

St. John Lutheran Church

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Find us on Facebook

Pastor: Teri Sutherlin ♦ PMA: John Dumler



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**

February 2022



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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:00 am to 1:30 pm

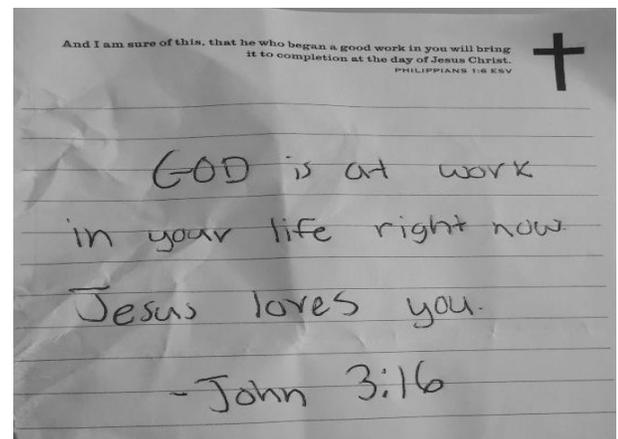
Teri Talk - February 2022

At the January Women's Group several members shared stories of times when they had been the recipient of a random act of kindness where their meal or beverage was paid for by someone else without their knowledge.

On Sunday September 16, 2018, I had been at the church until 1:00 pm working on the sanctuary. After I left the church, I was headed to grab some lunch and, on the way, I drove by Target and remembered I needed to get dog food. I was just going to "run in," but as frequently happens to me in Target I kept remembering other items I needed – and found many I didn't need but wanted. It was 3:30 pm when I finally left the store and headed across the street to Taco Bell.

There were several cars lined up in the drive through and no one was moving through very quickly. You know the Snickers candy bar ad with the tag line "hangry?" As I sat in my car tired and hungry, I was becoming annoyed by how long it was taking. The car in front of me was being so s – l – o – w! I am sure I mouthed something like "ah, come on dude."

When I got to the window to pay, the attendant told me that the car in front of me paid for my meal and had left his change for me. The attendant handed me the change, my receipt, and this note:



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

“God is at work in your life right now. Jesus loves you – John 3:16.”

I was humbled and ashamed for my impatience. The irony was that the week before had been “God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday,” the mission of which is representing the presence of God in the world and being active participants in God’s Kingdom on earth. This unknown man’s act of random kindness and Gospel message embodies what it means to do God’s work with our hands. It is an example of evangelism, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to others and caring for the neighbor. May God’s blessing be with that man for his kindness and his courage to spread Christ’s light in the world. Amen.

February is the month we celebrate human love on Valentine’s Day. I would like to challenge each of us to look for opportunities this month to share the love of God we know through Jesus Christ with another person. To share with someone that they are a beloved child of God.

~ Blessings, Pr. Teri Sutherlin

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

Cancellations may be the result of weather, problems with the building, or other unforeseen situations. Winter weather conditions may necessitate cancelling services based on street conditions, sidewalk and parking conditions, and City of Russell plowing schedules.



St. John Lutheran Church services and activities will be cancelled in the following situations:

- we are experiencing subzero windchill temperatures
- we have six or more inches of accumulated (new) snowfall
- we are experiencing an ice storm
- we are experiencing a power outage
- the local or state government has declared a state of emergency

If services are not cancelled, members are encouraged to use the Best Judgment Policy - ***please use your best judgement*** in terms of safety for driving to services. If you have concerns about your safety for any reason, please do not drive.

Both Sunday services are livestreamed on stjohnrussell.com. The 10:30 Sunday service is broadcast on KRSL 98.1 FM/990 AM and NexTech Cable Channel 130 on the second and fourth Sundays.

Transitional Leadership Team Update

The Transition Team met with Pr. Ted Mosher, Facilitator via ZOOM on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Responses to the homework assignment from the December 12, 2021, meeting were discussed. The congregation is encouraged to continue thinking about what their concerns for the future of the Church are as well as what their hopes and aspirations for the future of St. John. There is always a gap between our concerns and our aspirations and we live in the “gap,” the in-between our worries and our hopes.

