

St. John Lutheran Church

425 N. Main, Russell KS 67665 ♦ 785-483-5358
Website: stjohnrussell.com ♦ Email: stjohn@ruraltel.net

Pastor: Teri Sutherlin ♦ PMA: John Dumler

April 2024



Teri Talk - April 2024

Jesus teaches about hospitality throughout the gospels. To welcome those the world often rejects. The majority of these teachings were to the religious leaders of the temple. Today, that message is transferred to the church. What does it mean to show hospitality and welcome in the church today? It is easy to offer hospitality to our own, to recognize when a need arises within the congregation or community. It is easy to spot and welcome those who look like us. John 7:24 says, *“Stop judging by the way things look. Be fair and judge by what is really right.”* (ERV)

Then there is James, “the Mr. Manners” of Biblical ethics and Christian behavior. *“My dear brothers and sisters, you are believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. So don’t treat some people better than others. ² Suppose someone comes into your meeting wearing very nice clothes and a gold ring. At the same time a poor person comes in wearing old, dirty clothes. ³ You show special attention to the person wearing nice clothes. You say, “Sit here in this good seat.” But you say to the poor person, “Stand there!” or “Sit on the floor by our feet!” ⁴ Doesn’t this show that you think some people are more important than others? You set yourselves up as judges—judges who make bad decisions.”* (James 2:1-4, ERV)

We judge many things based on appearance and expectations. Take food for example and the phrase “we eat with our eyes.” We’ve all had that plate of food that did not look very appetizing. Maybe the blend of ingredients made it an unappealing color, or it resembled something else unpleasant. But it was delicious! And we’ve experienced the opposite: food beautifully presented and arranged on the plate, each item looks perfect, but the taste is bland, has some funky spice in it, or the meat is tough or dry. The exquisitely decorated dessert that disappoints when we take our first bite.

Churches can be judged in the same way. A church can have the most beautiful architecture, elaborate stained glass, and gorgeous adornments, yet not feel very welcoming. While a small Morton building with rows of metal folding chairs may not be much to look at but something happens in there that draws people in. A Church is not a building, it is its people.

Rebecca Pippert, tells a story in her book *Out of the Salt Shaker and into the World*, about what she witnessed in church soon after her arrival in Portland, Oregon. It was where and when she met Bill.

(Continued on page 2)

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***

“Bill was in his early twenties and had wild hair, and he wore a T-shirt with holes in it, blue jeans, and no shoes. This “hippie” wardrobe was his uniform for his entire four years of college.

“He was a brilliant student, but kind of esoteric. A very, very bright young man. He became a Christian while attending college. Across the street from the campus was a church with a very well-dressed, very conservative congregation. They wanted to develop a ministry to the students but were not sure how to go about it.”

“One Sunday, Bill decided to go there. He walked in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair. The service had already started and Bill started down the aisle looking for a seat. The church was completely packed and he couldn't find a seat. By then, people were really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one said anything.”

“Bill got closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realized there were no seats, he just squatted down right on the carpet. By then the people were really uptight, and the tension in the air was thick. About that time, the minister realized that from way at the back of the church, a deacon was slowly making his way toward Bill.”

“Now the deacon was in his eighties, and he had silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A Godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walked with a cane. As he started walking toward this boy, everyone was saying to themselves “*well, you can't blame him for what he was going to do.*” How could you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some hippie college kid sitting on the floor in church?”

“It took a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church was utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes were focused on him. You couldn't even hear anyone breathing. The minister couldn't even preach the sermon until the deacon did what he had to do.

“And now they saw this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, the old man lowered himself and sat down next to Bill and worshiped with him so Bill wouldn't be alone. Everyone was choked up with emotion. When the minister gained control, he said, “What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget.”¹

This is a story about true hospitality and welcome. Helping someone feel comfortable, like they belong, and meeting them where they are instead of insisting they “fit in” in an expected, ie. Traditional way.

