St. John Lutheran Church

August 2025 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.

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Grab your calendars - and save the dates!!

We Gather As One worship service

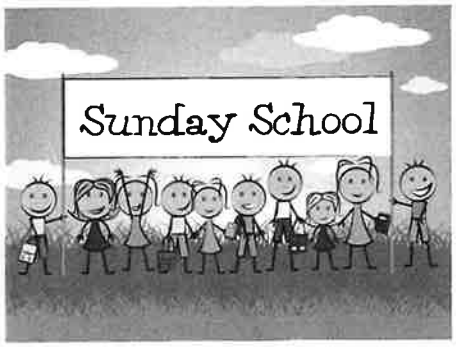
Several times throughout the year, the St. John family is invited to come together at one service. When We Gather As One to worship, St. John members are encouraged to meet others who may attend a different service. Whether reacquainting with a member, or meeting those who have started attending more recently, these services allow the St. John family to stay connected.

At 6:00 pm, Saturday, August 30 We Gather As One to worship in the Sanctuary. This service will be livestreamed (link available on stjohnrussell.com).There will be NO services on Sunday, August 31.

St. John Youth – as busy as ever!

Sunday School

Sunday School for the 2025-2026 school year will begin September 14 at 9:15 am. All students will meet as one in the chapel at the beginning of each Sunday School hour. Parents are welcome to attend opening Sunday to discover how Sunday School will operate this year.



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Blessing of Keys and Backpacks and Presentation of 2nd Grade Bibles

These special events will be offered in September; the final dates have not been determined. Please watch the bulletin announcements, stjohnrussell.com and facebook for up to date schedules and information.

Confirmation

On Sunday, September 14, confirmation students AND parents will meet at 9:15 am to discuss the class format, as well as confirmation class expectations and requirements. Please note: it is very important that parents accompany their student to the first meeting of the 2025-2026 confirmation students.

Confirmation classes will include 6th through 9th grades and will be divided into two classes – Confirmation 1 (6th and 7th grades) and Confirmation II (8th and 9th grades).

Acolytes

Serving as an acolyte allows young people the opportunity to provide a ministry at St. John Lutheran Church. Acolytes light the altar candles at the beginning of the service, and extinguish the candles at the end of the service. Pastor Teri will work with acolytes regarding any additional tasks.

A training (or refresher) course will be offered this fall. Once new acolytes have completed instruction, they will be added to the acolyte schedule.

Current acolyte schedules, sorted by family are available in the church office. The current schedule includes dates from the first Sunday in October through the end of September 2026. These schedules also include a list of acolytes and a parent or guardian contact to assist when changes are required.

Please note:

- Because there are an adequate number of acolytes who have completed instruction, or will soon, 8:15 am service on Communion Sundays (1st and 3rd Sundays during the school year) are included in the acolyte schedule.
- Acolytes are NOT required to wear robes during June, July and August, or on Youth Sundays, if they are appropriately dressed. The Altar Guild member assisting acolytes that day will make the final determination on acceptable dress.
- If you are unable to serve as an acolyte on your scheduled date and time, please arrange a trade or a substitute with another acolyte. In general, trades are made in advance and substitutes are for last minute changes due to illness, or other emergencies.

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425 Youth

All students in 7th through 12th grades are invited to participate in the 425 Youth. The 425 Youth meet Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Students are also encouraged to invite friends from other churches, or those that do not attend any church regularly. All youth are welcome.

Many youth activities require adult volunteers who love God and love children! If you feel God is calling you to help, contact Afton Brown (785-483-1710), or the church office for details.

Ringers and Singers – providing ministry through music

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 will be back in action soon - 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 creates a choir season incorporating various 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.

All are welcome to come see what the Agape Choir is all about. Come share in the spirit of the Lord through singing! For more information, please contact the church office.

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St. John Women's Bible Study – Summer Review

All St. John Lutheran Church women (of all ages) are invited to attend the Summer Bible Study on Thursday, August 14. This session will review the June, July, and August devotions from "Gather" magazine. June and July's devotions will be presented and discussed in the morning, and after a light lunch the August devotion will be presented. Large print materials are available upon request.

The Women's Bible Study meets the second Thursday of each month, with a break in the early summer. Due to special events or other conflicts, the monthly meeting is moved to a different date or time – these notifications will be posted in the bulletin announcements and stjohnrussell.com.

ODDS AND ENDS

- The **Executive Committee** of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, August 12 at 5:30 pm. The **Church Council** will meet Thursday, August 21 at 6:30 pm.
- To be included in the **September Newsletter**, information must be submitted no later than Friday, August 15.
- Everyone is invited to share fellowship and a meal at Second Baptist Church (420 E. 9th Street) this summer! Meals are available for a free-will offering and may be enjoyed at the church or taken to go. The **Second Baptist Church Feeding the Community** will be held August 7 & 28. Each meal will be served from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. For more information call 785-483-5150 or 316-680-6262.

