

# St. John Lutheran Church

425 N. Main, Russell KS 67665 ♦ 785-483-5358  
Website: stjohnrussell.com ♦ Email: stjohr@ruraltel.net

Pastor: Teri Sutherlin ♦ PMA: John Dumler

## October 2023



## Teri Talk - October 2023

Lutheran mythbusting or ...

**10 things you thought you knew about Martin Luther**

By Timothy J. Wengert February 6, 2015

On October 29, 2023, we will have a “We Gather As One” worship service at 10:30 AM to celebrate Reformation Sunday together and celebrate the Confirmation of Jaxson Ross and Mitchell Olsen. With the month of October closing with our remembrance of The Reformation, it seems appropriate we should explore a couple of myths about Luther. This is an excerpt from the *Living Lutheran*, February 2015 article for two “myths” about Martin Luther:

“On the popular cable show *Mythbusters*, the hosts unmask assumptions about our world — scenes from movies, familiar sayings or Internet sensations — and rigorously test their plausibility. When it comes to history, however, certain legends and inaccuracies can persist for generations without being challenged or corrected.”

**“On Oct. 31, 1517, Luther “posted” the 95 Theses in protest against the church.**

Here modern historians have questioned two things. Since the 1960s some scholars have thought it highly unlikely that Luther ever nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. They point to the fact that Luther never mentions it. Also, the posting is first mentioned in a sketch of Luther’s life written shortly after his death by a colleague, Phillip Melanchthon, who didn’t arrive in Wittenberg until 1518, well *after* the alleged act.

While some scholars (including this author) still argue that such a posting really did take place, all agree that the more important “posting,” which we know occurred that day, was in the mail as an enclosure to a letter addressed to Archbishop Albrecht of Mainz, head of the German church. The original, dated letter is in an archive in Stockholm, Sweden.

*(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***

(Continued from page 1)

But the notion that the 95 Theses were, from their inception, a protest rests on the mistaken idea about the function of such “theses” in late-medieval university life. In those days, to receive any university degree students had to defend theses, usually composed by their professors and posted on the churches’ doors in advance of the oral defense.

In addition, as a professor of theology, Luther had the right to hold “*quodlibital disputations*” — debates on any subject whatsoever to clarify church teaching, which usually were presented in the form of theses. In the case of the 95 Theses, Luther was clearly thinking in those terms. His intent wasn’t protest but open debate about an issue over which there was great uncertainty: What were indulgences and how did they relate to a Christian’s sorrow over sin?

It was the reactions to Luther’s theses — the archbishop sent them to Rome because he suspected they contained heresy — that turned a sharp inquiry over church practice and teaching into protest and reform.”

**“Luther once said, *“Even if I knew the world was going to end tomorrow, I would plant a tree today.”***

This is one of those cases where even though he didn’t say it, the saying itself matches his theology — in two ways.

First, Luther very much assumed that the end of the world was near. Although he rejected speculation about the “day and hour” of Christ’s return, he was convinced that the time was near.

Second, rather than *not* caring for this world because it was ending, Luther thought the opposite and treated creation as a gift entrusted to us to care for — not to exploit or escape from.

In 1525, when he faced the Peasants’ War and attacks from many foes over human captivity to sin (against Erasmus of Rotterdam), over the efficacy of infant baptism (with so-called Anabaptists) and over the presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper (with the Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli) — and therefore thought the world was ending — Luther didn’t plant a tree. But he did get married. One can hardly imagine a more positive statement about the goodness of creation and about how faith in Christ’s coming as savior frees us to serve our neighbor. Knowing the world was ending, Luther formed a family.

There are other statements attributed to Luther that he never uttered or wrote — and the Internet has increased their number. One favorite of mine: Luther said that every day when you wash your face you should remember your baptism. Despite it sounding “like Luther,” it doesn’t really match 16th-century hygiene, where the notion of washing your face wasn’t necessarily a daily chore.

