

St. John Lutheran Church

October 2024 Newsletter

As a community of believers in Jesus Christ, inspired by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, the mission of St. John Lutheran Church is to:
WORSHIP, WITNESS, LEARN, SERVE and SUPPORT.

Teri Talk – October 2024

We celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 27, 2024. We will have one worship service that weekend on Sunday at 10:30 AM. I thought it might be fun to celebrate some of the quirkiness of our Lutheran heritage and all its national flavors rather than another Reformation history lesson.

You might Be A Lutheran If....

- you believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
- you like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
- a midlife crisis means switching from the old hymnbook to the new one.
- you sing "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" while sitting down.
- you know all the words to the first verse of "Silent Night" in German but can't speak a word of it.
- you're watching "Star Wars" and when they say, "May the force be with you," you reply, "and also with you."
- you doodle on the back of communion cards.
- you believe your pastor will visit you in the hospital, even if you don't notify them that you are there.
- you hesitate to clap for the church choir or special music because "it just wasn't done that way in the old days."
- sharing the peace during the service takes more time than the sermon.
- you feel guilty about not feeling guilty.
- you believe it is OK to poke fun at ourselves and never take ourselves too seriously.
- you volunteer to shovel the sidewalk when the only open pew is up front.
- you have more than five flavors of Jell-O in your pantry.
- you consume some form of Jell-O at every holiday meal.
- you think lime Jell-O with cottage cheese and pineapple is a gourmet salad.
- think the four food groups are coffee, lefse, lutefisk, and Jell-O.

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- the church is on fire, and you rush in to save the coffee pot.
- someone asks you after church if there's any "decaf coffee" and you laugh because you KNOW that if it doesn't have caffeine, it can't be coffee!
- you count coffee among the sacraments.
- your coffee cup is permanently stained.
- you think anyone who says "casserole" instead of "hotdish" is trying to be uppity (or maybe even Episcopalian!)
- you think hotdish is one of the major food groups.
- you didn't know Chow Mein noodles were a Chinese food.
- all of your casserole dishes have your name on the bottom.
- you're willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.
- you hold family reunions in the church basement.
- you have your wedding reception in the fellowship hall and feel guilty about not staying to help clean up.
- rather than introducing yourself to a visitor at church, you check their name out in the guestbook.
- you tap a church visitor on the shoulder and say, "excuse me, but you're in my pew."
- they have to rope off the last pews in church, so the front isn't empty.
- you have an uncontrollable urge to sit in the back of any room.
- you and your family of six squeeze into the last pew along with the 140 members already sitting there.
- you don't question why the seat you sit in at church is called a pew.
- you think a meeting isn't legitimate unless it's at least three hours long.
- it takes 10 minutes to say good-bye.
- requests you hear are preceded or followed by the phrase, "If it's not too much trouble then..."
- your house is a mess because you're "saved by Grace," not by works.
- your congregation's first two operating rules are "Don't change" and "Don't spend."
- you believe there is an 11th Commandment—"If it's never been done that way before, don't do it."
- every time something changes, the old way was better.
- the only mealtime prayer you know is "Come Lord Jesus."

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

References: <http://www.stlukeselca.com/youmightbealutheranif.htm>
<https://joyfullythriving.com/you-might-be-a-lutheran-if/>
<https://www.concordianews.org/humor.htm>

2024

OCTOBER

PASTOR TERI'S CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Worship 10:30 AM; Children & Youth lead We Gather As One Service - St. John Ringers Bell Choir, Keys and Backpack Blessing, Communion	30 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	01 Dr. Appt Salina 10:30 AM; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	02 Dr. Appt Hays 10:30 AM; 425 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	03 Bible Study 1:30 PM	04 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Appt 1:00 PM	05 Worship Service 6:00 PM
06 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Communion	07 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	08 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Exec Comm 5:30 PM	09 Pastoral Care / Home Visitation Day; 425 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	10 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM; Bible Study 1:30 PM; RCAOC 6:30 PM	11 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	12 Worship Service 6:00 PM - Communion
13 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Care Home Worship 2-4 PM	14 Fall Theological Conference, Olathe, KS; 1st Call Meeting	15 Fall Theological Conference, Olathe, KS; 1st Call Meeting	16 Fall Theological Conference, Olathe, KS	17 Fall Theological Conference, Olathe, KS; Church Council 6:30 PM	18 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	19 Worship Service 6:00 PM - Blessing of the Quilts
20 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM - Agape Choir, Blessing of the Quilts, Communion	21 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	22 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; record Clergy Comments; Russell Community Theater Sept 22-26	23 Pastor Gathering at Trinity in Hays to load quilts on trucks; 425 Youth 6:30	24 Bible Study 1:30 PM	25 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	26 NO Worship - We Gather As One 10:30 Sunday October 27
27 NO 8:15 AM Worship; Confirmation photos 9:00 AM; Reformation Worship 10:30 AM - Children & Youth lead We Gather As One Service - St John Ringers Bell Choir, Confirmation	28 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	29 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	30 Pastoral Care / Home Visitation Day; 425 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	31 Halloween - Wiggle Your Wings costume "parade" and give out candy; Bible Study 1:30 PM	01 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	02 All Saints Worship Service 6:00 PM

