St. John Lutheran Church

June 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.

Teri Talk – June 2025

The St. John Church Council has chosen to focus on evangelism as one of our main goals this year. For our congregation, evangelism starts "at home;" making space and time to bring all of our membership together to have the opportunity to get to know one another through conversation. One of those opportunities is when "We Gather As One," to worship.

In the 2024-2025 "The Lutheran Message" devotional is an article written by Elaine Schulte from Arizona that I would like to share with you. If you have read it, I encourage you to take another look at the message Elaine shares.

****

"Welcome One Another"

"When our family moved to follow my husband's career, we determined which church God wanted us to attend, in part by the friendliness of the congregation.

Was God's love shining through the people, or not? Did they show hospitality? With that in mind, we've tried to extend a heartfelt welcome to newcomers at our new church on Sunday mornings. It wasn't always easy.

When I became a Chrisitan and joined a church, I was delighted to greet newcomers by introducing myself, then presenting them to the pastor and others out on the "coffee patio."

Unfortunately, even then my memory was far from perfect, and people sometimes replied, "You introduced yourself when I was here last time!" (It often turned out to be months ago.)

After a number of such rebuffs, I felt not only foolish, but more and more reluctant to extend a welcome. *Why don't they greet me if I've spoken to them before?* I thought. Why should I always be the one to take the initiative?

One Sunday morning after the church service, as I stood in line to shake hands with our pastor, I felt compelled to introduce myself to the middle-aged woman behind me.

No, she'll just say we've met before. I thought.

Nonetheless, it seemed urgent that I greet her, and it was now or never because the line of people waiting to speak with the pastor was growing short. Soon she'd be gone.

(continued on next page)

(Teri Talk – June 2025 continued from Page 1)

Suddenly the Lord's words, "Love one another," melted my hardened heart. Surely the verse meant that we should welcome one another as well.

I asked God to forgive me, turned to her, and said, "I'm not sure I've ever met you. I'm..."

To my astonishment, tears burst to her eyes. "You'll be amazed at what you've just done," she said.

"What's that?" I inquired?

"I promised God that if one person besides the pastor spoke to me this morning, I would return. I...haven't been to church in, well, some years."

What joy!

I barely recovered in time to get her name and to present her to the pastor. That afternoon, I telephoned her to see if she had special needs. Like most of us, she needed love.

Nowadays I greet people who appear to be newcomers, no matter if I'm sometimes rebuffed or not. I pray for God's love to shine through me and try not to mind if sometimes I appear foolish for Him!"[1]

****

Who do you see regularly in worship, but you don't know their name? Evangelism "starts at home" by getting to know one another in our own faith community. Evangelism is about sharing our own faith stories, and that begins with greeting one another and introducing ourselves, rather than assuming everyone knows who we are. There are many stories of faith just waiting to be shared if we are willing to risk initiating conversations and listening to one another.

Blessings,
Pastor Teri Sutherlin

Reference: [1]"Welcome One Another," Elaine Schulte writes from Arizona, *The Lutheran Message*, Apostolic Publishing, Woodbury, MN, 2024-2025, pp 16-17.

A heartfelt "Thank You" to you all for celebrating my birthday with me. How fun it was to hear *Happy Birthday* sung not once, but three times that weekend, courtesy of Glenda Phillips. I'm grateful for the lovely flowers, many cards, and best wishes I received on my birthday. I am blessed by the love and support you have shown me, not only on my special day, but throughout the year. This congregation is a true blessing in my life.

