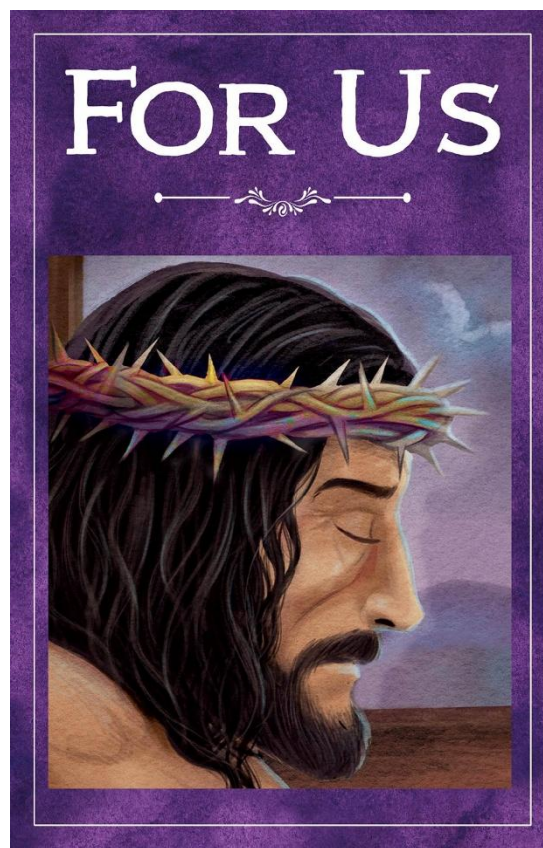


Our March 2026 Newsletter

To those who are new we welcome you
and here is our St. John newsletter!



A season of Lent
Saint John Lutheran Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi



A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

It's a Tale As Old As Time

To quote the words of tea pot, "It is a tale as old as time." What tale do we speak of? The story of love triumphing over evil. Every Princess story has how the Hero must overcome some great adversity to rescue his future bride. Often times the princess is locked away in some tower unable to escape or is in some condition or curse that she cannot free herself from. Of course modern renditions want to flip it upside down in the name of women's empowerment. Though they are a couple thousand years late, the ancient Greeks had already written of a princess who rescued her man in distress. Even Moses first wife Zipporah rescues him from certain Death.

Back to the tale. It is well known within our vocabulary of theology that the Church is the bride of Christ (the scriptures give us this). And we know of the great effort Jesus goes through to rescue his bride, to present her as holy. We know of his birth into the flesh. The flight to Egypt to avoid certain death. The miles his feet walked as he grew in stature. We know of his rejection by his people, the thorns, whips, and fists. We know of the nails and the cross. We know of the tomb. And then the empty tomb. All this to prepare his bride. To prepare her for what? To be with him forever and happily ever after! How did he do this? He did this by overcoming the devil, that great adversary, death, and the world. Then gives to his bride his righteousness. Of course we know the bride is the church. And the church is All the faithful people throughout the world. It means you and I have a Lord who has gone through all the struggles and triumphed. He has redeemed and rescued us from a tower of sin and a curse we couldn't escape or overcome. What a great Prince we have! Amen





Board of Director's Report

February 2026

The BOD met on February 17, 2026. The financial report shows that our receipts were substantially below this time last year. We are starting with a deficit of \$6,323.00 for January. We have had a large increase in insurance costs this year. Our current base cost monthly is \$18,700. That does not include any additional unbudgeted costs that may occur. Please give this your prayerful consideration as you plan your giving for this year.

BOD actions taken:

-Inquiring about the cost of a memorial plaque for the church sign in front. It will match the existing plaque in size.

-Scheduled a clean-up day for March 21, 2026, with a rain date of March 28, 2026. We encourage participation in sprucing up the grounds as we look forward to the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

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. Also, please share any concerns you may have with members of the Board. We are at your service.

In his service and yours,

The Board



A Little message from your Pastor's wife...

