

St. John Lutheran Church

425 N. Main, Russell KS 67665 ♦ 785-483-5358
Website: stjohnrussell.com ♦ Email: stjohn@ruraltel.net

Pastor: Teri Sutherlin ♦ PMA: John Dumler



June 2024

Teri Talk - June 2024

In May one of the second readings, or epistle lesson was from **1 John 5:9-12**. Not the gospel of John, but one of three letters in the New Testament. These short Johannine letters are followed by Jude and the New Testament then concludes with Revelation.

1 John 5:9-13 (New Living Translation)

⁹ Since we believe human testimony, surely we can believe the greater testimony that comes from God. And God has testified about his Son. ¹⁰ All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son. ¹¹ And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. ¹³ I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.

The original author of the story that follows is unknown, but it is one that has been used in numerous sermon illustrations by many ministers, online evangelists, and religious bloggers. It has been given different titles: The Painting, "The Son" and "Whoever Takes the Son Gets it All" are the most common. This is my adaptation.

Once there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet, and many others adorned the walls of the family estate. Years pass and the man now widowed and elderly, took pride in his son's growth as an experienced art collector.

There was a war, as there always seems to be, and the son now an enlisted man, was sent with his unit as part of a peace keeping mission. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was missing in action. The father anxiously awaited more news, fearing he would never see his son again. Within days, his fears were confirmed. The young man had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic.

(Continued on page 2)

St. John Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

*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***

Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holidays with anguish and sadness. The joy of the season, a season that he and his son always shared together, was not something he could experience this year. But, on Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls only reminded him that his son was not coming home.

As he opened the door, he was greeted by a soldier with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the man by saying, "*I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments?*" As the two began to talk, the soldier recounted how his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stilled his caring heart. The soldier spoke of how the man's son had told everyone of his and his father's shared love of fine art. Referring to the large package he arrived with he said, "*I'm an artist and I have something to show you.*" As the old man unwrapped the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of the son. "*I want to give you this,*" said the soldier. Though the world would never consider it a work of genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the soldier, promising to hang the picture over the fireplace. A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task.

True to his word, the painting of his son went above the fireplace, replacing his more valuable paintings. And then the man sat in his chair and spent Christmas gazing at the gift he had been given. During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched.

Reflecting on the stories of his son's heroism and self-sacrifice, the father's grief began to ease. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in the pieces for which museums around the world clamored. He told his neighbors and friends it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. According to the will of the old man, in honor of his only son, all of his precious art works would be auctioned off on Christmas day, the day he had received his greatest gift. The art world waited in excited anticipation!

The day soon arrived and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings. Dreams would be fulfilled this day; greatness would be achieved by the one who could snag the lion's share of "*the greatest private collection.*" The auction began with a painting that was not on any collector or museum's wish list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent.

(Continued on page 4)

Pastor Teri's Calendar - June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Holy Trinity Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM	27 St. John Offices closed in observance of Memorial Day; Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	28 Office Hours 9-12; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	29 Synod First Call Zoom Meeting 10:00-11:30 AM; Appt 1:00 PM; Appt 2:30 PM	30 Office Hours 9-12; Bible Study 1:30 PM	31 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	01 Rudene & Galen Niedenthal's 50th Anniversary Reception 2-4 PM; Worship 6:00 PM
02 Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM	03 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	04 Office Hours 9-12; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	05 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day; Leave for Synod Assembly 1:00 PM	06 Synod Assembly (Olathe, KS)	07 Synod Assembly (Olathe, KS)	08 Curtis Sander/Jamie Moore Wedding 1:30 PM; Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
09 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Care Center Worship 2:00-4:00 PM	10 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal; Trinity Worship Nights Concert 7:00 PM	11 Pastor not in office during day; Executive Committee 5:30 PM	12 Pastor on Vacation	13 Pastor on Vacation	14 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	15 Worship 6:00 PM
16 Worship with Communion 8:15 & 10:30 AM; Father's Day	17 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	18 Office Hours 9-12; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	19 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day	20 Bible Study 1:30 PM; Whitfield/King Wedding Consult 4:00 PM; Church Council 6:30 PM	21 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	22 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM
23 Worship 8:15 & 10:30 AM	24 Pastor's Day Off - day of rest & renewal	25 Office Hours 9-12; Sewing Group 1:30-4:00 PM	26 Pastoral Care/Home Visitation Day	27 Office Hours 9-12; Bible Study 1:30 PM	28 Pastor's Sermon Writing Day	29 Karleen & Richard Wolf's 50th Anniversary Reception 1:00-3:00 PM; We Gather As One Worship 6:00 PM
30 RCOAC Praise in the Park Worship in Bickerdyke Park, 10:00 AM						