With sincere appreciation, Pastor Teri Sutherlin

2025 JUNE PASTOR TERI'S CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Praise in the Park Community Worship Service 10:00 AM, Bickerdyke Park (Trinity UMC if weather is bad); NO SERVICES AT ST. JOHN	02 Pastor out of town - Vacation; [425 Youth Group leave for Eureka Springs, AR Trip June 2-5]	03 Pastor out of town - Vacation	04 Pastor out of town - Vacation	05 Synod Assembly, Olathe KS	06 Synod Assembly, Olathe KS	07 Synod Assembly, Olathe KS; Pentecost Worship with Communion 6:00 PM (Baptism Brexlee Herold & Gotham Renteria)
08 Pentecost Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Care Center Worship 2:00-4:00 PM	09 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal; Appt. in Hays 12:00-3:00 PM	10 Appt. 11:00 AM-12:00 PM; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Exec Comm 5:30 PM	11 Pastoral Care / Home Visitation Day	12 Bible Study 1:30 PM	13 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Appointment 2:00-3:00 PM	14 Holy Trinity Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
15 Holy Trinity Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Father's Day	16 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	17 Office Hours 9:00 AM-12:00 PM; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Online CEU Dr. Will Willimon 6:00-8:30 PM	18 Dr. Appt in Hays 8:00 AM; Western KS Regional Meeting in Hays 9:30 AM-12:00 PM]; Pastoral Care / Home Visitation Day	19 Bible Study 1:30 PM; Church Council 6:30 PM	20 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	21 Worship 6:00 PM
22 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM	23 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	24 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; record Clergy Comments	25 Pastoral Care / Home Visitation Day	26 Bible Study 1:30 PM	27 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	28 Beckett Peck Private Baptism; NO WORSHIP
29 We Gather As One Worship Service with Communion 8:15 AM; NO 10:30 AM SERVICE	30 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	01 *Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM*	02 *Pastoral Care / Home Visitation Day*	03 *Office hours 9:00 AM-12:00 PM; Bible Study 1:30 PM*	04 *St. John Offices closed for Independence Day; Pastor's Sermon Writing Day*	05 *Worship 6:00 PM*

Renewed by the Spirit

Central States Synod Assembly
June 5 through June 7, 2025
Olathe, Kansas

Pastor Teri, Lee and Brenda Keffer, and John Dumler, PMA will be attending on behalf of St. John Lutheran Church. Remember these individuals in your prayers for safe travels and meaningful and productive experiences at the Assembly.

A prayer from the Central States Synod shared on https://www.css-elca.org/assembly:

Holy God, you sent your Spirit to bring creation into being and continue to renew the face of the earth. This Spirit continues to blow among us and renew your church so that we might proclaim the truth of the gospel, your love revealed in and through Jesus Christ. As the Central States Synod gathers in assembly on June 5th through the 7th to elect a new bishop, may you bless all voting members with your Spirit's presence and wisdom. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in love so that we might manifest your glory and participate in your reign of justice and mercy for all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

==========

Pastor Teri will be out of town Monday, June 2 through Saturday afternoon, June 7.

PMA John Dumler will be out of town Thursday, June 5 through Saturday afternoon, June 7.

==========

There will be no Bible Study with Pastor on Thursday, June 5.

We look forward to seeing the
St. John family when We Gather As One
at the 8:15 am Service on Sunday, June 29

REMINDER:
There will be no services at St. John
at 6:00 pm, Saturday, June 28
OR
10:30 am, Sunday, June 29

June PMA Notes

"We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10) Blessings to all today.

As I sat contemplating the near future I realized that coming quickly was our Praise in the Park event June 1. This event is sponsored by the Russell County Association of Churches. I am excited to be a part of it as always. Then I thought about what I didn't provide for the newsletter last month - my PMA notes! So Sorry!

So this month I wanted to highlight what others do throughout the community – specifically the RCAOC. I was reminded that we do much more than some might think. The RCAOC participates and assists the community as a community of churches in a variety of ways:

- Each Sunday we provide our care centers with an afternoon worship service
- Each year participating churches host the Lenten Lunches and the Good Friday service
- Thanks to generous sponsors and KRSL Russell Radio we present Clergy Comments highlighting church events and a short prayer or devotion every Wednesday morning
- On the third Tuesday of each month we provide the opening prayer for the City Council meeting
- The Praise in the Park Community Worship Service is a relatively new project for the RCAOC, and we hope to continue to expand upon this event each year
- We provide assistance to the Russell County Food Pantry and other community nutrition programs with special offerings received at various RCAOC events
- Thanks to generous donations, we help with utility assistance for those in need – the standard limit is $75.00 and a recipient may not request help again for 18 months (unless the full amount is paid back); utility assistance does not cover deposits or reconnect fees; monies are paid directly to the utility companies – not to the recipient
- For travelers in need of fuel, we have coordinated with the Russell Police Station and Casey's to provide up to $25.00 in fuel (all recipients must request the voucher at the police station and after clearing a simple background check, are referred to Casey's for fuel – Casey's the submits the completed voucher and receipt to the RCAOC for reimbursement)
- Local individuals without resources to get to work and back home may request a Russell Public Transportation Bus pass provided by RCAOC – each pass costs $22.00 and provides 25 "punches" (1 punch per ride)
- In extreme cases (usually weather related) we may provide overnight lodging for transients at one of the local hotels for transients
- Other requests for assistance have been made and approved on a case by case basis – requests outside of the norm must be approved by the RCAOC Officers before any payment is made (no payments are made directly to the recipient)

I continue to be humbled by how the Russell community serves and helps others! I feel truly blessed to be a part of not only St. John Lutheran Church, but also the Russell County Association of Churches. Together we can all become a Community of Caring.