It's a story of compassion, mercy, and grace. Bill became a valued member of that congregation and helped them build a vibrant student ministry, but that would not have happened if the stately deacon had shown him the door or had “corrected him” and said, “young man we do not sit on the floor.” Any member of that congregation could have made a different choice other than silently watching (anticipating?) the outcome between the deacon and the young man sitting on the floor. When anyone of them saw *the stranger* looking for a place to sit, to fit in, they could have made room, they could have intercepted the lost, out of place, searching person and said, “Hi, my name is, please, sit here with me.” Amen

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

Pastor Teri's Calendar - April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Worship with Communion 7:00 & 10:30 AM (St. John Ringers and Agape Choir at 10:30) - Easter Breakfast 8:30 AM	01 Pastor out of town	02 Pastor out of town	03 Pastor out of town	04 Pastor out of town	05 Pastor out of town	06 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM; celebrating Emily Olson's First Communion
07 Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM (Installation of Council at 10:30)	08 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	09 Appointment 9:30 AM; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Executive Committee 5:30 PM; Worship & Music Committee 6:30 PM	10 Synod First Call Zoom Meeting 10:00-11:30 AM; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	11 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM; Bible Study with Pastor 1:30 PM; RCAOC at St. Mary's 6:30 PM	12 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Cora Pope Baptism 5:00 PM (Private)	13 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM; celebrating Sasha Robbins's Baptism and First Communion
14 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM	15 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	16 Office Hours 9:00 AM-noon; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	17 WKS Regional Meeting in Hays, 9:00 AM to noon; Altar Guild Spring Dinner 5:30 PM; Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	18 Office Hours 9:00 AM-noon; Bible Study with Pastor 1:30 PM; Church Council 6:30 PM	19 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	20 Worship 6:00 PM
21 Worship with Communion 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM (Agape Choir at 10:30)	22 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	23 Mandatory Synod Training Online 9:00 AM-noon; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	24 Home visitation/Pastoral care; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM	25 Office Hours 9:00 AM-noon; Bible Study with Pastor 1:30 PM	26 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	27 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
28 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM (St. John Ringers at 10:30); Care Center Worship 2:00-4:00 PM	29 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	30 Office Hours 9:00 AM-noon; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	01 Home visitation/Pastoral care; Stewardship Committee 6:00 PM; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	02 Office Hours 9:00 AM-noon; Bible Study with Pastor 1:30 PM	03 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	04 Worship 6:00 PM



Although he's not been seen much this winter, there have been several recent reports of John Dumlér sightings!!

When making a quick stop at St. John in mid-March, John said he hopes to be back in action very soon and he's looking forward to being back among the St. John family!

John and Deb would like to express their deep gratitude for the many prayers, calls, notes, and support they have received during their recent health adventures.



Central States Synod

Synod Assembly

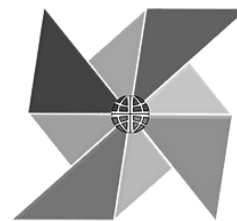
June 6-8, 2024

Embassy Suites KC/Olathe
10401 S. Ridgeview Road
Olathe, KS 66061
913-353-9280

*Spirit Breathed;
Spirit Blown*

in the present and future. The assembly will provide an opportunity to gather, reflect, worship, and discern where the Spirit is leading us as we conduct the business of the synod.

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 during the Synod Assembly, please contact Pastor Teri or Lee Keffer as soon as possible.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE					OFFERING	
Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total		
Feb 25	30	30	68	128	Feb 25.....	\$3,448.00
Mar 3	20	30	44	94	Mar 3.....	4,825.00
Mar 10	34	26	60	120	Mar 10.....	2,622.00
Mar 17	24	25	47	96	Mar 17.....	2,867.00
Mar 24*	15	27	76	118	Mar 24.....	2,045.00
Mar 28**					Mar 28 **	
Mar 29 ***					Mar 29 ***	
Mar 31 ****					March 31 ****	

* **Palm Sunday - Donkey Processional at 10:30 service**
 ** **Maundy Thursday - data not available at time of publication**
 *** **Good Friday - data not available at time of publication**
 **** **Easter - data not available at time of publication**



The Bethany College Choir, Chamber Choir and Handbell Choir started their 2024 Spring Tour with a concert at St. John the evening of Thursday, March 7.

