

St. John Lutheran Church

August 2024 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 - August 2024

Gathering In Celebration

We get together as families to celebrate life events. It may have been a while, years even, since we have seen each other. There are hugs, expressions of love, “*so good to see you,*” but finding moments or time for one-on-one or small group conversations, that is nearly impossible. You may have snuck away to a quiet corner to catch up, but it isn't long before you are interrupted by a question, a call to duty, or someone interjecting their information into the conversation and words are left unsaid, sentences, thoughts, stories never finished. In celebration we are physically gathered to share the event, but so often these occasions don't give us relationship building time.

I attended my nephew's graduation ceremony and celebration in Albuquerque, New Mexico this past May. My brother Stephen's house was packed with friends and relatives to celebrate Avery's achievement. I was visiting with another guest about how good it felt to be gathered together in celebration because too often it seems the only time so many come together is for a funeral.

We gather at a funeral in vulnerability and shared grief. We reflect on and realize all the missed opportunities to truly connect with one another, to be a part of each other's life stories, and all that has gone unsaid.

When do we have the opportunity to truly catch up with one another's lives? Do we make staying connected and developing relationships with our extended family a priority? Or do we rely on technology to keep everyone updated, like posting on Facebook? Quick texts? What might be going on in the lives of others we may never know anything about?

We always think we have more time. We tell ourselves we'll get together soon, maybe *sometime* next year.

(Continued on page 2)

Psalm 39:4-7 (Easy to Read Version)

⁴ Lord, tell me, what will happen to me now? Tell me, how long will I live? Let me know how short my life really is. ⁵ You gave me only a short life. Compared to you, my whole life is nothing. The life of every human is like a cloud that quickly disappears. ⁶ Our life is like an image in a mirror. We rush through life collecting things, but we don't know who will get them after we die. ⁷ So, Lord, what hope do I have? You are my hope!

Something to think about.

Blessings,
Pastor Teri

Odds & ENDS

- **Back-to-School Giveaway:** Tuesday, July 30, 9:00 am - set up; Thursday, August 1, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Friday, August 2, noon to 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to help with set up on Tuesday, or help with the Giveaway on Thursday or Friday. If you can spare even an hour, there's a task you can help with!!
- The **Executive Committee** of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, August 13 at 5:30 pm and **Church Council** will meet Thursday, August 22 at 6:30 pm. Council minutes are available for review in the church office Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. Hard copies or electronic copies will be provided upon request.
- The **Worship & Music Committee** will meet Tuesday, August 13 at 6:30 pm.
- To be included in the **September Newsletter**, information must be submitted no later than Tuesday, August 20.
- The **Altar Guild** will meet Wednesday, August 28 at 5:30 pm.
- The St. John Choirs will begin the 2024-2025 season on Wednesday, August 28. The **St. John Ringers Bell Choir** will meet at 6:30 pm and the **Agape Choir** will meet at 7:30 pm. All are welcome! If you have questions, please call Juanita Flegler, St. John Ringers Director at 785-483-0278 or Ruth Keil, Agape Choir Director at 785-483-6115.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE					OFFERING	
Date	Sat	Early	Late	Total		
July 7	27	22	50	99	July 7	4,900.00
July 14	29	24	33	86	July 14	3,671.00
July 21	24	23	43	90	July 21	2,451.00
July 28 *					July 28 *	
INCOME & EXPENSES					* Data not available at time of publication	
01/01/24 THROUGH 06/30/24						
Income	\$128,977.48					
Expense	<u>134,882.45</u>					
Total	- 5,904.97					

