St. John Lutheran Church

July 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 – July 2025

This year we celebrate St. John Lutheran Church's 125th Anniversary. At the Synod Assembly Celebration Banquet on June 6, the church was recognized for its 125 years of ministry. An Anniversary is a time to look back and reflect on historical milestones, remembering all who came before us who shaped our faith, and looking forward to the future. God is always on the move and so are God's people. It is a time for thinking about who "we" have been and who "we" want to become as a faith community and God's faithfulness to God's people in our individual and congregational faith journeys. Anniversaries are a time for expressing gratitude for the many gifts God has given us, especially rejoicing in the gift of hope through Jesus Christ and the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the next months, a team is working on organizing different events for the congregation to participate in. They are working on putting together an updated church directory which will hopefully include pictures; as well as updating the Church's history.

"Save the Date" - Saturday, November 1, 2025, for an Anniversary Dinner, and Sunday, November 2, 2025, we will have a "We Gather As One" worship service at 10:30 AM.

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

Renewed by the Spirit

Central States Synod Assembly
June 5-7, 2025

The Central States Synod 2025 Assembly gathered under the theme "Renewed by the Spirit" echoing the words of the psalmist "You send forth your Spirit and they (we) are created and so you renew the face of the earth." The Assembly gathered to trust, praise, and seek to discern the Spirit's renewing work among us. In times of change and transition, when it is easy to be discouraged and anxious, the Assembly gathered in hope and joy.

St. John Lutheran Church was represented by Pastor Teri Sutherlin, Lee Keffer, Brenda Keffer, and PMA John Dumler. During the Assembly, Rev. Donna Simon was elected as the new Bishop for the Central States Synod. The Rev. Susan Candea is retiring after serving as Synod Bishop since 2019.

css-elca.org/assembly

In cooperation with Trinity United Methodist Church, 2025 Vacation Bible School, **"True North – Trusting Jesus in a Wild World"**, will be held Sunday, July 13 through Thursday, July 17 from 5:15 – 7:45 pm at St. John Lutheran Church. Supper will be served at 5:15 pm.

Youth from PreK through 5th grade are encouraged to preregister at www.myvbs.org/russellvbs or pick up a hard copy registration in the church office.

There are a variety of ways to assist with Vacation Bible School:

- For information about **volunteer opportunities**, please contact the church office.
- **Donate supper ingredients/supplies**. Trinity and St. John have divvied up the list of ingredients and supplies needed for five nights of meals. The easel in the main hallway includes cards with a requested item on the front and requested delivery date on the back. If you take a card (or more than one), please sign your name next to the corresponding item on the list. Items may be dropped off in the St. John kitchen in the area designated "VBS donations".
- **Make a monetary donation** to be used to purchase items not received through donation. Monetary donations may be left in the offering plates before weekly services or dropped off in the church office – please indicate VBS on your check or envelope.
- **Spread the word** - all youth from PreK through 5th grade are encouraged to preregister at www.myvbs.org/russellvbs. Consider sharing the hard copy registration form included as an insert in this newsletter with family or friends. Additional hard copy registration forms are available in the church office.
- **Lift all those involved with VBS in prayer** – participants, parents and caregivers, organizers, volunteers, and clergy. Consider starting each day with a prayer during 2025 Vacation Bible School:
  - **Sunday, July 13 (Day 1)**: Pray that everyone involved with VBS will continue to seek God with all their hearts and grow their relationship with Jesus.
  - **Monday, July 14 (Day 2)**: Thank the Lord joyfully for the work done during VBS and praise the Lord as the rock of our salvation. (Psalm 95:1)
  - **Tuesday, July 15 (Day 3)**: Pray that VBS will produce fruit and glorify God in the children attending and all those who are serving this special week. (John 15:8)
  - **Wednesday, July 16 (Day 4)**: Pray that God would bless all follow-up ministry and relationships for weeks, months, and years to come as a result of VBS.
  - **Thursday, July 17 (Day 5)**: Ask God to provide a time of rest and refreshment for all who served at 2025 Vacation Bible School "True North - Trusting Jesus in a Wild World".

