



# Good News

Saint John Lutheran Church  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

August 2022

## Liturgical Colors Continued: When White is used

When we see white used in the sacristy, we think of purity and completeness. White is used during the fifty days of Easter. A prevalent message during this period is “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow” (Isaiah 1:18). When Jesus rose from the grave, this miraculous event gave cause for our rejoicing. Jesus moved about on this earth and never sinned. His purity before His Father becomes our purity for those who believe in the risen Christ. White bolsters that message of joy.

Many of us have images of the attire worn in Heaven as being white. That is readily reinforced as depicted in art through the centuries, movies, and television shows that focus on “The Heavenly” and mental images created and reinforced by various Biblical passages. Here are just a few passages from the Bible referencing white clothing:

Luke 9:29: And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming.

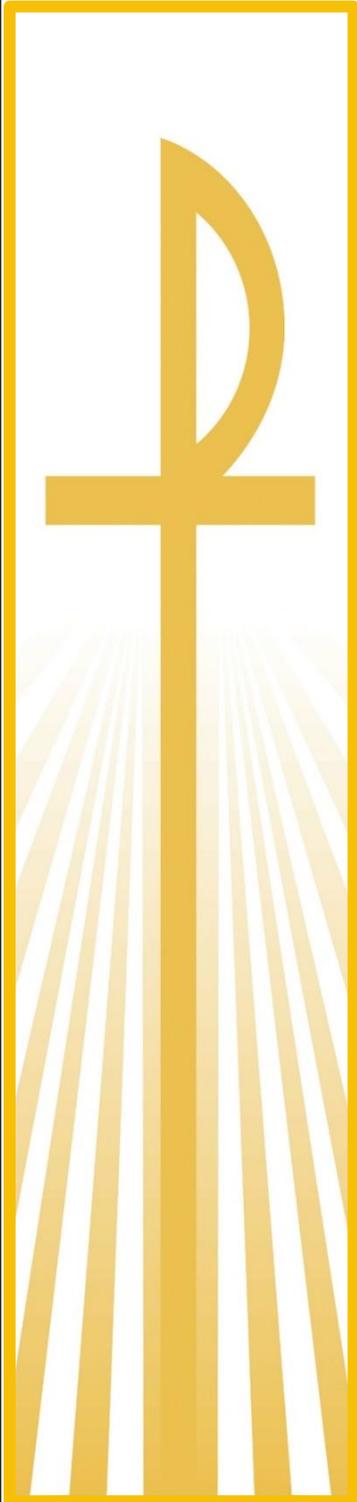
Revelations 7:9: After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands

Mark 16:5: Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.

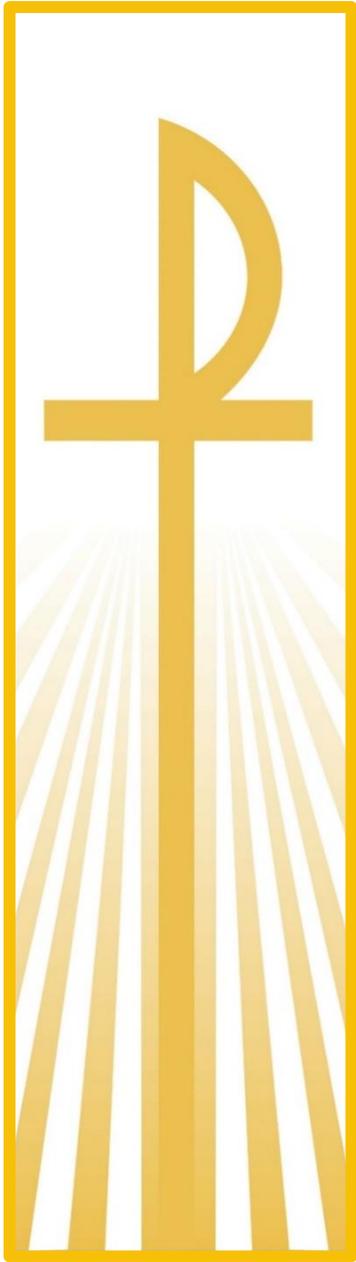
Luke 24:4: While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing

There are many other passages as well if you wish to explore and discover more about this topic.

