

St. John Lutheran Church

February 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 – February 2025

What does it mean to be a Community of Faith?

God designed people to live in community with one another. Believers should be in community with each other because it promotes mutual support, spiritual growth and shared devotion to God. A Christian community is marked by how people treat each other. Each local church should strive to model Christlike attitudes. Believers should encourage, serve, instruct, honor, be patient with, and forgive each other.

“When we enter into membership in Christian community, we bind ourselves to one another with Christ as our head. The fact that we risk relationships with people who may be very different from ourselves in terms of gender, nationality, language, ethnicity, political beliefs or socioeconomic status is precisely what makes us Christians. Overcoming such differences is what distinguishes us from the world, which organizes itself around sameness. We are not free *from* each other; we are free *in* each other. In other words, we are most free when we bring in the collective wisdom and discernment of the whole diverse body of Christ together.”¹

In modern English the noun ‘church’ has a range of meanings. It primarily refers to a building for public worship, while at other times it is synonymous with Christianity, in the sense of the church universal. Finally, it can mean a denomination. Significantly, none of these meanings correspond to the Greek word *ecclesia* traditionally translated ‘church’.

There are 115 scriptural references to the word *ἐκκλησία* (*ekklesia*) as an assembly or congregation, of people. The basic meaning of the Greek *ecclesia* is assembly or gathering. In ordinary Greek it most often refers to the citizens of a city gathering to decide political issues and less frequently to an assembly of the devotees of a God. It is only used twice in Matthew specifically meaning church, the Church, the whole body of Christian believers.

Paul uses the word, *ekklesia* five times in Chapter 16 of Romans and primarily refers to a gathering or assembly of people, often used to denote the community of believers in Jesus Christ.

Κοινωνία (*Koinonia*) is used about 20 times and refers to the deep, intimate fellowship and communal participation among believers, as well as their shared relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It encompasses the idea of sharing in spiritual blessings, mutual support, and active partnership in the faith. This term is often used to describe the unity and community life of the early church, emphasizing the believers' common bond in Christ.

In the Bible, a community is a group of people who share a common faith, values, and goals. Biblical or faith communities are centered around the gospel of Jesus Christ and the mission of spreading his teachings.

Acts 2:42-47 (ERV) Community of Faith

“⁴²The believers spent their time listening to the teaching of the apostles. They shared everything with each other. They ate together and prayed together. ⁴³Many wonders and miraculous signs were happening through the apostles, and everyone felt great respect for God. ⁴⁴All the believers stayed together and shared everything. ⁴⁵They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those who needed it. ⁴⁶The believers shared a common purpose, and every day they spent much of their time together in the Temple area. They also ate together in their homes. They were happy to share their food and ate with joyful hearts. ⁴⁷The believers praised God and were respected by all the people. More and more people were being saved every day, and the Lord was adding them to their group.”

Hebrews 23-25 (NRSV)

“²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

1 John 1:7 (NRSV)

“⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Philippians 2:1-2 (NRSV)

“^{2:1}If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”

Ephesians 4:1-6, 14-16 (NRSV)

“^{4:1}I (Paul)... beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.”

Galatians 6:2, 9-10 (NRSV)

“²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.”

John 13:35 (NRSV)

“³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 Peter 2:4-10 (NRSV)

⁴“Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

These verses describe how Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, are to relate to each other and also to all other people. We are asked to see everyone as a child of God with no exceptions. Jesus calls us to a radical love of the “other,” not as the world sees them, but as God sees them and each one of us. A community of faith is called to a higher standard of being in relationship not only with one another, but all people and with God.

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

Reference: ¹“Pastoral Perspective,” Jin S. Kim; *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary - Feasting on the Word – Year A, Volume 4: Season After Pentecost 2 (Propers 17-Reign of Christ)*.



During the 10:30 am Service on
Sunday, February 16, 2025
we will have a special dedication of
the new Clavinova purchased
in loving memory of Dean Keil.

This Clavinova has been designated by Dean’s family
specifically for use in the Sanctuary.

2025 FEBRUARY PASTOR TERI'S CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Worship with Communion 8:15 AM and 10:30 AM; Care Center Worship 2:00 - 4:00 PM	02 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal, PT	03 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal, PT	04 PT; Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day; 4:25 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	05 Bible Study 1:30 PM	06 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; PT; Appointment 1:00 PM	07 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
08 Worship 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	09 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal, PT	10 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal, PT	11 Synod Boundary Training in Salina 9:00 AM-3:00 PM; Council Executive Committee Meeting 5:30 PM	12 PT, Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day; 4:25 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	13 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; PT	14 Worship 6:00 pm
15 Worship with Communion 8:15 AM and 10:30 AM; Dedication of Clavinova & Agape Choir at 10:30 Service	16 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal, PT	17 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal, PT	18 NOT AVAILABLE (out-of-town appointments)	19 PT; Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day; 4:25 Youth 6:30 PM	20 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; PT	21 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
22 Worship 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM; St. John Ringers Bell Choir at 10:30 Service	23 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal; Post Op Appt in Hays 1:30	24 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal; Post Op Appt in Hays 1:30	25 Record Clergy Comments	26 PT; Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day; 4:25 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir	27 Bible Study 1:30 PM	28 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; PT

