

St. John Lutheran Church

April 2026 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 April 2026

“Jesus’ resurrection was an incredible moment. It transformed our lives, our world and eternity. And no one saw it.

The story we read in the Gospels every Easter tells us of the women’s arrival at the tomb on Easter at sunrise, where they find Jesus is risen. His resurrection happened sometime during the night. The women were witnesses—they saw Jesus and talked with him, so they had proof. But they weren’t witnesses to his resurrection—no one was. *Everyone* missed it. Because no one was there. Because no one was looking.”¹

We are people of the resurrection, Easter People, which means we live with “*the confident hope that God’s love and resurrection power have conquered death and sin. It is a way of life, not just a day, marked by joy, advocacy for justice, and compassion, trusting in new life even amidst darkness.*” (Bishop Deborah K. Hutterer, Grand Canyon Synod).

Easter is not only a 50-day season celebrated in the church, it is a way of living every day with active hope, joy, and believing in the transforming power of Jesus Christ in our lives. Being resurrection people does not mean we are perfect, but that we are in a continuous process of being transformed into Christ’s likeness, actively speaking, thinking, and acting like Jesus:

- serving others;
- accompanying those in need;
- acting as agents of God’s reconciling grace and unconditional love in a divided world;
- being Christ’s light to a world filled with pain and despair;
- believing resurrection is a present reality and an invitation to live fully;
- and knowing God is still creating and working in the world.

It changes how view life and death. To be people of the resurrection means living and believing that Christ’s victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:17) means that fear, sin, and death do not have the final say. It calls believers to live as new creations, acting as agents of love, justice, and reconciliation in a broken world.

So just how do we look for Jesus today? It’s something we can choose to do intentionally and something we can get better at if we practice, that’s true of all kinds of looking, including looking for Jesus. It takes discipline and developing our observational skills. One way we can get better at this is to observe other things and look for Him in them. Spring is the perfect time for that.¹

As the new life of spring erupts all around us, it may help us see the new life Christ's resurrection brings to our world and our lives.

¹Practices: *(You can do this on your own, but I would encourage you to include children or young people in your life.)*

- Designate a "watching spot." This is a place where you (and the young people) can regularly sit together and comfortably observe the natural world around you.
- Get a "watching journal" to use. It could be a notebook or just a piece of paper.
- Spend time at your watching spot and record what you see. Observe for yourself, or if you are with a child or young person, point out things you know will change, such as budding/flowering trees, flowers pushing through the soil, garden seeds sprouting. Record how things change as the days and weeks go by.
- Ask "Where is God in that?" or "How does that remind you of God?" as you notice a change. If answers aren't coming easily, be patient. It takes time to learn how to have these conversations with others, or to record your personal thoughts. One way to jump-start this conversation is to share an observation about something that reminds you of God and ask your young person what they think. You might also ask other open-ended questions (i.e., not "yes or no") that help you explore together how God is connected to the changes you are both seeing around you.

Committing to intentionally observing and spending time reflecting on where we see Jesus and God's activity in the world around us helps us focus on God's joy and delight in all creation.

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

¹"Watching for Easter," Scott Seeke, April 5, 2023, <https://www.livinglutheran.org/living-faithfully/watching-for-easter/>

2026

APRIL

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Pastor Teri's Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
8:15 AM Worship. 10:30 AM Palm Sunday - Donkey Parade	Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal, sign payroll	Pay Day, Quilters 1:30	RCAOC Lenten Lunch 12- 1PM 1st Congregational, 425 youth 6:30 PM, Choir 7:30 PM	Maunder Thursday Worship Svc, Communion 7:00 PM	Joan Waymaster Funeral 10:30 AM, Good Friday Worship Service 7:00 PM	Easter Vigil Worship Service 6:00 PM, Communion
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Easter Worship Service 7:00 AM & 10:30 AM, Communion, Easter Breakfast 8:15-9:30	Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	Quilters 1:30-4:00 PM,	Worship & Music Committee Meeting 5:30 PM, 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM, Agape Choir 7:30 PM	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, Bible Study 1:30 PM, RCAOC 5:30 PM Milberger	Pastor Sermon Writing Day	Worship Service 6:00 PM Communion
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal,	Quilters 1:30-4:00 PM, Exec Committee 5:30 PM, Sign Payroll	Pay Day, 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM, Agape Choir 7:30 PM	Bible Study 1:30 PM,	Pastor Sermon Writing Day	Private Baptism Baker Straub 4:00 PM, Worship Service 6:00 PM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, Comm, Choir	Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	Quilters 1:30-4:00 PM, Church Council 6:30 PM -RCT 8pm	Altar Guild Meeting & Dinner 5:30 pm, 425 Youth Group 6:30, RCT 8pm	Bible Study 1:30 PM, RCT 8pm	Pastor Sermon Writing Day RCT 8pm	Worship Service 6:00 PM - Communion RCT 8pm
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM,	Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal,	Sewing Group 1:30- 4:00 PM. Record Clergy Comments	Sign Payroll, 425 Youth Group 6:30, Agape Choir 7:30 PM	Pay Day, Bible Study 1:30 PM	Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	Worship Service 6:00 PM

