



Pastor's Message: Feedback is a Gift

A few years ago when I was taking my Boy Scout Leadership Training course (Wood Badge), we learned about ways to communicate and lead the boys we were working with. What was great about the course is that what I learned there works in other groups and organizations too, not just the Boy Scouts.

One of the points they taught us was **Feedback is a Gift**. I have always known and appreciated people who would lovingly give me their honest opinion. After all, how do you improve unless someone is courageous enough to let you know where you can do better? People who are surrounded only by "Yes" men rarely improve at anything. It takes honest and sincere criticism to grow in those areas that are weak.

Yet, I had never heard the thought put quite this way. Not only is feedback important, it is a gift. We were taught that when someone goes out of their way to let you know what they are thinking, they are giving you a gift. Whether the feedback is positive or negative, the other person has given you their time and consideration. Those are truly precious gifts!

It has been a while since I've addressed this to the congregation; but you need to know that your feedback at St. John is a gift. I truly value your thoughts and insights on anything and everything that goes on at church. Some of the things we can change, and have: projection screen, fellowship hall, common cup at every communion service, and more. Other ideas take a while or need to be altered to work with other things we are doing. Still other suggestions we aren't able to act on. But regardless of the outcome, your feedback is always a gift.

So I would encourage you to let me know your thoughts. My office door is always open when I'm at the church. Stop in a chat for a while. There is a suggestion box in the breezeway between church and fellowship hall; and I check the box every other week or so. Feel free to drop us a note. My email address and mobile phone are printed on every bulletin. If it is convenient, send me an email or text message. Or if you are concerned about talking with me personally, one of the five elders would be glad to hear your concerns. I can promise that you will always receive a loving reception and your concerns will be taken seriously.

In return, I only ask for a three things.

First, please offer your suggestions in the spirit of Christian love. We are all working together to build up the body of Christ in this place. Please offer your thoughts in line with that spirit. Remember Luther's explanation to the 8th Commandment, that we are to "put the best construction on everything" and give each other the benefit of the doubt.

Second, please do not offer any anonymous suggestions. I know that some people offer ideas quietly, behind the scenes not wishing to "rock the boat". The intention is good, but the means is problematic. Anonymous suggestions (which are almost always critical) can quickly become gossip; and gossip then grows into a cancer. You will not be criticized for having an opinion or an idea. Please step forward. Likewise, please offer your suggestion to me or an elder or someone on council. Voicing a criticism to the person next to you in the pew won't do any good if they don't have the ability to act on it. In fact, it may make the situation worse by spreading discontent.

Finally, please be willing to offer your assistance. It is so easy to be critical of anything (whether inside or outside the church) without offering solutions or being willing to do anything to fix it. Most of the people who make St. John work are volunteers who are already stretched thin between family, work, school and church. Often the only thing we need to make the change you desire is a little assistance.

Feedback is a gift; and I sincerely want to hear your ideas on how we can improve our church. My door is open.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

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

Pastor Dan



ST. JOHN Music

OCTOBER, 2022 NEWS

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

October, 2022 Music Message: Rest

On October 7 it will be six months since I started working full time at the College of Nursing and Health Science in the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Each week I feel that I have learned more about the job and look forward to going into work and feel that I have finally learned this new role, and that my world will finally slow down to a reasonable pace. Then by each Friday I realize that the pace is still as hectic as it was a few weeks ago. I then start the weekend looking hopefully forward that the next week will be the week that I can catch my breath.

Six months is a long time to go with having fewer than 5 days off, where I wasn't either working at the University or planning/practicing or playing the organ. It has taken a toll on me, physically and emotionally, and I ended up being sick for both of the Sundays in July that I planned to take off. Literally this past Sunday, September 25th, is the first Sunday that I wasn't sick and didn't have to work.

