St. John Lutheran Church

October 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 – October 2025 ~ "Re-Formation"

At the end of this month, we celebrate the 508th year of the Reformation. The Reformation of the Church was not just a single point in history. It didn't end with the life of Martin Luther or the other brave reformers who stood up for change in what it meant to be the Church. The Church can never be "what it was." The Church cannot be the one remembered from your childhood, or from looking at past church directories.

The Church must constantly be re-forming, re-ordering, re-newing, re-viewing, because a church that is not in motion, not dynamic, not evolving is a church that is dying. Just like each of us will never be who we were at a specific point in time, each of us and the Church is always be-coming. A process of change which is often so slow and gradual we don't notice as it is happening.

We are who we are now in the present and every day we are be-coming a new creation, we are changing, and so must the church. The choice is what and who will you become? Are you afraid of or are you excited about new possibilities? The key idea that evolved in the faith of those early reformers was *grace*, how God is in relationship with God's people. They didn't *theologically invent* the idea of *grace*, but their understanding of what it meant changed. Those reforming theologians looked to the past at the original scripture languages (Hebrew & Greek) and compared it to their present biblical language (Latin) and had an "aha" moment of the meaning of *grace*, that they passed on into the future. One we continue to proclaim and teach in our present: *grace* is a gift from God, and it is a gift meant to be shared.

In Latin, *grace* means pleasing, thankful, giving honor. This why we "say grace" at the table before a meal, to express our gratitude. Our words "grateful" and "thankful" come from the Latin word *gratus* and *gratia*. That was the problem with Hebrew & Greek, one word could have vastly different meanings, and "*favor,*" one meaning was chosen for the Latin translation for both the Old and New Testaments. As Luther and others discovered, the Hebrew word *ḥēn* and the Greek word *cháris* were not just "*favor,*" but "*unmerited favor*," "*undeserved pardon*," "*unearned gift*": something God gave that humans could not achieve on their own or do for themselves. This freely given gift we could not earn was given to us through Jesus Christ: the uncreated, eternal, divine life of God took on human form to deliver the gift and us. As those early re-formers "unpacked" the language of "the gift," it contained forgiveness of wrongdoing (sin), salvation (being saved, delivered, rescued), reconciliation (restored in relationship), and life.

Today all of this seems obvious to us because this understanding has been part of our faith development, what we were taught and learned from the faith of others to believe. Those early reformers put their lives on the line by challenging what it meant to be Church, and their vision of how the Church must re-new, change. Many died sharing this "rediscovered" understanding. Many died sharing this "rediscovered" understanding. Just as thousands of those first followers, disciples, and Apostles died sharing the gospel, the good news, of God's promises and love Jesus Christ. They not only taught us but died to show us the truth and power those very promises would have in our lives.

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(Teri Talk – October 2025, continued from Page 1)

Grace is central to our faith and understanding of what it means to be a Christian and a beloved child of God. Grace must also be central in how we not only treat other Christians, but how we interact with and think about all people. Because surprise, God's love is for every being God created. God's transforming power is experienced by the receiving and giving of Grace. Grace is the spiritual renewing lifeforce that God's Holy Spirit breathes into us and guides the mission and work of the Church.

As faithful followers of Christ we are united as the Body of Christ in the world. We are called to live lives of faith following the example Jesus Christ. This means we are to be and set an example for the world that is *different* than what current society says is an acceptable way to act and behave. As members of the family of God and Christ's Body we have committed our lives to reflect Christ's teachings and example in our behavior, actions, and relationships. "*Martin Luther's explanation of the fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer "forgive us our trespasses/debts/sins": "we ask that God would give us all things by grace. . .. So . . . we, too, truly want to forgive heartily to those who sin against us.*"[1]

'David Augsburger, a Mennonite scholar, coined the term *Interpathy*. It takes the concepts and understanding of what sympathy and empathy are and goes a step further. *Interpathy* is "*making an effort to let oneself* [truly experience] *the emotions, standards of values and mentality of the other person, all of which are different from mine*." Truthfully, it's challenging to imagine others' suffering, yet God challenges us to do so.'[2]

What the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Church at Ephesus continues to be a word for us today: "*I beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2]with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3]making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: [4]there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, [5]one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6]one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

[14]We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; [15]but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16]from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

***[32]Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.*" (Ephesians 4:1-6, 14-16, 32)**

Through its people being living examples and sharing the gift of God's Grace the Church re-news and re-forms the lives of others and its mission and purpose for a world that desperately needs to hear a word of hope. We need to let go of what we think the Church is or should be and get out of the way and let God do God's thing: always making things new.

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

References:
[1]https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Preaching#sermon
[2]Karl Federschmidt, Klaus Temme, and Helmut Weiss, *Workbook on Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counselling*, SIPCC, 2004, p. 40.

