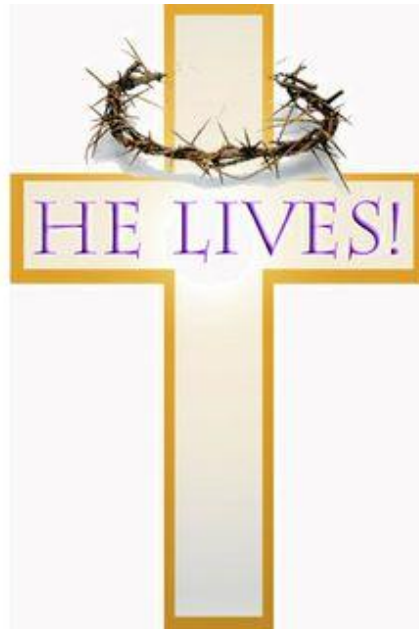


Our May 2026 Newsletter

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



**Saint John Lutheran Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**



A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Power

As a fan of science fiction and fantasy I have come to some observations. Power is one of the most corruptive ideas or things in our society. We see Satan tempt Jesus in the wilderness with all the kingdoms in the world, if he would bow to him. We see Solomon grow in power and influence through his many wives and concubines and we see how he is corrupted. Over the years I have watched Harry Potter and the Lord of the Rings. Read countless books, enjoying the entertainment and creativity of the world building. But I have come to realize as I mentioned moments ago, the corruption of power. I have noticed that magic, often a source of power in the stories, never seems to make anything better. And in sci-fi you can include technology. Those with the best technology have more power.

Take the Harry Potter movies for instance. He goes to wizard school, makes friends and then suffers from one movie to the next. Never does the magic actually improve his life, or anyone in the story. The villains pursue magic so they can bend the world to their will. The heroes pursue to prevent the villains from bending the world to their will. Though sometimes you will catch glimpses of where the power takes a hero and turns them into a villain. The Lord of the Rings shows good examples of this. Boromir is corrupted by the ring to wield for good intentions and he dies. Galadriel shows to Frodo a vision of what would happen if she took the ring and how she would become a terrible and beautiful master forcing all to love her. As we watch, Frodo is being changed by the ring as well. The power slowly brings out his desires and twists them so that his are more important than the goal of defeating the evil. It seems that the quest for power always has a cost and it is usually devastating.

As art imitates life it is true that there is a cost for power. Just look at our politics and how the most well-intentioned person can be elected but over time the power creep sets in. There are exceptions of course, but the exceptions don't make the rule. All this being said, how does one become the exception instead of the rule? It is to maintain a healthy relationship with power, and this is one of those easier said than done kind of things. However, we turn back to the start of this article. We look to Jesus for the answer when Satan is tempting him. In Matthew chapter 4:8 and following, we see Satan take Jesus to a high mountain and offer him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, if Jesus will bow to him. And Jesus' response is our response when we are tempted by power. "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve." These are words to commit to your heart. When the temptation of power comes your way, turn to the true power of the universe, God, and serve him. Christ has shown us the way. Test him and see that he is correct.



Board of Director's Report

April 2026

The BOD met on April 21, 2026. The financial report shows that our receipts were \$15,341 and expenses were \$20,403 for a deficit of \$5,062. This increases our deficit for the year to \$10,571.00. Thank you for your giving and we know that God is walking along with us as we do his work. Please continue prayerfully considering your plan for giving throughout this year.

BOD actions taken:

- Intergenerational Vacation Bible school (VBS) will be June 10-12. If you would like to help, please see Beth. Otherwise, invite your friends and neighbors to attend and learn about our Savior Jesus Christ.**
- There will be no children's Sunday school this summer. We will have an end of summer rally to start up again in the fall. Adult classes will continue throughout the summer.**
- We will be installing a door camera on the entrance area to enhance security. This will allow our workers inside to see who is at the door.**
- Oktoberfest preparation has begun. We need everyone in the congregation to become involved. All proceeds from the event goes strictly to missions. We appreciate your help. 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

