



# Good News

Saint John Lutheran Church  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

November  
2022



## Liturgical Colors Continued: When Gold is used

Gold is an optional color for Easter Sunday, and it is the suggested color for the last Sunday in the church year when that day is observed as Christ the King Sunday (LBW). Its use may not be popular yet, but its emphasis is undeniable. Gold represents value and worth. The golden festival of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the event that gives our lives meaning and worth. He is worthy of our praise as we adorn His altar with the color of splendor.

At St. John, we typically adorn His altar with white linens enhanced by the addition of other gold elements. You see it in the banners, the paraments, and even the sleeves covering the potted Easter lilies and other plants. Pictured is our Altar in preparation for Resurrection Sunday.

## Special Days in November: All Saints' Day (November 1st; observed on November 6th)

For this feast day, we will celebrate with white banners (different from those used at Easter) with gold representations. On the Solemnity of All Saints, November 1st, the Church celebrates those Christians who achieved spiritual maturity. We remember all saints and martyrs during Christian history. It

is followed by All Souls' Day on November 2nd to commemorate those who have passed within the faith.

Both holidays stem from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (the "Church triumphant") and the living (the "Church militant").

## Spiritual Tools: Hope and Faith as we *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

As Advent season begins, say *no* to pessimistic or hopeless notions that may have crept into your thinking, dimming your hope, and weighing on your mind and heart. Rather, say *yes* to goodness and positivity. Allow a sense of renewed hope to dawn within you, a promise that something wonderful is on its way. As we prepare for the Christ child to be born, we allow our faith to be reborn.

There is no earthly condition, no worldly circumstance greater than Jesus. This is where we place our faith: in the power, presence, love and grace of God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. These divine attributes reside within us, though we often perceive them more readily in others than in ourselves. As we prepare the way of the Lord, let us grow in faith and hope.

*May the God of hope fill [us] with all joy and peace in believing, so that [we] may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

Amen,

The Altar Guild

Come Holy Spirit



St John has just completed another successful Oktoberfest. We may well have set a new record for funds raised for the missions we support. For those of you who spent almost countless hours of prep, and then turned out for the event itself on Saturday, you may have wondered internally, or out loud, "What's left? Do I have any more energy to give in this effort?" It mirrors the everyday basis of our church mission.

As a leader, do you sometimes get discouraged, run out of gas, or maybe wonder what am I to do next as a leader in my church? Most congregation's leaders-pastors, spouses, laity- seriously wonder "what's left." And too often, they quit or wreck their lives, or quietly jump to disengagement. It is no wonder, really. A lot of our training is for a world that is changing quickly, and is even disappearing. Some churches are "stuck" clinging to the past, refusing to change vision, surrounding hope or bouncing blindly to the next quick fix.

There is an advantage to all of this! Arrogance, or assured self-confidence get squeezed out of us. Only solidly grounded faith in God and an abiding trust in God's Spirit to work amazingly and miraculously through His Word remain our true and right focus as we grow in mission.

There are specific ways to grow in effective ministry:

1. We stay in production mode day after day, week after week, allowing opportunities for reinvestment of "what's left."
2. We isolate, when safe, in honest community with others who can love us for who we are and love us enough to not leave us where we're at is essential.
3. We are what we do. Success... Failure... We allow it to define us. It's important to remember and rehearse our baptismal covenant as adopted children of the Father.
4. We drift through weeks filled with doing what we are not good at doing. Doing what doesn't match who we really are. We would do better to lead ourselves in doing more of what we are passionate about that matches our strengths. There is much to be gained in a self-driven evaluation of our skills and proven actions that produce success in discipleship.

To sum it up, give yourself time, search to get vision back into your life, remind yourself that you are more than what you do or what someone else thinks. You will soon learn to reinvest in yourself. You will also learn that the journey through "what's left" will make you a better leader and disciple.

See you in church!

Dennis Smith



The BOD met on October 20, 2022. Our financial situation continues to be sound. As we were last month; we remain in the black. The Board thanks everyone for your continued giving during this challenging time as we search for a new pastor.

The Call committee continues its search for a new Pastor. The committee has interviewed and is recommending Pastor Chad Czischke for the congregation to extend a call. Please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our pastoral search.

The remodel work is largely complete and should be complete by early November. We thank everyone for their patience as we complete this major improvement project. We will be considering a building fund campaign to pay off our construction loan faster, so we can limit the size of a mortgage or eliminate the need for a mortgage.

The Board would like to thank all who helped to put on a successful Oktoberfest this year. It took a total team effort, and feedback reflects that the community was extremely grateful that the event had returned.

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on December 4, 2022. The Board will present the annual budget for ratification, as well as conduct an election for anticipated Board vacancies. We encourage anyone who is interested in serving on the Board to contact Mark Keyl by the next Board meeting on November 17, 2022.

Ongoing Board issues include:

- Re-establish ushers, readers, and greeters. Christopher Longman and Nancy Kaul will coordinate and develop a plan of action.
- The minutes of the Board meetings are posted on the bulletin board located in the narthex.