Pointing People to Jesus

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

On the white board in the church office I have a quote that says, "The best way to love people is to point them to Jesus." I cannot remember where I saw that quote, but I liked it and felt it was an important reminder as I answer calls during the day and meet with people, etc.

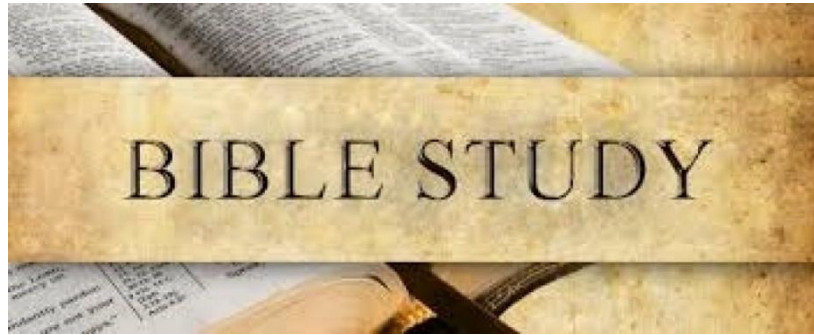
But how do we go about this pointing people to Jesus? In *Joining Jesus On His Mission Book* by Greg Finke, he shares that Jesus is working all the time, every day, we just have to be watching for the opportunities that he presents. You might take your dog for a walk, or you might be sitting in a doctor's office for the zillionth time, and you sit down besides someone, and you strike up a conversation. You both make some small talk but sometimes people share the struggles of what they are dealing with even with strangers. One of the opportunities is to offer to pray with them. It might feel awkward at first, but I have found it is very touching to a person or family to be asked to pray with them and then to just pray with them on the spot. It's an opportunity to invite Jesus into a situation right in that moment. The prayer doesn't need to be long and drawn out but simply ask God to be with them, give them strength and to give wisdom to their medical staff. There are all sorts of situations people are in that a prayer is a great way to invite Jesus into a situation and to love them. This is important thing for marriages, friends and with family as well.

Ellen Heck during Sunday school said that she wears t-shirts to share Jesus when she is working. That is another way to point people to Jesus. Sharing how Jesus has helped you is another great way.

You may be in the grocery checkout line, and everyone is getting edgy and a little frustrated. You can always share a smile with the clerk and encourage them. You might try in the future to stand in the same persons line and ask them their name. Tell them they are doing a great job and God bless you as you leave.

I will end with what Jesus says to us in Matthew 13:34-35. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." So many ways to love each other and it points people to Jesus.





Bible study opportunities at St. John's

The Luke's Bible study led by Pastor Chet.
April 2nd & 16th
at 1:30 p.m.

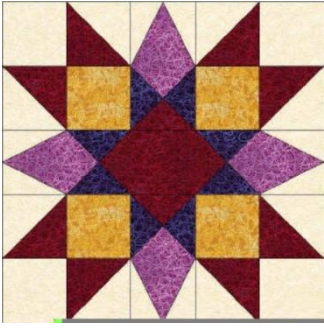
Avenue Bible Study
Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month
at 10:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study
2nd & 4th Thursday of the month.
Facilitated by Beth Scherbarth

Sunday morning Bible Class
Facilitated by Ellen Heck at 9:15 a.m.

New College/ Twenty Something
Bible Study, Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m.
Facilitated by Tommy Breland





Kaffee Klatsch – meets first and third Monday of the month at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Men and Young Men

You are invited to:

Men's Breakfast, the first Saturday of the month. Come and Enjoy Devotion, Food and Fellowship!

**At: Chesterfields 4646 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS.**

Clean-up Day!

March 21st at 9:00 a.m.

Branches clean-up & please bring your gas powered or battery powered blowers for leaves. Also, please bring power washers for the sidewalks.





