



Breakthrough and Backlash

In our coaching work with individuals and groups, we're realistic about everything that's going on, while seeking areas of breakthrough. We use the four-quadrant tool shown here to help us see more clearly what's going on.



It works like this: We've labeled the horizontal axis to evaluate for our **Strengths** and **Weaknesses**. These are internal mindsets, skills, and resources that we have already to address needs, problems, and other life situations.

Then we consider the external situations as **Opportunities** or **Threats** on the vertical axis. Taken together this kind of exercise is called a SWOT analysis (from Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).

When we evaluate something that's going on, we have to be real about where it falls in each of the four quadrants, which have their own labels, as you can see from the graph. What we want to figure out, in the long run, is how we can move things toward the upper-right, **Breakthrough** quadrant. We experience breakthrough when we can address external opportunities with our internal strengths.

This works for individuals and for groups (like families and churches). Here's an example: As a congregation, we're finally experiencing some breakthrough with our worship technology.

With Breakthrough, it's also common to experience **Backlash**, because the forces for maintaining the status quo (whatever that is in a given situation) are very strong. Those resisting forces can be our own patterns of behavior, the loud voices of a few, the unfamiliarity with the new territory or methods, fear of loss (of many kinds: power, preferences, privilege, relationships), or simply the uncertainty of the future and the seeming comfort of the familiar past.

As followers of Jesus together at Saint John Hattiesburg, we're honest about areas of Frustration, Failure, and Battle (see the graph), even as we seek Breakthrough and anticipate Backlash in a compassionate and constructive way. We don't give up striving for **Mission Breakthrough** because of fear, or even repeated experiences, of the other things. Satan would love us to give up and give in. By the power of the Spirit we keep pressing forward.

That's what we need for the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, even as we keep the mission front and center and seek a new lead pastor. Seek first and always God's kingdom.

– John Eric Karle
Exploring. Equipping. Encouraging.
Ephesians 4:11-16

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

Annual Congregational Meeting — Sunday, November 22nd — The Board of Directors has set the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, November 22nd following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt a Mission Spending Plan (budget) for 2021 and elect two members to the Board of Directors. The two-year terms of Mark Keyl and Wayland Johnson are scheduled to end December 31st, 2020. Both are eligible for re-election and have given their consent to serve. Additional nominations may be made to Board President Dennis Smith by the end of the day Sunday, November 8th. Copies of the proposed 2021 Mission Spending Plan will be distributed next Sunday in person and via other means per the request of Saint John Hattiesburg mission partners/regular worshipers. The meeting in the sanctuary will be viewable via the livestream and we will do our best to make provision for online questions, though all are encouraged to review the proposed Spending Plan and ask questions ahead of time.

"Every time we make the decision to love someone, we open ourselves to great suffering, because those we most love cause us not only great joy but also great pain. The greatest pain comes from leaving. When the child leaves home, when the husband or wife leaves for a long period of time or for good, when the beloved friend departs to another country or dies ... the pain of the leaving can tear us apart. Still, if we want to avoid the suffering of leaving, we will never experience the joy of loving."

-Henri Nouwen

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30am Worship	2 12pm AA	3 10am AA	4 10:02 Online Bible Study 10:02am West Hattiesburg Bible Study 12pm AA	5 12pm AA 6pm Call Committee	6 12pm AA	7 10am AA
8 9:15 Dig In Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Call Committee	9 12pm AA	10 12pm AA	11 10:02 Online Bible Study 12pm AA	12 12pm AA 6pm Call Committee	13 12pm AA	14 10am AA
15 10:30am Worship 11:45am Call Committee	16 12pm AA	17 12pm AA	18 10:02 Online Bible Study 10:02am West Hattiesburg Bible Study 12pm AA	19 12pm AA 6pm BOD	20 12pm AA	21 10am Outside Workday 10am AA
22 9:15am Dig In Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Congregation Annual Mtg 4pm Come and See	23 12pm AA	24 12pm AA	25 12pm AA	26 Blessed Thanksgiving	27 12pm AA	28 10am AA
29 10:30am Worship	30 12pm AA	1 12pm AA	2 10:02 Online Bible Study 12pm AA 1:15pm Advent	3 12pm AA	4 12pm AA	5 9am Hanging of the Greens 10am AA

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.

