St. John Lutheran Church

January 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.

John Dumler, PMA

Celebrating Eleven Years of Ministry

After serving St. John Lutheran Church for eleven years as the Parish Ministry Associate, John Dumler is retiring from his position at the end of January 2026. John began serving as our PMA on August 1, 2015. He will remain on the Central States Synod PMA Roster for pulpit supply, including here at St. John.

"*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*" Psalm 19:14

I have served as a Parish Ministry Associate (PMA) for 11 years. Providing worship services and assisting with worship services at St. John as well as other congregations needing pulpit supply in Kansas. I have been an active member of the Russell County Association of Churches since 1983, I am bad at math but I think that makes it around 43 years! I have served as the RCAOC Treasurer for too many years and am retiring from this position too. God has led me to help with the ministry of our church, community, and the ongoing proclamation of God's Word.

"May the words." My beginning was with that thought. God has led me to help within our church, and I have been able to help within our Western Region too! I am humbled to have been able to provide a small part of proclamation of what Jesus has done for all of us! When we hear the words of what Jesus did for us- It brings me forward to proclaim in a small way the gift of "Sins" forgiven and a place for all of us! I am unworthy of this gift, but I am so thankful for it. In ending I would thank our Great God for his words and his help to move me forward into service within our church. Also, to St. John Lutheran Church- Thank you for "Loaning me out" to help within our community of Christ. It has been a fantastic 11 or is 10 or is 12 years? My old brain is unsure, but my heart has been with this church forever! Thank you for allowing me to serve as I can. I thank our Great God for His Words and gift of grace. My heart is and will continue to be committed to the ministry of this church forever!
John Dumler

Pastor Teri's Calendar

2026 — CALENDAR YEAR

JANUARY — CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY — FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM, Christmas 1	29 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	30 Bulletins, January Newsletter, Website, Offering envelopes	31 January Newsletter, Offering envelopes, New Year's Eve	01 NEW YEAR'S DAY - church office closed	02 New Year's holiday - church office closed	03 Worship Service 6PM, Christmas 2
04 Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM, Christmas 2, Communion	05 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	06 Annual Report, Exec Comm 5:30 PM	07 Annual Report, Choir 7:30 PM	08 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, Annual Report, RCAOC 5:30 PM Otterbein	09 Sermon Writing Day	10 Worship Service 6:00 PM, Communion, Baptism of Our Lord
11 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, Sunday School 9:15 AM, Baptism of Our Lord	12 Pay Day, Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	13 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	14 Pay Roll, Youth Group 6:30 PM, Choir 7:30 PM	15 Pay Day, Church Council 6:30 PM	16 Pay Day, Sermon Writing Day	17 Worship Service 6:00 PM
18 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, Choir, Communion	19 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	20 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	21 Youth Group 6:30 PM	22	23 Sermon Writing Day	24 Worship Service 6:00 PM, Communion
25 Christmas 1 Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM, Bells, Annual Congregational Meeting 11:35 AM	26 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	27 Sew Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Clergy Comments	28 Pay Day, Youth Group 6:30 PM, Choir 7:30 PM	29 Pay Roll	30 Pay Day, Appt 1:00 PM, Sermon Writing Day	31 Worship Service 6:00 PM

RADIO/STREAMING MINISTRY FUND

St. John Lutheran Church livestreams our Sunday Morning Worship services and special worship services. Our 10:30 AM Sunday morning worship service is broadcast on KRSL radio on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and alternating fifth Sundays. Our designated dollars for this ministry have been depleted. This is an important ministry for the Church; it keeps our members who are unable to attend worship the ability to remain connected to the congregation. It also reaches a broader audience; people who tune in to hear the good news of Jesus Christ proclaimed. The cost of each broadcast is $192.00; approximately $4992.00 each year. We are seeking donations and contributions designated to support this vital ongoing ministry of the Church.

Thank you,

Melinda Olson, Chairperson
Worship and Music Committee

Many Thanks

⇒ Thank you to Altar Guild members, property Committee members, Morris Krug and crew, and all the volunteers who helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

⇒ "A Big Heart Felt Thank you" to everyone who brought cookies for the Cookie and Milk reception following the Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 14, 2025. There was a beautiful and tasty array of treats for the children to enjoy.

Susan Krug

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
Dec 7	24	23	43	90
Dec 14	15	17	125	157
Dec 21	23	23	71	117
Dec 21 – *Blue Christmas				8
Dec 24 – *Christmas Eve 4:00 pm				287
Dec 24 – *Christmas Eve 7:00 pm				56
Dec 28 *	24	12	16	52

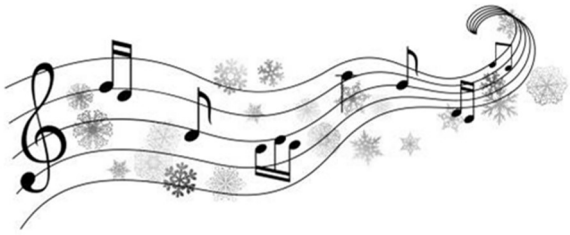
Offering

Dec 7	No information
Dec 14	$2911.00
Dec 21	$2941.00
Dec 28 *	$10,671.00

* Blue Christmas/Christmas Eve (4:00 pm and 7:00 pm) *and* December 27 & 28, 2025 services.

