St. John Lutheran Church

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

Pastor: Teri Sutherlin • PMA: John Dumler

September 2023





Teri Talk - September 2023

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday, introduced in 2013 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ELCA's formation, is an extension of **the work you do every day** to make your community a better place.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an

opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Many churches plan a specific "God's Work. Our Hands" ministry project on a designated day. The Mission of the Church is God's Mission – not ours. We are continually being invited to participate in God's work by serving and helping others in the world we live in. Martin Luther wrote: "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does."

During the Russell County Free Fair, John Dumler and I offered a prayer booth in the commercial building. We heard several stories from families who spoke about how grateful they were for the Back-to-School Giveaway provided by St. John Lutheran Church, and how they were helped when they were going through hard times.

St. John Lutheran Church has many ministries through which we serve our neighbors near and far:

Gifts of Nourishment:

- Non-perishable food and personal care items are collected for the Russell County Food Pantry throughout the year.
- The **Heart2Home** project, created in response to the COVID pandemic, strives to keep St. John connected with its members and the community. Simple meals and shelf-stable snacks are provided to several individuals each Monday, providing both nutritional and spiritual support. In addition, the Monday project recipients receive the monthly newsletter, the quarterly devotional books, gifts created by Sunday School and Confirmation students, and seasonal notes and cards. Heart2Home volunteers keep a close eye on their "Monday People" and have helped with cable remotes, phone number look ups, package and mail delivery into homes and more. Heart2Home also shares treats with care center residents and "community heroes" (EMTs, County Health Department staff, dispatch staff, etc.) several times throughout the year. If you or someone you know would benefit from Heart2Home projects, please contact the church office for more information.
- In March and December, St. John volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels. These volunteers deliver meals (and smiles!) through rain, and snow, and sleet, and hail... and wind, and wind. To volunteer for Meals on Wheels deliveries, please contact the church office.

(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

Meals for New Babies volunteers prepare and deliver meals to families who have a newborn. These meals allow
families a small break as they adjust to a new baby in their life. If you or someone you know is expecting (or has a
newborn at home), please keep St. John updated! If you would like to volunteer to prepare and deliver meals, please
contact Susan Krug at 785-324-2445.

Gifts of Comfort and Support:

- The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets weekly to create gifts of warmth and comfort, knitting and crocheting gifts of warmth and comfort in many forms from handheld prayer squares to lap blankets. All Prayer Shawl creations are blessed and made available to St. John members to present to anyone as reminders of God's love. To learn more about the Prayer Shawl Ministry, or to request a prayer shawl for someone, please contact the church office.
- The **Sewing Circle Ministry** creates quilts, the majority of which are donated to Lutheran World Relief who distributes them worldwide to war torn areas, refugee centers, areas of extreme poverty or homelessness, and to those who have experienced natural disasters, many of whom have lost their homes. The quilts are donated locally in response to community disasters, sent to Kansas shelters, and given as gifts to St. John graduates. Quilts are available to St. John members for a minimum donation of \$50.00 these quilts make wonderful gifts year round. Everyone is invited to participate in the Sewing Circle Ministry no specific skills required! For more information, contact Kaye Schlessman.
- The **Back-to-School Giveaway** helps students put their best foot forward every day with a wardrobe of school-ready clothing, a warm coat and shoes that fit; new personal care items, socks, and undergarments; and new school supplies. Items remaining after the Giveaway are passed on to a variety of organizations: Orphan Grain Train, Salina Men's Shelter, USD 407, Russell County Health Department, Russell County Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child, Arc of Central Plains, Jana's Closet, and more.
- The delivery of weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters and quarterly devotional books to local care centers and Russell Regional Hospital keeps St. John members connected to their church family. Volunteers of all ages assist with making these deliveries. Personal visits are a vital part of the bulletin delivery ministry and visits with residents are welcomed and encouraged.
- The members of **425 Youth** participate in a wide variety of ministry projects: completing yard work, moving things from here to there (and back again), cleaning up the St. John Cemetery, collecting donations for local families, and more.
- Thanks to the generosity of the Richard and Ellen Mai family and the Earlin Nuss family, St. John Lutheran Church offers two **scholarships** each year. This year these scholarships were awarded to twelve students.

Gifts to Our Community and Beyond:

- As a member of the **Russell County Association of Churches**, St. John provides referrals to the Russell County Food Pantry and the Russell Community Thrift Shop, and collects RCAOC assistance applications and documentation.
- Striving to be good stewards of the earth, St. John recycles paper, plastic, aluminum, ink cartridges, and batteries
- Through its **Philanthropic Fund**, St. John Lutheran Church has supported the following local, regional, national and world-wide organizations: Post Rock Family Services, Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Camp Tomah Shinga, Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Lutheran Churches in Russia, December 2021 Wildfire Relief and more.