ODDS AND ENDS

- The Executive Committee of the Church Council will meet Tues, Oct 8 at 5:30 pm. The Church Council will meet Thurs, Oct 17 at 6:30 pm.

- St. John Women’s Bible Study will be held Thurs, Oct 10 at 10:00 am. Large print materials are available upon request.
- Pastor Teri will be attending the Fall Theological Conference and First Call Meeting in Olathe Mon, Oct 14 through Thurs, Oct 17. There will be NO Bible Study with Pastor on Thurs, Oct 17. Bible Study will resume Thurs, Oct 24
- To be included in the November Newsletter articles and information must be provided no later than Fri, Oct 18.
- St. John Lutheran Church delivers Meals on Wheels during the months of March and December. If you would like to deliver for one (or more) days in December, please contact the office no later than Fri, Oct 18.
- PLEASE NOTE: St. John will Gather As One at the 10;30 Service on Sun, Oct 27. This service will be led by St. John children & youth and will include the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation). There will be NO 6:00 pm Saturday service on Oct 26 and NO 8:15 am Sunday service on Oct 26.
- The 2024 Thankoffering services will be hosted by the St. John Women the weekend of November 9 and 10.
- In 2024, the Russell County Food Pantry has served a record number of families each month. The “Share the Holidays with Your Neighbor” campaign raises funds to help provide a basket with the ingredients for holiday meals for individuals, couples, or families. Over 125 families received holiday baskets in 2023. A donation of \$30 provides a family with Thanksgiving AND Christmas baskets. The Russell County Food Pantry will be doing the purchasing and distribution of the holiday baskets. Monetary donations may be made at the Russell County Food Pantry at 15 N. Front, or at St. John (please write “Russell Food Pantry” in the memo line of your check or on your envelope).
- The Russell County Historical Society and the family of Raymond G. Beck invite the public and all Veterans to the opening display and reception of Mr. Beck’s WWII POW memorabilia of his Bataan Death March experience. The reception will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Saturday, October 5 at the Fossil Station Museum (331 N. Kansas Street).



OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
Aug 25.....	32.....	25.....	47.....	104
Sept 1.....	25.....	29.....	55.....	109
Sept 8.....	20.....	36.....	61.....	117
Sept 15.....	26.....	26.....	92.....	144
Sept 22.....	26.....	19.....	40.....	85
Sept 29 *				

Offering

Aug 25.....	\$2,251.00
Sept 1.....	3,930.00
Sept 8.....	4,160.00
Sept 15.....	2,673.00
Sept 22.....	1,851.00
Sept 29 *	

* Data not available at time of publication

PMA Notes: Acts – Remember 1:8?

John Dumler, PMA

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you O God, for you are my rock and my redeemer.

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” This was a verse at the beginning of a Class I took... so, this is my story and I am sticking to it!

I was getting behind in my continuing Education classes and Pastor Teri told me about a course she thought I would like: “A Cartoonist’s Guide To Acts”. I thought “Good! A course I can get into! It has pictures!” and in my opinion, the course was super! Yes, it had pictures - and so much more! It begins with:

- Reflect on your favorite parts of Acts.
- Record your lingering questions and “make a plan” to pursue them.
- Meditate on the four key themes of this course—Holy Spirit, Power, Witness, and Church—and determine a plan to practice ways to grow in these areas based on what you learned in the course.

