

St. John Lutheran Church

September 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.

Teri Talk – September 2024

Sunday September 8, 2024, is celebrated as God's Work Our Hands. It is not just a day of engaging in a ministry project to help others, it also serves as a reminder that every day we represent the Body of Christ in the world as Jesus' disciples. We are called to be God's hands, feet, heart, and love for the world that desperately needs to hear a message of caring for others and see the good we can do together.

The questions that came out of the 2024 Central States Synod Assembly this June were "What is God calling the Church to do to further God's kingdom?" and "How is God calling the Church to minister to 'their part of the *world*' as well as the 'greater world' in the coming years?"

This is a devotional response to these questions written by Ann Say that I want to share with you. Ann and her husband Bill are involved in a ministry called **Once We Were Refugees**. Last fall when I was headed to the Fall Theological Conference in Olathe, Kansas, the sewing group members gathered up fabrics, sewing notions, and machines and loaded them in my trunk to donate to this ministry.

Ann's devotional is called "**Surprised by the Spirit.**"

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God (Leviticus 19: 33-34).

For many years our family has volunteered in various phases of refugee resettlement. Why then do I still find it surprising that we lead an ELCA Central States Synod partner ministry called Once We Were Refugees?

Eight years ago, my husband Bill and I were volunteering at Della Lamb Community Services, helping to resettle refugees. Abdul Bakar, Director of Refugee services at that time asked us to help with a resettlement on a Saturday. I said Bill could help, but I was teaching sewing at St. Mark's Hope and Peace that day. With that Abdul asked if I would teach sewing to the refugees. I was very hesitant since the refugees I'd be working with don't speak English. Yet, Abdul challenged me: "**If God gives you a gift and you do not use it, it is no longer a gift.**"

I prayed about this and soon the first day of class was about to begin. A tiny lady from Bhutan came into the classroom after seeing a very old black singer sewing machine. She caressed that machine as if it were a baby. She then turned to me and said, "*I had a machine like this back at my home in Bhutan*" I replied, "*if you come to my class you can sew on that machine.*" She then came and sat very close to me and told me all about her life in Bhutan. When I looked up, I saw the staff standing in the doorway with tears running down their faces. After class I asked Abdul, "*Why the tears?*"

He said, “*Oh Ann. That little lady has been here for a year and a half. In that time she would not speak. We thought she was mute. She spoke only to her ESL [English as Second Language] teacher recently. You are a complete stranger and after seeing that machine, it unlocked something deep inside of her and she told you all about her life in Bhutan. This is a miracle.*” From that first moment with her and the sewing machine, she has not stopped talking since.

This was when Bill and I realized we were being called to a new ministry. Eight years later, with much help from the Central States Synod congregations and the Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska communities, we have been blessed to serve over 200 students and their families. We are able to provide services to the refugees at no cost to them thanks to the generous donations and volunteers that support Once We Were Refugees.

GOD BE PRAISED!

Let's us pray:

Dear Lord, We thank and praise you for the gifts you give us. Help us to discern when you put opportunities before us to use those gifts. We thank you for the support of the congregations and individuals that join with us in ministry. Help us to remember we walk with the refugees as we love and include them in their new country. In Jesus name. Amen

The devotion ends with these questions for reflection, to think about how God calls each of us to use our gifts serving others.

Questions for Reflection:

- Can you recall an experience that pushed you out of your comfort zone? Did you want to say no to an opportunity that others saw only a yes?
- Think about your passions and hobbies; are there any that could be shared with members of your community?
- Ann and Bill connected with refugees in their community. Are there people in your towns and communities whose stories you do not know? How can you begin to learn more about them or invite them to share with you?

thankful  *grateful*  *blessed*

I am thankful and blessed to begin my fourth year of ministry here at St. John Lutheran Church. May our journey together continue to inspire us to joyfully serve God and grow in our discipleship.

