

St. John Lutheran Church

November 2024 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.

All Saints Weekend November 2-3, 2024

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 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>Wanda Brown</i>	<i>Dean Keil</i>
<i>Marty Dumler</i>	<i>JoAnn Kilian</i>
<i>Dale Ehrlich</i>	<i>Joetta Mai</i>
<i>James Fritz</i>	<i>Mary Parkhurst</i>
<i>Dorothy Hanes</i>	<i>Mary Reinhardt</i>
<i>Lindsay (Feil) Homeier</i>	<i>Janice Stoppel</i>
<i>Doris Jones</i>	



Friends of the St. John Family

<i>Ruth Ann Betts</i>	<i>Janice Miska</i>	<i>Virginia Sieker</i>
<i>Lois Cooper</i>	<i>Jeffery Scarborough</i>	<i>Candi Wagner</i>
<i>Earl Donaldson</i>	<i>Tony Schmidtberger</i>	<i>Terri Sue Walker</i>
<i>L.J. Flax</i>	<i>Charlotte Shaffer</i>	<i>Fred Weigel</i>
<i>John Fletcher</i>	<i>Fay Ann Sechtem</i>	<i>Steve Wells</i>
<i>Mollie Haberer</i>		<i>Kristin Windscheffel</i>

Teri Talk – November 2024

At the Fall Theological Conference we discussed servant leadership, you know, that lesson Jesus tries over and over to teach his disciples in Mark 9-10. Servant Leadership is not about power, authority, or glory, it is about serving God by serving others.

Mark 9:35 ³⁵ *He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."*

Mark 10:43-44 ⁴³ *But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.*

In the Church, leadership does not equal human authority, and it is not about telling other people what to do. Servant Leadership is about learning what hopes and dreams the community of faith has and what challenges or barriers exist that get in the way of making these a lived reality. Leadership is an activity, not a position and anyone can lead anywhere and at any time.

As this discussion rolled along these questions came up:

1. What is the purpose of the church?
2. Why do we gather in worship?
3. If the Church disappeared tomorrow, would it be missed?

Do these questions look familiar? They are very similar to the ones the 2021 Transition Team tried to engage the congregation in conversation about and we struggled to verbalize our answers.

It is difficult to put into words our feelings, experiences, and what happens within us spiritually. Part of the struggle is due to a change that has occurred in worshippers; *faith has become an individual experience; "about me, what I believe, what I need, and knowing the right things to believe in so I can go to heaven and get my reward."*

I hope many, if not most of you reject this last statement (it comes from the conference discussion, these are not my words.) At the same time, it doesn't mean we don't have our own individual experiences in worship, we just don't believe that is the purpose of the church.

Our St. John Lutheran Church Constitution spells out the purpose of the church; Chapter 4 "Statement of Purpose" C4.01: ***The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.*** C4.02 describes how the congregation of St. John Lutheran, as part of The Church, participates in God's mission through six activities, which I have paraphrased, the first is:

1. Worship God through hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments and living lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness and service.

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Does any of this sound familiar? It should. This is what our mission statement is based on. *"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."*

2. Is our Lutheran understanding that God alone saves us, makes us holy (justification), through scripture alone, grace alone, Christ alone, faith alone, and we share this good news (gospel message) with others.
3. We participate in Christ's Great Commission through our ministries by telling others *The Story* of who Jesus is and what Jesus does so they too can believe and receive the gift of faith. We do this with an understanding that "it is not just about us and what we do," but we are part of a global, worldwide, ministry sharing God's love.
4. We serve and care for the needs of others in response to God's love for us. The church, God's people, are to care for the sick and the aged, *advocate* for dignity and *justice for all people*, work for peace and reconciliation among *all the nations*, *stand with the poor and powerless*, and commit itself to their needs.

This statement contains words that have become "loaded" through our use of language and may trigger within us a less than loving response. Again, not about *us*, this is about God and what God's Word repeatedly says is the faithful, expected, and required response from everyone whom God created and loves. These words are God's found throughout Holy Scripture in the Bible.