2025 OCTOBER Pastor Teri's Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 *Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Bible Presentation at 10:30 service; Bishop Installation in Overland Park, KS 5:00 PM*	29 *Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal*	30 *Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, pay day*	01 **Youth Group 6:30 PM; Choir 7:30 PM**	02 **Bible Study 1:30 PM**	03 **Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Appointment 1:00 PM**	04 **Worship 6:00 PM**
05 **Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM**	06 **Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal**	07 **Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Council Executive Committee Meeting 5:30 PM**	08 **Edward Jones Financial Meeting 10:00 AM; Youth Group 6:30 PM; Choir 7:30 PM**	09 **Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM; Bible Study 1:30 PM; RCAOC at St. John 5:30 PM**	10 **Pastor's Sermon Writing Day**	11 **Worship with Communion 6:00 PM**
12 **Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Quilts on Display; Care Home Worship 2:00-4:00 PM**	13 **Pastor out of town**	14 **Pastor out of town**	15 **Fall Theological Conference**	16 **Fall Theological Conference; NO BIBLE STUDY**	17 **Pastor out of town**	18 **Worship 6:00 PM**
19 **Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Agape Choir at 10:30 AM; Blessing of Quilts**	20 **Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal**	21 **Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM**	22 **Load quilts for LWR at Trinity Lutheran (Hays) 9:00 AM-12:00 PM; 425 Youth Bingo Night 6:30 PM**	23 **Bible Study 1:30 PM; Church Council Meeting 6:30 PM**	24 **Pastor's Sermon Writing Day**	25 ***NO 6:00 PM WORSHIP SERVICE***
26 **Worship with Communion 10:30 AM; Reformation Sunday; Confirmation; St. John Bell Choir - *NO 8:15 AM WORSHIP SERVICE***	27 **Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal**	28 **Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Clergy Comments; Smart Financial Giving presentation 5:30 PM**	29 **Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; Youth Group 6:30 PM; Choir 7:30 PM**	30 **Bible Study 1:30 PM**	31 **Pastor's Sermon Writing Day; Happy Halloween!!**	01 *125th Anniversary Dinner and Celebration at VFW 5:00-8:00PM; NO 6:00 PM WORSHIP SERVICE*

Reformation Sunday/Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

Sunday, October 28, 2025
10:30 AM ~ Sanctuary

Celebrating Reformation and honoring Confirmands Tytin Bay and Maggie Olson at a single service as the family of God!

(NO 6:00 pm service Saturday, October 27; NO 8:15 am service Sunday, October 28)

St. John Luthern Church, Russell KS

Celebrating 125 Years of Joy, Gratitude, and Ministry

Saturday, November 1, 2025 and Sunday, November 2, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church in Russell, Kansas, will celebrate 125 years of joy, gratitude, and ministry the weekend of November 1 and 2, 2025. All congregation members are invited to attend the Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at the Russell VFW (258 Bob Dole Drive). Fellowship will begin at 5:00 pm with the Invocation and Dinner starting at 6:00 pm. There will be a Remembrance of Clergy at 7:00 pm followed by a Program reflecting on the past, acknowledging God's work and looking forward to the future. The Rev. David Frerichs will be the guest speaker at the dinner and will give the sermon during the Sunday worship service.

If you received a Saturday meal/program ticket after your directory photo appointment, please confirm your attendance by calling the St. John office (785-483-5358) no later than Friday, October 17, 2025. If you did not have a directory photo taken, you may RSVP to the Saturday meal and program by calling the St. John office (785-483-5358).

On Sunday, November 2, "We Gather As One" at the 10:30 am service. This will be the only service the weekend of November 1 and 2, allowing all St. John members, family, and friends to celebrate as one unified body of Christ, praising shared ministry and spiritual growth. RSVPs are ***not*** required for the Sunday worship service.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to assist with the costs associated with the Anniversary weekend, please indicate "Annniversary" on your offering envelope or check.

REMINDER: There will be NO 6:00 PM service on Saturday, November 1.
There will be NO 8:15 am service on Sunday, November 2.

425 Youth Group
FUNd – "RAISER" BINGO NIGHT

Wednesday, October 22, 2025
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Play $1.00 per card, per game
(multiple cards may be played!!!)

This is a FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!!
Snacks will be available.

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Smart Financial Giving

Tuesday, October 28 ~ 5:30 pm ~ Parish Hall
Light refreshments provided

Hosted by the St. John Lutheran Church
Finance Committee

Alex Lofland, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, will share practical ways to tithe wisely, maximize tax benefits, and stretch your dollars to make the greatest impact — both for the Kingdom and your financial health. You'll discover strategies to align your giving with your values and learn how the money you already give can go even further through smart planning and available tax advantages.

