

# St. John Lutheran Church

425 N. Main, Russell KS 67665 ♦ 785-483-5358  
Website: stjohnrussell.com ♦ Email: stjoh@ruraltel.net

Pastor: Teri Sutherlin ♦ PMA: John Dumler

## July 2023



### 2023 Vacation Bible School **Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity** St. John Lutheran Church, Russell

Preschool through Fifth Grade (as of May 2023)  
July 31 through August 4

Light Supper 5:30 ~ Activities 6:00 to 8:30 pm

**Closing Program: Saturday, August 5 ~ 6:00 pm**



**Find registration forms and donation lists on the main bulletin board!**

Vacation Bible School succeeds thanks to the support of many, many volunteers and donors. Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes - everyone has a talent they can share. Donations are needed for nightly meals and craft/creation activities. Monetary donations are also welcome, and will be used to purchase items not received through donations. For more information, please contact Kristy Mader (785-445-2265).



**Keeping Children & Youth Safe**

## Safe Environment Training

The St. John Education Committee requires **all volunteers and paid staff working with youth** to complete a background check and attend Safe Environment Training before working with students during 2023 VBS and the 2023-2024 Sunday School year.

Background checks will be required for new volunteers and staff; if you have a background check on file in the office, you will be notified if you need an updated background check.

Safe Environment Training classes are being scheduled; details will be shared as soon as they are available.

Please contact Kristy Mader (785-445-2265) for more information.

### **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**



## *Teri Talk - July 2023*

I had the opportunity to spend time with the 425 Youth Group on their Ark Encounter trip. This is an amazing group of kids to hang out with! They are thoughtful, kind, they share and don't try to "have their own way," they look out for each other, check in with each other, and make sure everyone is included. They think and talk about things they can do to serve others. They also do normal teenage stuff, like staying glued to their phones and having a four-night long slumber party, including staying up way too late having fun.

During this trip we traveled through five states including Kansas. We kicked off the trip with a visit to the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri and most of the group traveled to the top of the Arch to see the view. There are about 8 "cars" that act as elevators to ride to the top of the Arch, each with five seats. One of the kids described the elevator cars as getting into a "washing machine." We spent time in the Museum on site and took a one-hour ferry ride on the *Tom Sawyer* up the Mississippi River.

Day three of the trip was the tour of the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky and the Creation Museum about 45 minutes north in Petersburg, KY. The developers built a replica of Noah's Ark to scale using interpreted measurements based on the story in Genesis. The representation of the ark is a visual experience of understanding how massive this boat was. Why isn't it called Noah's Boat or Ship? It was meant to float on the water and there are numerous Biblical references to boats and ships, why in this story is it referred to as an ark? An ark is not only a boat, but also a place of protection, safety, and refuge.

What the Ark Encounter offers is a way of bringing the story to life. How the interior of the ark could have been designed for living quarters for the human beings and containment of the animals. How plants could be grown and maintained for food, how fresh water could be obtained, filtered, and stored, and waste management. This vision of the story of Noah was produced out of modern minds but the developers tried to give a faithful and realistic experience based on what would have been available in that time period. Whether or not the vision of the developers of the Ark Encounter is an accurate depiction or representation of the story of Noah, the experience it provides opens up the imagination, focuses on the greatness of God and how God works through us to accomplish the seemingly impossible.

May these youth be blessed with a Holy Imagination and inspired by how much bigger God is than our ability to understand and continue to grow in their faith.

Blessings,  
Pastor Teri



# Pastor Teri's Calendar - July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	01
Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM Communion	Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	Independence Day. VFW BBQ 11 AM, Program Opening Prayer Noon. Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day.	Bible Study 1:30 PM, Scholarship Meeting 4:30 PM.	Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	Worship Service 6:00 PM
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day.	Bible Study 1:30 PM, Meet w/ Women after. Bible Study Humanities Speaker Series 7:00 PM	Pastor's Sermon Writing Day. Ad Astra Music Festival 7:30-8:30 Sunshine & Piatt	Worship Service 6:00 PM Communion
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day.	Bible Study 1:30 PM	Pastor's Sermon Writing Day. Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 pm	Worship Service 6:00 PM Baptism Holden Lawrence Pope (Britini & Cody Pope)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, Communion	Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	Western KS Regional Hays 9:00 AM, Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day. Russell Co. Free Fair	Bible Study 1:30 PM	Pastor's Sermon Writing Day. Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 pm	Hall/Anderson Wed- ding 3:30 PM. Wor- ship Service 6:00 PM - Communion
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, Scholarship Award Sunday 10:30 AM	Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal. Russell Co. Free Fair	Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Record Clergy Com- ments, Russell Co. Free Fair	Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day. Russell Co. Free Fair	Bible Study 1:30 PM, Russell Co. Free Fair	Pastor's Sermon Writing Day. Russell Co. Free Fair, Czech Fest Wilson	Worship Service 6:00 PM - Communion We Gather As One
30	31					
NO SERVICES, Pastor Alternate Day Off	Vacation Bible School Starts					