5. The church nurtures its members in the Word of God, so they grow in faith, hope, and love. Encourages its members live their day to day lives as followers and disciples of Christ. To look for opportunities daily to be examples of their faith and use their gifts received from the Holy Spirit to make the "world" around them a better place.
6. Live together in unity through the love of Jesus Christ, including joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

There are a few reasons for bringing this up at this time, other than pastors gathered together in discussion.

The first reason is the Church Council has been engaged in studying and reviewing the church's Constitution and Bylaws over the past six months and through this process of deliberation and discernment the Council will be making recommendations for updating these documents. The Council has also participated in a Congregational Financial Assessment and working on a guided improvement plan in stewarding the church's resources. These recommendations will be part of our Annual Meeting in January 2025 for the congregation to

approve or decline, but it is a lot of information to go through in one meeting, so the Council wants to give members the opportunity to learn about these recommendations in brief informational meetings. This will give members a time of conversation, to ask questions and reflect on and think about the information presented.

The first meeting will be held in the chapel on November 16 at 5:00 PM on Saturday before worship. During worship on Sunday November 24, we will have short informational “temple talks” during the offering time.

The second reason it is that time of year when you receive a questionnaire survey about how you feel called to participate in the life of the faith community at St. John. This year we are doing some “rebranding” and asking you to prayerfully consider how you can live out your discipleship through service and participate in the ministry of St. John. This is God’s Church, and we are God’s people who gather in worship, so we are empowered to go and serve the world. A church is not a building, it is the people.

The third reason is we are a few days from a National, State, and Local Election Day that I strongly encourage all of you to participate in. No matter what the outcome is, not everyone will be satisfied with the results. We are all familiar with the Apostle Paul’s teaching about Jesus Christ in his letter to the Galatians:

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:23-28)

I want to leave you with a rewriting of Paul’s words for November 2024:

So, in Christ Jesus...There is no longer red and blue, there is no longer liberal and conservative, there is no longer Republican and Democrat, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

We can disagree passionately with each other and still through Christ understand that we are united, and we come together, share the peace with each other and eat at the Table of the Lord. You are each a beloved child of God, never forget that.

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

Please join us for discussion: Financial Procedures and Endowment Policy

Nearing the end of the year, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in our church's financial journey. In 2024, our expenses have significantly outpaced our annual giving. From the unexpected burden of replacing the same air conditioner twice in one year, dealing with substantial insurance deductibles due to storm damage, to the necessary updates for our church's aging technology, the financial strain has been considerable. On top of that, our property insurance has dropped us, and the only viable quote we've received is for an annual premium of \$50,000. This past year has certainly brought its share of challenges.

Yet, despite these hurdles, we are blessed in so many ways. The generosity of past and present donors has provided us with investment accounts that have performed wonderfully in 2024, offering us a cushion that many churches simply don't have. This financial safety net is something we are deeply thankful for. However, the pressing financial demands we face now, along with potential future challenges, make it crucial to reevaluate how we handle our endowment funds. There's an urgent need to develop a formal policy on how we utilize these resources in a way that honors the legacy of those who contributed and ensures our church's future sustainability.

For context, our church has approximately \$2.8 million in vested funds. Of that, just under \$300,000 is permanently endowed with the RCACF, and an additional \$1.3 million is held in other endowment accounts. During the past year, we've had many in-depth conversations about these endowed funds, and one thing is clear: there are a wide variety of opinions on how they should be managed. These varying opinions are shaped by personal experiences, family history, and church politics.

Currently, there are no formal legal or policy protections in place for these endowed funds. In theory, church leadership could withdraw them at any time despite the wishes or intent of the donors. This is why we feel strongly that we need to establish a policy that safeguards these generous gifts while also making a reasonable portion of the funds available if needed to sustain the church.

There are several important questions that we as a congregation need to consider:

- We all agree that the principal contributions to these accounts should only be used in cases of extreme emergency. However, the debate centers around the accumulated returns over the years, which have mostly remained untouched. Should the past interest be considered part of the endowment, or should only the original principal be treated as endowed?
- Should there be a cap on how large these endowed balances can grow? Special consideration needs to be given to the cemetery endowment account which is nearing \$1 million and comprises nearly 1/3 of total church monetary assets.
- Would we prefer to keep most of our funds accessible, so we can meet the church's immediate needs and continue supporting our ministries and outreach? Or is long-term financial planning and saving a top priority?