Dig In Sunday School — On-Site Dig In

Sunday school meets every other week and will be streamed live on the church Youtube page. We will meet November 8th, November 22nd, December 6th, and December 20th.

Pastor's Coffee Hour — Meets every other Sunday, (same day as Dig In Sunday School) in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15am. Mrs. Shirley's famous cookies for everyone who attends!

Parents of Nursery age children — If you plan to come to church on Sunday, communicate with Gabby by Friday so we can insure someone will be there to take care of the children.

Kaffee Klatsch — We'll meet with proper precautions in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, November 11th at 1:30pm. For information please contact Darlene. We're so exciting to be gathering again!

Wednesday West Hattiesburg Bible Study — Debbie Frederick leads this study on 2nd Timothy 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. Meets next on Wednesday, November 4th and 18th.

Wednesday Online Bible Study at 10:02am — "The Word of the Lord Grows: Hardship, Suffering, and Sacrifice in the Acts of the Early Church" — Connect via the Zoom link emailed on Tuesday or via the Zoom link posted on Tuesday on the Saint John Hattiesburg Mission Partners Facebook Group.

Technology Upgrades — We're thankful for those who have helped fund the vision for better worship technology. We continue to address issues and make improvements.

Mobile Church Directory — Download "Instant Church Directory" from the Google Play or App Store, use your email address and the app will email you a password. If you have any questions or need and information updated, email the church office. Thank you.

Portals of Prayer for the fourth quarter beginning October 1st are now available at the church lobby mailboxes. If you are not yet worshiping onsite and would like us to mail a copy to you, please call, text, or email the church office or Pastor Karle ASAP (but not during the middle of the night!).

Serving in November

Pastor

John Karle

Music Director

Jason Sims

Altar Care Team

Christina Keiper

Fresh Hope Online Group — Fresh Hope is a peer-led support group for those with mental illness. There are no restrictions . . . anyone struggling from mental health, or a loved one of someone who is, can join this group, which provides God's fresh hope for daily living. For more information on the meeting, please email Gil Emmons at madeofclay2020@gmail.com. For more information about the group, visit www.freshhope.us, or search on YouTube for, "Romans Road Channel".

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 on 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!

Special Offering for Southern District Hurricanes Laura, Sally, Delta, and Zeta Disaster Relief — We're collecting a special disaster relief offering to help recovery efforts taking place in our sister congregations from Hurricane Laura in Lake Charles and Hurricane Sally in Alabama and Florida. This includes our Southern District Youth Camp Dixie on the Alabama Gulf Coast. Special offering envelopes are on the offering plate table at the sanctuary entrance. Make your check payable to Saint John Lutheran Church and note "disaster relief" on the memo line. Donations may also be easily given through the congregation's 'Give' page at our church website. Choose the box marked for 'Disaster Relief.' 100% of your donation will be quickly forwarded to the Southern District for immediate use. Thank you!



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER

LWML Mites collected on Sunday, October 4, 2020 totaled \$115.27. Praise God! Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the Mission Grants selected in Convention by the Gulf States District and National LWML. Just a note - The Mites we give are not our regular offering but the "fragments that remain" (Matt. 14:20). Although most of us have not been using our Mite box for daily collecting of pennies, nickels, dimes, etc., it is wonderful how God gives us the opportunity to contribute to the Mission work by collecting our offerings by mail. Mites will be collected next on Sunday, November 1, 2020.

