

The Epiphany of Our Lord



Saint John Lutheran Church

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

January 6, 2019

Welcome!

"How great is the Love the Father has lavished on us!" (1 John 3:1).

We are thankful that you are joining in the worship of the people of God this day. Ushers at the door are glad to assist you at any time.

- Please check that cell phones are silenced.
- Restrooms are located down either hallway to the right.
- Prayer requests may be written on the white cards in the pew rack and given to an usher before worship begins, or as you leave.
- A nursery is available to parents as needed, down the first hallway to the right.
- Activity bags to help keep young children occupied during the message are provided in the back right corner of the sanctuary.
- Please tell us a bit about yourself on the *Record of Friendship* during the collection of the offering.

About the Offering

An offering is gathered today during the worship service. Here the people of God bring their tithes and sacrificial offerings as an expression of their discipleship, and for the continuation of Jesus' mission work, both in this community and to the ends of the earth. Guests are not expected to bring financial gifts, but are welcome to join the congregation in offering their prayers and praises.

About Holy Communion

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. In this, we remember that the divine is united with the created as one in the person of Jesus.

This altar is the Lord's table. Here all are welcome who acknowledge their need for a Savior, and look to Jesus. We believe what he simply says about the bread – "This is my body, given for you." – and about the wine – "This is my blood, shed for you." Thus, the Lord Jesus is truly present for his redeemed people in this holy meal. In this we retain the divine mystery in the midst of his ordinary creation. From the many seeds of wheat come one loaf. From the many grapes are pressed one cup. His many diverse people constitute one body and community of faith.

Young children are welcome to this altar to receive a blessing, as are those who have not been instructed in the Christian faith. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest or by simply asking for a blessing.

The individual communion cups in the center of the tray have white grape juice for those who desire it. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

We are imperfect people and we live in an imperfect world. We are all in this together. So when we believe or act wrongly towards someone, or when we feel that another has wronged us, we commit ourselves to the humble teaching and forgiving pattern of Jesus in Matthew 18.

The Epiphany of Our Lord

+ GATHERING +

Prayer As We Begin — *Please remain seated.*

☒ Heavenly Father, as we come before you this morning in Jesus' name, we pray all that we say and do in our worship will give you glory. Help us, Lord, to focus our thoughts on you, so your Word will find fertile ground in our minds and hearts. May the worship service today accomplish in us the purpose you desire. Amen.

We Three Kings

WOV 646

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse a-far.
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

*Refrain Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
west-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Refrian

3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.

Refrain

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain

5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia: al-leluia the earth replies.

Refrain

The Invocation, Confession, and Absolution — *Please Stand.*

☒ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ Amen.

☒ Beloved in the Lord! If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

☒ But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. Then the confession.

☒ Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

The minister pronounces the Absolution.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 170



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



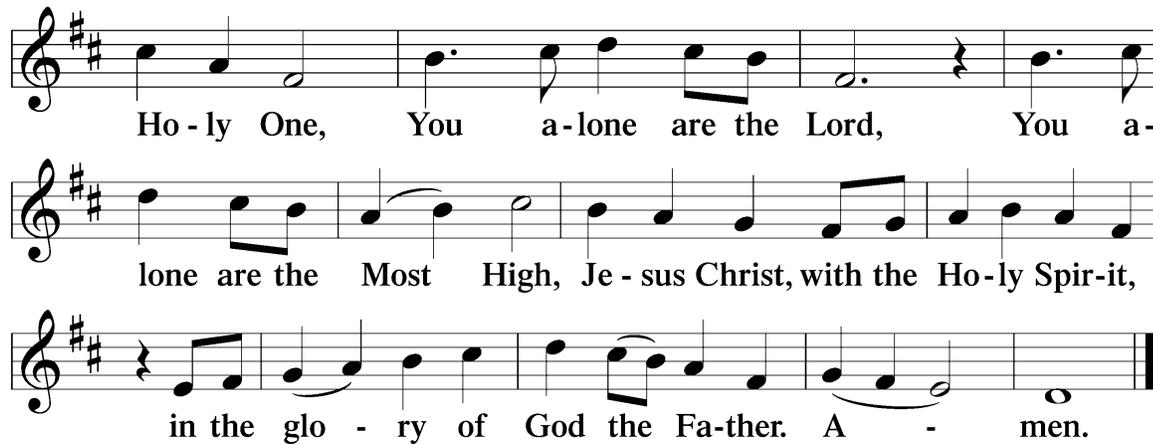
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a - lone are the



Peace and Collect Prayer

L The LORD be with you.

