



Good News

Saint John Lutheran Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

December 2022

Liturgical Colors Continued: When Purple is used



Purple, like black, is a penitential color, in contrast to a festive one. It is appropriately used during Lent and, still in many churches during the season of Advent. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer.

Violet or purple was a very cherished and expensive color in the world Jesus lived. The dye used to make the color was painstakingly acquired by massaging the neck of a Mediterranean shellfish that secreted a special fluid. It was therefore afforded only by the rich and worn most exclusively by the royalty.

Jesus, the king of the Jews, wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented Him, the Scriptures record they placed on Him a "purple garment" in order to ridicule Him and belittle the claim that He was a monarch.

Therefore, purple is used during the penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.

Upcoming Colors:

During this time in the church year, we use blue during Advent and white for the days celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord.

A Day to Decorate: December 3rd beginning at 9:00am.

We are trying something new this year: combining the Men's Breakfast, the Kiwanis Club's Pancake Day, and The Hanging of the Greens. The Pancake Day begins at 7:00am at the Sigler Center on Conti Street. Mark Keyl is handling the pancake breakfast to see that we all get fed. We plan to have pancakes at 8:00, then meet at the church at 9:00 to decorate.

Each year, we come together to decorate the church. Things to do: hang wreathes, bows, greenery, set up the Nativity scenes, set up the (new!) Christmas tree and decorate it with our cherished Chrismons. We share in these tasks, have coffee, snacks and feel good about a job well done at the end of it. This is just one of the many ways we Prepare the Way of the Lord.



Poinsettias!



We will continue our tradition of adorning the church with poinsettias. Forms for sponsoring our poinsettias are now available and located near the mailboxes and next to the Sunday bulletins on the small table.

The price is \$10 per plant. If paying by check, please make it to St. John Lutheran Church, write "poinsettias" on the memo line, and attach to the form. You may put your payment and form in the offering plate or in the Secretary's mailbox in the Lobby. Please have your form and money turned in by December 18th.

The poinsettias will be red and are a beautiful addition to our services. Thank you for your support!

The plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service, during the week, or the following Sunday. (Remember, no services will be held Sunday, December 25th this year)

Spiritual Tools: Glory

And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me – Galatians 2:20

This is a truth I believe, and so my life strives to celebrate the glory of God! His glory fills the world with wonder: sounds of waves crashing on a beach, sunrises and sunsets, the beauty of mountains, and forests, a newborn child.

We soon experience the Glory and Wonder of God through the celebration of the miraculous birth of the Christ Child, our Lord and Savior, Jesus. All Glory and Honor to Thee!

Joyous Christmas Season!

The Altar Guild

Come Holy Spirit



I would like to spend a little more time on the subject we addressed last month: *What's left?* This month, just like last month, and just like a lot of months, we tend to have more to get accomplished, and too little time to get it done. So as Christian leaders we wonder: What's left? What more do I have to give? What do I have to do next?

It takes leadership to reclaim the mission of God in a congregation, and it takes leadership to align the baptized people of God in living out the mission of God. Especially, it seems to me, when the challenge of not having a fulltime shepherd is so large for us at St. John. I would challenge us to think about our circumstance in a more positive way. There may be no church in a better position than St. John to represent Jesus to certain people in our community at this time than YOU, and our congregation, and even more specifically, the people of God in our collection of believers. It's time that we reclaim our knowledge that the Spirit of God can use lots of ordinary people with average skills and average understanding of the scriptures and average appearance and average age and average etc. The Spirit of God is equipped for this, and with His Spirit in us, we cannot succumb to "What's left?"

We are totally capable and equipped to rebuild community in and around our congregation.

In 1 Peter 3:15, it says, "Always be prepared to give an answer for everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." Somehow, we've lost the art of listening to each other. Perhaps it is past time for a little self-reflection. We tend to get emotional too quickly, we get afraid, we somehow have lost the art of living a life that invites personal involvement and personal understanding of each other. We are trained to present, ready to confront. We sometimes feel that if "our truth" is challenged, we confront. We have forgotten how to be inviting with each other.

We were born into community, built for community, and yet we struggle living in community. We wonder, "Is there something wrong with me?" Remember that you are a beloved child of God. Be patient with yourself as well as others. Get rid of shame. We all run scared sometimes.

See You in Church!

