

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

November 2023



All Saints Weekend November 4-5, 2023

Each year on the weekend closest to All Saints Day (Nov. 1) we observe All Saints Sunday. On All Saints weekend, we celebrate all of the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. We will remember, in particular, those who have preceded us in faith from the early Christian martyrs (witnesses). We especially remember the St. John Lutheran Church members and friends in the community who have passed away since Last All Saints celebration. We will recall the love and works of ministry that these people have shared with us, we will give thanks for their lives, and we will ask God to give us strength and faith as we continue with our own lives.

Members of the St. John Family

<i>Harold "Bud" Beck</i>	<i>Kay Homewood</i>
<i>Elsie Beiser</i>	<i>Don Kilian, Jr.</i>
<i>Marceline Bender</i>	<i>Shirley Krug</i>
<i>Betty Boxberger</i>	<i>DJ Kuhn</i>
<i>Dean Boxberger</i>	<i>Paul Popp</i>
<i>Leonard Brown</i>	<i>Vernon Radke</i>
<i>Marvel Castor</i>	<i>Irene Satchell</i>
<i>Hilda Dietz</i>	<i>LoAnn Sechtem</i>
<i>Kay Dinkel</i>	<i>Dean Stricker</i>
<i>Lawrence Ehrlich</i>	<i>Rocky Goder</i>
<i>Jim Feil</i>	
<i>Allen Finkbeiner</i>	



Friends of the St. John Family

<i>Barbara Dietz</i>	<i>Doug Karst</i>
<i>Laurel Dinkel</i>	<i>Eugene Karst</i>
<i>Larry Ehrlich</i>	<i>Sharyn Kilian</i>
<i>Janet Funk</i>	<i>Kate Primeau</i>
<i>Don Ginther</i>	<i>Carl Radke</i>
<i>Mary (Motzner) Grumbein</i>	<i>Ruth Schlender</i>
<i>Eileen Hemphill</i>	<i>Terri Sue Walker</i>
<i>Kelly Jeroue</i>	

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 - November 2023 - Serving God



Our Gospel this year has been Matthew. The primary focus of the writer of Matthew is discipleship. How we live our lives as Christ's disciples individually as well as in community.

It is also time for St. John Council and Committee Members to wrap up budget planning for our ministry at St. John in 2024. There are ministries that are important to us, but the reality is our giving is down by \$14,000.00, in part because we have fewer members than in the past. We are all aware the cost of living continues to rise, and we can expect additional increases in the prices of all the things we consider vital to our lives. These cost increases also impact the church, and your council members are working very hard to be good stewards of the church's resources, diligently examining expenses, and trying to reduce costs effectively.

We can only pay for staff and building expenses - and support ministries - based on the financial support received throughout the year. When giving goes down, we are faced with tough decisions - cutting funding to ministries; prioritizing building repairs, leaving long-term maintenance plans unfunded; evaluating all paid staff positions, including duties, wages, and hours; and determining the best ways to serve both our St. John congregation and community (by reviewing building safety, public office hours, community outreach and participation, and more).

Money in support of the church is only one way we give to God. We also give by sharing our time and gifts with our faith community. Every year a "Time & Talents" Survey is made available to look over and complete indicating how you would like to participate in the life of this congregation. Every year we get back the same number of surveys, pretty much from the same people and I know there are more than 32 households that worship in this congregation. This year, the survey has been updated to include some different ways of participating in the life of the church and I ask you to please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to actively serve God through the church.

I believe sometimes we are afraid to check a box saying "yes, I will do this" for fear of being overwhelmed by the commitment or getting "stuck" with being the "go to person" and getting burned out. But, it takes a great deal of time and effort to contact individuals and ask for help every time the need arises, so it would really be helpful to know your interests. The more people the lighter the work for everyone, and then no one person gets "stuck" as the "go to person."

One new addition is serving as part of a Mutual Ministry Team. This team is crucial in supporting the work not only of the church but supporting and encouraging the pastor as well. I am in my second year of ministry here without the support of this much needed team.

May the Holy Spirit guide you as you prayerfully consider how you will serve God.

