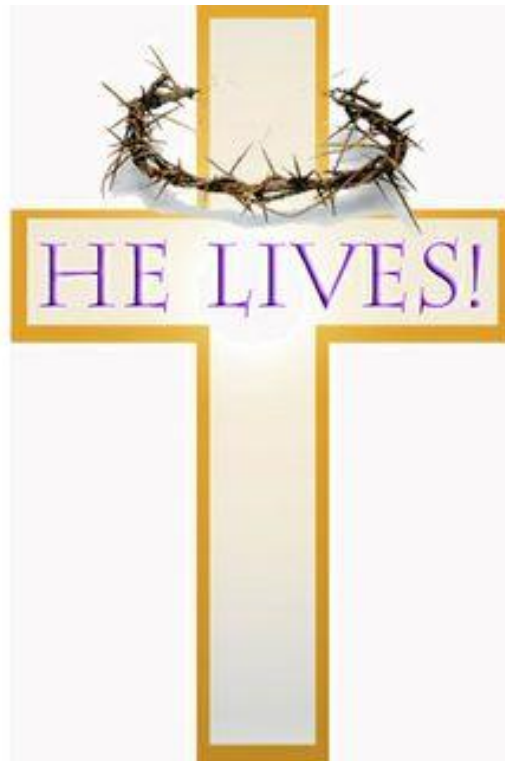


*April 2025  
Newsletter*



**Saint John Lutheran Church  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

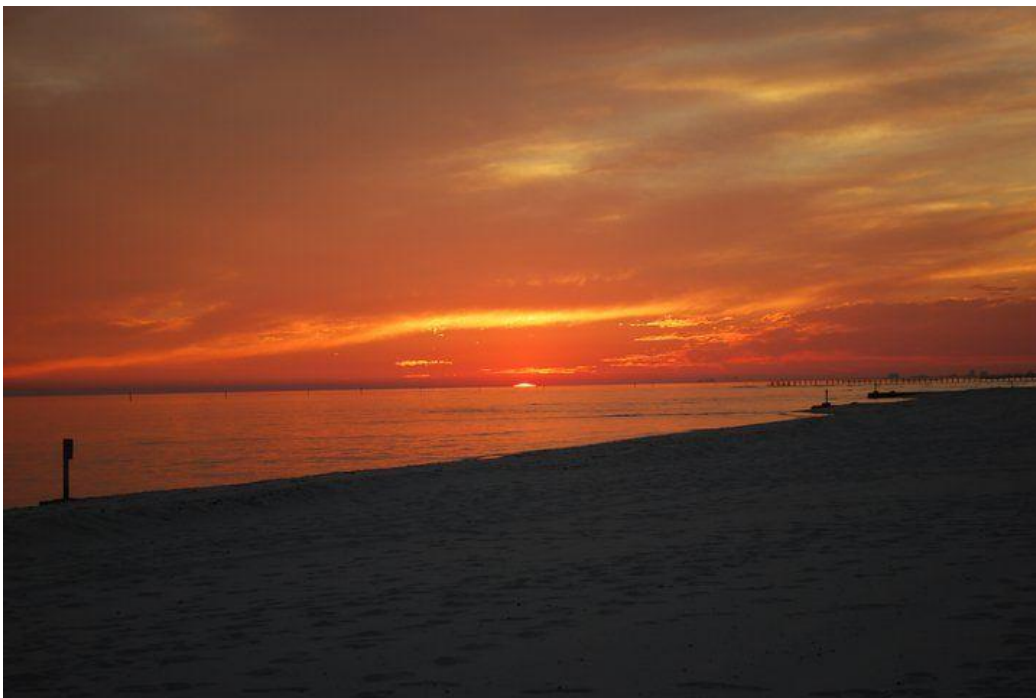


# A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

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## Sunset

I was driving home the other night at just the right time and sunset was painted across the sky against the shadowed landscape. It was brilliant layering color from the red to light orange. As I absorbed the color of it, I thought about all the things we busy ourselves with. Things that we use to occupy our time and things that demand our attention and here God paints with broad strokes. I did nothing but behold the color. And that is my take away so much we have to do and do. We miss sometimes the enjoyment of things we don't have to do. Our salvation is like the sunset. We didn't do anything to paint its beauty. It is a gift we behold. Yet there are those who miss this precious gift. Yet the Lord doesn't give us only one sunset, He keeps sending it over and over. A canvas with the message, hey stop and see what My Son has done. He painted this sky with these hues of red and He has covered you with the red of his blood. Take joy in what He has done. I give you this thought from Psalm 65:7-8 "who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples, so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe of your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy."