While looking for a scriptural verse that encourages taking time off, or rest I came across the story of Jesus Feeding the Five Thousand. What I found most interesting is the three verses that come before the miracle. *"The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves."* Mark 6:30-32. Now don't be concerned that I haven't had time to eat, but I do need a desolate place.

Please know that my present intentions are to continue to be the primary organist for St. John. God has blessed our congregation with three organists, in addition to other musicians, and I am taking this opportunity to tell the congregation that I will be playing less then I usually do.

The season of Pentecost is coming to a close, with the High Festival seasons of Reformation, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas all coming in close succession. This is the plan that I am working out: Andy has agreed to play for two Sundays in October, and the evening Advent services. I am working out dates with Angela to help out in November and December.

Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday and I have chosen to take Christmas Eve off this year. Andy has agreed to play for both of the services. I plan to play for the Christmas Day service.

My job will continue to be challenging, as I am already arranging for nursing classes that are starting in January and will then put together the clinical classes for the 2023-2024 academic year by the end of February. In all of this I will cling to the promise God gave the Children of Israel while they were traveling in the dessert of *"My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."* Exodus 33:14.

Your musical servant in Christ,
Lori



ST. JOHN

News and Notes

OCTOBER, 2022 NEWS

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

LWML News for October

LWML will continue our November tradition of visiting our members unable to attend church in person and taking them baskets filled with snacks, personal care items and other miscellaneous items. As always, we will ask the congregation for donations to fill the baskets. The number of baskets we will fill this year is yet to be determined, but probably between 5-10. There will be a box labeled for LWML donations in the narthex. It will be there for the first three Sundays in October. Some suggested items are hot chocolate packets, granola bars, raisins, pudding cups, chap stick, lotions, game books, etc. Please don't feel obligated to donate for every basket, any amount is appreciated.

At our recent meeting new officers were elected: Angela Bellantoni, President; and Toni Davidson, Secretary. Thank you so much to both of them for volunteering their service. God bless you in your new positions.



Attendance

Sunday, August 28	80
Sunday, September 4	76
Sunday, September 11	86
Sunday, September 18	75
Sunday, September 25	93

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.

ON SAYING AND DOING THE SAME THINGS OVER AND OVER...

We struggled with what to write in this newsletter. In truth, it was a very busy month, but busy doing things we've reported on before. J.P. taught the Small Catechism again (pic b), as he has many times before. He also taught the Book of Concord for a third time (pic a), but this time for the Luther Institute of Southeast Asia. J.P. also visited churches in Siem Reap for the ongoing program of intentional visitation. Our youth group met for Bible study throughout the month. You might think, "J.P., don't you ever do anything different!?" On the one hand, there is a sense in which the answer is no. Much of our ministry is doing the same things, saying the same things, teaching the same things, over and over again. But rather than being a sign of stagnation, this is an intentional effort towards three related goals. First, we seek to be **focused**. With so many good things that we could be doing, we must guard against losing sight of the main thing. Paul writes, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16). So we focus on the Word. Second, we seek to be **consistent**. Over the past couple of years, Cambodians have dealt with constantly changing circumstances in their families, communities, and country. They need an anchor, Jesus Christ, who "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). Only Jesus is truly consistent. Finally, we seek to be **patient**. Discipleship doesn't happen over night. We are all works in progress, navigating the peaks and valleys of our lives, until that time when we go to be with Christ. And so, we trust that "they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength" (Is. 40:31).



On the other hand, there are always new aspects of our life and ministry. Here's a few recent tidbits:

- We hit a milestone: 15 YEARS IN ASIA! Praise God for His faithfulness!
- We had an unexpected and miraculous opportunity for witness during one youth group night.
- Bella turned 13 years old and also celebrated her First Communion (woefully late!).
- It's rainy season in Cambodia, which means impromptu playing in the rain!
- Isaac discovered a new prayer position.