The Team’s new assignment is to engage in conversation with members about what is our purpose and to clarify what is important about the St. John faith community. But it’s not just the team that goes through the process; they commit to engage the congregation membership in the exercises/projects. Three questions were posed to ask the congregation members:

- 1. Why are you here at St. John?**
- 2. Why is St. John here?**
- 3. If St. John Lutheran Church disappeared tomorrow, would anyone in the Russell community notice? Would it be missed?**

Please share your thoughts and responses to these questions with a member of the team:

**Carol Fritz, Cheryl Kraich, Kristine Mader, Jean Mai, Mary Mai,
Brad Wagner, Susan Krug, Pr. Teri Sutherlin (ex-officio member)**

Pr. Mosher also talked about core principles from the Kansas Leadership Center:

- ◆ Leadership is an activity, not a position.
- ◆ Anyone can lead anywhere and at any time.
- ◆ Leadership is mobilizing people to make progress on difficult situations.

What makes leadership difficult is the adaptive challenges we face that demand responses that are outside our level of comfort. There are two kinds of “work” that any community deals with on an ongoing basis: Technical Work and Adaptive Work. Technical problems are easy to recognize, and we know who can solve the problem. We can see immediate results. This allows us to develop confidence and improve our skills. Adaptive problems are difficult to define. They require change and learning to occur and challenge our traditions. There are no easy solutions, and they take time to make progress on. They involve a great deal of experimentation and trial and error. Adaptive work has to be approached with an attitude of curiosity and a willingness to try different things.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 1:00 PM.



St. John Women of the ELCA

Thursday, February 10

10:00 am

St. John Parish Hall

Lesson Leader: Judy Holmes

Large print lesson materials provided upon request

PMA Notes ~ February 2022

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”
- Martin Luther King Jr.

I was looking at some things Martin Luther King Jr. spoke about during his short time here in this world. When I saw the quote above, I began looking at different journeys I have taken. I was also looking at the journeys within our community and our church. I believe this quote is a good indication of how we as Christians walk the path to our God.

For years, I was “just” a concrete finisher, but God was leading me even then! I worked with others that had taken up the mantle of proclamation of God’s word, even in our daily work! I was given insight in this when we were doing a large floor in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. We had finished the pour and were the first crew to grab lunch. I was taking my lunch break with a coworker named Chris. Chris was a former biker in a gang who had “found Jesus” as he put it. He was working as a concrete finisher to help supplement his living as a Pastor - the church he was pastoring couldn’t afford a fulltime pastor. This was a guy who had literally taken the first step.

Although we were in a somewhat “questionable” area of Kansas City, we were sitting outside the building when a pretty young lady walked up to Chris and asked if he would like a “date”. I waited anxiously for Chris’ response. Chris turned to the young lady, handed her a \$20 bill and his church business card, and asked her if they could pray. She was silent as he began to pray for, and with, her. She tried to give the money back, but Chris said to keep it, and he hoped to see her at his church on Sunday.

Sometime later, I asked Chris if she ever showed up. He said that God worked within her and she did come to church. Then he said the sometimes we have to offer in faith a chance for everyone.

Today my notes are reflective of our ability to proclaim the gifts of salvation, forgiveness, mercy, and grace to everyone. In other words, to take that first step - that chance - to change someone forever. We are God’s children and we go out in faith every day. Today I will continue to proclaim we are all children of God, we are fed and nurtured by God, and God’s gifts are for us all! Amen!!

~ John Dumler- PMA

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

To be included in the March Newsletter,
articles and announcements must be submitted
no later than Friday, February 18

Financial Stewardship

Gifts, Offerings, Donations and Envelopes

I have heard from several of you all that there is some confusion regarding the processes in place of how St. John's tracks giving and why. The use of envelopes and why, and why it matters. At some point in the past a message was communicated that folks could choose whether or not they wanted to use offering envelopes and by declining envelopes the church was saving money. There is also the idea that if you don't need a statement of your yearly donations your giving does not need to be tracked.