## Board of Directors Report

March 2025

The BOD met on March 18, 2025. Our contributions for February 2025 were \$15,074.00 and our deficit for the month of January 2024 was \$2,059.42. Our year-to-date donations were \$34,961.65. The Church continues to meet our monthly mortgage obligations. Please remember that there are Offering Plates available as you enter the Church Sanctuary for your contributions. You are also encouraged to sponsor Altar Flowers, with a sign-up chart next to the mailboxes. The Lord continues to bless us, and we thank him for the abundance of our lives in all things.

BOD business:

-Work continues on our new LED sign. While we do not have a date for installation, the electrical connections are in place. We are taking steps to clean and paint the existing brickwork to match the new sign.

-Vacation Bible School is coming soon! As in past years, it will be intergenerational. If you are able to help out with crafts, teaching, or general wrangling, please contact Beth Scherbarth. We encourage you to review the Board minutes on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to any board member.

In His service and yours,

The Board of Directors

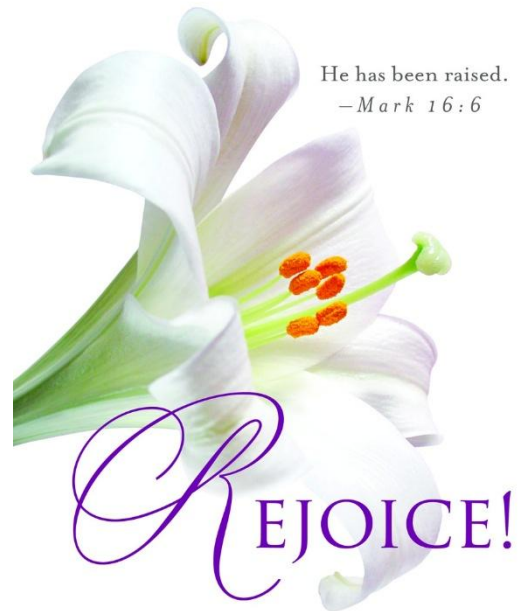
# From the Altar Guild

## Easter Lilies

The Altar always looks so lovely graced with lilies trumpeting the Resurrection of our Lord!

Order forms for lilies will be available beginning Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Lilies are available for purchase at \$12.00 per plant. Please designate the number of lilies you wish to purchase, note the special, "In Memory of " or "In Honor of," and make your checks payable to "St. John Lutheran Church." Easter plants may be taken home after the 10:30 service.

\*Please leave the plastic trays, as they are cleaned and reused. This will reduce the need for us to replace the trays each Christmas and Easter season. The Altar Guild appreciates your consideration and support.



The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem five days before his crucifixion is told in all four gospels (Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12). Jesus rode into town on a donkey as exuberant crowds hailed him as the Messiah and spread out palm branches and cloaks in his path. We, too, hail our Messiah with palm branches. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, an especially solemn and important week in our Christian calendar that focuses on the last days of Jesus' life and anticipates Easter, the most important holy day in Christianity. Jesus, the innocent one, died for the guilty.

On Palm Sunday, the congregation will process from the bell tower to the sanctuary waving palm fronds.

## Maundy Thursday



The Thursday of Holy Week is known as “Maundy Thursday,” referring to the Latin word for commandment, *mandatum*. In these last days of his life, Jesus both states and enacts his new commandment, that we love one another as he has loved us. To show the disciples what he means, he washes their feet, which would have been dusty. Normally, a servant would have taken a basin and washed the feet of guests arriving for a meal. Jesus, whom the disciples know as teacher and friend, healer, and leader, abandons all of those roles and kneels before each disciple, washing feet. Jesus leads them to see that this washing of one another is a way of revealing divine tenderness in common, human need. All of us need to have our feet washed. All of us need to wash one another. We need to wash one another in forgiveness and love.

On this night in which Judas betrays him, Jesus also has a last meal with his disciples. He shares bread and wine with them, saying “Do this in remembrance of me.” A washing and a meal—both shared in common, both offered by Jesus as signs of the love that will not let us go, of the divine life embodied in him.

At the end of the service, the ornaments, linens, and paraments will be removed from the Altar. This is an ancient custom of the Roman rite done on Maundy Thursday. It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers. After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord.



The soldiers wove  
a crown of thorns  
and put it on his head,  
and they dressed him  
in a purple robe.

John 19:2

## Good Friday

On this day we commemorate the passion, or suffering on the cross of our Lord, Jesus. Good Friday is a day to fast, repent, and reflect. We can also celebrate this day because in the tragedy of Christ's death is a victory, the ultimate victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and hope against hopelessness.

The congregation is invited to drive a nail into the wooden cross at the Altar when entering the sanctuary. These nails are a stark reminder of the price paid for humanity's sins and the depths of Christ's sacrifice. Each nail represents a distinct aspect of redemption: forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration.