St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

Date	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
January 7	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
January 14	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
January 21	6:30 pm	
January 28	6:30 pm	7:30 pm

Performances

Agape Choir..... 10:30 am, January 18 .....Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am
St. John Ringers ..... 10:30 am, January 25 .....Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am

ODDS AND ENDS

- **If you were receiving the monthly newsletter electronically by email and have NOT been receiving it, please contact the office for your email to be added back to the list of receivers and verify your email address.**
- The Executive Committee will meet Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 5:30 PM
- The Church Council will meet Thursday, January 15 at 6:30 pm.
- St. John Women's Bible Study will be held Thursday, January 8 at 10:00 am. Large print materials are available upon request.
- The Altar Guild and Property Committee will meet at 9:00 am Saturday, January 10, 2026, to take down Christmas décor in the Sanctuary and Chapel.
- **2025 Contribution Statements will not be printed until we have closed out the 2025 year. Statements will not be available until the last week in January.**
- The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, following the 10:30 am service. The alternate date in case of inclement weather is Sunday, February 1, 2026. The 2025 Annual Reports will be made available by Sunday, January 11, 2026.

  This year, the Council is recommending the following as recipients of our 2026 Philanthropic Benevolence gift. The Congregation will vote for the two they prefer at the Annual Meeting in January and each organization will receive 50% of the available donation.

Lutheran Disaster Relief (Within the United States.)
Meals on Wheels
Russell Senior Center
Dream Theater

January 2026 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
Jan 3	Darold & Corine Gideon	Elaine Voos	Juanita Flegler
Jan 10	Glen Gideon	Susy Krug	Curtis Sander
Jan 17	Ramona Luebbers	Jeremy Ulrich	Curtis Sander
Jan 24	Galen & Rudene Niedenthal	Galen Niendenthal	Peggy Anschutz
Jan 31	Brad & Cheryl Prester	Elaine Voos	Pat David

8:15 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
Jan 4	Kurt & Lois DeWald	Lois DeWald	Juanita Flegler
Jan 11	Katrin Kolder	Katrin Kolder	**TBD**
Jan 18	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	**TBD**
Jan 25	Dick & Georganna McCrary	Georganna McCrary	Juanita Flegler
Feb 1	**OPEN**	**OPEN**	**TBD**

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10:30 Sun	Greeter	Usher	Lector
Jan 4	Gerald & Mary Mai (N); Irene Coffeen (S)	Gerald & Mary Mai	Gina Langhofer
Jan 11	Brad & Sherri Stoppel (N); Judy Holmes (S)	Brad & Sherri Stoppel	Judy Holmes
Jan 18	Mike & Diane Waymaster(N); Deloris Janne (S)	Mike & Diane Waymaster	Deb Kreutzer
Jan 25	**OPEN (N); OPEN (S)**	**OPEN**	**OPEN**
Feb 1	**OPEN (N); OPEN (S)**	**OPEN**	**OPEN**

	Acolytes	**Musician**
Jan 4	8:15 AM Emily Olson & Maybelle Olson	Juanita Flegler
	10:30 AM Reece Peck & Kollins Dumler	
Jan 11	10:30 AM Hadlee Brown & Harper Ryan	**TBD**
Jan 18	8:15 AM Karryson Ross & Rogan Dumler	**TBD**
	10:30 AM Evanlee Rainey & Ellise Jefferson	
Jan 25	Layken Eck & Campbell Lofland	Juanita Flegler
Feb 1	Kollins Dumler, Rogan Dumler	**TBD**

Bulletin Delivery

Jan 2: Carol Fritz
Jan 9: Allen & Betty Funk
Jan 16: Darold & Corine Gideon
Jan 23: Teresa Hilbrink
Jan 30: Carol Fritz

Altar Guild

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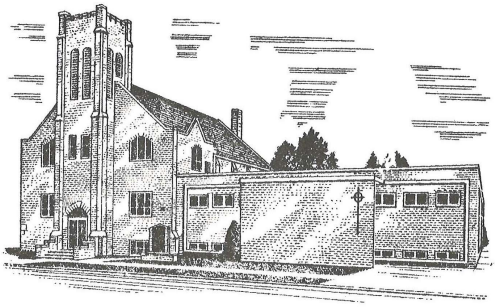
St John Lutheran Church
425 N. Main Street
Russell, KS 67665



January 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

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
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