

St. John Lutheran Church

April 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.

Teri Talk – April 2025

What is Evangelism?

- Evangelism means to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. To testify to the transforming power and love of God you have experienced in your life.
- Evangelism *is not* a program or a committee we engage in to attract new membership.
- Evangelism *is* growing as members of the church body

Evangelism = Testimony or Witness

- The Word "testimony," simply means "a witness."
- A witness tells about what they have personally seen and heard.
- *Your testimony is your story*, what you have heard, seen, and experienced God do in your own life.
- This is the most powerful tool that you have for sharing the good news – Gospel – of Jesus Christ with others.

“The church is a living system that is always growing and transforming. The story belongs to God, our role and relationship as people is being invited in to participate as the body of Christ.”

We have to think about and reflect on our own faith and how we have integrated Jesus’ teachings and example into our own lives.

- What does disciple making mean to you?
- How did you become a disciple?
- How have you experienced God in your own life?
- Think about your church congregation, name three ways you see God at work in the life of your church.
- How does attending worship help you experience God?
- What difference has worship made in your life?
- Have you had a personally transformative experience during worship?

Being able to talk about what we believe, sharing our faith, is about giving the gift of Jesus Christ to others. For some people it feels awkward or uncomfortable and they don’t want to talk about their faith outside of church.

Talking about our Faith

Like many things in life, we have to practice. Most of the things we do, we weren’t great at it the first time we did it. We got better with practice and repetition and then we developed a sense of comfort and mastery. Learning how to share our faith in a supportive environment helps us to become comfortable with sharing our faith in other settings.

- Have you ever had a conversation with anyone outside of the church about faith?
- How did you feel when talking about your Christian faith?
- What kind of conversation about faith was it?
- Were they from the same denomination?
- Did you hear any differences from what you believe?
- Was it adversarial?
- How comfortable were you listening to the other person talk about their faith?
- Did you share what you believe?
- Telling our stories, our personal experiences of the difference our relationship with God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, our faith; has made in our lives is an important part of our own Christian growth.
- We don't need to worry about being eloquent or saying the right words, we just need to be truthful and sincere.

Where do we Start?

- At the beginning...how did you learn about God? About Jesus Christ?
- Who taught you how to pray? Who taught you about the Bible?
- What are some of your favorite Bible verses? What about these verses has meaning for you?
- Do you find guidance from the scriptures for your life?
- Can you identify times in your life when you felt God's presence? What was that experience like for you?

You can write down the answers to these questions. Sometimes it is hard to answer questions like this off the top of our heads, so we need to spend time thinking about them and reflecting on them. Write down your thoughts and memories. Start small, just jot down ideas or a few sentences for now. You might find it helpful to keep a notebook or journal handy so you can write down memories as they occur to you.

Here's the catch though – if we never think about these kinds of questions or how we would answer them, then we find it difficult to talk about our faith. If we cannot talk about our faith, then we never know what opportunities we have missed to share the good news of Jesus Christ with someone who needs to hear those words of hope.

We cannot become comfortable sharing our faith stories unless we continue to practice.

In all the Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection, it is the women who discover the empty tomb and in Matthew & John, they encounter the risen LORD and share their witness, their testimony with the disciples. They have to keep telling the good news, because the disciples at first refuse to listen to them. (See Matthew 28:1-10, John 20:1-18, & Luke 24:1-12). What if they had given up? What if they told no one? (See Mark 16:1-8) The church is in the "business of disciple making," sharing what God has done through Jesus Christ *for us*.

Christ the LORD is Risen! Alleluia! He is Risen, indeed, Alleluia!