The choirs arrived at St. John in the afternoon for rehearsal, and then gathered in the Parish Hall to meet their host families and enjoy a meal prepared and served by the Olson Family. The students changed into concert wear and opened the performance at 7:30 pm. After the concert, students accompanied their hosts to enjoy an overnight stay. Host families provided overnight accommodations for pairs or groups of students.

Friday morning, the host families returned the students to St. John where they were treated to a breakfast buffet prepared and provided by Daron and Katrina Woelk, Melinda Olson, and Cindy Ross. After a morning devotional (and really bad jokes), the students and staff loaded up the bus and headed to their next destination.

Thanks to all those who helped make the Bethany students and staff welcome during their visit to Russell.

St. John Ringers and Agape Choir Schedules



Wed, Apr 3 St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
Wed, Apr 10 St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
Wed, Apr 17 St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
Sun, Apr 21Agape Choir - special music at 10:30 Service

Wed, Apr 24 St. John Ringers practice
Sun, Apr 28St. John Ringers - special music at 10:30 Service

Wed, May 1 St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
Sun, May 5.....Agape Choir - special music at 10:30 Service

The St. John Ringers schedule for May will be determined soon.

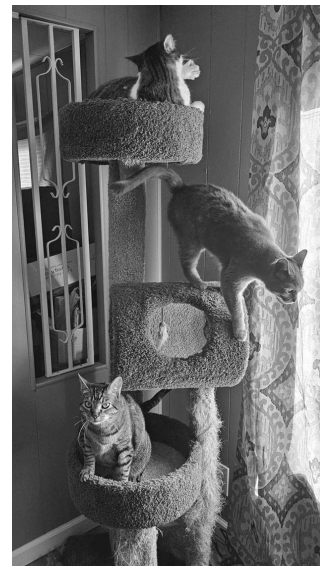
St. John Ringers practice - 6:30 pm
Agape Choir practice - 7:30 pm

Note from a St. John member:

I'm needing to rehome my beloved cats as soon as possible! No fault of their own! Unfortunately I'm developing more allergies and have to use a CPAP machine now for sleep apnea.

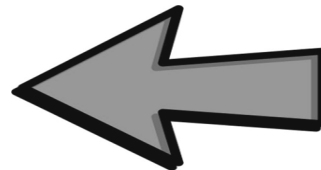
I would prefer they stick together, as they have been since they were kittens. They are only use to being indoors. Located in Russell, KS.

For more information and additional pictures, contact the church office.



Pastor Teri will serve as **SONG LEADER/LITURGIST** at all services
(6:00 Saturday, 8:15 Sunday, 10:30 Sunday) each week.

Any exceptions will be discussed in advance.



*April 2024
Worship
Assistants*

10:30 AM SUN

GREETERS:

- 7 Ron & Ginger Tittel (N)
- Gina Langhofer (S)
- 14 Youth (N)
- Dick & Georganna McCrary (S)
- 21 Morris & Barbara Krug (N)
- Deloris Janne (S)
- 28 Brad & Sherri Stoppel (N)
- Irene Coffeen (S)

USHER:

- 7 Ron & Ginger Tittel
- 14 Youth
- 21 Morris Krug
- 28 Brad & Sherri Stoppel

ACOLYTES:

- 7 Maggie & Morgan Olson
- 14 Ellise & Jasmine Jefferson
- 21 Rogan Dumler/Karrsyn Ross
- 28 Layken Eck/Campbell Lofland

LECTOR:

