St. John Lutheran Church

425 N. Main, Russell KS 67665 ♦ 785-483-5358
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Find us on Facebook

Pastor: Teri Sutherlin ♦ PMA: John Dumler

April 2023

St. John Lutheran Church
2023 Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday with Holy Communion
Palm Sunday celebrated at all services April 1 and 2
(the Children's Donkey Parade will be presented at the 10:30 service)

Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion
Thursday, April 6 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Special Music: St. John Ringers and Agape Choir

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 7 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Special Music: Agape Choir

Easter Vigil with Holy Communion
Saturday, April 8 ~ 6:00 pm ~ Chapel

Easter Sunday

Easter Sonrise Service ~ 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast hosted by 425 Youth ~ 8:00 am ~ Parish Hall

Sunday School and Confirmation Activities ~ 9:15 am

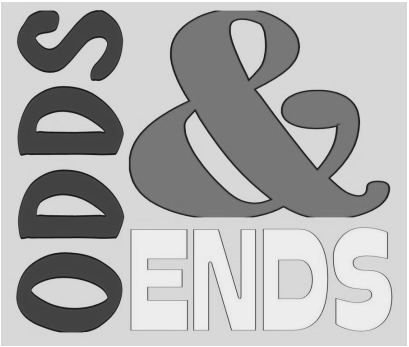
Easter Service ~ 10:30 am
Special Music: St. John Ringers and Agape Choir

St. John Lutheran Church Mission Statement:
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**

RCAOC Lenten Luncheons

The final RCAOC Lenten Luncheon will be the Wednesday of Holy Week (April 5) at First Congregational Church. Although the long-standing tradition of this event is to serve as a gathering of ***men*** in the community, ***everyone*** is welcome to attend! The meal and meditation will begin at noon.

St. John hosted the RCAOC Lenten Luncheon on Wednesday, March 15.Pastor Teri shared a meditation on two of the "I AM" statements of Jesus - I am the gate of the sheepfold and I am the good shepherd - and a wonderful meal was served to approximately 100 people. Many, many thanks to all those who helped plan and prepare, set up and serve, and perhaps most importantly PROVIDE DESSERTS! Blessings to you all!



- St. John Women of the ELCA will meet 10:00 am, Thursday, April 13. Jean Mai will serve as leader. All women of St. John are welcome to participate in this bible study. Contact the office for more information.
- On Sunday, April 16, 2023, Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort, Hays KS) will host a German Service starting at 2:00 pm. Pastor Delvin Strecker will lead the service and German and welcomes everyone to attend. Willkommen!

- To be included in the May Newsletter, articles and announcements must be submitted no later than Tuesday, April 18
- Super duper, enormous thanks to the volunteers who helped deliver Meals on Wheels during March. It wasn't always pleasant weather, but the smiles you delivered (along with the meals) made the day shine!
- The contact list for funeral luncheon volunteers is somewhat out of date. If you have not received a call to provide food or help serve, please contact the office to verify your contact information. New volunteers are always welcome - call the office if you are willing to be contacted to bring food or help serve. You are not obligated to help at all funeral luncheons, and will be called once every two or three luncheons. Please note: all donations are appreciated, whether homemade or purchased.

Pastor Teri's Calendar - April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Palm Sunday Worship with Communion (6 pm)
2 Palm Sunday Worship with Communion (8:15 am) Sun School/Confirmation (9:15 am) Palm Sunday Worship w/Communion, Donkey Parade (10:30 am)	3 Pastor's Day Off (day of rest and renewal)	4 Western KS Zoom Mtg (9:30 am) Sewing Group (1:30 pm)	5 Lenten Luncheon at First Congregational (noon) Agape Choir (7:30 pm)	6 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion (7 pm)	7 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day Good Friday Service (7 pm)	8 Easter Vigil Worship with Communion (6 pm)
9 **~~ EASTER ~~** Sonrise Service (7:00 am) Breakfast (8:00 am) Sun School/Confirmation (9:15 am) Easter Service (10:30 am) [St. John Ringers, Agape Choir, KRSL Broadcast] DJ Kuhn Memorial at Gorham Senior Center (1:00 pm)	10 Pastor out of town	11 Pastor out of town	12 Pastor out of town	13 Pastor out of town	14 Pastor out of town	15 Worship (6 pm)
16 Worship (8:15 & 10:30 am)	17 Pastor's Day Off (day of rest and renewal)	18 Western KS Mtg in Hays (9:30 am) Sewing Group (1:30 pm)	19 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day Agape Choir (7:30 pm)	20 Bible Study (1 pm) Council Meeting (6:30 pm)	21 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day Rocky Yoder Memorial Service (11 am)	22 Worship with Communion and Baptism (6 pm)
23 Worship (8:15 & 10:30 am) St. John Ringers & KRSL Broadcast (10:30 am) Pastor Kathy Whitney Installation Service in Kensington (3 pm)	24 Pastor's Day Off (day of rest and renewal)	25 Sewing Group (1:30 pm) Record Clergy Comments for 04/26/23	26 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day Clergy Comments (7:30 am) First Call Zoom Meeting (10 am)	27 Bible Study (1 pm)	28 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	29 **NO WORSHIP** **We Gather As One** **Sunday, April 30 ~ 8:15 am**
30 **WE GATHER AS ONE** **Worship w/Communion (8:15 am)** Sun School/Conf (9:15 am) First Communion Class #3 (9:15 am) **NO 10:30 WORSHIP**						