Pastor Teri

2025

APRIL

Pastor Teri's Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No 8:15 AM Worship; We Gather As One 10:30 AM (Children and Youth Sunday)	PT 9:00 AM; Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	Quilters 1:30-4:00 PM	PT 9:00 AM; Lenten Lunch at St. John 12:00-1:00 PM; Lenten Devotion Service led by 425 Youth Group 6:00 PM; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	Bible Study 1:30 PM	PT 9:00 AM; Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	Worship 6:00 PM
Worship with Communion 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	PT 9:00 AM; Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	Quilters 1:30-4:00 PM; Executive Committee 5:30 PM	PT 9:00 AM; Lenten Lunch at Emmanuel Lutheran (Milberger) 12:00-1:00 PM; Lenten Devotion Service led by John Dumber, PMA 6:00 PM; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM; Bible Study 1:30 PM; RCAOC 5:30 PM	PT 9:00 AM; Pastor Sermon Writing Day	Palms/Passion Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
Palms/Passion Worship 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM (Children's Parade of Palms, and Baptism of Kyra Pfannenstiel at 10:30 Service)	PT 9:00 AM; Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	Quilters 1:30-4:00 PM	PT 9:00 AM; Lenten Lunch at First Congregational 12:00-1:00 PM; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	Bible Study 1:30 PM; Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion 7:00 PM	PT 9:00 AM; Good Friday Worship Service 7:00 PM	Easter Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
Easter Worship with Communion 7:00 AM & 10:30 AM (St. John Rings Bell Choir & Agape Choir at 10:30 Service); Easter Breakfast 8:00 AM; Sunday School 9:15 AM	Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	Quilters 1:30-4:00 PM; Stewardship & Finance Committee 6:00 PM	Dr. Appt in Hays 3:15 PM; 425 Youth Group 6:30; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	Bible Study 1:30 PM; Church Council 6:30 PM	Pastor Sermon Writing Day	Cruz Weigel baptism; Worship 6:00 PM
Worship 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM (Children and Youth Service at 10:30 AM); Care Center Worship 2:00-4:00 PM	PT 9:00 AM; Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	Quilters 1:30-4:00 PM; Record Clergy Comments	PT 9:00 AM; Home visitation/Pastoral care; 425 Youth Group 6:30; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	Bible Study 1:30 PM	PT 9:00 AM; Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Appointment 1:00 PM	Worship 6:00 PM

St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

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



Performances

Agape Choir	7:00 pm, April 17.....	Meet in Sanctuary at 6:30 pm
.....	7:00 pm, April 18.....	Meet in Sanctuary at 6:30 pm
.....	10:30 am, April 20.....	Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am
.....	10:30 am, May 4.....	Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am
St. John Ringers	10:30 am, April 20.....	Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am

Additional practices and/or performances for St. John Ringers Bell Choir will be finalized as soon as possible.



OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
Mar 2.....	26.....	25.....	60.....	111
Mar 9.....	23.....	17.....	72.....	112
Mar 16.....	19.....	24.....	47.....	90
Mar 23.....	24.....	21.....	71.....	116
Mar 30 *				

Offering

Mar 2.....	\$4,837.00
Mar 9.....	4,498.00
Mar 16.....	2,375.00
Mar 23.....	3,210.00
Mar 30.....	*

* 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 (attendance and offering data not available at time of publication)

Special Services

	Attendance
Ash Wednesday 03/05/25.....	98
Lenten Devotion Service 03/12/25.....	27
Lenten Devotion Service 03/19/25 - Cancelled due to weather	
Lenten Devotion Service 03/26/25.....	21

April PMA Notes

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight. So many things to grasp in this Lenten journey and as I was listening to one the other day I began to think about this journey and road that our Lord Jesus took with his disciples.

I began to think of some of the lyrics to the song: "Take Oh Take me as I am Lord", ELW 814. (Being a teen of the 60's, the title brought to mind the song "Bend me Shape me" by the American Breed!) I looked at the lyrics of the hymn and thought long and hard about them. One of the lyrics, simply put, is what this journey through lent is – what we want as much as Jesus's disciples did back then. In the song it calls on Jesus to "shape me" – and "we" can easily take the place of "me".

This song is about the work Jesus did with the disciples, and for that matter us too in today's world. I believe this to be true above all. My history, if you knew it, was that of a "not so great" background. I started out in construction and it was a life that found me in, as some would say, a hole. I kept digging and it got deeper and deeper. There was only one way out for me. I fell on my knees and asked god to guide me.

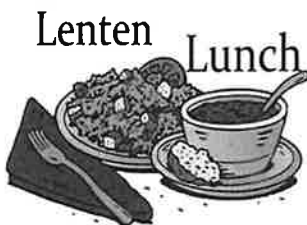
I am not a person that asks for help – I am a person full of that Russian/ German/Dutch stubbornness – even throughout the issues my family has faced this past year. As Pastor handed me some materials to plan one of the services this hymn spoke to "Me" as it would speak to everyone. If you have the opportunity, please look at the lyrics – it is a great tune but these are powerful words as well.

I read the lyrics over and over. I began to see what they spoke to within myself – I am uneducated, I am not worthy, I have done so many things that were wrong. I am what this song is about – today and every day I allow Jesus to mold me, to shape me and to love me.

This journey through lent is a journey of love and life during all the struggles. Jesus will be taken, he will be crucified and die! The disciples will reject him. But the Good News is that he will Rise from the dead! He will finish what God put him on earth for! We are given his grace and mercy and love – we are forgiven. This is the journey Christ is making for us! The Lord lifts us up and stays close to us! He never leaves us! This journey is indeed for us all! Thank you Lord.

