



Volume 25 Issue 5  
May 2025

# PRAIRIE FAITH COMPANION

Come celebrate Pastor Jon and Laura as they embark on their well-deserved retirement journey! Pastor Jon will deliver his final sermon on Sunday, June 15 followed by a special time of lunch and fellowship. Details about the service and celebration are provided below. Please join us as we wish them well. Hope to see you there!

## what's inside?

- ◇ Pastor Jon Retirement
- ◇ PFSM Feb. Minutes
- ◇ May Services & Volunteers
- ◇ Pastor's Message
- ◇ Youth Activity Page
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- ◇ Parish Nurse Insert
- ◇ Calendar

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Check Out the  
PFSM Website at  
[www.prairiefaith.com](http://www.prairiefaith.com)



Prairie Faith Shared Ministry Congregations  
Invite You

## RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



*Pastor Jon Anderson*

SUN., JUNE 15, 2025  
10:30 A.M.

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE  
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
338 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, WaKeeney, KS

Catered Lunch at 11:45 a.m.

Commercial Building  
Trego County Fair Grounds, WaKeeney, KS

Please join us for lunch, even if you are unable to attend worship.

To help us plan for lunch, we kindly request your R.S.V.P. by Wed., June 4,  
(though not required) by leaving a message at 785-743-2005,  
e-mail [blc1@ruraltel.net](mailto:blc1@ruraltel.net) or call/text 785-656-2329.

We hope to see you there!

Heavenly Father, we gather together to express our gratitude for the abundant blessings Pastor Jon and Laura have bestowed upon us. As we bid them farewell, we ask for Your blessings to overflow in their life and ministry.

Pour out Your favor upon them, dear Lord, opening new doors of opportunity and granting them success in all their endeavors. May their impact continue to resonate with those they touch, and may Your love shine through their every action.

We thank You for their faithful service to our congregations and communities and pray that You will guide them in their future steps. Amen.

*The mission of Prairie Faith Shared Ministry is to gather in God's name, share ideas & concerns, and actively shape the future of spiritual growth for our member congregations. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and through ordained and lay leadership, we offer this ministry to serve Christ in our communities.*



Prairie Faith Shared Ministry  
 Pastor Jon Anderson  
 Church Office Location:  
 338 N 7th Street  
 WaKeeney, KS 67672  
 Phone—(785) 743-2005  
 Email - blc1@ruraltel.net  
 www.prairiefaith.com

## PFSM Council Members and Phone Numbers

Katie Dreiling, St. John,.....  
 Robert Schonhaler, St. John, President.....  
 Richard Jensen, Bethlehem, Treasurer.....  
 Margaret Schmitt, Bethlehem.....  
 Kathleen Fabrizio, Emanuel, Secretary.....

## PFSM Council February Meeting

The February 25, 2025 meeting of Prairie Faith Shared Ministry Council was held at Bethlehem Church library in WaKeeney.

The following churches and representatives were in attendance: Bethlehem – Margaret Schmitt; St. John – Bob Schonhaler; Emanuel –Kathleen Fabrizio. Also in attendance was Pastor Jon Anderson.

Called to order by President Bob.  
 Blessings were given by Pastor Jon.

An agenda, minutes and financial packet was given to all attendees.  
 Minutes from the December 10th meeting were accepted as presented.  
 The council reviewed the financial packet..

Pastor Jon shared his schedule for upcoming services. Lent is coming up. All Lenten services will be at 7:30 p.m. Working to get volunteers for the readings. Jon has put in for his social security and the last two weeks of June will be spent packing up and moving out. July 1<sup>st</sup> is the official retirement date. Nancy submitted a written report for the Parish Nurse to the council. Volunteers are needed to give people a ride to appointments when the bus is busy. Prayer Shawls are available to put in churches, if interested contact Nurse Nancy.