- 7 Gina Langhofer
- 14 Youth
- 21 Deb Kreutzer
- 28 Cindy Ross

6:00 PM SAT

GREETER/USHER:

- 6 Allen & Betty Funk
- 13 Darold & Corine Gideon
- 20 Glenn Gideon
- 27 Ramona Luebbers

READER:

- 6
- 13 Jeremy Ulrich
- 20
- 27 Jeannine Byers-Long

8:15 AM SUN

GREETER/USHER:

- 7 Gordon & Cheryl Kraich
- 14 Dick & Georganna McCrary
- 21 Connie Schinkus
- 28 Sheryl Krug

LECTOR:

- 7 Cheryl Kraich
- 14 Georganna McCrary
- 21 Connie Schinkus
- 28 Sheryl Krug

ALTAR GUILD

Barb Krug - Chair
Melinda Olson - Saturday
Danielle Ewers, Rhonda Kuhlmann,
Tiffinie Mai, Janet Peerman

BULLETIN DELIVERY

5..... Darold & Corine Gideon
12..... Frank Peirano
19..... John Boxberger
26..... Carol Fritz

♥ MAKE A DIFFERENCE ♥
BE WHO YOU ARE CALLED TO BE

Odds & ENDS

- A very special **THANK YOU** to those who donated an Easter lily or sponsored an Easter candle to the Glory of God, or to honor a loved one. Your generosity, as well as the beauty of the lilies and candles, was greatly appreciated by all those in attendance. Easter lilies may be picked up starting Monday, April 1 from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. Unless other arrangements have been made in advance, lilies remaining after 1:30 pm on Friday, April 5 will be discarded.
- **Pastor Teri will be out of town Monday, April 1 through Friday, April 5**
- **NO Bible Study with Pastor on Thursday, April 4**
- Trinity Lutheran Church in Hays (2703 Fort Street) will host a **German Worship Service** led by Pastor Delvin Strecker on Sunday, April 7, 2024. Service time is 3:00 pm, and a meal will follow. All are invited.
- The **Executive Committee** of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, April 9 at 5:30 pm and **Church Council** will meet Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 pm.
- The **Worship & Music Committee** will meet Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 pm.
- **St. John Ladies Bible Study** will be held Thursday, April 11 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. All women are invited to attend. Large print materials available upon request.
- **Bible Study with Pastor will resume Thursday, April 11 at 1:30 pm.**
- The **Altar Guild Spring Dinner** will be held Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 pm.
- To be included in the **May Newsletter**, information must be submitted no later than Friday, April 19.
- **SAVE THE DATE! St. John will be participating in the Russell County Association of Churches Community Worship Service at Bickerdyke Park at 10:00 am, Sunday, June 30.** There will be no services at St. John on Sunday, June 30. Please plan to gather with the community to celebrate the glory of God.
- The 2024 Second Quarter (April, May, June) “**Christ in Our Home**” **devotional books** are available in the bookcase in the narthex, in the rack outside Pastor’s office, and in the brochure rack. A limited number of regular and large print copies are available. Individual subscriptions are available in regular or large print (devotionals will be sent to your home). For more information about individual subscriptions, contact the church office.
- **BIG THANKS** to the **volunteers who helped deliver Meals on Wheels** during March. It was quite a month - it came in like a lion, with nary a lamb in sight. It was cold, cold, cold AND it was hot, hot, hot (sometime in the same week). The weather wasn’t always pleasant, but the smiles you delivered (along with the meals) made every day a **GREAT DAY!!**
- The Sunflower 4-H Club invites everyone to a **Pancake Feed Fundraiser** on Sunday, April 7 from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Russell County 4-H Building.
- The **Russell Kiwanis Club will be hosting a scholarship fundraiser** at LaSada in April and are looking for stand sponsors. For more information, please contact any Kiwanis member.

