

St. John Lutheran Church

425 N. Main, Russell KS 67665 ♦ 785-483-5358
Website: stjohnrussell.com ♦ Email: stjohrn@ruraltel.net
Find us on Facebook

Pastor: Roger Dennis ♦ PMA: John Dumler
Youth & Family Ministry Coordinators: Alex & Audrey Lofland



*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***

October 2020



REMINDERS

In-Person Worship has resumed under the following conditions:

- Masks are required for those two years of age and older.
- Social distancing (six feet separation, etc.) will be observed during arrival and exit, and in seating.
- Offering plates will be present at the Sanctuary entrance.
- All hymnals, Bibles, pencil, and pew cards have been removed
- The altar rail will not be used during Communion.

Curbside Communion is offered each Sunday from 8:15 to 10:15 am at the southeast entrance (weather permitting).

Pastoral Perceptions - October 2020 ***Fruits of the Spirit Series***

By Pastor Roger Dennis

Whether you are of Sunday School age or not, I encourage you to follow the “Fruits of the Spirit” series that will be features during the Children’s Moment at the 10:30 Sunday worship services.

A “tree” sprung up near the bell choir area this past Sunday. As I explained during the Children’s Moment” the tree represents the growth that springs from the seeds of our baptism. As the people of Christ, we are called to follow the teachings of Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to help us bear fruit. During porch visits, lessons places on our website, and, more importantly, the many volunteers of our education team will provide lessons on “bearing fruit”.

“Fruits of the Spirit” is a biblical term that sums up the nine visible attributes of a Christian life. Those nine are characteristics of life in Christ. Translated, when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, rather than forces of the “flesh”, the Spirit will produce the ninefold “fruit” that characterize all who truly walk in the Holy Spirit. “Fruits of the Spirit” is a physical manifestation of a Christian’s transformed life.

But in order to experience the fullness of the “Fruits of the Spirit”, we need to be set free. Paul sets the context for all of this in Galatians (Chapter 5), in which he boldly proclaims that, “for freedom Christ has set us free”. We have been set free from the bondage of slavery to the elemental spirits of this life. When we are set free from the “works of the flesh” we can become energized and enlivened by God’s Spirit. When that happens, we not only live by the Spirit, but are guided by the Spirit

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Pastoral Perceptions - October 2020, Fruits of the Spirit Series

(Continued from page 1)

in our daily life.

Dag Hammarskjöld said it well in his autobiography: “The road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action”. Paul carefully defines freedom and what it requires. He reveals that freedom in Christ is not a freedom toward “self-indulgence”. Rather, the exercise of loving service is the truest mark and measure of Christian freedom. Loving service is measured by one’s response to neighbor - not to self.

Self-indulgence seems to be a pretty apt description of our society today. Lucy, of the comic strip “Peanuts” is often the poster child for a self-indulgent philosophy. In reading a book to Lucy, Linus says, “It says here that the world revolves around the sun once a year.” Lucy replies, “The world revolves around the sun? Are you sure? I thought it revolved around me.”

Children model what they observe in both word and deed. Thus, we encourage all to not only learn but to place into action the teachings of Christ. Love the Lord, your God with all your heart and with all your mind and love your neighbor are commands that God asks us to fulfill. Amen.

~ Pastor

October Worship Assistants

Thanks to all those who have served as worship assistants. If you are unable to assist on the assigned date, please secure a substitute and notify the church office as soon as possible.

If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please contact the office.

Date	Usher/Guide	Liturgist/Lector	Bulletin Delivery
Oct. 4	Kristy Mader	John Dumler	Bob & Judy Albrecht (Oct. 2)
Oct. 11	Blaine Stoppel	Kim Stoppel	Marty & Connie Dumler (Oct. 9)
Oct. 18	Kristy Mader	Carol Fritz	Andrea Cross (Oct. 16)
Oct. 25	Nathan Ryan	Blaine Maier	Carol Prester (Oct. 23)
Nov. 1	Morris Krug	~ needed ~	Dick & Georganna McCrary (Oct. 30)

October Altar Guild: Tammy Nuss (Chair), Lois DeWald, Gina Langhofer, Janet Peerman, Alison Ryan

PMA Notes ~ October 2020

By John Dumler, PMA

What do you mean I need to quarantine? Yes, everyone - I was asked to quarantine this past week (September 16-23). No, just so you all know, when this happens they give you only a date that you were in contact with a person that tested positive. With that being said, let me say that they are following all COVID rules, HIPAA rules and all other rules governing privacy (which keeps the identity of the COVID-positive person private, as well it should). Until the moment I received "the call" I could only imagine the anxiety, fear, uncertainty, and other emotions that could pop up. That day, it was my turn...