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
Jun 29*		82		82
July 6	24	24	36	84
July 13	19	25	42	86
July 20	14	19	31	64
July 27	19	25	75	119

Offering

June 29*	$3,991.00
July 6	5,266.00
July 13	2,350.00
July 20	2,810.00
July 27	2,876.00

* The 5th Sunday in June the We Gather As One service was held at 8:15 am. No services were held at 6:00 pm on Saturday, June 28 or 10:30 am on Sunday, June 29.

2025 AUGUST Pastor Teri's Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship 8:15 and 10:30 AM - Scholarship Awards 10:30 AM	*Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal*	*Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM*		*Back-to-School Giveaway 10:00 AM-5:00 PM; NO Bible Study with Pastor*	01 **Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Back-to-School Giveaway Noon-3:00 pm**	02 **Worship 6:00 PM**
03 **Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM**	04 **Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal**	05 **Supervision Course 9:00 AM-1:00 PM; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM**	06 **Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; Bingo & Pizza Party 6:00 PM**	07 **Bible Study 1:30 PM**	08 **Pastor's Sermon Writing Day**	09 **Worship with Communion 6:00 PM**
10 **Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM**	11 **Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal**	12 **Supervision Course 9:00 AM-1:00 PM; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Executive Committee Meeting 5:30 PM**	13 **Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day**	14 **Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM; NO Bible Study with Pastor**	15 **Pastor's Sermon Writing Day**	16 **Worship 6:00 PM**
17 **Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM**	18 **Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal**	19 **Supervision Course 9:00 AM-1:00 PM; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM**	20 **Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day**	21 **Bible Study 1:30 PM; Church Council 6:30 PM**	22 **Pastor's Sermon Writing Day**	23 **Worship with Communion 6:00 PM**
24 **Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM**	25 **Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal; Pastor's 4th Anniversary**	26 **Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM**	27 **Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; Altar Guild Meeting 5:45 PM**	28 **Morning Appointment in Hays; NO Bible Study with Pastor**	29 **Pastor's Sermon Writing Day**	30 **We Gather As One to Worship 6:00 PM in Sanctuary (NO services Sunday, August 31)**
31 **NO SERVICES**						

August PMA Notes - WOW! What a VBS!

Today I was looking at the energy and activity of our youth! I was serving cookies and brownies during Vacation Bible School, and I spotted some of the young ones. I realized one thing – I needed to go back and apologize to all my VBS teachers for my actions! Yes this is a joke – but what wasn't a joke was watching the kids be inspired by adults and helpers. I realized that we all need to become inspired like those children!

I am at the top of that list – I need to become inspired! What I believe we need to do is review how we behave and how we talk about the story. Many times we become introspective and quiet. Almost solemn!

Did Jesus give up his life for us - Yes! He also wanted us to praise God! So the next time I have an opportunity - you might watch out - I might be a Kenny or an Owen or a Maybelle! We need to be not only gracious - but we need to be happy about Jesus' gift!

Now, granted I have been known to do some crazy things (no comments from the peanut gallery, please). I believe we come to worship to Praise him! We should show this in joy. This week at VBS we were able to see and hear this joy.

One question that Pastor and I did get from a youngster was does Jesus die every year and does he get born too? For some of us (me especially) I had that question till I was in my later years.

What is for me amazing is that our children do "hear" the word. When we told stories I found that they do listen. They do want, as some put it, "To Know Jesus!" This year we had amazing times and we all are on a continual path to find "True North!"

We were feeding and proclaiming the word to an average of 45 young people each evening. They inspired me to maybe in some of my leading services to, "Crazy it UP!" I seriously want to thank all of the people that helped and that worked to have a successful and joyful event – volunteers that truly inspired me. I am thankful that our God always gives us new ways to hear the word!

May the words of my mouth – our children gave me words for new praise! Thank you for again allowing me to participate in our VBS program once more!

Thanks and Blessings,
John Dumler - PMA

Blessings and Celebrations

St. John Lutheran Church
2025-2026 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 27, 2025 at the 10:30 service.

2025-2026 Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship Recipients

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.

Hailey Gier, Hannah Krug, Kelvie Reeves, Mason Rohr

2025-2026 Mai Family Scholarship Recipients

This year, Mai Family Scholarship recipients received $1,000.000 each. Mai Family Scholarship recipients may receive awards for no more than four years and must apply annually.

