

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

March 2024



Teri Talk - March 2024

We begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday, being marked with an ash cross as a reminder of our mortality; “*you were made from dust and to dust you will return*” (Genesis 3:19). Throughout scripture in the Old Testament are images of people physically demonstrating repentance and humility before God by dressing in sackcloth and covering themselves with ashes. It was an outward sign that something within them had changed, that they had turned around or away from offending God and asking for forgiveness. During the season of Lent, we follow Jesus’ journey to the cross and his death. The cross always leads to death.

We have received another mark of the cross, one that promises life, not death. In baptism we are named and claimed as “*a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever*” with oil. We hear the words:

You have been clothed in Christ. All who are baptized have put on Christ. Walk in the faith of Christ crucified and risen. Shine with the light of Christ. Through baptism you are named and claimed by God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

There is no resurrection without the cross or death. There is no fulfillment of the promise of becoming a new creation or eternal life in God’s love without death.

The traditional theme in Lent is repentance. If we are focusing on repentance through the traditions of fasting and prayer or giving something up during the Lenten season; our focus is on **ourselves**. What *I* am doing, why *I* am doing it, and hopefully how are these actions bringing **me** closer to God. What if during the season of Lent our focus was based in our baptismal promises:

to share with others the life-giving and sustaining good news of Jesus Christ and to step outside ourselves to serve others?

Parable of the Life Saving Station

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was once a crude little lifesaving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought of themselves went out day and night tirelessly searching for the lost. Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous.

(Continued on page 2)

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**

Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding area, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time, money, and effort to support its work. New boats were purchased, and new crews trained. The little lifesaving station grew.

Some of the members of the lifesaving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge for those saved from the sea. So, they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building. Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it beautifully and furnished it exquisitely, because they used it as a sort of club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The lifesaving theme still prevailed in this club's decoration, and there was a large, central symbol of a lifeboat in the room where the club meetings were held, and new members welcomed.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people. They were dirty, some were sick, and the survivors were of many different races and ethnicities. The beautiful new club was in chaos with the mess made when the saved were brought in. So, the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon lifesaving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a lifesaving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own lifesaving station down the coast. So they did.

As the years went by, the newly established lifesaving station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit that seacoast today, you will find numerous exclusive clubs all along the shoreline. Shipwrecks continue to be frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown!

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

¹ This parable originally appeared in an article by Theodore O. Wedel, "Evangelism—the Mission of the Church to Those Outside Her Life," *The Ecumenical Review*, October 1953, p. 24. The above paraphrases the original by Richard Wheatcroft, which appeared in, *May-June Letter to Laymen* 1962, p. 1



The Bethany College Music Department presents the Spring 2024 Choir and Handbells Tour

Thursday, March 7 - 7:30 pm
St. John Lutheran Church Sanctuary
Free and open to the public

Pastor Teri's Calendar - March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM, St. John Ringers	26 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest and renewal	27 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Record Clergy Com- ments	28 Lenten Lunch at Trinity (noon); Lent Evening Wor- ship 6:00 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	29 Bible Study 1:30 PM	01 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	02 Worship 6:00 PM
03 Worship with Communion 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	04 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest and renewal	05 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Worship & Music Com- mittee 6:30 PM	06 Lenten Lunch at Milberger (noon); Lent Evening Wor- ship 6:00 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	07 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM; Bible Study 1:30 PM; Bethany College Concert 7:30 PM	08 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	09 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
10 Worship 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM; Bishop Susan Candea visit	11 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest and renewal	12 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Executive Committee 5:30 PM	13 Lenten Lunch at Otterbein (noon); Lent Evening Wor- ship 6:00 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	14 Bible Study 1:30 PM; RCAOC at St John 6:30 PM	15 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	16 Worship 6:00 PM
17 Worship with Communion 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM; Agape Choir; Care Home Worship 2:00 - 4:00 PM	18 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest and renewal	19 Off AM - DR. Appt; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; City Council Prayer 4:30 PM	20 Lenten Lunch at St. Mary's (noon); Lent Evening Wor- ship 6:00 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	21 Bible Study 1:30 PM; Coun- cil 6:30 PM	22 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	23 Parish Hall reserved 11 AM - 2 PM; Worship with Com- munion 6:00 PM
24 Palm Sunday Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM, Donkey Processional	25 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest and renewal	26 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Record Clergy Com- ments	27 Lenten Lunch at First Con- gregational (noon)	28 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM	29 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; RCAOC Good Friday Service at Otterbein (noon); Good Friday Service 7:00 PM	30 Easter Vigil Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
31 Easter Worship with Com- munion 7:00 AM & 10:30 AM; 425 Youth Easter Breakfast 8:00 AM	01 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest and renewal	02 PASTOR OUT OF TOWN ON VACATION	03 PASTOR OUT OF TOWN ON VACATION	04 PASTOR OUT OF TOWN ON VACATION	05 PASTOR OUT OF TOWN ON VACATION	06 Worship 6:00 PM