RCAOC Lenten Lunch Series

During the Lenten Season, the Russell County Association of Churches will sponsor weekly devotional services with a meal during the noon hour. This year's theme is "*Come Journey with Jesus Christ to a deeper faith and closer relationship with God our Heavenly Father*" and each weekly devotional will explore a different topic related to our theme.

April 1, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 PM – First Congregational Church - Renewal

April 3, 2026, 12:00 PM Good Friday Community Service – First Congregational Church

Holy Week & Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Worship Service April 2, 2026, with Communion, 7:00 PM

Good Friday Worship Service – April 3, 2026, 7:00 PM

All Easter Services will be Communion Services:

Easter Vigil Saturday Evening Worship Service April 4, 2026, 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday Worship Services, April 5, 2026, 7:00 AM & 10:30 PM

Easter Breakfast, April 5, 2026, 8:00 AM

Sunday School, April 5, 2026, 9:15 AM

German Worship Service- Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 3:00PM- Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort St., Hays, KS 67601) ~ Will Include: Holy Communion, time to share stories and reminisce and potluck to follow Worship

Groups & Meetings

Prayer Shawl Group: Mondays at 10:00 AM

Sewing Group: Tuesdays 1:30 – 4:00 PM

425 Youth Group: Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:45 PM

Bible Study with Pastor: Thursdays 1:30 PM in Parish Hall

Christian Education Committee: Thursday, April 2, 2026, 5:15 PM

Worship & Music Committee: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 5:30 PM

Women's Group: Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 10:00AM in Parish Hall.

Executive Committee: Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 5:30 PM

Church Council: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 6:30 PM

Altar Guild Dinner & Meeting: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 5:30 PM

April 2026 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
April 11	Mary and John Boxberger	Galen Niedenthal.....	TBA
April 18	Kelvie Reeves and Jaden Nuss.....	Kelvie Reeves	TBA
April 25	Bob and Elaine Voos.....	Elaine Voos.....	TBA



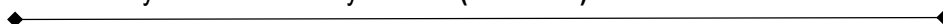
8:15 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
April 12	Carol Fritz	Carol Fritz.....	TBA
April 19	Dick and Georganna McCrary.....	Georganna McCrary.....	TBA
April 26	Gordon and Cheryl Kraich.....	Cheryl Kraich	TBA



10:30 Sun	Greeter	Usher	Lector
April 12	Mike and Diane Waymaster(N);Margaret Finkbeiner (S).....	Mike and Diane Waymaster....	Gina Langhofer
April 19	Ron and Ginger Tittel (N);Glenna Hackerott (S).....	Glenna Hackerott.....	Ruth Keil
April 26	Alice Fae and Mark Johnson (N); Irene Coffeen(S).....	Mark and Alice Fae Johnson....	Cindy Ross



	Acolytes	Musician
April 12	Kollins and Rogan Dumler (10:30 am).....	TBA
April 19	Alex and Noah Krug (8:15 am)	TBA
	Hadlee Brown and Harper Ryan (10:30 am)	TBA
April 26	Wesley Johnson and Bryson Feil (10:30 am)....	TBA



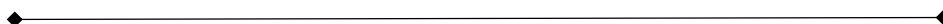
Maundy Thursday April 2: Greeters/Ushers-TBA ; Acolytes- Evanlee Rainey and Analeigh Schoech; Musician- Glenda Phillips

Good Friday April 3: Greeters/Ushers- TBA; Acolytes- None; Musician- Glenda Phillips

Easter Saturday April 4, 6:00pm: Greeters/Ushers- Cheryl and Brad Prester; Lectors- Jeremy Ulrich ; Musician- TBA

Easter Sunday April 5, 7:00am Service: Greeter/Usher- Gordon and Cheryl Kraich; Lector- Cheryl Kraich; Acolytes- Olson Family; Musician- TBA

Easter Sunday April 5, 10:30am Service: Greeter/Usher- Steve Masden(N), Carol Fritz(S); Lector- Judy Holmes; Acolytes- Karrsyn Ross, Ellsie Jefferson, Campbell Lofland and Bryson Feil; Musician- TBA



