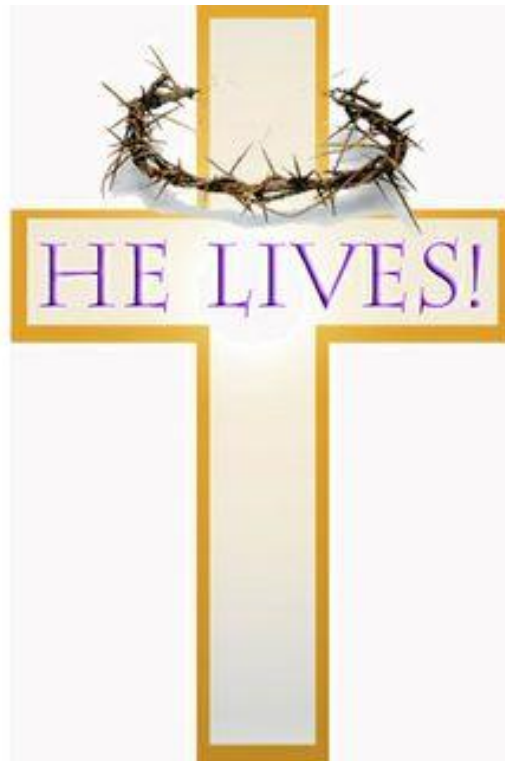


*May 2025
Newsletter*



**Saint John Lutheran Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**



A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

He is Risen! Words so short but so sweet. Words that herald the triumph of our Lord and Savior Jesus. As he walked past the angels into the early morning of the first Easter Sunday. And our Joy was made complete with the rising of Jesus. And as I think about that glorious moment it makes me think of the blooming of the flowers. Spring is in full bloom. The flowers are opening up with myriads of colors and scents. With this burst of color and aroma they announce life! And soon the birds sing and bugs buzz and the trees follow unfurling their shady blankets. Every year we celebrate Jesus' resurrection forty days after Ash Wednesday. And if we look and pay attention. We will see it has been wired into our weather. The plan of God written in the math that governs nature. Every spring testifying to the resurrection of Jesus. But the testimony can only be heard after the word has come and the Lord's face has turned and shined its resurrection light on you. Lift your heads, lift your hearts. He's alive. He is risen! He is risen Indeed!





Board of Director's Report
April 2025

The BOD met on April 18, 2025. Our contributions for March 2025 were \$13,011 and Year to date were \$47,973, which is \$6,000 under our Year to date for last year. Our normal expenses exceed our contributions. The Church continues to meet our monthly mortgage obligations. Our expenses for Altar Flowers continue to exceed our annual budget. Please consider sponsoring Altar Flowers. Please sign up on the Flower Chart located by the mailboxes in the Narthex. We ask that you continue to consider the bounty the Lord has bestowed upon you and thank him with a percentage of that bounty. The Lord continues to bless St. John, and we thank him for the abundance of our lives in all things.

BOD business:

Discussions on church maintenance:

- Our new church sign is installed and working.
- The light bulbs have all been replaced in the sanctuary with new LED bulbs.
- Ceiling fans are on order and should be installed prior to the summer heat.
- The A/C control that was in the Youth room is now located outside of the room. This should help in regulating the temperature of that zone, which includes the Community room.

Upcoming events:

- We encourage everyone to plan on attending the Intergenerational Vacation Bible School in June. The dates and additional information is found in this newsletter.
- We are considering a church picnic but are limited by other activities going on with the church and its members. We have identified June 29 or July 27 as possible dates. If anyone has any idea on a location (Lake Serene is not available) for the picnic and/or is willing to assist with organizing, please see Beth, Mark or Pastor with your ideas.

As always, you are encouraged 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.

In his service and yours,
The Board

From the Altar Guild



My Easter Take Away—Forgiving Others

One of the greatest, most inspiring examples of forgiveness in the Bible was of Jesus forgiving his tormentors from the cross. Even as he felt his mortal life ebb, Jesus knew the value of forgiveness and believed those who were torturing him deserved to be forgiven.

There are circumstances in which I struggle to forgive. Feeling hurt or betrayed is painful, and so, I revisit the example of Jesus’ forgiveness and learn again of His love for others. This is what He wants us to do too. Thinking back on Good Friday, I am reminded that even when faced with painful situations, it is always within my power to forgive.

