

St. John Lutheran Church

May 2025 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.

“Beginning New Journeys” Teri Talk – May 2025

May 1986 was a banner year in the Sutherlin household. My brother Randy, my father Jim, and I all graduated that year. Randy graduated from High School, Dad earned his Doctor of Theology, and I finished my Bachelor of Science in psychology and religion. Dad and I graduated from Phillips University and Randy from Enid High School in Enid, Oklahoma.

This May, across the country, milestone achievements are being celebrated in graduation ceremonies. Graduation means successfully completing the learning requirements to qualify for a degree, grade, or promotion being worked towards. Today we equate this word with completing education, but it can also mean we have completed our training for our occupation or vocation. Graduation ceremonies are referred to as *commencement*. Commencement means a new beginning, as one journey comes to an end and a new journey starts.

Our lives, as members of Christ’s Body, are a continuous cycle of graduations and commencements. As we learn more about God, grow in our faith, and gain understanding of how God is shaping our lives, our life journeys are altered with new beginnings and opportunities.

We may not see what lies ahead tomorrow; we may not know what is yet to come; we may not see clearly into the future, but we can know there is One who walks with us, One who is beside us, and the One who gives us life itself so we can move ahead in confidence, even if we are not sure where we are heading. We know we are in God’s hands, and we can surrender ourselves and trust God to guide us, our faith to continue to shape us and form us into the people God created us to be.

When we look at each other, when we see the potential of those who are graduating and moving on to find their place in life, let us see the potential for greatness. Let us look at one another as Jesus looks on us now and hear Him say “If you believe in me, you’ll do the things I do. And not only that, but you’ll do greater things than I have done.”

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When we look at each other, when we see the potential of those who are graduating and moving on to find their place in life, let's recognize we are all on a *commencement* journey together. As disciples, we all have the potential for greatness. Jesus said to His disciples then, and he says to us today, 'If you believe in me, you'll do the things I do. And not only that, but you'll do greater things than I have done' (John 14:12). God is always creating, forming, making things new; God is the author of new beginnings, and we are each of us part of God's story. Let's remember how much we are loved and let the world know we are disciples of Jesus Christ by the love we show for one another and others because we are loved by God.

Blessings,
Pastor Teri



ODDS AND ENDS

- St. John Women's Bible Study will be held Thursday, May 8 at 10:00 am. Large print materials are available upon request.
- The last day of Sunday School and Confirmation Classes will be Sunday, May 11. Sunday School and Confirmation Classes will resume in the Fall.
- The Executive Committee of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, May 13 at 5:30 pm. The Church Council will meet Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 pm.
- Wednesday, May 14 will be the last 425 Youth meeting until Fall.
- To be included in the June Newsletter, information must be submitted no later than Tuesday, May 20.
- In observance of Memorial Day, St. John Lutheran Church Offices will be closed Monday, May 26.
- Donations for the 2025 Back-To-School Giveaway will be accepted starting June 1. For a list of requested items, please contact the church office.
- The link to the application for the Mai Family Scholarship and the Earlin Nuss Family Scholarship is located on the home page of stjohnrussell.com – completed applications are due by July 1. Although awards are submitted directly to each student's educational institution, all recipients (or a representative) must attend the Scholarship Recognition Service at 10:30, Sunday, July 27.
- Sincere thanks to all those who helped with the Lenten Luncheon including those who donated salads and desserts, and those who assisted in the kitchen. Special thanks to Brooke Olson and her children for the delicious variety of slider sandwiches.
- The 425 Youth Diaper Drive was a big success thanks to the generous donations from the congregation. All donations will be presented to the Russell County Food Pantry
- The 425 Youth served a wonderful Easter Breakfast – special thanks to all who made donations that totaled over \$800.00. After expenses, the 425 Youth received over \$500.00.
- The St. John Ringers and Agape Choir will complete their 2024-2025 season at the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 4. Both choirs will start rehearsals again this Fall. Directors Juanita Flegler and Ruth Keil would like to recognize and thank each and every member of the choirs; through a tough year, the dedication to practicing (and practicing!) has been a true inspiration and blessing to present at 10:30 Sunday services each month and at special services and events throughout the year is appreciated.

2025

MAY

Pastor Teri's Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Care Center Worship 2:00-4:00 PM	Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	PT 9:00-10:00 AM; record Clergy Comments; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	Bible Study with Pastor 1:30 PM	Thulene Ruggels Funeral 11:00 AM; Graveside at Natoma 2:00 PM	Worship 6:00 PM
04 Worship with Communion 8:15 and 10:30 AM (10:30 - led by St. John Children and Youth, St. John Ringers Bell Choir, Agape Choir, Blessings of Graduates, Installation of Leaders in the Congregation)	05 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	06 Appt 11:15 AM-12:00 PM; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	07 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM	08 Pastor Teaching Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM; Bible Study with Pastor 1:30 PM; RCAOC Meeting at Otterbein 6:30 PM	09 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Pastor unavailable 6:00-9:00 PM	10 RHS Graduation 10:00 AM; Pastor unavailable 11:00 AM-4:00 PM; Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
11 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Last Day of Sunday School; Mother's Day	12 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	13 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Council Executive Committee 5:30 PM	14 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; last 425 Youth Group until Fall 6:30 PM	15 Rostered Leaders Synod Zoom Meeting 1:00-3:00 PM; NO BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR	16 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	17 Worship 6:00 PM
18 Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM (10:30 - Lydia Lofland Baptism); Care Center Worship 2:00-4:00 PM	19 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	20 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	21 Western Kansas Regional Meeting in Hays 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	22 Bible Study with Pastor 1:30 PM; Church Council 6:30 PM	23 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	24 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
25 Worship 8:14 & 10:30 AM; Memorial Day Weekend	26 St. John Offices Closed for Memorial Day; Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	27 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; record Clergy Comments	28 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day	29 Bible Study with Pastor 1:30 PM	30 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	31 We Gather As One to Worship at 6:00 PM (NO services at St. John on Sunday, June 1)

