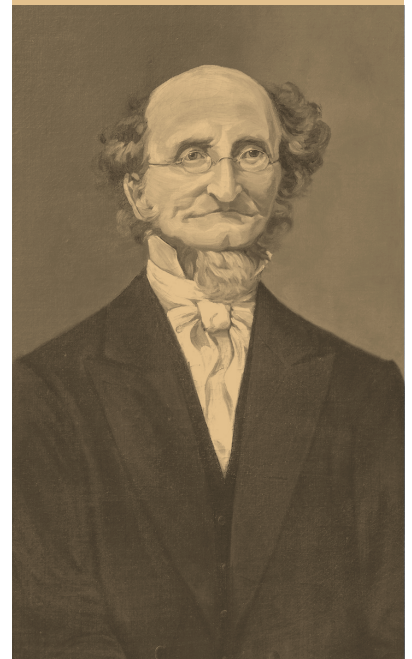
For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit lcms.org/175.

DISCOVER MORE

Arthur H. Drevlow, John M. Drickamer and Glenn E. Reichwald, eds., ***C. F. W. Walther: the American Luther*** (Mankato, Minn.: Walther Press, 1987).

Thomas Manteufel and Robert Kolb, eds., ***Soli Deo Gloria: Essays on C. F. W. Walther*** (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2000).

Christoph Barnbrock et al., eds., ***C. F. W. Walther, Churchman and Theologian*** (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2011).



1847 2022

ONLY JESUS
NO OTHER NAME

– 175 YEARS –



AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Pastor Dan - Vacation					
7 9 TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Adult Bible Class 11:30 Elder's Meeting	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Sarah Out of the Office				
Pastor Dan - Vacation						
14 10 TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class 11:30 Council Meeting	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Pastor Dan - Vacation					
21 11 TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Adult Bible Class	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 12 TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class	29	30	31	<div><div><div>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH</div><div>CANON CITY, COLORADO</div><div>790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212</div><div>http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org 719-275-0111</div></div></div>		