C And also with you.

L We pray together...

C **O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

+ WORD +

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

L *The Old Testament Reading for the Epiphany of Our Lord is from Isaiah, chapter 60. The prophet foretells how the nations shall recognize the arrival of the Messiah, how the light of his glory will draw all people from the ends of the earth to himself.*

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

L This is the Word of the LORD.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

L The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter three. Paul reveals this mystery of the Messiah, that whether from the north, south, east, or west, all people everywhere are recipients of his gift of grace.

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

L This is the Word of the LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse — *Please stand.*

LSB 173

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

L The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

Children's Message

From God the Father, Virgin-Born

LSB 401



1 From God the Fa - ther, vir - gin - born To us the
2 Be - gin - ning from His home on high, In hu - man
3 Glide on, O glo - rious Sun, and bring The gift of
4 A - bide with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of



on - ly Son came down; By death the font to con - se -
flesh He came to die; Cre - a - tion by His death re -
heal - ing on Your wing; To ev - 'ry dull and cloud - ed
dark - ness chase a - way; Your work of heal - ing, Lord, be -



crate, The faith - ful to re - gen - er - ate.
stored, And shed new joys of life a - broad.
sense The clear - ness of Your light dis - pense.
gin, And take a - way the stain of sin.

5 Lord, once You came to earth's domain
And, we believe, shall come again;
Be with us on the battlefield,
From ev'ry harm Your people shield.

Stand 6 To You, O Lord, all glory be
For this Your blest epiphany;
To God, whom all His hosts adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

The Message — Welcome, All Nations

The Prayers of the Church — *Please stand.*

The Collection of Tithes and Offerings — *For the continuation of Christ's work, both in this place and to the ends of the earth.*

Get Connected — *We are grateful to worship together today. Please note your attendance in the Record of Fellowship. New and updated contact information is always helpful. Thanks!*

+ MEAL +

This is Christ's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast which he has prepared. In this meal we truly receive the body and blood of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. This is a great and divine mystery! Here we are joined with God and all the saints, and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Young children and those who would prefer to receive a blessing are welcome to come forward.

Alcohol Removed Communion Wine — The individual communion cups in the center of the tray contain denatured wine, which contains less than ½% alcohol. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