I prayed that day for all of the people that might have made contact with me and that, if through my time "in jail" I would be one person who would not add to the increase in cases. There were many emotions I went through that day and then the phone rang and Deb was also thrust into the quarantine process as she received "the call".

With this virus they will not do any testing unless you show signs, actual symptoms, of the virus. I will say that as a Christian, I was not acting very much like one. I did try to read the bible, I did pray (mostly silently) and I did ponder. "What was I involved in? Why me?" We are at the fate of the world in our life here on earth. We always struggle through times that are not so happy. "Why me?" Why not?

At this point, I sat for a time in my newly established Man Cave/Office/Sports Room/Gaming Room/Etc./Etc./Etc. I **only** had my phone, texting, Facebook, Messenger and most of the modern media outlets. I raised my fist to God and told him how unfair he was, putting me in time out! For about 30 seconds I felt vindicated - I sure told Him!!

Then I sat and asked God to forgive me. We are all Christians! We are struggling through this pandemic with the press and everyone blaming everyone else. As I sat there I realized that we know what the outcome will be. Every Christian knows the answer:

We practice it every Sunday when we either watch on Zoom or Facebook Live, tune in to the radio or cable channel, or attend in person. We believe in our Christ Jesus! We might cry, get angry, shake our fist at the sky, or blame others, but as Christians we know the answer.

I will be leading a book study starting September 27 focusing on "Messiah to the Messed Up" by Sue Ciullo. I was able to prepare for this session during my "time out" and I had to find the book first! When I found it, I glanced at it and saw the word "Messiah". I stopped to ponder my tantrum and how I let down my God. Our Messiah has done all of the hard stuff. He died for our redemption. He was beaten, abused,

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spat on, cursed and yet he still walked that path - because of his love.

I then noticed the subtitle to the book - "Because I'm a mess, you're a mess, and we all need a Messiah!" Plain language here. No theology or \$20 words, as my father would say. When my father knew he could no longer spend his days at home and required more help than I could provide, he held my hand and told me he truly believed that Jesus was our Messiah and he was the one who saved all believers.

Now, here I am - required to NOT be with others. My humanness showed through in not lifting up that I am a disciple of Christ! It doesn't matter if I am isolated, or surrounded by other believers, we are all subject to sin and in our hearts we need to move forward to do what we can as Christians.

I pray: Our most loving Messiah, lift us up and remind us that we have Jesus that intercedes for us daily and on that day when he gave his life, he indeed came to our aid and rescue! Lord, thank you for sending Jesus to take up our sins. Remind me when I am alone that you are always there. Lord, we are a mess and would be lost without you. Thank you for reminding us that we are your servant and we are your family! You are the way, the truth, and the light. We will always be yours. Please help us to help others know they are never alone. We are humbled in your presence and grateful of what you give to us daily. In your name we pray. Amen.

This month (before quarantine), I was able to help with our Assisted Living Services (Window Church), help with curbside communion and prepared for the book study starting September 27. A big shout out to the Ecks and Olsons for lending a hand during Window Church. Thanks be to God!

~ John

Christ in Our Home

October, November, December
2020



Please note:

The Fourth Quarter 2020
(October-December)

Christ in Our Home: Light for Today Devotionals are available in the Information Centers outside the main Chapel entrance and in the South Main entryway, as well as on the bookcase in the narthex.

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE

Tuesday,
October 20



Youth & Family Ministry Update

By Audrey & Alex Lofland, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinators

Grace and Peace to you, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The last 6 months have been a whirlwind of changed plans, abandoned expectations, and frustration.

The good news... He's got the whole world in His hands. A simple children's song that speaks volumes to the nature and character of our Creator.

As the seasons begin to change, Youth & Family Ministry gears up for Youth Group activities, National Youth Gathering planning, and new ministries for young adults and families.

As anticipated, COVID 19 is preventing us from meeting in person. Thanks to the efforts of Sunday School porch bag volunteers, kids will be receiving packets for 2x5s in their porch bags through December.