The primary reason that giving, like attendance, participation in the community of faith, are "tracked" is because it is part of the Constitution of this congregation. It is not about your taxes, nor is it about knowing how much anyone gives. It is about your membership status in this congregation. There are many individuals in this congregation that we have no giving record for, that is not to say that these folks have not shared their gifts with the church, but it was not done in a way that they could be credited with participating in financially supporting their faith community.

This is what the congregation's Constitution says about being recognized as a voting member of this congregation or being able to serve in a leadership position on the Church Council:

St. John Lutheran Church Constitution, Chapter 8, "Membership C8.02. c."
Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. (page 10).

Because of the way we are currently ordering envelopes, there are envelopes ordered for every member whether you use them or not. You are not saving the church any money by not using them. In each box is an envelope specific to providing a financial gift to offset the cost of the purchase of the envelopes if you so choose to make such a gift.

You do have a choice about whether or not you would like to have a statement printed out of your giving for use in completing your taxes, but this has nothing to do with the need of the Church to track giving. In addition to being a responsibility of membership in your faith community, having accurate records of membership giving assists the Financial/Stewardship Committee understand how many giving units there are in the membership versus offerings received from visitors. This helps them understand how best to manage our financial resources and be good stewards of your gifts, as well as develop a Church budget that truly reflects congregational resources.

This is why the Financial/Stewardship Committee requests that all members who give to St. John on a regular basis use the provided offering envelopes for their contributions. They are an important part of the recordkeeping process at St. John, and we encourage members to use the envelopes and numbers assigned to them. We are very diligent about using a system of "checks and balances" when counting and recording your gifts and only one set of counters handle the checks and cash, and a different set records the totals. If an envelope with your number is not used, the volunteers have to look up the number assigned to the name which is very time consuming in order to enter the amount given in our database. Thank you so much for helping us streamline this process by using your envelopes.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Teri Sutherland

OUR PARISH RECORDS

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE					OFFERING	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Total</u>		
Jan 2 ¹	7			7	Jan 2.....	\$2,862.00
Jan 9.....	17	21	44	82	Jan 9.....	3,948.00
Jan 16.....	32.....	20	51	103	Jan 16.....	3,945.00
Jan 23.....	21	23	31	75	Jan 23.....	1,915.00
Jan 30.....	25.....	27	43	95	Jan 30 ²	

INCOME/EXPENSES - 2021	
Income.....	\$207,758.63
Expenses.....	<u>219,520.89</u>
Net Operating Income (Loss).....	- 11,762.26
INVESTMENT INCOME (Loss) - 2021	
Investment Income	48,366.47
Interest.....	32.05
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investment	<u>26,906.13</u>
NET INCOME (Loss) - 2021	<u>\$63,542.39</u>

¹ *Sunday services cancelled due to extreme weather conditions*

² *Data not available at time of publication*

“Don’t just count your blessings. Be the blessing other people count on.”

—Anonymous

Quilting/Sewing Circle says THANKS!



Thank you for past donations of fabrics and sheets, which are used for backing & piecing quilts, as well as other sewing gifts.

As you start spring cleaning and have sheets or fabrics that need a new home, you can bring them to the church and either leave them in the office or downstairs in the sewing room. Solids or patterns in any size are welcome.

Monetary donations are especially appreciated as the cost of quilt batting continues to rise but we are getting less yardage with the price increase and shipping costs have also increased. The price of sheets has doubled over the last year.

Local pick up for LWR is no longer available and starting this year we will have to package and ship quilts to Lutheran World relief and of course those shipping costs have also increased.

You are also invited to donate to this ministry by purchasing a quilt. All proceeds are used to fund ongoing projects.