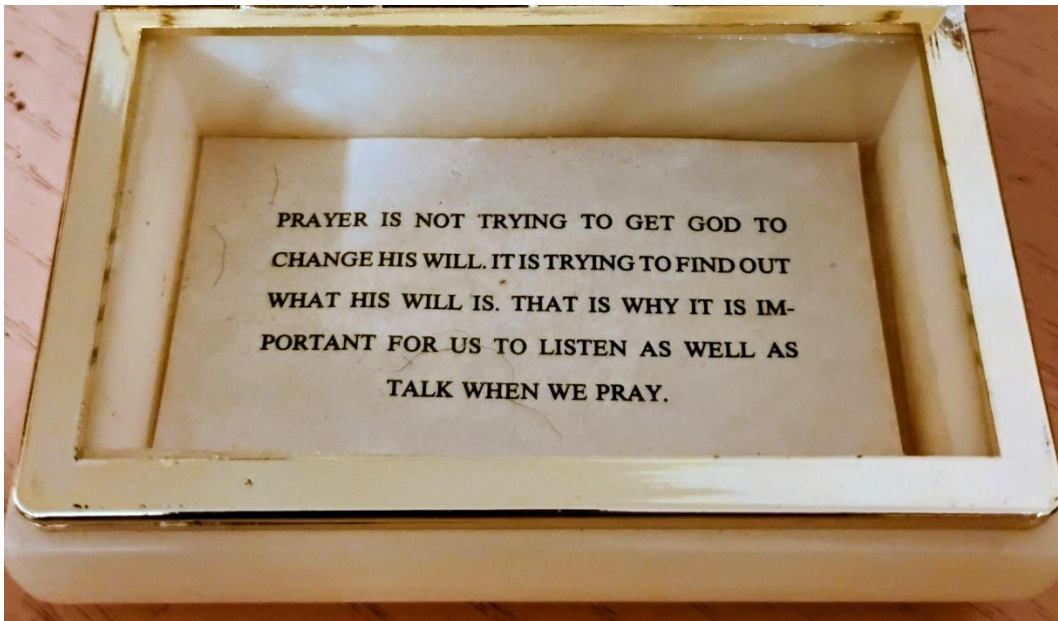


A Little message from your Pastor's wife...

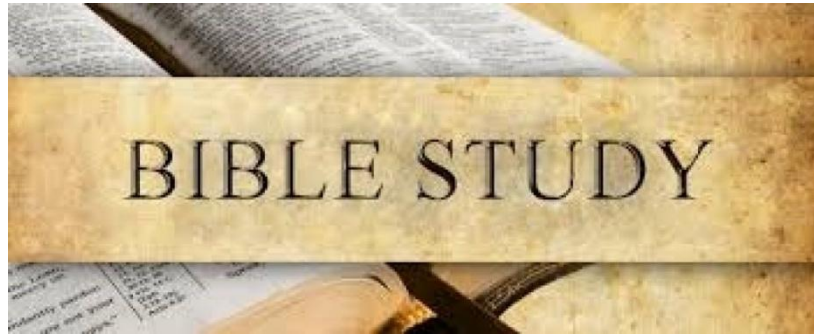
Be Still & know.

Last time we were at St. Jude, God made it clear to me his message for that visit. The message was found in Psalm 46:10, He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." In the Greek this verse translates to "be unoccupied/leisurely and know that I am God." To be unoccupied means to stop working/fighting. It also means to let go.

How often are we as people being still and knowing that God is God? How often are we being still and listening to God through his spoken word? God communicates through his spoken word. As Pastor says, it is important to be in God's word so that we know the voice of our LORD and listening to Him.



On Thursday night at my parents' house in Lincoln I found this little piece of paper at the bottom of one of my mom's boxes:



Bible study opportunities at St. John's

The Luke's Bible study led by Pastor Chet.
May 7th & 21st
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 at 4:30 p.m.
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



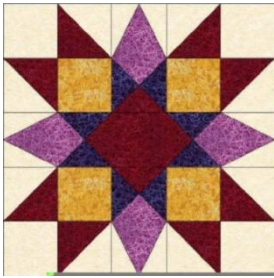


Men and Young Men

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.**



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



**Cross-Generational
VBS Meeting
5:45 p.m. on May 14th**

From the Altar Guild April 2026

In our Women's Bible Study, there is a devotion in Immeasurably More by Deb Burma titled "Brown Eyes." The author tells a story about a stuffed bear named Brown Eyes her husband had as a child. This was a much loved and adored bear. Years later, Brown Eyes came back on the scene. Though torn and tattered, her husband warmly welcomed this worn, stained and matted bear. Love is just that way.

Many times over the years, I have found lost or unwanted stuffed toys (bears, dogs, bunnies, dolls, and such) alongside the road, in ditches, or at the curb in the trash. All were filthy, torn, had parts missing, and had lost stuffing, much like Brown Eyes. I brought them home and set about repairing each according to its needs. It's all about stitching with much needed tender loving care. Love is just that way.

With each bath, each bit of stuffing, and each repair, I am reminded of God's love for me, for all of us. He cleanses us, repairs us according to our needs, and lavishes us with a tender loving care that only He can provide. Love is just that way.