In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in the Lutheran Service Book. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.



## Spiritual Tools: Remember Whose You Are



As we begin and end each day, we should remind ourselves that we are much more than human. We are created in God's image; we are heirs to all that God is. Our mortal minds typically focus on perceptions of lack, which creates shadows in our days. God is within each thread woven through the tapestry that is our lives.

In Romans 1:6, Paul greets the church in Rome by saying, "including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ." The entirety of the Scriptures shouts to the world that we belong to God. In the beginning, humanity was created to be in perfect union with God and belong to Him, for we are His creation (Genesis 1:26). Psalm 100:3 reminds us that we belong to God.

What difference does it make that we belong to God? This simple truth can transform our lives. It can give us profound reassurance of our self-worth. It can set our misguided perceptions on the right path. We matter because we belong to the Creator!

Peace be with you from a Child of God,

Christina Keiper  
Altar Guild Chair

Come Holy Spirit



This month I would like us to read and reflect on Psalm 30. It instructs each of us in a special way to remember to give thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father. It originally was used at the dedication of the Temple.

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favor, O Lord, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O Lord I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me! O Lord be my helper!" You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

### **Thoughts:**

1. David has been lifted from death and despair. He feared for his life before God saved him.
2. Saints are not holy because of their own righteousness but because God redeemed them and declares them holy.
3. David has turned from self-reliance to trust in God.
4. Sorrowful times in our lives are sometimes caused by things outside of our own control and sometimes by our own sins.
5. We, too, are confident in God's promise to comfort us and dry our tears. O God, comfort me with Your presence, and fill me with joy.

AMEN!

*Blessings,  
Dennis Smith*



July 2022

The BOD did not meet in July, as it was otherwise occupied in the Call process for Pastor Matthew Christians.

Our financial situation continues to be sound. As we were last month, we remain in the black. The Board thanks everyone for your continued giving during this challenging time as we search for a new pastor.

The remodel work will have begun by the time of the publishing of this newsletter. The first phase began on July 27 and includes repair of the damage caused by the termites and weather-related water damage located on the outside of the Community Room by the air conditioners. Part of the work will be removing the electrical panel by the air conditioners at the back entrance to rebuild the walls. The construction company, MitchCo, is planning to set up a temporary system so that there will be a minimum of electrical interference during this phase. This is especially important since we will start some food preparation for Oktoberfest during August. The work is scheduled during the week from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We thank everyone for their patience as we complete this major improvement project.

Ongoing Board issues include:

- Re-establish ushers, readers, and greeters. Christopher Longman and Nancy Kaul will coordinate and develop a plan of action.
- The Oktoberfest committee continues to meet and plan. Please consider assisting with this mission project that includes a lot of fellowship as we plan for our 42nd annual Oktoberfest celebration. Jane Kersh and Mark Keyl will serve as co-facilitators this year. Please see Jane or Mark if you are interested in helping with the coordination of the event.
- The Call process continues, with the Call Committee interviewing potential candidates. Please keep the committee and the process in your prayers.
- The minutes of the Board meetings are on the bulletin board in the Lobby.

That is it for now. Please contact any BOD member if you have any questions. We all are the church and it is your congregation.

Yours in Christ,  
The Board



LWML Mites collected on Sunday, July 3rd, 2022 totaled \$88.38. Thank you for your prayers and support of the Mission Grants selected in convention by the Gulf States District and National LWML MITES will be collected next on Sunday, August 7, 2022.

At the Milwaukee, WI, National Convention next year, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League will celebrate 80 years of God's grace in sharing the Gospel with the world by dedicating MITES (1942-2022). In the Summer Lutheran's Women's Quarterly, members are asked to share their ideas in serving the Lord: "What's Your 80?" Some suggestions: \$80.00 or \$800.00 MITES; 80 religious books donated to libraries; 80 dozen cookies, sandwiches, etc. for first responders, emergency room workers; 80 pair of socks for homeless shelters, 80 cans of food for soup kitchens, 80 hours of visiting shut-ins; 80 hours of prayer for missionaries -- The suggestions go on and on, so, "What's Your 80?" I'm hoping that every woman here at Saint John Lutheran will consider these ideas and bring them to our first meeting after summer break on Sunday, September 4, 2022.

