St. John Lutheran Church
August 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.

Teri Talk September 2026

Sunday School is starting back up on September 13, and we are so excited to welcome back our kids! We are so fortunate to have so many parents who are willing to serve as Sunday School teachers and teach our children about God, Jesus, and the Bible. But it is often a daunting task; kids can ask some questions that are real doozies. It is easy for kids to get mixed up when trying to learn about the Bible, and you have to admit, there are a lot of words in the Bible and the language we use in church that are difficult for kids to make sense of.

These are examples of scriptures or Biblical references children have misheard or misunderstood that have been shared by some pastors and Sunday School teachers.[1,2]

Old Testament:
"The first book of the Bible is Guinessis" (*as in the Guinness Book of World Records*)
"Noah built an ark, and the animals came on to it in pears."
"Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark."
"Shadrach, Meshach and a billy goat were thrown into a fire."
"Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol."
"David fought with the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times."
"David had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines."
"The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told *his son* to stand still and he obeyed him." (Joshua 10:13 *And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped*)
"David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. (1 Samuel 16:23 David took the *lyre* and played it with his hand.)

The Ten Commandments:
"Moses went up on *Mount Cyanide* to get the Ten *Amendments*" (or "tent commandments")
"The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple."
"The Fifth Commandment is *humor* thy mother and father."
"The Seventh Commandment is thou shalt not *admit* adultery." "A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony."
"Moses broke all 10 commandments at the same time."
"Bearing false witness against your neighbor means you shouldn't copy other people's homework."
"Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients."

The Lord's Prayer word confusion
"Our Father and '*Uncle Kevin',*" or "Our Father *go-kart* in heaven" (Our Father *who art* in *heaven*)

"*hollow* or *Howard* be you name." (*Hallowed – Holy*)
"Forgive us our trash baskets, as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets." (*trespasses)*
"Forgive us our *dentures*" (forgive us our *debts*)
"Lead us not *into the station*" (*temptation*)

I have to say, our kids may not know some of the meanings of the words spoken during the prayer, but they say it correctly, loudly, and proudly and we should be proud and encouraging of them too!

From the New Testament

"Mary sang the Magna Carta when she heard she was the mother of Jesus." Or the "Magic Cat" (*Mary's song of praise Luke 1:46-55 referred to as the Magnificat*.)
"Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption."
"Jesus drove a car out into the wilderness." ("And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness (Mark 1:12)"
"Jesus healed many leopards."
"The people who followed Jesus were called the 12 decibels."
"The epistles were the wives of the apostles."
"Jesus went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the aluminum." (*millennium*)
"One of the opossums was Matthew, who was a taximan."
"It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance."
"Paul cavorted to Christianity and he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage."

Kids try to make sense of all the "churchy" words they hear and names or titles of people in the Bible.
Pontius Pilate – was a "Pilot" and kids try to figure out what kind of planes they had.
Thinking King Saul (*the ruler of Israel before King David*) and Saul who became Paul the Apostle were the same person. How did he go from being a king to a follower of Jesus and how old was this guy?
Keeping all the "Marys" straight – Jesus' mother, Jesus' friend, Jesus' disciple/follower, the "other" Mary.
The disciples listed with different names in the different gospels.
The church celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas and two months later talking about his death on the cross and the resurrection.

In his blog, David Wallace shared some statements from children learning about the Bible:[3]
Lot's Wife: The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving, and she turned into a telephone pole!"

The Good Samaritan: A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."
Moses and the Red Sea: Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge, and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.
"Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"
The Lord Is My Shepherd: A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task – but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."
All Men/ All Girls: When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "*And all girls*." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing.

My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response, "Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men' and I don't think that's fair to us girls."
Say a Prayer:
A child and his family were having Sunday dinner at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When the child received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Son! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother. "I don't need to," the boy replied. "Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house," the child explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!"

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

References: [1]https://www.buildingchildrensministry.com/single-post/2020/06/18/kids-funny-bible-quotes
[2]https://thepreachersword.com/2016/07/16/bible-bloopers-by-kids/
[3]David Wallace, 4-30-2008, https://www.jesussite.com/kids-say-the-funniest-things/