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:4-6)

Reading these words from the Epistle a few weeks ago, Pastor Gary Weier in his message asked the question, "Are you truly thankful about everything that has happened this year with the Coronavirus? Can we really rejoice in all the trials this virus has brought to our everyday lives?" As Christians we know that God loves us, and has a plan for each of us according to His good and gracious will. God is in control! He promises in His Word, "I am with you always!" Be comforted by these promises. God's gift of the Holy Spirit gives us strength to face all things. We know God has our future in His hands! What a blessing we share!

In a few short weeks, we will once again celebrate Thanksgiving. Many people will be traveling to visit family, preparing a feast of turkey and all the trimmings to share, visiting with friends, watching football, and even shopping for Christmas. It has become just another day of the year. I feel that everyday should be a day to thank and praise God for His blessings. I have some beautiful memories from my childhood of Thanksgiving at my dear grandparents. Their ancestors immigrated to America from Germany in the late 1800's. Thanksgiving at grandma's was a banquet! The meal consisted of turkey, venison, pheasant, breads, rolls, pies, cake, all kinds of desserts. Everyone (including aunts, uncles, cousins, friends) all gathered around one big table giving thanks and praise to God.

For almost five years my grandparents raised my four siblings and me (ages 1-7) after my parents divorced. They lived at a time during the Great Depression, and I know that it must have been very difficult for them. My grandfather spent long hours driving to deliver fruit from the orchards in the Yakima Valley (Washington). Grandma walked to work every day to sort fruit at a cannery, but she still had time to come home and make wonderful fruit cobblers, etc. for us children. Now, I know that it was part of God's plan for us children and them. I do not know how they could have managed everything except for their faith in God. Their lives were one of Thanksgiving in everything they did! I can remember grandpa's words after every meal, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good".

Continued on next page.

These memories are still with me today. I thank God for His love for me and all those He has placed in my life. Last month, I shared with you my sincere prayer: share the good news of Jesus in all the ways He has gifted you; trust God and be thankful!

Saint John LWML will not be holding business meetings until we are able to safely meet at church (probably in December for election of officers). I will keep you informed regarding the Gulf States District Retreat in January, 2021 in Foley, Alabama; and the National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky in June, 2021, as the information becomes available. In the meantime, please continue to pray for the Gulf States District and National LWML Mites as they tell the good news of Jesus all over the world. Mites will be collected next on November 1, 2020 at church. If you are unable to attend worship, you may make your checks out to Saint John LWML and mail them directly to Christina Noffke at 108 Ramblewood Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

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

-Shirley Thone

President LWML

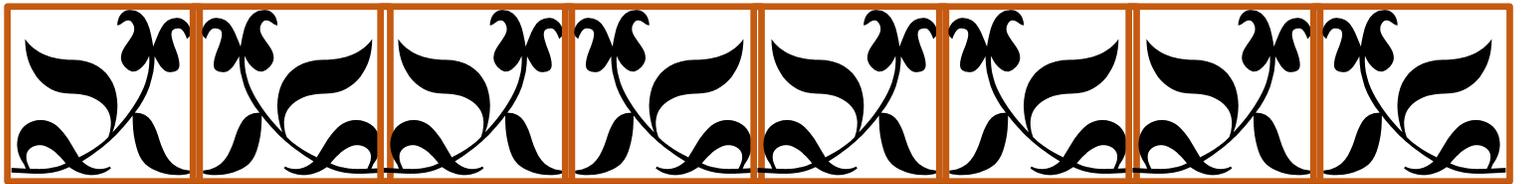
Pastoral Call Process

Documents — Extra Call Process documents are at the lobby mailboxes above and below the survey return box. Help yourself to the cover letter, the congregational survey (we'd like each person to complete one), and the yellow nomination form.

Deadlines — Sunday, November 1st for surveys. Sunday, November 8th for nominations.