The Preface and Hymn of Praise — *Please stand.*

P The LORD be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the LORD.**

P Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

LSB 178



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

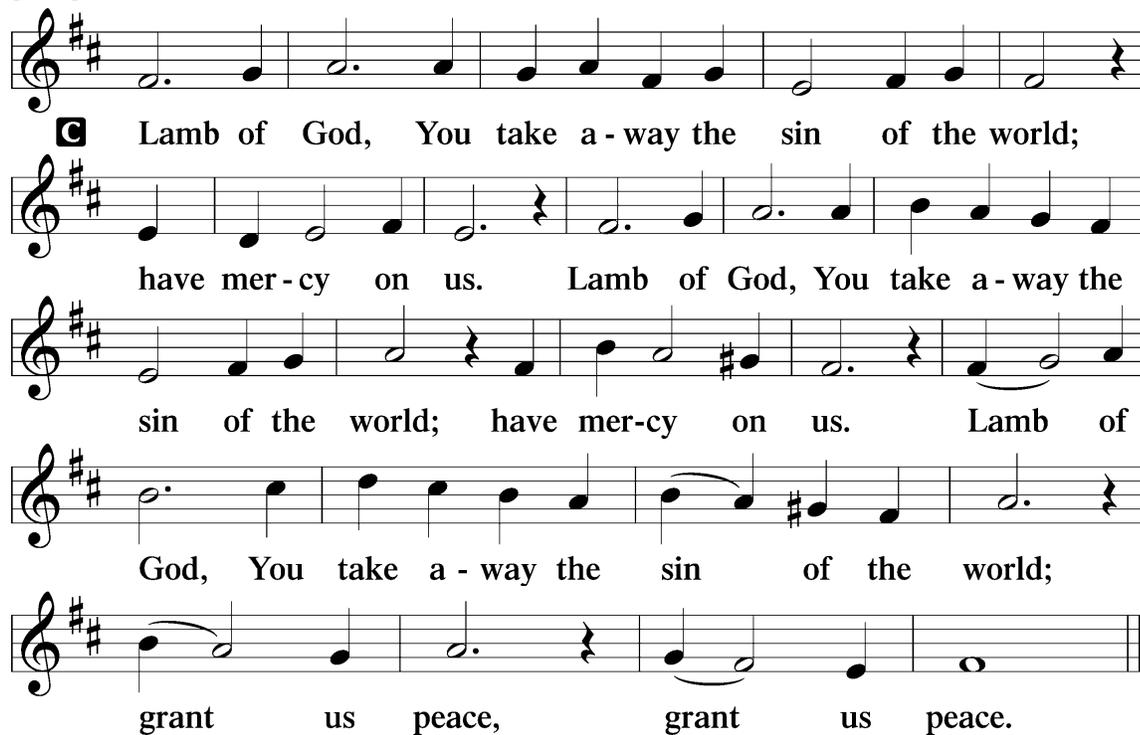
The Our Father

☐ Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



☐ Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.



+ SENDING +

Concluding Prayer, Benedicamus, and Blessing

L Let us bless the LORD.

G **Thanks be to God.**

L We speak the Romans 15 blessing to one another:

**May the God of HOPE
fill you with all JOY and PEACE
as you TRUST in him,
so that YOU may overflow with HOPE
by the POWER of the Holy Spirit.**

L The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G **Amen**

When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known

LW 81

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. When Christ's appearing was made known,
King Herod trembled for his throne;
But he who offers heavenly birth
Seeks not the kingdom of this earth.</p> | <p>2. The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on his guiding star;
By light their way to light they trod,
And by their gifts confessed their God.</p> |
| <p>5. For this his glad epiphany
All glory unto Jesus be,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost forevermore.</p> | |

Would you like to pray with someone following worship?

A Prayer Servant will be stationed at the right sanctuary window following the sending hymn today. They will gladly serve you in prayer. Anything you share with them will be kept confidential. Our heavenly Father delights in the prayers of his people.

THIS WEEK						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
9:15am Sunday School	<u>12pm AA</u>	<u>12pm AA</u>	<u>12pm AA</u>	10:30am Avenues Bible Study	<u>12pm AA</u>	10am Altar Guild
10:30 Worship				12pm AA Mtg		10am Faith and Finances
						<u>10am AA</u>

Serving the Lord Today

Pastor	John Karle 318.332.3352 johnkarle17@gmail.com
Altar Guild	Debbie Frederick and Christina Keiper
Organist	Jason Sims
Communion Assistant	Donna Blair 601.550.3760
Ushers	Warner Boortz and Jerry Frederick
Nursery	Gabby Stringer
Sunday School	Lillian Smith, John Karle, and Ethan Potesta

Office Hours:

Wednesday and Thursday, 9am-1pm

Sunday Bulletin Deadline:

Wednesday at 10am.

Altar Flowers: Jerry and Helga Herrington
in Honor of their Grandchildren.

Eternal Candle: Alicia and Daniel Liverett
in Loving Memory of Thomas Lefan IV.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available
from the ushers upon request.

Live Streaming of Worship Services — www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com.

Online Giving — Online giving is available to members and friends of Saint John via the 'Give' tab on our webpage. Thank you for supporting our work together in Jesus' name.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MISSION

Campus Mission — Welcome to all college students! We're glad you're here. Please check in with Pastor John after worship today (or text/call at 318.332.3352).