Blessings,

Pastor Teri

Pastor Teri's Calendar - November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 NO 8:15 AM service; We Gather As One with Communion; Reformation, Confirmation 10:30 AM	30 Janice Stoppel - Celebration of Life, 10:30 AM	31 Halloween	01 All Saints Day; Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 425 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	02 Bible Study 1:30 PM; Worship & Music Committee meeting 6:00 PM	03 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	04 All Saints Worship 6:00 PM; FALL BACK (set clocks back one hour before bedtime)
05 All Saints Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Community Choir Practice 5:00 PM	06 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	07 Election Day; WKS Reg. Zoom Meeting 10:00 AM; Dr. Appt in Hays 2:00 PM; Education Committee meeting 6:30 PM	08 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 425 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	09 Women's Group Bible Study 10:00 AM; Bible Study 1:30 PM; Executive Committee meeting 5:30 PM, RCAOC 6:30 PM	10 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	11 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
12 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Community Choir Practice 5:00 PM	13 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	14 Not available 9:45-11:30 AM (Mandatory Webinar); Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	15 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 425 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	16 Bible Study 1:30 PM; Church Council meeting 6:30 PM	17 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Appt. 1:30 PM	18 WELCA Thankoffering Worship 6:00 PM
19 WELCA Thankoffering Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Agape Choir 10:30 AM; Care Center Worship 2:00-4:00 PM; Community Thanksgiving Service 6:00 PM	20 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	21 WKS Text Study in Hays 9:00-11:00 AM; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; record Clergy Comments	22 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 425 Youth 6:30 PM	23 Thanksgiving Day; Community Thanksgiving Meal at St Mary Queen of Angels	24 Thanksgiving Holiday	25 Christ the King Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
26 Christ The King Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; St. John Ringers 10:30 AM	27 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	28 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	29 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; 425 Youth 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	30 Bible Study 1:30 PM	01 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	02 Decorate for Advent 9:00 AM; Advent One Worship 6:00 PM

What is Mutual Ministry?



Mutual Ministry is an important and necessary support system for the Pastor of the congregation.

Mutual Ministry is a team of church members who provide candid and confidential feedback to the Pastor concerning their leadership and ideas, and vision for the ministry of the church. The Team serves as a support system for the Pastor and the congregational life of the faith community. The Team has no formal authority and serves purely in an advisory capacity.

Ministry Purpose (Why?)

To help St John's pastor reflect on and shape their ministry--and to further the congregation's goal of ministry that invites, inspires, equips, and engages--by providing a caring, confidential sounding board and a source of reflection, ideas, and counsel.

Ministry Objective (What?)

To (1) meet regularly with the pastor, at least quarterly, (2) provide a listening ear, (3) act as coach and advisor in making observations or suggestions where helpful, (4) provide help as needed to the pastor in developing work-related plans, and (5) review these plans periodically with the pastor.

Functions of the Team

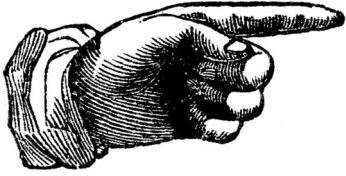
MUTUAL MINISTRY: This Team is a “people-building” group charged with ensuring that the ministry goals of the congregation are carried out mutually by the pastoral leadership and the members. The Team observes and listens to the rostered leader and other congregational members and assists with developing and sharing realistic expectations for ministry within the congregation.

SOUNDING BOARD: The rostered leader should be able to look to this Team as a place where he or she can try out new ideas regarding ministry goals and receive honest feedback.

PASTORAL SUPPORT: The Team is concerned with pastoral effectiveness in their ministry to the congregation and acts as a support and advocate for caring for the Pastor so the Pastor in turn can provide care for the congregation.

St. John Lutheran Church will establish a Mutual Ministry Team before the end of the year. Please contact the office for additional information.

Please Notice This



2024 Time and Talent Surveys are included in the November newsletter and are also available on the main bulletin board.

Don't forget - ***everyone*** in our faith community may share their time and talents, ***not just adults***. Consider completing the survey as a family (you may use more than one survey if necessary)

Scam calls, emails, and texts are on the rise - AGAIN. If you receive a message asking for any sort of monetary donation - IGNORE, DELETE, REPORT. Please let the church office know if "Pastor Teri" has emailed or texted you asking for donations. **No** church, benevolent organization, school, or community service organization will send emails or texts requesting any sort of monetary donation. Tech-savvy bad guys sometimes make these messages "look" like someone you know! If in doubt - IGNORE, DELETE, REPORT.

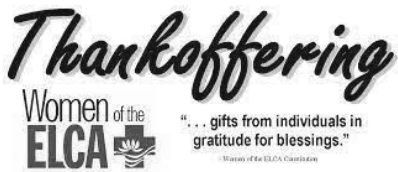


Odds & ENDS

- The Worship & Music Committee will meet at 6:00 pm on Thursday, November 2, and the Education Committee will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 7.
- Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 5 - set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday!
- St. John Women of the ELCA will meet Thursday, November 9 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. Large print lessons are available upon request.
- Groups, committees, teams, families and individuals are encouraged to volunteer at the Russell County Food Pantry. At this time, volunteers are most needed to help unloading and stocking bulk deliveries (one or more Saturday mornings each month); and unloading, sorting and distributing commodity supplies (once a month). Volunteers will also pack holiday baskets before Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, or to confirm volunteering times and locations, contact Cathy Berry at 785-483-4113.
- St. John offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

With a focus on *charity over consumerism*, **Giving Tuesday** is held each year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Since this first Giving Tuesday in 2012, nonprofits in the US have raised more than \$2 billion. Many charitable organizations receive matching dollars for donations given that day, doubling your giving while supporting your charity of choice. Giving Tuesday strives to build a world where generosity is part of everyday life. Whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts, and everyone has something to give.