St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

Date	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
February 5.....	6:30 pm.....	7:30 pm
February 12.....	6:30 pm.....	7:30 pm
February 19.....	6:30 pm	
February 26.....	6:30 pm.....	7:30 pm



Performances

Agape Choir	10:30 am, February 16.....	Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am
St. John Ringers	10:30 am, February 23.....	Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am



OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
Dec 1.....	25.....	40.....	53.....	119
Dec 8.....	26.....	29.....	55.....	118
Dec 15.....	22.....	24.....	132.....	193
Dec 21 ^A				7
Dec 22.....	28.....	27.....	68.....	145
Dec 24 ^B		298.....	53.....	351
Dec 29 ^C	n/a.....	60.....	n/a.....	60
Jan 5 ^D	n/a			
Jan 12.....	20.....	21.....	50.....	91
Jan 19.....	20.....	15.....	35.....	70
Jan 26.....	18.....	22.....	29.....	69

Offering

Dec 1.....	\$4,730.00
Dec 8.....	3,899.00
Dec 15.....	4,960.00
Dec 22.....	1,897.00
Dec 29 ^E	10,709.00
Jan 5 ^D	n/a
Jan 12.....	6,715.00
Jan 19.....	2,005.00
Jan 26.....	4,086.00

- A – Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service
- B – Christmas Eve Services (4:00 pm and 7:00 pm)
- C – We Gather As One (8:15 am)
- D – Services canceled due to extreme weather
- E – Total includes Christmas Eve/Christmas giving

February PMA Notes

Today is the day the Lord has made - Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

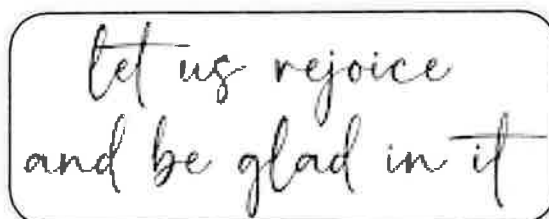
As I sat here thinking about the verses that I have mangled and ones that have caught me up in his forgiveness today I was looking at some verses that came from Hebrews 4:12-16. So today my PMA Notes for our Newsletter will come from my thoughts about these. Am I right in my thinking? As I would normally say 'God only Knows!' So here goes.

Right off the bat we see this: *"For the word of God is alive and active!"* (v12) It is too folks! We are examples of it!

Now, the next part I really have to say that there is great truth to it: *"Sharper than any double-edged sword"* (v12)... is one is a tough one but true! With the word of God it moves in a way that is sometimes a hard truth! As the verse says it does penetrate deep into our souls- and it will divide our soul and spirit. It truly is the joints and marrow even as we read it we see it coming deep into us and through it we see the judgement of knowing our heart and our thoughts (v12)- we cannot hide this- God knows and sees it- we as humans often try to hide from God and with it what is in our hearts (v13)- but we have been laid open to it- God sees us and as such we have to accept our heart and in that we also know our failures as well.

This is what we talk about - when we say Jesus died for our sins- In this he is our Great High priest (v14)- He came to us through a humble birth to set things right. We believe this! Jesus our Savior, the Son of God, our mediator and the high priest who intercedes for us! He is the priest that we have seen tested in every way- he is of the flesh and tested as we are. The big difference- Is He was pure, he was blameless, he was free from sin although he was tempted unmercifully! (v15) This my friends is why we can approach our Father- God of Grace and most merciful God! We can approach God with Jesus as our savior and this is how we receive mercy and it is also how we find grace as well when we are walking as is said *"In the Valley of the shadow of Death!"* This how we move through the negatives and the sinfulness that we live daily. We know that we have repented and with that we can come to God with confidence that Jesus has given us the pathway to live with him in heaven! (v16) Remember Jesus is the way! Christ is our Savior and Redeemer! So today- as I began so I will end with: *Let us rejoice and be glad in it!* Halleluiah!

Respectfully – John Dumler PMA



let us rejoice
and be glad in it

Winter Weather Cancellation 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. Service cancellations will be posted on KRSL.com under “Weather - Closings and Cancellations” and on the St. John Lutheran Church, Russell, KS (stjohnrussellks) Facebook (Meta) page.

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.