You know the old saying “That just blew my mind!”? Well, the instructors did just that for me. To begin with, I knew nothing about the book of Acts – not that I haven’t read it... I just did not pick anything up. I am one of those people that learn better in hands on training. Dr. Steve Thomason led this class and had help from a bible scholar - Dr. Catherine Wright. The first thing I learned is that many scholars believe that Luke may have authored Acts as well. I now know Paul had much help – not only from God but others as well! We see “Saul” persecuting the early Christians – and once again, I get to use the Paul Harvey saying “In a moment... the rest of the story”. You guessed it. Just a tease for more to come!

One little piece of information I learned is that we knew Saul and we knew Paul, but did you know his complete name was “Saul/Paul” He had both a Hebrew name and a Greek name!

I believe that this course was designed for me - I was a Comic book reader from way back. So, in the next few “PMA Notes” I might be talking about some of those things - or things I’ll learn from another “Cartoonist’s Guide” I picked up (on Mark!).

Now for a small prayer.

Our most glorious God, we come to you broken, unclean, full of emotions we don’t want or need. Please Lord bring us out to your path of Mercy and Love! Keep us straight on your path as only you can. We thank you Lord that you gave us your Son to teach us and to save us. We pray that we can walk that narrow path of “Love and Grace and Mercy”. Keep us in your arms and help us through all the pain, the regret and the feeling of loss as our loved ones and friends and family end the journey here and continue in “God’s House!” Keep us rolling forward toward you and your love. Amen!

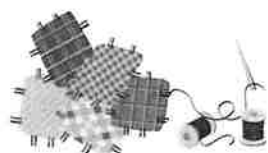
Blessings – John Dumler, PMA

John was recently recognized by the Central States Synod of the ELCA for 10 years of service as a certified Parish Ministry Associate – many blessings to John!!

If it's October, it's time for QUILTS!

Many, MANY quilts have been lovingly created by the St. John Sewing Circle since October 2023. These quilts will be on display in the Chapel and Sanctuary during all services the weekends of October 12/13 and October 19/20. Quilts will be blessed during worship before they are boxed and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution around the world.

Don't forget - quilts make great gifts! St. John members may purchase quilts for a minimum donation of \$50.00 each. Reservation tags will be available in the ushers room and may be pinned to the quilt(s) you wish to keep for yourself or give as a gift!



The Sewing Circle thanks everyone for the gracious donations of fabric and notions received during the last twelve months. Monetary donations have been used to purchase batting and other supplies as needed. For more information about the Sewing Circle, contact Kaye Schlessman or Georganna McCrary.



St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

Date	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
October 2	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
October 9	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
October 16	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
October 23	6:30 pm	
October 30	6:30 pm	7:30 pm



Performances

- Agape Choir** 10:30 am, October 20 Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am
- St. John Ringers** 10:30 am, October 27 Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am

Second Grade Bible Presentation and Confirmation Student Bible Presentation

On behalf of the St. John Christian Education Committee, Pastor Teri presented all Sunday School students beginning the Second Grade and all current Confirmation students with bibles on Sunday, September 15. The Second Grade student bibles will allow these students to learn and tell its stories, honor its commandments and rejoice in its good news. The Confirmation students received a Study Bible that will allow students to grow in faith while learning more about God's promises. Pastor Teri also let each student choose a bible cover/tote as a gift from her.

Second Grade Student Bible Recipients

*Lorelai Boxberger
Elsie Mai*

*Lydia Lofland
Adeline Parnell
Josie Stoughton*

*Naomi Lofland
Ari Robbins*

Confirmation Student Bible Recipients

*Kollins Dumler
Ellise Jefferson
Alex "Monroe" Krug
Morgan Olson*

*Rogan Dumler
Jasmine Jefferson
Maggie Olson
Reece Peck
Sasha Robbins*

*Bryson Feil
Wesley Johnson
Marshall Olson
Evanlee Rainey*

2024-2025 Sunday School

Sunday School is back up and running! We were thrilled to see so many kiddos returning to the classroom. The classrooms have been redecorated and repurposed for their best use! The littles have a rug room for stories and lessons, and a craft/snack room perfectly appointed for their activities.

Many, many thanks to the teachers who volunteer their time to help with our children's church education!