# *425 Youth Group Trip*

## *St. John to the Arch to the Ark and Home Again*

On behalf of the 425 Youth Group, we appreciate the generosity and support from our community that enabled us to go on our trip to Williamstown, Kentucky. This was an amazing experience for our youth group and we made a lifetime of memories. The main objective of our trip was visiting a replica of Noah's Ark. This included speaker presentations, animals, images, and hands-on activities. The Ark Encounter was packed with experiences that made our visit fun, educational and memorable. - Hannah Krug



Many thanks for all the cards, notes, flowers,  
and gifts I received for my 90th birthday!  
Blessings to you all! - Betty Boxberger



Thank you to all that came to celebrate my  
birthday. I am truly grateful for all your good  
wishes and lovely cards.  
God bless each of you. - Jean Mai



- Please note: the Council and staff are aware of the issues with the sanctuary carpet. Carpet One has been contacted, and they are working with Church Mutual to finalize an acceptable solution for all parties.
- Effective immediately, the sanctuary doors and the handicap entrance will remain unlocked during Sunday services. At the June meeting, the Church Council discussed the pros and cons of locking the doors, and determined that it is important that the church remains accessible throughout services.
- St. John offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, 2023 in observance of Independence Day.
- The Mai Scholarship Committee will meet at 4:30 pm, Thursday, July 6. Celebration of Awarded Scholarships is scheduled for the 10:30 service on Sunday, July 23, 2023
- To be included in the August Newsletter, articles and announcements must be submitted no later than Friday, July 14.
- The St. John Women of the ELCA Mini-Retreat has been scheduled for Thursday, August 17 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.
- Wiggle Your Wings Preschool has several openings for the 2023-2024 school year. Wiggle Your Wings, located in the lower level of St. John Lutheran Church, is a faith-based preschool for children 3 to 5 years (or Kindergarten eligible). For more information, or to register, please contact Janella Eck at 785-483-8722.



### ***Ad Astra Music Festival returns to St. John***

The tenth season of the Ad Astra Music Festival kicks off with Victoria native and pianist, Matthew Piatt, who coaches at San Francisco Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, and The Metropolitan Opera. Piatt returns to Ad Astra with Elisa Sunshine, a San Francisco-based soprano.

#### **Sunshine + Piatt**

Friday, July 14, 2023 ~ 7:30 to 8:30 pm

St. John Lutheran Church Sanctuary

Tickets: \$10.00 ~ ON SALE NOW!

Visit [adastramusicfestival.org](http://adastramusicfestival.org) to purchase tickets



***Bible Study with Pastor***  
is back!!!

Thursday, July 6 at 1:30 pm

Join in the review of and  
discussion about  
2 Corinthians

**Bible**  
**STUDY**  
Join us!





## 2023 St. John Lutheran Church Back-to-School Giveaway Thursday and Friday, August 10 & 11

The 2023 St. John Lutheran Church Back-to-School Giveaway is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, August 10 and 11.

- Russell County area students (preschool through senior high school) eligible for free- and reduced-lunches may choose from gently used clothing and shoes, and will receive a package of new socks and undergarments. Each student is limited to ten items (in addition to new socks and undergarments) on Thursday, but may return on Friday to select additional items with no restrictions.

Donations of gently used clothing and shoes, and new socks and undergarments **in all sizes** (preschool through high school) are greatly appreciated and will be collected through Thursday, August 3. Gently used clothing and shoes may be placed in the box under the coat rack in the basement. New socks and undergarments may be delivered to the church office.

- Personal care items (shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes/toothpaste, combs/brushes, body wash, lip balm, nail clippers/emery boards, lotion, small hand sanitizer, barrettes/hair ties, etc.) will be made available to students while supplies last. Each student may choose up to five items on Thursday, and on Friday all remaining items will be available on a first come, first serve basis. New personal care items may be placed in the boxes under the coat rack in the main hall.
- A limited number of new school supplies will be available for students in junior and senior high. These basic items may include spiral notebooks, highlighters, USB drives, ink pens (red, blue, and black), pencils and erasers. New school supplies may be delivered to the church office.
- Monetary donations are greatly appreciated and will be used to purchase items not received through donations. Monetary donations may be delivered to the church office.

