



WHEN THE WATERS ARE RISING, HELP FLOAT SOMEBODY'S BOAT

I am sure you have watched some news coverage on the many floods we've had over the past several years, both in the United States and in other parts of the world. It often was riveting. Sometimes you couldn't look away. Sometimes you couldn't take any more.

Think for a couple of minutes about what you saw and heard. Then consider what made an impression on you. It can be a good impression or a bad one. What's your take-away? Why? Do you think some of the victims felt and still feel hopeless and abandoned? Frightened? Without an anchor to ground them?

Now, think about this. Are you sometimes frightened by the prospect of talking about your faith in your anchor Jesus to other people, especially those you don't know? Why is that?

Ok, now picture yourself in the boat of those storm victims. Many of them were forced out of their homes by rising water, loaded into boats or helicopters, and taken to a shelter with thousands of others, mostly strangers. Think how that would affect you. Maybe you've actually experienced that or something similar.

After considering those circumstances, why does it seem so scary to just share our faith in Jesus with someone in our everyday encounters? Do we have to wait for a major storm in life to compel us to jump in? Can we let other people know that Jesus is already with them in their tough, stormy situations so that they don't have to wait for him to catch up with them, no matter what is going on? We can show them Jesus is their anchor through our words and acts of kindness and compassion. We don't have to wait for a big storm. Let's dive in – we can do this!

Nancy Kaul, Board of Elders

Isaiah 43:1-2 "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you."

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12pm AA	2 12pm AA	3 10:02am West Hattiesburg Bible Study 12pm AA	4 12pm AA	5 12pm AA	6 10am AA
7 L.W.M.L. mites collected 10:30am Worship	8 12pm AA	9 12pm AA	10 12pm AA 1:30pm Kaffee Klatsch	11 12pm AA	12 12pm AA	13 10am AA
14 10:30am Worship	15 12pm AA	16 12pm AA	17 12pm AA Ash Wednesday 1pm	18 12pm AA	19 12pm AA	20 10am AA
21 10:30am Worship	22 12pm AA	23 12pm AA	24 12pm AA	25 12pm AA BOD 6pm	26 12pm AA	27 10am AA Korinek Memorial 2pm
28 10:30am Worship						

Altar Flowers Sponsors needed for February 21st and 28th.

Eternal Candle Sponsor needed for February.

Dewey and Lisa Case New Address — 3500 Peach Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Karle New Mailing Address — PO Box 17, College Station, TX 77841

Pastoral Transition Information

(Revised: January 8, 2021)

Points of Contact for Saint John Hattiesburg during the Pastoral Transition:

Dennis Smith 601.329.6806	General administration of the congregation. Oversight of property, programs, maintenance, supervision of paid and volunteer staff not otherwise delegated.
Mark Keyl 601.466.0200	Oversight of the call process and chair of the Pastoral Call Committee. Point of contact with Interim Pastor Gary Weier.
Nancy Kaul 601.307.5127	Coordination of worship schedules and services. Point of contact for members in need of spiritual care, delegating to other elders and spiritual care-givers.
Rev. Gary Weier	Interim Pastor serving onsite two or three Sundays per month. Other worship services will be conducted by lay members of our fellowship or other pastors as coordinated by Nancy Kaul under Pastor Weier's supervision. Pastor Weier will provide home and hospital visitation as time allows in addition to other elders and members.
Church Office	The necessary functions of the church office will be coordinated for the next several weeks by John Karle and Dennis Smith. Several individuals will be helping locally and remotely so that the core activities of the congregation continue as best possible. Email and phones will be monitored on a daily basis. There are no set onsite hours for office staff.
Continuing Business	Pastor Karle plans to make monthly visits for the next three months to advance landscaping, building repair, and administrative projects already underway and provide operational support as needed. The visits will be in the middle of selected weeks. He will provide background support for bulletin preparation on an as needed basis. Most of the basic preparation work for the next three months has already been completed and is in place.
All Other Roles	All other roles – such as Altar Guild, West Hattiesburg Bible Study, LWML – will continue in an orderly way as they have been. Other programs will be resumed post-Covid.

Serving in February

Interim Pastor

Gary Weier

Music Director

Jason Sims

Altar Care Team

Shirley Thone and Sheila Curry

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

Portals of Prayer for January-February-March are available at the lobby mailboxes.

March Newsletter Deadline — Sunday, February 21st at 5pm.

Ash Wednesday is February 17th. We will have one service this year at 1:00pm, which includes the great confession, the imposition of ashes, and holy communion. Rev. Gary Weier will officiate.