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

2024 SEPTEMBER PASTOR TERI'S CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM Communion, Carter 40th Vow renewal 11:45 PM, Care Home Worship 2-4PM	02 Labor Day Holiday, Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	03 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	04 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day, 425 Youth 6:30, Choir 7:30	05 Bible Study 1:30 PM	06 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	07 Worship Service 6:00 PM
08 Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM God's Work Our Hands Sunday, Sunday School 9:15 AM	09 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	10 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Exec Comm 5:30 PM	11 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day, 425 Youth 6:30, Choir 7:30	12 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, Bible Study 1:30 PM, RCAOC 5:00 in Dorrance	13 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	14 Worship Service 6:00 PM Communion
15 Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM Communion (Choir, 2nd Grade Bibles, Confirmation Class Bibles 10:30)	16 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	17 Sewing Group 1:30-2:45 PM, SYNOD Mandatory Training 3:00-4:30 PM (Roles & Responsibilities Election Year), City Council Opening Prayer 4:30 PM	18 Regional Meeting in Hays, 9-12pm. 425 Youth 6:30 PM	19 Bible Study 1:30 PM, Church Council 6:30 PM	20 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	21 Worship Service 6:00 PM
22 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM (bells 10:30)	23 11:00 AM Appt, Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	24 Appt in Hays 1:00 PM, Sewing Group 3:00-4:00 PM, Record Clergy Comments	25 1st Call Zoom Meeting 10:00-11:30 AM, 425 Youth 6:30, Choir 7:30	26 Bible Study 1:30 PM,	27 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	28 NO Worship - We Gather As One Service Sunday, September 29, 10:30 AM
29 5th Sunday -We Gather As One Service at 10:30 AM (NO 8:15 service) , Comm, Children & Youth Led, Blessing of Backpacks & Keys 10:30)	30 PayDay, Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal.	01 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM,	02 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day, 425 Youth 6:30, Choir 7:30	03 Bible Study 1:30 PM	04 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	05 Worship Service 6:00 PM

ODDS AND ENDS

- St. John offices will be closed Monday, September 2 for Labor Day

- The Executive Committee of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, September 10 at 5:30 pm. The Church Council will meet Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 pm.
- The St. John Women’s Bible Study will meet Thursday, September 12 at 10:00 am. Large print materials are available upon request.
- To be included in the October Newsletters all articles and information must be provided no later than Friday, September 20.
- Hospice Volunteer Training will be held Wednesday, October 9 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Hays Medical Center. HaysMed Hospice and Palliative Care serves Ellis, Rush, Russell, and Rooks counties and everyone is welcome to attend and learn about the history and philosophy of Hospice, advance directives, care of the dying person, spirituality and the role of the volunteer. Registration is due by Friday, September 27. For more information or to register, call Hospice of Hays Medical Center 785-623-620 or 1-800-248-0073.
- REMINDER: St. John will Gather As One at the 10:30 Service on Sunday, September 29. This service will be led by St. John children & youth and will feature the blessing of backpacks and keys. There will be NO 6:00 pm Saturday service on September 28 and NO 8:15 am Sunday service on September 29.



OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
July 28	17	22	79	118
Aug 4	21	21	53	95
Aug 11	26	25	48	99
Aug 18	18	24	55	97
Aug 25 *				

Offering

July 28.....	\$3,816.00
Aug 4.....	4,998.00
Aug 11.....	2,758.00
Aug 18.....	2,730.00
Aug 25 *	

* Data not available at time of publication

PMA Notes – John Dumler, PMA

Grace and Peace - How many times have you heard this? In our service for sure. How many times as you are walking down the street, say down Main Street in Russell, Kansas on a weekend. Almost never.

Why? To me that is what I feel most often. I feel I just want to grab a total stranger and tell them - Grace and Peace! But what is that without the rest? With this phrase our apostle Paul started many of his writings in the books of the bible associated with his letters.

Today, as I sit here and listen our politicians and others do nothing but criticize and offer no solutions - I am reminded of Paul speaking to the various churches - he would begin with these words. In my estimation and my understanding of what each time he used this term it was because of the great care he felt for others.