St. John WELCA Thankoffering Weekend

NOVEMBER 18 AND 19, 2023

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. Women give in thanksgiving for blessings received.

The founders of Women of the ELCA decided in 1988 that Thankofferings will support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women’s organization, including online and printed communications, justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women’s organization, support of congregational and synodical women’s organizations, and so much more.

Blue Thankoffering envelopes and offering boxes are available in the ushers’ room or the office. Donations may be made to St. John Lutheran Church (please write Thankoffering in the memo field). Donations may be dropped in the offering plate at any service, or placed in the lockbox in the office door.



Russell County Association of Churches

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 19, 2023
6:00 pm

Trinity United Methodist Church

All are welcome and invited to attend

Special music presented by the Russell Community Choir

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The Annual Russell Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 23. The dine-in meal starts at noon, delivery begins at 11:00 am, and curbside pickup is available from noon to 2:00 pm at St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church.

Meals are provided at no cost, but free will donations are accepted. For more information or to schedule a pick-up or delivery, call Dannie’ll Heaton at 785-483-1772.



Russell County Food Pantry Holiday Baskets

Share the holidays with your neighbors this Thanksgiving... and not just ham, but also potatoes, green beans, corn and even pie!

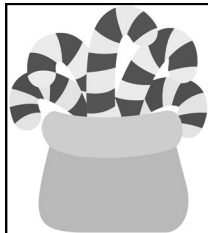
The Russell County Food Pantry has served, on average, 35 families each month in 2024. In these tough economic times, many of these families will not be able to provide a special meal for the holidays.

The “Share the Holidays with Your Neighbor” campaign raises funds to help provide a basket (which includes the ingredients for each holiday meal) for an individual, couple, or family. Over 125 families received holiday baskets in 2022.

A donation of \$40 provides a family with Thanksgiving AND Christmas baskets. Monetary donations may be made at the Russell County Food Pantry at 15 N. Front, or at St. John (please write “Russell County Food Pantry” in the memo line of your check or on your envelope).

2023 Advent and Christmas - here before you know it!!

- The Altar Guild invites everyone to participate in decorating the sanctuary and chapel for the Advent season Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 am.
- There will be no special readers during Advent - scheduled readers/lectors will be responsible for Advent readings
- SAVE THE DATES:
 - Sunday, December 17, 10:30 am - Children's Christmas Program
 - Friday, December 22, 7:00 pm - Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service
 - Saturday, December 23, 6:00 pm - Fourth Sunday of Advent (regular 6:00 Saturday service)
 - Sunday, December 24, 10:30 am - Fourth Sunday of Advent (NO 8:15 service)
 - Sunday, December 24, 4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service with Communion, St. John Ringers, Agape Choir
 - Sunday, December 24, 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service with Communion
 - Monday, December 26 - NO Christmas Day Service
 - Sunday, December 31, 8:15 am - We Gather As One to celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas with a non-traditional worship service focused on singing favorite Christmas hymns. Everyone will be given the opportunity to help the Worship & Music Committee create the song list. Watch for "ballots" in the near future and write down your favorite Christmas songs! (NO 6:00 Saturday or 10:30 Sunday service)



The St. John Council will be distributing treat bags after each Christmas Eve service.

Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated to help offset costs.

Please contact the office for more information.


OUR PARISH RECORDS

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE					INCOME & EXPENSE	
Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total	01/01/23 THROUGH 09/30/23	
Oct 1	27	35	48	110	Income	\$217,706.25
Oct 8	22	29	36	87	Expense	183,082.74
Oct 15	42	23	57	122	Total	34,623.51
Oct 22	29	22	90	141	DOES NOT INCLUDE UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS): -\$13,825.77	
Oct 29*						

OFFERING**	
Oct 1	\$5,541.00
Oct 8	3,050.00
Oct 15	2,180.00
Oct 22	2,456.00
Oct 29*	

* Data not available at time of publication
 ** Reported offering does not include online offering, memorial offering, or offering received outside of regular services

