

*August 2023  
Newsletter*

**GOOD NEWS**

*Because Good Happens!*

**Saint John Lutheran Church  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**





The BOD met on July 20, 2023. Our financial situation continues to be sound, for a church without a full-time pastor. The Board thanks everyone for your consistent giving during our pastoral vacancy.

Praise be to God!! Pastor Scherbarth has accepted our Call, and he and his family are in the process of relocating to Hattiesburg. This is a joyous occasion, but our work only begins in spreading God's word throughout our mission field: the Pinebelt and beyond. We ask that you consider a special gift earmarked for Pastor Chet's move to our area so we can defray the expenses of that move. We also ask, that as you consider your giving for the rest of the year, that you consider the necessity of supporting a full-time pastor in the mission of the congregation. The Board will follow our giving and keep you updated on our progress.

Work on Oktoberfest 2023 continues. We encourage everyone who wants to support this Mission project to join us as we continue our planning and preparation. Thank you to everyone who participated in the strudel making. I believe we might have completed that task in record time, thanks to everyone who participated. Though a lot of work was accomplished, it was noted that there was a whole lot of fellowship going on. Let's continue the good work preparing for Oktoberfest and recognize that we do it to extend God's kingdom through the proceeds that go to mission. To God Be The Glory!!

Ongoing Board issues include:

- Re-establish ushers, readers, and greeters. Christopher Longman and Nancy Kaul will coordinate and develop a plan of action.
- The minutes of the Board meetings are posted on the bulletin board located in the narthex.

We encourage you to review the Board minutes on the bulletin board in the narthex and if you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

In his service and yours,

The Board



LWML MITES collected on Sunday, July 2, 2023, totaled \$133.87. Praise God!!! Thank you for prayers and support of the Mission Grants selected in convention by the Gulf States District and National LWML.

During the past three years, God has continued to bless Saint John Lutheran church by providing dear Christian people to spread his love in our church and community as we await our new spiritual leader. Thanks be to God! It was wonderful to hear the good news Rev. Chet Scherbarth has accepted our Call. During the next month, we need to keep Pastor Chet and his wife, Beth, in our prayers as they make the necessary decisions in relocating their family to our community and congregation. Let's show them the "Love of Jesus" as we prepare for the Installation on August 20, 2023.

This has been a busy summer! First, thank you to all who helped make the "God's Blessing and Farewell" potluck for Katie, Daniel, and Ruth Robinson a wonderful day. They were truly surprised at the "Special Gift Cards and Letters" for their upcoming baby sister for little Ruth. Although they were only here for a little over a year, it was wonderful to have them in our midst. As Military families move quite often, we know they will be a blessing as they return to Kansas.

Also, the same day as the special potluck for the Robinsons, a Baby Shower was held for Lynne and Chris Longman. The LWML had been planning this surprise shower for Lynne since March - but Chris was unable to get a date due to her work schedule. Therefore, we had to let Lynne pick the day - thus, no "surprise." Again, thank you to everyone who helped with the shower. What a wonderful afternoon with the future mother and father opening the gifts and preparing for the joyful arrival of their baby girl in July!

The LWML will hold a Business meeting on Sunday, September 3, 2023, (Labor Day weekend) immediately following the worship service in the Community Room. We will be making plans for the Magnolia Zone Fall Rally on October 28, 2023. This will be the first time since 2016 that our church has hosted the Rally. The Theme: "Joy in His Presence!" Hanna Dunlap, Zone President, will give all the details on the National Convention in Milwaukee, WS. Mark your calendars and make plans to welcome our "sisters in Christ" from our Zone to Saint John Lutheran Church

The LWML will be contacting people for the Installation Reception for the Scherbarth's. Please contact any LWML member if you would like to help.

There will be no LWML business meeting in August. MITES will be collected next on Sunday, August 6, 2023. If you are unable to attend worship service, you may make your check out to Saint John Lutheran Church 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





## ***Generation to Generation***

Psalm 145:3-4 - Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend Your works to another and shall declare Your mighty acts.

How did one generation in Israel commend the works of the Lord to the next generation? Year after year, generation and after generation, how did the Israelites remember and declare the mighty acts of God? With His command to declare His saving power, God gave them a statement of faith, a creed, to be remembered and repeated: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One" (Deuteronomy 6:4). The Israelites were to teach the Lord's commands to their children, talking about the Word of God at home and away, day and night.