LWML MITES will be collected next on Sunday, August 7, 2022. If you are unable to attend worship service, 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

*Think Inside  
the Box*



## The War Comes Near

We easily get caught up in the focus of our own lives. So, at times, we need reminders of other people and situations taking place around our earthly home. Please, continued prayers for our brothers and sister and know that the Lord is near.

This is an eye witness report from a staff member (Bob Gamble) who serves orphans in Ukraine. He is a Presbyterian minister and is in an area far from the fighting, but still...



“On Saturday, I got the text from Mariam. A rocket hit the big box store called Fozzy market. Fozzy is where we buy food, pampers, oatmeal, cookies, bread, and other products for families in need in rural areas around ODESSA. Mariam directs our Refugee Services and runs our Hostel in Odessa.

Two days before, Russian rockets hit Vinnytsia. I've been there. Like Odessa, it's nowhere near the fighting in the east. The following morning, I saw images not available on the internet of the baby carriage, the body of an infant on the sidewalk, and the ankle and foot severed from a mother, lying on the grass.”

Olga Balaban, who directs our Refugee Services in Izmail, writes:

"Anxiety and uncertainty. Fear and inevitability. This is how you can describe the state of Ukrainians when a cruise missile fired from a ship, which stands off the coast miles from Odessa, crashes into a nearby building. Several times a day, the shrill sound of a siren sounds the departure of missiles. People anxiously wait for the direction of the flight to be known. In places like Odessa, Chernigov, Nikolaev or Krivoy Rog the missile arrives. Then relatives and friends in that city are frantic; the questions are asked. How are you? Is everyone alive?"

Yesterday, a rocket hit the Odessa warehouse of a large supermarket. The same one where we buy groceries for the families. It is very close to the house of our employee, Mariam, who helps displaced people every day. And, listening to her alarmed voice on the phone, you again feel fear, hopelessness and incomprehension. Why are rockets that bring death flying toward us. We cannot protect ourselves and our loved ones, our home and our world. We can only pray and help those who find it harder, who come from a destroyed city, who cannot get out of a stressful state, who are in dire need of our help. And still, we look forward to victory and peace."

Dr. Robert Gamble D.Min, PC (USA)  
Executive Director, [thischildhere.org](http://thischildhere.org)

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WhatsApp everywhere. [+380960214952](tel:+380960214952)

Mobile phone in USA and Viber everywhere: [+1 828 318 2149](tel:+18283182149)

Donations by mail go to:

This Child Here

P.O. Box 2531

Ormond Beach FL 32175

This Child Here is a validated ministry in the Presbyterian Church and a U.S. 501c3 at work in Ukraine, believing children deserve a life grounded in peace and dignity.

To subscribe to our newsletter go here: [www.thischildhere.org](http://www.thischildhere.org)

Our home office is at:

This Child Here

245 Seaview Ave

Daytona Beach, FL 32118

We are: [thischildhere.org](http://thischildhere.org)

see also: <https://www.facebook.com/robertgam/>



## What is Oktoberfest?

Oktoberfest is the world's largest folk festival held yearly in Munich, Germany. It began in 1810 when Bavaria's Crown Prince Ludwig married Theresa of Saxony. The townsfolk held a party in a large field outside the city to celebrate, and it was so popular they held it again a year later. The same field has hosted the festival ever since and came to be named "Theresienwiese" or "Theresa's Meadow" in English. The rest, as they say, is history. It is, without a doubt, the largest festival in the world. It regularly draws over six million people through its sixteen-day run.

Although called Oktoberfest and originally beginning on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the festival date was changed to September in 1872 to take advantage of better weather. To determine when the festival begins in any year find the first Sunday in October and count back fifteen days to the starting Saturday.

For many people, the only reason for the festival is beer, but drinking is not the only thing to do at Oktoberfest. The Oktoberfest grounds are over 100 acres and host a dazzling array of "bier" tents, food stands, carnival rides, games and more. Many families enjoy taking the children to Oktoberfest and, in fact, Tuesdays at the festival are family days with reduced food, beer and ride prices.