St. John Ringers and Agape Choir Schedules



Wed, Mar 6 St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
 Wed, Mar 13 St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
Sun, Mar 17 Agape Choir - special music at 10:30 Service
 Wed, Mar 20 St. John Ringers practice
Sun, Mar 24 St. John Ringers - special music at 10:30 Service
 Wed, Mar 27 St. John Ringers practice; Agape Choir practice
Thurs, Mar 28..... Agape Choir - special music at Maundy Thursday Service
Fri, Mar 29 Agape Choir - special music at Good Friday Service
Sun, Mar 31 St. John Ringers and Agape Choir - special music at 10:30 Easter Service

St. John Ringers practice - 6:30 pm
Agape Choir practice - 7:30 pm

St. John WELCOMES Bishop Susan Candea to the 10:30 Service on Sunday, March 10 (which is the morning of the Daylight Saving Time Change - don't be late!!)

St. John Lutheran Church Lent and Easter Schedule

Wednesdays through March 20

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

Saturday, March 23

- Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday Worship with Communion (6:00 pm)

Sunday, March 24

- Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday Worship (8:15 am)

Sunday, March 24

- Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday Worship with Donkey Processional (10:30 am)

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 with Communion (6:00 pm)

Sunday, March 31

- Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Worship with Communion (7:00 am)
- 425 Youth Easter Breakfast (8:00 am)
- Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Worship with Communion (10:30 am)



2024 Russell County Association of Churches Lenten Lunch Series

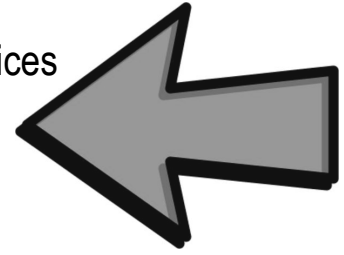
Wednesdays at Noon
 "Jesus teaches us to pray"

Wed, Feb 28 Trinity United Methodist Church
 Wed, March 6 Immanuel (Milberger)
 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

Pastor Teri will serve as **SONG LEADER/LITURGIST** at all services
 (6:00 Saturday, 8:15 Sunday, 10:30 Sunday each week.

Any exceptions will be discussed in advance.



**March 2024
 Worship
 Assistants**

10:30 AM SUN

GREETERS:

- 3 Steve & Connie Krug (N)
 Sherri Stoppel (S)
- 10 Morris & Barbara Krug (N)
 Judy Holmes (S)
- 17 Gerald & Mary Mai (N)
 Deloris Janne (S)
- 24 Mike & Diane Waymaster (N)
 Don F. Krug (S)
- 31 EASTER WEEKEND *

USHER:

- 3 Steve & Connie Krug
- 10 Morris & Barbara Krug
- 17 Gerald & Mary Mai
- 24 Mike & Diane Waymaster
- 31 EASTER WEEKEND *

ACOLYTES:

- 3 Ellise and Jasmine Jefferson
- 10 Layken Eck and Alex Krug
- 17 NO ACOLYTES (SPRING BREAK)
- 24 Hadlee Brown and Harper Ryan
- 31 EASTER WEEKEND *

LECTOR:

- 3 Sherri Stoppel
- 10 Judy Holmes
- 17 Carol Fritz
- 24 Cindy Ross
- 31 EASTER WEEKEND *

6:00 PM SAT

GREETER/USHER:

- 2 Bob & Elaine Voos
- 9 John & Mary Boxberger
- 16 Brad & Cheryl Prester
- 23 Brenda Yoder
- 30 EASTER WEEKEND *

READER:

- 2 Elaine Voos
- 9 Galen Niedenthal
- 16 Nancy Aspegren
- 23 Sheryl Krug
- 30 EASTER WEEKEND *

8:15 AM SUN

GREETER/USHER:

- 3 Connie Schinkus
- 10 Sheryl Krug
- 17 Kurt & Lois DeWald
- 24 Katrin Kolder
- 31 EASTER WEEKEND *