February Birthdays



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 - Paul Lampert
Tyler Myers
Margaret Walter | 12 - Bonita Elsasser
Brayden Ford
Vickie Hill | 26 - David Brandenburg
Laykn Jordan
Rayna Tonne
Maria Towery |
| 2 - Camden Backhus
Elsie Mai
Andrea Moreland
Richard Wolf | 13 - Cole Anschutz
Colten Gideon
Samuel Kilian
Dwayne Reynolds | 27 - Jacob Brandenburg
Kelby Brown
Kalena Coleman
Brent Homeier
JoAnn Kilian
Courtney Krug
D. Carter McCann |
| 3 - Barbara A. Krug
Steven Krug | 14 - Joshua Madsen
Layton Ruggels | 28 - Ron Bennett
Twyla Ehrlich
Mary Nuss
Audrey Owens
Joan Waymaster |
| 4 - Bryson Feil
Payton Stoppel
Taylor Williams | 15 - Kollins Dumler
Patricia Stinchcomb | |
| 5 - Randa Ehrlich
Roger Flegler
Angela Meyer
Mikayla Pitcock | 16 - Greg Mai
Kori Sellens | |
| 6 - Lisa McEvoy | 17 - Erica Feil
JR Modlin
Frank Peirano
Tammy Weigel | |
| 7 - Vickie Counts
Richard Creed
Mona Grady
Tristin Kinderknecht
Abigail Petterson
Brandon Seier | 18 - Jason Dumler
Jody Dumler
Willian Kilian
Tom Moore
Braelynn Seltzer | |
| 8 - Rita Forsythe
Ashley Pohlman
Ginger Tittel
Micky Zorn | 19 - Dean Meier
Diane Waymaster | |
| 9 - Janet Fink
Erika Hamel
Ryan Miller | 20 - Bonnetta Buehler
Robin Kilian
Brad Prester
Beth Walizer | |
| 10 - Steve Berry
Alex Laurie
Carter Rynerson
Crystal Wasinger | 23 - Jake Betts
Jadyn Brown
Jaryn Brown | |
| 11 - Connie Dumler
Wayne Krug
James Tittel
Sid Vetter | 24 - LaVerne Dietz
Allan Lytton
David Seltzer
Gladys Standley
Briar Ulrich | |
| | 25 - Connie Krug
Aaron Steinert | |

February Anniversaries

- 4 - Jerry & Jan Deines
Kyle & Susan Lorenc
Leonard & Ruth Steinle
- 7 - John & Debbie Dumler
- 11 - Jeff & Janelle Michaelis
- 18 - Dean & Ruth Keil
Steve & Melinda Wells
- 24 - Steve & Sandy Berry
- 26 - David & Kaycee Enslow
- 27 - Dale & Twyla Ehrlich
Lonnie & Donna Super



February Worship Assistants

6:00 PM SATURDAY

GREETER/USHER:

- 5 Allen & Betty Funk
- 12 John & Mary Boxberger
- 19 Darold & Corine Gideon
- 26 Rocky & Brenda Yoder

READER:

- 5 Sheryl Krug
- 12 Nancy Aspegren
- 19 Elaine Voos
- 26 Jeannine Byers-Long

SONG LEADER:

- 5 DJ Klema
- 12 DJ Klema
- 19
- 26

MUSICIAN:

- 5 Curtis Sander
- 12
- 19
- 26

8:15 AM SUNDAY

GREETER/USHER:

- 6 Dick & Georganna McCrary
- 13 Connie Schinkus
- 20 Gordon & Cheryl Kraich
- 27 Kurt & Lois DeWald

LECTOR:

- 6 Georganna McCrary
- 13 Connie Schinkus
- 20 Cheryl Kraich
- 27 Lois DeWald

MUSICIAN:

- 6 Sandy Krug
- 13 Sandy Krug
- 20 Sandy Krug
- 27 Sandy Krug



BULLETIN DELIVERY

- 4 Margaret Finkbeiner
- 11 Juanita Flegler
- 18 Carol Fritz
- 25 Darold & Corine Gideon

ALTAR GUILD

Lois DeWald, Connie Dumler, Danielle Ewers,
Pam Gudenkauf, Tammy Nuss

10:30 AM SUNDAY

GREETER:

- 6 Ron & Ginger Tittel (N)
Glenna Hackerott (S)
- 13 Brad & Cheryl Prester (N)
Irene Coffeen (S)
- 20 Gaylon Walter (N)
Bonnie Buehler (S)
- 27 Paul Phillips (N)
Don F. Krug (S)

USHER:

- 6 Ron & Ginger Tittel
- 13 Brad & Cheryl Prester
- 20 Gaylon Walter
- 27 Paul Phillips

ACOLYTES:

- 6 Cooper Gier
Hailey Gier
- 13 Jackson Ross
Karrsyn Ross
- 20 Tytin Bay
Morgan Olson
- 27 Jasmine Jefferson
Maggie Olson

LECTOR:

- 6 Carol Fritz
- 13 Blaine Maier
- 20 Carol Fritz
- 27 Kim Stoppel

LITURGIST:

- 6 Carol Fritz
- 13 Kim Stoppel
- 20 Blaine Maier
- 27

MUSICIAN:

- 6 Sandy Krug
- 13 Sandy Krug
- 20 Sandy Krug
- 27 Sandy Krug

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2022**

INVOCATION / CALL TO ORDER

- ◆ President Blaine Maier called the meeting to order at 11:33 am following the 10:30 am Worship Service. Pastor Teri Sutherlin led the congregation in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ◆ Council Secretary Carol Fritz read the minutes of the January 24, 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approved the minutes as presented.
- ◆ Council President Blaine Maier also noted that we had an informal congregational meeting in July 2021. This was a gathering to meet pastor Teri Sutherlin. At this meeting a vote was taken to approve a call to Pastor Sutherlin to fill our pastoral vacancy. The vote was approved. Pastor Teri Sutherlin started her position with St. John Lutheran Church on August 21, 2021.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

- ◆ Council Treasurer Andrea Krauss reviewed the financial report, highlighting the 2021 expense and receipt for the designated funds. Andrea noted that in general, giving is down but expenses were also down in 2021. Expenses were less within the educational materials; and worship and music. Increased expense with the pastor transition, especially with moving expenses, and increased expenses within Administration (postage and copier expenses were higher). She suggested that the council consider a \$20,000 money transfer from the investment fund account to the general account. The council will address this request at the council meeting to be held this afternoon. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.
- ◆ Brad Wagner reviewed the cemetery investment fund which is good financially at this time. He noted that the mowing of the cemetery is administered through this fund. He also noted that there may be some expenses in the future with roads needing to be improved and maintained. He asked that when people are considering memorials to the church, they may want to designate them to the general fund, rather than the cemetery fund.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- ◆ Blaine Maier thanked Andrea Krauss for serving as Council Treasurer but she has declined to continue in this position at this time. Kristy Mader and Gaylon Walters are up for reelection and agreed to continue on the council. There are two additional positions open on the council. Blaine opened the floor for nominations for the remaining council positions. Hearing none, Blaine called for a motion. It was moved, seconded, and passed to cast a unanimous ballot.
- ◆ Altar Guild nominations were presented as follows: Afton Brown, Lois DeWald, Danielle Ewers, Denise Guth, Teresa Hilbrink, Gina Langhofer, and Janet Peerman. Deb Karst noted that all of these nominations are needed to fill the Altar Guild

positions. It was moved, seconded, and passed to cast a unanimous ballot.

- ◆ It was decided by the council earlier in the year to only have two ministries for the philanthropic fund (one global and one local). The two nominees for the philanthropic fund are the Russell County Fire Relief Fund and Russian Far East Sponsorship. The amount to be distributed is approximately \$2,600.00. It was suggested that we distribute the entire amount locally to the Russell County Fire Relief Fund. It was moved, seconded, and passed by show of hands to cast a unanimous ballot to the local Russell County Fire Relief Fund.

REPORTS

- ◆ Blaine Maier noted the different committee reports can be found in the Annual Reports. There were no additional remarks or questions.

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ Andrea Krauss presented the proposed budget for 2022. She noted that there are only a few changes from the 2021 Budget - a slight increase to the education budget and an increase in administrative expenses. She requested that the members of St. John prayerfully consider increasing their giving by 7% to help defray increased budget expenses in 2022. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the proposed 2022 budget.