"Who will open the bidding with \$100?" he asked. Minutes passed. No one spoke. From the back of the room someone yelled, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son, forget it! Let's see the good stuff." More voices echoed in agreement. "No, this one must sell first," replied the auctioneer. "Now, who will take the son?" Finally, a friend of the old man spoke, "Will you take ten dollars for the painting? That's all I have. I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it."

"I have ten dollars. Will anyone go higher?" called the auctioneer. After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice. Gone." The gavel fell, cheers filled the room, and someone exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it and bid on the real treasures!"

The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quieted the room. Someone spoke up and asked, *"What do you mean it's over? We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son, we came for the priceless treasures, what about all these other paintings? There are millions of dollars of art here! I demand that you explain what's going on here!"* The auctioneer replied, *"It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son...gets it all"* ***¹¹And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life.***

Just as those art collectors discovered, the message is still the same: the love of a Father, a Father whose greatest joy came from the Son, who went away and gave His life rescuing others. And because of the Father's love, whoever takes the Son, gets it all.

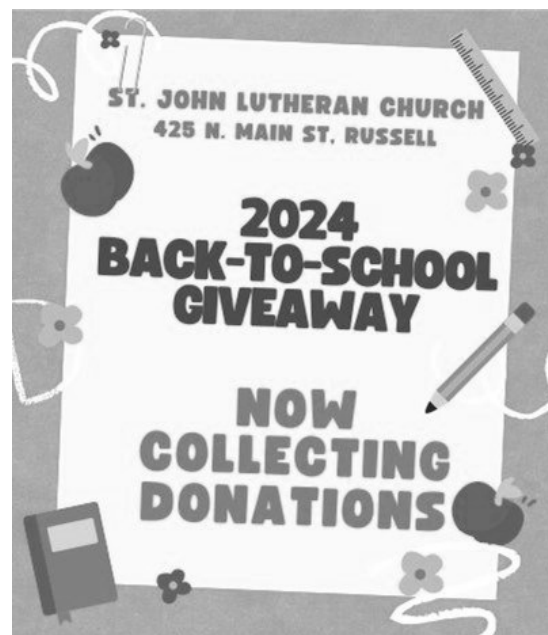
Blessings,
Pastor Teri

<https://tonycooke.org/stories-and-illustrations/son-gets-it-all/>
<https://darrellcreswell.wordpress.com/2010/04/27/the-painting-the-son/>



The 2024 Back-to-School Giveaway will be held in early August. The giveaway is 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 attending 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 (Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm).

2024 Back-to-School Giveaway
Thursday and Friday, August 1 and 2

June 2024 Worship Assistants

<p>6:00 PM SAT</p> <p>GREETER/USHER: 1 Glenn Gideon 8 Darold & Corine Gideon 15 Ramona Luebbers 22 Bob & Elaine Voos 29 Sheryl Krug -- July 6 _____</p> <p>READER: 1 Sheryl Krug 8 Jeremy Ulrich 15 Jeannine Byers-Long 22 Elaine Voos 29 Sheryl Krug -- July 6 _____</p>	<p>8:15 AM SUN</p> <p>GREETER/USHER: 2 Connie Schinkus 9 Sheryl Krug 16 Kurt & Lois DeWald 23 Katrin Kolder 30 NO SERVICE -- July 7 _____</p> <p>LECTOR: 2 Connie Schinkus 9 Sheryl Krug 16 Lois DeWald 23 Katrin Kolder 30 NO SERVICE -- July 7 _____</p>
<p>ALTAR GUILD</p> <p>Carol Fritz - Chair Corine Gideon - Saturday Teresa Hilbrink, Janet Peerman, Annette Stierlen, Sherri Stoppel</p>	<p>BULLETIN DELIVERY</p> <p>7..... Brad & Sherri Stoppel 14..... Darold & Corine Gideon 21..... Frank Peirano 28..... John Boxberger -- July 2 _____</p>