Prayers that we continue to grow in faith and love for all people.

John Dumler, PMA

2025 Back-to-School Giveaway
July 31 and August 1

Now accepting the following donations:

- gently used clothing, shoes, jackets, and athletic wear in all sizes (preschool through high school)
- new, unopened packages of socks and undergarments in all sizes (preschool through high school)
- new, unopened personal care items (deodorant, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, tooth brushes, mouth wash, brushes, combs, nail clippers, lip balm, hand sanitizer, band aids, cotton balls/cotton swabs, etc.)
- basic school supplies (pencils, ink pens, highlighters, spiral bound notebooks, dry erase markers, etc.)

Gently used clothing and shoes may be placed in the box in the basement hallway. New socks and undergarments, personal care items, and school supplies will be accepted in the church office (Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm).

You may also help in other ways:

- Volunteer to sort donations as they arrive; assist during set up and on giveaway days; distribute flyers and table tents the last week of July
- Offer a monetary donation (all monetary donations will be used to purchase new socks and undergarments, new personal care items, and new school supplies not received through donation)
- Share information about the Back-to-School Giveaway. Encourage family and friends to make donations. Invite family and friends with school-age children to attend the Back-to-School Giveaway.
- Pray for students as they start a new school year; pray for parents and guardians as they strive to provide their children with items necessary to return to school; pray for those donating items (both gently used and new), or making monetary donations; pray for those volunteering throughout the Back-to-School Giveaway project - coordinating, organizing, sorting, setting up, helping during the giveaway, and helping with clean up after the giveaway.

Thanks to the generosity and support of the congregation and community, there is no cost for students participating in the Back-to-School Giveaway. Participation is open to all Russell area students from preschool through high school.

For more information please contact the church office (Mon through Fri, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm).

Blessings and Celebrations

Lydia Robin Lofland, daughter of Alex and Audrey Lofland, was baptized at the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 18. Lydia's siblings Campbell, Naomi, and Henry joined their parents in promising to help Lydia live in the promise of baptism and grow in the Christian faith and life. Blessings to Lydia and her family!

Congratulations to Camden and Alexia Rainey as they welcome Bostyn Lou Rainey to their family. Bostyn was born May 12, 2025 and was 7 pounds 1 ounce and 19.5" long. The Raineys offer thanks and praise to the Lord that momma and baby are both healthy and doing great.

At the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 4, the Installation of Leaders in the Congregation blessed and honored the following individuals: Council Officers Lee Keffer, Gaylon Walter, Carol Fritz, and Kylie Stoppel; and Council Members Afton Brown, Hadlee Brown, D.J. Klema, Alex Krug, Melinda Olson, and Heather Pohlman. Kelvie Reeves completed her final term as a Council Member at the April Council Meeting – sincere thanks and continued blessings to Kelvie as she graduates and continues her educational journey.

Congratulations to Halle (Hall) Anderson as she received her BS in Nursing from Fort Hays State University. Halle graduated with honors and is now preparing for her board exams. Prayers and blessings as you begin your journey as a Registered Nurse.

Save the Date!!