Middle School and High School Youth will be working their way through specific topics based on digital content that will be the center of focus for a monthly virtual discussion group. We are working closely with our leaders to make these discussions valuable and impactful. We are looking to replicate this format for Young Adult and Family ministries.

We would like to thank Janella Eck, Lizzy Rhodes, and Jennifer Nichol for being our youth leaders this year. We are excited to see how the Lord will use them to minister to the youth of St. John.

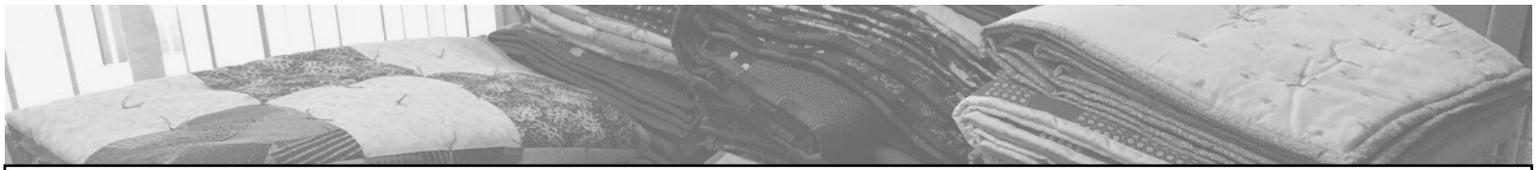
The National Youth Gathering was originally scheduled for July of 2021. It has been officially postponed to July of 2022. This does grant us a chance to revamp our fundraising efforts and to enlist the help of willing volunteers. If you feel you have a knack for planning, being organized, and working as part of a team, we would love to chat with you about helping us guide the youth's fundraising efforts for National Youth Gathering 2022. We already have some exciting fundraisers in the works. Keep your eyes on Facebook, the church website, and of course your monthly newsletter for more information soon.

While COVID 19 has kept us separated (socially distanced) from each other, we are reminded of Romans 8:35-39: "Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love... I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life... neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow... nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Our prayer is that you are reminded that God is jealous for you. He desires your attention, yearns for your heart, and knows you inside and out. May the power of the Lord see you through any challenge you face.

In Christ,

Audrey and Alex



Quilting as Ministry St. John Sewing Circle stitches up love

The quilts made by the Sewing Circle will be on display during all services October 3 and 4. Quilts will be blessed before they are boxed and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution around the world. Please know you are welcome to purchase any quilt for a \$50 donation to the Sewing Circle. If a quilt catches your eye, please let the usher know which one and a note will be attached with your name and contact information.

For over five years, LWR has tracked each box of quilts as it makes its journey across the globe. Since tracking started, St. John quilts have reached Angola, Burkina Faso, Georgia, Mali, Peru, Syria, Tanzania, and Ukraine.

The sewing Circle would like to thank all who have shared sheets for backs, material to make the tops and monetary donations to cover additional costs. Everyone is welcome to volunteer - some tasks require sewing skills, but “non-sewing” tasks include ironing material and sheets; cutting out squares; and tying quilts together. The Sewing Circle meets on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. If this time doesn’t work into your schedule some tasks can be done at home at your convenience.

Working together strengthens fellowship within St. John Lutheran, serves as a faith witness to our community, and brings volunteers closer to our global neighbors. Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Quilts give families around the world some of life’s essentials, as well as a reminder that they are not alone. From chronic poverty and conflict to drought and typhoon, the intensity of humanitarian needs continues to increase. The quilts given through LWR are an immeasurable blessing to families around the world.

For more information, contact Kaye Schlessman, Margaret Finkbeiner, or Georganna McCrary.

Share the Holidays with Your Neighbor

In 2020, the Russell County Food Pantry has served 48 families each month (on average). Many of these families will not be able to provide special meals during the upcoming holiday season.

Once again, the Food Pantry is having a “Share the Holidays with Your Neighbor” campaign to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, including all the basic elements of a holiday meal. Thanks to the generosity of the Russell community, last year the Food Pantry provided holiday meals for over 200 families. Because of the pandemic, higher numbers of requests are anticipated.

A \$30 donation will provide a holiday basket for a family in Russell County who would not otherwise be able to afford a holiday meal. To donate, contact the church office or mail a check to the Russell County Food Pantry, 15 N. Front, Russell KS 67665.