April 2023 Worship Assistants

6:00 PM SAT

GREETER/USHER:

1 Darold & Corine Gideon
8 Glenn Gideon
15 Bob & Elaine Voos
22 Ramona Luebbers
29 NO Saturday Service

May 6 Suan Krug

READER:

1 Sheryl Krug
8 Nancy Aspegren
15 Elaine Voos
22 Jeremy Ulrich
29 NO Saturday Service

May 6 Susan Krug

8:15 AM SUN

GREETER/USHER:

2 Gordon & Cheryl Kraich
9 EASTER
16 Sheryl Krug
23 Kurt & Lois DeWald
30 Connie Schinkus

May 7 Kurt & Lois DeWald

LECTOR:

2 Cheryl Kraich
9 EASTER
16 Sheryl Krug
23 Lois DeWald
30 Connie Schinkus

May 7 Lois DeWald

BULLETIN DELIVERY

March 31 ..... Sheryl Krug
April 7 ..... Ramona Luebbers
April 14 ..... Georganna McCrary
April 21 ..... Olson Family
April 28 ..... Frank Peirano

May 5 ..... Crecia Reeves

MUSICIAN SCHEDULE PENDING

ALTAR GUILD

Barb Krug, Danielle Ewers, Deb Karst,
Tammy Nuss, Melinda Olson, Janet Peerman

10:30 AM SUN

GREETERS:

2 Ron & Ginger Tittel (N)
Eck Family (S)
9 EASTER
16 Gerald & Mary Mai (N)
Irene Coffeen (S)
23 425 Youth (N)
Bonnie Buehler (S)
30 NO 10:30 Service

May 7 Ron & Ginger Tittel (N)
Deloris Janne (S)

USHER:

2 Ron & Ginger Tittel
9 Easter
16 Gerald & Mary Mai
23 425 Youth
30 NO 10:30 Service

May 7 Ron & Ginger Tittel

ACOLYTES:

2 Maggie & Marshall Olson
9 Easter
16 Ellise & Jasmine Jefferson
23 Tytin Bay; Morgan Olson
30 NO 10:30 Service

May 7 Kierra & Layken Eck

LECTOR:

2 Eck Family
9 Easter
16 Susan Krug
23 425 Youth
30 NO 10:30 Service

May 7 Sheryl Krug

Easter Sunday Worship Assistants

Please consider this a tentative schedule - if you would like to volunteer as a worship assistant at either Easter service, please contact the office as soon as possible.

Sonrise Service (7:00 am)

Greeters: 425 Youth (several of them while the rest continue preparing Easter Breakfast!)
Ushers:
Acolytes: 425 Youth (several others while the rest continue preparing Easter Breakfast!)
Lector:
Musician: Sandy Krug

Easter Service (10:30 am)

Greeters: Dean Keil, Nathan Ryan, Blaine Stoppel, Gaylon Walter
Ushers: Nathan Ryan, Gaylon Walter
Acolytes:
Lector:
Musicians: St. John Ringers and Agape Choir; Juanita Flegler, Ruth Keil, Glenda Phillips, Margaret Walter

Sunday, April 30, 2023
8:15 am

St. John members are a family - a family that extends across three services each weekend. Most members have a preferred service, and rarely cross paths with folks attending the other two services. The Worship & Music Committee decided to encourage the St. John family to gather together on each fifth Sunday in 2023.

The first combined service was the 10:30 Service on Sunday, January 29 (as luck would have it, that was the very same day as the Annual Congregational Meeting).

Everyone is invited to gather together at the 8:15 Service on Sunday, April 30, This service has a solid crew of regular attendees, and they invite you to come bright-eyed and bushy-tailed to start your week at 8:15 Worship!

