

January 2023
Newsletter

GOOD NEWS

Because Good Happens!

Saint John Lutheran Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi



Happy New Year to You!



Time to Un-Decorate the Church, Lobby and Sanctuary: January 14th at 9:00 a.m.

A sincere *Thank You!* to those dear, sweet folks who made our church so lovely for Christmas! What a wonderful job everyone did decorating the church and sanctuary in preparation of celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. And so, so thankful for the lovely new tree!

Ah, but now it's time once more to take down, pack up, and put away the Chrismons, tree, wreaths, and Nativity sets. Most items will be returned to the attic in the fellowship hall closet; others will be stored temporarily in the youth room. Your help will indeed be most appreciated!

Flower Calendar

As mentioned earlier, the 2023 Flower/Eternal Candle chart is now located in the lobby. It is hanging on the wall next to the mailboxes. The envelopes are located nearby on the shelf of the mailboxes. Once filled out, you may put your supporting donation in either the Secretary's mailbox or the offering plate. Your support of the Altar flowers and Eternal Candle continue a long-time tradition at St. John. Thank you!



Liturgical Colors Continued: When Red is used

Red completes our journey through our church's liturgical colors. Red is a power color and is appropriate for use on Pentecost Sunday. On this day we remember the power and fire of "the Lord and Giver of Life," who revealed himself as the promised one. The color red communicates the motif of strength—strength and power the Holy Spirit gives in order for God's people to call on the name of Jesus Christ and share that powerful name with others.

There is no question that red is a compelling festive color. Consequently, it serves well as the traditional color for the heroic martyrs of the church. The Lutheran Service Book church year calendar provides propers for martyr festivals and recommends red as the appropriate color. Their red blood shed in defense of the Gospel offers perpetual



encouragement for God's people to be resolute in living the faith.

Additional uses of red are Reformation Sunday; Holy Cross Day (September 14); on such festive occasions as dedications, anniversaries of a congregation and its physical structure; festive days celebrating the office of the public ministry, such as ordination and installation.

It is appropriate, from time to time, to take a thoughtful and fresh look at the colors that are displayed throughout the church year. In the end, we admit, the use of paraments, vestments, altar cloths, and banners are an adiaphoron. Even the symbolism behind the traditional colors is somewhat arbitrary and open to additional interpretations as generations pass. The primary source and guarantor of their meanings is tradition. However, the important thing to remember is why we retain this traditional liturgical standard.

The value of the color schemes rests in their purpose: to serve God's worshiping community by assisting in communicating the holy faith from generation to generation. In every age, the beauty and symbolism of color in the church continues to serve us exceptionally well!

Soli Deo Gloria pro Ecclesia Colorem!

Joyfully Yours,

Christina Keiper
Altar Guild Chair





January 2023

We are in a new year during a time of transition for our congregation as we seek a new shepherd. We give our thanks to Pat Potesta in her service as she ends her term of service. Accordingly, we welcome Chuck Westfall on to the Board. As we consider 2022, we would like to remember the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us as a congregation.

The Board wants to take this opportunity to thank the entire congregation as we continue to serve our mission field at St. John. St Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:1-3, to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Throughout 2022, our Congregation maintained the weekly divine services through the work of the Board of Elders and Pastor Weier, our interim Pastor. The Call Committee continued its work seeking a new shepherd. Our church staff continued to serve the congregation in keeping church operations going. We repelled the termites and completed a remodel of our facility. Our Sunday School started up again, after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. As a congregation, we celebrated our 42nd Oktoberfest community event. Thanks goes to everyone who supported that endeavor, with special thanks to the organizing committee, food preparation organizers, the phoning committee, and all those who worked in preparation and on the day of the event. With that united effort we eclipsed \$30,000.00 in gross sales, which will fully fund our mission giving. These are not all of our united efforts for the year, but highlights of St John's continued service in Christ's name. We celebrate the blessings that Christ bestowed on St John in 2022, and thank him for his guidance.

We now celebrate the arrival of our Savior, as the Christ Child and look forward to a New Year. We are as a congregation filled with trust that everything will surely be within the love of God. We have the promise of his forgiveness, his promise of life, and his promise of good in all things. This WILL BE for you no matter what else happens this year.

So, we can look back in gratitude and repentance, and we can look forward in confidence and hope for a great new year, filled with God's Good Blessings for us all at St. John.

Yours in Christ,
The Board

A Year of Feasts and Festivals

January 1 - The Circumcision and Name of Jesus

St Luke describes it: "And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb" (Luke 2:21).

The circumcision of Christ has an interesting origin and symbolism. It dates back to the time of Abraham, around 1900 BC.

January 6 - The Epiphany of Our Lord

The Epiphany emphasis is on the manifestation of the incarnate Lord to the world. This emphasis begins with the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, which commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to the Babe of Bethlehem. This festival is one of great rejoicing and gladness. Since the Light of the world is revealed to the nations, "a light to lighten the Gentiles" (Nunc Dimittis). The date the church observes Epiphany shifts with the calendar, but will be between January 2 and January 8.