Communications: None  
 Old Business: None

New Business: Discussion was held on a Reception/Party for Pastor Jon's retirement. We would like to open to the entire community. Pastor Jon was asked about a date that would work and he suggested June 15<sup>th</sup>. The plans are for a combined service and meal and reception at the Commercial Building at the Fairgrounds. Kathleen will secure the date for the building. PFSM will do the meat and everyone is encouraged to bring sides.

Short discussion was held on the call process.

Next meeting will be April 8th at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's and Richard will have devotions.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.  
 Kathleen Fabrizio, Secretary

### Pastor Jon & Bethlehem Lutheran Church:

Address: 338 N. 7th St.  
 WaKeeney, KS 67672

Office Phone: (785) 743-2005

Cell Phone:

Pastor E-mail: pjzionem@yahoo.com  
 Office E-mail: blc1@ruraltel.net

### St. John Church:

Address: 394 St. John-St. Andrew Road  
 Ellis, KS 67637

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171  
 Ellis, KS 67637

SJ Office Phone: (785) 726-3207

PF Office Phone: (785) 743-2005

### Emanuel Lutheran Church:

Address: 27037 Hwy 147  
 Ogallah, KS 67656  
 (7 Miles South of Ogallah I-70 Exit 135)

Mailing Address: c/o Kathleen Fabrizio  
 32086 S Rd.  
 Ogallah, KS 67656

PF Office Phone: (785)-743-2005

### Parish Nurse—Nancy Bollig, BSN, RN

Address: 338 N 7th Street  
 WaKeeney, KS 67672

Office Phone: (785)743-2005

Cell Phone:

E-mail: parishnurse@ruraltel.net



**Pastor Jon is available by appointment.**

**To get in touch with Pastor Jon, please call his cell phone or the church office.**

### **A Prayer as we seek a new Pastor for the Congregations of Prairie Faith Shared Ministry**

*God of all ages, our times are in your hands. Keep us engaged & hopeful ~  
 ever mindful of our mission: to become like Christ by serving others, to  
 proclaim God's love, & to grow in the spirit.*

*Now is the acceptable time for us to get engaged, to show up, to step up,  
 & to forge strong bonds with you & with each other. Stand beside us,  
 Lord, cheer us on, rededicate us to building up the Kingdom of God.*

**Amen**



## Bethlehem

Sunday Worship—9:00 a.m.  
Mid-Week School, Wed @ 6:00 p.m.  
(during public school year)  
Office: 743-2005  
(Please leave a message)

### Volunteers for May

**May 4—** Pastor Jon Anderson  
Organist/Pianist—Chris Trostad  
Lector—Janette Burbach  
Head Usher—Jeremiah Burbach  
Acolyte—Raylan Conness

**May 11—** Pastor Jon Anderson  
**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**  
Organist/Pianist—Laura Anderson  
Lector—Mary Cunningham  
Head Usher—Richard Jensen  
Acolyte—Elias Hille

**May 18—** Pastor Shelly Klingensmith  
Organist/Pianist—Mary Cunningham  
Lector—Linda Glaze  
Head Usher—Kelsey Kinderknecht  
Acolyte—Bentley Conness

**May 25—** Pastor Jon Anderson  
Organist/Pianist—Cindy Level  
Lector—Paul Schieferecke  
Head Usher—Bridget Cook  
Acolyte—Gabe Schneider



## Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship/Communion — 9:00 a.m.  
(Every 1st & 3rd Sundays)

May 4—Pastor Emer. Randy Gibbs

May 18—Pastor Jon Anderson

## St. John

### Volunteers for May

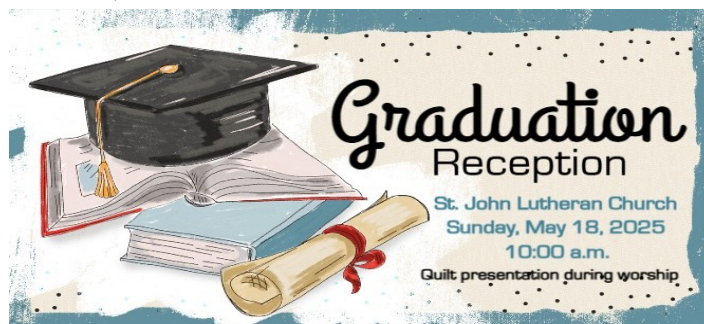
Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.  
Communion Every 1st & 3rd Sundays