Today, we live in a world of crisis, criticism and like the Buffalo Springfield tune there is a phrase that reminded me of Paul and his approach to giving hope to the churches. I think about it more often than I would like but this is true today as when it was written in protest to a war that there was no point to. "Nobody is right if everybody is wrong!" So today my PMA notes for the newsletter put simply, my wish amid all that is going on is truly for everyone: "Grace and Peace to everyone!"

For you all are my sisters and brothers in Christ! Today, if you can reach out to everyone and let them know we know that Christ died for all of us! Everyone! Let us lift our sisters and brothers in the world! Help as we can!

Give anyone that will not take offense a hug, handshake, fist bump or any sign of compassion and caring and let them know -

Because of what God gave us through Christ, we are indeed his! **Forever!**

Short prayer - Our most Gracious and merciful God, help us get through the midst of what is happening in our lives. Lord, help us when we are mourning, crying, worried, angry or in

Whatever we are in right now at this point in our life. We know our Jesus gave us his life and sent his followers out to spread the good news of God's love. Be with us today - help us in whatever way you can. Keep your arms around us tight. Help us to know your love for us daily and keep us with you always. Amen.



I want to send out a big thank you to the numerous volunteers that helped with the Back-To-School Giveaway. I couldn't have done it without each and every one of you. I appreciate all of your time.

We were able to give to 82 children (ages preschool through high school), and numerous adults. In addition we gave out school supplies to 22 children from 7th through high school age.

The items that were left were distributed to several deserving places including: the Russell County Health Department, USD 407, Russell County Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child, Orphan Grain Train, ARC, Jana's Closet, Options, Schwaller Center and Embrace, a new charity for children being started up by a church in Wichita. THANKS TO ALL!! - Carol Fritz

THANKS AGAIN AND AGAIN for supporting the Back-to-School Giveaway with donations of clothing and shoes! However, we are NOT accepting donations at this time (we just don't have room to store them until next year). Donations for the 2025 Back-to-School Giveaway will be accepted starting next spring. Your gifts are a blessings for others – Pastor Teri

St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

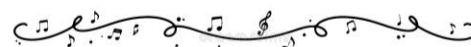
Date	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
September 4.....	6:30 pm.....	7:30 pm
September 11.....	6:30 pm.....	7:30 pm
September 18.....	6:30 pm	
September 25.....	6:30 pm.....	7:30 pm



Performances

Agape Choir	10:30 am, September 15.....	Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am
St. John Ringers	10:30 am, September 22.....	Meet in Chapel at 10:00 am

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. 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, bell ringers (ding-a-lings?), accompanists, and a super special director - all things that make the ministry of music ring loud and clear.

New members are always welcome. You are invited to stop by a practice and give it a try - no special skills are required! For more information, please contact the church office.

Agape Choir

Agape Choir practices from 7:30 to 8:30 on Wednesdays following the schedule provided by Agape Choir Director, Ruth Keil.

Ruth has created a choir season incorporating 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 Lutheran Church

2024-2025 Scholarship Recipients

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. Scholarships were awarded on July 28, 2024 at the 10:30 service.

Congratulations!



2024-2025 Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Kierra Eck and Edwin Muller

This year, Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship recipients received \$500.00 each. The Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to one (or more) graduating senior.

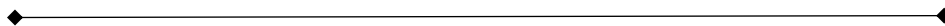
2024-2025 Mai Family Scholarship Recipients

Halle (Hall) Anderson
Cole Birky
Kierra Eck
Charles Krug

Aubrey Larson
Nathan Lorenc
Emily Mader
Diego Muller
Edwin Muller

Renee Nichol
Kayla Noller
Miquala Purscell
Rylan Reeves

This year, Mai Family Scholarship recipients received \$750.00 each. Mai Family Scholarship recipients may receive awards for no more than four years and must apply annually.



Dearest St. John Family and Friends –

Thank you all for the calls and visits, cards and messages, stories and memories, and a special thank you for lifting Marty and our entire family in prayer throughout these tough times. Thank you to Pastor Teri and all those who helped make Marty's service of remembrance and funeral luncheon so very special.

May you all be blessed, as you have blessed others.

The Marty Dumler Family

Blessings Abound!