Lenten Services

Wednesdays, February 18th- March 25th

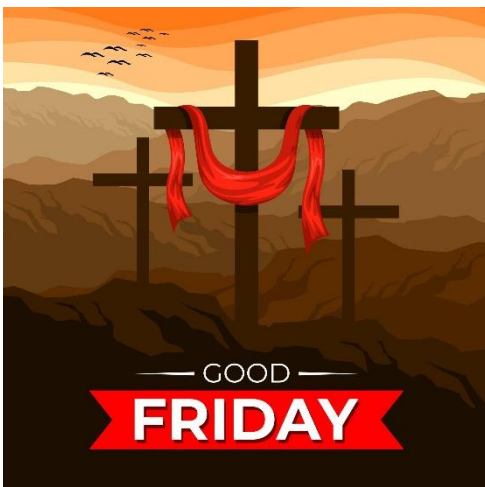
Services at 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.

(With a meal in between)



Holy Maundy Thursday Service

April 2, 2026, at 6p.m.



Good Friday Service

April 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



EASTER SUNDAY (April 5, 2026)

LWML will host "Coffee Fellowship"

with "Home Baked" sweets during the Sunday School Hour.



There will be "Special" treats for the children, and an
"Easter Egg Hunt."

A Sign-up List will be available if you would like to help.

Lucas Lenten Series

(Concerts)

February 25th- March 25th



The following churches are pleased to be a host and support the inaugural Lucas Lenten Series of midday concerts during the Lenten season.

Main Street Baptist Church

Parkway Heights United Methodist Church

Westminister Presbyterian Church

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Lunch will begin on each Wednesday at 11 a.m. , with the concert following at 12:10 p.m. To make a reservation for each week's lunch, please contact the host church one week prior by using the contact:

To Make Lunch Reservations:

**March 11- Westminister Presbyterian Church**

601.584.7574

**March 18 - Parkway Heights United Methodist Church**

Parkwayheights.org/calendar or 601.550.2466

**March 25<sup>th</sup> - Main Street Baptist Church**

601.296.8000

## From the Altar Guild, March 2026

### Easter Lilies

Lilies will soon be available for purchase to decorate our Altar in celebration of our Lord's glorious Resurrection. The price is \$10.00 per plant. Please designate the number of lilies you wish to purchase, note the special "In Memory of" or "In Honor of," and make your checks payable to "St. John Lutheran Church." Lilies\* may be taken home after the Easter service.



\*Please leave the plastic trays, as they are cleaned and reused. This will reduce the need for us to replace the trays each Easter and Christmas season. The Altar Guild appreciates your consideration and support.

### Palm Sunday

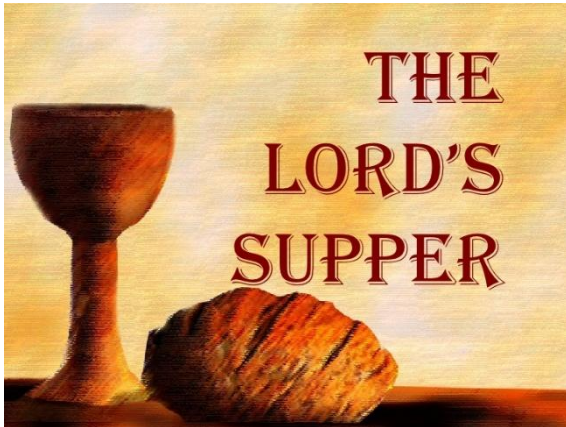
The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem five days before his crucifixion is told in all four gospels (Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12). Jesus rode into town on a donkey as exuberant crowds hailed him as the Messiah and spread out palm branches and cloaks in his path. We, too, hail our Messiah with palm branches. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, an especially solemn and important week in our Christian calendar that focuses on the last days of Jesus' life and anticipates Easter, the most important holy day in Christianity. The color for Palm Sunday is **red** as that is the color for martyrs. Jesus, the innocent one, died for the guilty.