**May 4—** Pastor Jon Anderson  
**BIBLE STUDY ~12:00 p.m.**  
Greeter—Darrell Armbruster  
Lector—Sarah Windholz  
Communion—Bob & Sue Schonhaler  
Organist—Katie Dreiling  
Sound—Lyle Johnston

**May 11—** Pastor Jon Anderson  
**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 a.m.** (Final for the School Year)  
**BIBLE STUDY ~ 12:00 p.m. (tentative)**  
Greeter—Bee McElroy  
Lector—Dennis Keller  
Organist—Katie Dreiling  
Sound—Lyle Johnston

**May 18—** Pastor Jon Anderson  
**GRADUATION RECEPTION ~10:00 a.m.**  
**Quilt Presentation during worship**  
Greeter—Bob Schonhaler  
Lector—Sue Schonhaler  
Communion—Brenda Lucas & Rodger Fischer  
Organist—Katie Dreiling  
Sound—Lyle Johnston

**May 25—** Pastor Jon Anderson  
**BIBLE STUDY ~12:00 p.m.**  
Greeter—Bill Dietz  
Lector—Vonda Ackerman  
Organist—Katie Dreiling  
Sound—Lyle Johnston







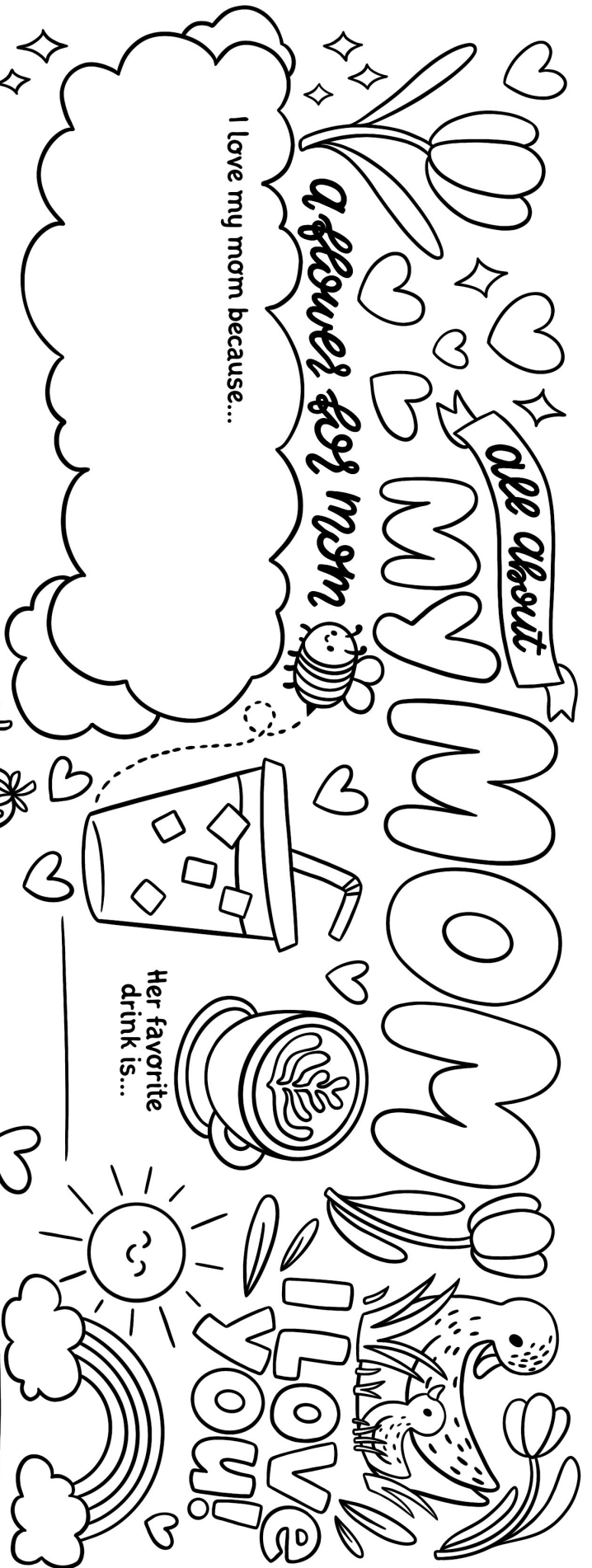
# FROM THE PASTOR

*Psalm 103, 1-2-"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits ."*

The month of May has arrived, and that means that the end of the school year is quickly approaching-summer is nearly here. This is also the month for graduations-times when we remember the past and celebrate the future. May is also the month of Mother's Day, when we remember