Moreover, Luther made clear that the water of baptism wasn’t merely a “Bath-keeper’s baptism,” something those who rejected infant baptism often said. That is, the difference between baptismal water and regular water is the word and promise of God. Thus, washing your face is good for your face, but returning to your baptism daily is always a matter of trusting God’s promise of forgiveness, life and salvation offered there.

Luther, in fact, placed baptism at the center of the Christian life. We never lose God’s baptismal promises to us but may always return to them.

Perhaps what he says in the Large Catechism on baptism is even better than what we attribute to him:

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

*“Baptism is not a work that we do but ... a treasure that God gives us and faith grasps. ... In baptism, therefore, every Christian has enough to study and practice all his or her life. ... Thus, we must regard baptism and put it to use in such a way that we may draw strength and comfort from it when our sins or conscience oppress us, and say: ‘But I am baptized! And if I have been baptized, I have the promise that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body ....’” (Book of Concord, edited by Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert; Fortress, 2000).*

Therefore baptism remains forever. Even though someone falls from it and sins, we always have access to our baptism so we may again subdue the old creature. But we need not have the water poured over us again. Even if we were immersed in water a hundred times, it would nevertheless not be more than one baptism, and its effect and significance would continue and remain.”

Wengert, an ELCA pastor, is professor emeritus of Reformation history at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Author and editor of more than 20 books, including *“Martin Luther’s Catechisms: Forming the Faith”* (Fortress, 2009), his translation of the Small Catechism is used extensively throughout the ELCA.

<http://www.livinglutheran.org/2014/02/mythbusting/>

Blessings,

Pastor Teri

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## We Gather As One

### 5th Weekend Combined Service Celebrating Reformation Sunday and Confirmation

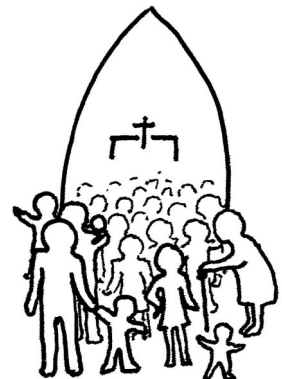
**Sunday, October 29, 2023 ~ 10:30 am ~ Sanctuary**

**The 425 Youth will lead this service and  
would greatly appreciate your attendance and support**

St. John members are a family - a family that extends across three services each weekend. Many members have a preferred service, and may not cross paths with those attending the other two services. The Worship & Music Committee decided to encourage the St. John family to gather together on each fifth weekend in 2023.

On Sunday, October 29 at the 10:30 service, the St. John Family will gather to celebrate Reformation and honor those young adults receiving the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation). There will be NO services at 6:00 pm Saturday, October 28 or 8:15 am Sunday, October 29.

Plans are underway to make the final fifth weekend of 2023 a special event for EVERYONE! The 10:30 service on Sunday, December 31 may celebrate more than a new year - watch weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, and [stjohnrussell.com](http://stjohnrussell.com) for more information.



# Pastor Teri's Calendar - October 2023

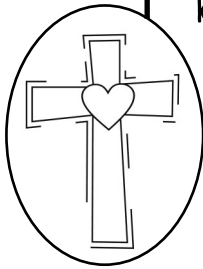
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM, Communion; Care Center Worship 2-4 PM	02 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal; Appointment 11 AM	03 Sewing Group 1:30-4 PM; Christian Education Committee 6:30 PM	04 RRH Open House 5:30 PM; 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	05 Bible Study 1:30 PM	06 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Appointment 12 PM	07 Worship 6 PM
08 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Leave for Olathe early afternoon	09 Fall Theological Conference, Olathe, KS - First Call Meeting	10 Fall Theological Conference, Olathe, KS, First Call 8 AM - 12 PM, Conference 1 PM	11 Fall Theological Conference, Olathe, KS	12 Fall Theological Conference, Olathe, KS	13 Pastor out of town	14 Worship Service 6 PM, Communion, Beckett Donald Herold Baptism
15 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM, Communion, Agape Choir	16 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	17 Pastor out of town in AM; Sewing Group 1:30-4 PM	18 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	19 Bible Study 1:30 PM; Church Council 6:30 PM	20 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	21 Worship 6 PM, 425 Youth Group Trip Presentation
22 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM, 425 Youth Group Trip Presentation; St. John Ringers 10:30 AM	23 Western Kansas Conference Gathering (Hays, KS) "Ordination Renewal" - Pastor & PMA	24 Sewing Group 1:30-4 PM; Record Clergy Comments	25 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM; Agape Choir 7:30 PM	26 Bible Study 1:30 PM	27 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	28 NO Worship Service - We Gather As One at 10:30 AM Sunday, October 29
29 NO 8:15 Worship; We Gather As One Worship 10:30 AM, Reformation, Communion, Confirmation	30 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	31 Sewing Group 1:30-4 PM; Halloween	01	02	03	04