### Looking ahead to April: Maundy Thursday

The Thursday of Holy Week is known as "Maundy Thursday," referring to the Latin word for commandment, mandatum. In these last days of his life, Jesus both states and enacts his new commandment, that we love one another as he has loved us. To show the disciples what he means, he washes their feet, which would have been dusty. Normally, a servant would have taken a basin and washed the feet of guests arriving for a meal. Jesus, whom the disciples know as teacher and friend, healer and leader, abandons all of those roles and kneels before each disciple, washing feet. Jesus leads them to see that this washing of one another is a way of revealing divine tenderness in common, human need. All of us need to have our feet washed. All of us need to wash another.





On this night in which Judas betrays him, Jesus also has a last meal with his disciples. He shares bread and wine with them, saying "Do this in remembrance of me." A washing and a meal—both shared in common, both offered by Jesus as signs of the love that will not let us go, of the divine life embodied in him.

## Good Friday

On this day we commemorate the passion, or suffering on the cross of our Lord, Jesus. Good Friday is a day to fast, repent, and reflect. We can also celebrate this day because in the tragedy of Christ's death is a victory, the ultimate victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and hope against hopelessness.



## Easter

The Resurrection and why it is important: I invite you to read the Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthians: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, 54-55.

***All praise to our Lord!***

*Christina Clark,*  
Altar Guild Chair





## MARCH NEWSLETTER - LWML:

LWML "MITES" collected on Sunday, February 1, 2026, totaled \$381.54. Praise God! Thank you for supporting the Gulf States District and National LWML Mission Grants selected by delegates in convention to tell the Good News of Jesus our Savior all over the world!!! "MITES" will be collected next on Sunday, March 1, 2026.

## AGENDA ITEMS:

1) MAGNOLIA ZONE SPRING RALLY will be held at Saint John Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 7, 2026. As Host for the Spring Rally, Saint John Lutheran Ladies Guild (LWML) will be providing a "Coffee/Juice Fellowship" with Breakfast "sweets", a "Salad " Luncheon, and Desserts. A Registration Fee of (\$5:00) each, and "Coffee Fellowship" will begin at 9:30-10:15 a.m. If you would like to help, a "SIGN-UP LIST" will be available, or contact any LWML member.

2) LENTEN SERVICES - "Soup /Salad " and "Cookies" meal will be served in between the 4 & 6 services on Wednesdays - February 25, 2026 to March 25, 2026. "A Sign-Up Sheet" is posted in the narthex.

3) EASTER SUNDAY (April 5, 2026) LWML will host "Coffee Fellowship" with "Home Baked" sweets for members, friends, and visitors during the Sunday School Hour. Please feel free to share the treats after service with those who are homebound and unable to attend service. Also, there will be "Special" treats for the children, and an "Easter Egg Hunt" planned by Gracie Scherbarth. A Sign-Up List will be available if you would like to help.

LWML "MITES" will be collected on Sunday, March 1, 2026. If you are unable to attend worship 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 .