REMARKS BY CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT BLAINE MAIER

- ◆ Blaine noted that it had again been another trying year but has improved from 2020. We bid farewell to Pastor Dennis and were able to transition to a new pastor. During that time we made a lot of improvements to the parsonage. Blaine extended thanks to Dale Schmitt and Cole Niedental for painting both the inside and outside of the parsonage. Several members of the congregation also stepped up to help with the improvements. This was all accomplished within about a two week period of time. A big thank you to all who were involved. We are looking forward to a better year in 2022.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

- ◆ Blaine Maier called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn. The meeting adjourned with Pastor Teri Sutherlin leading the congregation in the Lord's Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Carol Fritz, Church Council Secretary

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2022**

Voting Members Present: Carol Fritz, Judy Holmes, Kristy Mader, Blaine Maier, Kelvie Reeves, Kim Stoppel, Gaylon Walter, Pastor Teri Sutherlin

Absent: Brady Ruggels, Jim Dumler

Excused: Jordan Harrison

Others Present: John Dumler

INVOCATION / CALL TO ORDER

- ◆ Council President Blaine Maier called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm. Pastor Teri Sutherlin provided an opening prayer.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

- ◆ Council President Blaine requested that Money Request Transfer be added to New Business as “Item e”.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER’S REPORTS

- ◆ Since there was not a quorum present at the December meeting the November minutes were presented. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the November minutes as presented
- ◆ It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the December minutes as presented.
- ◆ The Treasurer’s Reports from November and December were presented. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve both of these reports.

COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Council President Blaine Maier noted that the Central States Synod had contacted us about dates for the Synod Assembly.
- ◆ Blaine also noted the copier needed some maintenance this past week. We were informed that the drum on the copier is going bad, so this may be a concern in the future. We do not have a maintenance agreement with OPI for the copier. The copier is operating okay at this time.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ **PMA** - John Dumler reported that he will be doing pulpit supply in Wakeeney for the next two weeks. He also reported that the Russell County Association of Churches duties have been transferred to Lee Weigel who will oversee them from St. Mary Queen of Angels church. They had also set up some buckets for donations to the Russell County Fire Relief Fun. Only a few donations were received.
- ◆ **Education** - Overall attendance in Sunday School is down. They are averaging about 25-30 children per Sunday. They have started a new program with all of the Sunday School classes meeting as one large group in the Parish Hall as they all have the same curriculum. So far this is working very well.
- ◆ **Evangelism/Social Ministry/Parish Fellowship** - Judy Holmes reported that we have served two funeral dinners recently. Also a thank you to Kim Stoppel for providing pizza for our meeting today.

- ♦ **Property** - Gaylon Walter reported that the water leaks in the Parish Hall are still an ongoing problem. To fix this the heat will have to be turned off for 3 days, so this will be addressed closer to spring. There is also a need to recaulk an area by the sinks in the kitchen. Vitzums will be contacted to do this as the work is still under warranty. The continue to repair minor areas on the sanctuary walls. There are also some repairs needed to the ceiling of the offices. Gaylon is recommending that we install a suspended ceiling. The area of the front steps where rick tils are missing will also be addressed in the spring.
- ♦ **Stewardship/Finance** - no report.
- ♦ **Worship & Music/Technology** - A thank you to the youth group for filling Christmas bags. We had approximately 350 people attend Christmas Services. Kristy noted the subscription for us to stream church services has expired. She will look into this. She also reported that both the Bell Choir and the Agape Choir have opted to take a hiatus until February because of the increased illnesses.
- ♦ **Youth** - Kelvie Reeves reported the youth took a trip to the K-State Campus on December 12. While they were there, they raked leaves and visited with Pastor Kevin about campus ministry, toured the living quarters, and talked about becoming K-State students. Kelvie also reported that the Live Drive Thru Nativity held on December 19 was a huge success and they plan to do this annually. They collected \$2,042.36 in free will donations and gave this to a local family in need. They also put batteries in the candles for the Christmas services, and served cocoa and cookies after the Christmas parade.
- ♦ **Cemetery** - the documentation at the cemetery is still ongoing. Plans are to schedule a meeting in the next two week to get this cleared up.
- ♦ **Pastor** - Pastor Teri has had a very busy schedule over the past two weeks. A big thank you for all the work she did while our secretary was out with illness. She has done three funerals as well as Christmas services. The Healing Services are cancelled and the bible study with Pastor is currently on hold pending finding a good time for them to meet as well as what they would like discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