Meals on Wheels Volunteers ***~ Small Commitment, Huge Impact ~***

St. John Lutheran Church is responsible for Meals On Wheels deliveries in March and December. Volunteers arrive at Russell Regional Hospital (west parking lot loading dock entrance) between 11:20 and 11:30. The number of meals to be delivered varies, but is usually between five and ten. Meals On Wheels deliveries typically take no more than 45 minutes.

If you are interested in volunteering in December, please contact the office. Volunteers keep Meals On Wheels rolling!!



***Staying
Connected
Thanks to
Heart2Home***

The Heart2Home continues to keep people connected - in our church family and in our community.

Weekly "Spiritual Nutrition" porch visits provide a shelf stable meal, as well as an opportunity to "touch base". Although kitchen table conversations over a cup of coffee are not permitted at this time, recipients know St. John cares for and about them.

Outreach to the Care Center residents will continue through 2020, tentatively centered around Fall/Halloween, Thanksgiving/Harvest, and Christmas. Hand written note cards are always welcome, and "kits" are available to pick up in the narthex or in the Information Center outside the main Chapel entrance.

If you would like to volunteer (deliver meals, make dessert, donate ingredients or supplies) please contact the church office.

Prairiesta Wants Your Recipes!

The Prairiesta 2021 Planning Committee is creating a custom cookbook featuring favorite recipes from the Russell community. Recipes for "family favorites" are especially welcomed - nothing's better than Grandma's Fried Chicken, Aunt Maureen's Red Hot Salad, or County Fair Winning Dinner Rolls.

Recipes may be submitted online at www.prairiesta2021.com or mailed to Prairiesta Cookbook, PO Box 58, Russell, KS 67665. Recipes must be submitted as soon as possible.

For more information, please email Prairiesta2021@gmail.com or call Denise at 785-483-6960.



Thanks and Praise



NOVA LEE BOXBERGER, daughter of Jacob and Marix Boxberger, was baptized into Christ's family on Saturday, September 12, 2020. Nova's sponsors are Blake and Chloe Boxberger.

EMRYN LAYNE STRAUB, daughter of Jordan and Chantel Straub, was baptized into Christ's family on Saturday, September 12, 2020. Emryn's sponsors are Miranda Brady, Camden Rainy, Alexia Charbonneau, and Brett and Michaela Straub.

ZACH WATSON AND KAYLA DEWALD were united in marriage on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at St. John Lutheran Church. Pastor Roger Dennis officiated. Many blessings to the happy couple!



Jake and Marie Boxberger, along with Lorelei, are proud to announce the birth of **KYE ALAN BOXBERGER** on August 17, 2020. Kye weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 19.5 inches. Congratulations to big sister, Lorelei, and the entire Boxberger family!



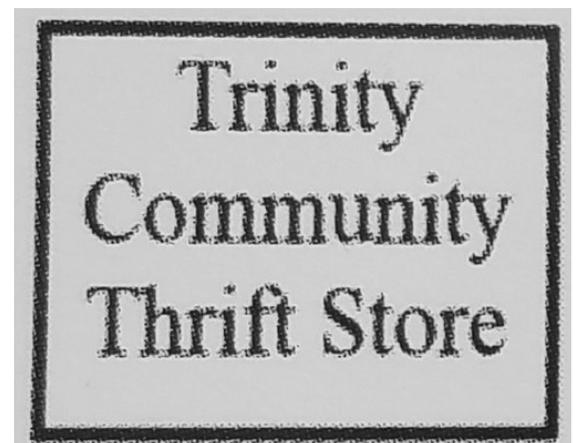
Sam and Bailey Kilian welcomed **EMERY LAYNE KILIAN** to the family on September 25, 2020. Emery weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 19 inches. , pounds, 8 ounces and measures 19.5" long. Congratulations to the Kilians and blessings to all!

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the rise in COVID cases in Russell, the Trinity Community Thrift Store will be closed for a few weeks.

Until further notice, the Thrift Store WILL NOT be accepting any donations - please DO NOT leave any items outside the donation area.

The community's support is important to the Thrift Store, and they will gladly open again when its safer.



Opportunity to Aid Another Congregation

~ Council approves matching funds ~

As you are aware, COVID-19 has been impacting church attendance and giving. Thankfully, you, the people of St. John have responded and, as of the last council meeting, our giving is actually slightly ahead of last year.