all that our mothers have done for us, and Memorial Day, when we remember the sacrifice of those who lost their lives on the field of battle. Some of us will be traveling-some will be harvesting-some attending camps or other special events-some taking on summer jobs-some, all of the above. As we take time for summer activities, and as we take time to remember special people in our lives, let us not forget the One who gives us life-God. If you are traveling this summer, consider taking time to visit a church in your travels, even if it's not a Lutheran church. If you're home, I know that summers can get very busy, but don't forget the One who makes everything possible. Services from Bethlehem and St. John will be streamed throughout the summer-if you can't make it to church, please join us online at your convenience. Also please remember that if you are traveling, the needs of your congregation continue. However you spend your summer, take time to remember what the Lord has done and continues to do for you. May you have a blessed summer, and may God's peace be with you.

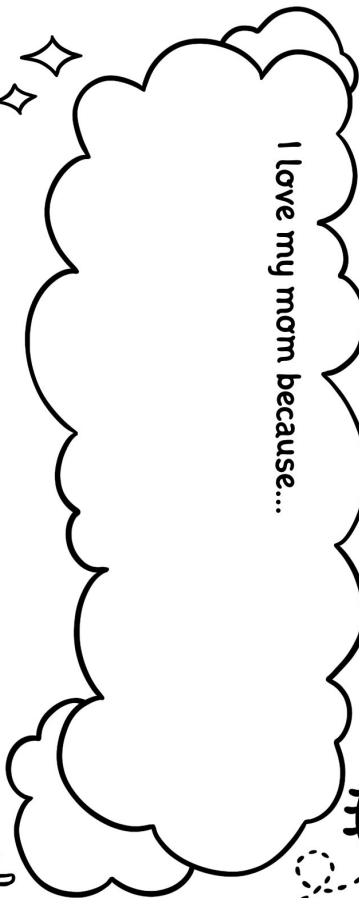
*Pastor Jon*





*a flower for mom*

I love my mom because...



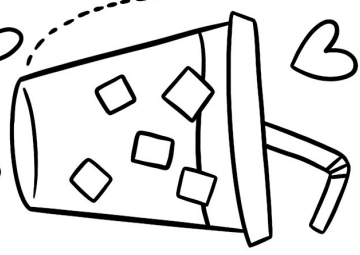
My favorite thing to do with my mom is...