“And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

Jeremiah 3:15

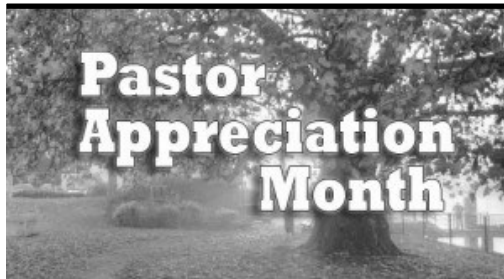
In 1 Timothy 5:17 Paul institutes the concept of clergy appreciation when he states that the elders of the church are worthy of double honor, especially those responsible for preaching and teaching. Pastor Appreciation Month was created in 1992 to highlight the ministry's role in the Church and give thanks for their work. Every year, the month of October is observed as the Pastor's Appreciation Month and the second Sunday of October is celebrated as Pastor's Appreciation Day.

Ever-living God, strengthen and sustain pastors and bishops, that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people. Grant that together they may follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (ELW, p. 73)



Today, many churches rely on the ministry to be the rock their Church is built upon. Those entering the ministry do so because they feel called to the mission. While they may intellectually know the pressures they will face, the reality can feel different, and at times overwhelming.

Pastors hold this role 365 days of the year, and this is not a 9 to 5 job. It is common for preachers to be called in the middle of the night. There are few, if any, "off-the-clock moments" for a pastor. Pastors are there during the most stressful and difficult times of our lives, encounter an enormous amount of emotional, mental, and spiritual weight.



How can we thank our pastor? Openly support them. Actively engage in church - attend services and find ways to serve. Thank them for the little things and the big things and the things we see and the things we don't see.

Prayer is the greatest gift of all. Pray that pastors keep their zeal in serving, and for God to give them a supernatural measure of grace. Ask God to multiply their time, and help them to live a balanced life. Tell them you are praying for them - your words will carry them far and your prayers are powerful.

Pastor Teri -

You were installed as the Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 12, 2021. We appreciate all you've done during the last two years: preach and teach, encourage and celebrate, counsel and comfort, create and decipher, repair and assemble, organize and mediate, and go to meetings (and go to meetings, and go to meetings, and...). But perhaps most importantly, you have prayed - with us and for us - leading us ever closer to God.

Many blessings and sincere thanks -

St. John Lutheran Church Family

*Disclaimer: Pastor Teri did not write this. Pastor Teri did not proof this. In fact, Pastor Teri didn't even see this before it went to print. Thank you to everyone who helped create this page.*