All donations remaining after Friday, August 11 will be sorted and donated to the Orphan Grain Train, the Salina Rescue Mission, and other area ministries. New socks and undergarments will be stored until next year.

Please take a moment to pray for students starting the new school year; for parents and guardians as they strive to provide their children with items necessary to return to school; for those donating items (both gently used and new), or making monetary donations; and for those volunteering throughout the Back-to-School Giveaway - coordinating, organizing, sorting, setting up, and those assisting during the giveaway.

Help students put their best foot forward every day  
with a wardrobe of school-ready clothing, a warm coat,  
and shoes that fit; new personal care items, socks,  
and undergarments; and new school supplies.

# PMA Notes ~ July 2023

By John Dumler, PMA

God's love for us is boundless - Christ has given his life for us - we have been given the gift of the holy spirit! Today, as I am writing my newsletter article I was visiting my wife who is recuperating from surgery. as a temporary resident at Wheatland Skilled Nursing Center. I tried to inspire her to continue to progress and improve. As I was leaving I was thinking about how **unfair** it was that I had to leave Deb at Wheatland and go home without her.

I have come to know many of the residents through regular visits and Care Center Worship every month or so. As I was leaving I saw Doug - one of the long-term residents. I stopped for a chat and he said "Now, John. You behave yourself!" Of course I said I couldn't promise anything. I asked how things were going for him.

He told me he will be losing his remaining foot to diabetes in the near future. I gave him my sympathy and promise of prayers for quick healing. In my heart I was overcome with emotion - I was angry, and it wasn't even happening to me. How could Doug **not** be angry?

I received an Epiphany moment from Doug - even as he faced his troubles, he simply said to me, "God has done so much for me already! I never forget to thank him!" I quickly patted him on the shoulder, told him he would be in my prayers, and made my way to the exit.

I was almost in tears - in spite of all of the complications and years he had been in Wheatland - Doug was thankful! He taught me something this morning. I had to hear from Doug what I should have recognized all along - God never leaves, He is always with us - good times and bad, times of struggle and times of joy. Doug's simple comments reminded me of the good news.

I pray, dear God, and thank you for everything you do in our lives. You keep us knowing that you are the God of hope. The God of eternal love. The God of mercy and the God of forgiveness. Life comes at us too fast and sometimes we forget the love you sent us in Jesus Christ who took our sins to the cross. We thank you today and every day, even when we need reminding during a talk with Doug. I pray that you keep Doug safe and heal him as you can. Hold us all in your heart and help us to be your servant. Amen.

We are given so much every day, but sometimes we have to stop and listen - to our family, our friends, the world around us - to understand the depth of your love. I will continue to be the child of God you teach us to be.

Many thanks and many blessings - John

## OUR PARISH RECORDS

<b>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</b>					<b>OFFERING</b>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Total</u>		
May 28.....	17	30	52	99	May 28 .....	\$3,389.00
June 4 .....	22	29	33	84	June 4 .....	5,767.00
June 11 .....	27	24	45	96	June 11 .....	3,252.00
June 18 .....	23	28	36	87	June 18 .....	2,750.00
June 25*					June 25*	
<b>* Data not available at time of publication</b>						