- **Lainey Lea Bilbrey** was baptized Friday, August 9, at 6:00 pm. Lainey's parents are Taryn and Cole and her sponsors are Katie Karst and Robert Sneed. Blessings to Lainey and her family.
- **Cruz Joseph Weigel** was born August 17, 2024. Congratulations to parents Madysen and Preston, and big sisters Evie and Isla. God's blessings to all.
- Congratulations to **Camden & Alexia Rainey** who were united in marriage Saturday, August 3, 2024. God bless their union.
- Congratulations to **Elias & Madison King** who were united in marriage Saturday, August 24, 2024. May God bless their journey together.

It's a Super Special September!!

* **Sunday School resumes** Sunday, September 8 at 9:15 am. All students will meet in the chapel.

* **God's Work Our Hands** will be celebrated Saturday and Sunday, September 7 and 8. St. John youth are participating in God's Work Our Hands by assembling "birthday cake kits" throughout the month of September. The youth are inviting the entire congregation to participate by donating any of the following items: boxed cake mix, can of pop, container of frosting, sprinkles, candles and disposable baking pans. The completed kits will be delivered to the Russell County Food Pantry.

* **Bibles will be presented to Second Grade Sunday School Students and first year Confirmation Students** during the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 15.

* The **Agape Choir** will lift their voices in praise on Sunday, September 15 at the 10:30 service and the **St. John Ringers Bell Choir** will make music to the glory of God on Sunday, September 22 at the 10:30 service. We welcome back the choirs, and thank all those who share their time and talents!

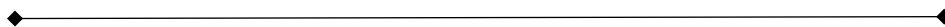
* **The St. John family will gather as one at the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 29, 2024.** This service will be led by the children and youth of St. John and will feature the blessing of the backpacks and keys. Communion will be served. There will be NO Saturday service on September 28 and NO 8:15 service on September 29.

September 2024 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
Sept 7	Darold & Corine Gideon.....	Jeannine Byers-Long	Pat David
Sept 14	Glenn Gideon	Susy Krug.....	Pat David
Sept 21			Curtis Sander
Sept 28	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE
Oct 5	Brad & Cheryl Prester	Galen Niedenthal	



8:15 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
Sept 1	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich.....	Cheryl Kraich.....	Glenda Phillips
Sept 8			Juanita Flegler
Sept 15	Dick & Georganna McCrary	Georganna McCrary.....	
Sept 22	Connie Schinkus.....	Connie Schinkus	
Sept 29	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	
Oct 6	Katrin Kolder	Katrin Kolder	



10:30 Sun	Greeter	Usher	Lector
Sept 1	Susy Krug (N); Steve & Connie Krug (S)	Susy Krug.....	Carol Fritz
Sept 8	Gerald & Mary Mai (N); Gina Langhofer (S).....	Gerald & Mary Mai	Gina Langhofer
Sept 15	Brad & Sherri Stoppel (N); Bonnie Buehler (S)	Brad & Sherri Stoppel	Deb Kreutzer
Sept 22	Ron & Ginger Tittel (N); Irene Coffeen (S).....	Ron & Ginger Tittel.....	Cindy Ross
Sept 29	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N); Don Krug (S).....	Mike & Diane Waymaster	Judy Holmes
Oct 6	Morris & Barbara Krug (N); Eck Family (S).....	Morris Krug.....	Eck Family

10:30 Sun	Acolytes	Musician
Sept 1	NO ACOLYTES	Glenda Phillips
Sept 8	Hadlee Brown and Harper Ryan	Juanita Flegler
Sept 15	Tytin Bay and Layken Eck	
Sept 22	Ellise Jefferson and Jasmine Jefferson	
Sept 29	Maggie Olson and Morgan Olson	
Oct 6		



Bulletin Delivery

Sept 6: Teresa Hilbrink
 Sept 13:
 Sept 20: Ramona Luebbers
 Sept 27: Georganna McCrary
 Oct 4: Frank Peirano

Altar Guild

Rhonda Kuhlmann – Chair
 Katrina Woelk – Saturday
 Denise Guth, Gina Langhofer,
 Sherri Stoppel, Alison Ryan