Pastor Teri's Calendar - August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM Scholarship Awards, VBS 5:15-7:45 PM Trinity	29 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal, VBS 5:15-7:45 PM Trinity	30 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, VBS 5:15-7:45 PM Trinity	31 VBS 5:15-7:45 PM Trinity	01 B2S Give Away, Vacation Bible School 5:15-7:45 pm	02 B2S Give Away, Pastor sermon day, Wedding Rehearsal 5/6PM	03 Camden Rainey & Alexia Charbonneau Wedding 4 PM. Worship Service 6:00 PM
04 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM Communion	05 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	06 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	07 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day, Finance Committee 6:00 PM	08 Bible Study 1:30 PM Summer Speaker Series 7:00 PM	09 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day. Lainey Lea Bilbrey PVT Baptism 6:00 PM	10 Worship Service 6:00 PM Communion,
11 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM	12 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	13 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Red Cross Blood Dr 1-6 PM, Exec Comm 5:30 PM, Worship & Music Comm 6:30 PM	14 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day.	15 Bible Study 1:30 PM	16 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	17 Worship Service 6:00 PM
18 Worship Service 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM, Communion	19 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal	20 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	21 Pastoral Care/ Home Visitation Day.	22 Bible Study 1:30 PM, Church Council 6:30 PM	23 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day. Appt 1:00 PM, Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 PM	24 Madison Whitfield Wedding 3 PM Worship Service 6:00 PM - Communion
25 Worship Service 8:15 & 10:30 AM ** Pastor's 3rd Anniversary at St.	26 Pastor's Day Off- day of rest & renewal.	27 Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM, Record Clergy Com- ments,	28 Altar Guild Comm 5:30 PM, 425 Youth 6:30 PM, Agape Choir 7:30 PM	29 Bible Study 1:30 PM,	30 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day.	31 Worship Service 6:00 PM

PMA Notes

Our Most Gracious Lord! I don't know how many times I have started prayers or thoughts like this. I don't think I really thought much on this phrase until this morning as I was looking around at my desk and also had asked Sheryl if I had written a newsletter article or PMA report. Of course she said no.

I just thought Our most Gracious Lord - Now in the bible it doesn't occur in this form, but much is said about God being Gracious - Isaiah 30:18 says, "Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!"

In this verse what does God say? Simple he longs to be gracious to and for us! This month I was thinking about my children and what they are doing and how attentive they are toward Deb in her condition - Do they text her yes do they talk on the phone to her again yes. But God does more than that. He shows us compassion in the midst of us being self-centered, uncaring towards others and many other negative reactions and responses to each other - How many times do we think about "Us?" How many times do we forget about "God" or ignore "Our God"?

When I begin the prayer this way I let God know that in the midst of the turmoil of my life I do remember him and compassion and gracious nature of "God" I don't wrestle with who God is for me when I say this I remember that Our God - did one thing that changed everything for all of us! God gave us as John 3:16 says his only begotten son. God sees where we are headed and how easily we are distracted by life by what our desires are and in the MIDST! He still as the verse says he "LONGS" to be gracious! Period!

I was thinking about this as I looked at my office and on my bulletin board is the bible verse of Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah gives us insight as to how we should act! Or John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. For me It always goes back to the words I use Our most Gracious Lord! We see day to day in all that he gives us that His is steadfast in his love for all of us!

Many of you know that I have entered my second child hood - I have tattoos now Not only because I had always wanted a tattoo - but to me my choice was everything - On my one arm are God's Hands and the 10 commandments and on the other there is a Cross - I will have added something by the time this reaches the newsletter that for me is about God's graciousness and compassion but even more it is the love he has for us. Ask me or look at them - It is His Compassion and Graciousness for me in action. So, with that I would like to Pray a prayer that has always been special to me and it is a version of it that still reminds me of Gods love for us and our need for him as well:

The Other Serenity Prayer: God grant me the serenity to stop beating myself up for not doing things perfectly. The courage to forgive myself because I'm working on doing better and the wisdom to know that you already love me! "JUST THE WAY I AM" Amen!

God being Gracious and compassionate and is still Loving us - When? All the Time! It is also why I love this too, "God is Great all the time and All the Time God is Great!"