We've created a draft policy that can be found on the next few pages of this newsletter. We believe it strikes a fair and balanced approach to managing our endowments, but we greatly value the congregation's feedback. Our goal is to create a policy that future leaders can rely on—a guide to ensure that decisions made years from now will honor the intentions of those who contributed and minimize conflicts during emotionally charged moments.

We invite you to join us for a series of community discussions, where we'll review and refine this proposed policy together. **The first meeting will be held on Saturday, November 16th at 5:00 PM in the Chapel.** Your input is incredibly important as we make these decisions together, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts. A final version of the policy will be presented at the January 2025 Annual Meeting for vote. If you have any questions about this information or the proposed policy, please contact Council President Lee Keffer at 785-483-7793 or Council Treasurer Kylie Stoppel at 785-656-3374.

Audit and Financial Procedures Information

To our knowledge, it has been over three years since an audit was conducted on St. John's finances. To ensure we continue managing our resources wisely, we engaged Gudenkauf and Malone to carry out an Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) review, which is a simpler, more streamlined process than a formal audit but still provides the same valuable insights.

In the spirit of transparency and to keep everyone informed, the full AUP report for 2023 is included as an insert in this newsletter. In addition, Gudenkauf and Malone has kindly provided us with recommendations for updating our financial policies and procedures. We believe these updates address many of the areas highlighted in the AUP and will strengthen our current practices. Council will vote on these revisions in early November. A draft will be presented to the attendees of the November 16th congregational meeting and is included as an insert in this newsletter.

After feedback has been received, the updated policies and procedures will be brought to a vote at the Annual Meeting. We encourage you to take some time to review them and share any thoughts or concerns with the Church Council.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement!

Giving to God

It's time for St. John Council and Committee Members to wrap up budget planning for our ministry at St. John in 2025. There are ministries that are important to us, but the reality is our giving is down, 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 your 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 your financial support. 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 the public and St. John members (by reviewing building safety, public office hours, community outreach and participation, and more).

~ PLEASE NOTE - the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26, 2025 ~
ONE service will be held that weekend - more details to follow!

Annual Committee and Ministry Reports

All committee chairs are reminded to complete their 2025 proposed budgets before the November Council meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2024.

A copy of the Annual Report is to be made available to the congregation two weeks before the Annual Meeting. To meet this deadline, reports must be electronically submitted to stjohn@ruraltel.net no later than January 3, 2025. Reports that do not meet this cut off will not be included in the Annual Report. The following committees and groups should submit reports:

Altar Guild	Heart2Home	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Technology
Cemetery	New Mothers Care Team	Property	Wiggle Your Wings Preschool
Congregation President	Parish Fellowship	Scholarship	Women of the ELCA
Education	Parish Ministry Associate	Sewing Circle	Worship & Music
Evangelism	Pastor	Social Ministry	Youth
Finance/Stewardship			