November 2023 Worship Assistants

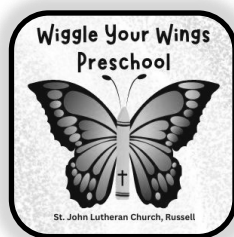
6:00 PM SAT	8:15 AM SUN	10:30 AM SUN
<p>GREETER/USHER: 4 Brad & Cheryl Prester 11 Ramona Luebbers 18 Thankoffering Service 25 Glenn Gideon</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 2 J & M Boxberger</p> <p>READER: 4 Elaine Voos 11 Sheryl Krug 18 Thankoffering Service 25 Jeremy Ulrich</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 2 Jeannine Byers-Long</p>	<p>GREETER/USHER: 5 Susan Krug 12 Gordon & Cheryl Kraich 19 Thankoffering Service 26 Sheryl Krug</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 3 Connie Schinkus</p> <p>LECTOR: 5 Susan Krug 12 Cheryl Kraich 19 Thankoffering Service 26 Sheryl Krug</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 3 Connie Schinkus</p>	<p>GREETERS: 5 M & D Waymaster (N) Irene Coffeen (S) 12 Morris & Barbara Krug (N) Carol Fritz (S) 19 Thankoffering Service 26 Ron & Ginger Tittel (N) Gina Langhofer (S)</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 3 M & D Waymaster (N) Don F. Krug (S)</p> <p>USHER: 5 M & D Waymaster 12 Morris Krug 19 Thankoffering Service 26 Ron & Ginger Tittel</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 3 M & D Waymaster</p> <p>ACOLYTES: 5 Maggie Olson / Morgan Olson 12 Tytin Bay / Campbell Lofland 19 Layken Eck / Karrsyn Ross 26 NO ACOLYTES</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 3 Hadlee Brown / Harper Ryan</p> <p>LECTOR: 5 Deb Kreutzer 12 Sheryl Krug 19 Thankoffering Service 26 Gina Langhofer</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 3 Cindy Ross</p>
<p>ALTAR GUILD</p> <p>Tiffinie Mai, Afton Brown, Pam Gudenkauf, Denise Guth, Gina Langhofer</p>	<p>MUSICIANS</p> <p>4 Peggy Anschutz 5 Juanita Flegler 11 Paula Hachmeister 12 Juanita Flegler 18 Curtis Sander 19 Margaret Walter 25 Paula Hachmeister 26 Juanita Flegler</p>	
<p>BULLETIN DELIVERY</p> <p>3.....Margaret Finkbeiner 10.....Carol Fritz 17.....Darold & Corine Gideon 24.....Teresa Hilbrink</p> <hr/> <p>Dec 1 Ramona Luebbers</p>	 <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Worship Assistants</p>	

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.

Blessings and Celebrations

Beckett Donald Herold, son of Tyler Herold and Brooklyn Sidebottom, was baptized at the 6:00 Saturday service on October 14, 2023. Beckett's sponsors are Blayze Standley and Jacob Williams. Many blessings to Beckett and his family!

Mitchell Olson and Jaxon Ross made public affirmation of their baptism at the 10:30 Sunday service on October 29, 2023. Confirmation, which is also called Affirmation of Baptism, is the time when young people declare for themselves that they will carry out the promises made for them by their parents and sponsors in their baptism. In the Affirmation of Baptism, Mitchell and Jaxon expressed their faith and trust that God will continue to lead and guide them in all aspects of their lives, now and in the future. Congratulations to Mitchell and Jaxon!!



Wiggle Your Wings Preschool is coming to the end of the fall 2023 session. All students are making great gains academically and are beginning to exhibit a true enthusiasm for learning. Even our most timid students, those who shed many a tear each and every day at drop off earlier in the school year, now walk right in ready and excited to learn.

We are also noticing the impact Wiggle Your Wings Preschool is having on each student's kind and gentle hearts. They love to help pick out the daily Bible story and have embraced snack time routines. The students politely wait until everyone is seated and served, then we share in a prayer before enjoying the snack.

Few things in life are sweeter than watching a young child gently folding their little hands and bowing their heads as they offer thanks to the Lord. These same sweet children will not hesitate to speak up in case Mrs. Eck or Mrs. Stoppel "forget" the snack time prayer – you WILL remember to say a prayer before snack, OR ELSE. :)

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. And you are more than welcome to visit our classroom to listen to a Bible story or share a snack – AFTER we say a prayer, of course!

Sincerely with God's Love,

Janella Eck and Kim Stoppel

Choir Practices

Date	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
November 1.....	6:30 pm.....	7:30 pm
November 8.....	6:30 pm.....	7:30 pm
November 15.....	6:30 pm.....	7:30 pm
November 22.....	6:30 pm	
November 29.....	6:30 pm.....	7:30 pm


Choir Performances

Agape Choir 10:30 am, November 19

St. John Ringers 10:30 am, November 26

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 Dumlér, 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, Blaine Maier• Vice President, Kristine Mader• Secretary, Carol Fritz• Treasurer - Kylie Stoppel• Judy Holmes• Lee Keffler• D.J. Kiema• Kelvie Reeves• Pastor Teri Sutherland• Gaylon Walter• Margaret Walter	 <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</p> <p><i>The 10:30 Worship Services on November 12 and 26 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.</i></p>
--	--