

St. John Lutheran Church
June 2026 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 June 2026 – Holy Light

St. John Lutheran Church is blessed with beautiful stained glass. In our July 2022 Newsletter, a “treasure hunt” was encouraged to go through the upper levels of the church and identify the windows with their listed features. At that time, I was guessing at what some of them represented, since then, the actual descriptions and symbols were located. So, I encourage all of you to take time and truly look at and study the stained glass in our church. To pay attention and really notice scripture written in colored glass. To reflect on the images in each window and the meaning of each image.

Early in the morning and late in the afternoon, as the sun rises and descends, the church is filled with Holy Light. Really look at the source of this Holy Light that is beautifully *beamed* into the building through the gorgeous stained glass. For me, it is a daily reminder of God’s presence and to take time to express gratitude, praise, and thanks to God for God’s many blessings.

Stained Glass Treasure Hunt

Explore the upper levels of the church and locate the described window.

Windows that symbolize the Gospel Writers. To identify which evangelist is pictured look for a smaller symbol associated with the writer. The symbols for the gospel writers come from scripture: Ezekiel 4:10 & Revelation 4:6-8.

Matthew – the divine man (a winged man)

John – the eagle

Mark – the winged lion

Luke – the winged ox

Windows that represent Jesus’ birth, ministry, and death.

The Holy Family/Nativity

Jesus being baptized

Jesus calling the disciples

Jesus preaching the Sermon on the Mount

Jesus blessing the children

Jesus knocking on door

The Crucifixion

Windows that represent Peter and Paul.

Paul – Scroll in hand, his symbol is the Word of God (book & sword)

Peter – Key in hand, his symbol is the keys to the Kingdom = forgiveness of sins (2 keys & upside down cross)

Symbols of Faith, Sacraments, Holy Days

Word of God (Bible & cross), Lord's Supper (chalice, grapes & wheat), Holy Baptism, (dove, & font)

Feeding the multitudes (Loaves & Fish)

Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures (Bible, candle & quill), Martin Luther, Luther's Coat of Arms (the Lutheran Rose)

Lutheran Rose (framed stained glass)

Resurrection (empty tomb/casket, sun, flag with red cross banner)

Ascension (flames & fiery chariot)

Pentecost (dove, 7 flames=gifts of the Spirit)

Symbols of the Trinity

The hand of God (creative & life sustaining power)

Lamb of God (banner = victory over death & grave)



Holy Spirit (dove, 3 rays of light = grace, mercy, & peace)

Windows representing scripture or people from the Old Testament

Creation – (Hand of God, sun, moon, stars, tree, water)

Fall of [Hu]Man[ity] – tree of knowledge of good & evil and snake

Expulsion from Eden – flaming sword and snake

Cain & Abel – altar of fire & smoke  to heaven & altar of smoke  to ground

The Deluge/Flood – ark, water, rainbow

Receding of the Waters - dove with olive branch

Altar of Sacrifice – lamb on altar, fire & smoke (Noah)

Abraham & Isaac – bundle of wood, knife, jar

Joseph's Cloak – coat/robe & stole

Joseph of Egypt – Star, sheaves, desert, pyramid

Call of Moses – burning bush

Scroll – the Torah, 5 books of Moses

Ark of the Covenant – symbol of the presence of God

The Exodus – divided water to dry land, cross of Christ breaks the chains, palm tree & pyramid

Ten Commandments – stone tablets & lightening (finger of God)

David – Lion of Judah with harp

Solomon – Temple

Isaiah – scroll, flame, tongs & coal

Symbols of the Resurrection

Phoenix - A mythical bird which at death bursts into flame but rises from its own ashes. Symbol of the resurrection and immortal life.

Pelican - Depicted in the act of piercing her breast with her beak so that her young may have food. She dies but they live. This is a symbol of Christ's atonement (the sacrifice of Christ on the cross who shed his blood to redeem all creation.)

Peacock – Early symbol of the resurrection and new life. When the peacock sheds his feathers, he grows more brilliant ones than those he lost.

Butterfly - Symbol of the resurrection and eternal life. Because of its life cycle in which it emerges from a chrysalis (cocoon) changed in form it soars upward with a new body, so through Jesus Christ are His followers borne to a new life.

Bursting Pomegranate - The power of our Lord, who was able to burst the tomb and come forth.

Lily - Symbol of Easter and immortality. The bulb decays in the ground, yet from it, new life is released.

Windows representing scripture from the New Testament

Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

"Come Unto Me" (Matthew 11:28)

"I Have Found My Sheep" (Luke 15:6)

May your explorations fill you with God's Holy Light and remind you of God's presence in your life.