2025 Vacation Bible School

True North – Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

In partnership with Trinity United Methodist Church

Sunday, July 13 through Thursday, July 17, 2025

PreK through 5th Grade
5:15 - 7:15 pm ~ supper served at 5:15

At St. John Lutheran Church
425 N. Main St., Russell KS

Preregister at www.myvbs.org/russellvbs

ODDS AND ENDS

- Women's Bible Study, 425 Youth, St. John Ringers Bell Choir, and Agape Choir are on break until fall.
- The Executive Committee of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, June 10 at 5:30 pm. The Church Council will meet Thursday, June 19 at 6:30 pm.
- 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 June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24, and August 7 & 28. Each meal will be served from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Second Baptist Church organizers need additional volunteers to help cook, serve, and clean up at each event. Monetary donations and donations of paper products or ingredients would also be appreciated. For more information call 785-483-5150 or 316-680-6262.
- If you wish to keep your decorations or flowers after Memorial Day, please remove all items from the St. John Cemetery no later than Sunday, June 15; items remaining after June 15 will be discarded. Shepherd's hooks, solar lights, statuary, vases, etc. are not permitted during the mowing season.
- To be included in the July Newsletter, information must be submitted no later than Tues, June 17.
- The application link for the **Mai Family Scholarship and the Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship** can be found at stjohnrussell.com. Applications must be submitted no later than Tuesday, July 1, 2025. Award notifications will be made in writing to each recipient (awards will be presented directly to the education institutions). All scholarship recipients (or their representative) must be present at the 10:30 Service on Scholarship Recognition Sunday, July 7, 2025. If you have any problems with the application, please contact the church office at 785-483-5358 (Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm).
- St. John Offices will be closed July 4 for Independence Day

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
May 4	10	30	103	143
May 11	29	28	55	112
May 18	24	31	47	102
May 25	22	28	37	87
May 31*				

Offering

May 4	$4,026.00
May 11	2,412.00
May 18	1,453.00
May 25	3,286.00

* Data not available at time of publication - a single service was held the weekend of March 31 and June 1. St. John offered a service at 6:00 pm on Saturday, March 31 - NO services were held at St. John on Sunday, March 30. Praise in the Park was held at 10:00 am Sunday, June 1 at Bickerdyke Park – ALL St. John members were encouraged to attend this community service.

June 2025 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat

	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
June 7	Brenda Yoder	OPEN	
June 14	John & Mary Boxberger	Galen Niedenthal	
June 21	Allen & Betty Funk	Jeremy Ulrich	
June 28	***NO 6:00 pm Service – We Gather as One to Worship at the 8:15 am Service, Sunday, June 29***		
July 5	Glenn Gideon	OPEN	

8:15 Sun

	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
June 1	Praise in the Park, Bickerdyke Park, 10:00 am– NO 8:15 AM SERVICE AT ST. JOHN		
June 8	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	
June 15	Dick & Georganna McCrary	Georganna McCrary	
June 22	Connie Schinkus	Connie Schinkus	
	We Gather As One to worship at 8:15 am, Sunday June 29		
June 29	***Katrin Kolder***	***Katrin Kolder***	
July 6	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	

10:30 Sun

	Greeter	Usher	Lector
June 1	Praise in the Park, Bickerdyke Park, 10:00 am – NO 10:30 AM SERVICE AT ST. JOHN		
June 8	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N); Don F. Krug (S)	Mike & Diane Waymaster	Carol Fritz
June 15	Ron & Ginger Tittel (N); Judy Holmes (S)	Ron & Ginger Tittel	Judy Holmes
June 22	Gerald & Mary Mai (N); Deloris Janne (S)	Gerald & Mary Mai	Cindy Ross
June 29	***NO 10:30 am Service – We Gather as One to Worship at the 8:15 am Service***		
July 6	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N); Don F. Krug (S)	Mike & Diane Waymaster	Carol Fritz

10:30 Sun	Acolytes	Musician
June 1	Praise in the Park, Bickerdyke Park, 10:00 am – NO 10:30 AM SERVICE AT ST. JOHN	
June 8	Hadlee Brown, Harper Ryan	
June 15	Bryson Feil, Wesley Johnson	
June 22	Maggie Olson, Maybelle Olson	
June 29	***NO 10:30 am Service – We Gather as One to Worship at the 8:15 am Service***	
July 6	NO Acolytes (4th of July weekend)	

Bulletin Delivery

June 6: Teresa Hilbrink
June 13: Ramona Luebbers
June 20: Georganna McCrary
June 27: Olson Family
July 4: Frank Peirano

June Altar Guild

Deb Karst – Chair
Brenda Yoder – Saturday
Danielle Ewers. Teresa Hilbrink,
Janet Peerman, Crecia Reeves,
Annette Stierlen

June 2025
Newsletter

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
425 N MAIN ST
RUSSELL KS 676665

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
Sunday School 9:15 (meet in Chapel)

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