No matter your stage in life — whether you are just beginning to save, navigating the new season of being an empty nester, or well into your retirement years — there are always fresh approaches to giving thoughtfully and purposefully.

Join us for this opportunity to grow in both faith and financial wisdom, and to be inspired about how your generosity can do the most good.

If it's October, it's time for QUILTS!

Quilts will being being displayed in the Chapel and Sanctuary beginning October 12 and will be blessed on October 19.

St. John members may purchase quilts for a minimum donation of $50.00 each. Reservation tags will be available in the ushers room and at the entry table by the Chapel and may be pinned to the quilt(s) you wish to keep for yourself or give as a gift! Please do not remove quilts until they have been blessed on October 19.

On October 22, Western Kansas Pastor and church volunteers will load quilts to go to Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response.

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
Aug 30 *	57			57
Sept 7	35	25	47	107
Sept 14	31	22	70	123
Sept 21	28	29	67	124
Sept 28	29	18	72	166

Offering

Aug 30 *	$1,140.00
Sept 7	4,766.00
Sept 14	2,960.00
Sept 21	3,378.00
Sept 28	1,981.00

* The 5th Saturday in August the We Gather As One service was held at 6:00 pm, Saturday, August 30. No services were held on Sunday, August 31.

October PMA Notes

September is gone, and soon it will be Advent! Yes, I skipped Halloween and Thanksgiving for right now. But with so much going on between now and then – events, activities, celebrations, etc. – I felt I should write a **SHORT** newsletter article this month.

A prayer for this month – Our most Gracious Lord we are all amid the hustle and bustle of school and sports and many other activities going on in this community. For this and for our community please watch out for us and guide us daily to walk your path and to stay on it even unto our life eternal begins when we move on. Lord please keep us in your Grace, Mercy, and Love, as we remember the gift of our sins forgiven in Christs sacrifice for us all. We love you and will proclaim as we can the gift you have given. Amen!

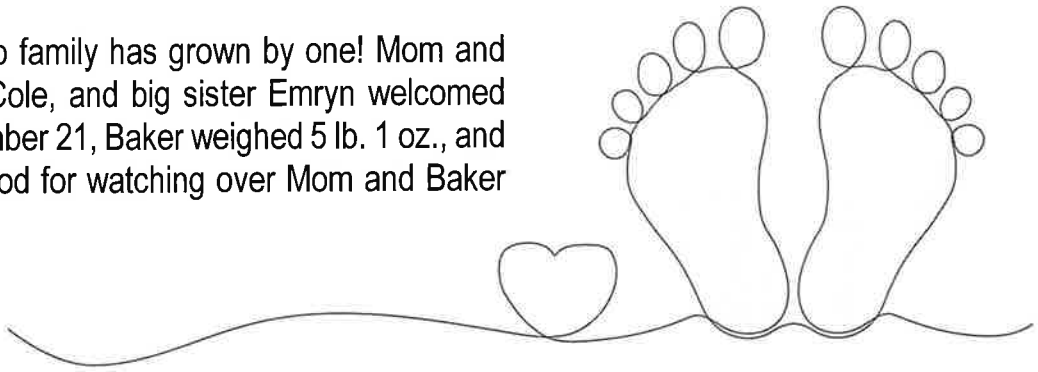
Thank you God!

John Dumler- PMA

Blessings and Celebrations

Congratulations to Terry and Brittni (Counts) Roblez on the arrival of Kyler Wayne. Kyler was born August 31, weighed 6 lb. 14 oz, and was 19.75 in. long. Big brother Beckett is especially proud of Kyler and we offer the Roblez family best wishes and God's blessings!

The Jordan and Chantel Straub family has grown by one! Mom and Dad, big brothers Carter and Cole, and big sister Emryn welcomed Baker Rainey Straub on September 21, Baker weighed 5 lb. 1 oz., and was 17.9 in. long. Thanks to God for watching over Mom and Baker through their entire journey.



At the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 28, the Second Graders and First Year Confirmation Students received their bibles. In addition to the bibles presented by St. John, each 2nd Grade student was gifted an additional bible and bible cover of their choosing.