Blessings/Celebrations

St. John's **Senior High School graduates** include **Dax Ervin** (son of Kim & Derek Muehlenkamp and Joseph Ervin); **Hailey Gier** (daughter of George Gier and Marcia Steckel); **Hannah Krug** (daughter of Tad & Courtney Krug); **Kelvie Reeves** (daughter of Scott & Crecia Reeves); **Mason Rohr** (son of Mike & Jean Rohr); and **Ayden Wagner** (son of Jenny Pfannenstiel). St. John's College graduates include **Aubrey Larson** (Bethany College, Bachelor's Degree) and **Renee Nichol** (Emporia State University, Major in Chemistry and Minor in Healthcare).

New arrivals include **Kristine Mader's grandson Magnus Graham Carey** (born March 3, 2025); and **Brad & Cheryl Prester's grandson Vincent Louie Oste** (born April 1, 2025).

April was also a month for baptisms – **Kyah Grace Pfannenstiel, daughter of Lilly and Malachi Pfannenstiel**, was baptized April 13, 2025; and **Cruz Joseph Weigel, son of Madysen and Preston Weigel**, was baptized April 26, 2025. Blessings to the Pfannenstiel and Weigel families!

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
Mar 30 *			91	91
Apr 6	19	21	42	82
Apr 13 **	33	28	120	181
Apr 20 ***	59	76	131	266
Apr 27	28	25	39	92

Offering

Mar 30	\$2,526.00
Apr 6	5,228.75
Apr 13	3,892.00
Apr 20	6,967.00
Apr 27	3,615.00

* We Gather As One at the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 30 – NO services 6:00 pm Saturday, March 29 or 8:15 am Sunday, March 30

** Palm Sunday

*** Easter

Special Services Attendance

Lenten Devotion Service 04/02/25	51
Lenten Devotion Service 04/09/25	23
Maundy Thursday 04/17/25	62
Good Friday 04/18/25	43

May 2025 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
May 3.....	Glenn Gideon.....	Susy Krug.....	
May 10.....	Ramona Luebbers.....	Jeremy Ulrich.....	
May 17.....	Galen & Rudene Niedenthal.....	Galen Niedenthal.....	
May 24.....	Brad & Cheryl Prester.....	Jeremy Ulrich.....	
May 31.....	Bob & Elaine Voos.....	Elaine Voos.....	
June 7.....	Brenda Yoder.....	Susy Krug.....	



8:15 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
May 4 *.....	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich.....	Cheryl Kraich.....	
May 11.....	Dick & Georganna McCrary.....	Georganna McCrary.....	
May 18 *.....	Connie Schinkus.....	Connie Schinkus.....	
May 25.....	Katrin Kolder.....	Katrin Kolder.....	
June 1.....	Kurt & Lois DeWald.....	Lois DeWald.....	

* **Acolyte:** Tytin Bay



10:30 Sun	Greeter	Usher	Lector
May 4.....	YOUTH (N); YOUTH (S).....	YOUTH.....	YOUTH
May 11.....	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N); Don F. Krug (S).....	Mike & Diane Waymaster.....	Susy Krug
May 18.....	Ronnie & Ginger Tittel (N); Deloris Janne (S).....	Ronnie & Ginger Tittel.....	Carol Fritz
May 25.....	Gerald & Mary Mai (N); Margaret Finkbeiner (S).....	Gerald & Mary Mai.....	Ruth Keil
June 1.....	Morris & Barbara Krug (N); Irene Coffeen (S).....	Morris Krug.....	Deb Kreutzer

10:30 Sun	Acolytes	Musician
May 4.....	Layken Eck, Kollins Dumler.....	
May 11.....	Marshall & Morgan Olson.....	
May 18.....	Rogan Dumler, Alex Krug.....	
May 25.....	NO ACOLYTES (Memorial Day).....	
June 1.....	Tytin Bay.....	



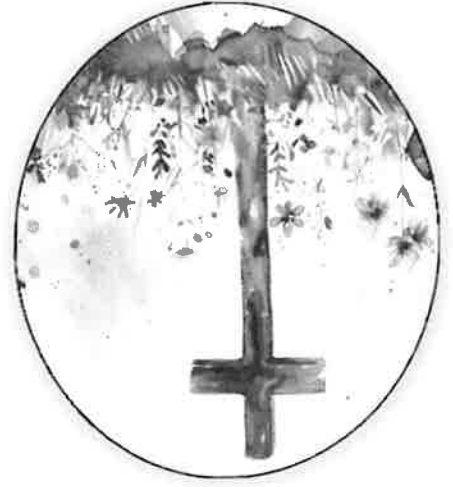
Bulletin Delivery

May 2: John Boxberger
May 9: Margaret Finkbeiner
May 16: Carol Fritz
May 23: Allen & Betty Funk
May 30: Darold & Corine Gideon
June 6: Teresa Hilbrink

May Altar Guild

Deb Karst – Chair
Corine Gideon – Saturday
Connie Dumler, Shayla Peck,
Janet Peerman, Alison Ryan

**Newsletter
May 2025**



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

**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 am 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, D.J. Klema, Melinda Olson,
Heather Pohlman, Kelvie Reeves, Pastor
Teri Sutherlin