2

THE CIMA FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Praise: for recent opportunities to share the gospel in our neighborhood; for the recent arrival of a Christian family in our neighborhood. **Prayer:** for final visitations in Thbum Khmum and Kampot; for upcoming training seminars; for Cambodian Christians who experience spiritual affliction during the Pchum Ben holiday at the end of September.

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."

John.Cima@lcms.org
Aimee.Cima@lcms.org



Greetings, Dan, Tricia, and friends at St. John in Canon City, from a steamy Phnom Penh! We pray this note finds you well.

What a joy to write this email, giving thanks to God for His gracious provision THROUGH YOU! Your passion for God's mission in Southeast Asia, expressed through your prayer and financial support of our family as we serve there, is an enormous encouragement to us. THANK YOU for partnering with us as we partner with our brothers sisters in Christ on the other side of the world. It is our joy and privilege to serve on your behalf.

It has been a busy several months. After [6 wonderful weeks in the United States](#) (including getting to see Pastor Dan and some of the youth at the LCMS Youth Gathering!) we slid back into normal routines in Cambodia.

J.P. continues to enjoy lots of opportunities for [teaching](#) and discipleship. Recently, he has been traveling to the provinces to lead [seminars on Luther's Small Catechism](#). Just last week he was also asked by the [Luther Institute of Southeast Asia](#) to teach [an introductory course](#) on the [Lutheran Confessions](#). It never gets old to see [21st century Cambodians reading, discussing, and resonating with 16th century documents](#)! J.P. was blown away by how quickly his audience found connections to their own lives and ministries in these rather esoteric documents. It was a blast! Indeed, J.P. has grown quite fond of many of these students, especially since spending time with them in their homes as a part of an ongoing [program of intentional visitation](#).

We also continue to host our church's [youth group](#) each and every Saturday. This is one of our favorite parts of the week. This past Saturday, Aimee ordered a cake to celebrate some youths' birthdays. The cake's delivery led to [an incredible opportunity](#) to share the Gospel with the delivery driver. He and Aimee talked for 45 minutes! Aimee also continues to support other missionaries in the region as a part of the Asia Regional Managers team. She is particularly excited to plan a gathering for all missionaries in Asia, set for early next year IN PHNOM PENH! Where does she find time to also [help coordinate our church's Sunday school](#)!?

As for the rest of the family, the kids have successfully [started a new year of school](#). Moreover, as of [Bella's birthday](#), we now have two teenagers in the house! Nonetheless, Isaac, who is 5, still keeps us all young with his [boundless energy](#).

You are a part of all of this. We repeatedly say that we could not be here without you because it is so true. Your prayers, your support, your encouragement--it all makes it possible for us to serve God's people in Cambodia. THANK YOU for your trust and partnership. Know that we are thanking God for you!

Please feel free to reach out to us any time using the information below. We love hearing from you!

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

John.Cima@lcms.org

Aimee.Cima@lcms.org

www.cimafam.com

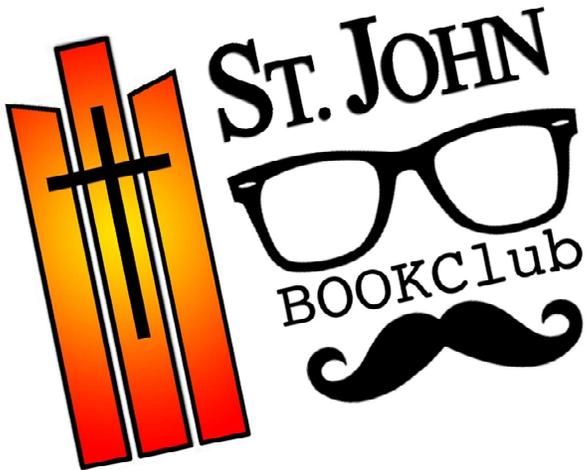
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October & November 2022

Here is what is happening at the BOOKClub:

The next book on our list is *The Flames of Rome* (ISBN 978-0825443541) by Paul Maier. This historical novel offers a picture of what truly happened in 64AD. The description reads:

A madman who murders his way into power lusts for ever-greater glory and domination. A capital city awash with corruption, sensuality, and political intrigue is at the flash point. And caught between the crushing currents of history are a new but growing religious group known as the followers of The Way.

