

JANUARY, 2023 NEWS

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

CAÑON CITY, COLORADO

## Pastor's Message: Amazing Grace

Dear Fellow Servants in Christ,

### Amazing Grace

If you have not yet heard, the beloved hymn *Amazing Grace* will turn 250 years old on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. That makes this treasure of the church older than the Declaration of Independence! In honor of the anniversary, here is some history of the hymn from the book Then Sings My Soul by Robert F. Morgan.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan

***In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*** Ephesians 1:7

It's hard to shake off a mother's influence. John Newton's earliest memories were of his godly mother who, despite fragile health, devoted herself to nurturing his soul. At her knee he memorized Bible passages and hymns. Though she died when he was about seven, he later recalled her tearful prayers for him.

After her death, John alternated between boarding school and the high seas, wanting to live a good life but nonetheless falling deeper and deeper into sin. Pressed into service with the British Navy, he deserted, was captured, and after two days of suspense, was flogged. His subsequent thoughts vacillated between murder and suicide. "I was capable of anything," he recalled.

More voyages, dangers, toils, and snares followed. It was a life unrivaled in fiction. Then, on the night of March 9, 1748, John, 23, was jolted awake by a brutal storm that descended too suddenly for the crew to foresee. The next day, in great peril, he cried to the Lord. He later wrote, "That tenth of March is a day much remembered by me; and I have never suffered it to pass unnoticed since the year 1748 - the Lord came from on high and delivered me out of deep waters."

The next several years saw slow, halting spiritual growth in John, but in the end he became one of the most powerful evangelical preachers in British history, a powerful foe of slavery, and the author of hundreds of hymns.

Here are some things you may not know about Newton's most famous hymn. His title for it wasn't originally "Amazing Grace" but "Faith's Review and Expectation." It is based in Newton's study of 1 Chronicles 17:16-17: "King David...said: 'Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet...You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree....'"

And here's a nearly forgotten verse that Newton added near the end of "Amazing Grace." Try singing it for yourself:

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;  
But God, Who called me here below, shall be forever mine.*



# ST. JOHN News & Notes

JANUARY, 2023 NEWS

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

## Quilters News

A note of thanks to the ladies who generously donate their time to making quilts! We meet on Thursdays from 9am to 11am. We could use more help! No sewing experience is needed! If you can tie a knot or thread a needle, then you can help! If you have any questions, contact Sue Poehlein or Sue Willard.

The Quilting Ladies completed 64 quilts from September of 2021 to December of 2022. They were donated to three Confirmands and one newly baptized child at St John. They were also donated to Loaves and Fishes, Pregnancy Center, Sangre de Cristo Hospice, 15th Street Hospice, Kindred Kids Child Advocacy Center, Canon City Library (for their annual auction), Shepherd of the Hills and New Creations Inn.

We are in need of flat, cotton (not silky) sheets of any size (clean and no holes). They are used for the backing of the quilts. They can be plain or have a print on them. Please put them in a bag marked "quilters" and leave in the Youth Room. YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Quilting will start again on Thursday, Jan. 5th, and every Thursday from 9am to 11am throughout the month.

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## Thank You!

Many, many thanks to the congregation for the cards, gifts and generous checks this Christmas. Once again I am overwhelmed by your generosity. Thank you!; and we look forward to another year of ministry together at St. John. - The Kletke's

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## Attendance

Sunday, November 27 - 84  
Wednesday, November 30 (Advent 1) - 11/38=49  
Sunday, December 4 - 104  
Wednesday, December 7 (Advent 2) - 9/43=52  
Sunday, December 11 - 85  
Wednesday, December 14 (Advent 3) - 11/43=54  
Sunday, December 18 - 112  
Wednesday, December 21 (Advent 4) - 14/30=44  
Saturday, December 24, (Christmas Eve) 46/74 = 120

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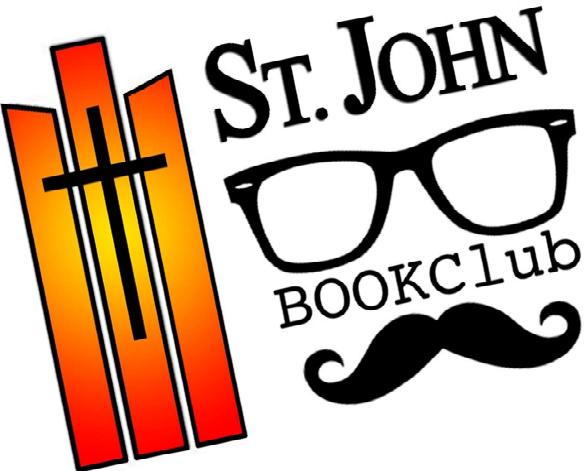
## Outreach (Congregational Evangelism)

I invite you to check out our website at [stjohnncanoncity.org](http://stjohnncanoncity.org). Our congregation has an impressive list of events. It's a continuous flow of opportunities through which we can share the gospel with others.

