



Good News

Saint John Lutheran Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

June 2022

Pentecost: Celebrated on June 5th; Liturgical Colors are Red

Pentecost always comes on a Sunday. Unlike Christmas and Easter, this day passes with such little fanfare anymore that there is a good chance you will not think about it or be reminded of it unless you come to church, or you are one who faithfully spends time with God's Word.

Those familiar with Pentecost probably know of it as the day when the Holy Spirit of God came down to indwell the followers of Jesus. This is the day that the church, the "called-out ones" of God, was born. It is recorded in Acts, Chapter 2. On that day, the Spirit of God descended on the 120 followers of Jesus, and they started speaking out loud in languages from around the world. This created such a commotion that thousands who were in Jerusalem at the time came out to see what was happening and in front of the gathering crowd, Peter spoke the first gospel message and 'three thousand were added to their number that day' (Acts 2:41). The number of gospel followers has been growing continually ever since that Pentecost Sunday.

This happened 50 days after Jesus' resurrection. It was during this 'quiet' interval of 50 days that Jesus' disciples became convinced that Jesus had risen from the dead. On Pentecost Sunday they went public, and history was changed. Whether people believe in the resurrection or not, our lives have been affected by the events of that Pentecost Sunday.

'Pentecost' was a regular Old Testament festival. In the time of Moses, several annual festivals were prescribed and celebrated throughout the year. The festival of Passover was the first to be celebrated in the Jewish year. In fact, Jesus was crucified on that very Jewish festival. And so, Jesus, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed on the same day that all Jewish people were sacrificing their lambs in memory of their first Passover. Given that there are 365 days in a year, it is striking that Jesus dies on that very day. It is like Moses, 1500 years before the event, establishes the festival of Passover as an allusion to the eventual crucifixion of Jesus.

But it did not end there. Exactly 50 days after Passover Sunday, the Jews celebrated the Feast of Pentecost. And they had been doing so yearly for 1500 years by the time the events of Acts 2 happened. Let's not forget the reason there were people from all languages who were in Jerusalem that day to hear Peter's message was precisely because they were there to celebrate the Old Testament Pentecost.

The Holy Trinity: Celebrated on June 12th; Liturgical Colors are White

The Trinity, in Christian doctrine, believes the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead. The doctrine of the Trinity is considered to be one of the

central Christian affirmations about God. Trinity defines God as being one God existing in three coequal, coeternal, consubstantial divine persons.

The Trinity is represented by Christ as a man, the Holy Spirit as a dove, and God the Father as a hand. There are at least three good reasons for believing in the Trinity:

1. The Bible teaches this doctrine.
2. Christians everywhere have always believed it.
3. No other explanation makes sense.

Someone once said: If you try to explain the Trinity, you will lose your mind. But if you deny it, you will lose your soul. Something to think about.

Spiritual Tools: Be Still, [and know that I am God]. (Psalm 46:10)

If we're honest, we have trouble living out this concept. It's difficult to live trusting that God is God, and we are not. Here are a few ideas to help us Be Still:

Consider the nations....and turn off the news. Let's remind ourselves what God has done so we may "behold the works of the Lord." We find these works in the Bible, reflecting on historical events, and during our lifetimes.

Look outdoors. This is one of my favorite ways to behold the works of the Lord, which in turn, helps me to Be Still and know that He is God. It's easy to see His Hand everywhere you look.

Look at the people around you. Consider how God has worked in the lives of your friends and loved ones. Has He healed a broken heart, turned a wayward soul, or changed a countenance? These are wondrous works of the Lord. Behold them and Be Still. Let yourself be in awe of what God has done.

Look inside yourself. What works has God done inside of you? How has He delivered you? What peace has He brought to you? Consider the works of God in your own life. How He has redeemed you and called you by name? Has He changed your heart or an attitude? Has He lifted your chin so that you may see His face more clearly? Has He helped you to forgive yourself or others?

These are some of God's most phenomenal works, works to behold, works that help us to Be Still and know that He is God.

Peace be with you,

Christina Keiper
Altar Guild Chair



I am interested this month in looking into some questions that are on my mind, and maybe on yours as well. Particularly since we are in the Call Process, under the prayerful guidance from God. The questions are about you, your church, and the strong desire to choose a shepherd that will coach and guide us in our walk with Jesus, both on a personal and church wide effort to be more Christ like.

1. How do you feel about the process?
2. What has happened in your actions and thoughts that are related to our/your spiritual growth despite not having a full-time pastor?
3. Has anything surprised you regarding our process?
4. What have you learned?
5. Are you encouraged or are you discouraged?
6. What have you said or done to understand better why we do it this way?

First things first. What a blessing to have pastor Weier and Peggy join us and teach us on a regular schedule. They have become part of the St. John family and we are better and stronger for the time they have spent with us. We are all leaders who become even more courageous when we realize we are not alone. Please share your thoughts and prayers of encouragement and discernment. A Bible verse to guide any pastor in his ministry.

2 Timothy 4:2 "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."

See You at Church!

Dennis Smith



LWML
Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML "MITES" collected on Sunday, May 1, 2022, totaled \$70.65. Once again, 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, June 5, 2022.

On April 22-23, 2022, I attended the Gulf States District convention in Huntsville, Alabama. Business conducted by 37 Delegates for the next two years included LWML Mission Grants (MITES), Election of Officers, approval of new District Bylaws, and planning for LWML's 80th birthday celebration at the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin - June 23-25, 2023.