However, this is not the case in all congregations.

A new ministry began in Garden City, Kansas in 2015 and, prior to COVID-19, was the fastest growing congregation in our Synod. The membership of Sagrado Corazon de Jesus (Sacred Heart of Jesus), though primarily people from El Salvador, is diverse with members who are white and black as well.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has taken an extremely high toll on the people, and they have not been able to worship in person for months, and will not likely be able to for some time to come. Virtual worship is not an option for them at this time.

While Pastor Flores continues to have income from another job to support himself, the congregation is in dire need of support to continue paying its monthly bills and mortgage payments on the parsonage.

Our Western Kansas Conference is extending a plea for support from congregations to help with the financial challenges facing Sagrado Corazon de Jesus.

St. John's Congregation Council voted at the September meeting to match fifty cents for each one dollar for the first \$200 given by members of St. John. Please note "Sagrado Corazon" in the check memo.



Philanthropic Fund Nominee

~ St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lake Charles, LA ~

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lake Charles, LA has been presented as a national nominee for the St. John Lutheran Church Philanthropic Fund. In August, St. Paul Lutheran was destroyed by Hurricane Laura.

Pastor Dennis shares what he learned from his friend, Pastor Ann Sutton. Ann is the pastor of a Methodist church in Lake Charles. Although Laura was a hurricane, Ann shared that, in some ways, the devastation reminded her of a tornado - one area is leveled, yet a structure in the midst of the area appears untouched. Her church and parsonage were "untouched" so it will serve as a base camp for relief

efforts. She indicated that the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pastor Tim Norris, and his family are okay but his home, like others, is badly damaged.

St. John Philanthropic Funds are awarded to those non-profits receiving the greatest number of votes during the Annual Congregational Meeting. To nominate a Local, Regional, or National/International non-profit or for more information, please contact the office.



St. John Sunday School ***~ coming to YOUR porch ~***

The St. John Education Committee and Church Council have made the decision to create a NEW LOOK for the beginning of the 2020-2021 Sunday School year.

St. John Sunday School students from pre-school through 5th grade will be exploring God’s word and God’s world with the *Faithweaver Now* curriculum. The Virtual Sunday School plan includes porch visits every two weeks, providing “kits” with two weeks of *Faithweaver Now* activities, worksheets, puzzles, and more. Online videos will compliment the porch visits. Links to videos will be posted on the St. John Lutheran website (stjohnrussell.com).

We will enjoy this journey together - even though we are apart!!

Your friends in Christ,

The St. John Lutheran Church Education Committee and
the 2020-2021 Sunday School Teachers

Pre-school/Kindergarten: Janella Eck
1st/2nd Grade: Alex and Audrey Lofland

3rd/4th Grade: Brooke Olson
5th/6th Grade: Kim Stoppel



Coming Soon!

Exceptional Attendance Awards and Bible Presentations

The St. John Education Committee is working with Pastor Dennis to determine a way to recognize those Sunday School students who achieved exceptional attendance during the 2019-2020 Sunday School year. Attendance will be calculated through the last week St. John held in-person Sunday School.

In addition, the St. John Second Grade Sunday School Students will receive their Bibles this year. Presentation time, place, and method are to be determined.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The Fruits of the Spirits Series Children’s Time 10:30 am Sunday Services

During Children’s Time at the 10:30 am Sunday services, we will learn about the Fruits of the Spirit, and how God uses us as instruments to show his love to others!

Jesus was the ultimate expression of God’s love, and all the qualities of God that made Jesus who he was - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - become qualities in us the closer we grow in our relationships with Jesus.



Sunday School porch visit bags will include worksheets and information about each of the Fruits of the Spirit.

10:30 am Sunday Services are streamed on stjohnrussell.com and Facebook. The 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays are broadcast on KRSB 990 AM/98.1 FM and NexTech Cable Channel 130.

Brief Snapshot on Confirmation and First Communion



COVID has impacted educational programming at St. John. Here is a brief snapshot of what is happening:

First Year Confirmation (7th Grade): Kristy Mader will be in contact shortly with information about meetings, expectations, timeline, etc.

Second Year Confirmation (8th Grade): Pastor Dennis is leading, but in-person classes are suspended until further notice (hopefully no longer than two weeks) due to COVID. Materials will be sent via email.

