

The Sixth Sunday of Easter



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Saint John Lutheran Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
May 5, 2024

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 on the right in the lobby and down the bell tower hallway to the right towards the fellowship hall.
- 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 self-staffed nursery is available to parents as needed, passed the wooden double doors on the left.
- Activity bags to help keep young children occupied during the message are provided in the back right corner of the sanctuary.

Notice to Worshipers: Today's service is livestreamed and recorded. It is available for public viewing and playback at www.SaintJohnHattiesburg.com by clicking on the 'Watch Live' button.

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

+ GATHERING +

Prayer As We Begin — *Please remain seated.*

C 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.

Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

LSB 769

1 E - ter - nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ,
2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
3 Come with the strength I lack, bring vi - sion clear

I know not how to ask or what to say;
Help me to see Your pur - pose and Your will—
Of hu - man need; O give me eyes to see

I on - ly know my need, as deep as life,
Where I have failed, what I have done a - miss;
Ful - fill - ment of my life in love out-poured,

And on - ly You can teach me how to pray.
Held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.
My life in You, O Christ; Your love in me.

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

P Baptized into the name of the Triune God, we call upon him by this same name and invoke his presence to worship him:

C In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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

P I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers, and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

C **The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.**

P Amen.

C **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers, and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P We pray together:

C **O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

+ WORD +

First Reading

Acts 10:34-48

L *The First Reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter is from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 10, Verses 34-48. The Holy Spirit is poured out even on the Gentiles hearing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, at the home of Cornelius the Roman centurion in Caesarea.*

³⁴So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he

is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

L This is the Word of the LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem ~ *Beautiful Savior*

Epistle Reading

1 John 5:1-8

L *The Epistle is from First John, Chapter Five, Verses 1-8. Faith in Jesus and love for the Father are inseparable, leading to life-transformation and willing obedience to the true God who has become fully human.*

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ, not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

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

John 15:9-17

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 15th Chapter, Verses 9-17.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁹[Jesus said:] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

P This is the Gospel of the LORD.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Childrens Message

Hymn of the Day

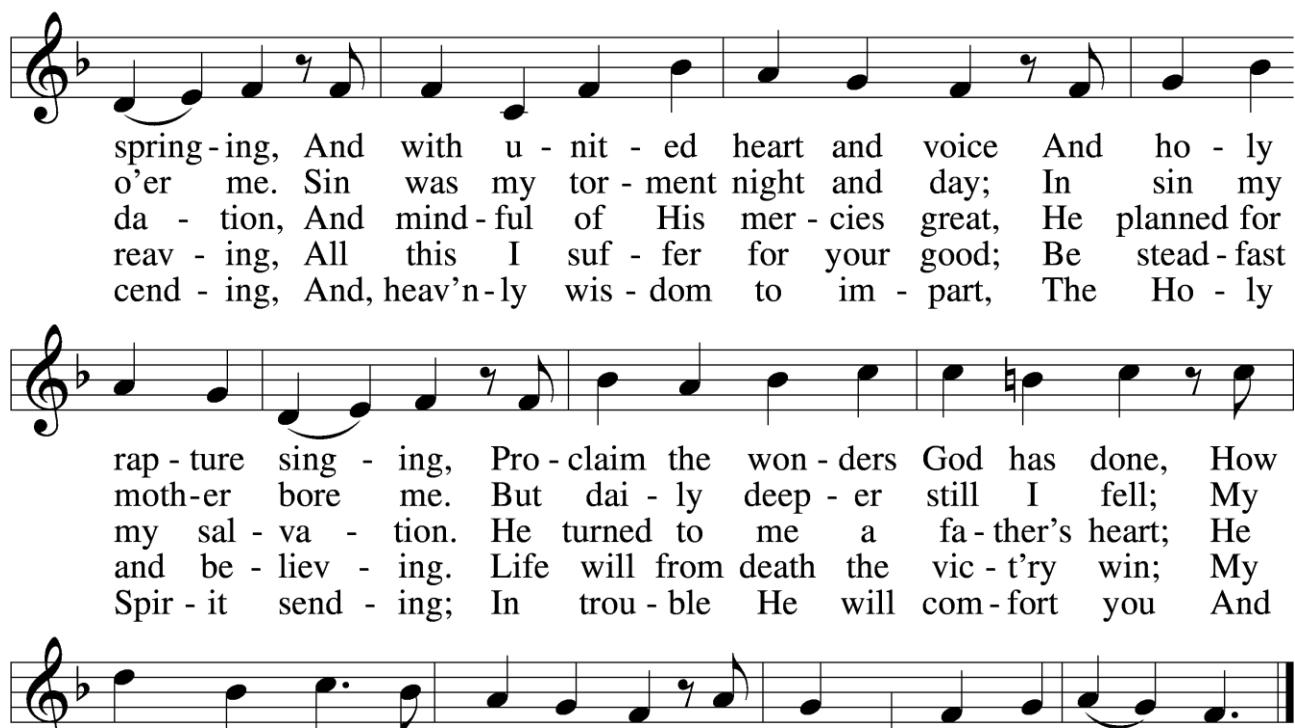
Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood-ed dark - ly
4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be - fore the world's foun -
8 "Though he will shed My pre-cious blood, Me of My life be -
9 "Now to My Fa - ther I de - part, From earth to heav'n as -





spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
 o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my
 da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for
 reav - ing, All this I suf - fer for your good; Be stead - fast
 cend - ing, And, heav'n - ly wis - dom to im - part, The Ho - ly

rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
 moth - er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My
 my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He
 and be - liev - ing. Life will from death the vic - t'ry win; My
 Spir - it send - ing; In trou - ble He will com - fort you And

His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
 life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
 did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.
 in - no - cence shall bear your sin, And you are blest for - ev - er.
 teach you al - ways to be true And in - to truth shall guide you.

The Message – Rev. Chet Scherbarth ~ on Acts 10:34-48

The Prayers of the Church— *Please stand.*

Apostles Creed

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

+ 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.

The individual communion cups in the center of the tray contain white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

The Preface, Proper Preface, and Sanctus

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.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:



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.

LSB 178

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Our Father

C 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

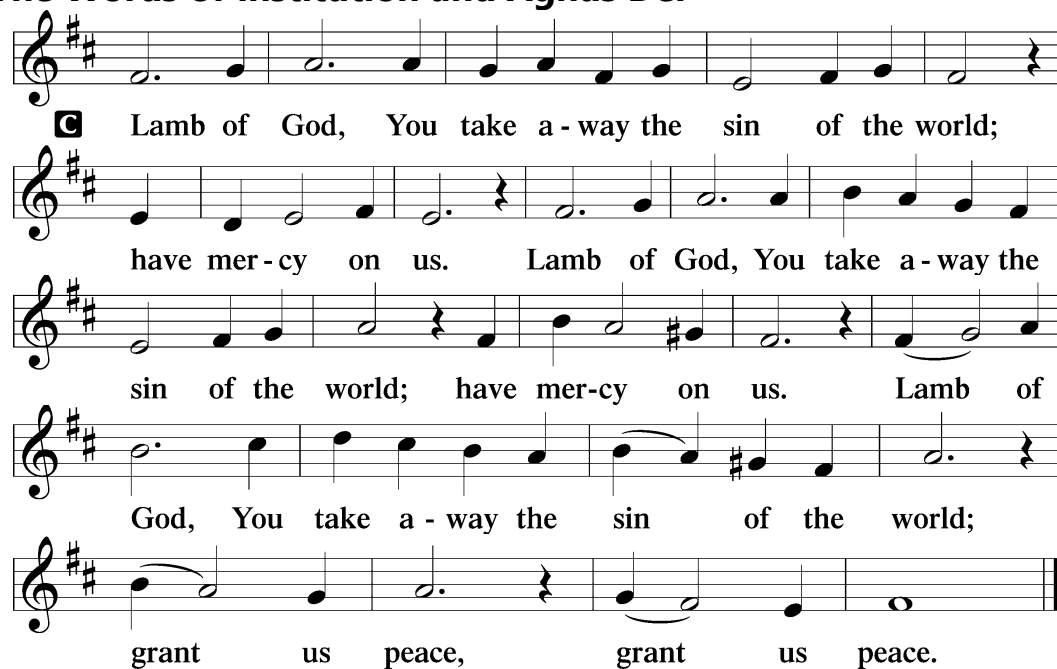
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

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 and 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.