That is the background for the festival we at Saint John celebrate. However, our emphasis is not on beer but rather on mission work and spreading the love of Jesus throughout Hattiesburg and the world beyond. Our festival is held on the first Saturday in October which this year is October 1st. It is a lot of work and requires all hands-on deck. If you have not been contacted about working for Oktoberfest, please speak to Mark Keyl, call the church office, or sign up on the lists when they appear. We always need help preparing and serving the food, baking for the delicatessen, and setting up and cleaning up. There is a spot for your talent!



**OKTOBERFEST Is for Everyone**  
**42nd Annual Oktoberfest**  
**Saturday, October 1st, 11am to 4pm**



Oktoberfest at Saint John Hattiesburg brings together some of the most important values of the congregation. It's **inclusive** of the whole congregation; we believe everyone can enjoy the camaraderie of shared preparation tasks, working shoulder to shoulder on Oktoberfest day, and including newcomers to the congregation and friends in the community.

Oktoberfest is **hospitality** toward the community; we believe that the best celebrations are those that heartily welcome friends and strangers. We want to throw open the Biergarten gates and sit a spell with good food and brew, to catch up on where the time has gone, and to tell a few tall tales. Laughter shared is friendship doubled!

Oktoberfest is **mission**; we believe that we're on this earth and a part of this neighborhood, this community, and this city for greater purposes than the mere enjoyment of life. We give back by pouring into the lives of others around us, by extending God's blessing to those in need, by sharing tasks and making room for new people, by providing financially for worthy efforts in our region and around the world.

At Saint John Hattiesburg, **Oktoberfest is for everyone!** Let's come together, find a place to help, and raise a toast to friends old and new!

### **The History of Our OKTOBERFEST**

Our Saint John Oktoberfest began as a congregational potluck 41 years ago. Friends were invited, and after a couple of years it was opened to the public. We now serve nearly 1400 plates of German potato salad, sauerkraut, and brats or wieners. Homemade German and traditional mustard, breads, and desserts will be sold in our Delicatessen. The proceeds from this event are used to fulfill our mission goal as a congregation. We support many local and some overseas organizations. Mark the week of September 25th on your calendar as there are preparation activities every day! Please get involved and find out what great friends you have here at Saint John.



**OCTOBERFEST PREPARATION SCHEDULE FOR 2022**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PEOPLE NEEDED</b>
<b>JULY 1ST</b>	MARK KEYL	<b>CLEAN REFRIGERATORS</b> , PUBLICITY, MUSIC, PURCHASE MATERIALS, ETC	30HRS	8
<b>AUG 20<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY</b>	BOB CUBLEY	MAKE 20 GALLONS OF MUSTARD	4 HRS	<b>Volunteer Slots Filled</b>
<b>AUG 7TH SUNDAY</b>	MARY & MAGGIE	CUT BUTTER, SOUR CREAM & EGG MIXTURE /MAKE DOUGH	3 HRS	15
<b>AUG 13TH SATURDAY</b>	MARY & MAGGIE	MAKE STRUDELS	6 HRS	20
<b>SEPT 18TH SUNDAY</b>	MARY & MAGGIE	FRY BACON & SORT POTATOES	4 HRS	15
<b>SEPT 24TH SATURDAY</b>	MARY & MAGGIE	MAKE POTATO SALAD	7 HRS	25
<b>SEPT 25TH SUNDAY</b>	MARY & MAGGIE	MAKE SAUERKRAUT	7HRS	20
<b>SEPT 29TH THURSDAY</b>		BAKE STRUDELS ? , CUT UP ONIONS FOR LINE, FILL UP DELI CONTAINERS WITH SAUERKRAUT & POTATO SALAD	8 HRS	5
<b>SEPT 30TH FRIDAY</b>		TEA MAKING?, FINISH HALL, DELI ETC. SET UP		
<b>OCT 1ST SATURDAY</b>		OCTOBERFEST & CLEAN UP	15 HRS	70
<b>NOTES:</b>				
NEED MUSTARD & INGREDIENTS BEFORE JULY 9TH				
NEED BUTTER, SOUR CREAM, EGGS, APPLES BEFORE AUG 7TH				
NEED <b>CUT UP</b> BACON & POTATOES BEFORE SEPT. 18TH				
NEED APPLES, SAUERKRAUT BEFORE SEPT 25TH				



