

St. John Lutheran Church

January 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 – January 2025 *Basket of Prayers*



Happy New Year! As a new year begins, many of us reflect on habits we would like to change, goals we'd like to meet, and new things we would like to try. I would encourage you to think about taking some time to reflect on your spiritual life and faith formation, especially making time to talk with God. I am sharing with you an article about prayer from *The Lutheran Digest* which was published in 2014 titled "Basket of Prayers," written by Karen M. Leet.

"Prayers can be as different as marshmallows and rocks, fluffy kittens and prickly porcupines, clouds and hailstones. Prayers can come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Lately, I got to thinking about some of the different kinds of prayers I've heard about. Here are some examples.

- **Gimme prayers:** Perhaps the most common, these are when we ask God for something: a sunny day for a picnic, the money to pay a bill, a car that runs, and so forth. Some of these are big, essential needs. Others might be almost silly. But these prayers are basically wanting God to give us what we want and what we are asking for.
- **Healing prayers:** Usually pretty serious stuff. We might pray for healing for family members or friends, strangers, or ourselves. These prayers can be major as when someone faces a terrible prognosis. We might pray for insight and skill for doctors performing surgeries. We might ask for a lesser diagnosis. Or we might ask for an outright miracle in a hopeless case.
- **Thank-you prayers:** After God answers a request or petition, hopefully we take the time to say a heartfelt thank you to God. We might spend some time rejoicing, worshipping, singing praise songs, and telling others about what God has done for us.
- **Long-term prayers:** Some prayers are not soon answered. Some prayers will require a commitment of time and energy. Some prayers might need years of steady prayer diligently applied.
- **Blessing prayers:** At times we might ask God to bless someone, to provide for that person, to guide, protect, and watch over that person. We might speak the blessing prayer aloud over someone. We might ask for certain, specific blessings or just basic, general blessings for that particular person.
- **Salvation prayers:** If we know someone who doesn't know the Lord or hasn't heard about Jesus at all, or who never really made a commitment to God, we want to pray for them to become a believer. We might commit to prayer, but also to sharing what we believe, inviting the person to church activities, starting a prayer time with that person, or in some other way reaching out to them.
- **Praise prayer:** Sometimes it's lovely just to spend time with God in praise and worship. We might read praise verses from the Bible about God's power and mercy, God's goodness and love. It's a time to reaffirm the amazing qualities of God and how much God means to us.

(continued on next page)

- **Emergency prayer:** In a sudden crisis, in a time of disaster or threat, in a time of shock or horror, we can cry out to God from the depths of our being. We can call for God's help, presence, and protection. We can throw ourselves on God's mercy and know that there are times we can't do anything except reach out to God like helpless children.
- **Forgiveness prayers:** There are times when we must confess our flaws and failings to God and ask for forgiveness. No one is perfect. We all fall short of our goal, to be more like Jesus. If we humble ourselves and honestly feel sorry for our sins, God is quick to forgive. We only need to ask.
- **Unspoken prayers:** The prayers we offer when we can't find the words to say, times when we moan or cry or go totally blank, times when we don't even know where to start. When we are lost in grief or despair, discouragement or darkness, we reach out in wordless prayer. God hears the cry of our hearts. God sees our tears. God knows when we are lost and shattered and need God most of all. God never leaves us to struggle alone and lonely. God hears. God knows. God draws near. We don't need words to tell God.
- **Repetition prayers:** We might say the Lord's Prayer over and over. Or maybe say a scripture verse repeatedly. We might say the psalmist's words as if they are our own. Our need might be so great that we will pray the same prayer again and again until we are sure of God's answer.
- **Instant-answer prayers:** There are moments when a prayer barely brushes through our thoughts and before we can fully formulate the words, God answers. Moments when the answer seems almost to arrive at the very instant we ask. For most of us, this doesn't happen often, but what an amazing experience when it does happen.

Reflection Questions: Which of these prayers have you experienced most often? Which do you enjoy the most? Which would you like to try sometime? Do you have other ways of praying besides these? Isn't prayer a wonderful gift from God? We can reach out to God anytime, anywhere, about anything. Best of all, God hears every prayer, and God answers. God loves us that much! God is never too busy to hear our prayers and spend time with us.”

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

“Basket of Prayers,” Karen M. Leet, *The Lutheran Digest: Inspiration, Hope & Humor*,
Fall 2014, Logos Productions Inc, 43-44.

Thank you for all your support, prayers, and help during my time of recovery from my shoulder replacement surgery. My gratitude to everyone who has provided transportation for me in town and out of town, you are fantastic R-uber drivers (Russell Uber), and all of your time schlepping me around is greatly appreciated. I also appreciate all the meals and assistance provided and a big thank you to John Dumler for assisting with covering worship and pastoral care.