<p>10:30 AM SUN</p> <p>GREETERS: 2 Morris & Barbara Krug (N) Gina Langhofer (S) 9 Gerald & Mary Mai (N) Bonnie Buehler (S) 16 Ron & Ginger Tittel (N) Irene Coffeen (S) 23 Mike & Diane Waymaster (N) Don F. Krug (S) 30 NO SERVICE -- July 7 _____ (N) _____ (S)</p> <p>USHER: 2 Morris Krug 9 Gerald & Mary Mai 16 Ron & Ginger Tittel 23 Mike & Diane Waymaster 30 NO SERVICE -- July 7 _____</p> <p>ACOLYTES: 2 Tytin Bay; Layken Eck 9 Hadlee Brown; Harper Ryan 16 Campbell Lofland; Karrsyn Ross 23 Maggie & Marshall Olson 30 NO SERVICE -- July 7 Alex Krug; Rogan Dumler</p> <p>LECTOR: 2 Gina Langhofer 9 Cindy Ross 16 Judy Holmes 23 Sheryl Krug 30 NO SERVICE -- July 7 _____</p>

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS



Feeding the Community - Second Baptist Church of Russell



4:00 - 7:00 pm

June 6 and 20 ~ July 11 and 25
 August 8 and 22

PMA Notes

I have been fortunate in many ways along my life's journey. The question I've asked myself recently, after all the different physical challenges that I've encountered, is "Why me, Lord?"

To me there are many of my Christian brothers and sisters that are better people than I am. They should be doing this, not me! I have no real specific theological seminary training. As I have said before many of my PMA brethren have much more and better theological training and whom I consider in a much better place and better equipped to proclaim God's good news!

I know it is through my vision that these thoughts occurs. And I believe that Satan is helping these thoughts along too. Then my little voice came booming through: "Understand this. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ!: And that is what I do believe.

Recently, I was to prepare a sermon of the Gospel text of John 17:6-19. This was primarily Jesus praying for the safety of his followers. You may be wondering what this has to do with "Why me, Lord?"

When Jesus is praying, it is for all of us - not just the people that can speak eloquently, not just those who can sing or play an instrument beautifully, and the list can go on.

At times, we need a wake-up call reminding us that we are all important in everything we do to proclaim God's gift to us. We are all in this and we are all believers. This does not change and when Jesus bows down on his knee the night before he is arrested and prayers a prayer like this - We need nothing else! We know we are his forever! We will be with him one day! This is our Savior! His love is forever! We are his! In this prayer God knows it too.

So, my little voice stopped me and said this "We are saved, we are forgiven, we are loved and this is with no strings!" My little voice said one more thing to me "Remember we are in the world to proclaim the good news, there is never a need to question why."

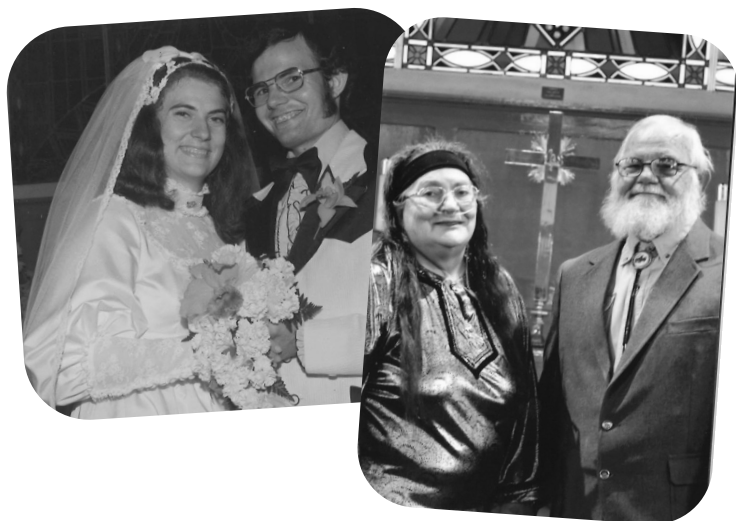
We are in God's hands now and forever. You have no need to question, but to thank him and proclaim the Good News to everyone! Amen!