God gave Israel special days and great annual festivals to memorialize His mighty acts. The Sabbath recalled His rest after He created the heavens and the earth. During Passover, Israel relived their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. First Fruits and Pentecost celebrated the harvests that God provided. The sacrifices of the Day of Atonement reminded Israel that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:22b). The Feast of Booths recalled God's care as Israel journeyed through the wilderness to the Promised Land. At these festivals, the children would ask, "What do you mean by this service?" (Exodus 12:26b). The answer would focus the attention of the next generation on the God who saved them.

How do we commend the works of God to the next generation? We remember and repeat creeds, from the simple words, "Jesus is Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:3b) to the historic statements of faith, the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.

We study God's Word and talk about it at home and away, day and night. Celebrations help us to remember God's saving power as His mighty acts are woven into our lives during worship. During Advent and Christmas, we rejoice in Jesus' birth and eagerly await His return. Epiphany celebrates Jesus as the Light of the world and the Savior of all nations.

Through Lent and Holy Week, days of repentance, we remember that Jesus, our Passover Lamb, was sacrificed for us. On Easter—and every Sunday—we joyfully celebrate Jesus' resurrection as we look forward to the hope of our own resurrection on the Last Day. On Pentecost we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit and the great harvest of souls gathered into the church on that day. During the second half of the church year, after the festivals are done, we continue to study God's Word and grow in grace. When children—and adults!—ask why we celebrate these events, we can tell them about the grace and power of God, who sent His Son to save us. Year after year, day after day, generation to generation, we declare the mighty acts of God!

**WE PRAY:** God and Savior, help me to declare Your mighty power to the next generation. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. Was there some person who was a significant Christian witness for you in your youth? Who?
2. What purpose did God-centered feasts and festivals have for ancient Israel? Do we have events like these in the Christian church today?
3. Do you have a favorite church holiday/celebration besides the biggies of Christmas and Easter?

Written by Dr. Carol Geisler, shared by Thomas Hesselgrave



*“And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” 2 Kings 6:17 (NIV)*

Hanging up the phone, I did a victory dance. After I spoke to a representative from our cable provider, my family’s loyalty to the company was rewarded with a discounted price that would fit into our budget, and I would no longer need to cancel.

But my excitement quickly faded when I received a confirmation email that did not match what I had been quoted. When I called back, another representative reassured me that she could see the reduced price and I didn’t have to worry. I felt relieved ... until I saw the bill the following month.

For a third time, I called back, now frustrated. The agent empathized with my frustration and offered a heartfelt, “I wish you could see what I see.” She said she could see a credit on the account that wasn’t reflected on the bill I’d received, and it would just be a matter of time before everything would line up.

Right then, I felt God speaking to me about situations in my life that had caused me worry, fear, and disappointment. I felt God saying, *If only you could see what I see. There’s more to it than how it looks. It’s going to work out in the end. Just trust Me.*

In 2 Kings 6, we read that the prophet Elisha’s servant was afraid because of how circumstances appeared. He saw an army with horses and chariots surrounding the city to capture Elisha.

When he asked Elisha what they should do, Elisha told him: *“Don’t be afraid ...*

*Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (2 Kings 6:16-17, NIV).*

He discovered that there was definitely more to the situation than he could see.

What and how we see makes all the difference in the world. Wouldn’t it be nice to see with our natural eyes all the ways God is working behind the scenes? Bye-bye, fear, worry and doubt! But then again, how would we ever grow in our faith? And would we ever really learn to trust God?

What if, instead, through the eyes of faith, we are able to see a bit of what God sees? What if the Truth of God’s Word becomes more real to us than what we are able to see with our natural eyes?

I’ve found that it is in those challenging situations, when we feel surrounded by the enemy’s army, that we are able to switch to faith-vision. And if we hold on to God through the process, we see that His plans do work out in the end. The credit finally gets processed. It actually works together for our good.

So, friends, be encouraged! There’s more to your lives than you can see!