Bulletin Delivery	April 3: Allen and Betty Funk April 10: Laura Biles April 17: Darold and Corine Gideon April 24: Dick and Georganna McCrary
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Altar Guild
Deb Karst- Chair Corine 4 th and Katrina 11 th & 25 th - Saturday Crecia Reeves, Shayla Peck, Sherri Stoppel and Janet Peerman

St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

Date	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
April 1 st	6:30 pm	7:30pm
April 15 th	6:30 pm	7:30pm
April 22 nd	6:30 pm	7:30pm
April 29 th	6:30 pm	7:30pm



Performances

Agape Choir	7:00 pm, April 2 nd and 3 rd	meet in the Chapel at 6:15 pm
Agape Choir	10:30 am, April 5 th and May 3 rd	meet in the Sanctuary at 9:45 am
St. John Ringers	TBA	meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
Feb 28 & Mar 01...23		25	35	83
March 7 & 8	32	17	33	82
March 14 & 15 ...25		18	46	89
March 21 & 22 ...24		23	47	94
March 28 & 2933		22	94	149

February 25 (Lenten Devotional)...	24
March 3 (Lenten Devotional).....	42
March 11 (Lenten Devotional).....	15
March 18 (Lenten Devotional).....	14
March 25 (Lenten Devotional).....	16

Offering

Feb 28 & Mar 01	3646.00
March 7 & 8	3382.00
March 14 & 15.....	2438.00
March 21 & 22	2543.00
March 28 & 29.....	2582.00

Results of Revoting for Recipient of 2025 Global Philanthropic Fund

Eighty-four votes were cast for the reselection of the Global recipient of the 2025 Philanthropic Fund benevolence for \$813.90. The option with the most votes was selected:

Ashland Community Foundation 2026 Fire Relief Fund = 32 votes

Lutheran Disaster Relief (US Relief) = 27 votes

Meals on Wheels America = 25 votes

A check for \$813.90 will be sent to the Ashland Community Foundation 2026 Fire Relief Fund.

~ Sunday School ~

The last day of Sunday School classes for Spring 2026 will be Sunday, April 26.

~Vacation Bible School May 03, 2026 ~

Theme: *“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!”* Psalm 118:24

Following our We Gather As One worship service and meal, the children will gather at 12:45 PM to be divided into their groups and our day of fun and rejoicing will begin. Children are encouraged to invite a friend to church and VBS that day.

We Gather As One

May is a 5th Sunday month, but rather than gathering as one worshipping body on the last day of the month, we will have one service the first weekend in May. We will have one service on May 3, 2026, at 10:30 AM. We will be celebrating our 2026 graduates during this service. Following worship we will share a meal: Tony Bay will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, and the congregation is asked to share in the meal by bringing sides and desserts. We are hoping for an outdoor picnic – weather permitting – behind the church, or we will share a meal in the Parish Hall.

There will be **NO** worship services on Saturday May 2, 2026, at 6:00 PM or Sunday May 3, 2026, at 8:15 AM.

St. John Back-To-School Giveaway

We will soon be collecting items for our Back-To-School Giveaway. This program is open to Russell area students from preschool through twelfth grade. Donations of new socks, undergarments and new or gently worn clothing and shoes in all sizes will be collected starting June 1, 2026 (**please do not bring donations before June 1**). All styles of clothing and shoes are accepted – casual, dressy, work appropriate (including scrubs). Specialty items are also accepted including sports uniforms and gear. School items like pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks and personal hygiene items like deodorant, soap, shampoo, etc.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry provides crocheted and knitted blankets to bring comfort to people in times of illness, recovery and grief. Anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting can participate in this ministry even if you are unable to attend the group gathering time on Mondays at 10:00 am. Yarn is supplied by this ministry and the making of the prayer shawls can be done at home.

Easter Lilies

Lilies may be picked up Tuesday, April 7 from 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm. Lilies remaining after Friday, April 10 will be disposed of.

Scholarship Opportunities:

Central States Synod Women of the ELCA scholarship applications are available on our St. John Lutheran Church Website for all female members of an ELCA congregation seeking post-high school education. The application and scholarship details are available online at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/scholarships>. The deadline for submission is April 30th. We encourage all female college-aged students to apply.

The Applications for the Mai Family and Earlin Nuss Scholarships will be made available online and/or by paper application toward the end of May. Watch the May Newsletter for more information.

REMINDER:

The St. John Lutheran Church and Pastor Teri will NEVER call, text, email or contact you in anyway asking for money. If you are suspicious about an email, call or text claiming to be Pastor Teri or the Church DO NOT reply and please contact us through our phone number provided on the website.