Duty Roster — Those serving on the Call Committee are: Mark Keyl (chair), Christina Jimenez, Wayland Johnson, Nancy Kaul, Jane Kersh, Steve Lawrence, Christopher Longman, Shawn O'Connor, Ethan Potesta, Pat Potesta, and Dennis Smith.

Scheduled Meetings — Sunday, November 8th at 11:45am (onsite), Thursday, November 12th at 6pm (online), and Sunday, November 15th at 11:30am (onsite).



From the Altar Guild

A Search Within

The state of the world has been affecting my state of mind for most of this year. COVID, social unrest, loss, interruptions to familiar routines that will never be the same, and the list goes on. This is all of us, is it not? And it is an interesting way to be unified globally. That truly brings home that we are *all* in this together.

Can there even be happiness now? When I look at others, I see strained happiness. It is like joy is a memory that conflicts with current circumstances. The joy sneaks out for the briefest of moments, then moves back into the shadows. I remember again and again that happiness begins within. I indeed have the power to rise above outer influences and maintain an attitude of gratitude and joy. We all do, do we not? This attitude develops through our awareness of our oneness with God.

Knowing that God is always with us, let us choose to see situations in the outer world as temporary conditions, not as enduring realities. Sounds lofty, right? Maybe so, but it is not out of reach when we move through life in partnership with God.

“O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.” Psalm 84:12

Worship: information, thoughts, and reflections on how, why, and where we worship.

The liturgy is the church’s form of corporate worship. The Sunday liturgy of Word and Sacrament has come to us from our ancestors in the faith, both Jewish and Christian. We use a liturgy derived in part

from the ancient synagogue service, consisting of readings, psalms, prayers, and a type of sermon.

The other part of our liturgy derives from the Upper Room when Jesus identified the bread and wine of the Jewish ritual meal as his body and blood and said, “Do this for the remembrance of me.” Since Pentecost, Christians have had an insatiable appetite for this meal because in it Christ himself is present.

We gather for Word and Sacrament because that is what our Lord told us to do. We use a liturgy that has come down to us through the ages because it sets us within the mainstream of Christian worship. This liturgy from synagogue and Last Supper, helps us remember and celebrate God’s mighty acts of salvation. Praise be to God!

Thanksgiving

This Thanksgiving let us focus on the gifts from our Lord, which are truly many. Let that thankfulness the grace and love that God generously, faithfully, and unfailingly provides to all.

Poinsettias

Look for the forms for ordering poinsettias in early December. The color will be red and the price is still \$10 per plant.

Decorating the Church

We are setting the date for December 5th at 9:00am. More information will be available soon!

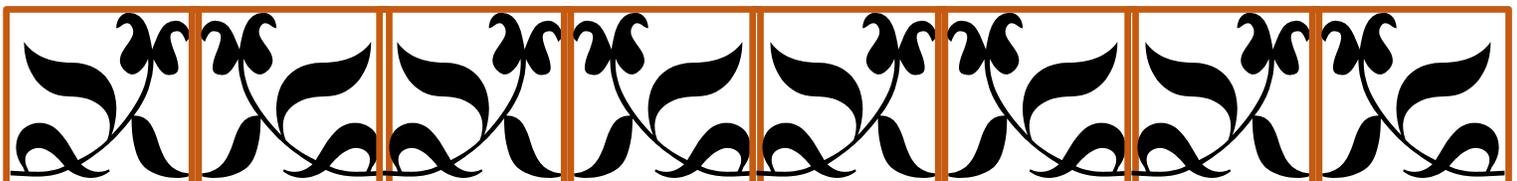
The Peace, Love, and Joy of the Lord be with You!

Christina Keiper

Altar Guild Chair

601-550-1050

ckeiper511@gmail.com



From the Chair — Time for Gratitude

By Dennis Smith, Board of Direction Chair

Do you wish you had more energy? Is it hard for you to work up some enthusiasm? A recent article I read said that finding time to feel and then express gratitude expands your heart and boosts your energy whenever you do it. It seems a little wrong that some of us have to be reminded by Thanksgiving Day to even remotely think along those lines. Gratitude has the potential to be extremely powerful in our everyday lives, not just once a year.