Have a Blessed Day! - PMA John Dumler



American Red Cross Blood Drive



Tuesday, August 13, 2024

1:00 to 6:00 pm

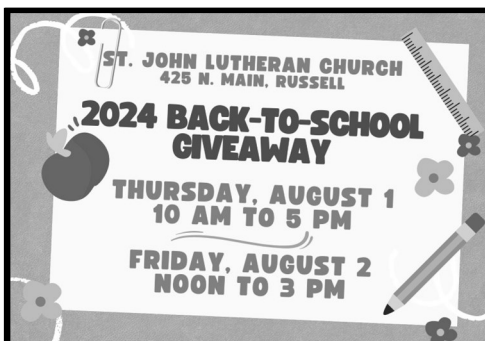
St. John Lutheran Church

For more information, Call 1-800-RED-CROSS

August 2024 Worship Assistants

6:00 PM SAT	GREETER/USHER: 3 Brad & Cheryl Prester 10 Bob & Elaine Voos 17 Brenda Yoder 24 John & Mary Boxberger 31 Allen & Betty Funk -- Sept 7 Darold & Corine Gideon	READER: 3 Susy Krug 10 Elaine Voos 17 Galen Niedenthal 24 Jeremy Ulrich 31 Elaine Voos -- Sept 7 Jeannine Byers-Long	BULLETIN DELIVERY 2 Frank Pierano 9 Bob Albrecht 16 John Boxberger 23 Eck Family 30 Darold & Corine Gideon -- Sept 6 Teresa Hilbrink
8:15 am SUN	8:15 am GREETER/USHER: 4 Dick & Georganna McCrary 11 Connie Schinkus 18 Kurt & Lois DeWald 25 Katrin Kolder -- Sept 1 Gordon & Cheryl Kraich	8:15 am LECTOR: 4 Georganna McCrary 11 Connie Schinkus 18 Kurt & Lois DeWald 25 Katrin Kolder -- Sept 1 Cheryl Kraich	ALTAR GUILD Tammy Nuss - Chair Melinda Olson - Saturday Danielle Ewers, Deb Karst, Rhonda Kuhlmann, Tiffinie Mai
10:30 am SUN	10:30 am GREETERS: 4 Brad & Sherri Stoppel (N) Eck Family (S) 11 Ron & Ginger Tittel (N) Carol Fritz (S) 18 Mike & Diane Waymaster (N) Don F. Krug (S) 25 Morris & Barbara Krug (N) Deloris Janne (S) -- Sept 1 Susy Krug (N) Steve & Connie Krug (S) 10:30 am USHER: 4 Brad & Sherri Stoppel 11 Ron & Ginger Tittel 18 Mike & Diane Waymaster 25 Morris Krug -- Sept 1 Susy Krug	10:30 am ACOLYTES: 4 Marshall & Morgan Olson 11 Ellise & Jasmine Jefferson 18 Alex Krug, Karrsyn Ross 25 Rogan Dumler, Campbell Lofland -- Sept 1 NO ACOLYTES 10:30 am LECTOR: 4 Eck Family 11 Carol Fritz 18 Judy Holmes 25 Ruth Keil -- Sept 1 Susy Krug	 <p>Second Baptist Church Feeding the Community 4:00 - 7:00 pm August 8 and 22</p> 

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
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- All Russell County students (pre-K through high school) are welcome
- Students must be present to receive items and MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian on THURSDAY
- Ten item limit on Thursday, no limitations on Friday
- All students will receive new socks and undergarments
- Basic school supplies (7th through 12th grades) and personal care items (all ages) - while supplies last





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

***St. John Lutheran Church***  
Pastor Teri Sutherland  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday through Friday  
8:30 am to 1:30 pm  
785-483-5358  
stjohn@rruratel.net  
stjohnrussell.com

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| <p><b>St. John Lutheran Church</b><br/>Clergy and Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pastor Teri Sutherland (pastor@rruratel.net)</li><li>• John Dumlér, PMA (pma@rruratel.net)</li><li>• Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper</li><li>• Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant</li><li>• Debora Kreutzer, Custodian</li><li>• John Kreutzer, Custodian</li></ul> <p>Church Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• President, Lee Keffler</li><li>• Vice President, Gaylon Walter</li><li>• Secretary, Carol Fritz</li><li>• Treasurer, Kylie Stoppel</li><li>• Afton Brown</li><li>• Judy Holmes</li><li>• D.J. Klemma</li><li>• Kristine Mader</li><li>• Melinda Olson</li><li>• Heather Pohlman</li><li>• Kevie Reeves</li><li>• Pastor Teri Sutherland</li></ul> |  <p><b>Evangelical<br/>Lutheran Church<br/>in America</b></p> |
| <p><b>The 10:30 Worship Services<br/>on August 11 and 25 will be<br/>broadcast on KRSL (990 AM and 98.1 FM)<br/>and Nex-Tech Cable Channel 130.<br/>Sunday Services are streamed live at<br/>www.stjohnrussell.com.<br/>Outreach is made possible<br/>as a ministry of St. John Lutheran Church.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                  |