The Gulf States District Mission Goal set for the 2022-2024 Biennium is \$55,000. Mission Grants selected: 1) Gulf States District Scholarship (\$3,000); 2) Camp Dixie Outdoor Chapel (\$5,000) Josephine, AL; 3) Child Evangelism at Trinity School (\$5,000) Trinity Lutheran, Mobile, AL; 4) Sanctuary & Bathroom Renovations (\$5,000) Holy Cross, Camden, AL; 5) Comfort Food Ministry (\$3,000) Holy Cross, Mobile, AL; 6) Sharing the Light of Christ's Love (\$5,000) Lutheran Braille Workers & Lutherans in Black Ministry Family Convocation (\$5,000); 7) Feeding Haitian Children Spiritually and Physically (\$5,000).

District Officers Elected: President, Cherie Endrihs, Enterprise, AL; Vice President, Cathy Mason, Diamondhead, MS; Vice President Special Focus Ministries, Judy Jankens, Cullman, AL; Financial Secretary, Mary Thrash, Mobile, AL; Pastoral Counselor (Jr.) Rev. J. Endrihs, Christ the King, Enterprise, AL; Nominating Committee: Victoria Southern, Foley, AL (Chairman); Jeanie Kisner, Enterprise, AL; Jackie Morris Geisler, Birmingham, AL.

Offering #1 - District Mission Grants \$1,252.26 (Friday evening); Offering #2 - Aid to Ukraine (Lutheran World Relief) \$1,757.00; Offering #3 - Second Mile Preschool \$1,072.00 Child Beyond International (Global Children's Ministries, Guatemala); Offering #4 - \$1,001.30 (Mission Walk)

Saint John Lutheran Church LWML contribution of "MITES" for the 2020-2022 Biennium (February 1, 2020 - January 31, 2022) totaled \$2,579.54. Praise God!!!

On Sunday, June 5, 2022, LWML "MITES" will be collected. If you are unable to attend worship, you may make your check out to Saint John Lutheran LWML and mail them directly to Christina Noffke at 108 Ramblewood Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Also, there will be a short Business meeting immediately following the worship service in the Community Room. Agenda: Summer Plans. Please come and share your ideas! You are needed!

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

*Think Inside
the Box*





June 2022

The BOD met on 5/19/22, for their regularly scheduled Board meeting.

There is no big news to share on landscaping and building projects other than Jason Sims and Chuck Westfall are helping with a bit of an ad hoc landscaping committee to help maintain a single vision.

We've had a request from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Bristol, TN for a financial gift. A budgetary commitment to this request is on hold for the time being. There will be further discussion and planning towards this. We may be able to use Thrivent matching funds. Your ideas are welcome.

Of course, the immediate news is our upcoming visit with Pastor Neil Wehmas. His stay will involve activities May 31-June 2. Please make every effort to attend the reception from 5-7pm on May 31st held in the fellowship hall. We want to extend a warm welcome to Pastor Wehmas. A tour of Hattiesburg is scheduled for June 1st. It is indeed an exciting time!

These monthly articles only highlight information on topics discussed during the Board meetings. Each month, the Minutes will be posted on the Lobby bulletin board. Additionally, a notebook of the minutes will be kept in the church office

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

CHURCH PICNIC



You Are Invited!

Where: Lake Serene Clubhouse

When: June 12th after worship

Bring your favorite side dish!



June 2022

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

Serving in June

Interim Pastor
Gary Weier

Music Director
Jason Sims

Altar Care Team
Sheila Curry and Christina Keiper

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

Portals of Prayer for April-June are available at the lobby mailboxes.

July Newsletter Deadline — Monday, June 23rd at 10am.

Kaffee Klatsch — Meetings have been postponed until further notice.

LWML Mites — will be collected June 5th. Thank you for supporting the Mission grants of the National and Gulf States District.

LWML Meeting — following worship in the Community room, Sunday, June 5th. Agenda: Summer Plans.

Congregational Meeting — June 5th after the worship service.

Men's Breakfast — The next meeting is on Saturday, May 7th at 9AM. We will meet for breakfast and fellowship at Chesterfields located at 4646 Hardy Street. Bring a friend, your appetite, and a smile. See you there!

Church Picnic — Save the date: Sunday, June 12th following worship, at Lake Serene Clubhouse. This is a Hawaiian Luau themed picnic — think cool, think colorful! Aloha!

The Avenues Bible Study Group — Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 10am at Saint John. They are studying Hope When Your Heart Breaks: Navigating Grief and Loss, a book of Hope when your heart breaks. The next meeting will be June 8th.

There will be a reception Tuesday, May 31st from 5-7pm for Pastor Wehmas in the fellowship hall. Please try to attend to give a warm welcome.

Birthdays in June

Damian Potesta 6/2 Madison Lowry 6/4 Christina Noffke 6/7
Rita Wilson 6/8 Dewey Case 6/13 Bjorn Wastvedt 6/14
Chuck Westfall 6/19 Corbin Blair 6/20 Elaine Kersh 6/21
Emma Kivlighn 6/21 Sheila Curry 6/23 Catherine Lee 6/25

Baptisms in June

Bill Coll 6/1 Bridgette Lee 6/11 Alex O'Connor 6/11
Rita Wilson 6/20



Weddings in June

Jerry & Debbie Frederick, 53yrs 6/13 David & Nancy Grunig, 55yrs 6/3
Bjorn & Judy Wastvedt, 52yrs 6/12

Surprise the World!

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



Saint John Lutheran Church

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