Kaffee Klatsch meets next on Wednesday, February 10th at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday West Hattiesburg Bible Study — Debbie Frederick leads this study on Genesis hosted in the home of Shirley Thone. Please contact either of them for directions. The gathering includes wearing masks, washing hands, and watching our physical distancing. This study meets on the first and third Wednesdays only. The meeting scheduled for February 17th is cancelled due to Ash Wednesday. The next meeting will take place on March 3rd.

About Tithes and Offerings — As followers of Jesus, we are convinced that the continuation of Christ's work — both in this place and to the ends of the earth — depends on each of our generosity of our life's passions, priorities, and provisions. As partners in Jesus' Gospel mission, we thankfully dedicate a part of our income to the Church's larger work. Financial tithes and offerings may be given Sunday mornings during worship in the offering plate, via the regular mail, or online at the congregation's website by clicking on the 'Give' button. Thanks!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML MITES collected on Sunday, January 3, 2021, totaled \$72.03. Thank you again for your continued prayers and support for the Mission Grants selected in Convention by the National and Gulf States District LWML MITES will be collected next on Sunday, February 7, 2021.

Saint John Lutheran Church has started YEAR 2021 with many challenges - including calling a new Pastor. I know that it can be difficult - but GOD IS IN CONTROL! We have a wonderful helper in HIS HOLY SPIRIT guiding everything that occurs. GOD has plans to send us a new shepherd - according to HIS timing. I personally am thankful for all the blessings received from Pastor John's ministry during the past seven years. I will miss him, Jennifer, and Cameron, but GOD will use his gifts of ministry to share and LOVE LIKE JESUS with the young people at Texas A & M. We have received many blessings and now, we trust and await GOD'S PLAN for our congregation.

The 39th Biennial National LWML Convention is still being planned to be held in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24-27, 2021. THEME: Running the Race-Looking to Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2). Registration Fee \$150.00 is due before March 15, 2021. After March 15, 2021, Fee will be \$170.00. There is a COVID Release Form that needs to be signed by all attendees. Several women from our church are interested if someone can drive. If you have any questions or can help, please call me.

There will be no LWML Business meeting in February. We will continue collecting MITES on the first Sunday of the Month at church. If you are unable to attend worship, you may make your check out to Saint John Lutheran LWML and mail it directly to Christina Noffke at 108 Ramblewood Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

UNTIL NEXT TIME . . . "Serve the Lord with Gladness!!!"

-Shirley Thone

President LWML

From the Altar Guild

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Many will celebrate February 14th as Valentine's Day- more appropriately, Saint Valentine's Day. That's alright because it's a day to celebrate love. NPR has interesting information on the "muddled" origins of this holiday at the following link: [NPR St. Valentine's Day](#)

Back to love! This February 14th, the church celebrates the Transfiguration of Our Lord. Transfigure signifies a change in form or appearance. In Luke 9:27, at the end of a speech to the twelve apostles, Jesus adds: There are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.

The Transfiguration was a special event in which God allowed certain apostle— namely Peter, James and John— to have a privileged spiritual experience that was meant to strengthen their faith for the challenges they would later endure. But it was only a temporary event. It was not meant to be permanent.

Moses and Elijah were also present during this mountain-top experience. They represented the two principal components of the Old Testament: the Law and the Prophets. Moses was the giver of the Law, and Elijah was considered the greatest of the prophets. The fact that these two figures "spoke of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem" illustrates that the Law and the Prophets point forward to the Messiah and his sufferings. This foreshadows Jesus' own explanation, on the road to Emmaus, of the Scriptures pointing to himself (cf. Luke 24:27, 32).

In the same way, at certain times in life, God may give certain members of the faithful (not all of the faithful, all the time), special experiences of his grace that strengthen their faith. We should welcome these experiences for the graces they are, but we should not expect them to continue indefinitely, nor should we be afraid or resentful when they cease. They may have been meant only as momentary glimpses of the joy of heaven to sustain us as we face the challenges of this life, to help strengthen us on the road that will--ultimately--bring us into the infinite and endless joy of heaven. These glimpses are meant to transfigure, that is, to change the appearance in which we may view our challenges and to strengthen our faith.

Ash Wednesday

This day, February 17th, marks the start of the Lenten period leading up to Easter, when we rejoice and celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. The ashes "etched" on our foreheads symbolize both death and repentance. During this period, we show repentance and mourning for our sins, because we know Christ died for us.

Dear Jesus, because you live, we can face tomorrow.

Christina Keiper - Altar Guild Chair
601-550-1050

Birthdays in February

Steve Lawrence Feb. 1

Doris Schneider Feb. 1

Pat Potesta Feb. 3

Sandy Barnett Feb. 4

Shirley Thone Feb. 8

Alex Meyer Feb. 10

Bob Schneider Feb. 12

Shannon Elledge Feb. 17

Helga Herrington Feb. 22



Jon Stringer Feb. 25



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



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