2026 SEPTEMBER

Pastor Teri's Calendar

CALENDAR YEAR | CALENDAR MONTH | FIRST DAY OF WEEK: SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 No Worship - We Gather As One Saturday Worship 6PM	31 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	01 Office hours 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	02 Appt 10:00 AM, Office hours 11:00 AM- 12:30 PM, Visitation, 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM, Choir 7:30 PM	03 Office Hours, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Bible Study 1:30 PM	04 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	05 Worship Service 6:00 PM, no Comm
06 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 am, Communion, Care Home Worship 2-4 PM	07 Labor Day Holiday - Church Office Closed. Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	08 Office hours 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Exec Commitee 5:30 PM	09 Office hours 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day. 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM, Choir 7:30 PM	10 Women's Group Bible Study 10:00 AM, Bible Study 1:30 PM, RCAOC 5:30 PM @St. John	11 Graveside service for Judy Bunker - TBD. Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	12 Worship Service 6:00 PM Communion
13 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, No Communion, Sunday School Resumes 9:15 AM, Backpack & keys & 2nd grade Bibles	14 Pay roll, Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	15 Office hours 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Pay Day, Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Council 6:30 PM	16 WKS Regional Text Study Hays 9-12 PM, 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM, Choir 7:30 PM	17 Appt 10:00 AM, Office hours 11:00- 12:30 PM, Bible Study 1:30 PM, Speaker Series 7 PM	18 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	19 Parish Hall Reception 2-4 pm, Worship Service 6:00 PM no comm
20 8:15 & 10:30 worship, Communion, Choir	21 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	22 Office hours 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Record Clergy Comments	23 Office hours 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day, 425 Youth Group 6:30 PM	24 Office hours 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Bible Study 1:30 PM	25 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	26 Worship Service 6 PM Communion
27 Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM, no comm, Bells Acolyte Training 9:15 AM	28 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	29 Vacation, Pay Roll	30 Pay Day, Pastor at Fall Theological Conference in KC	01 Pastor at Fall Theological Conference in KC	02 Pastor at Fall Theological Conference in KC	03 Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Availability Update

Starting in September, an added feature to the Pastor Teri's calendar are office hours when she will be available in the mornings at the church.

Pastor's morning office hours: Tuesday – Thursday from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
Please check the calendar for variations in time availability.

I will be taking vacation time and attending two conferences at the end of September through the first two weeks in October. I will be out of the office from Monday, September 28, 2026, through Sunday, October 11, 2026.

Pastor Brenda Roger has agreed to provide pastoral care coverage during the time I am on vacation. John Dumler, PMA will be leading worship on October 3, 4, and 10, following our regular worship schedule. On Sunday, October 11, 2026, the 425 Youth Group will lead worship at 10:30 AM, and we will have only one worship service that Sunday.

Back-to-School Giveaway

The Back-to-School Giveaway for 2026 was a huge success. We received numerous donations of clothing which were given out to 138 children and several adults. In addition to the clothing, we gave out personal hygiene products, School supplies were given to 24 children. The remaining items left on Friday were distributed to: Orphan Train, Arc Thrift Store in Hays, Russell County Health Department, USD 407, Operation Christmas Child, Salina's Men's Rescue Mission, Jana's Closet, Options, (both located in Hays). And Embrace Women's Shelter in Wichita. A big thanks to all the volunteers. It couldn't have been done without all of your help.

Sunday School Resumes

Sunday Sept. 13, 2026, at 9:15am, Sunday School and Confirmation Classes begin. **During the 10:30AM worship we will have the Blessing of Backpacks and Keys and awarding of Bibles for the Second Graders and new confirmand students.**

ATTENTION PARENTS: Acolyte Training During Sunday School on September 27, 2026, at 9:15am

Prayer Shawl Group: Mondays at 10:00 AM
Sewing Group: Tuesdays 1:30 – 4:00 PM
Bible Study with Pastor: Thursdays 1:30 PM in Parish Hall, September
425 Youth Group: Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Executive Committee: Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:30 PM
Church Council: Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 6:30 PM
Women's Bible Study: Thursday, September 10, 2026, 10:00 AM

In the 10:30 Worship Services on 2nd & 4th Sundays will be broadcast on KRSL (990 AM and 98.1 FM).
Sunday Services are streamed live at www.stjohnrussell.com
This outreach is made possible as a ministry of St. John Lutheran Church.

To be **included** in the **October Newsletter**, information must be submitted no later than **Sept 21st**

A Willingness to Serve

***If you have any interest in the following please contact St. John Lutheran Church Council President Lee Keffer at* (785-483-7793). Your willingness is greatly appreciated!**

-Anyone willing or wanting to finish out a one-year term on St. John Lutheran Church Council

As part of our commitment to supporting and strengthening our ministry together, our Council is conducting an annual review of Pastor Sutherlin's job performance. We want to ensure our Pastor has clear feedback to help her grow and lead effectively. Your perspective as a member of this congregation is an important part of this process. A letter and survey will be mailed out in the next few weeks. Please take the time to participate in this survey, your thoughts are very important to us.
Lee Keffer, Council President