We encourage any organization to submit a report, if applicable

2024 NOVEMBER

Pastor Teri's Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Reformation Worship Service 10:30 AM, Bells, Comm, Children & Youth Led, Confirmation WGAO, 9:00 AM Conf Photo	28 PayDay, Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	29 Appt 9:00 am, Sewing 1:30-4:00 PM	30 Pastoral Care Visitation Day, 425 Youth 6:30, Choir 7:30	31 All Hallow's Eve - Halloween, Bible Study 1:30 PM, Wiggle Your Wings Costume Parade	01 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	02 All Saints Worship Service 6:00 PM, baptism Tillie Rose Volkel, Communion, Fall Back Time Change
03 All Saints Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, Communion	04 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	05 Election Day, Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Worship Comm 6:30 PM	06 Pastoral Care Visitation Day, Choir 7:30	07 Bible Study 1:30 PM,	08 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	09 Worship Service 6:00 PM, Women's Group Thankoffering
10 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, Women's Group Thankoffering	11 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal, in Hays for all day appointments	12 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Exec Comm 5:30 pm, Special Council Meeting 6:30 PM	13 Pastoral Care Visitation Day, 425 Youth 6:30, Choir 7:30	14 Sign Payroll, Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, Bible Study 1:30 PM,RCAOC 6:30 PM St. Mary's	15 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day. Pay Day	16 90th Birthday Reception Deloris Janne, Special Church Financial Inform meeting 5:00 PM, Worship Service 6:00 PM
17 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, late svc led by Children & Youth, Choir, Community Thanksgiving Worship SVC Dorrance 6:00 PM	18 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	19 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	20 Dr. Appointment in Salina (out all day)	21 Bible Study 1:30 PM, Church Council 6:30 PM	22 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day. Appt 1:30 PM	23 Christ the King Worship Service 6:00 PM, Communion
24 Christ the King Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM, Bells, Communion	25 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal. Altar Guild & Property Comm decorate for Advent 9:00 AM	26 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Record Clergy Comments, Sign Payroll	27 Pay Day, Pastoral Care Visitation Day. 425 Youth 6:30? Choir 7:30?	28 Thanksgiving Day - church offices closed. Community Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mary Queen of Angels	29 Church offices closed. Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	30 Advent One - Worship Service 6:00 PM

ODDS AND ENDS

- Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 3 – set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday!
- Worship & Music Committee will meet Tues, Nov 5 at 6:30 pm.
- Community Discussion to review St. John Financial Procedures and St. John Endowment Policies will be held Saturday, November 16 at 5:00 pm in the Chapel.
- The Executive Committee of the Church Council will meet Tues, Nov 12 at 5:30 pm followed by a special meeting of the Church Council at 6:30 pm. The Church Council will meet Thurs, Nov 21 at 6:30 pm.
- St. John Women's Bible Study will be held Thurs, Nov 14 at 10:00 am. Large print materials are available upon request.
- To be included in the December Newsletter articles and information must be provided no later than Wed, Nov 20.
- The Altar Guild invites everyone to participate in decorating the sanctuary and chapel for the Advent season starting at 9:00 am, Monday, November 24.
- St. John offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29 in observance of Thanksgiving.
- 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 unload and stock bulk deliveries (one or more Saturday mornings each month); and unloading, sorting and distributing commodity supplies (once a month). Volunteers will also be needed to pack holiday baskets before Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, or to confirm volunteering times and locations, contact Cathy Berry at 785-483-4113.
- Donations of toys and personal care items for Operation Christmas Child may be made at 745 W. Wichita Avenue Thursdays at 10:00 am. Monetary donations may be made by calling Alice at 785-483-1795.
- Due to the Congregational Annual Report in January 2025, there will be no January newsletter.

Lutheran Disaster Response – Hurricane Response

In late September, Hurricane Helene hit the coast of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane and moved inland as a deadly storm, leaving devastation throughout the southeastern United States. The storm caused shocking, dangerous flooding, especially in western North Carolina and Tennessee, washing away whole towns and roads, leaving millions of people without power, and driving thousands from their homes.

Hurricane Milton hit Florida as a powerful Category 3 hurricane, bringing storm surge, heavy rains, winds and tornadoes. Milton is one of the strongest hurricanes to hit the area in decades. This storm has been particularly devastating because many communities have only begun to recover from Hurricane Helene.

Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

Please pray for the safety of communities impacted by hurricanes, including people in their paths and any emergency services personnel who are responding. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to rescue survivors.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response will support disaster-impacted communities affected by hurricanes and related disasters, such as mudslides, severe storms and flooding.

To donate to Lutheran Disaster Response, please write checks to St. John Lutheran Church and indicate "Hurricanes" in the memo field. Donations may be placed in the offering plate at any service.

Visit elca.org/hurricanes for more information



November PMA Notes

This is the day the Lord has made! What an understanding of how our Lord touches us daily – all we need to do is remember this! I know that everyone that has heard this can complete it – so, for November do this one thing: Let us rejoice and be glad about it! As we walk the walk let us truly in our hearts “Rejoice!” and be glad in it as the Bible says! Let our Lord truly walk with us and continue to lead us through our daily lives to our next step – we will be with our Lord one day! We are truly blessed – we are truly “glad in it!”