## March 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                                          | Monday                                                                | Tuesday                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                          | Thursday                                                                                    | Friday               | Saturday                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>9:15am<br><b>Sunday School<br/>           &amp; Bible Study</b><br>10:30am<br><b>Worship</b><br><b>MITES</b><br><b>LWML meeting</b> | <b>2</b><br>12pm AA                                                   | <b>3</b><br>12pm AA<br><b>Kaffee</b><br><b>Klasch 10:00</b><br><b>a.m.</b> | <b>4</b><br>12pm AA                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>5</b><br>12pm AA<br><b>Pastor's</b><br><b>Bible</b><br><b>Study</b><br><b>1:30</b>       | <b>6</b><br>12pm AA  | <b>7</b><br><b>9:00 Men's</b><br><b>Breakfast</b><br><b>9:00 LWML</b><br><b>Rally</b><br>9:30 am<br>10:00 a.m.AA                      |
| <b>8</b><br>9:15am<br><b>Sunday School<br/>           &amp; Bible Study</b><br>10:30am<br><b>Worship</b>                                        | <b>9</b><br>12pm AA                                                   | <b>10</b><br>12pm AA                                                       | <b>11</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br><b>Avenue</b><br><b>Bible Study</b><br>12 pm AA<br><br><b>Lenten Services</b><br><b>At 4 p.m. &amp;</b><br><b>6 p.m.</b><br>Meal served in<br>between services   | <b>12</b><br>12pm AA<br><b>Women's</b><br><b>Bible</b><br><b>Study</b><br><b>4:30pm</b>     | <b>13</b><br>12pm AA | <b>14</b><br>10am AA                                                                                                                  |
| <b>15</b><br>9:15am<br><b>Sunday School<br/>           &amp; Bible Study</b><br>10:30am<br><b>Worship</b><br><b>Service</b>                     | <b>16</b><br>12pm AA<br><b>1:30</b><br><b>Kaffee</b><br><b>Klasch</b> | <b>17</b><br>12pm AA                                                       | <b>18</b><br>12 pm AA<br><br><b>Lenten Services</b><br><b>At 4 p.m. &amp;</b><br><b>6 p.m.</b><br>Meal served in<br>between services                                                               | <b>19</b><br>12pm AA                                                                        | <b>20</b><br>12pm AA | <b>21</b><br>10am AA<br><b>Church</b><br><b>work day</b><br><b>9 a.m.</b>                                                             |
| <b>22</b><br>9:15am<br><b>Sunday School<br/>           &amp; Bible Study</b><br>10:30am<br><b>Worship</b>                                       | <b>23</b><br>12pm AA                                                  | <b>24</b><br>12pm AA                                                       | <b>25</b><br><b>10:00 a.m. Avenue</b><br><b>Bible Study</b><br><br><b>12 pm AA</b><br><br><b>Lenten Services</b><br><b>At 4 p.m. &amp;</b><br><b>6 p.m.</b><br>Meal served in<br>between services. | <b>26</b><br>12pm AA<br><br><b>Women's</b><br><b>Bible</b><br><b>Study</b><br><b>4:30pm</b> | <b>27</b><br>12pm AA | <b>28</b><br>10am AA<br><b>Church</b><br><b>work day 9</b><br><b>a.m.</b><br><b>(If the 21st</b><br><b>got rained</b><br><b>out.)</b> |

|                                                                                                                                            |                              |                              |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>29</b><br/>12pm AA<br/><b>9:15am</b><br/><b>Sunday School</b><br/><b>&amp; Bible Study</b><br/><b>10:30am</b><br/><b>Worship</b></p> | <p><b>30</b><br/>12pm AA</p> | <p><b>31</b><br/>12pm AA</p> |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|

## ***March Celebrations!***

### **Birthdays**



|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Glen Stengrim   | Mar 3  |
| Diahn Lee       | Mar 5  |
| Lizzy Wallace   | Mar 7  |
| Tessa Blair     | Mar 11 |
| Terry Lovdahl   | Mar 14 |
| Lynn Pye        | Mar 18 |
| Myla Scherbarth | Mar 20 |
| Robert Nelson   | Mar 25 |

### **Baptism Celebrations**



|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Bob Cubley       | Mar 1  |
| Helga Herrington | Mar 1  |
| Sonja Chaney     | Mar 16 |
| Macy Reid        | Mar 23 |
| Sawyer Chaney    | Mar 30 |



### ***Wedding Anniversaries***

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Van and Mary Lowry (56) | Mar 14 |
|-------------------------|--------|



## Saint John Lutheran Church

2001 Hardy Street  
Hattiesburg MS 39401  
Telephone: 601.583.4898 Website:  
Email: [stjohnlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnlutheranchurch@gmail.com)  
Like Us on Facebook: Oktoberfest Hattiesburg  
Like Us on Facebook: Saint John Church Hattiesburg



**Church Office Hours:** 9:00am – 1:00pm, Tuesday – Friday; After 1p.m. by appt.  
**Pastor's Office Hours:** Tue-Thu: 9:00am – 1:00pm; after 1p.m. by appt. Also Fri – Sun by appointment.