2nd Grade - Bible Recipients

Maeson Christie ~ Addison Deatherage
Lennox Pohlman ~ Colt Soldan ~ Coy Stoppel

First Year Confirmation Students - Bible Recipients

Rush Brown ~ cNoah Krug ~ Emily Olson ~ Maybelle Olson ~ Analeigha Schoech

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St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

Date	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
October 1	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
October 8	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
October 15	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
October 22	6:30 pm	*no practice*
October 29	6:30 pm	7:30 pm

Performances

Agape Choir..... 10:30 am, October 19 ..... Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am
St. John Ringers..... 10:30 am, October 26 ..... Meet in Chapel at 10:15 am

ODDS AND ENDS

- The **Executive Committee** of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, October 7 at 5:30 pm. The **Church Council** will meet Thursday, October 23 at 6:30 pm.
- The **St. John Women's Bible Study** will be held Thursday, October 9 at 10:00 am. Large print materials are available upon request.
- **Pastor Teri will be out of office** October 13 through October 17 for the Fall Theological Conference and vacation. John Dumler, PMA will be on call.
- To be included in the **November Newsletter**, information must be submitted no later than Friday, October 17.
- There will be a single service at **10:30 am on Sunday, October 26 to celebrate Reformation and honor our Confirmands Tytin Bay and Maggie Olson**. There will be no 6:00 pm service on Saturday, October 25; there will be no 8:15 am service on Sunday, October 26.
- There will be a single service at **10:30 am on Sunday, November 1 to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of St. John**. There will be no 6:00 pm service on Saturday, November 1; there will be no 8:15 am service on Sunday, November 2.
- To make a donation for the **Russell County Food Pantry Holiday Baskets**, please indicate "Holiday Baskets" on your envelope or check. Donations received before November 1 will be used for the Thanksgiving Baskets and donations received between November 1 and December 1 will be used for the Christmas Baskets. If you have any additional questions, please contact Cathy Berry at 785-483-4113.
- St. John Women will **gather the annual Thankoffering** at the 10:30 am service on Sunday, November 16. Donation envelopes will be available for making a contribution to this special offering.
- St. John Lutheran Church volunteers deliver **Meals on Wheels during the months of December and March each year**. If you would like to volunteer for December 2025, please contact the church office as soon as possible.
- **Save the Date: Children's Christmas Program** will be held at the !0:30 service on Sunday, December 14.

The search continues... do you have the drive to serve?
Help establish the St. John Transportation Service!

St. John Lutheran Church is searching 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.

October 2025 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat

	Greeter/Usher	Reader
Oct 4	Bob & Elaine Voos	Elaine Voos
Oct 11	Brenda Yoder	Jeremy Ulrich
Oct 18	John & Mary Boxberger	Galen Niedenthal
Oct 25	***NO SERVICE***	
Nov 1	***NO SERVICE***	

8:15 Sun

	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Acolytes
Oct 5	Kurt & :Lois DeWald	Lois DeWald	Wesley Johnson, Karrsyn Ross
Oct 12	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	n/a
Oct 19	Dick & Georganna McCrary	Georganna McCrary	Marshall Olson, Morgan Olson
Oct 26	***NO SERVICE***		
Nov 2	***NO SERVICE***		

10:30 Sun

	Greeter	Usher
Oct 5	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N); Don F. Krug (S)	Mike & Diane Waymaster
Oct 12	Ron & Ginger Tittel (N); Irene Coffeen (S)	Ron & Ginger Tittel
Oct 19	***OPEN (N);***; Deloris Janne (S)	***OPEN***
Oct 26	***OPEN (N); OPEN (S)***	***OPEN***
Nov 2	Brad & Sherri Stoppel (N); Irene Coffeen (S)	Brad & Sherri Stoppel ..

10:30 Sun	Lector	Acolytes
Oct 5	Susy Krug	Alex Krug, Noah Krug
Oct 12	Cindy Ross	Rush Brown, Rogan Dumler
Oct 19	Carol Fritz	Reece Peck, Analeigh Schoech
Oct 26	***OPEN***	Campbell Loflin, Sasha Robben
Nov 2	Gina Langhofer	Ellise Jefferson, Harper Ryan

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

October Bulletin Delivery

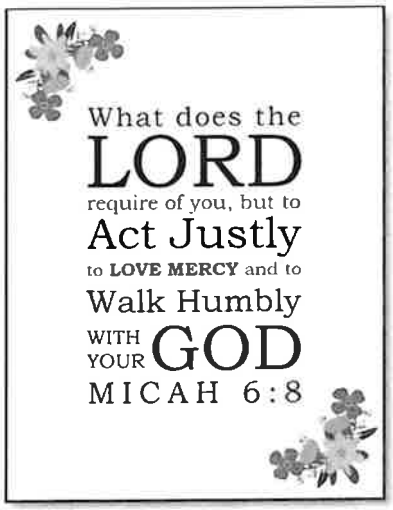
October 3: John Boxberger
October 10: Margaret Finkbeiner
October 17: Carol Fritz
October 24: Allen & Betty Funk
October 31: Darold & Corine Gideon
November 7: Teresa Hilbrink

October Altar Guild

Crecia Reeves – Chair; Brenda Yoder– Saturday

Connie Dumler, Pam Gudenkauf,
Shayla Peck, Annette Stierlen

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



OCTOBER 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