# Odds & ENDS

- St. John Women of the ELCA will meet Thursday, October 12 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall
- The Executive Committee of the Church Council will meet Thursday, October 12 (time TBD) and Council will meet Thursday, October 19 at 6:30 pm.
- To be included in the November Newsletter, articles and announcements must be submitted no later than Wednesday, October 18.
- Community Choir practices for the RCAOC Community Thanksgiving Service are every Sunday through November 12. Practices will be held at 5:00 pm OR 6:00 pm - choose which ever time works best for you. Practice locations rotate between churches - please contact Galen Schmidtberger at 785-735-4820.
- Groups, committees, teams, families and individuals are invited 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). Upcoming volunteer opportunities include packing holiday gift boxes - tentatively scheduled for afternoon/evening November 17 and 18 AND December 15 and 16. For more information, or to confirm volunteering times and locations, contact Cathy Berry at 785-483-4113.
- Take a seat... please. A limited quantity of Sunday School classroom chairs are available for YOU to pick up and take home!! Check the main hallway under the coat rack, or in the Sunday School hallway in the basement. Chairs remaining after October 19 will be discarded.
- Pastor Teri will be attending the Fall Theological Conference and First Call Meeting in Olathe Sunday, October 8 (leaving after the 10:30 service) through Friday, October 13. There will be NO Bible Study with Pastor on Thursday, October 12; Bible Study will resume Thursday, October 19.
- Pastor Teri and PMA John will be attending the Western Kansas Conference Gathering "Ordination Renewal" in Hays on Monday, October 23.
- Congratulations and special blessings to Reverend Brenda Rodger who was ordained Saturday, September 23 at First Lutheran Church in Dorrance. Pastor Brenda will serve First Lutheran Church in Dorrance and Trinity Lutheran Church in Hays.
- Kylie Stoppel was welcomed as the St. John Council Treasurer at the September Council Meeting. Many thanks and blessings to Kylie for sharing her time and talents with the Council and congregation.
- The 2023 4th Quarter *Christ in Our Home* devotionals are available to pick up. The St. John subscription will be reviewed before 2024 to avoid over-ordering.
  - ◆ You may order a personal subscription to *Christ in Our Home* (mailed to your home or PO Box) by calling Augsburg Fortress at 800-328-4648. One-year subscriptions are \$11.00; two-year subscriptions are \$20.00; and three-year subscriptions are \$29.00.
  - ◆ St. John delivers *Christ in Our Home* devotionals to Russell Care Center residents and Heart2Home participants. Monetary donations to help offset these costs would be greatly appreciated.
- St. John Lutheran Church delivers Meals on Wheels during the months of March and December. If you would like to deliver for one (or more) days in December, please contact the office no later than Friday, October 20. At this time, Meals on Wheels deliveries take 30 to 45 minutes.
- 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 Food Pantry" in the memo line of your check or on your envelope).

# PMA Notes ~ October 2023

by John Dumler, PMA

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God --” Ephesians 2:8

Today, as I was waiting to go to Brenda Rodger’s Ordination this verse came to mind. It’s also on my bulletin board - with many other items! (Stop by sometime to check it out!!) I remember a conversation Brenda and I once had - she said she was just happy to be able to be one of God’s messengers. I say she is a gift from God. All our Pastors, PMAs, SAMs, Bishops (and other clergy and staff) are gifts to all of us.

I am thankful for what God has done for us. God’s gifts are received *not* as a result of works, so that no one may boast. I do believe this - how much do we know about what any of our clergy do that is unseen and unreported? How much have they helped others? With no payment or thought of payment? With no thought of recognition? Simply because it is rooted in God and we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus.

We are His brothers and sisters, and we are each other’s brothers and sisters as well. We walk daily through our lives, it is a blessing to meet some who do walk in Christ. Today, I am remembering Doug Karst, a friend I was able to call a mentor as well. Not many knew him, and not many who saw him and would see anything more than a wheelchair-bound individual. Doug left this world with an indelible gift that he shared with all who knew him - his love and faith were incredibly strong - a strength I only wish I could have. My last words to him were “Doug, you are in our prayers!” His response was, “Don’t worry, John - God is on my shoulder! But, you make sure you behave!” We shared what was to be our last laugh together. Although Doug was unable to physically walk here on earth, he can now walk with God!

Following Doug’s example, I will - with the help of God - be a better brother in Christ and love everyone! Thank you, Doug - you taught me so much! Now you may run free!

One more bible verse comes to mind (and I think it’s on my bulletin board as well... somewhere):

“Love tenderly, act justly and walk humbly with God” Micah 6:8.