Kierra Eck ~ Hailey Gier ~ Charles Krug
Hannah Krug ~ Kayla Noller ~ Diego Muller ~ Kayla Noller
Kelvie Reeves ~ Rylan Reeves ~ Mason Rohr

Colonel Steven J. Tittel Retires After 30 Years in Air Force

On July 2, 2025 a retirement celebration honoring the service of Colonel Steven J. Tittel at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, London. Colonel Tittel received his commission at the University of Kansas in May 1995. He is a command pilot with more than 2,500 hours in fighter aircraft, and has served as an instructor pilot, flight examiner, weapons officer, and operational test pilot in the F-16 and F-35A. He has operational experience in Southwest Asia, Far East Asia, and Europe and has commanded or held senior level leadership positions at the squadron, group, wing, center and Numbered Air Force levels.

Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Tittel served as the Commander, 603d Air Operations Center, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Colonel Tittel, his wife Jennifer, and three children Joh, Anna, and James will reside in Winter Garden, Florida.

Steven and his family, including parents Ron and Ginger Tittel express their great gratitude for the many prayers for health and safety that were lifted up over the last three decades.

Do you have the ***drive*** to serve?
Help establish the St. John Transportation Service!

St. John Lutheran Church is on the lookout for a Volunteer Coordinator and Volunteer Team Members to establish the St. John Transportation Service. The Coordinator would recruit and work with Team Members to schedule drivers for St. John members needing transportation to and from church services and activities; appointments (local and area); local errands, and more. If you are interested in serving as the St. John Transportation Service Coordinator or you are able to serve as a driver, please contact the church office.

"God's work. Our hands."

Sunday, September 7, 2025

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 – and is an extension of the work you do every day to make your community and world a better place. 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.

Though we "designate" one day a year as a day to engage in a specific service ministry, in reality the mission of the church to serve others is a daily one. We are called to be Christ's "hands and feet". 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.

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."*

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." Teresa of Avila

August 2025 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	**Greeter/Usher**	**Reader**	**Musician**
Aug 2	Bob & Elaine Voos	Elaine Voos	Curtis Sander
Aug 9	John & Mary Boxberger	Susy Krug	Peggy Anschutz
Aug 16	Brenda Yoder	Galen Niedenthal	Pat David
Aug 23	Allen & Betty Funk	Jeremy Ulrich	Curtis Sander
Aug 30	Darold & Corine Gideon	Elaine Voos	TBD
Sept 6	Glenn Gideon	Susy Krug	

8:15 Sun	**Greeter/Usher**	**Lector**	**Musician**
Aug 3	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	Glenda Phillips
Aug 10	Kurt & Lois DeWald	Lois DeWald	Juanita Flegler
Aug 17	Dick & Georganna McCrary	Georganna McCrary	Margaret Walter
Aug 24	Connie Schinkus	Connie Schinkus	Juanita Flegler
Aug 31	***NO SERVICE***		
Sept 7	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	

10:30 Sun	**Greeter**	**Usher**	**Lector**
Aug 3	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N), Don F. Krug (S)	Mike & Diane Waymaster	Susy Krug
Aug 10	Ron & Ginger Tittel (N), Deloris Janne (S)	Ron & Ginger Tittel	Cindy Ross
Aug 17	Gerald & Mary Mai (N), Carol Fritz (S)	Gerald & Mary Mai	Carol Fritz
Aug 24	Brad & Sherri Stoppel (N), Judy Holmes (S)	Brad & Sherri Stoppel	Judy Holmes
Aug 31	**NO SERVICE**		
Sept 7	Ron & Ginger Tittel (N), Deloris Janne (S)	Ron & Ginger Tittel	Cindy Ross

10:30 Sun	**Acolytes**	**Musician**
Aug 3	Marshall Olson, Morgan Olson	Glenda Phillips
Aug 10	Layken Eck, Alex Krug	Juanita Flegler
Aug 17	Bryson Feil, Wesley Johnson	Margaret Walter
Aug 24	Elise Jefferson, Reece Peck	Juanita Flegler
Aug 31	***NO SERVICE***	
Sept 7	Maggie Olson, Maybelle Olson	

Bulletin Delivery

August 1: Carol Fritz
August 8: Allen & Betty Funk
August 15: Darold & Corine Gideon
August 22: Teresa Hilbrink
August 29: Ramona Luebbers

August Altar Guild

Barbara Krug – Chair
Corine Gideon – Saturday
Danielle Ewers, Rhonda Kuhlmann,
Tiffinie Mai, Tammy Nuss

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

AUGUST 2025 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

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

St. John Lutheran Church

Clergy and Staff

Pastor Teri Sutherlin (pastor@ruraltel.net)
John Dumler, PMA (pma@ruraltel.net)
Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper
Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant
Debora Kreutzer, Custodian
John Kreutzer, Custodian

Church Council

President: Lee Keffer
Vice President: Gaylon Walter
Secretary: Carol Fritz
Treasurer: Kylie Stoppel
Members: Afton Brown, Hadlee Brown, D.J. Klema, Alex Krug, Melinda Olson, Heather Pohlman, Pastor Teri Sutherlin