The fifth Sunday in July will give the Saturday Service a chance to shine! St. John members are invited to attend the 6:00 pm service on Saturday, July 30. More details (and a few surprises) will be available soon.

October and December both have five Sundays, and plans are underway to make each of those combined services a special event for EVERYONE!

PMA Notes ~ April 2023

By John Dumler, PMA

I was here at Church on a Sunday finishing some tasks as the Treasurer of the Russell County Association of Churches (balancing the checkbook, etc.), I happened to look down at our bulletin and I saw this lesson: Psalm 121:1-8.

As I looked at the verses I began to think about this - we have lost people this month, but God found them! We have come this far on God.

I looked at the first lines - I life my eyes to the hills. From where is my help to come? I realized throughout this journey through the Lenten season, we have found one constant - GOD! God's love, mercy, and forgiveness! We always look to the Lord, but here it is in black and white - Psalm 121:8.

We sometimes get caught up in "life" and our understanding found in these verses - get lost! Someone asked me my thoughts about traveling through life. My own journey has changed from time to time, bt there is one constant - GOD. If you have God as a constant the you have the gift of Our Savior Jesus. This IS what Lent and Easter is!

The retelling of how much God loves us is easy - John 3:16-17. These verses may seem like a cop out, or even the Cliffs Notes version, for describing our great God, but this IS what it's all about! God makes it EASY to believe:

> [16]"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. [17]"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Now the journey make be difficult at times. He says to be like him, walk his road and I think *How? I'm only human. It's hard to forgive others. It's hard to love everyone. Have you met some of the people I know??*

The truth is the journey IS hard - but if we believe that at the end we have a victory that Satan can never take away - we will know the joy of what Jesus did. Happy Easter! God has given us victory even over death. Jesus paid for us - let us rejoice and be glad in this! AMEN!

Together: Traveling the Way of Jesus
2023 ELCA Central States Synod Assembly ~ June 3, 2023 ~ via Zoom

The adjustment to an online assembly allows the Synod to conduct necessary business while being considerate of voting members' time and travel as well as the congregations' finances.

According to the Central States Synod constitution all rostered ministers shall be voting members of the assembly and each congregation shall be entitled to send two lay voting members, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman.

If you are interested in representing St. John Lutheran Church during the Synod Assembly, please contact Pastor Teri as soon as possible. Voting members must be registered no later than May 12, 2023.

Our Parish Records

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
Mar 5	18	28	60	106
Mar 12	21	13	41	75
Mar 19	20	21	49	90
Mar 26 *				

Offering **

Mar 5	4,861.00
Mar 12	2,679.00
Mar 19	2,613.00
Mar 26 *	

**** Data not available at time of publication***
***** Weekly offering amounts include Wednesday Lenten Services***

St. John Ringers and Agape Choir Schedules

Wed, Apr 5..... St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
Thurs, Apr 6.....St. John Ringers and Agape Choir - special music at Maundy Thursday Service
Fri, Apr 7.....Agape Choir - special music at Good Friday Service
Sun, Apr 9.....St. John Ringers and Agape Choir - special music at 10:30 Easter Service
Wed, Apr 12..... St. John Ringers practice
Wed, Apr 19..... St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
Sun, Apr 23.....St. John Ringers - special music at 10:30 Service
Wed, April 26..... St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
Wed, May 3 ..... St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
Sun, May 7 .....Agape Choir - special music at 10:30 Service

St. John Ringers practice - 6:30 pm
Agape Choir practice - 7:30 pm

Sunday School News

⇒ The last day of Sunday School classes for Spring 2023 will be May 21. Stay tuned for more details about events taking place that day!

⇒ Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem! On Sunday, April 1, St. John Sunday School Students will observe Palm Sunday by presenting a donkey processional at the beginning of the 10:30 service. All families are encouraged to attend this festive service!

⇒ Sunday School students will enjoy Easter activities during the Sunday School hour on Easter Sunday (April 9).

425 Youth News

⇒ 425 Youth will be preparing and serving the traditional Easter Breakfast to be served in the Parish Hall on Sunday, April 9 at approximately 8:00 am (immediately following the Sonrise Service). Stay after the Sonrise Service or come early! Enjoy a wonderful breakfast and Easter morning fellowship.

⇒ Details are falling into place for the 425 Youth trip to Ark Encounter (Williamstown, Kentucky). The 425 Youth appreciate the support shown by the St. John congregation, and are excited to share a story (or two) upon their return!