September 2026 Worship Assistants

6:00 Sat	Greeter/Usher	Reader	Musician
September 5th	***Brenda Yoder***	***Elaine Voos***	TBA
September 12th	***Brad and Cheryl Prester***	***John Dumler***	TBA
September 19th	***John and Mary Boxberger***	***Jeremy Ulrich***	TBA
September 26th	***Kelvie Reeves and Jaden Nuss***	***Kelvie Reeves***	TBA
October 3rd	**Galen and Rudene Niedenthal**	***Elaine Voos***	TBA

8:15 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector	Musician
September 6th	***Susan Krug***	***Susan Krug***	TBA
September 13th	***Carol Fritz***	***Carol Fritz***	TBA
September 20th	***Dick and Georganna McCrary***	***Georganna McCrary***	TBA
September 27th	***Kurt and Lois Dewald***	***Kurt and Lois Dewald***	TBA
October 4th	***Katrine Kolder***	***Katrine Kolder***	TBA

10:30 Sun	Greeter/Usher	Lector
September 6th	***Mark Johnson***(N) ; ***Deloris Janne***(S)	***Cindy Ross***
September 13th	**Glenna Hackerott**(N); ***Laura Biles***(S)	***Glenna Hackerott***
September 20th	***Steven Masden***(N); **Judy Holmes**(S)	***Ruth Keil***
September 27th	***Morris and Barbara Krug***(N); ***Janella Eck***(S	***Gina Langhofer***
October 4th	***Ron and Ginger Tittel*** (N); ***Irene Coffeen***(S)	***Dolores Earnest***

	Acolytes	Musician
September 6th	**NONE (10:30am)**	TBA
September 13th	***Karrsyn Ross and Wesley Johnson*****(10:30am)**	TBA
September 20th	***Morgan and Marshall Olson* (8:15) *Sasha Robbins and Bryson Feil*(10:30am)**	TBA
September 27th	***Campbell Lofland and Layken Eck*****(10:30am)**	TBA
October 4th	***Hadlee and Rush Brown* (8:30) - *Evanlee and Brenlee Rainey*(10: 30am)**	TBA

Bulletin Delivery

September 4th: ***John Boxberger***
September 11th: ***Darold and Corrine Gideon***
September 18th: ***Dick and Georganna McCrary***
September 25th: ***Laura Biles***
October 2nd: ***Denise Guth***

` Altar Guild:
Chair: ***Carol Fritz***
Saturday: ***Corine (12th) Katrina (26th)***
Annette, Susan, Shayla and Kris

If you cannot assist with worship or acolyte the week you are listed, please try to find someone to take your place that weekend.

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Worship Attendance

Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total
July 25th and 26th	17	18	69	104
August 1st and 2nd	20	21	41	82
August 8th and 9th	26	20	37	83
August 15th and 16th	28	27	35	90
August 21st and 22nd	28	20	33	81
August 29th	in October Newsletter			

Offering

July 25th and 26th	$2203.00
August 1st and 2nd	$4586.00
August 8th and 9th	$2561.00
August 15th and 16th	$1881.00
August 21st and 22nd	$1882.00
August 29th	in October Newsletter

St. John Ringers Bell Choir and Agape Choir Schedules

Practices

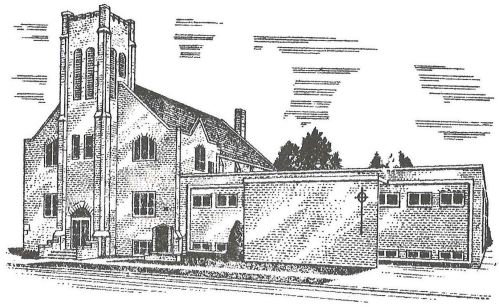
Date	St. John Ringers	Agape Choir
September 2nd	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
September 9th	6:30 pm	7:30 pm
September 16th	6:00 pm	7:30 pm
September 25th	6:30 pm	7:30 pm

Performances

Agape Choir- September 20th……10:30 am ..... Meet in Sanctuary at 9:45 am
St. John Ringers- September 27th….10:30 am ..... Meet in Sanctuary at 10:00 am

Reminder to bring gifts of food for the food pantry and put them in our pantry box located by the office door.

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



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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

****NEW Office Hours****
Monday through Friday
****1:30 pm to 5:00 pm****

St. John Lutheran Church
Clergy and Staff
Pastor Teri Sutherlin (pastor@ruraltel.net)
Kelvie Reeves, Administrative Assistant
Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper
John Kreutzer & Laura Noel, Custodians

Church Council
President: Lee Keffer
Vice President: Afton Brown
Secretary: Mark Johnson
Treasurer:Amber Ruggels

Members:
Hadlee Brown, D.J. Klema
Bill Stoughton, Melinda Olson,
Paul Phillips, Heather Pohlman, and
Pastor Teri Sutherlin

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America