Do we have gifts to share that we are not using? Do you have ideas for new projects that would support our neighbors throughout the community, across the state or around the world? Are there past ministries that have gone by the wayside you would like to see restarted? **Let us know** - we participate in God's work by serving and helping others in need.

May God continue to guide the ministry of St. John.

~ Pastor Teri

Page 2 September 2023

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September 2023 Pastor Teri's Calendar -

Saturday	02 Worship 6 pm	Dean Boxberger Funeral 10:30 am, Worship; Communion, God's Work Our Hands 6 pm	Worship; Blessing of the Keys and Backpacks 6 pm	Brenda Rogers Ordination (Dorrance) 2 pm, Worship; Communion 6 pm	30 Worship 6 pm
Friday	01 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	98 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	Pastor's Sermon Writing Day
Thursday	31	07 Bible Study 1:30 pm	WELCA Bible Study 10 am, Bible Study 1:30 pm, Exec Council Meeting (TBA), RCAOC 6:30 pm	21 Bible Study 1:30 pm, Church Council 6:30 pm	Bible Study 1:30 pm
Wednesday	30	06 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day, Agape Choir 7:30 pm	Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day, Agape Choir 7:30 pm	Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day, Agape Choir 7:30 pm	Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day, Agape Choir 7:30 pm
Tuesday	29	05 Pastor out of town for medical appointment	Sewing Group 1:30-4 pm	Sewing Group 1:30-4 pm, Russell City Council Opening Prayer (4:00 pm)	Sewing Group 1:30-4 pm, record Clergy Comments
Monday	78	04 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	Pastor out of town for medical appointment	25 Pastor out of town for medical appointment
Sunday	27	Worship; Communion Pastor's Day Off 8:15 and 10:30 am day of rest & renewal	Worship; God's Work Pastor's Day Off - Our Hands 8:15 and day of rest & renewal	Worship; Communion, Agape Choir, Blessing of the Keys and Backpacks 8:15 and 10:30 am	Worship 8:15 am, Worship; St. John Ringers, 2nd Grade Bible Presentation 10:30 am



Spread kindness, not germs!

It's that time of year - kids are returning to school, seasonal illnesses are starting to make the rounds in our community, and icky germs seem to be everywhere. As Christians we are taught to share, but let's not share illnesses with one another. If you or a family member are

not feeling well, stay home and take care. Don't share your cold, flu, pneumonia, strep throat, or other creepy germs with your church family! Please remember that what may be just an "annoying cold" for you could result in a serious health crisis for someone else.

I encourage us all to reduce our exposure to germs by not touching communal items and using elbow or fist bumps (even just waves) rather than shaking hands. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the church for your use.

And WASH YOUR HANDS! Believe it or not... in the 1870s, Western Europeans discovered handwashing prevented the spread of disease and should be a keystone in practicing medical care. But "It wasn't until the 1980s that hand hygiene was officially incorporated into American health care with the first national hand hygiene guidelines" in the United States.

I recently read this in one of the weekly quilters e-newsletters I receive: "The world seems to have (mostly) moved on from Covid, although it is still out there simmering away with new variants. How do I know? My best friend is studying the latest variants. Anyway, what do we call this period of time? Before Covid is 'BC'. So is After Covid 'AC'?.... or maybe 'PP' for Post-Pandemic? I am sure in hindsight there will be an established term for this period of time." (Luana Rubin, @eQuilter.com)

So as we head into "AC" or "PP" or whatever the future may be called, let's be mindful of ways to protect ourselves and others from a variety of illnesses. ~ Blessings, Pastor Teri

Back-to-School Giveaway - We Thank YOU

Another successful Back-to-School Giveaway is completed. We were able to give clothing to over 90 children and adults, and provide school supplies to 32 middle school and high school students. We also gave away a lot of personal care items. THANK YOU for all of the donations that were given to this project. I also want to extend a BIG thank you to all who helped with project, a little or a lot!



Several parishioners put in countless hours sorting, cleaning, and repairing box after box, and bag after bag of donated clothing. Several 425 Youth members assisted other volunteers on set-up day, and a wonderful lunch was prepared and served by a St. John member on Day 1 of the Giveaway. Lots and lots (and lots) of sorting and packing was completed after the Giveaway - nothing goes to waste after the Giveaway is complete! Extra items are sent to the Orphan Grain Train, Salina Men's Shelter, USD 407, Russell County Health Department, Russell County Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child, Arc of Central Plains, Jana's Closet, and more. We'll be back in 2024! Blessings to all - Carol Fritz

Thank You

Sewing Circle says THANKS!