VBS News

⇒ WHAT? Vacation Bible School? Already? -- YES!! Be ready to meet Daniel and his friends, who kept their faith in a faithless culture. After all, Daniel did more than survive a den of hungry lions! Details will be shared when available.

First Communion and Confirmation News

⇒ Plan to attend the 8:15 Service on Sunday, April 30 as ***we gather as one*** - and stay for the LAST First Communion Class starting at 9:15 am. Final details and schedules will be discussed at this class.

⇒ Confirmation is tentatively set for Reformation Sunday (October 29) which is a FIFTH Sunday - do I smell plans for a potluck? If you would like to help plan a special day for our 2023 Confirmands, please contact Pastor Teri or Kristy Mader as soon as possible.

Graduation and Scholarship News

⇒ Please let us know as soon as possible if you have a student celebrating a promotion or graduation this spring. These students will be recognized by the St. John congregation during a Sunday service (date TBD).

⇒ Applications links for the Mai Family Scholarship and the Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship will be posted in the near future on the St. John website (stjohnrussell.com). Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, June 30. Award notifications will be made in writing to each recipient. Awards will be presented directly to the educational institution. Recipients (or a representative) must be present at the 10:30 service on Scholarship Recognition Sunday (date TBD).

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 - Meridy Barnes
Cathy Brown
2 - Monte Nuss
Darrell Ryan
4 - Nova Lee Boxberger
6 - Kelli Johnson
Trey Zorn
7 - Kyleigh Kasper
Jacob Parsons
Connor Schwien
Brady Stoppel
9 - Evan Backhus
10 - Kyle Lampert
Barrett Mai
Riley Pfannenstiel
Reata Stoppel
12 - Gail Downing
Jace Hilbrink
13 - Chad Counts
Jean Mai
Brooklyn Sidebottom
14 - Bryan Dinkel
Pam Gudenkauf
Brad Wagner
15 - Cathy Boxberger
16 - Blake Stoppel
20 - Valerie Ryan
22 - Joseph Hamel
23 - Grace Hamel
Leonard Steinle
24 - Richard Krause
Lori Maier
25 - Kim Birky
26 - Danielle Ewers
27 - Janelle Michaelis
Kayla Noller
Maggie Olson
Morgan Olson
29 - Steven Madson
30 - Samuel Nuss
Brady Ruggels

1 - Cory & Jennifer Funk
8 - Jon & Kim Birky
19 - Daron & Katrina Woelk
21 - Morris & Barbara Krug
25 - Kurt & Lois DeWald
Monte & Mary Nuss
26 - Jacob & Marie Boxberger
28 - Lance & Mary Waymaster
29 - Daniel & Linda Krug
30 - Brady & Kaitlyn Stoppel

Prayer lists, birthday lists, anniversary lists, etc. are kept as current as possible.

Please contact ***Pastor Teri*** if a loved one's name was removed in error; to add someone to the prayer list, etc.; or to remove someone from the prayer list, etc.

Please note: No one will be listed without permission.

Prayers for God's presence and healing

Prayers for our Care Center residents

God's comfort to the family and friends of

Janice Frerichs passed away on March 17, 2023 in Columbia, Missouri at the age of 90. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Herman Frerichs; sons, Warren, David, and Karl and their families. A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 1 at 11:00 am at Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, Kansas 66121.

Visit www.heartlandcremation.com for a full obituary. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Lambda Legal (https://lambdalegal.org/).

Per email from Karl Frerichs, 03/22/23

Prayers for those serving in the US military or in service abroad

God Bless our Troops

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

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Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper
sjlcbookkeeper@ruraltel.net

Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant

Debora Kreutzer, Custodian

John Kreutzer, Custodian

Church Council

Officers:

Blaine Maier, President
Kristine Mader, Vice President
Carol Fritz, Secretary
Brady Ruggels, Treasurer

Members:

Judy Holmes, Lee Keffer, D.J. Klema, Kelvie Reeves, Pastor Teri Sutherlin, Gaylon Walter, Margaret Walter

Council Committees:

Cemetery; Education; Evangelism/ Parish Fellowship/Social Ministry; Mutual Ministry (Pastoral Support); Property; Stewardship/Finance; Worship & Music/Technology; Youth

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

The St. John Newsletter is available online at stjohnrussell.com

To have your name removed from the mailing list, please contact the office at your convenience.

The 10:30 Worship Services on April 9 and 23 will be broadcast on KRSL (990 AM and 98.1 FM) and Nex-Tech Cable Channel 130.

Sunday Services are streamed live at www.stjohnrussell.com.

Outreach is made possible as a ministry of St. John Lutheran Church.