2025 JULY

Pastor Teri's Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WE GATHER AS ONE Worship with Communion 8:15 AM (NO 10:30 AM SERVICE)	*Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal*	01 **Appointment 11:00 AM-12:00 PM; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM**	02	03 **Bible Study 1:30 PM**	04 **4th of July (Church Offices Closed); Pastor's Sermon Writing Day**	05 **Worship 6:00 PM**
06 **Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM**	07 **Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal**	08 **Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Exec Comm 5:30 PM**	09 **Pastoral Care / Home Visitation Day**	10 **Bible Study 1:30 PM; Speaker Series 7:00 PM**	11 **Pastor's Sermon Writing Day**	12 **Worship with Communion 6:00 PM**
13 **Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; VBS Opening Night 5:15-7:45 PM**	14 **Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal; VBS 5:15-7:45 PM**	15 **Pay Day, Appt. 11-12 PM, Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, VBS 5:15-7:45 PM**	16 **VBS 5:15-7:45 PM**	17 **Church Council 10:30 AM (TENTATIVE); Bible Study 1:30 PM; VBS Closing Night 5:15-7:45 PM**	18 **Pastor on Vacation**	19 **Pastor on Vacation; Worship 6:00 PM (John Dumler, PMA)**
20 **Pastor on Vacation; Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM (John Dumler, PMA)**	21 **Pastor on Vacation**	22 **Pastor on Vacation**	23 **Pastor on Vacation**	24 **Pastor on Vacation - NO BIBLE STUDY**	25 **Pastor on Vacation**	26 **Worship with Communion 6:00 PM**
27 **Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Scholarship Awards Recognition (10:30 AM service)**	28 **Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal**	29 **Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM; Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 PM**	30 **Pastoral Care / Home Visitation Day**	31 **DAY 1 Back-To-School Giveaway - NO BIBLE STUDY**	*DAY 2 Back-To-School Giveaway; Pastor's Sermon Writing Day*	*Worship 6:00 PM*

Blessings and Celebrations

Brexlee Rachelle Herold and Gotham Michael Gene Ernest Renteria received the sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 6:00 pm service on Saturday, June 7, 2025. Brexlee's parents are Brooklyn and Tyler Herold and her sponsors are Blayze Standley and Heather Lewis. Gotham's parents are Tiffany and James Renteria and his sponsors are Art and Veronica Castaneda. Blessings to Brexlee and Gotham and their families!

Blessings to Beckett Lynn Peck as she received the sacrament of Holy Baptism at a private service on Saturday, June 28, 2025. Beckett's parents are Shayla and Dustin Peck. Beckett's sister's Reece and Alana played an important role by promising to help Beckett learn about God and Jesus. Congratulations to the Peck family!

July PMA Notes

This month has been hectic - just the way I like it! The second week of June, I filled in for another church for Clergy Comments at the radio station. After returning home, I was pondering and preparing for the upcoming worship service at Lake Wilson – I would be presiding over the casual service, and I knew a lot could be said.

As I was developing the service for the lake, I thought about how our service opens at different times of the church year. The first words of these services are "Blessed be the Holy Trinity, (sign of the cross+) One God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy!" Then came the amen, followed by the statement "Look, here is Water!" and the congregation responds with: "Here is our water of Life! Alleluia!"

We just celebrated "Holy Trinity" and for me I am one who makes the sign of the cross each time. Why? Well we know the words of our Savior and we hear a lot about our "Holy Spirit" too.

For me, I make the sign of the cross as a personal choice that gives me an opportunity to outwardly show my thanks for the gifts God has given! He works through us, and Jesus works through us and especially now that Jesus is with our Father! The Holy Spirit is in our heart and for me it is always there. When I think about the meaning and understanding of the Holy Spirit, I think about the wind - we don't see it, but we feel it!

So, that is me – I feel the Trinity in my heart, in my words of proclamation, every time I help others – ALWAYS. I believe the Trinity is ALWAYS with me! So when I hear those words, I do make the sign of the cross to more than remember but also to thank Our God!

God gave us his son! After Jesus was crucified, risen from the dead, and ascended to the father! Just as God promised to send an advocate - He did!

Thank you God! Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of St. John as always - I am humbled!

Thank you,

John Dumler - PMA

ODDS AND ENDS

- The **minutes of the May 2025 Council Meeting are available** to pick up on the table across from the Chapel doors. Minutes are also available on stjohnrussell.com on the "Documents and Resources" page.
- The **third quarter Christ In Our Home** are available to pick up. Large print and regular print will be available while supplies last.
- **St. John Offices will be closed July 4** for Independence Day.
- The **Executive Committee** of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, July 8 at 5:30 pm. The **Church Council** will meet Thursday, July 17 at 10:30 am (tentative).
- The **St. John Lutheran Church Scholarship Committee** will meet at 1:00 pm Monday, July 7, 2025. Award notifications for the Mai Family Scholarship and the Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship 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 27, 2025.
- To be included in the **August Newsletter**, information must be submitted no later than Friday, July 18.
- The **St. John Women's Bible Study** will meet in August (date and time to be determined) to study the June, July, and August lessons from the Gather magazine. Large print materials will be available upon request.
- Juanita Flegler and Ruth Keil have announced the **St. John Ringers Bell Choir** and **Agape Choir** are getting ready to kick off a new season! Starting Wednesday, September 3, the Bell Choir practices at 6:30 pm and the Agape Choir practices at 7:30 pm. For more information about joining in on the fun, please contact the church office.
- 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 July 10 & 24, and 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.

Dear St. John Family – Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your many, many cards, calls, visits and other caring gestures. Thank you for lifting my spirits as you have lifted me up in prayer. Your kindness, thoughtfulness and encouragement are true blessings. It means so much to know you are thinking of me.