*Lord God, We desire to trust You with our whole heart. Help us to rest in knowing that You are working on our behalf in spite of how our situations look to us. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

*Lisa Case*



Jesus had a way of seeing through people. The 23rd Chapter of Matthew is focused on Jesus' denunciation of the scribes and pharisees. He said the extra rules and rituals they had designed created a burden on people which in turn created a separation from God rather than developing closeness and growth. These scribes and pharisees excelled at making a show of themselves, which had become more important to them than serving and helping others.

The scripture readings illustrate a concern for appearances while inner purity is ignored. The outside of the cup and dish looks clean and impressive, but the inside still needs a good scrub. It is said that when we try to make an impression, that's exactly the impression we make.

So, how do we cleanse the inside of the cup? Fortunately for us there are a number of ways of doing that: accepting God's love and forgiveness, confession, working to serve God, meditating so as to move into the inner quiet, meditating on any number of things. Just a few of these meditative focuses include the Holy Eucharist, the Scriptures, Christ's Resurrection, and the Lord's prayer. Yes, there's quite a list of ways to aid us in our main purpose: to grow in our relationship to God.

Sometimes there are battles with the ego, particularly the better you try to be. We may even feel as though we are like the Scribes and Pharisees—a clean and good appearance on the outside, but not clean and good on the inside. Our ego would but crucify us and give us the impression that we are separate from God and even not worthy of His love. Not so! Happily, it cannot be so. You have heard it said that the only thing that is constant is change. No. The one thing forever changeless is God's love. You yearn for Him, as He for you—it is ever changeless.

A Prayer:

Father, sometimes we think we wander from Your will, we defy it, break its laws, and think we interpose a second will more powerful than yours. Yet, in truth, we are Your will, intended and extended. This we are, and this will never change. We are one with you, Father. This choice was made for all eternity. In You we are safe, serene, and know endless joy because it is Your will that it be so. Amen.

*The Altar Guild*



## 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 7th.

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!

## The History of Our OKTOBERFEST

Our Saint John Oktoberfest began as a congregational potluck 43 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 24th 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.

### It's time to order Brats!

If you would like to order Bratwurst, the cost is \$50 for a box of 40 Brats (2 pkgs). Orders must be placed by Sunday, August 20th and will be delivered in the first week in October. For more information and to order your Brats, please contact Eric Martin at 601-260-3403.

### OKTOBERFEST Is for Everyone

43rd Annual Oktoberfest  
Saturday, October 7th, 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!



# August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2  1:30pm Kaffee Klatsch	3	4	5  9:00am Mustard 10am AA
6 10:30am Worship MITES Collected  BreadBasket	7  12pm AA	8  12pm AA	9  12pm AA  10am Avenues Bible Study	10  12pm AA	11  12pm AA	12  9am Men's Breakfast  10am AA  FH in use all day
13 10:30am Worship	14  12pm AA	15  12pm AA	16  12pm AA  1:30pm Kaffee Klatsch	17  12pm AA  6pm FH in Use	18  12pm AA	19  10am AA
20  10:30am Worship  3:30pm Pastor Scherbarth's Installation	21  12pm AA	22  12pm AA	23  10am Avenues Bible Study  12pm AA	24  12pm AA  6:30pm BOD	25  12pm AA	26  10am AA
27 10:30am Worship	28  12pm AA	29  12pm AA	30  12pm AA	31  12pm AA	1  12pm AA	2  10am AA

## **Serving in August**

**Interim Pastor**  
Rev. Gary Weier

**Organist**  
Jason Sims

**Altar Care Team**  
Christina Keiper / Nancy Kaul

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

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

**September Newsletter Deadline** — Monday, August 22

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



## ***July Celebrations!***



### ***B I R T H D A Y S***

Isaac Jimenez	8/2
Brandon Lee	8/4
Josephine Nwachuku	8/4
Naomi Jimenez	8/8
Helen Hollingsworth	8/14



### ***B A P T I S M S***

Bjorn Wastvedt	8/7
Emma Kivlighn	8/11
Judy Wastvedt	8/16
Colin Cubley	8/17
Mark Cubley	8/19
Grey Jordan	8/25
Helen Hollingsworth	8/31



### ***W E D D I N G***

Terry & Patrice Lovdahl, 44 yrs.	8/11
Sheila & Irvin Curry, 55 yrs.	8/30

### ***ANNIVERSARIES***

Saint John Lutheran Church

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