ODDS AND ENDS

- If you were receiving the monthly newsletter electronically 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 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting (DRAFT) and all supporting documents are posted on stjohnrussell.com.
- The monthly council meeting minutes will be available online. The postings will be for the previous month when the minutes are approved.
- Bible Study with Pastor was set to resume on Thursday, February 6 at 1:30 pm, but Pastor Teri has the flu so we will **plan on starting Thursday, February 13 at 1:30 pm.**
- The Executive Committee of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, February 11 at 5:30 pm. The Church Council will meet Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 pm.
- St. John Women's Bible Study will be held Thursday, February 13 at 10:00 am. Large print materials are available upon request. Fellowship and a meal will be shared at Meridy's following the meeting.
- 2024 Contribution Statements will be printed upon request. Please call the church office to request a contribution statement or add your name to the list located on the offering envelope table.
- Thank you to all who helped replenish the treat supply for the Children's Moment – NO additional treats are needed at this time.
- There are still 2025 offering envelopes on the table next to the chapel that have not been picked up.

Thanks from the St. John Altar Guild –

Special thanks to all who helped with decorating the church for Christmas. With the help of council, property committee, individuals, and altar guild, it all came together to make the church beautiful for the Christmas Season.

Additional thanks to those who helped with the taking down of the Christmas decorations. We appreciated the help of the property committee, Margaret Walter and the altar guild.



Susan Krug would like to express her sincere appreciation to the following individuals who assisted with the Milk & Cookie Reception after the Children's Program on December 15: Barbara Stinchcomb, Lyla Schmitt, Melinda Olson, Glenda Woods, Teresa Hilbrink, Jaci Feil, Sherri Stoppel, Deb Stoppel, Pam Lightfoot, Judy Holmes, Alice Fae Johnson, and Margaret Walter. The cookies and treats created by these volunteers helped make the reception a huge success!

February 2025 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
Feb 1	John & Mary Boxberger	Jeremy Ulrich	Pat David
Feb 8	Allen & Betty Funk	Galen Niedenthal.....	Peggy Anschutz
Feb 15	Darold & Corine Gideon.....	Jeremy Ulrich	Curtis Sander
Feb 22	Glenn Gideon.....	Elaine Voos	Pat David
Mar 1	Ramona Luebbers	Susy Krug.....	



8:15 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
Feb 2 *	Katrin Kolder	Katrin Kolder.....	Juanita Flegler
Feb 9	Kurt & Lois DeWald.....	Lois DeWald	Juanita Flegler
Feb 16 *	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich.....	Cheryl Kraich.....	Margaret Walter
Feb 23	Dick & Georganna McCrary	Georganna McCrary.....	Glenda Phillips
Mar 2 *	Kurt & Lois DeWald.....	Lois DeWald	

* Acolyte: Tytin Bay



10:30 Sun	Greeter	Usher	Lector
Feb 2	Ronnie & Ginger Tittel (N); Carol Fritz (S).....	Ronnie & Ginger Tittel	Carol Fritz
Feb 9	Gerald & Mary Mai (N); Margaret Finkbeiner (S)	Gerald & Mary Mai	Judy Holmes
Feb 16	Brad & Sherri Stoppel (N); Irene Coffeen (S).....	Brad & Sherri Stoppel.....	Gina Langhofer
Feb 23	YOUTH (N); YOUTH (S)	YOUTH.....	YOUTH
Mar 2	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N); Don F. Krug (S).....	Mike & Diane Waymaster	Susy Krug

10:30 Sun	Acolytes	Musician
Feb 2	Kollins & Rogan Dumler (10:30 am).....	Juanita Flegler
Feb 9	Wesley Johnson & Alex Krug.....	Juanita Flegler
Feb 16	Hadlee Brown & Harper Ryan.....	Margaret Walter
Feb 23	Ellise Jefferson & Reece Peck.....	Glenda Phillips
Mar 2	Marshall & Morgan Olson	



Bulletin Delivery

- Feb 7: Allen & Betty Funk
- Feb 14: Darold & Corine Gideon
- Feb 21: Teresa Hilbrink
- Feb 28: Ramona Luebbers
- Mar 7: Allen & Betty Funk

Altar Guild

Lois DeWald - Chair

Melinda Olson, Brenda Yoder- Saturday

Danielle Ewers, Pam Gudenkauf,

Rhonda Kuhlmann, Tammy Nuss

**NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2025**

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



**St. John Lutheran Church
Pastor Teri Sutherlin**

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

Worship Services

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

Office Hours

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

St. John Lutheran Church

Clergy and Staff

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

Church Council

President: Lee Keffer
Vice President: Gaylon Walter
Secretary: Carol Fritz
Treasurer: Kylie Stoppel
Members: Afton Brown, Hadlee Brown, D.J. Klema,
Alex R. Krug, Melinda Olson, Heather
Pohlman, Pastor Teri Sutherlin