Distribution Hymns

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

LSB 770



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?
 What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

LSB 683



1 Je - sus, Thy bound - less love to me No thought can reach, no
2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul May dwell, but Thy pure
3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt - less - ly to

tongue de - clare; U - nite my thank - ful heart to Thee,
love a - lone; Oh, may Thy love pos - sess me whole,
Thee as - pire. Oh, may Thy love my hope re - new,

And reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, Thine a -
My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my
Burn in my soul like heav' - n - ly fire! And day and night, be

lone I am; Be Thou a - lone my con - stant flame.
heart re - move; My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.
all my care To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.

+ SENDING +

Dismissal, Concluding Prayer, Benedicamus and Blessing

P Let us bless the LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

P 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.**

P 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.

C Amen

Now Thank We All Our God

LSB 895



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



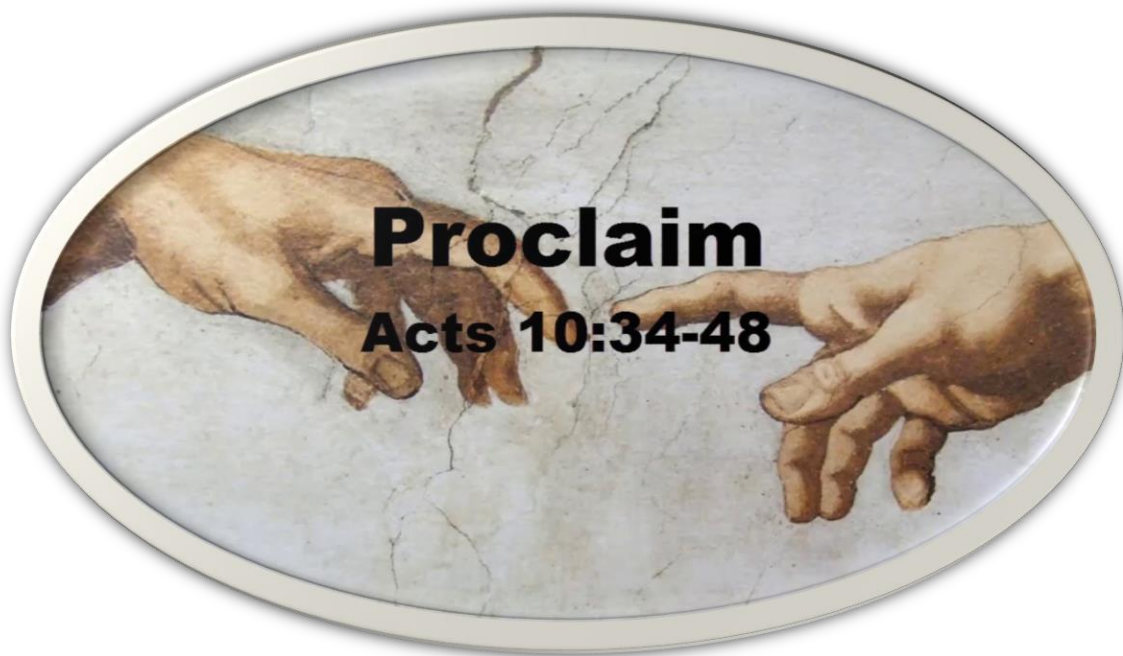
Who won - drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way
And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count - less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.