A special *thank you* to all who provided Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary and Chapel 2026

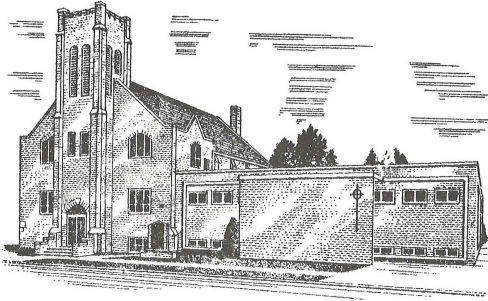
- ❖ In honor of all our **Servicemen, Servicewomen, Medical Personnel, Emergency Personnel;** and **all the people who are working every day for us**, as they are giving their time and talents so selflessly. WE THANK YOU. By Darold & Corine Gideon and Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **our Parents, Grandparents, Brothers, Sisters, Nieces, Nephews, Uncles, Aunts, and all our friends** by Darold and & Corine Gideon and Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Jentry Mai** by Mommy, Daddy, Maeson & Maddyn
- ❖ In loving memory of **Edna Mai** by Matt Mai Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Edna Mai** by Gerald Mai Family
- ❖ In loving memory of our parents **Gary Christie** by Matt & Erin Mai Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Leonard Brown** by Doris Brown

- ❖ In loving memory of **Dell, Anna, Sam, Louise, Frank and Steven Klema** by Dick & Georganna McCrary
- ❖ In loving memory of **Our Children and Grandchildren** by Dick & Georganna McCrary
- ❖ In loving memory of **Waldean and Helen Schwien** by Their Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Leonard & Fern Major, Walter F. Jack and Gene D. Karst** by Steve & Deb Karst and Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Violet F. Karst** by Grandpa Steve, Grandma Deb and Brother & Wife Lucien and Deanna
- ❖ In loving memory of **Willie Gideon** by Glenn Gideon and Brad & Cheryl Prester
- ❖ In loving memory of **Gary “Bear” Prester** by Carol Prester and Brad & Cheryl Prester
- ❖ In loving memory of **Elroy and LoRee Dietz** by Their Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Verlan and Peggy Olson** by Their Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Robert & Marlene Krug** by Daniel Krug
- ❖ In loving memory of **Alex & Bonnie Schmidt** by Chuck & Pam Gudenkauf

A special *thank you* to all who sponsored Easter Candles for the Sanctuary and Chapel 2026

- ❖ In loving memory of **Ruben & Lavina Bender** by Dianna Michaelis, Duane & Margaret Bender and Family, and Vince & Ramona Kramer
- ❖ In loving memory of **Huldrich and Sarah Michaelis** by Naomi Dumler & Dianna Michaelis
- ❖ In loving memory of **Jordanne Elisabeth Hackerott** by Poppy and Granny Hackerott
- ❖ In loving memory of **All our families** by Betty & Allen Funk
- ❖ In loving memory of **Melvin Flegler** by Juanita, Kim Stoppel & Family, Kevin & Family and Kristen & Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Rudy, Lorraine, Wayne and Vernon Krug** by Their Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Allen Finkbeiner** by Margaret Finkbeiner; Tim and Janella & Family, Amiee and Dustin Decker & Family and Holly and Laran Steele & Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Harold “Bud” Beck, Marvin Bitter, Bob Prockish and all those we hold forever in our hearts** by Paula Bitter
- ❖ In loving memory of **James Fritz** by Carol Fritz and Family
- ❖ In loving memory of **Dale & Twyla Ehrlich and Tillman & Wilma Krug** by Tori & Roy Hall, Tami Ehrlich and Halle & Colton Anderson

**St. John Lutheran Church
425 N. Main Street
Russell, KS 67665**



**April 2026
Newsletter**

**St. John Lutheran Church
Pastor Teri Sutherlin**

785-483-5358

stjohn@ruraltel.net

stjohnrussell.com

Worship Services

6:00 pm Saturday

8:15 and 10:30 am Sunday

****NEW Office Hours****

Monday through Friday

****1:30 pm to 5:00 pm****

**St. John Lutheran Church
Clergy and Staff**

Pastor Teri Sutherlin (pastor@ruraltel.net)

Kelvie Reeves, Administrative Assistant

Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper

John Kreutzer, Custodian

Church Council

President: Lee Keffer

Vice President: Gaylon Walter

Secretary: Mark Johnson

Treasurer: Amber Ruggels

Members:

Afton Brown, Hadlee Brown, John Dumler,
D.J. Klema, Alex Krug, Melinda Olson,
Paul Phillips, Heather Pohlman, and
Pastor Teri Sutherlin

