

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

February 2024



Teri Talk: "Living Wet"

On February 14, 2024, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Lent is the forty-day season (excluding Sundays) of penitence and preparation for the Three Days of Holy Week and Easter. Lent has been associated with self-denial and sacrifice in remembrance of the sacrifice Jesus made for us, "pray, fast, give." The tradition of *fasting* has expanded from restricting food intake to "giving something up for Lent." As a spiritual practice this is meant to remove distractions that keep us from focusing on God.

"The current practice of forty days of Lent recall Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses' forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28). [Today], the ancient understanding of Lent as both a time for baptismal preparation and baptismal renewal is being rediscovered in Lutheran rites and practice."¹

Holy Baptism is central to the Lutheran way of teaching the Christian faith. Our baptism becomes the overpowering event in our lives, the event which tell us who we are and how we are to live. Martin Luther believed that baptism should be central in the lives of Christians and the church. Through baptism we experience God's love for us and as followers of Jesus we share that love with others. We are called to "live wet," for our baptism calls us to a way of life of loving, caring, sharing, and praying for one another. Sharing our faith, sharing our resources, sharing a part of ourselves with others is what this life is all about as we follow the Christ. Jesus calls us to a life of conviction, to a life of urgency, to a life of sharing, to a life of proclaiming His good news to others.²

What follows are two stories to reflect on what it means to share and love.

There is an old Korean legend about a devout and generous man who died and before he allowed St. Peter to usher him through the *Pearly Gates* he requested that he first take one wee peek at Hell. At the *Gateway of Hell* he was astounded to see long tables, laden with sumptuous food. In poured the multitudes of gaunt ghastly souls, apparently starved into skeletons. Fastened to the forearm of each were yard-long forks and spoons. They frantically fought to feed themselves, but it was in vain. It was living Hell. Back in Heaven he beheld tables similarly laden, but when the Heavenly host came in, although each soul's arm was also fastened with a yard-long fork and spoon, they sat down and began to feed each other. The new resident knew it was Heaven all right with all that sharing.³

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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***

There was a little girl who had a very large collection of dolls heaped on her bed. A family friend was visiting and came into the little girl's room and seeing all of the dolls commented, "you must love dolls." With tender loving care the girl spread out the whole collection for the guest to inspect and admire. The guest asked her, "Which doll do you love the most?" She hesitated, then said, "Promise not to laugh if I tell you." He promised. She picked up a ragged doll with a broken nose whose hair had mostly fallen out, and one arm and leg were missing. "This is the one." "Why that one?" the visitor asked. The little girl answered, "Because if I didn't love this one nobody else would."

*"We are the church, God's living stones. We are a temple of flesh and bones.
We live in hope, sharing our trust that God can bring life out of ashes and dust."*⁴

Peace be with you, Pastor Teri

References:

¹<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/430/>

²*Baptized We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life*, Daniel Erlander, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN, 2020.

³There are many different versions of this story that originated in Asia.

⁴Brian Wentzel, Director of Music at First Lutheran Church in Lorain, OH, based on 1 Peter 2. "Journey in the Wilderness", March 5, 2017, <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/387/>



Odds & ENDS

- 2023 Contribution Statements are available on the table in the main hall. If you are unable to pick up your report, please contact the office to make other arrangements. Statements remaining after Monday, February 19 will be shredded.
- The Executive Committee will meet Tuesday, February 6 at 5:30 pm. Church Council will meet Thursday, February 15 at 6:30 pm.
- St. John Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday, February 8 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. All women are invited to attend. Large print materials available upon request.
- The deadline for the March Newsletter is Wednesday, March 20.
- The rehearsal schedules for Agape Choir and St. John Ringers Bell Choir are subject to change during the Lenten Season. Please contact the office for current details.
- Easter Lilies and Candles forms will be available soon. Donations or sponsorships may be presented in memory or in honor of a loved one, or to the glory of God. To be included in the Easter weekend bulletins, completed forms must be returned to the church office no later than Monday, March 25.

Pastor Teri's Calendar - February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM Communion; Care Home Worship 2:00-4:00 PM	29 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	30 Quilting Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Education Committee 6:30 PM; payroll	31 Payday; Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 425 Youth 6:30; Agape Choir 7:30	01 Bible Study 1:30 PM	02 SYNOD ZOOM Meeting 12:30-2:00 PM; Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	03 Worship Service 6:00 PM
04 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM Communion; Care Home Worship 2:00-4:00 PM	05 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	06 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Executive Committee 5:30 PM	07 1st Call Zoom Meeting 10:00-11:30 AM; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	08 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM; Bible Study 1:30 PM; Hays for Dr. Appt. 3:30-5:00 PM; RCAOC 6:30 PM @Otterbein	09 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	10 Worship Service 6:00 PM Communion
11 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	12 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal; payday	13 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation in morning; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	14 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; payroll; Ash Wednesday Soup Supper 5:30 PM; Ash Wednesday SVC 7 PM	15 Payday; Bible Study 1:30 PM; Church Council 6:30 PM	16 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	17 Worship Service 6:00 PM
18 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM Communion; Agape Choir	19 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	20 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	21 RCAOC Lenten Luncheon - St John Noon; Lenten Devotional SVC Chapel 6:00 PM; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM	22 Bible Study 1:30 PM	23 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	24 Worship Service 6:00 PM Communion
25 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM; St. John Ringers	26 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	27 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Clergy Comments	28 Payroll; RCAOC Lenten Luncheon - Trinity; Lenten Devotional SVC Chapel 6:00 PM; 425 Youth 6:30; Agape Choir 7:30	29 Payday; Bible Study 1:30 PM	01	02