Thank you God for our Savior and our Brother – Jesus! He has truly transcended all things and given us a new life! Amen!

Blessings – John Dumler, PMA

Sewing Circle says THANK YOU



Ninety-six quilts made by the St. John Sewing Circle were blessed during services on October 19 and 20. Five quilts were donated to Jana’s Closet in Hays, and donations were received from St. John members for 31 quilts. Sixty quilts are on their way to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you so very much for supporting this ministry.

For more information, contact Kaye Schlessman, Georganna McCrary, or the church office.

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
Sept 29 *	n/a	n/a	111	111
Oct 6	15	25	44	84
Oct 13	24	26	65	115
Oct 20	26	36	62	124
Oct 27 **	n/a	n/a	124	124

Offering

Sept 29 *	\$2,164.00
Oct 6	3,975.00
Oct 13	4,967.00
Oct 20	3,340.00
Oct 27 **	2,028.00

* We Gather As One 10:30 am Sunday, September 29 (NO 6:00 pm Sat service; NO 8:15 am Sun service)

** We Gather As One 10:30 am Sunday, October 27 (NO 6:00 pm Sat service; NO 8:15 am Sun service)

St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

Date	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
November 6	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
November 13.....	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
November 20.....	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
November 27.....	6:30 pm	



Performances

Agape Choir	10:30 am, November 17.....	Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am
St. John Ringers	10:30 am, November 24.....	Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am

The **Agape Choir** will also perform at the Russell County Association of Churches Community Thanksgiving Service (Sunday, November 17 at First Lutheran Church in Dorrance).

Modified November Communion Schedule

Due to the celebration of church holidays in November, we will have only two communion weekends this month.

**Communion will be offered at each All Saints Weekend service
Saturday, November 2 and Sunday, November 3
and
at each Christ the King Weekend service
Saturday, November 23 and Sunday, November 24**

Please Notice This



The 2025 Discipleship Through Service 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 in the ministry of the church, not just adults. We are all called to live out our discipleship in our day-to-day lives caring and serving others. Consider completing the survey as a family (you may use more than one survey if necessary).

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

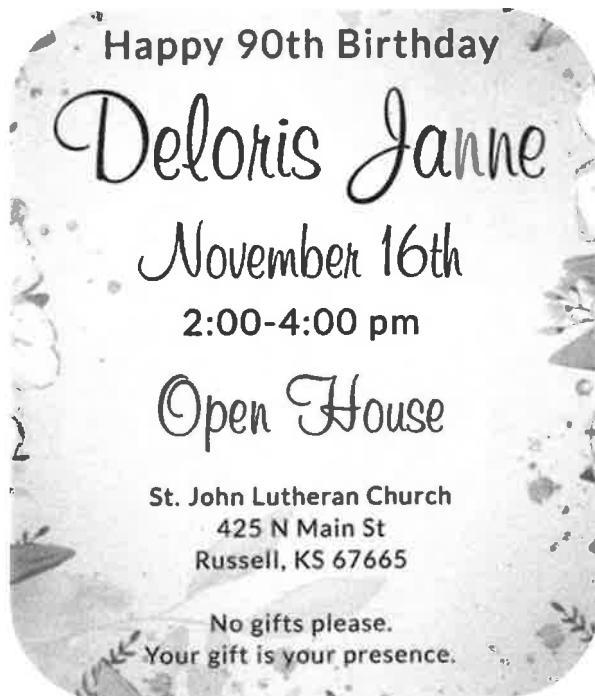
St. John Children and Youth Lead the Way

At the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 29, St. John's children and youth led the We Gather As One service. Before the service, several Sunday School students decorated the front sidewalk with chalk art, welcoming everyone to worship. Before and during the service youth served as worship assistants in a variety of roles, including greeters, ushers, lectors, and readers. The Sunday School students sang "Jesus Loves Me" for special music. Pastor Teri provided a blessing of backpacks and keys for all students as they begin the new school year, and gifted each with a backpack clip or keychain. The St. John children and youth also led the We Gather As One service celebrating Reformation and Confirmation at the 10:30 service on Sunday, October 27. The St. John children and youth will also lead the 10:30 service on Sunday, November 17 – services WILL be held 6:00 pm Saturday, November 16 and 8:15 Sunday, November 17.