Respectfully – John Dumler PMA

2025 Russell County Association of Churches Lenten Lunch Series



Wednesdays ~ Noon to 1:00 pm

Wednesday, April 2St. John Lutheran Church

Wednesday, April 9Emmanuel (Milberger)

Wednesday, April 16First Congregational Church

ODDS AND ENDS

- If you were receiving the monthly newsletter by email and have NOT been receiving it, please contact the office for your email to be added back to the list of receivers and verify your email address.
- The minutes of the March 2025 Council Meeting are posted on stjohnrussell.com; the April Newsletter will be posted as soon as possible.
- The Executive Committee of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, April 8 at 5:30 pm. The Church Council will meet Thursday, April 24 at 6:30 pm.
- St. John Women's Bible Study will be held Thursday, April 10 at 10:00 am. Large print materials are available upon request.
- To be included in the May Newsletter, information must be submitted no later than Tuesday, April 22.
- BIG THANKS to the volunteers who delivered Meals on Wheels during March. It was a traditional Kansas March – hot, hot, hot AND cold, cold, cold – all accompanied by wind, wind, wind. Although the weather wasn't always pleasant, the smiles you delivered along with the meals made every day a GREAT DAY!
- The Second Quarter "Christ In Our Home" devotion books are available now. Regular and large print copies are available (while supplies last) and are located in the book shelf in the narthex, in the rack outside Pastor Teri's office, and in the brochure rack at the top of the stairs by the South Main entrance (by the elevator).
- **PLEASE NOTE change in Communion Schedule for April**
 - Sunday, April 6 – communion
 - Saturday, April 12 – communion
 - Saturday, April 19 – Easter worship with communion
 - Sunday, April 20 – Easter worship with communion (7:00 and 10:30 am)



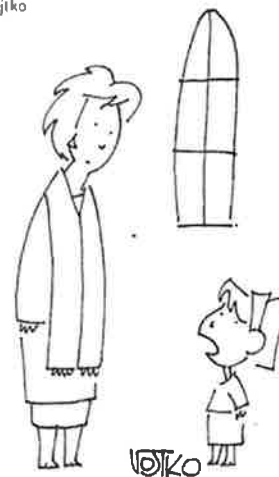
Blessings to Alice Fae Johnson and Mark Johnson who confirmed their membership at the 10:30 am service on Sunday, March 9, 2025.

Blessings to Melissa Cronin who confirmed her membership at the 6:00 pm service on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

Welcome to the St. John Lutheran Church family!

LIGHT SIDE

Cartoons: Bob Vojtko



"I've read almost all of the Easter Scriptures.
When does the Easter Bunny show up?"

St. John Lutheran Church Lenten Season/Holy Week/Easter Schedule

Wednesday, April 2 –

RCAOC Lenten Lunch at St. John Lutheran Church (Noon – 1:00 pm)
Midweek Lenten Devotion Services in Chapel led by 425 Youth (6:00-6:30 pm)



Wednesday, April 9 –

Midweek Lenten Devotion Services in Chapel led by John Dumler, PMA (6:00-6:30 pm)

Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13 –

Palm Sunday Services (Children's Donkey processional at 10:30 service)
Celebration of Baptism for Kyah Grace Pfannenstiel, daughter of Lillian
and Malachi Pfannenstiel at 10:30 service



Thursday, April 17 –

Maundy Thursday Service with Communion (7:00 pm)

Friday, April 18 –

Good Friday Service (7:00 pm)

Saturday, April 19 –

Easter Service with Communion (6:00 pm)



Sunday, April 20 –

Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Service with Communion (7:00 am)
425 Youth Easter Breakfast (8:00 – 9:15 am)
Sunday School (9:15 am)
Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Service with Communion (10:30 am)

425 Youth Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 20, 2025 ~ 8:00 am
St. John Lutheran Church Parish Hall

Easter Breakfast



Enjoy Easter morning fellowship and breakfast (served until 9:15 am or until all the goodies are gone). A free will donation will be accepted to offset costs associated with 425 Youth ministries and activities.

Honoring Others at Easter with Lilies and Candles



You are invited to remember or honor loved ones during the Easter season by donating a lily or sponsoring a candle to be used to decorate the sanctuary and chapel Easter weekend. Lilies and candles may also be presented to the Glory of God.

A limited number of candle sponsorships are available for \$20.00 each, and are available on a first come, first served basis. Donated lilies may be delivered or brought to St. John no earlier than Friday, April 18 (Good Friday).

Completed donation or sponsorship forms must be submitted to the office – no lily or candle requests will be accepted over the phone. Lily donation and candle sponsorship forms will be available in early March, and will be located on the bulletin board in the main hall or in the church office. Please note: there are TWO forms – one for lilies and one for candles.