Dennis Smith



The BOD met on November 16, 2022. 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 Call committee continues its search for a new Pastor. The committee is requesting a new Call List from the District President. We will continue to keep you posted on our work. Please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our pastoral search.

The remodel work is complete, except for kick plates for the new doors in the sanctuary. We thank everyone for their patience as we complete this major improvement project. We will be considering a building fund campaign to pay off our construction loan faster, so we can limit the size of a mortgage or eliminate the need for a mortgage.

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on December 4, 2022. The Board will present the annual budget for ratification, as well as conduct an election for anticipated Board vacancies. The Board is recommending the nomination of Jane Kersh (current member) and Chuck Westfall (new member) to fill two open vacancies.

The church has traditionally had the floors stripped and waxed after our Oktoberfest celebration. We have not done it for a couple of years. If anyone knows of a local source who does a great job for a fair price, please contact the office so we can get them done for Christmas.

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.

That is it for now. We will not have a regular Board meeting in December, but will resume meeting on January 19, 2023. Please contact any BOD member if you have any questions. We all are the church and it is your congregation. Blessings as we anticipate the coming of our Savior and his birth on Christmas Day.

In His service and yours,
The Board



LWML
Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML MITES collected on Sunday, November 6, 2022, totaled \$105.13. Thank you once again for your continued prayers and support for the Mission Grants selected in Convention by the Gulf States District and National LWML.

ATTENTION ALL LADIES!!! On Sunday, December 4, 2022, after the worship service *and* congregational meeting, you are invited to the LWML Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall. I am so happy that after three years, we will be able to celebrate Christmas with our sisters in Christ! What to bring? Yourself, a friend, finger food to share, and "Dirty Santa Gift" (optional). All women from Saint John Lutheran are invited - especially new members. Please make plans to join in this fellowship celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus!

The 40th Biennial LWML National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, WI, on June 22-25, 2023. This convention marks the 80th anniversary of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Theme: "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations," Psalm 33:12-13. Hanna Dunlap, President of the Magnolia Zone, will represent six congregations in Zone 6 as our Delegate.

On October 2, 2022, The Magnolia Zone Fall Rally was held at Church of the Pines in Waveland, MS. Hanna Dunlap reported on the Gulf States District Convention held in Huntsville, AL. There was some discussion regarding chartering a bus from our Zone. Anyone interested in this idea? The Magnolia Zone Spring Rally will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd early next year to finalize plans for the National Convention. I hope that we can carpool and bring a group to this important meeting.

The yearly LWML meeting was held on November 6, 2022. Agenda Items: All Officers were re-elected by Acclamation for another year; Members need to order LWML Quarterly @ \$7.50 and \$5.00 per member for Travel Equalization (National Convention) expense before December 15, 2022. There were fifteen members present. These funds need to be paid before December 31, 2022. (Contact Christina Noffke)

LWML MITES will be collected next on Sunday, December 4, 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*





What's the Buzz?

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

Phone: 601.583.4898

Email: stjohnlutheranchurch@gmail.com

Dec 3 - Breakfast & Hanging of the Greens: If you plan to help decorate the church and would like a yummy pancake breakfast, meet at the Sigler Center beginning at 8:00am for Kiwanis Pancake Day; then at the church at 9:00am to decorate and put up the tree. Mark Keyl is taking care of breakfast for us!

Dec 4 - LWML MITES collected

Dec 4 - Breadbasket: "I was hungry and you gave me food." Matthew 25:35
First Sunday Breadbasket Collection is December 4th for the Edward's Street Fellowship Center.

Dec 4 - Congregational Meeting after the worship service to discuss the budget and elect new Board members.

Dec 4 - LWML Christmas Party: Party begins after the Congregational Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend, food to share and gift for the great "Dirty Santa Event."

Dec 14 - Angel Tree Gifts: Please have gifts wrapped with the Angel attached to the package and delivered to the church no later than the 14th.

Dec 14 - Avenues Bible Study: Members will meet at 10:00am to continue *Be Still & Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge*.

Dec 18 - Poinsettias: Forms and payment for poinsettia sponsorship are due this day in order to include your name in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Our worship service will be held at 10:30am.

Dec 25 - No Sunday Services held this Year.