Second Year Confirmation (2019-2020): This class was suspended due to COVID. A final project will be emailed shortly. No additional in-person classes will be held. Confirmation date TBD.

First Communion: First Communion classes normally occur in October with First Communion celebrated on Reformation Sunday. Due to COVID, the class schedule has not yet been finalized. First Communion celebration date TBD. Please contact the office to confirm your desire for your child's participation in First Communion instruction.

As with Sunday School and other activities, the definitive word remains "FLUID". It appears that when tentative plans are made, changes come quickly. Please bear with us! Thank you for your cooperation!



Parents as Teachers Affiliate NOW SERVING USD 407!!



Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a child development/parenting/family services program for pregnant women and families with a child between birth through Kindergarten. Staff recognize parents as the first and most important teacher of their child.

PAT is now available to all USD 407 families at no cost and there are no eligibility requirements. This program is funded through the Kansas State Department of Education plus a local match from USD 489 (Hays).

The PAT program assists parents by providing up to date information and opportunities to share information and experiences with well trained Parent Educators. Certified Parent Educators meet with parents monthly in their home.

For more information about Parents as Teachers, please contact 785-623-2430, ext. 8207.

Congregational Tidbits

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

OUR SYMPATHIES AND GOD'S COMFORT TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF



Care Center Residents

Homestead

Main Street Manor

Wheatland



Congregational Tidbits

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE US MILITARY OR IN SERVICE ABROAD



*God Bless
our Troops*

OUR PARISH RECORDS

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Total</u>
September 6	15	14	32	<u>61</u>
September 13	14	18	38	<u>70</u>
September 20	12	16	21	<u>49</u>
September 27	11	12	28	<u>51</u>

OFFERINGS

September 6.....	\$5,202.00
September 13.....	3,352.00
September 20.....	3,236.00
September 27.....	1,782.00

CURBSIDE COMMUNION

September 6.....	8
September 13.....	4
September 20.....	8
September 27.....	16

ACTUAL INCOME/EXPENSES THRU AUGUST 31

Income	\$181,865.03
Expenses	<u>\$154,300.86</u>
	\$15,081.31

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

Voting Members Present: Pastor Roger Dennis, Judy Albrecht, Carol Fritz, Andrea Krauss, Kristine Mader, Blaine Maier, Nathan Ryan, Kim Stoppel, Gaylon Walter
Others Present: Cory Funk, Alex Lofland
Excused: John Dumler, Judy Holmes, Sheryl Krug, Richard Sieker
Absent: Jim Dumler, Kameron Schneider, Mary Ulrich

INVOCATION / CALL TO ORDER

- ◆ Council President Blaine Maier called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Pastor Roger Dennis led the Council members in a prayer reflection.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

- ◆ Council President Blaine Maier requested an amendment to the agenda to move New Business Item 4.c) *Desktop Computer Upgrades* to precede Item 3. *Standing Committee Reports*. Pastor Roger Dennis requested to add New Business Item 4.d) *Financial Support for Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, Garden City, Kansas*. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the agenda, as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ◆ It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2020 Council Meeting as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- ◆ Council Vice President Andrea Krauss reviewed the financial reports. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM 3. DESKTOP COMPUTER UPGRADES FOR PASTOR'S AND VICAR'S OFFICE

- ◆ Cory Funk presented computer upgrade information and recommended that we replace the desktop computers with laptops as they are more efficient, carry a 5-year warranty and would lessen the need to replace some of the components in the future if the laptops wear out. Discussion was held and it was moved, seconded, and passed to purchase two new laptop computers for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00. Payment for these upgrades will come from the Mai Family Operating Fund

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ **PMA** - Written report in Council packet.
- ◆ **Youth and Family Ministry** - Alex Lofland reviewed the written report in the packet and added that they are working on fund raisers for the National Youth Gathering to be held in 2021.
- ◆ **Education** - Kim Stoppel reported that the God's Work, Our Hands Porch Food Drive on Sunday, September 13 went well, but not as well as previous years, so they plan to continue the project through September 20. Kristine Mader has offered to take the collected bags to the Russell County Food Pantry.
- ◆ **Evangelism/Social Ministry/Parish Fellowship** - No report.
- ◆ **Property** - Nathan Ryan reported that they are continuing to work with the company that installed the HVAC system as there are needed repairs to fix the condensation problem. He also reported that a leak in the roof has been discovered on the north side of the balcony. He will be in contact with Roofmasters to remedy this problem. He reported that Property Committee members are working with Cory Funk to begin installation of the wiring needed to install the upgraded internet access equipment.
- ◆ **Stewardship/Finance** - Andrea Krauss indicated that budget sheets will be passed out at the October meeting. They will also be mailing the stewardship letters out in October.
- ◆ **Worship & Music/Technology** - Kristine Mader reported that current in-person services and curbside communion have been going well and thanked all volunteers.