LECTOR:

- 3 Connie Schinkus
- 10 Sheryl Krug
- 17 Lois DeWald
- 24 Katrin Kolder
- 25 EASTER WEEKEND *

ALTAR GUILD

Lois DeWald, Deb Karst,
 Katrina Woelk (Saturday),
 Carol Fritz, Pam Gudenkauf,
 Denise Guth, Barb Krug

BULLETIN DELIVERY

- 1 Teresa Hilbrink
- 8 Bob Albrecht
- 15 Ramona Luebbers
- 22 Georganna McCrary
- 29 425 Youth or
 Confirmation Students

Greeters, Ushers, and Readers are needed for **Maundy Thursday** (March 28),
Good Friday (March 29) and **Easter weekend services** (6:00 pm, Saturday,
 March 30; 7:00 am, Sunday, March 31; 10:30 am, Sunday, March 31). Please
 contact the office as soon as possible to volunteer.

Odds & ENDS

- **THANK YOU** to those who prepared, served, and cleaned up after the first 2024 RCAOC **Lenten Luncheon** on Wednesday, February 21. The Olson Family made a variety of delicious sliders and St. John members provided salads and desserts. The meal and fellowship were enjoyed by approximately 85 individuals from Russell area communities. Pastor Teri provided a Lenten reflection - If you would like a copy, please contact the office.
- Copies of **“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”** (a Lenten Devotional from Luther Seminary) are available in the brochure rack. Continue readings all year long with God Pause by Luther Seminary at luthersem.edu/godpause. Register to receive an email devotional each morning (no cost or commitment to register).
- The **Worship & Music Committee** will meet Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 pm.
- The **Executive Committee** of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 pm and **Church Council** will meet Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 pm.
- **St. John Ladies Bible Study** will be held Thursday, March 14 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. All women are invited to attend. Large print materials available upon request.
- Remaining **2024 offering envelopes** and **2023 Contribution Statements** may be picked up in the office
- **2024 Annual Meeting** congregation action results:
 - By Congregational vote, the following individuals were elected to serve a three-year term on Council. Afton Brown, Judy Holmes, Melinda Olson, Heather Pohlman, and Kelvie Reeves. Blaine Maier and Margaret Walter declined nominations for re-election.
 - By Congregational vote, the following Individuals were elected to serve on the Altar Guild: Connie Dumler, Melinda Olson, Crecia Reeves, Annette Stierlen, Sherri Stoppel, and Katrina Woelk.
 - By Congregational vote, the 2023 Philanthropic Funds (total of \$1,571.36) were distributed as follows: Wiggle Your Wings Preschool Scholarship Fund (\$1,257.09) and Lutheran World Relief (\$314.27)
- **February 2024 Council Meeting** office and committee election/appointments:
 - The following individuals were elected to serve as Council officers: Lee Keffer (President), Gaylon Walter (Vice-President), Carol Fritz (Secretary), and Kylie Stoppel (Treasurer).
 - By consensus the following individuals will serve as Council Committee Chairpersons: Afton Brown (Education), Judy Holmes (Evangelism, Social Ministry/Parish Fellowship), Melinda Olson (Worship & Music), Heather Pohlman (Technology/Social Media), Kelvie Reeves (Youth), Kylie Stoppel (Finance), Gaylon Walter (Property).

Daylight Saving Time starts 2:00 am, Sunday, March 10
SPRING FORWARD before going to bed Saturday night



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE					OFFERING	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Total</u>		
Jan 7	22	20	54	96	Jan 7	\$6,005.00
Jan 14*					Jan 14*	
Jan 21	20	19	55	94	Jan 21	3,582.00
Jan 28	17	24	93	134	Jan 28	2,292.00
Feb 4	23	24	46	93	Feb 4	5,358.00
Feb 11	27	21	40	88	Feb 11	3,020.00
Feb 14**				106	Feb 18	3,779.00
Feb 18	20	18	62	100	Feb 25**	
Feb 25***						

***No services (temps as low as -16 degrees, wind chill as low as -34 degrees)**
****Ash Wednesday**
*****Data not available at time of publication**

Easter Lilies and Candles



One way to honor loved ones on Easter is to donate an Easter lily or sponsor a candle to grace the Sanctuary and Chapel. Lilies and candles may also be presented to the Glory of God.