That is all 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



**LWML**  
Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML MITES collected on Sunday, October 2, 2022, totaled \$158.15. Praise God!!! Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the Mission Grants selected in convention by the Gulf States District and National LWML.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!" (Psalm 36). These passages are everywhere in God's Word - especially Psalms. As Thanksgiving is fast approaching, I remember some of the many blessings received during the past months. After two years without Oktoberfest, God truly blessed the efforts of members and friends as they planned, prepared the food, etc., and, once again, were able to support missions locally and worldwide. It is so easy to take for granted the many blessings we receive daily: our family, health, food, house, even the very air we breathe. Every morning when I open my eyes, I thank God for another day, and ask Him to lead me to someone who needs His love. There are so many people hurting and need to hear this "Good News" of Jesus. God loves you! He is in control! Let's share this "Good News" at every opportunity God gives us. JESUS LOVES YOU!!!

The LWML 40th Biennial Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 22-25, 2023. The Theme: "Celebrate the Lord of Nations!" (Psalm 33:12-13). This convention marks the 80th anniversary of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Hanna Dunlap, President, Gulf States District will represent the Magnolia Zone as our Delegate. Anyone interested in attending? Registration will begin early next year.

LWML MITES will be collected next on Sunday, November 6, 2022. If you are unable to attend worship service, you may make your check out to Saint John Lutheran Church LWML, and mail it directly to Christina Noffke at 108 Ramblewood Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

On Sunday, November 6, 2022, LWML members will meet in the Community Room immediately following the worship service. If you are new to Saint John Lutheran, you are especially welcome and invited! Please come and share your ideas! Agenda Items: What's Your 80?"; Thanksgiving Plans; LWML Annual Christmas Party; Lutheran Women's Quarterly) Subscriptions & District Travel Equalization; Election of Officers 2023 (year 17 after reorganization on December 4, 2006).

### 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](mailto:stjohnlutheranchurch@gmail.com)

**11/5: Men's Breakfast** ~ takes place at Chesterfield's Restaurant, 4646 Hardy Street. It's a time to meet, greet, and eat. Please mark your calendars!

**11/6: MITES collected** ~ Thank you for your prayers and support of the Mission Grants selected in the Convention of the Gulf States and National LWML.

**11/6: LWML Business Meeting** ~ LWML will meet in the Community Room immediately following the worship service. Agenda: Thanksgiving Plans; Annual LWML Christmas Party; Gulf States District business & annual meeting (first Sunday in December). If you are new to Saint John Lutheran, you are especially invited and welcome! Please join us!

**11/6: First Sunday Breadbasket Collection** ~ Please bring canned and dry goods next Sunday to help feed the hungry and to help keep the shelves at Edward's Street Pantry stocked.

**11/16: Kaffee Klatsch** meets at 1:30pm

**11/17: Board of Directors** meet at 6:30pm

**11/27: Advent** begins

**12/3: Church Decorate Day** ~ mark your calendars! We will decorate the church with greens, ribbons and our new tree! We plan to begin at 9:00am

**Oktoberfest Income** -- \$30,420.23! How awesome is that!? Let's continue to sell brats and mustard!

**Readers Needed** - Readers are needed for the month of November. Please sign up so you can share the Word of the Lord with your Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

## November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  12pm AA	<b>5</b> 9am Men's Breakfast 10am AA  (set clocks back)
<b>6</b> 10:30am Worship  Breadbasket MITES Collected  LWML business Meeting	<b>7</b>  12pm AA	<b>8</b>  12pm AA	<b>9</b> 10am Avenue's Bible Study  12pm AA	<b>10</b>  12pm AA	<b>11</b>  12pm AA	<b>12</b> 10am AA
<b>13</b> 10:30am Worship	<b>14</b>  12pm AA	<b>15</b>  12pm AA	<b>16</b>  12pm AA  1:30pm Kaffee Klatsch	<b>17</b>  12pm AA  6:30pm BOD	<b>18</b>  12pm AA	<b>19</b> 10am AA
<b>20</b> 10:30am Worship	<b>21</b>  12pm AA	<b>22</b>  12pm AA	<b>23</b> 10am Avenue's Bible Study  12pm AA	<b>24</b>  12pm AA	<b>25</b>  12pm AA	<b>26</b> 10am AA
<b>27</b> 10:30am Worship  Advent Begins	<b>28</b>  12pm AA	<b>29</b>  12pm AA	<b>30</b>  12pm AA			

**Serving in November**

**Interim Pastor**

Gary Weier

**Music Director**

Jason Sims

**Altar Care Team**

Christina Keiper and Sheila Curry

**Live Streaming of Worship Services** — [www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com](http://www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com).

**Portals of Prayer for October-December** are available at the lobby mailboxes.

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

**December Newsletter Deadline** — Monday, November 21st at 10am.

**The Spirit that is St. John:**





## Birthdays in November

Jerry Herrington 1/9      Ethan Potesta 11/12  
 Macy Reid 11/12      Jane Johnson 11/17      Darlene Boortz 11/18  
 Shawn O'Connor 11/18      Braxton Lee 11/20  
 Haley Trahan 11/20      Sonja Chaney 11/23      Jane Kersh 11/23

## Baptisms in November



Doris Schneider 11/1      Jennifer Blair 11/7  
 Christina Keiper 11/13      Ethan Potesta 11/16  
 Logan Lovdahl 11/23

## Weddings in November



Wayland & Jane Johnson, 14yrs 11/22  
 Willy & Christina Noffke, 52yrs 11/10

***Surprise the World!***

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



**Saint John Lutheran Church**

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Hattiesburg MS 39401

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**Website:** [www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com](http://www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com)

**Email:** [stjohnlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnlutheranchurch@gmail.com)

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