St. John Lutheran Church Lent and Easter Schedule

Wednesday, February 14

- Ash Wednesday Soup Supper prepared and served by 425 Youth (5:30 - 6:45 pm)
- Ash Wednesday Worship including imposition of ashes and communion (7:00 pm)

Wednesdays, February 21 through March 20

- Midweek Lenten Devotional Services in Chapel (6:00 to 6:30 pm)

Saturday and Sunday, March 23 and 24

- Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday Worship (all services)

Thursday, March 28

- Maundy Thursday Worship with communion (7:00 pm)

Friday, March 29

- Good Friday Worship (7:00 pm)

Saturday, March 30

- Easter Vigil Worship (6:00 pm)

Sunday, March 31

- Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Worship (7:00 am)
- Easter Breakfast prepared and served by 425 Youth (8:30 am)
- Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Worship (10:30 am)

St. John Lutheran Church Winter Weather Policy

The safety and well-being of our members and staff is a primary concern so in the event of bad weather during the winter there may be times when the church will be closed, meetings cancelled, or worship services cancelled.

During the winter months, cancellations and closures may be the result of weather conditions, staff unable to get to the church, impassable roads, 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 temperatures or windchill,
- we have six or more inches of accumulated or new snowfall,
- we are experiencing an ice storm,
- we are experiencing a power outage,
- during week days we will follow the City of Russell/Russell Schools closure
- in rare event that local or state government declares "a state of emergency"

If the church is closed or worship is cancelled this information will be posted on the KRSL website and if possible, signs posted on the church doors.

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

If services are not cancelled, our 8:15 am and 10:30 am Sunday services are livestreamed on stjohnrussell.com. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, the 10:30 am service is broadcast on KRSL 98.1 FM/990 AM and NexTech Cable Channel 130.

2024 Russell County Association of Churches Lenten Lunch Series

Wednesdays at Noon
 "Jesus teaches us to pray"

- Wed, Feb 21 St. John Lutheran Church
- Wed, Feb 28 Trinity United Methodist Church
- Wed, March 6 Location TBA
- Wed, March 13 Otterbein Methodist Church
- Wed, March 20 St. Mary Queen of Angels
- Wed, March 27 First Congregational Church

RCAOC Community Good Friday Service - Noon - Otterbein Methodist Church



February 2024

10:30 AM SUN

GREETERS:

- 4 Morris & Barbara Krug (N)
Bonnie Buehler (S)
- 11 Gerald & Mary Mai (N)
Irene Coffeen (S)
- 18 Ron & Ginger Tittel (N)
Eck Family (S)
- 25 M & Diane Waymaster(N)
Don Krug (S)

USHER:

- 4 Morris Krug
- 11 Gerald & Mary Mai
- 18 Ron & Ginger Tittel
- 25 M & D Waymaster

ACOLYTES:

- 4 Ellise & Jasmine Jefferson
- 11 Tytin Bay/Alex Krug
- 18 Rogan Dumler/Campbell Lofland
- 25 Marshall/Morgan Olson

LECTOR:

- 4 Glenna Hackerott
- 11 Judy Holmes
- 18 Carol Fritz
- 25 Cindy Ross

6:00 PM SAT

GREETER/USHER:

- 3 Glenn Gideon
- 10 Darold & Corine Gideon
- 17 John & Mary Boxberger
- 24 Ramona Luebbers

READER:

- 3 Nancy Aspegren
- 10 Jeremy Ulrich
- 17 Sheryl Krug
- 24 Jeannine Byers-Long

8:15 AM SUN

GREETER/USHER:

- 4 Kurt & Lois DeWald
- 11 Katrin Kolder
- 18 Gordon & Cheryl Kraich
- 25 D & G McCrary

LECTOR:

- 4 Lois DeWald
- 11 Katrin Kolder
- 18 Cheryl Kraich
- 25 Georganna McCrary

ALTAR GUILD


Lois DeWald, Deb Karst,
 Pam Gudenkauf, Melinda Olson,
 Crecia Reeves, Sherri Stoppel

BULLETIN DELIVERY

- 2 Darold & Corine Gideon
- 9 Frank Peirano
- 16 John Boxberger
- 23 Carol Fritz

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
stjohnrussell.com

 <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</p>	<p><i>The 10:30 Worship Services on February 11 and 25 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.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Margaret Walter• Gaylon Walter• Pastor Teri Sutherland• Kelvie Reeves• D.J. Kiema• Lee Keffler• Judy Holmes• Treasurer - Kylie Stoppel• Secretary, Carol Fritz• Vice President, Kristine Mader• President, Blaine Maier <p>Church Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Kreutzer, Custodian• Debora Kreutzer, Custodian• Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant• Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper• John Dumlér, PMA (pma@ruraltel.net)• Pastor Teri Sutherland (pastor@ruraltel.net)	<p>St. John Lutheran Church Clergy and Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastor Teri Sutherland (pastor@ruraltel.net)• John Dumlér, PMA (pma@ruraltel.net)• Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper• Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant• Debora Kreutzer, Custodian• John Kreutzer, Custodian