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with you all."
2 Thessalonians 3:16.

God's blessings to each of you – Margaret Finkbeiner

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Friends and Family at St. John – Thank you for being a source of support and kindness to our mother and grandmother. You've shown the true meaning of compassion, empathy and love, and we are humbled by your generosity of spirit. Your prayers and thoughtfulness have been a source of strength for Grandma Finkbeiner (as she is known by all her littles)!

Tim Finkbeiner and Family; Amiee (Finkbeiner) Decker and Family; Holly (Finkbeiner) Steele and Family
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425 Youth – 2025 Group Trip

Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Monday, June 2 through Thursday, June 5, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church 425 Youth: **425** N. Main, Russell KS

Proverbs **4:25** – "Look straight ahead and fix your eyes on what lies before you"

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 may be left 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 week of July 21
- 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. A flyer is included as in insert in this newsletter – please share with families that may benefit from the Giveaway or post the flyer at a location of your choice (with permission, of course).
- 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 sorting and 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).

425 Youth provide assistance to community of Grinnell

In Grinnell, Kansas, on May 18, 2025, a tornado warning was issued by the National Weather Service before an ER-3 tornado struck the town. The less than 300 townspeople survived the storm, a testament to the effectiveness of the early warning system and the community's swift response. The warning, which described the tornado as "large and extremely dangerous", allowed residents to seek shelter. Ultimately, over thirty families and ten businesses were significantly impacted by the tornado.

The first task at hand was to start clean up. Thanks to the generosity of the 425 Youth, St. John Lutheran Church members, and other Russell residents, the youth groups delivered 40 rolls of paper towels, 54 rolls of toilet paper, 10 packages of sanitizing wipes, 13 pairs of work gloves, 1 case of water, 4 rolls of foil, and 2 boxes of foil wraps.

Lutheran Disaster Response supports communities across the country recovering from devastating tornadoes. There are several ways to help Lutheran Disaster Response as they work with ELCA synods, social ministry organizations, and community-based groups to support local responses:

- **Pray**: please pray for the people impacted by these destructive tornadoes. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.
- **Give**: gifts to "US tornadoes" will be used entirely (100%) to assist those affected by tornadoes. Make checks payable to St. John Lutheran Church indicating "LDR – US Tornadoes" and place in the offering plate before any service or drop off in the church office.
- **Connect**: visit www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response to discover ways to stay updated on the ELCA's response to local, national, and international disasters.

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
May 31*	35			35
June 8	70	32	45	147
June 15	25	23	37	85
June 22	18	27	37	82
June 29**				

Offering

May 31*	$1,925.00
June 8	4,372.00
June 15	3,562.00
June 22	1,701.00
June 29**	

* 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. RCAOC 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.

** Data not available at time of publication

July 2025 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	**Greeter/Usher**	**Reader**	**Musician**
July 5	Glenn Gideon	***OPEN***	
July 12	Ramona Luebbers	Elaine Voos	
July 19	Galen & Rudene Niedenthal	Galen Niedenthal	
July 26	Brad & Cheryl Prester	Jeremy Ulrich	
August 2	Bob & Elaine Voos	Elaine Voos	

8:15 Sun	**Greeter/Usher**	**Lector**	**Musician**
July 6	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	
July 13	Dick & Georganna McCrary	Georganna McCrary	
July 20	Connie Schinkus	Connie Schinkus	
July 27	Katrin Kolder	Katrin Kolder	
August 3	Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	Cheryl Kraich	

10:30 Sun	**Greeter**	**Usher**	**Lector**
July 6	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N), Don F. Krug (S)	Mike & Diane Waymaster	Carol Fritz
July 13	Ron & Ginger Tittel (N), D & G McCrary (S)	Ron & Ginger Tittel	Ruth Keil
July 20	Gerald & Mary Mai (N), Irene Coffeen (S)	Geral & Mary Mai	Gina Langhofer
July 27	Morris & Barbara Krug (N), Judy Holmes (S)	Morris Krug	Judy Holmes
August 3	Mike & Diane Waymaster (N), Don F. Krug (S)	Mike & Diane Waymaster	***OPEN***

10:30 Sun	**Acolytes**	**Musician**
July 6	NO ACOLYTES (4th of July Weekend)	
July 13	Ellise Jefferson, Evanlee Rainey	
July 20	Tytin Bay	
July 27	Hadlee Brown, Harper Ryan	
August 3	Marshall Olson, Morgan Olson	

Bulletin Delivery

July 3: Frank Peirano
July 11: Bob Albrecht
July 18: John Boxberger
July 25: Olson Family
August 1: Carol Fritz

July Altar Guild

Rhonda Kuhlmann – Chair
Corine Gideon – Saturday
Connie Dumler, Carol Fritz,
Gina Langhofer, Janet Peerman

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

JULY 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