- ♦ Offering envelopes have been ordered and should arrive soon.
- ♦ After discussion on the wedding policy and fees, it was moved, seconded, and passed to approved the wedding policy and fees as amended.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- ♦ Blaine Maier agreed to continue as Council President. A unanimous ballot was cast. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve Blain Maier as Council President for 2022.
- ♦ Kim Stoppel agreed to continue as Council Vice President. A unanimous ballot was cast. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve Kim Stoppel as Council Vice-President for 2022.
- ♦ Carol Fritz agreed to continue as Council Secretary. A unanimous ballot was casts. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve Carol Fritz as Council Secretary for 2022.
- ♦ The committee chairs are as follows:
 - ♦ Education - Kim Stoppel
 - ♦ Evangelism/Social Ministry/Parish Fellowship - Judy Holmes

- ◆ Property - Gaylon Walter
- ◆ Worship & Music/Technology - Kristy Mader
- ◆ Youth Group - Kelvie Reeves
- ◆ Cemetery - Jordan Harrison
- ◆ The council is still needing a Council Treasurer and a committee chair for Stewardship/Finance.

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ A designation of signatures for the Youth Group accounts will be as follows: Senior High Account - Sara Krug, John Dumler, and Pastor Teri Sutherlin; Middle School Account - Sara Krug and John Dumler; 2x5s - Janella Eck and John Dumler. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept these signatories.
- ◆ Gaylon Walter requested some guidelines for snow removal at the church and parsonage and when it needs to be done. He would like to know who to contact when this is needed. He will make some contacts and requests for volunteers.
- ◆ Mowing at the church will also be followed up on with contacts and volunteers. Pastor Teri will be responsible for paying for mowing at the parsonage. It was suggested that the youth group might want to set up a schedule to do this.
- ◆ It was also a concern about when should we cancel church because of the weather. Several items were discussed and a policy will be developed with guidelines for this.
- ◆ COVID concern were brought up. It was discussed and at this time we will continue to encourage masks and social distancing.
- ◆ During the annual meeting Andrea Krauss stated that she would like the council to consider transferring \$20,000.00 from the investment fund account to the general account to help cover losses incurred in 2021. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve this transfer.

DISCUSSION

- ◆ We will continue to develop a plan for reinstating the Mutual Ministry Committee as a possible subcommittee under Worship & Music. Discussion was help on reinstating personnel committee. No action taken at this time.
- ◆ At 2:20 pm there was a request to move to an Executive Session. This session concluded at 2:35 pm.
- ◆ Kristy Mader gave a short report on the Transitional Leadership Team and stated that we are to return to our next meeting with ideas about what the congregation likes and doesn't like about the church and what are their dreams for the future of St. John. The next meeting for the team is on January 26 at 1:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

- ◆ The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 2:43 pm

Next Executive meeting – Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Next Council meeting – Sunday, February 20, 2022 at noon

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Carol Fritz, Church Council Secretary

St. John Lutheran

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Email: stjohn@ruraltel.net

Website: stjohnrussell.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Pastor Teri Sutherlin

620-521-6454 (c)

pastor@ruraltel.net

John Dumler, PMA

785-483-1382 (c)

pma@ruraltel.net

Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper

sjlcbookkeeper@ruraltel.net

Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant

Debora Kreutzer, Custodian

Church Council

Officers:

Blaine Maier, President

Kim Stoppel, Vice President

Carol Fritz, Secretary

Treasurer (open position)

Members:

Jim Dumler, Jordan Harrison,

Judy Holmes, Kristine Mader,

Kelvie Reeves, Brady Ruggels,

Gaylon Walter

Council Committees:

Cemetery; Education; Evangelism/

Social Ministry/Parish Fellowship;

Property; Stewardship/Finance;

Worship & Music/Technology; Youth

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

8:00 am to 1:30 pm

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

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***The 10:30 Worship Services on February 13 and 27 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.

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