I do not deny my feelings of hurt, but like Jesus, I believe others deserve forgiveness. I pray for the willingness to forgive as I remember Jesus’ ultimate example from the cross.

Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”—Luke 23:34

May 29 – The Ascension of Jesus

The account of Jesus’ ascension is found in **Luke 24:50-51** and **Acts 1:9-11**. It is plain from Scripture that Jesus’ ascension was a literal, bodily return to heaven. He rose from the ground gradually and visibly, observed by many intent onlookers. As the disciples strained to catch a last glimpse of Jesus, a cloud hid Him from their view, and two angels appeared and promised Christ’s return "in just the same way that you have watched Him go" (Acts 1:11).



The Ascension of Jesus Christ is meaningful for several reasons:

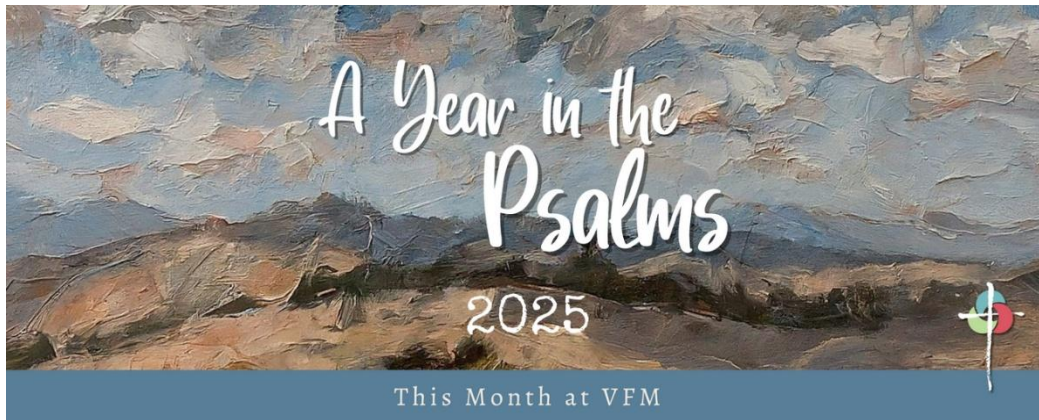
- 1) It signaled the end of His earthly ministry. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was returning to the Father. The period of human limitation was at an end.
- 2) It signified success in His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished.
- 3) It marked the return of His heavenly glory. Jesus' glory had been veiled during His sojourn on earth, with one brief exception at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9).
- 4) It symbolized His exaltation by the Father (Ephesians 1:20-23). The One with whom the Father is well pleased (Matthew 17:5) was received up in honor and given a name above all names (Philippians 2:9).
- 5) It allowed Him to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).
- 6) It indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16) and Mediator of the New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15).
- 7) It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left-literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds (Acts 1:11; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7).

Come, Lord Jesus ~

Christina Keiper
Altar Guild Chair



We used Visual Faith Ministry last year for VBS. Many of the things on the Visual Faith Ministry are free or at very low cost and help us to get into the word and prayer. There is a link below to their website.



Welcome to May! He is Risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Spring is here! School is starting to wind down, and we are looking forward to the warm days of summer. As we move into May we have several new resources and events to bless your time individually, with your family, or with a small group/ministry group.

Our Year in the Psalms continues this month with Psalms 42-55. Our monthly devotional focuses on Psalm 46 and was written by Debbie Yocky. Our Bible Journaling by Verse/Ephemera Kit includes a devotional based on Psalm 44.

Our monthly Around the Word event will focus on Psalm 55. This psalm records an instance in which the city of Jerusalem was in turmoil. David had been betrayed by one from his inner circle, thus plunging the entire city into danger. Rumors, distrust, and uncertainty threatened all within the city walls. After David shared the nitty-gritty of the situation with his heavenly Father, he proclaimed God's sovereignty with action verbs: God hears. God saves, rescues, ransoms, and redeems. God rules. God avenges. God sustains. God cares and carries. Which action verbs were ascribed to God's people? We cry out. We cast our burdens on Him. We rest assured in the One who never changes and Who never allows His children to be shaken. As in the days of David, so it is today: God acts. We remain connected to Him.