Thank you for past donations of fabrics and sheets, which are used for backing & piecing quilts, as well as other sewing gifts. If you have sheets or fabrics that need a new home, bring them to the church office or leave them downstairs in the sewing room. Solids or patterns in any size are welcome.

Monetary donations are especially appreciated as the cost of quilt batting continues to rise (with less yardage per package!) and shipping costs have also increased. The price of sheets has also increased significantly over the last several years. You are also invited to donate to this ministry by purchasing a quilt. All proceeds are used to fund ongoing projects.

Volunteers are always welcome - and there is a job for EVERYONE! **Of course** there's sewing, but **also** cutting, sorting, ironing, tying, threading needles, and more. The Sewing Circle meets from 1:30 to 4:00 pm each Thursday. For more information, please contact the church office.

Page 4 September 2023



Sunday School

Sunday School for the 2023-2024 school year will begin September 10. We are starting off with a breakfast beginning at 9:15 in the Parish Hall. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend, as we will be discussing how Sunday School will look for this year

Blessing of Keys and Backpacks

All youth are invited to bring their backpacks, car keys, or notebooks (anything symbolizing their return to school) for a special blessing at all services the weekend of September 16 and 17.

Second Grade Bible Presentation

Second grade bibles will be presented at the 10:30 Service on Sunday, September 24. If your family is new to St. John, or your child missed receiving their second grade bible, please contact the church office no later than Thursday, September 14.

Attention Confirmation Parents

On Sunday, September 24, parents of confirmation students will meet at 9:15 am to discuss confirmation class expectations and requirements. Confirmation classes will include 6th through 9th grade and will be divided into two classes - Confirmation I (6th and 7th grade) and Confirmation II (8th and 9th grade).

425 Youth

The 425 Youth Group meetings are back in session! 425 Youth meet Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. All Middle School and High School students are welcome to attend. Note - the "425" in 425 Youth represents the address of St. John Lutheran Church (425 N. Main) as well as Proverbs 4:25 (Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right of the left; keep your foot from evil.)

... and a challenge for everyone ...

With all the excitement September brings, a challenge has been issued by the Worship & Music Committee and the Christian Education Committee to "Pack the Pews" during each service September 9 and 10, September 16 and 17, and September 23 and 24. Bring the whole family! Bring a friend! Let us worship the Lord together!!

Curiosity didn't work out so well for the cat... but you can satisfy your curiosity at St. John without worry!



- Bible Study with Pastor meets at 1:30 pm each Thursday in the Parish Hall. The Bible Study group is currently reviewing and discussing **Paul's Letters**, and will continue through the month of September. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- PMA John Dumler will lead a book study of "Stupid Freedom: A Novel Take on the Late Luther" by Martin J. Lohrmann starting Sunday, September 10 at 9:15 am in Classroom 11. From the book jacket: "In this work of historical imagination, Pastor Bugenhagen spends time with his friend and parishioner Martin Luther. Risking poor health and bad weather, the aging Luther is about to leave Wittenberg for a trip to Eisleben. Before he goes, Bugenhagen and Luther share time with students, family, and each other as they remember where they've been and wonder what their Reformation has meant."

For more information, please contact the church office.

~ Blessings and Celebrations ~

Campbell Rupert Lofland, son of Alex and Audrey Lofland, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 6:00 pm Service on Saturday, August 12, 2023. We welcome Campbell to the family of God!

Madilyn Marie Moreland, daughter of Jennifer Moreland, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 6:00 pm Service on Saturday, August 26. Congratulations and blessings to Madilyn and her family!





Lainey Lea Bilbrey, daughter of Cole and Taryn Bilbrey (and sister of big brother Cohen), was born August 10, 2023. Blessings to the Bilbreys!