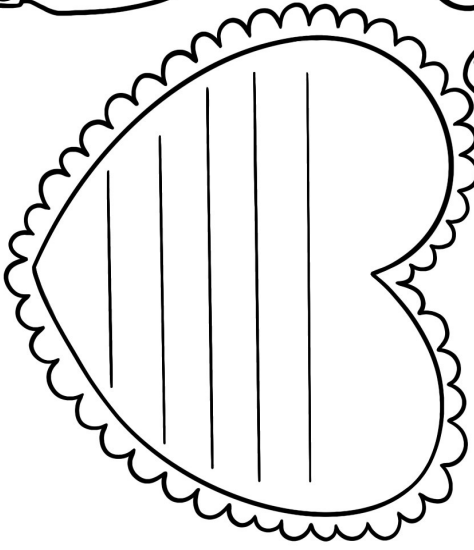
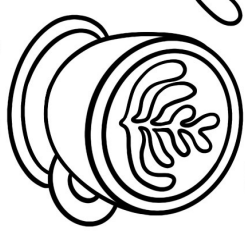
My mom's favorite food is:



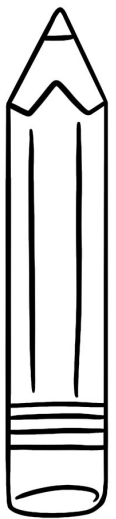
I love it when she...



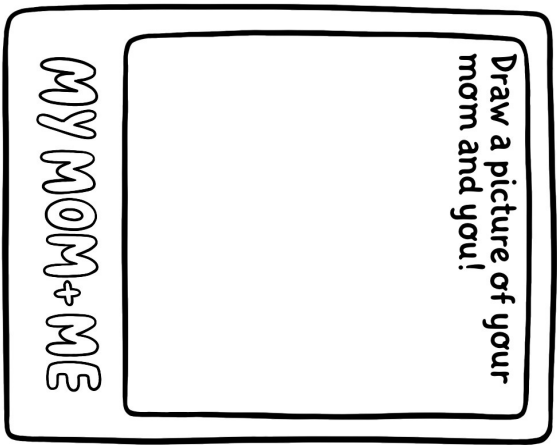
Her favorite drink is...



My mom's favorite color is:

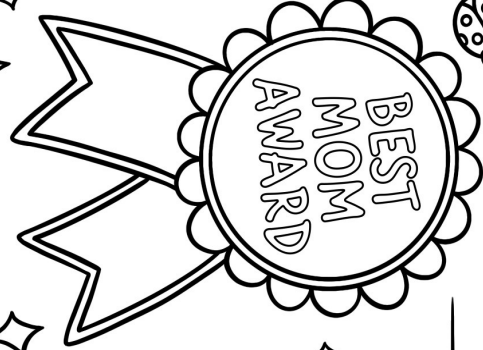


Draw a picture of your mom and you!



MY MOM + ME

Love,





### Bethlehem

1 Macy Mattheyer  
 1 Gage Garrett  
 2 Laura Anderson  
 2 Lisa Garrett  
 3 Laverne Schoenthaler  
 5 Kerah Deines  
 6 Abby Benisch  
 9 Amy Cook  
 9 Lillian Large  
 10 Paul Schieferecke  
 14 Jeremiah Burbach  
 18 Linzey Larson  
 19 Connie Hafliger  
 19 Brendan Karnes  
 20 Christi Sumner  
 21 Shawn Deines  
 25 Megan Ghumm  
 29 Brandon Katt  
 30 Levi Conness

### St. John


1 Alexa Armbrister  
 1 Mark Keller  
 3 Meredith Sherfick  
 4 Thomas Wanker  
 5 Charlie Keller  
 6 Rachel Keller  
 7 Jeff Keller  
 13 Andrea Lucas  
 15 Samantha McElroy  
 15 Macy Keller  
 18 Ian Mabb  
 20 Jayden Keller  
 22 Adam Armbrister  
 22 Dennis Keller  
 22 Tom McClelland  
 24 Emily Lucas  
 24 Joe Handley  
 29 Vonda Ackerman  
 30 Wahnetta Mills  
 31 Kristi Morton