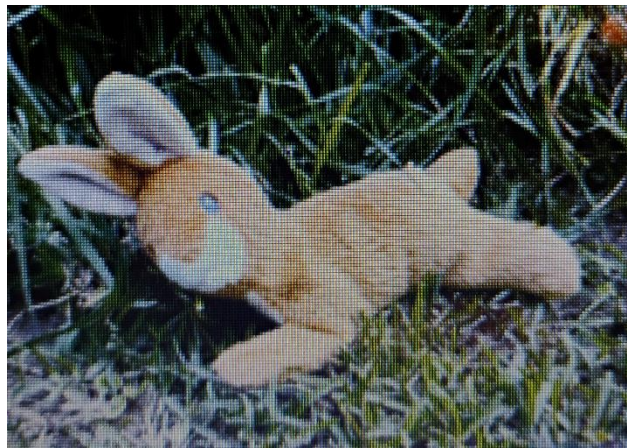
Whether my needs are emotional or physical, God washes me in His love, replaces missing parts, and tenderly stitches me back together. I am thankful for His special TLC. His love is just that way.

All praise to our Lord

Christina Clark,

Altar Guild Chair

**The most recent repair: mud-caked,
ears detached, leg torn, stuffing missing.**



All better! **Let our Lord and Savior make you all better.**

Accept that His love is just that way.



LWML - MAY NEWS

LWML "MITES" collected on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026, totaled \$205.32. Thank you for your prayers and support of the Mission Grants selected in convention by the delegates of the National and Gulf States District LWML. "MITES" will be collected next on Sunday, May 3, 2026. There will be no business meeting in May.

Jesus is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!! Alleluia!!! I would like to thank all who helped with the LWML "Coffee Fellowship", with "Home baked" Breakfast "sweets ", and Special gifts made for the Sunday School children. Also, a big "thank you " to Gracie Scherbarth, and her helpers, who headed the Sunday School "Easter Egg Hunt." again this year. Plans changed - with a little "liquid sunshine", the "Hunt" was held inside the building. There were eggs everywhere!! What a wonderful way to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord - children and adults!!! Jesus is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!! Alleluia!!!

The Gulf States District LWML Convention will be held on April 24-26, 2026, at the Courtyard Marriott in Gulfport, Mississippi. Saint John Lutheran Ladies Guild will be in charge of decorating the tables for the Saturday evening "Bar B Q" Banquet, with Wendy Sue entertaining. Six members from Saint John will be attending the convention - Lillian, Julie, Sheila, Elaine, Judy M., and I (Delegate). We will bring all the news - Mission Grant Recipients, "Gifts from the Heart", Bible Studies by Donna Snow, Mission Speakers, etc. to the LWML Business meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2026. Watch for more details in the church bulletin next month.

LWML "MITES" will be collected on Sunday, May 3, 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 Mission, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

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

Shirley Thone, President, LWML



The History of Our OKTOBERFEST

Our Saint John Oktoberfest began as a congregational potluck 44 years ago. Friends were invited, and after a couple of years it was opened to the public. We now serve nearly 1400 plates of German potato salad, sauerkraut, and brats or wieners.

Homemade German and traditional mustard, breads, and desserts will be sold in our Delicatessen. The proceeds from this event are used to fulfill our mission goal as a congregation. We support many local and some overseas organizations. Mark the week of September 27th on your calendar as there are preparation activities every day! Please get involved and find out what great friends you have here at Saint John.

May 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------------|---|--|---------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 12pm AA | 2 9:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 a.m.AA |
| 3 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service Cross Generational VBS fundraiser | 4 Kaffee Klasch 10:00 a.m. 12pm AA | 5 12pm AA | 6 10:00 a.m. Avenue Bible Study 12 pm AA | 7 12pm AA Pastor's Bible Study 1:30 | 8 12pm AA | 9 10am AA |
| 10 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service | 11 12pm AA | 12 12pm AA | 13 12 pm AA | 14 12pm AA Women's Bible Study 4:30pm 5:45pm VBS meeting Church Dinner | 15 12pm AA | 16 10am AA |
| 17 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Worship Oktoberfest Meeting | 18 Kaffee Klasch 10:00 a.m. 12pm AA | 19 12pm AA | 20 10:00 a.m. Avenue Bible Study 12 pm AA | 21 12pm AA Pastor's Bible Study 1:30 | 22 12pm AA | 23 10am AA |
| 24 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Worship | 25 12pm AA | 26 12pm AA | 27 12pm AA | 28 12pm AA Women's Bible Study 4:30pm | 29 12pm AA | 30 10am AA |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>31 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Worship Reception for Yinghan</p> | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|

March Celebrations!

Birthdays



| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Ellen Heck | May 4 |
| Mary Cubley | May 9 |
| Wally Pye | May 12 |
| Wayland Johnson | May 13 |
| Karl 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 |

Wedding Anniversaries



| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Wally & Lynn Pye | May 8 |
| Brian & Diahn Lee | May 14 |
| Ted & Christina Clark | May 15 |
| Jane Kersh & Tommy Breland | May 24 |



Saint John Lutheran Church

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Hattiesburg MS 39401

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Email: 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.