Take Home Announcements — Sunday, May 5, 2024

Serving the Lord Today

Pastor Rev. Chet Scherbarth
619.385.2094
pastorscherbarth@gmail.com
Pastor's Office hours: Tue-Thu 9-1,
Fri-Sun, by appt; Mon-off
Pianist Lewei He
Altar Guild Thomas and Brenda
Hesselgrave
Lector Elaina Potesta
Acolyte Cheyenne Thiel

Altar Flowers:

Eternal Candle: by Patricia Davenport in
memory of her parents, Richard &
Connie Werner

Live Streaming of Worship Services —
www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com

Today's Theme

Believers in Christ receive the forgiveness of sins through His name. As baptized believers, we are called to love one another, clinging to God's promises, and bound by His commands. Our love for God is marked by obedience to His will. God's love for us is marked by Christ's obedience on the cross. In Christ, we have a faith that grasps, believes, and confesses Him to be the Son of God. This is our victory in overcoming the world.

Birthdays

Mary Cubley May 9

Baptisms

Van Lowry May 5
Nancy Grunig May 10
Susan Perkins May 11

Wedding Anniversaries

Wally & Lynn Pye (59) May 8

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.

LWML - MITES collected TODAY. Thank you for supporting the Mission Grants of the Gulf States District and National LWML. There will be no LWML Business meeting in May.

Bell Choir – meets TODAY at 5:00pm

Vacation Bible School – There will be a planning meeting TODAY after the worship service.

Avenues Bible Study – will meet May 8th at 10:00am

LWML - Coming on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024, the LWML will host a congregational "Potluck" following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. This is a special day to celebrate with our fellow members and guests the "Love of Jesus" in our community and all over the world. Please plan to bring your favorite main dish, salad, or dessert. LWML will provide the drinks. If you would like to help, please contact any LWML member.



| Prayers Needed | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Elizabeth Thiel | Deployed to Jordan | Wife of Kelly Thiel | 4/14/24 |
| Chris Thiel | Serving stateside (NC) | Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel | 4/14/24 |
| Kelly Thiel | Serving stateside (NC) | Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel | 4/14/24 |
| Cory Thiel | Serving overseas (Germany) | Father of Cheyenne Thiel | 4/14/24 |
| Vanessa Ajayi | Breast cancer | Friend of Lillian Smith | 9/10/23 |
| Lisa Boswell | Colon cancer | Friend of Lillian Smith | 9/10/23 |
| Warner Boortz | Health and Strength | Member | 2/25/24 |
| Mini Jasper & Family | Serious burns | | 1/28/24 |
| Ruby Ezell | Mobility difficulties | Mother of LaToursha Ezell | 1/28/24 |
| Kiri | Deliverance from Islam | Daughter of Josie Nwachuku | 2/18/24 |
| Bob Glascon | Congestion-4th round of antibiotics | | 3/24/24 |
| W.F. Perkins | Complications from COVID | Husband of Susan Perkins | 3/13/24 |
| Jim Thone | Stage 4 Cancer | Father of Debbie Geroux | 3/14/24 |
| Van Lowry | Prostate Cancer | Member | 3/17/24 |
| Skip Lambert | Healing-pulmonary embolism | Relative of the Scherbarth's | 3/24/24 |
| Joy Reagan | Multiple health issues | | 3/31/24 |
| Keisa Warren | Surgery & recovery | | 3/31/24 |
| Lisa Case | Multiple health issues | Member | 4/15/24 |
| Dewey Case | Ongoing issues with West Nile Virus | Member | 4/15/24 |
| Cindy Landry | Health & strength | Member | 3/7/24 |
| Gracie Scherbarth | Concerns with medications | Member | 3/7/24 |
| Lillian Smith | Health Concerns | Member | 4/21/24 |
| Ryne Lovdahl | Shoulder Surgery | Son of Terry and Patrice Lovdahl | 4/21/24 |
| Joyce Coll | Health & Strength | Member | 5/1/24 |
| Stephanie McArthur | Brain Cancer | Friend of the Colls | 5/1/24 |
| Sharon Mitchell | Amyloidosis of the kidney | Friend of the Colls | 5/1/24 |



Saint John Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: 8:00am – 12:00pm, Monday – Thursday

Pastor's Office Hours: Tue-Thu: 9:00am – 1:00pm; Fri – Sun: by appt.