Outreach is not for one person or group to perform. It is a **COLLECTIVE** effort involving all the church boards, groups, and individuals at St. John. We intend to engage individuals and families in our community through our various activities and ministries, with the prayer that lost and unchurched people will hear and **RECEIVE** the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and become His disciples, in response to the call of Jesus in Matthew 28:19, "*Therefore, go and make disciples...*" St. John members reach out to others in His name, for His kingdom.

I would like to gather input from others regarding our Outreach, and entertain ideas to expand our Outreach. Please call me at (720) 201-8743, or e-mail [kirkegaard1998@charter.net](mailto:kirkegaard1998@charter.net) if you have any questions or ideas.

Gail Kirkegaard <><



# January 2023

Here is what is happening at the BOOKClub:

The next book on our list is Pontius Pilate (ISBN 978-0825443565) by Paul Maier. In many ways, this is the prequel to what we just read in The Flames of Rome. The description reads:

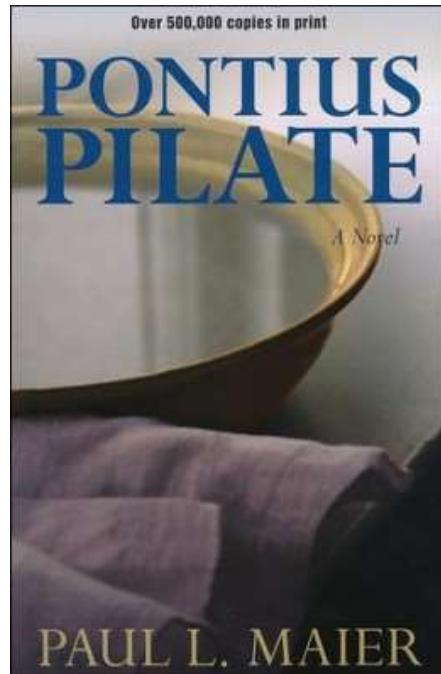
Award-winning historian and best-selling author Paul L. Maier has created a compelling style of documentary fiction. He uses what is historically known of Pilate's life and rise to power, adds in the known political climate of first-century Judea, and unveils the colorful, untold story that changed history for all time. He provides intriguing answers to questions such as:

- What really happened at that most famous of trials?
- Were the proceedings against Jesus legal?
- Did cowardice or necessity motivate Pilate's judgment?
- What became of this successful Roman politician after his verdict?

Filling in the details of Pilate's early career in Rome, Maier captures the drama of imperial Rome under the all-powerful Tiberius Caesar, the plottings of his political allies and enemies, and his relationship with his beloved but ambitious wife, Procula. His great moment arrives as he exchanges the intrigues of Rome for the bewildering environment of Judea, navigating new and dangerous waters. In Pontius Pilate, Maier paints a picture for modern readers to help them understand the behind-the-scenes complexities, political and religious realities, and ultimately, the humanity of the people we know from Scripture.

There are used copies available on Amazon for \$7-8, and a Kindle edition for \$13, an Audible audiobook for \$15, and a few copies in the church library. If you have any problems finding a copy, please call Pastor Dan.

The date for discussing this book is January 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm @ a location yet to be determined.



Pick up a book & join us at the BOOKClub!



## How is your prayer life?

Do you feel guilty because you don't have the time for the prayer life you feel you "should" have? Does God sometimes feel like just another person who needs a piece of your life? Does the thought of examining your spiritual life cause anxiety? Would you like to relate to God and pray differently?

**Then join Signpost Inn for a One-Day Retreat!**

This simple and supportive retreat helps busy people practice connecting with God in truly refreshing and restorative ways.

**What you'll learn:**

- What is Prayer? Refresh your perspective on God and consent to his loving, personal presence.
- Learn to pray the Lord's Prayer with Jesus.
- How to find time for silence, solitude, and stillness, the three foundational spiritual practices.

**When:** Saturday, January 21, 9am - 12:30pm

**Where:** Evangelical Free Church of Canon City (Efree)

**Cost:** \$50 per person (includes free childcare)

Visit [www.signpostinn.org/events](http://www.signpostinn.org/events) or scan the code for more information and to register



## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM PHNOM PENH!



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
FROM  
CAMBODIA



*Mary will  
bear a son,  
and you  
shall call  
his name  
Jesus, for  
he will save  
his people  
from their  
sins.*

Mat. 1:21

In Isaiah 9:7, after God makes some amazing promises, it says that "the zeal of the Lord" accomplish all of it. I love how the Bible describes God as zealous. But it makes me wonder, what am I zealous for? Christmas is a good time to reflect on precisely that. What is getting most of my attention? Where do I spend most of my time? On what do I spend most of my money?