John Dumler, PMA

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE					OFFERING	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Total</u>		
Apr 28	19	31	59	109	Apr 28	\$3,095.00
May 5	18	31	50	99	May 5	4,298.00
May 12	19	28	47	94	May 12	3,065.00
May 19	*	*	72	72	May 19	1839.00
May 26	18	29	45	92	May 26	2338.00
<i>INCOME & EXPENSES</i>					<p>* Gather As One at 10:30 am service on May 19, 2024 (no services 6:00 pm May 18, 2024 or 8:15 am May 19, 2024)</p>	
<i>01/01/24 THROUGH 04/30/24</i>						
Income	\$77,176.00					
Expense	<u>97,506.63</u>					
Total	- 20,330.63					

Richard and Karleen Wolf
are celebrating their
50th Anniversary
with a Come and Go Reception

Saturday, June 29, 2024
from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
St. John Lutheran Church
Parish Hall



Congratulations to
Galen and Rudene Niedenthal
as they celebrate their
50th Wedding Anniversary
with a come and go reception
Sunday, June 1, 2024
2:00 to 4:00 pm
St. John Parish Hall

Save the Date!!

2024 Vacation Bible School **Babylon - Daniel's Courage in Captivity**

In partnership with Trinity United Methodist Church

July 28 through August 1, 2024

Trinity United Methodist Church
221 N. Maple, Russell





We Gather As One

Saturday, June 29, 2024 ~ 6:00 pm

This service will be moved to the sanctuary to allow live streaming.

There will be NO services at St. John on Sun, June 30

St. John members are encouraged to participate in the

Russell County Association of Churches "Community Praise in the Park"

Bickerdyke Park ~ Sunday, June 30, 2024 ~ 10:00 am



Odds & ENDS

- **Pastor Teri will be attending the Central States Synod Assembly** in Olathe, KS the afternoon of Wednesday, June 5 through Friday, June 7.
- **NO Bible Study with Pastor on June 6 or June 13.** Bible Study with Pastor will resume Thursday, June 20.
- The Community Worship Nights **Summer Concert Series hosted by Trinity UMC continues with a concert on Monday, June 10** featuring Natalie Layne, MacKenzie Phillips, and Luke Bower. The concert starts at 7:00 pm and admission is \$10.00 per person. For more information, visit russelltrinityumc.org.
- The **Executive Committee** of the Church Council will meet Tuesday, June 11 at 5:30 pm and **Church Council** will meet Thursday, June 20 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.
- **Pastor Teri will be on vacation June 12 and 13**
- **St. John Ladies Bible Study** will be held Thursday, June 13 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. All women are invited to attend. Large print materials available upon request.
- To be included in the **July Newsletter**, information must be submitted no later than Thursday, June 20.
- The **Wilson Lake Ministry Interdenominational Worship Services are held at 9:30 am each Sunday through Labor Day weekend** at the Tatanka Lodge Group Shelter. There is no entrance fee to attend worship. If you plan to stay after the service, please pay the entrance fee at the park office.
- **Wiggle Your Wings Preschool has several openings for the 2024-2025 school year.** Wiggle Your Wings Preschool, located in the lower level of St. John Lutheran Church, is a faith-based preschool for children 3 to 5 years of age. For more information, or to register, please contact Janella Eck at 785-483-8722.
- Application links for the **Mai Family Scholarship and the Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship** are posted on the St. John website (stjohrussell.com). Applications must be submitted no later than Monday, July 1, 2024.

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

<p>St. John Lutheran Church Clergy and Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastor Teri Sutherland (pastor@rruratel.net)• John Dumler, PMA (pma@rruratel.net)• Shayla Peck, Bookkeeper• Sheryl Krug, Administrative Assistant• Debora Kreutzer, Custodian• John Kreutzer, Custodian <p>Church Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President, Lee Keffler• Vice President, Gaylon Walter• Secretary, Carol Fritz• Treasurer, Kylie Stoppel• Afton Brown• Judy Holmes• D.J. Klemma• Kristine Mader• Melinda Olson• Heather Pohlman• Kevie Reeves• Pastor Teri Sutherland	 <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</p> <p>The 10:30 Worship Services on May 12 and 26 will be broadcast on KRSL (990 AM and 98.1 FM) and Nex-Tech Cable Channel 130. Sunday Services are streamed live at www.stjohnrussell.com. Outreach is made possible as a ministry of St. John Lutheran Church.</p>
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