The article said that there are two distinct types of gratitude, personal and transpersonal. The first is when we express or think thankfulness towards an individual, and the second is a constant and fundamental appreciation of the world as God created it. It is critical to experience and express appreciation to others specifically and frequently. How many times a day do you actively thank someone? I propose the following challenge for all of us.

Between now and Thanksgiving week, jot down a note each time you feel grateful for anything. That week go back over your notes and identify patterns, are you so absorbed in just daily living that you forget life's gifts? What does this tell you? Do you regularly see the glass as "half empty" or "half full"? If you struggle with this, try listing three gratitudes you are aware of, for that day, each night before you fall asleep. You can write a brief note thanking someone who has brightened your day.

Genuine interactions like these create a base of positive communication on which you can build a better relationship. Learning to feel and then express your gratitude is, indeed, a gift.

YOU KNOW, SOME OF
JESUS' STORIES ARE KIND
OF **UNBELIEVABLE!**



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YOU
THINK?



YEAH! STAYING UP ALL
NIGHT WAITING FOR
SOMETHING TO HAPPEN?
REALLY!?



MATTHEW 25:1-13



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Birthdays in November

Dawn Reid	Nov 2	Patrick Kirkley	Nov 3	Jerry Herrington	Nov 9
John Karle	Nov 9	Ethan Potesta	Nov 12	Macy Reid	Nov 12
Jane Johnson	Nov 17	Darlene Boortz	Nov 18	Shawn O'Connor	Nov 18
Braxton Lee	Nov 20	Haley Trahan	Nov 20	Sonja Chaney	Nov 23
Jane Kersh	Nov 23	Lore Giles	Nov 26	Lee McMichael	Nov 26
	W.F. Perkins	Nov 26	Jennifer Karle	Nov 28	

Anniversaries in November



John and Donna Blair, 51 years	Nov 8
Willy and Christina Noffke, 50 years	Nov 10
Jesse and Terry Jordan, 4 years	Nov 19
Wayland and Jane Johnson, 12 years	Nov 22



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Like Us on Facebook: [Saint John Church Hattiesburg](#)

Like Us on Facebook: [Longleaf Heights Neighborhood Association](#)

Recognizing New People as Mission Partners

"Come & See" Newcomer Gatherings

Sunday, November 22nd at 4pm. *Please RSVP.*

We're thankful that despite the pandemic several new folks have become part of the faith-family that worships together at Saint John Hattiesburg. Worship, Sunday school, Bible study, and community projects are just a part of the larger "doing life together" that constitutes following Jesus.

We believe that God gathers groups of Jesus-followers together in order to accomplish his greater mission in the world, that we embody his overflowing grace toward his beloved people and we manifest his Spirit in all the nooks and crannies occupied by broken people.



To this end, we want to recognize what God is doing in bringing new people into the regular worship and mission life of Saint John Hattiesburg. We believe that God calls us together by his redeeming Good News of sins forgiven in Christ Jesus, to live according to his purposes, and that we as his people have a mission from him to the world, to make him known ... his grace, his welcome, his kingdom.

If you've begun worshiping with us recently and you sense this calling, we'd like to recognize these things on a special Sunday during December. We'd like to spend some time in conversation and have set a date for a "Come & See" informal gathering to share more about how our congregation sees itself and its place in what God is doing. Gatherings usually last just a bit more than an hour. The topics we cover in the one-time gatherings is the same. If Sunday, November 22nd doesn't work for you, please let us know and we'll work to find an agreeable time!

We're glad you're here and thankful to be in mission together!

Come and See Gatherings — *Please RSVP by text or phone call to John Karle (318.332.3352) so that we make the best use of time. Thanks!*

Sunday, November 22nd at 4:00pm