### Wedding Anniversaries

2 Zac & Melissa Gibbs - Bethlehem  
 5 Arnold & Karen Sauer – St. John  
 9 Dennis & Connie Keller – St. John  
 12 Tim & Sue Benisch – Bethlehem  
 17 Chris & Melissa Nicholas – St. John  
 18 Gina & Patrick Deaver- Bethlehem  
 25 Richard & Gail Jensen– Bethlehem  
 27 Melvin & Mary Keller – St. John  
 30 Rick & Leta Deines - Bethlehem  
 31 Dave & Lucy Conness - Bethlehem  
 31 Dean & Sherry Papes - Bethlehem





| Sun   | Mon   | Tue                                   | Wed                             | Thu   | Fri   | Sat                               |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
|   |   |                                       |                                 | 1<br><i>May Day</i><br><i>National Day of Prayer</i>                                  | 2   | 3                                 |
| 4 <u>3rd Sunday of Easter</u><br>9:00a Em Communion<br>9:00a BLC Communion<br>11:00a SJ Communion<br>12:00p Bible Study   | 5<br>2:00p BLC WELCA<br>Bible Study<br>4:00p Yoga @ Library   | 6<br>6:30p PFSM Bible<br>Study @ BLC  | 7                               | 8   | 9   | 10                                |
| 11 <u>4th Sunday of Easter</u><br><i>Happy Mother's Day</i><br><i>TCHS Graduation</i><br>9:00a BLC Communion<br>10:00a SJ Sunday School<br>Final SS of the<br>School Year<br>11:00a SJ Worship<br>No Communion<br>12:00p Bible Study<br>(tentative) | 12<br>4:00p Yoga @ Library<br>7:00p SJ Council<br>Meeting   | 13<br>6:30p PFSM Bible<br>Study @ BLC | 14<br>6:30p BLC Council<br>Mtg. | 15<br>1:00p WaKeeney LTC<br>Communion<br><br><i>WaKeeney ~<br/>Last Day of School</i> | 16  | 17<br><i>Armed Forces<br/>Day</i> |
| 18 <u>5th Sunday of Easter</u><br>9:00a Em Communion<br>9:00a BLC Communion<br>10:00a SJ Graduation<br>Reception<br>11:00a SJ Communion<br><i>SJ Presentation of Quilts<br/>During worship</i>  | 19<br>4:00p Yoga @ Library  | 20<br>6:30p PFSM Bible<br>Study @ BLC | 21                              | 22  | 23<br> | 24                                |
| 25 <u>6th Sunday of Easter</u><br>9:00a BLC Communion<br>11:00a SJ Worship<br>No Communion<br>12:00p Bible Study  | 26 <u>Memorial Day<br/>Services</u><br><i>9:00a Brief Service<br/>at St. John<br/>Cemetery</i><br><i>9:00a WaKeeney City<br/>Cemetery</i><br><i>10:00a Veterans'<br/>Cemetery in WaKeeney</i> | 27<br>6:30p PFSM Bible<br>Study @ BLC | 28                              | 29<br>1:00p WaKeeney Senior<br>Apt. Communion   | 30  | 31                                |

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### *Heavenly Father*

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the example of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with your strength and peace. Watch over those who are currently serving in our armed forces and keep them safe. Grant their families peace and strength. May we also remember and cherish the memories of our friends and loved ones who have gone before us. We pray through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### **Monday, May 26, 2025 ~ Area Services**

CITY OF WAKEENEY: SERVICE AT CITY CEMETERY AT 9:00 A.M.

WAKEENEY VETERANS' CEMETERY : SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN CEMETERY : BRIEF SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.



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*May all your people from all the ends  
 of Earth be gathered into one in you.*

Bethlehem Lutheran  
 WaKeeney, KS

Emanuel Lutheran  
 Rural Ogallah, KS

St. John Lutheran Church  
 North of Ellis, KS

*Prairie Faith Companion*  
*The monthly newsletter for members and friends of*