On the other hand, what is God zealous for? "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire" (Is. 9:2-5).

God is zealous for light. Joy. Justice. Peace.

God's righteous zeal accomplishes these things in a most unusual way. Nearly 800 years before the manger, God led Isaiah to write, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Is. 9:6). And now, some 2,000 years after the manger, we know that it is the baby Jesus who is Isaiah's promised child, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. The hope of the whole world lies in the manger. It is a mere baby who will bring light, joy, justice, and peace.

ON THANKSGIVING there was no big meal or gathering with friends, but instead many hugs and kisses as Aimee departed for Sierra Leone. She joined fellow LCMS missionaries Linda Becker and Steph Schulte to lead a three-day workshop on women's health for 10 local women (pic a). They taught community health evangelism (CHE) lessons on marriage, parenting, nutrition, reproductive health, hygiene, and childbirth. CHE is a participatory method of teaching that affirms local capacity and resources while integrating health and development with Biblical teaching.

During lessons on the female reproductive system, students shared about the tragic practice of female genital mutilation (FGM), a common rite of passage for women in Sierra Leone, sadly even in Christian families. One participant remarked that it would be almost impossible to avoid the practice in her village. The resident nurse midwife from the group, Rugiata, explained that beyond the pain of the procedure itself, FGM can cause life-threatening complications during childbirth. Aimee and the other teachers reminded the ladies of the goodness of our bodies as God's creation (Gn. 1:31). They emphasized that unlike boys, who were circumcised as a sign of God's covenant (Gn. 17:12), there is no such command for girls. As it turned out, Ps.139:14 (see right) became a theme verse for the entire event.

During lessons on childbirth, Steph gave each woman a small replica of a 12-week gestation baby to keep. The ladies held the babies, astonished at the detail already present. One woman exclaimed, "I can't believe some would say it is not a life and then get an abortion!" It was an especially poignant moment because some children had wandered in (pic d).

Another woman in the group, recently widowed, was struggling to present to the group upon her turn. In the CHE model, lessons are shared orally, without technology or handouts because they are not normally available locally. We encouraged her, "You have the knowledge. You've learned it already, so you can share it with others." She was then able to stand up and teach the lesson. At the end of the session, her face beamed (pic c) as she received the certificate of completion for the training (pic b).

Thank God for this eye-opening opportunity to serve. [Learn/see more here!](#)



**PRAYER:** for J.P.'s recent seminar and visitations; for the birth of baby Onyx.

**PRAYER:** for women in Sierra Leone; for the family of Deaconess Em Ron, who recently died; for upcoming trainings and conferences.

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-16, Mapleton, IA 51034 (payable to Mission Central). For ALL checks, in the memo line write "Cima family-Cambodia."



*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Ps. 139:14)*



# JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1 <sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFT. CHRISTMAS <b>9:00</b> Divine Service <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class  <i>Installation of Officers</i>	2	3	4 <b>10:00</b> Bible Study <b>6:00p</b> Youth Group	5 <b>7:00</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:00</b> Quilters	6	7
8 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD <b>9:00</b> Divine Service w/ Holy Communion <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class <b>11:30</b> Elder's Meeting	9 <b>6:30p</b> Confirmation	10 <b>Circuit Pastors' Meeting – Pastor Out of Office</b>	11 <b>10:00</b> Bible Study <b>6:00p</b> Youth Group	12 <b>9:00</b> Quilters <b>6:30p</b> BOOKClub	13	14
15 2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFT. EPIPHANY <b>9:00</b> Divine Service <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class <b>11:30</b> Council Meeting	16 <b>4:00p</b> Children's Chorale  <b>6:30p</b> Confirmation  <i>MLK Jr. Day</i>	17	18 <b>10:00</b> Bible Study <b>6:00p</b> Youth Group	19 <b>7:00</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:00</b> Quilters	20 <b>Prison Ministry – Pastor Out of Office</b>	21
22 3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFT. EPIPHANY <b>9:00</b> Divine Service w/ Holy Communion <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	23 <b>4:00p</b> Children's Chorale  <b>6:30p</b> Confirmation	24	25 <b>10:00</b> Bible Study <b>6:00p</b> Youth Group	26 <b>9:00</b> Quilters	27	28
29 4 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFT. EPIPHANY <b>9:00</b> Divine Service w/ Holy Communion <b>10:30</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	30 <b>4:00p</b> Children's Chorale  <b>6:30p</b> Confirmation	31	 <p><b>St. JOHN</b> <b>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>			