2019 Altar Flower Calendar — The new calendar is now on the wall by the foyer mailboxes. Cost of flower sponsorship is \$40 per Sunday. You may take the flowers home or give them to another after worship. To help keep our finances in good order, please do not remit 2019 flower sponsor money until after January 1st.

LWML Mites collected today. There will be no LWML business meeting in January.

Today's Theme

Light eradicates darkness, illuminates creation's glory, and strips away the shroud of mystery. Christ is the Light to which all kings and authorities bow down. He makes known the mysteries and salvation of God through the apostles and prophets. The Word and will of the Lord is no longer possessed by a singular people nor is it cloaked in any kind of ambiguity. All are summoned and blessed to worship Christ. He is our exceeding joy in which our hearts thrill and exalt.

Birthdays

Skylar Chaney	July 11
Jerry Frederick	July 11
Don Shields	July 11
Christine Durand	July 12

Baptisms

Lisa Case	July 8
Jane O'Connor	July 10

Wedding Anniversaries

Thomas & Brenda Hesselgrave, 29yrs Jan 6

Scriptures for Next Sunday

Isaiah 43:1-7
Romans 6:1-11
Luke 3:15-22

Sunday Study Groups Resume January 6th at 9:15am

1. Group One is completing the study "Making Marriage Work." We meet in the fellowship hall. New participants are welcome. Even if you didn't make the first part of the study, you can still benefit from the study and contribute to the conversation.
2. Group Two is beginning a study of C.S. Lewis' "Screwtape Letters." This is the same study taking place every other Thursday morning. Please see the description in The Avenues box.

The Avenues Bible Study meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Pat Davenport at 769.223.2889. They are currently studying of *The Screwtape Letters*. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 10th.

The Screwtape Letters, a Christian novel written by C. S. Lewis was first published in 1942.

The plot and characters are used to address issues of temptation and resistance to it. Using a satirical style, Lewis used the form of a series of letters written by a senior demon, Screwtape, who holds an administrative post in the Lowerarchy of Hell and acts as a mentor to his nephew, Wormwood, a Junior Tempter. The uncle's mentorship pertains to the nephew's responsibility for securing the damnation of a British man known as "the Patient."

When Wormwood is anxious to tempt his patient into extravagant and deplorable sins, Screwtape reminds him that "...the safest road to hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts." Lewis uses wit and humor to expose the subtle pitfalls of everyday sin and temptation. This book is an entertaining, enlightening, and helpful portrayal of human life from the perspective of the enemy.

Memorial Recognition for Mary Gohlke — Mary's long earthly struggle was completed on Sunday morning, December 23rd even as the people of Saint John Hattiesburg gathered for worship. She had expressed many times to her friends that she didn't want a funeral or memorial service for herself. She also expressed that some kind of service would be acceptable if it glorified God and all the attention remained with him. Mary's daughter, Debee, has left the decision up to the congregation, while respecting Mary's expressed wishes. What we've decided to do is recognize God's working in Mary's life and ministry as a part of our Sunday morning worship on January 6th, which is a holy day observance, The Epiphany of Our Lord, the coming of the Gentile magi from the East to worship the newborn King. This Epiphany Sunday has long been noted for it's missionary emphasis, which seems a fitting setting for giving God thanks for his work in Mary's life, who also desired that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord, Savior, and true King.