Dear Heavenly Father, may it be so! Blessings to all!

~ John Dumler, PMA

## OUR PARISH RECORDS

<b>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</b>					<b>OFFERING</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Early</b>	<b>Late</b>	<b>Total</b>		
<b>Aug 27</b> .....	<b>34</b> .....	<b>21</b> .....	<b>48</b> .....	<b>103</b>	<b>Aug 27</b> .....	<b>\$2,790.00</b>
<b>Sept 3</b> .....	<b>22</b> .....	<b>29</b> .....	<b>40</b> .....	<b>91</b>	<b>Sept 3</b> .....	<b>3,724.00</b>
<b>Sept 10</b> .....	<b>15</b> .....	<b>25</b> .....	<b>36</b> .....	<b>76</b>	<b>Sept 10</b> .....	<b>2,969.00</b>
<b>Sept 17</b> .....	<b>24</b> .....	<b>28</b> .....	<b>48</b> .....	<b>100</b>	<b>Sept 17</b> .....	<b>2,276.00</b>
<b>Sept 24</b> .....	<b>15</b> .....	<b>26</b> .....	<b>77</b> .....	<b>118</b>	<b>Sept 24</b> .....	<b>3,973.00</b>

# October 2023 Worship Assistants

## 6:00 PM SAT

**GREETER/USHER:**

- 7 Bob & Elaine Voos
- 14 Sheryl Krug
- 21 Brenda Yoder
- 28 NO SERVICE

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Nov 4 Brad & Cheryl Prester

**READER:**

- 7 Elaine Voos
- 14 Sheryl Krug
- 21 Nancy Aspegren
- 28 NO SERVICE

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Nov 4 Elaine Voos

### ALTAR GUILD

Rhonda Kuhlmann,  
Afton Brown, Pam Gudenkauf,  
Denise Guth, Alison Ryan

### BULLETIN DELIVERY

- Oct 6 .....425 Youth
  - 13..... Frank Peirano
  - 20..... John Boxberger
  - 27..... Eck Family
- 
- Nov 3 .....Margaret Flnkbeiner

## 8:15 AM SUN

**GREETER/USHER:**

- 1 Katrin Kolder
- 8 Connie Schinkus
- 15 D & G McCrary
- 22 Kurt & Lois DeWald
- 29 NO SERVICE

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Nov 5 Susan Krug

**LECTOR:**

- 7 Katrin Kolder
- 8 Connie Schinkus
- 15 Georganna McCrary
- 22 Lois DeWald
- 29 NO SERVICE

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Nov 5 Susan Krug

### MUSICIANS

- Sept 30 Curtis Sander
- Oct 1 Juanita Flegler
- 7 Open
- 8 Glenda Phillips
- 14 Curtis Sander
- 15 Juanita Flegler
- 21 Paula Hachmeister
- 22 Margaret Walter
- 29 Juanita Flegler

## 10:30 AM SUN

**GREETERS:**

- 1 Morris & Barbara Krug (N)  
Carol Fritz (S)
- 8 425 Youth (N)  
Susan Krug (S)
- 15 Gerald & Mary Mai (N)  
D & G McCrary (S)
- 22 Ron & Ginger Tittel (N)  
Deloris Janne (S)
- 29 425 Youth (N & S)

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Nov 5 M & D Waymaster (N)  
Irene Coffeen (S)

**USHER:**

- 1 Morris Krug
- 8 425 Youth
- 15 Gerald & Mary Mai
- 22 Ron & Ginger Tittel
- 29 425 Youth

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Nov 5 M & D Waymaster

**ACOLYTES:**

- 1 Marshall & Morgan Olson
- 8 Alex Krug/Karrsyn Ross
- 15 Tytin Bay/Rogan Dumler
- 22 Hadlee Brown/Harper Ryan
- 29 Ellise & Jasmine Jefferson