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

Pastor Teri's Calendar

2026 JUNE

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

CALENDAR MONTH

CALENDAR YEAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 am, Holy Trinity	01 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal, Appt 2 PM	02 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	03 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day, Custodian Position Interview 5:30 PM	04 Bible Study 1:30 PM	05 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	06 Synod Assembly - St John Host Site 9-3 pm Zoom. Worship Service 6:00 PM, Hymnal Exp begins
07 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 am, Communion, Hymnal Exp. Begins	08 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	09 Sewing Group 2:30-4:00 PM, Exec Committee 5:30 PM	10 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day	11 Bible Study 1:30 PM	12 Payroll, Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	13 Worship Service 6:00 PM Communion
14 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, No Communion, Care Home Worship 2-4 PM	15 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	16 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Church Council 6:30 PM	17 WKS Regional Text Study Hays 9-11 AM, Online Workshop 12- 1 PM	18 Bible Study 1:30, Dr. Appt. 3:30 PM	19 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	20 Graveside Service Audrey Loughridge 11 AM RCC, Worship Service 6:00 PM no comm
21 8:15 & 10:30 worship, Communion, Father's Day	22 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	23 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Record Clergy Comments	24 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day	25 Bible Study 1:30 PM,	26 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	27 Worship Service 6 PM Communion
28 Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM, no comm	29 Payroll, Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	30 Pay Day, Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	01 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day	02 Bible Study 1:30 PM,	03 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	04 U.S. Semiquincentennial, July 4th Celebration, Worship 6PM no comm

Summer Worship Experiment – Return to Using the Hymnals During Worship

The Worship & Music Committee has recommended to the Church Council that we try an experiment during the summer months and it was approved. This experiment will be reducing the size of our worship bulletins by using the hymnals for the worship liturgy as well as the hymns and service music. This experiment is to help reduce paper waste and to help in deciding if we should invest in purchasing more of the 2006 cranberry hymnals.

Beginning with our first weekend of worship on June 6 & 7, 2026, an abbreviated bulletin will be used in conjunction with the hymnal. A rolling cart with the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) cranberry hymnals will be at the Sanctuary and Chapel doors prior to worship. As you enter worship, you will pick up a hymnal along with your bulletin and return them at the end of worship. Help will be available carrying the hymnal if you need assistance.

We will continue to offer a limited number of large print, comprehensive bulletins for those who need them and this copy will be posted on our website and sent to the care homes. This will take some getting used to as any change does, and your feedback during this experiment is welcomed.

Prayer Shawl Group: Mondays at 10:00 AM

Sewing Group: Tuesdays 1:30 – 4:00 PM

Bible Study with Pastor: Thursdays 1:30 PM in Parish Hall

Executive Committee: Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 5:30 PM

Church Council: Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 6:30 PM

In June the 10:30 Worship Services on 2nd & 4th Sundays will be broadcast on KRSL (990 AM and 98.1 FM).

Sunday Services are streamed live at www.stjohnrussell.com

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

To be **included** in the **July Newsletter**, information must be submitted no later than **June 22, 2026**.

June 2026 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
June 6th	Brad and Cheryl Prester	Jeremy Ulrich	TBA
June 13th	Bob and Elaine Voos	Elaine Voos	TBA
June 20th	Galen and Rudene Niedenthal	Galen Niedenthal	TBA
June 27th	John and Mary Boxberger	John Dumler	TBA

8:15 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
June 7th	Gordon and Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	TBA
June 14th	Dick and Georganna McCrary	Georganna McCrary	TBA
June 21st	Katrine Kolder	Katrine Kolder	TBA
June 28th	Gordon and Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	TBA

10:30 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector
June 7th	Glenna Hackerott(N) ; Janella Eck(S)	Gina Langhofer
June 14th	Morris and Barbara Krug(N); Irene Coffeen(S)	Susan Krug
June 21st	Steve Masden (N); Carol Fritz (S)	Ruth Kiel
June 28th	Ron and Ginger Tittel (N); Margaret Finbeiner(S)	Deb Kreutzer

June 7th	Acolytes	Musician
June 7th	Morgan and Marshall Olson(10:30am)	TBA
June 14th	Harper Ryan and Analeigh Schoech(10:30am)	TBA
June 21st	Karrsyn Ross and Elsie Jefferson(10:30am)	TBA
June 28th	Alex and Noah Krug (10:30am)	TBA

Bulletin Delivery
 June 5th: Darold and Corrine Gideon
 June 12th: Laura Biles
 June 19th: Allen and Betty Funk
 June 26th: Dick and Georganna McCrary

Altar Guild:
 Chair: Teresa & Annette
 Saturday: Brenda Yoder
 Carol Fritz, Connie Dumler & Crecia

If you cannot assist the week you are listed, please try to find someone to take your place that weekend.

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
May 2 nd (Gather As One).....				119
May 9 th and 10 th	26.....	21.....	28.....	75
May 16 th and 17 th	22.....	20.....	43.....	85
May 23 rd and 24 th	27.....	30.....	45.....	102
May 30 th and 31 st				will be included in July Newsletter

Offering

May 2 nd (Gather As One)	\$4121.00
May 9 th and 10 th	\$2926.00
May 16 th and 17 th	\$1181.00
May 23 rd and 24 th	\$3801.00
May 30 th and 31 st	will be included in July Newsletter

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry provides crocheted and knitted blankets to bring comfort to people in times of illness, recovery and grief. Anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting can participate in this ministry even if you are unable to attend the group gathering time on Mondays at 10:00 am. Yarn is supplied by this ministry and the making of the prayer shawls can be done at home.