Prayers Needed			
Chris Thiel	Serving Stateside (S.C.)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	10/1/16
Kelly Thiel	Serving Stateside (N.C.)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/16
Cory Thiel	Serving Overseas	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	12/4/16
Matt Geroux	Serving Overseas	Son of Kerry and Debbie Geroux	12/13/17
Joey Kahrs	Serving Stateside	Family of Cheryl Webb	2/18/18
Scott Chaney	Serving Stateside	Member	5/6/18
Bailey Walters	Serving Stateside	Member	10/31/18
Darrin Torrey	Serving Overseas	Son of Jerry & Helga Herrington	10/31/18
Bill Lowry	Serving Overseas	Member	11/7/18
Edward Curry	Cancer	Brother of Shelia Curry	2/11/18
Jerry Frederick	Cancer	Member	4/29/18
Nelson Cubley	Lymphoma	Brother of Bob Cubley	5/15/18
Charlotte Walsh	Cancer	Family of Bill Coll	6/3/18
Dale McClanahan	Cancer	Cousin of Virginia Rosenberger	7/11/18
John Krahlung	Cancer	Son of Joyce Coll	7/15/18
Michelle Karcher	Cancer	Cousin of Bill Coll	8/3/18
Richard Radavich	Health and Strength – Tumor	Member	1/31/18
Warner Boortz	Cancer – Radiation/Chemo	Member	9/2/18
Joshua “Scooter” Floyd	Brain Cancer – Radiation/Chemo	Friend of Lawrence Family	11/18/18
Lisa Nause	Chemo/Radiation	Daughter of Rita Wilson	11/18/18
Andy Elchos	Cancer	Friend of Geroux Family	12/9/18
Laura Deneke	Stage 4 Lung Cancer	Sister of Nancy Kaul	12/16/18
Edith Pierce	Health and Strength	Member	7/1/18
Doug Taylor	Health and Strength	Friend of Don Shields	9/16/18
Tom Richards	Starting Radiation	Family of Dot Richards	10/14/18
Geraldine Wheeler	Health and Strength	Member	10/21/18
Mrs. Jo Davis	Health and Strength	Sister in Law of Lorhetta Lawrence	10/28/18
Skylar Chaney	Health and Strength	Member	10/28/18
Phyllis Guysinger	Knee Surgery Rehab	Member	10/28/18
Andrea Herrington Torrey	Health and Strength	Daughter of Jerry & Helga Herrington	10/31/18
Sherry Lawrence	Health and Strength	Mother of Steve Lawrence	11/18/18
Diane Whitchurch	Health and Strength	Aunt of Patrice Lovdahl	11/18/18
Chris Noffke	Recovery from Knee Surgery	Member	11/20/18
Lisa Case	Health and Strength	Member	12/2/18
Buckley Family	Maggie Klaire born 4 weeks early	Friends of Case Family	12/9/18
Robert Downey	Hospitalized	Brother of Mary Cubley	12/30/18
Family of Wanita Hyden	Recently Died	Family of Jen Mohan	12/13/18
Family of Mary Gohlke	Recently Died 12/23	Member	12/23/18
Family of Mildred Owens	Recently Died 1/2	Sister of Geraldine Wheeler	1/3/18

— Community Activities —

What’s Happening? Check out the Events page at www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com

Faith and Finances at Saint John Hattiesburg

ABOUT the Faith and Finances Emphasis at Saint John Hattiesburg – We want to find meaningful ways to help people with their value-based financial decisions. We're partnering with Thrivent Financial professionals Terry King and Patti Young in 2019 to host a series of workshops and other similar opportunities for you, your family and friends, and your neighbors. The presentations are "product-free" (They're not selling anything.) and provide strong opportunities for improving your life now and in the future. We'd love your help increasing the positive impact of these events by your own participation and by your courageous inviting of others. Please RSVP via the church Events webpage for each workshop you plan to attend.

Do One Thing Different Doing just one thing differently can help improve your financial life. Find out how. With eight topics to choose from, you can start simply or take a big first step to see how the benefits can add up. This is an excellent workshop for starting the new year. If you're looking to dip your toe in the water to make 2019 turn out better, here's a great place to start. Refreshments provided. Facilitated by Terry King and Patti Young. RSVP deadline January 10th.

January 12th
Saturday
10:00am

Action Teams
January 13th
Sunday
11:45am

Action Teams are the way we get great things done for our community. Thrivent members, friends, and neighbors come together to plan and put into practice projects, programs, and other good activities that improve the lives of real people in our community.

Refreshments will be provided as we learn the rules, explore possibilities, and plan out meaningful ways to positively impact our community in the new year. Each Action Team Project is eligible for \$250 funding to make it happen. RSVP deadline Jan. 10th.

Surprise the World!
Love. Like. Jesus. + Hope for the City.



Saint John Lutheran Church

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