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Nov 5 Maggie & Morgan Olson

**LECTOR:**

- 1 Carol Fritz
- 7 425 Youth
- 15 Cindy Ross
- 22 Deb Kreutzer
- 29 425 Youth

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Nov 5 Sheryl Krug





## Youth News!

- ◆ During each service the weekend of September 16 and 17 all students, teachers, and staff were invited to participate in a celebration and blessing of the new school year.
- ◆ At the 10:30 Service on Sunday, September 24, Pastor Teri presented three children of God a Spark NSRV Bible from the St. John Christian Education Committee. Pastor Teri also let each student choose an additional kid's bible and a bible cover/tote as a gift from her. The Spark bibles will be introduced and explored during Sunday School and Confirmation. Blessings to Lawson Feil, Owen Mai, and Carter Straub as they continue their journey in and through the word of God.
- ◆ At each service the weekend of October 21 and 22, the 425 Youth will provide a recap of their Ark Adventure trip to Kentucky earlier this year.
- ◆ REMINDER: We Gather As One at 10:30 am on Sunday, October 29 to celebrate Reformation and recognize those confirmation students receiving the Affirmation of Baptism. This service is being planned and presented (top to bottom, beginning to end!) by the 425 Youth. They would greatly appreciate your attendance at this super-special, awesome service!!

Wiggle Your Wings Preschool has kicked off the new school year and continues to develop, modify and implement classroom curriculum. Several students are starting at Wiggle Your Wings Preschool with absolutely no background or foundation in faith, and this is their first time meeting Jesus (or even being in a church). Students and teachers take time for prayer before snack time and are learning plenty of joyful (and classic) "church kid" songs!

The ministry provided by Wiggle Your Wings Preschool with the assistance and support of the St. John Lutheran family is truly a blessing from above. ~ Janella Eck and Kim Stoppel



### Choir Practices

Date	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
October 4	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
October 11	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
October 18	6:30 pm	
October 25	6:30 pm	7:30 pm

### Choir Performances

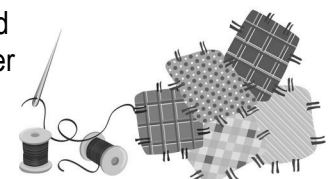
Agape Choir	10:30 am, October 15
St. John Ringers	10:30 am, October 22

### ***If it's October, it's time for QUILTS!***

Many, MANY quilts have been lovingly created by the St. John Sewing Circle since October 2022. These quilts will be on display in the Chapel and Sanctuary during all services the weekends of October 14/15 and October 21/22. Quilts will be blessed before they are boxed and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution around the world.

Don't forget - quilts make great gifts! St. John members may purchase quilts for a minimum donation of \$50.00 each. Reservation tags will be available in the ushers room and may be pinned to the quilt(s) you wish to keep for yourself or give as a gift!

The Sewing Circle thanks everyone for the gracious donations of fabric and notions received during the last twelve months. Monetary donations have been used to purchase batting and other supplies as needed. For more information about the Sewing Circle, contact Kaye Schlessman, Margaret Finkbeiner, or Georganna McCrary.







ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
425 N. MAIN ST.  
RUSSELL KS 67665

*St. John Lutheran Church*  
Pastor Teri Sutherland

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

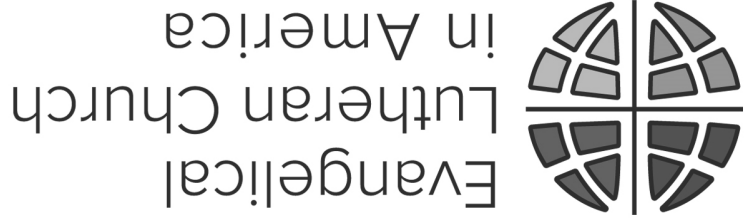
Monday through Friday  
8:30 am to 1:30 pm

785-483-5358

stjohn@ruraltel.net

stjohnrussell.com

*The 10:30 Worship Services  
on October 8 and 22 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.*



**St. John Lutheran Church**

Clergy and Staff

- 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

Church Council

- 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