January 8 - The Baptism of Our Lord

The First Sunday after the Epiphany is the Baptism of Our Lord. The Baptism of Our Lord was the first of His deeds to "fulfill all righteousness" (Mathew 3:15) and sanctify the waters of our Baptism.

January 18 - The Confession of St. Peter

On 18 January we remember how the Apostle Peter was led by God's grace to acknowledge Jesus as the Christ (Matthew 16:13-20). We join with Peter and with all Christians everywhere, in hailing Jesus as our Lord, God, and Savior.

January 24 - St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor

Timothy is a Christian convert whose mother and grandmother were very important in bringing him to faith. A person of mixed nationality – his father is a Gentile, his mother Jewish – he becomes involved and associated with Paul and Silas – possibly replacing John Mark – and travelled with Paul and undertook many tasks for Paul coming and going over the years, representing Paul when required, but always preaching Christ and pointing to Christ. He is later associated with Ephesus as bishop and is reputed to have been martyred there an old man.

January 25 - The Conversion of St. Paul

Paul's conversion teaches us that when Jesus comes to us, He doesn't come alone. He comes with His angels, saints, priests, and bishops. He comes with Mary, the sacraments, doctrine, and devotions. He comes with the Church because he and the Church are one. And when we go to the Lord, we don't go alone either. We go as members of a Church into whose mystical body we were baptized. Thus St. Paul heard from God Himself, and thus we believe today.

January 26 - St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor

St. Titus, like Timothy with whom he is often associated, was a friend and co-worker of St. Paul. Titus was a Gentile who accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem when they brought assistance to the Christians in Judea during a famine (Acts 11:29-30; Galatians 2:1). Afterward he is found working in Dalmatia (2 Timothy 4:10). According to tradition, Titus returned to Crete, where he served as bishop until he died about AD 96.



LWML MITES collected on Sunday, December 4, 2022, totaled \$93.50. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the Mission Grants selected in convention by the Gulf States District and National.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. . . Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!" (Psalm 46:1-3, 10).

Reflecting on these words of Scripture, I remember the storms I have already faced, and how God has always brought me through - not just natural disasters, but illness, divorce, loneliness, death of loved ones, etc. During the past three years, we have been faced with the Covid 19 Pandemic with many losing loved ones and facing the long-term effects from this disease. Some people have even isolated themselves from friends and families - living in fear. If you are like me, I always try to solve these trials without first trusting in God. God loves us!!! God is in control!!!! What a gift of hope Christians have - especially as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus! It is my prayer that Saint John Lutheran Church will always be a witness of God's love and grace to all the people God brings to our church and community. As the New Year approaches, let us "Love Like Jesus" at every opportunity He gives us.

The 40th Biennial LWML National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, WI on June 22-25, 2023. The 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, Magnolia Zone President, will be the Delegate for the six congregations in Zone 6, Gulf States District LWML.

Coming soon . . . The Magnolia Zone Spring Rally will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Biloxi, MS sometime in early spring. We will be making plans for the National Convention. Anyone interested in chartering a bus? I hope that we can take a carload of members to this important meeting. Watch for more details later.

LWML MITES will be collected next on Sunday, January 8, 2023. There will be no business meeting in January. 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



It's True! We are starting a new segment in our newsletter. If you have a special devotional or something meaningful you would like to share with others through our newsletter, please consider submitting an article. You have a wonderful voice, and we'd love to hear it! (Questions? Please call the church).

7th - Men's Breakfast: 9:00am Saturday at Chesterfield's. Come be nourished inside and out! (location: 4646 Hardy Street)

8th - LWML MITES collected. 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.

11th - The Avenues Study Group — 10:00am at Saint John. They are studying *Be Still & Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge*.

14th - Storing of the Greens: 9:00am Saturday. All of our Christmas finery must now be taken down and stored away. Please come help if you can!

18th - Kaffee Klatch: 1:30pm meets to do their fabulous Kaffee Klatch thing!

19th - BOD Meeting: 6:30pm

25th - The Avenues Study Group — 10:00am at Saint John. They are studying *Be Still & Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge*.

January 2023

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

Serving in January

Interim Pastor

Rev. Gary Weier

Music Director

Jason Sims

Altar Care Team

Debbie Frederick & Christina Keiper

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

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

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

February Newsletter Deadline — Monday, January 23rd at 10am.

The Spirit that is St. John:



January Celebrations!



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Brenda Hesselgrave	1/1
John Blair	1/4
Skylar Chaney	1/11
Jerry Frederick	1/11
Don Shields	1/11
David Grunig	1/16
Jayce Wastvedt	1/17
Sawyer Chaney	1/20
Regina Johnson	1/27
Susan Perkins	1/30
Karla Weiss	1/30
Trenia Thiel	1/31



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Eric Reid	1/1
Jason Sims	1/1
Lisa Case	1/8
Jane O'Connor	1/10
Isaac Jimenez	1/13
Michael Jimenez	1/13
Naomi Jimenez	1/13
Willy Noffke	1/19



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Thomas & Brenda Hesselgrave	1/6	33yrs
Bob & Mary Cubley	1/27	44yrs