## *Easter*

The Resurrection and why it is important: I invite you to read the Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthians:

**1 Corinthians 15:12-20, 54-55.**

*Hallelujah, Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!*

Christina Keiper

Altar Guild Chair



On Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, the LWML will host a reception in the Church narthex during the Sunday School hour for our visitors, members, and friends. There will be "home baked goodies", coffee, juice, and surprises for the children. Gracie Scherbarth is heading up an "Easter Egg Hunt" for the children. If you can provide "baked" items, plastic filled "Easter eggs", or help in any way, please contact LWML.





## LWML - APRIL NEWS

LWML "MITES" collected on Sunday, March 2, 2025, totaled \$180.73. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the Mission Grants selected in convention by the Gulf States District and National LWML. LWML "MITES" will be collected next on Sunday, April 6, 2025.

Alleluia! He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!!! Coming Easter Sunday, April 20th, the LWML will host a reception in the church narthex during the Sunday School hour for our visitors, members, and friends. There will be "home baked goodies", juice, and coffee. Gracie Scherbarth, will head an "Easter Egg Hunt" for the children. If you can provide "baked items", filled plastic "Easter Eggs, or help in any way, please contact any LWML member. What a wonderful day!!! Alleluia! He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!!!

On Sunday, April 6, 2025, the LWML will hold a Business meeting in the Community Room immediately following the worship service. The Magnolia Zone "Spring" Rally will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Biloxi, Saturday, April 26th, with "Coffee Fellowship" at 9:30 a.m. Registration Fee: \$5.00. The Business meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. This meeting is to finalize plans for the LWML 41st Biennial Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26-29, 2025. Sandy Ziegenhagen, Zone President, will be the Delegate for the Gulf States District LWML and Julie Radavich will serve as her Alternate. Please consider attending this important meeting. We will be carpooling. If you can drive, please contact me or any LWML member.

In closing, I want to thank all who helped prepare for the Wendy Sue in Concert, "Praise + Pastries!" held on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at Saint John. Wendy was on tour headed to an event in Pensacola, Florida, and stopped in Mississippi for the first time. Wendy shared her "gifts" of Song and Theater - telling the Good News of Jesus on tour at Women's ministry events and others, for thirty years. What a wonderful morning for all in attendance! I'm sure we will be seeing her again at the Gulf States District Convention in Gulfport, Mississippi, June 26-29, 2026.

LWML "MITES" will be collected next on Sunday, April 6, 2025. 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.

## LWML MISSION STATEMENT

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, Support Missions and equip Women to honor God by serving others.

Until Next Time . . . . "Serve the Lord with Gladness!!!"  
Shirley Thone, President LWML





April 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00-5:30 PM  
Spayghetti Dinner  
Take-Out Fundraiser  
at St. John's Lutheran  
Church!

# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 12 pm AA 4:30 Lenten Service Dinner to follow 6:00 Lenten service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10am AA
<b>6</b> 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study  10:30am Worship MITES Collected	<b>7</b> 12pm AA 1:30 Kaffee Klasch	<b>8</b> 12pm AA	<b>9</b> 10:00 a.m. Avenue Bible study  12 pm AA 4:30 Lenten Service Dinner to follow 6:00 Lenten service	<b>10</b> 12pm AA 4-5:30 To Go Spay-ghetti Dinner	<b>11</b> 12pm AA	<b>12</b> 10am AA
<b>13</b> 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study  10:30am Worship	<b>14</b> 12pm AA	<b>15</b> 12pm AA	<b>16</b> 12 pm AA	<b>17</b> 12pm AA 6 pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>18</b> 12pm AA 6 pm Good Friday Service	<b>19</b> 10am AA
<b>20</b> 9:15am Easter Reception & Easter Egg Hunt 10:30am Easter Worship	<b>21</b> 12pm AA 1:30 Kaffee Klasch	<b>22</b> 12pm AA	<b>23</b> 10:00 a.m. Avenue Bible study  12 pm AA	<b>24</b> 12pm AA	<b>25</b> 12pm AA	<b>26</b> 10am AA
<b>27</b> 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study  10:30am Worship	<b>28</b> 12pm AA 1:30 Kaffee Klasch	<b>29</b> 12pm AA	<b>30</b> 12pm AA			

# ***April Celebrations!***

## **Birthdays**



Donna Blair	April 7
Nancy Grunig	April 17
Anna Elledge	April 18
Jean Martin	April 20
Teresa Bennett	April 22
Eric Martin	April 25
Beth Scherbarth	April 27
Bonnie Houser	April 30
Ronald Johnson	April 30

## **Baptism Celebrations**



Wayland Johnson	April 1
Pat Potesta	April 2
Joyce Coll	April 7
Catherine Lee	April 14
Scott Chaney	April 21
Skyla Chaney	April 21
Kyra Johnson	April 29

## **Wedding Anniversaries**



Maggie & Lee McMichael	April 9
Pat and Damian Potesta (13)	April 21