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 12pm AA	3 8am Pancake Breakfast 9am Decorate 10am AA
4 10:30am Worship MITES Collected Congregation Mtg LWML Party	5 12pm AA	6 12pm AA	7 12pm AA	8 12pm AA	9 12pm AA	10 10am AA Fellowship Hall Reserved
11 10:30am Worship	12 12pm AA	13 12pm AA	14 10am Avenue's Bible Study 12pm AA	15 12pm AA	16 12pm AA	17 10am AA
18 10:30am Worship	19 12pm AA	20 12pm AA	21 12pm AA	22 12pm AA	23 12pm AA	24 10am AA 10:30am Christmas Eve Service
25 Merry Christmas! (No services)	26 12pm AA	27 12pm AA	28 12pm AA	29 12pm AA	30 12pm AA	31 10am AA

Serving in December

Interim Pastor

Gary Weier

Music Director

Jason Sims

Altar Care Team

Shirley Thone & Christina Keiper

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

Portals of Prayer for January - March — available soon at the lobby mailboxes.

Flower Chart for 2023 — available very soon!

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

January Newsletter Deadline — Monday, December 26th at 10am.

The Spirit that is St. John:





Birthdays in December

Judy Wastvedt, 12/9 Daniel Liverett, 12/5

LaToursha Ezell, 12/8 Geraldine Wheeler, 12/8

Maggie McMichael, 12/13 Jason Sims, 12/18 Julie Radavich, 12/19

Nick Weiss, 12/23 Thomas Hesselgrave, 12/24 Eric Reid, 12/24

Willy Noffke, 12,25 Wesley Chase Rainey, 12/29



Baptisms in December

Mark Keyl, 12/3 Jane Kersh, 12/9 Dawn Reid, 12/13

Darlene Boortz, 12/17 Ruth Robinson, 12/19 Diahn Lee, 12/21

Ethan Noffke, 12/28 Jane Johnson, 12/29



Weddings in December

Dewey & Lisa Case, 10yrs 12/22

Kerry & Debbie Geroux, 40yrs 12/18

Ron & Regina Johnson, 27yrs 12/17

Eric & Jean Martin, 60yrs 12/24

Don & Patricia Shields, 60yrs 12/15

Dennis & Lillian Smith, 50yrs 12/23

Chris & Karla Weiss, 29yrs 12/31

Chuck & Cindy Westfall, 27yrs 12/31



Prayers Needed			
Chris Thiel	Serving Stateside (FL)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	10/1/16
Kelly Thiel	Serving Stateside (NC)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/16
Cory Thiel	Serving Overseas (Germany)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/22
Matt Geroux	Serving Stateside (TX)	Son of Kerry and Debbie Geroux	04.09.2022
Scott Chaney	Serving Stateside	Member	5/6/18
Bailey Walters	Serving Overseas	Member	10/31/18
Darrin Torrey	Serving Stateside	SIL of Jerry & Helga Herrington	10/31/18
Bill Lowry	Serving Overseas	Member	4/15/19
John Krahlung	Recurring Cancer	Son of Joyce Coll	7/15/18
Dennis Smith	Cancer; Chemotherapy	Member	10/6/19
Eric Martin	Cancer	Member	10/6/19
Kenneth Johnson	Prostate Cancer	Brother of Wayland Johnson	10/18/20
Family of Richard Radavich	Died in the Lord	Husband of Julie Radavich	11/25
Lisa Case	Health and Strength	Member	12/1/18
Warner Boortz	Health and Strength	Member	3/24/21
DuWayne Lemke	Lung Cancer	Brother of Shirley Thone	1/26/22
Doug Taylor, Bo Cleveland, Judy Lacey	Seriously ill	Friends of Don Shields	10/19/22
Faye Hill	Health and Strength	Mother of Chris Keiper	4/20/22
Campus Mission	For its advance and increase	For all students and educators	7/26/20
Pastoral Leadership	For wisdom, discernment, and courage	Transition and Calling of Next Pastor	7/26/20
Caregivers	Strength, Support, Encouragement	All those in need	6/29/22
Yvonne Lee	Health and Strength	Mother of Patrice Lovdahl	9/11/22
Josephine Nwachuku	Prayers for Health and Strength	Member	10/9/22
Ian VanWinkle	Crohn's Disease	Nephew of Terry & Patrice Lovdahl	11/15/22

Surprise the World!

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



Saint John Lutheran Church

2001 Hardy Street

Hattiesburg MS 39401

Telephone: 601.583.4898

Website: www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com

Email: stjohnlutheranchurch@gmail.com

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