You are true Blessings, Pastor Teri

2025

JANUARY

PASTOR TERI'S CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
04 We Worship As One Hymn Sing - 8:15 AM	05 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	06 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; New Year's Eve	07 New Year's Day - St. John Offices closed	08 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Appt 12:00 PM; LAST DAY to submit Annual Reports	09 Worship with Communion 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	10 Worship 6:00 PM
05 Worship with Communion 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	06 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	07 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	08 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 4:25 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	09 Women's Group Bible Study 10:00 AM; Bible Study 1:30 PM	10 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	11 Altar Guild/Property Committee take down decorations 9:00 AM; Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
12 Worship 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	13 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal; post-op appt in Hays 2:30 PM	14 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Exec Comm 5:30 PM	15 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 4:25 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	16 Bible Study 1:30 PM; Church Council 6:30 PM	17 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	18 Worship 6:00 PM
19 Worship with Communion 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM; Agape Choir	20 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	21 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; record Clergy Comments	22 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 4:25 Youth 6:30 PM	23 Bible Study 1:30 PM	24 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	25 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
26 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; St John Ringers Bell Choir; Annual Congregation Meeting following 10:30 Worship	27 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	28 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	29 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; Altar Guild Meeting 6:30; Agape Choir 7:30	30 Bible Study 1:30 PM	31 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	01

St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

<u>Date</u>	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
January 8	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
January 15	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
January 22	6:30 pm	
January 29	6:30 pm	7:30 pm



Performances

Agape Choir	10:30 am, January 19	Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am
St. John Ringers	10:30 am, January 26	Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 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 Cemetery Committee of the Church Council will meet in January - TBA
- The Church Council will meet Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 pm.
- St. John Women's Bible Study will be held Thursday, January 9 at 10:00 am. Large print materials are available upon request.
- The Altar Guild and Property Committee will meet at 9:00 am Saturday, January 11, 2025 to take down Christmas décor in the Sanctuary and Chapel.
- **2024 Contribution Statements will not be printed until we have closed out the 2024 year. Statements will not be available until the last week in January.**
- The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26, 2025 following the 10:30 am service. The alternate date in case of inclement weather is Sunday, February 2, 2025. The 2024 Annual Reports will be made available by Sunday, January 12, 2025.
- Altar Guild will meet Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 6:30 PM.



Blessings and Celebrations



Congratulations to Justin & Lizzie White on the birth of their daughter Olivia Kristen White on 12/18/2024

Congratulations to Hayle and Jackson Bjornstad on the arrival of their son Sigurd Curtis Bjornstad on 10/27/2024. Kristine Mader is the proud "granny nanny."

January 2025 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
Jan 4.....	Allen & Betty Funk	Galen Niedenthal.....	_____
Jan 11.....	Darold & Corine Gideon.....	_____	_____
Jan 18.....	Glenn Gideon.....	Elaine Voos	_____
Jan 25.....	_____	_____	_____
Feb 1	_____	_____	_____



8:15 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
Jan 5.....	Connie Schinkus	Connie Schinkus	_____
Jan 12.....	Kurt & Lois DeWald.....	Lois DeWald	_____
Jan 19.....	Katrin Kolder	Katrin Kolder.....	_____
Jan 26.....	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich.....	_____
Feb 2	_____	_____	_____



10:30 Sun	Greeter	Usher	Lector
Jan 5.....	Susy Krug (N); Deloris Janne (S).....	Susy Krug.....	Cindy Ross
Jan 12.....	Gerald & Mary Mai (N); Steve & Connie Krug (S) ...	Gerald & Mary Mai	Carol Fritz
Jan 19.....	Brad & Sherri Stoppel (N); _____ (S) ...	Brad & Sherri Stoppel.....	Gina Langhofer
Jan 26.....	Ron & Ginger Tittel (N); Bonnie Buehler (S)	Ron & Ginger Tittel.....	Ruth Keil
Feb 2	_____ (N); _____ (S).....	_____	_____

10:30 Sun	Acolytes	Musician
Jan 5.....	Hadlee Brown, Evanlee Rainey	_____
Jan 12.....	Maggie Olson, Maybelle Olson	_____
Jan 19.....	Bryson Feil, Campbell Lofland	_____
Jan 26.....	Layken Eck, Karrsyn Ross.....	_____
Feb 2	Kollins Dumler, Rogan Dumler.....	_____



Bulletin Delivery

Jan 3: Darold & Corine Gideon
 Jan 10: Teresa Hilbrink
 Jan 17: _____
 Jan 24: Ramona Luebbers
 Jan 31: Georganna McCrary

Altar Guild

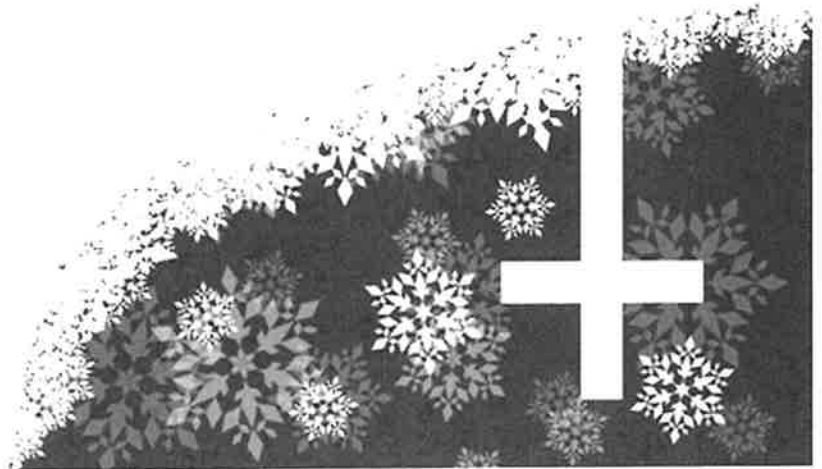
Tammy Nuss – Chair
 Connie Dumler, Danielle Ewers,
 Teresa Hilbrink, Rhonda Kuhlmann



**The St. John Council is searching for additional volunteers to serve as Offering Counters.
 For more information, please contact the office.**

JANUARY 2025
NEWSLETTER

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, Judy Holmes, D.J. Klema,
Melinda Olson, Heather Pohlman, Kelvie
Reeves, Pastor Teri Sutherlin