- ◆ **Youth Groups** - No report.
- ◆ **Cemetery** - No report, however it was noted by one council member that the lithography on some of the tombstones has been improved and names are more easily read now.
- ◆ **Pastor Dennis** - Pastor added that at-home communion has been suspended at the present time. Pastor reported on baptisms and weddings, noting that there are several pending memorial services. He also indicated that he feels we are still owed some money on the elevator repair.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ◆ It was moved, seconded, and passed to enter executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. At 6:20 pm it was moved, seconded and passed to end the executive session and return to the regular council meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Vice President Andrea Krauss presented the revised Constitution. She indicated that there were still a few minor changes needed to formatting. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the revised Constitution with the aforementioned edits. Pastor Dennis stated the Constitution needs to be approved by the synod for approval, but he thinks the bylaws need to be updated first (the Constitution and bylaws would be presented to the synod at the same time). Pastor will check into this and the Council can review the bylaws at the October Council meeting.
- ◆ Discussion was held concerning the bid from Waggoners to recover the remaining pews. After discussion it was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the current bid of \$7,665.00 to finish all of the pews as listed. Capital improvement funds will be used for this project.

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ Pastor Dennis noted that St. John received a request for Troy Miller to officiate at the October 10 wedding to be held in the sanctuary. It was moved, seconded, and passed to grant this request.
- ◆ Pastor Dennis presented a request for vacation from October 7-21, 2020. It was moved, seconded, and passed to grant this request.
- ◆ Pastor Dennis reported on the community Faith & Blue weekend activities for October 9 and 10, 2020. As this is still in the planning stage, no action was taken at this time.
- ◆ Pastor Dennis presented a request for financial assistance to assist Sagrado Corazon de Jesus church in Garden City, Kansas who do not have the finances to continue services. The synod and other churches are assisting at this time. Discussion was held and it was noted that we have funds available in the Good Samaritan Fund. Congregational donations would be encouraged. It was moved, seconded, and passed to match 50 cents for every dollar donated (up to \$200.00) to assist Sagrado Corazon de Jesus. Donations will be sent to the Western Kansas Conference for distribution.

DISCUSSION

- ◆ A request was made to add Review of Church Bylaws to the October Council agenda.
- ◆ Given rising COVID-19 cases, discussion was held about when St. John may suspend in-person worship, if needed. In addition, Council discussed possible worship service changes for Christmas Eve if COVID-19 persists.

ADJOURNMENT

- ◆ At 7:15 pm, it was moved, seconded, and passed that the meeting adjourn with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Executive meeting – Thursday, October 15, 2020 (time TBD)

Next Council meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 5:15 pm

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Carol Fritz, Church Council Secretary

St. John Lutheran

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

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pastor@ruraltel.net

John Dumler, PMA

785-483-1382 (c)

pma@ruraltel.net

**Alex & Audrey Lofland, Youth & Family
Ministry Coordinators**

785-324-0203 (c)

stjohnyouthandfamilyministry@gmail.com

Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper

sjlcbookkeeper@ruraltel.net

Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant

Debora Kreutzer, Custodian

Church Council

President—Blaine Maier

Vice President—Andrea Krug Krauss

Secretary—Carol Fritz

Treasurer—Judy Albrecht

Education—Kim Stoppel

Evangelism/Social Ministry/Parish

Fellowship—Mary Ulrich

Property—Nathan Ryan, Jim Dumler &
Richard Sieker

Stewardship/Finance—Andrea Krug Krauss

Worship/Music/Technology—Kristy Mader

Youth—Kameron Schneider

Cemetery—Gaylon Walter

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

8:00 am to 1:30 pm

*Please submit address updates
to the Church Office.*

*If you would like your address
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phone, email or return mail.*

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***The 10:30 Worship Services on October 11 and 25 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.

This outreach is made possible by various contributions.