May you feel God's presence in your life today!

Here is the link to their website:

visualfaith@visualfaithmin.org



LWML "MITES" collected on Sunday, April 6, 2025, totaled \$415.70. 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. Thank you for your support of the Mission Grants selected in Convention by the Gulf States District and National LWML. "MITES" will be collected next on Sunday, May 4, 2025.

Coming . . . Sunday, May 4, 2025, the LWML will host a "Cinco De Mayo" Potluck Fundraiser with assistance from Thrivent Financial, to cover expenses for Vacation Bible School scheduled on June 11-13, 2025. A Free Will Offering will be taken at the Potluck. Please bring any "Mexican" food to share - Tacos, Enchiladas, Salads, Desserts, etc. There will be a Pinata for the children and possibly the "Mexican" hat dance. Please come, bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship

On Sunday, June 1, 2025, the LWML will host a "Gift Card" Bridal Shower for Chloe Scherbarth immediately following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend, we will begin collecting your "Cards" beginning on Sunday, May 11, 2025, in the box provided in the narthex. All members are invited to come and share your best wishes on this special day.

LWML MISSION STATEMENT

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, Support Missions and equip Women to honor God by serving others. Lord

Until Next Time "Serve the Lord with Gladness!!!"

Shirley Thone, President LWML





Intergenerational VBS for the whole family.

Epic Australian Adventure

St. John Lutheran Church

2001 Hardy St.

Hattiesburg, MS 39401

June 11-13

Dinner 5-6 pm

VBS program 6-8

Bible Study, crafts, games, story time and putting God's word in your heart. So much fun for all!

Picture of Ted beautifying the property with the Easter lilies!

Great job Ted! Making the property look so nice.



**Thank you to all those who work to
make the church property look so nice!**





Thanks to the generous support of St. John's, our Spayghetti To-Go! Dinner was a heartwarming success, and we are excited to share the impact you helped make possible! With your help, we served 240 delicious spaghetti meals to our community and raised \$3,358 to support our mission of keeping veterinary care affordable and helping shelter pets get the medical care they need to find health, happiness, and loving homes.

Our clinic team is so grateful for the partnership we have with St. Johns. The work we do each day, caring for sick and injured shelter pets, offering low-cost services to local pet owners, and helping animals find their way home simply wouldn't be possible without the kindness of people like you.

Thank you again to your congregation for being part of our Spayghetti story. You didn't just help us serve up dinner, you helped serve up hope.

Southern Pines
Healthy Pet Clinic



May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10am AA
4 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Worship MITES Collected Cinco De Mayo VBS Fundraiser	5 12pm AA 1:30 Kaffee Klasch	6 12pm AA	7 10:00 a.m. Avenue Bible study 12 pm AA	8 12pm AA	9 12pm AA	10 10am AA
11 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Worship Mother's Day	12 12pm AA	13 12pm AA	14 12 pm AA	15 12pm AA	16 12pm AA	17 10am AA
18 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Worship VBS Meeting & Light lunch	19 12pm AA 1:30 Kaffee Klasch	20 12pm AA	21 10:00 a.m. Avenue Bible study 12 pm AA	22 12pm AA	23 12pm AA	24 10am AA
25 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Worship	26 12pm AA 1:30 Kaffee Klasch	27 12pm AA	28 12pm AA	29 12pm AA	30 12pm AA	31 10 am AA

May Celebrations!

Birthdays



Ellen Heck	May 4
Mary Cubley	May 9
Wally Pye	May 12
Wayland Johnson	May 13
Karle Jahnke	May 20
Irvin Curry	May 21
Bill Coll	May 26

Baptism Celebrations



Van Lowry	May 5
Nancy Grunig	May 10
Susan Perkins	May 11
Terry Lovdahl	May 13
Brooklyn Noffke	May 16
Brandon Lee	May 20
Sandy Barnett	May 26

Wedding Anniversaries



Wally & Lynn Pye (60)	May 8
Brian & Diahn Lee (7)	May 14
Ted & Annette Meyer (35)	May 18
Jane Kersh & Tommy Breland (21)	May 24