- St. John offices will be closed Monday, September 4 for Labor Day.
- The Executive Committee of the Church Council will meet Thursday, September 14 (time TBD) and the Council will meet Thursday, September 21 at 6:30 pm..
- To be included in the October Newsletter, articles and announcements must be submitted no later than Monday, September 18.
- FOUND: Amalie Ehrlich's record of baptism and confirmation book. According to the information provided, Amalie was born March 25, 1898; baptized May 19, 1898; and confirmed March 16, 1916. The second book in the envelope, "Follow Me", is printed in German with a copyright date of 1910. A page is paperclipped inside this book. One side is a mimeographed copy of what appears to be a song with four verses and three statements/questions. On the other side is a handwritten note by Miss Mollie Ehrlich (in English): "This a song we sang when I got confirmate & we had to say the all together what's at the bottom of the song. Year 1913." If you know any of Amalie's family who would appreciate these mementos, please let the office know as soon as possible. If there is no response by the end of October, the booklet will be discarded.
- The ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other
 partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires in Maui. Lutheran Disaster
 Response and other partners will work to address immediate needs and recovery amid the
 widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering
 communities in the years ahead. Information sheets, including donation options, can be found on
 the main bulletin board.
- HaysMed Hospice and Palliative Care has announced Hospice Volunteer Training on Wednesday, September 20 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at HaysMed (2220 Canterbury, Hays). Registration is due by Friday, September 8. Learn about the history and philosophy of Hospice, advance directives, care of the dying person, spirituality and the role of the volunteer. HaysMed Hospice and Palliative Care serves Ellis, Rush, Russell, and Rooks Counties. Call 785-623-6200 for additional information.

Page 6 September 2023

PMA Notes ~ September 2023

by John Dumler, PMA

What a great day to be alive! Today I am going to answer a question someone asked me the other day - "What and how does this 'God's Work. Our Hands.' affect you, and how do you think it impacts your life?"

My take on "God's Work. Our Hands." started with an idea and a T-shirt. I had no idea the impact it would have in my life and in the life of our Community in Christ. When this started I thought of what impacts our community, and all the local programs that we offer - I was amazed! Not many think of our outreach as "God's Work" and not many think of these as "Our Hands" either. But I began thinking of all the ways we as Community in Christ impact others' lives - sometimes without even thinking about it!

I was eating supper with my bride at a local restaurant when a brainstorm hit (maybe just a drizzle). I didn't have a pen, so I asked to borrow one from the hostess. I now hope to share my thoughts, scribbled hastily on a slightly crumpled napkin.

It has never, and will never, be about ME. God lets us know when and how we help is not about what <u>I</u> do, but how I can help with God's guidance. I see programs like the Food Pantry, the Thrift Shop, the Russell County Association of Churches, St. John's Back-to-School Giveaway, and others - all ways we embody "God's Work. Our Hands."

Today we are going to start the Back-to-School Giveaway - a culmination of the gifts of others allowing underserved youth to start school with a "new" wardrobe, school supplies, coats and other items. As I watch the "crew" getting ready I **see** "God's Work" in action! It's simply about "God's Work" in action - action that we provide with "Our Hands", whether individually or as a Community in Christ.

We are here to serve God in any way we can. I hope to always do it joyfully and without a single though of "What's in it for me?" As we approach the weekend highlighting "God's Work", I say THANK YOU to the Lord for allowing me another year to use MY HANDS to be a part of YOUR WORK. Amen!

Blessings to all!

~ John Dumler, PMA

OUR PARISH RECORDS

Worship Attendance					Offering	
Sat	Early	Late	Total	July 29*	\$2,086,00	
91	n/a	n/a	91			
33	30	25	88			
				Aug 20	2,337.00	
				Aug 21		
	<u>Sat</u> 91 33	Sat Early 91 n/a 3330 3120	Sat Early Late 91 n/a n/a 33 30	Sat Early Late Total 91	Sat Early Late Total July 29* 91 Aug 6 33 30 25 88 Aug 13 31 20 48 99 Aug 20	

* We Gather As One - Saturday, July 29 (held in Sanctuary for streaming purposes)

** Data not available at time of printing

September 2023 Worship Assistants

6:00 PM SAT

GREETER/USHER:

- 2 Sheryl Krug
- 9 Ramona Luebbers
- 16 Darold & Corine Gideon
- 23 Glenn Gideon
- 30 John & Mary Boxberger

Oct 7 Bob & Elaine Voos

READER:

- 2 Sheryl Krug
- 9 Elaine Voos
- 16 Nancy Aspegren
- 23 Jeannine Byers-Long
- 30 Jeremy Ulrich

Oct 7 Elaine Voos

ALTAR GUILD

Melinda Olson, Afton Brown, Tiffinie Mai, Crecia Reeves, Alison Ryan

BULLETIN DELIVERY

Sept 1	D & C Gideon
•	Teresa Hilbrink
•	Sheryl Krug
Sept 22	Ramona Luebbers
Sept 29. Go	eorganna McCrary
Oct 6	125 Youth

8:15 AM SUN

GREETER/USHER:

- 3 Kurt & Lois DeWald
- 10 Susan Krug
- 17 Gordon & Cheryl Kraich
- 24 Sheryl Krug

Oct 1 Katrin Kolder

LECTOR:

- 3 Lois DeWald
- 10 Susan Krug
- 17 Cheryl Kraich
- 24 Sheryl Krug

Oct 1 Katrin Kolder

MUSICIANS

- 2 Curtis Sander
- 3 Juanita Flegler
- 9 Peggy Anschutz
- 10 Juanita Flegler
- 16 Paula Hachmeister
- 17 Margaret Walter
- 23 Paula Hachmeister
- 24 Glenda Phillips
- 30 Curtis Sander

Oct 1

10:30 AM SUN

GREETERS:

- 3 Morris & Barbara Krug (N) Deloris Janne (S)
- 10 Gerald & Mary Mai (N)
 Hailey Gier and Family (S)
- 17 Ron & Ginger Tittel (N) Eck Family (S)
- 24 Mike & Diane Waymaster (N) Don F. Krug (S)

Oct 1 Morris & Barbara Krug (N) Carol Fritz (S)

USHER:

- 3 Morris Krug
- 10 Gerald & Mary Mai
- 17 Ron & Ginger Tittel
- 24 Mike & Diane Waymaster

Oct 1 Morris Krug

ACOLYTES:

- 3 NO Acolytes (Labor Day Weekend)
- 10 Hadlee Brown/Harper Ryan
- 17 Maggie & Mitchell Olson
- 24 Elise & Jasmine Jefferson

Oct 1 Schedule pending

LECTOR:

- 3 Gina Langhofer
- 10 Hailey Gier
- 17 Eck Family



Page 8 September 2023

Ringing and Singing



St. John Ringers Bell Choir

Handheld bells have a long history, and credit for the development of the modern hand bell, or "handbell", is accorded to brothers Robert and William Cor in Aldbourne, Wiltshire, England, between 1696 and 1724. Handbells were first brought to the United States from England by Margaret Shurcliff in 1902. And, perhaps *most* importantly, the St. John Lutheran Bell Choir was established in 1976.

Juanita Flegler, St. John Ringers Director, and the whole crew are back in action - practicing 6:30 to 7:30 each Wednesday (through May). The Bell Choir presents music to the glory of God one Sunday a month at the 10:30 service (September through May), and during special services throughout the year.

St. John is blessed to have bells, chimes, gloves, sheet music, music stands and lights, table coverings, the bell ringers (ding-a-lings?), the accompanists, the director - all things that make the ministry of music ring loud and clear.

New members are always welcome (no special skills are required!!), and you are invited to stop by a practice and give it a try! If you are interested in joining the ringers, or would like more information, please contact the church office.

Agape Choir

Agape Choir will begin practices Wednesday, September 6 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Agape Choir Director, Ruth Keil, has created a choir season to incorporate a variety of musical styles, with both familiar (and favorite) tunes, as well as contemporary choral arrangements. Ruth takes care when selecting music for the choir, making choices both the choir members and congregation will enjoy. She also strives to select music that complements the liturgical and seasonal calendars.

Agape Choir raises their voices to the Lord monthly at a 10:30 service (September through May), and at several special services throughout the year. The choir rehearses the three Wednesdays preceding a performance Sunday.

All are welcome to come and sing with us or come to see what Agape is all about. Come share in the spirit of the Lord through singing!

For more information, please contact the church office.

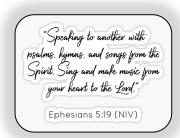




St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

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



Performances

Agape Choir	10:30 am, S	September 17	Meet in	Chapel at 1	0:00 am
St. John Ringers	10:30 am, S	September 24	Meet in	Chapel at 1	0:00 am

RUSSELL KS 67665 **TS NIAM .N 8S4** ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

Pastor Teri Sutherlin St. John Lutheran Church

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mq 0E:1 of ms 0E:8 Monday through Friday

785-483-5358

stjohn@ruraltel.net

stjohnrussell.com

St. John Lutheran Church

Clergy and Staff

- Pastor Teri Sutherlin (pastor@ruraltel.net)
- Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper • John Dumler, PMA (pma@ruraltel.net)
- Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant
- Debora Kreutzer, Custodian
- John Kreutzer, Gustodian
- Church Council
- President, Blaine Maier
- Secretary, Carol Fritz Vice President, Kristine Mader
- Treasurer open position
- Judy Holmes
- Lee Keffer
- D.J. Klema
- Pastor Teri Sutherlin Kelvie Reeves
- Gaylon Walter
- Margaret Walter

and Nex-Tech Cable Channel 130. broadcast on KRSL (990 AM and 98.1 FM) on September 10 and 24 will be The 10:30 Worship Services

www.stjohnrussell.com. Sunday Services are streamed live at

as a ministry of St. John Lutheran Church. Outreach is made possible