# July 2023 Worship Assistants

<b>6:00 PM SAT</b>	<b>8:15 AM SUN</b>	<b>10:30 AM SUN</b>
<p><b>GREETER/USHER:</b>            1 Susan Krug            8 John &amp; Mary Boxberger            15 Ramona Luebbers            22 Darold &amp; Corine Gideon            29 We Gather As One:                Glenn Gideon</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 5 Bob &amp; Elaine Voos</p> <p><b>READER:</b>            1 Susan Krug            8 Nancy Aspegren            15 Elaine Voos            22 Sheryl Krug            29 We Gather As One -                Jeremy Ulrich</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 5 Elaine Voos</p>	<p><b>GREETER/USHER:</b>            2 Connie Schinkus            9 D &amp; G McCrary            16 Kurt &amp; Lois DeWald            23 Susan Krug            29 NO SERVICE</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 6 Katrin Kolder</p> <p><b>LECTOR:</b>            2 Connie Schinkus            9 Georganna McCrary            16 Lois DeWald            23 Susan Krug            30 NO SERVICE</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 6 Katrin Kolder</p>	<p><b>GREETERS:</b>            2 Morris &amp; Barbara Krug (N)                Eck Family (S)            9 Gerald &amp; Mary Mai (N)                Irene Coffeen (S)            16 425 Youth (N)                Carol Fritz (S)            23 Ron &amp; Ginger Tittel (N)                Bonnie Buehler            30 NO SERVICE</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 6 Morris &amp; Barbara Krug (N)                Deloris Janne (S)</p> <p><b>USHER:</b>            2 Morris Krug            9 Gerald &amp; Mary Mai            16 425 Youth            23 Ron &amp; Ginger Tittel            30 NO SERVICE</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 6 Morris Krug</p> <p><b>ACOLYTES:</b>            2 NO ACOLYTES            9 Elise &amp; Jasmine Jefferson            16 Rogan Dumler / Alex Krug            23 Hadlee Brown / Harper Ryan            30 NO SERVICE</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 6 NO ACOLYTES</p> <p><b>LECTOR:</b>            2 Eck Family            9 Susan Krug            16 Carol Fritz            23 Glenna Hackerott            30 NO SERVICE</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 6 Judy Holmes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALTAR GUILD</b></p> <p>Carol Fritz, Connie Dumler,            Teresa Hilbrink, Mona Grady,            Annette Stierlen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MUSICIANS</b></p> <p>July 1 - Paula Hachmeister            July 2 - Margaret Walter            July 8 - Curtis Sander            July 9 - Juanita Flegler            July 15 - Peggy Anschutz            July 16 - Juanita Flegler            July 22 - Paula            July 23 - Glenda Phillips            July 29 -            July 30 - NO SERVICES</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BULLETIN DELIVERY</b></p> <p>July 7 ..... Georganna McCrary            July 14 ..... Olson Family            July 21 ..... Frank Peirano            July 28 ..... Reeves Family</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 4 ..... John Boxberger</p>		







### Attention

### Worship Assistants and Bulletin Delivery Volunteers

- Please review the Worship Assistant schedule in this newsletter - *schedules may have changed*
- Please disregard the original volunteer schedules for the remainder of 2023
- **New Volunteer Schedules for August - December, 2023 will be mailed no later than Friday, July 14**

## We Gather As One

5th Weekend Combined Service

Saturday, July 29, 2023

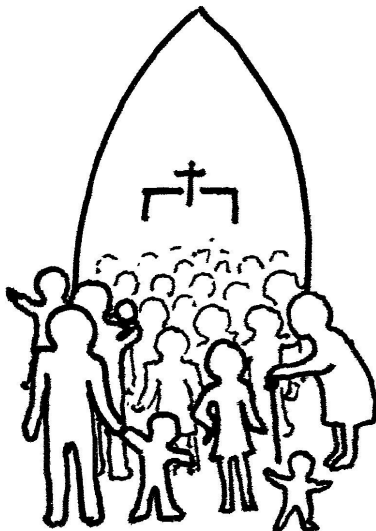
6:00 pm ~ Chapel



St. John members are a family - a family that extends across three services each weekend. Many members have a preferred service, and may not cross paths with folks attending the other two services. The Worship & Music Committee decided to encourage the St. John family to gather together on each fifth weekend in 2023.

The first combined service was the 10:30 Service on Sunday, January 29 (as luck would have it, that was the very same day as the Annual Congregational Meeting). The second combined service was the 8:15 Service on Sunday, April 30 and was well attended, even if everyone *wasn't* bright-eyed and bushy-tailed!

**The next combined service will be the 6:00 pm service on Saturday, July 29. All are welcome to attend and worship in the Chapel. There will be no services on Sunday, July 30. More details (and a few surprises) will be available soon.**



On Sunday, October 29 at the 10:30 service, the St. John Family will gather to celebrate Reformation and honor those young adults receiving the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation).

Plans are underway to make the final fifth weekend of 2023 a special event for EVERYONE! The 10:30 service on Sunday, December 31 may celebrate more than a new year - watch weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, and [stjohnrussell.com](http://stjohnrussell.com) for more information.





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**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

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**John Dumlér, PMA**

pma@ruraltel.net

**Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper**

sjlbookkeeper@ruraltel.net

**Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant**

**Debora Kreutzer, Custodian**

**John Kreutzer, Custodian**

**Church Council**

**Officers:**

Blaine Maier, President

Kristine Mader, Vice President

Carol Fritz, Secretary

Treasurer - open position

**Members:**

Judy Holmes, Lee Keffler, D.J.

Kiema,

Kelvie Reeves, Pastor Teri Sutherlin,

Gaylon Walter, Margaret Walter

**Council Committees:**

Cemetery; Education; Evangelism/

Parish Fellowship/Social Ministry;

Mutual Ministry (Pastoral Support);

Property; Stewardship/Finance;

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

To have your name removed from  
the mailing list, please contact  
the office at your convenience.

**The 10:30 Worship Services  
on July 9 and 23 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.**