Hymn selection: an opportunity for everyone!
(plus one pretty corny joke)



OPPORTUNITY: Pastor Teri would like your help with **HYMN** selections for the weekly services!! List some (or all!) of your favorite hymns on the back of your yellow attendance card, and responses will be tallied to help create a “St. John Hymn List”.



JOKE: One Sunday, the pastor told the congregation that the church needed some extra money. The pastor promised that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns. A widow ran up to the altar, handed the pastor a check for \$50,000 and said, “I’ll take him, him, and him.”

.Please note: You can thank Pastor for the opportunity, but **DON’T** blame her for the joke!!



- ⇒ The last day of Sunday School classes for Spring 2024 will be Sunday, May 19. Stay tuned for more details about events taking place that day!
- ⇒ 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 the 10:30 Service on Sunday, May 12.
- ⇒ Application links for the Mai Family Scholarship and the Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship will be posted in the near future on the St. John website (stjohrussell.com). Applications must be submitted no later than Monday, July 1, 2024. Award notifications will be made in writing to each recipient (awards will be presented directly to the education institutions). Recipients (or a representative) must be present at the 10:30 Service on Scholarship Recognition Sunday, July 28, 2024.

Camp Tomah Shinga invites one and all to their Annual Auction fundraiser on Saturday, April 27. Auction items will be available online starting April 22 with final bidding at the fundraiser. The semi-formal event will be held at The Farm & The Odd Fellows (205 W. Second Street, Minneapolis, KS) starting at 6:00 pm. Entertainment, appetizers, and drink ticket included. Tickets are \$50.00 per couple, \$35.00 for individuals.



Camp Tomah Shinga has provided an outdoor Christian camp experience for children and young adults of the Central States Synod for more than half a century. Camp Tomah Shinga is a ministry of the ELCA and builds programs to grow faith in God. Camp programs are available for 1st - 3rd graders, 4th - 6th graders, 7th - 8th graders, and 9th - 12th graders. In addition, Camp Tomah Shinga offers a Fishing Camp for youth from 4th to 12th grades.

Visit camptomahshinga.com for more information. 2024 Camp Registration open now.

This year, the Sunday school children participated in a Lenten service project to provide “birthday kits” for local families in need. Each kit contained everything a family would need to bake a birthday cake and celebrate - a foil pan, cake mix, a can of soda, frosting, candles, sprinkles, and a birthday card.

The students were able to reflect on their own blessings, and pack these kits for those in need. The students surpassed their goal, and built 25 kits! The kits were delivered to the Russell County Food Pantry.

The education committee thanks the congregation for their contributions to this project and for contributions of non-perishable food and personal care items for the Russell County Food Pantry.



Thank You!

Thanks!

Good Job!

Well Done!


The 425 Youth planned, prepared, and led the Lenten Reflection services on February 21 and March 20. Those in attendance were delighted to see so many youth share their time and talents, and encouraged them to continue their participation in services and other church activities.

The 425 Youth hosted the traditional Easter Breakfast between the Easter services on March 31. The free-will offering from the Easter Breakfast will be used to offset costs for the next 425 Youth trip.

Special thanks to all who help support the 425 Youth throughout the year.

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

St. John Lutheran Church
Pastor Teri Sutherland
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
8:30 am to 1:30 pm
785-483-5358
stjohn@ruraltel.net
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<p>St. John Lutheran Church Clergy and Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastor Teri Sutherland (pastor@ruraltel.net)• John Dumler, PMA (pma@ruraltel.net)• Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper• Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant• Debora Kreutzer, Custodian• John Kreutzer, Custodian <p>Church Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President, Lee Keffler• Vice President, Gaylon Walter• Secretary, Carol Fritz• Treasurer, Kylie Stoppel• Afton Brown• Judy Holmes• D.J. Klemma• Kristine Mader• Melinda Olson• Heather Pohlman• Kevie Reeves• Pastor Teri Sutherland	 <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</p>
<p>The 10:30 Worship Services on April 14 and 28 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.</p>	