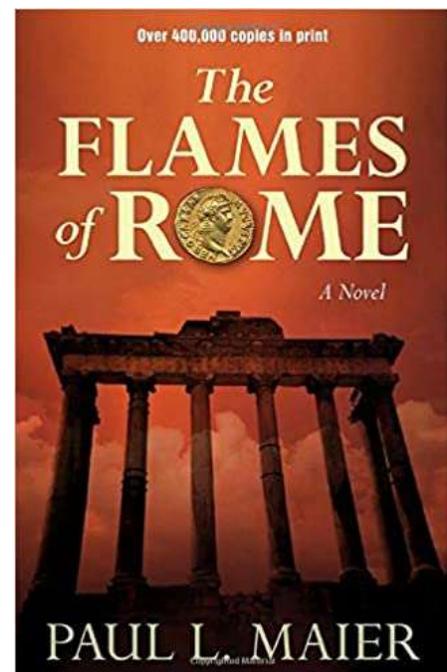
Award-winning historian and best-selling author Paul L. Maier has created a compelling style of documentary fiction, using only known historical events and persons to bring to life first-century Rome in all its excess, treachery, and insanity. This is the Rome that the apostle Paul visits, where he's placed on trial, and which is forever changed by his testimony and witness.

Following the family of Flavius Sabinus, mayor of Rome under Nero Maier captures all the drama and tension of the political conflicts that precede and follow the Great Fire of Rome, and the epic political and religious clashes of the world's capital. This is the sensational story of pagans at their worst—and Christians at their best. Readers won't want to put it down.

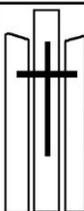
There are used copies available on Amazon for \$7-8, and a Kindle edition for \$16. There is also one copy in the church library, first come first served. If you have any problems finding a copy, please call Pastor Dan.

The date for discussing this book is November 17th, 6:30pm @ Paul & Lynn Dreger's home.

Pick up a book & join us at the BOOKClub!



OCTOBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 17TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service LWML Sunday 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30 Elder's Meeting	3 7:30 Prayer 4:00p Children's Choir	4 7:30 Prayer	5 7:30 Prayer 10:00 Bible Study 6:00p Youth Group	6 7:30 Prayer 9:00 Quilters	7 7:30 Prayer	1 <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/> 8
9 18TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30 Council Meeting	10 7:30 Prayer 4:00p Children's Choir 6:30p Confirmation <u>COLUMBUS DAY</u>	11 7:30 Prayer	12 7:30 Prayer 10:00 Bible Study 6:00p Youth Group	13 7:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Quilters	14 7:30 Prayer	15
16 19TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Reception of New Members	17 7:30 Prayer 4:00p Children's Choir 6:30p Confirmation	18 7:30 Prayer	19 7:30 Prayer 10:00 Bible Study 6:00p Youth Group	20 7:30 Prayer 9:00 Quilters	21 7:30 Prayer Prison Ministry – Office Closed	22
23 20TH SUNDAY AFT. PENTECOST 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	24 7:30 Prayer 4:00p Children's Choir 6:30p Confirmation	25 7:30 Prayer	26 7:30 Prayer 6:00p Youth Group	27 7:30 Prayer 9:00 Quilters	28 7:30 Prayer	29 9:00 LWML Basket Assembly
30 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30 Reformation Potluck	31 7:30 Prayer 4:00p Children's Choir 6:30p Confirmation <u>HALLOWEEN</u>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor Dan away at a conference </div>				
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">  <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <p style="margin: 0;">ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212 http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org 719-275-0111</p> </div> </div>						