The Mai Family Scholarship and Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship

The Mai Family Scholarship is a scholarship established by the Mai family in honor and memory of Rich Mai. Confirmed students who are members of St. John Lutheran Church may apply for the scholarship to help offset the expense of pursuing higher education. This scholarship may be renewed for four years. The Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship is available for high school graduates who are confirmed members of St. John Lutheran Church entering college. This is a one-time scholarship.

The application link for the Mai Family Scholarship and the Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship will soon be available at stjohnrussell.com. Paper applications are available now in the church office. Applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday July 1, 2026.

Award notifications will be made by writing to each recipient (awards will be presented directly to the education institutions). All scholarship recipients (or their representative) must be present at the 10:30 service on Scholarship recognition Sunday July 26, 2026. If you have any problems with the application, please contact the church office at 785-483-5358 (Monday through Friday, 1:30pm – 5:00pm).

The 2026 St. John Lutheran Church Back-to-School Giveaway

It is that time of year that we begin gearing up for our Back-to-School Giveaway. This year we will be doing the giveaway on Thursday and Friday July 30 and 31, 2026. **We are now accepting donations.**

Donated Clothing should be school ready (no stains or tears). Gently worn shoes, jackets, and athletic wear are also appreciated. Donations in all sizes for all grades are needed. A box for gently used clothing and shoes is in the basement hallway under the coat rack. New socks and undergarments, school supplies, and monetary donations may be brought to the church office.

Donations of new, full-size personal hygiene items are also needed. Products with neutral scents are preferred. Items may include, but are not limited to: toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, bar/shower soap, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, deodorant, combs, brushes, lip balm, nail clippers, foot powder, feminine products, and hand sanitizer.

The Back-to-School Giveaway is for students (preschool through high school) who reside in the Russell County Area. Each student chooses gently used (and new) clothing and receives a new package of socks and undergarments. A limited number of school supplies are available for students in junior and senior high.

Thank you for your generosity and support of the congregation and community, these ministries allow St. John to help many students as they prepare for the new school year. If you would like to **volunteer** for the Back-to-School Giveaway, **help is needed** to sort as donations arrive, set up before the giveaway, assist during the giveaway, and sort items remaining after the giveaway. For more information, please contact the church office.

A Willingness to Serve

If you have any interest in the following please contact St. John Lutheran Church Council President Lee Keffer at (785-483-7793). Your willingness is greatly appreciated!

-Anyone willing or wanting to finish out a one-year term on St. John Lutheran Church Council

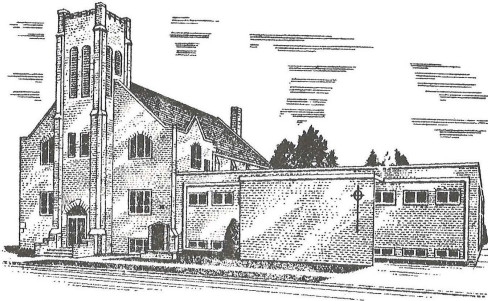
-Any congregation members willing to take part in the Pastor Evaluation Committee (We need at least one congregation member to join this committee).

The 2026 Synod Assembly is being livestreamed this year and St. John Lutheran Church members are invited to attend and watch the Assembly meeting in Parish Hall. Synod Assembly is Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

**HAPPY
SUMMER**

The text 'HAPPY SUMMER' is rendered in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word 'HAPPY' is on the top line, and 'SUMMER' is on the bottom line. The letters are decorated with white sun-like symbols (circles with radiating lines) and wavy lines. The 'H' has a sun on its left side, the 'A' has a sun on its right side, the 'P's have suns on their right sides, and the 'Y' has a sun on its right side. The 'S' has a sun on its right side, the 'U' has a sun on its right side, the 'M' has a sun on its right side, the 'M' has a sun on its right side, the 'E' has a sun on its right side, and the 'R' has a sun on its right side. The entire text is framed by a decorative border of wavy lines and small dots. Below the text is a solid black horizontal bar.

**St. John Lutheran Church
425 N. Main Street
Russell, KS 67665**



**June 2026
Newsletter**

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

****NEW Office Hours****
Monday through Friday
****1:30 pm to 5:00 pm****

St. John Lutheran Church
Clergy and Staff

Pastor Teri Sutherlin (pastor@ruraltel.net)
Kelvie Reeves, Administrative Assistant
Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper
John Kreutzer, Custodian

Church Council

President: Lee Keffer
Vice President: Gaylon Walter
Secretary: Mark Johnson
Treasurer: Amber Ruggels

Members:

Afton Brown, Hadlee Brown,
D.J. Klema, Melinda Olson,
Paul Phillips, Heather Pohlman, and
Pastor Teri Sutherlin



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America