# What's the Buzz?

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

**Phone:** 601.583.4898

**Email:** stjohnlutheranchurch@gmail.com

**Ladies of St. John:** Our Ladies' Salad Luncheon will be held Saturday, August 6th in the Fellowship Hall, from 11:30am - 2:00pm. All ladies worshipping at Saint John are invited! Please make plans to come and enjoy the fellowship, wonderful food, and great entertainment planned. What to bring? A favorite salad to share (optional), yourself, and a friend. This is an opportunity to gather together once again - just to spend time with our sisters in Christ. Hope to see you there!

**Men's Breakfast:** August 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Chesterfields.

**LWML:** Mites will be collected Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Altar Guild:** We will have our annual meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 10:00 in the sanctuary. Please make a note on your calendars and try to attend so we can take a look at where we have been and where we are going.

We welcome those who are interested in assisting with the Altar preparations. Please contact Christina Keiper for more information: 601.550.1050 or ckeiper511@gmail.com

**Breadbasket:** "I was hungry and you gave me food." Matthew 25:35

*First Sunday Breadbasket Collection* will begin in August. Of course, you are welcome to bring canned and non-perishable items anytime. Food items go in the basket on the hall credenza across from the classrooms. One of our members then sees that the items make their way to the Edwards Street Fellowship Center.

Items requested: canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, bags of rice, bags of beans, Jiffy Mix, mac and cheese dinners, and saltines.

**Oktoberfest:** The "Day of Volunteer" sign up board is now available in the church lobby awaiting your signatures! **And....**Check out the Oktoberfest Prep Schedule to note when you will be able to help!

## August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9am Men's Breakfast 10am AA  11:30am Ladies' Luncheon
<b>7</b> 10:30am Worship MITES Collected	<b>8</b> 12pm AA	<b>9</b> 12pm AA	<b>10</b> 10am Avenue's Bible Study  12pm AA	<b>11</b> 12pm AA	<b>12</b> 12pm AA	<b>13</b> 10am AA
<b>14</b> 10:30am Worship	<b>15</b> 12pm AA	<b>16</b> 12pm AA	<b>17</b> 12pm AA	<b>18</b> 12pm AA  7pm BOD	<b>19</b> 12pm AA	<b>20</b> 10am AA
<b>21</b> 10:30am Worship	<b>22</b> 12pm AA	<b>23</b> 12pm AA	<b>24</b> 10am Avenue's Bible Study  12pm AA	<b>25</b> 12pm AA	<b>26</b> 12pm AA	<b>27</b> 10am AA
<b>28</b> 10:30am Worship	<b>29</b> 12pm AA	<b>30</b> 12pm AA	<b>31</b> 12pm AA			

## **Serving in August**

**Interim Pastor**

Gary Weier

**Music Director**

Jason Sims

**Altar Care Team**

Christina Keiper & Nancy Kaul

**Live Streaming of Worship Services** — [www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com](http://www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com).

**Portals of Prayer for July-Sept** are available at the lobby mailboxes.

**August Newsletter** — available via the church website and printed copies are at the foyer mailboxes. Thanks to all those who contributed!

**September Newsletter Deadline** — Monday, August 22nd at 10am.

**The Spirit that is St. John:**





## Birthdays in August

Isaac Jimenez 8/2      Brandon Lee 8/4

Josephine Nwachuku 8/4      Naomi Jimenez 8/8

Ted Meyer 8/11      Evelyn Bentley 8/12      Helen Hollingsworth 8/14



## Baptisms in August

Bjorn Wastvedt 8/7      Emma Kivlighn 8/11

Judy Wastvedt 8/16      Colin Cubley 8/17      Grey Jordan 8/25

Helen Hollingsworth 8/31



## Weddings in August

Terry & Patrice Lovdahl, 43yrs 8/11

Richard & Julie Radavich, 57yrs 8/21

Irvin & Sheila Curry, 54yrs 8/30

***Surprise the World!***

**Love. Like. Jesus. + Hope for the City.**



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