Easter Lilies Notes

- Lilies may be purchased at any retail location (Klemas Apple Market, etc.), or ordered through any florist (Full Circle Floral in Russell will deliver directly to St. John).
 - If possible, lilies should be in 6 to 8 inch pots, wrapped in white.
 - Completed forms must be presented at the church office no later than Monday, March 25
 - Lilies may be delivered (or brought) to St. John no earlier than Friday, March 29 (Good Friday).
 - Lilies may be picked up beginning Monday, April 1. Lilies remaining after Friday, April 5 will be discarded.
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Candle Notes

- Twenty candles are available for sponsorship (\$20 each)
 - Sponsorships are available on a first come, first served basis.
 - Payment and completed sponsorship forms must be presented at the church office no later than Monday, March 25
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Please Remember

To be included in the Easter bulletins, completed forms (and payment, when applicable) must be returned to the church office no later than Monday, March 25

Easter Lilies and Candles

Contact Name: _____

Date: _____ **Contact Number:** _____

**Complete ALL items in appropriate section (Lily or Candle).
ONE donation or sponsorship per page, please.**

Lily Donations

- I wish to donate a lily
in Memory of _____
in Honor of _____
to the Glory of God _____

Placed or sponsored by (to be printed in the bulletin and newsletter):

- _____
- I wish to keep my lily and will pick it up after Sunday, April 9 services. I understand that lilies remaining after Friday, April 14, will be discarded.
- I do NOT wish to keep my lily.

Candle Sponsorships

- I wish to sponsor a candle
in Memory of _____
in Honor of _____
to the Glory of God _____

Placed or sponsored by (to be printed in the bulletin and newsletter):

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received:
Amount collected (if applicable):
Payment type (if applicable):
Comments:



Sunday School News

- ⇒ USD 407 Spring Break starts Friday, March 8 and classes resume Monday, March 18. Sunday School and Confirmation Classes will be held the first Sunday of Spring Break (Sunday, March 10). Classes will NOT be held on Sunday, March 17. Sunday School classes will resume Sunday, March 24.
- ⇒ Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem! On Sunday, March 24, St. John Sunday School Students will observe Palm Sunday by presenting a donkey processional at the beginning of the 10:30 service. All families are encouraged to attend this festive service!
- ⇒ Sunday School students will enjoy Easter activities during the Sunday School hour on Easter Sunday (March 31).
- ⇒ The last day of Sunday School classes for Spring 2024 will be Sunday, May 19. Stay tuned for more details about events taking place that day!

St. John Youth are hosting a **Lenten Food Drive** through Palm Sunday (March 24). Non-perishable food items and personal care items may be placed in the wooden box outside the office. Please double check expiration dates before donating items.

Monetary donations for the Russell County Food Pantry will also be accepted - please write checks to St. John Lutheran Church and indicate Food Pantry in the memo field.



All donations will be delivered to the Food Pantry the week of March 24.

425 Youth Easter Breakfast



Parish Hall ~ March 31

8:00 am (immediately following the Sunrise Service)

Enjoy Easter morning fellowship and breakfast (served until 9:15 am or until all the goodies are gone).

A free will donation will be accepted to offset costs associated with 425 Youth ministries and activities.



The 425 Youth hosted the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on Wed, Feb 14. Chicken noodle (butterballs optional) and vegetable beef soup were served to over 100 individuals. The chocolate dessert fountain was a big hit - lots of dipping was going on (and some dripping)!

**THANK YOU and
JOB WELL DONE
to the St. John
425 Youth!!**



Out of respect for the dearly departed and grieving family and friends, the St. John office will no longer be open to public/community traffic during a funeral service.


The office will close to the public 30 minutes prior to service time and reopen 60 minutes after the completion of the service. Phone calls will not be answered during this time.

Thank you for your understanding.

Pastor Teri Sutherlin

**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>St. John Lutheran Church Clergy and Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastor Teri Sutherland (pastor@ruraltel.net)• John Dumler, PMA (pma@ruraltel.net)• Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper• Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant• Debora Kreutzer, Custodian• John Kreutzer, Custodian <p>Church Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President, Lee Keffler• Vice President, Gaylon Walter• Secretary, Carol Fritz• Treasurer, Kylie Stoppel• Afton Brown• Judy Holmes• D.J. Klemma• Kristine Mader• Melinda Olson• Heather Pohlman• Kevie Reeves• Pastor Teri Sutherland	<p> Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</p> <p>The 10:30 Worship Services on March 10 and 24 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.</p>
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