The Sunday School students assembled 24 Birthday Kits for the Russell County Food Pantry. Thank you for your contributions to this "God's Work Our Hands" project.

Blessings and Celebrations

Jasmine Jefferson and Kinsey Zorn made public affirmation of their baptism at the 10:30 Sunday service on October 29, 2024. 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, Jasmine and Kinsey 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 Jasmine and Kinsey!!



St. John Seeks Philanthropic Fund Nominations

Nominations will be accepted for local and non-local non-profit ministries. Two finalists will be selected by the Council at the December meeting and presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January. To nominate a non-profit ministry contact the church office.



St. John Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Saturday, November 9 and Sunday November 10

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 are available in the pews 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 17, 2024

6:00 pm – Worship

First Lutheran Church, 417 Coleman Ave., Dorrance

- Pastor Teri will be giving the message
- Special music presented by the Russell Community Choir (Galen Schmidtberger, Russell Community Choir Director, invites everyone to St. Mary Queen of Angels each Sunday at 5:00 pm to practice for the service)

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The 46th Annual Russell Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 28. The dine-in meal starts at noon and curbside pickup is available from noon to 2:00 pm at St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church. Delivery services are available if arrangements are made in advance.

Meals are provided at no cost, but free will donations are accepted. For more information about monetary donations or volunteer opportunities, contact Dannie'll at 785-483-1772.

Russell County Food Pantry Holiday Baskets

In 2024, the Russell County Food Pantry has served a record number of families each month. The "Share the Holidays with Your Neighbor" campaign raises funds to help provide a basket with the ingredients for holiday meals for individuals, couples, or families. Over 125 families received holiday baskets in 2023. A donation of \$30 provides a family with Thanksgiving AND Christmas baskets. The Russell County Food Pantry will do the purchasing and distribution of the holiday 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).

November 2024 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
Nov 2	Allen & Betty Funk .....	.....	.....
Nov 9	Darold & Corine Gideon	Susy Krug	Curtis Sander
Nov 16	Glenn Gideon	Galen Niedenthal	Peggy Anschutz
Nov 23 .....	.....	.....	.....
Nov 30	Ramona Luebbers	Elaine Voos .....	.....
Dec 7	Brad & Cheryl Prester	Jeremy Ulrich .....	.....



8:15 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
Nov 3	Kurt & Lois DeWald	Lois DeWald	Margaret Walter
Nov 10	Katrin Kolder	Katrin Kolder	Juanita Flegler
Nov 17	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	Glenda Phillips
Nov 24	Dick & Georganna McCrary	Georganna McCrary	Juanita Flegler
Dec 1	Connie Schinkus	Connie Schinkus .....	.....



10:30 Sun	Greeter	Usher	Lector
Nov 3	Ron & Ginger Tittel (N); _____ (S)	Ron & Ginger Tittel	Gina Lanhofer
Nov 10	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N); Don F. Krug (S)	Mike & Diane Waymaster	Cindy Ross
Nov 17	YOUTH	YOUTH	YOUTH
Nov 24	Susy Krug (N); Irene Coffeen (S)	Susy Krug	Ruth Keil
Dec 1	Gerald & Mary Mai (N); Eck Family (S)	Gerald & Mary Mai .....	.....

10:30 Sun	Acolytes	Musician
Nov 3	Evanlee Rainey, Harper Ryan	Margaret Walter
Nov 10	Hadlee Brown, Reece Peck	Juanita Flegler
Nov 17	Layken Eck, Campbell Lofland	Glenda Phillips
Nov 24	Ellise Jefferson, Evanlee Rainey	Juanita Flegler
Dec 1	Marshall & Morgan Olson .....	.....



Bulletin Delivery

Nov 1: Darold & Corine Gideon
 Nov 8: Teresa Hilbrink
 Nov 15: _____
 Nov 22: Ramona Luebbers
 Nov 29: Georganna McCrary

Altar Guild

Tiffinie Mai – Chair
 Connie Dumler, Carol Fritz, Pam
 Gudenkauf, Barb Krug, Alison Ryan

Newsletter
November 2024



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 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