To be included in the Easter weekend bulletins, forms (and payment, where appropriate) must be received no later than Monday, April 14.

Lilies may be picked up Monday, April 21 from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. Lilies remaining after Friday, April 25 will be disposed of.



Children and Youth News

- Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem! On Sunday, April 13, St. John Sunday School Students will celebrate Palm Sunday by presenting a donkey processional at the beginning of the 10:30 service. All families are encouraged to attend this festive service!
- We will be celebrating our 2025 graduates on Sunday, May 4, 2025 during the 10:30 am Worship service. This service will be led by the St. John Children and Youth. Please notify the office as soon as possible if you have a student graduating this spring.
- The last day of Sunday School classes for Spring 2024 will be Sunday, May 18. Stay tuned for more details about events taking place that day!
- Thank you and job well done to the St. John 425 Youth for hosting the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on Wednesday, March 5. Through your generosity the 425 Youth raised \$2,216.00 before expenses! Your ongoing support of the St. John children and youth is greatly appreciated.

April 2025 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
Apr 5.....	Brenda Yoder.....	Susy Krug.....	
Apr 12.....	John & Mary Boxberger.....	Galen Niedenthal.....	
Apr 19.....	Allen & Betty Funk.....	Jeremy Ulrich.....	
Apr 26.....	Darold & Corine Gideon.....	Elaine Voos.....	
May 3.....	Glenn Gideon.....	Susy Krug.....	



8:15 Sun**	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
Apr 6 *.....	Dick & Georganna McCrary.....	Georganna McCrary.....	
Apr 13.....	Kurt & Lois DeWald.....	Lois DeWald.....	
Apr 20 **.....	Connie Schinkus.....	Connie Schinkus.....	
Apr 27.....	Katrin Kolder.....	Katrin Kolder.....	
May 4 *.....	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich.....	Cheryl Kraich.....	

* **Acolyte:** Tytin Bay

** **Early Easter Service:** 7:00 am, **Acolytes:** Olson Family



10:30 Sun	Greeter	Usher	Lector
Apr 6.....	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N); Don F. Krug (S).....	Mike & Diane Waymaster.....	Cindy Ross
Apr 13.....	Ron & Ginger Tittel (N); Margaret Finkbeiner (S).....	Ron & Ginger Tittel.....	Judy Holmes
Apr 20.....	Gerald & Mary Mai (N); Irene Coffeen (S).....	Gerald & Mary Mai.....	Gina Langhofer
Apr 27.....	<u>open</u> (N); <u>open</u> (S).....	<u>open</u>	<u>open</u>
May 4.....	YOUTH (N); YOUTH (S).....	YOUTH.....	YOUTH

10:30 Sun	Acolytes	Musician
Apr 6.....	Bryson Feil, Wesley Johnson.....	
Apr 13.....	Maggie Olson, Maybelle Olson.....	
Apr 20.....	Ellise Jefferson, Campbell Lofland,..... Evanlee Rainey, Karrsyn Ross	
April 27.....	Kollins Dumler, Reece Peck.....	
May 4.....	Layken Eck, Campbell Lofland.....	

Maundy Thursday (Thursday, April 17):

Greeter: open
 Usher: open
 Lector: open
 Acolyte: open
 Musician: open

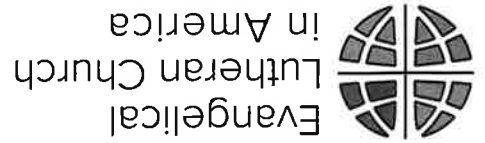
Good Friday (Friday, April 18):

Greeter: open
 Usher: open
 Lector: open
 Acolyte: n/a
 Musician: open



Bulletin Delivery April 4: Georganna McCrary
 April 11: Olson Family
 April 18: Frank Peirano
 April 25: Bob Albrecht
 May 2: John Boxberger

April Altar Guild
 Deb Karst – Chair
 Brenda Yoder – Saturday
 Lois DeWald, Barbara Krug, Shayla Peck,
 Crecia Reeves, Alison Ryan, Sherri Stoppel



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 am to 1:30 pm

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

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

St. John Lutheran Church
Pastor Teri Sutherlin

Church Council
President: Lee Keffler
Vice President: Gaylon Walter
Secretary: Carol Fritz
Treasurer: Kylie Stoppel
Members: Afton Brown, D.J. Klemma, Melinda Olson,
Heather Pohlman, Kelvie Reeves, Pastor
Teri Sutherlin

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

St. John Lutheran Church

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
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April 2025
Newsletter