*Blessings to
Mark and DeAnna Carter
as they celebrated their 40th Anniversary
with a renewal of wedding vows
on September 1, 2024*

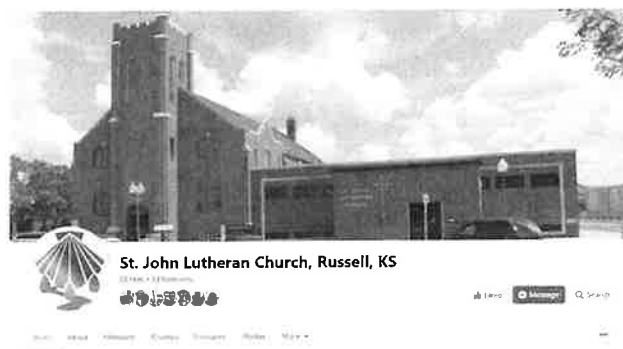


**St. John Lutheran Church has a
NEW Facebook page!!**

Search
"St. John Lutheran Church, Russell, KS"

or visit

<http://facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557678266536>



The cover picture on the new page is a photo of the church and the new profile picture is the ELCA baptism shell.

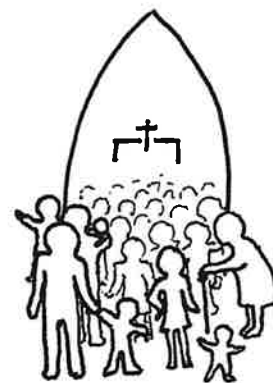
Watch this page for more up to date information and PLEASE help spread the word to get folks linked to the NEW page!!

We Gather As One

to Celebrate Reformation Sunday and Confirmation

Sunday, October 27, 2024 ~ 10:30 am ~ Sanctuary

**The 425 Youth will lead this service and
greatly appreciate your attendance and support**



On Sunday, October 27 at the 10:30 service, the St. John family will gather to celebrate Reformation and honor those young adults receiving the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation).

REMINDER:

There will be NO services 6:00 pm Saturday, October 26 or 8:15 am Sunday, October 27.

October 2024 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
Oct 5	Brad & Cheryl Prester	Galen Niedenthal	
Oct 12	Bob & Elaine Voos	Elaine Voos	
Oct 19	Brenda Yoder	_____	
Oct 26	NO SERVICE		
Nov 2	Allen & Betty Funk	_____	



8:15 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
Oct 6	Katrin Kolder	Katrin Kolder	
Oct 13	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	
Oct 20	Dick & Georganna McCrary	Georganna McCrary	
Oct 27	NO SERVICE		
Nov 3	Kurt & Lois DeWald	Lois DeWald	



10:30 Sun	Greeter	Usher	Lector
Oct 6	Morris & Barbara Krug (N); Eck Family (S)	Morris Krug	Eck Family
Oct 13	Susy Krug (N); Carol Fritz (S)	Susy Krug	Carol Fritz
Oct 20	Gerald & Mary Mai (N); Deloris Janne (S)	Gerald & Mary Mai	Ruth Keil
Oct 27	YOUTH		
Nov 3	Ron & Ginger Tittel (N); _____ (S)	Ron & Ginger Tittel	Gina Langhofer

10:30 Sun	Acolytes	Musician
Oct 6	Bryson Feil, Karrsyn Ross	
Oct 13	Kollins and Rogan Dumler	
Oct 20	Wesley Johnson, Alex Krug	
Oct 27	Maggie and Maybelle Olson	
Nov 3	Evanlee Rainey, Harper Ryan	



Bulletin Delivery

Oct 4: Frank Peirano
 Oct 11: Bob Albrecht
 Oct 18: John Boxberger
 Oct 25: Eck Family
 Nov 1: Darold & Corine Gideon

Altar Guild

Gina Langhofer – Chair
 Katrina Woelk – Saturday
 Denise Guth, Teresa Hilbrink,
 Barb Krug, Annette Stierlen

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
425 N. MAIN ST.
RUSSELL KS 67665



October 2024
Newsletter

St. John Lutheran Church
Pastor Teri Sutherlin

785-483-5358
stjohn@ruraltel.net
stjohnrussell.com

Worship Services

6:00 pm Saturday
8:15 and 10:30 Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 (meet in Chapel)

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:30 am to 1:30 pm



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

St. John Lutheran Church

Clergy and Staff

Pastor Teri Sutherlin (pastor@ruraltel.net)
John Dumler, PMA (pma@ruraltel.net)
Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper
Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant
Debora Kreutzer, Custodian
John Kreutzer, Custodian

Church Council

President: Lee Keffer
Vice President: Gaylon Walter
Secretary: Carol Fritz
Treasurer: Kylie Stoppel
Members: Afton Brown, Judy Holmes, D.J. Klema,
Melinda Olson, Heather Pohlman, Kelvie
Reeves, Pastor Teri Sutherlin