

*September 2023  
Newsletter*

**GOOD NEWS**

*Because Good Happens!*

**Saint John Lutheran Church  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**



# A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Hello Church Family,

Well, Beth, Gracie, Chloe, Myla, Paul, Mr. Cuddles (our tuxedo cat) and I are starting to settle in. We have landed in Petal and have begun our exploration of the Hattiesburg area. We are finding we live closer to things than we thought. There are things just around the corner from us, hidden by a bit of forest. It is very different from being able to see things several miles off in most directions. I am also noticing little wildflowers poking out here and there that I haven't seen before. We are looking forward to getting to know all of you, and we also look forward to the Ministry opportunities here in the Hattiesburg area, including Oktoberfest. I am currently working on my pronunciation. It will take some time for my ear to train my tongue.

Here is a verse I would like to share with you as we begin our Ministry together. It comes from Psalm 100:3, "Know that the Lord, He is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." It is a good reminder for us that we are not alone in this world. God is with us, and we are his. Claimed in the waters of baptism and held fast by faith. What a blessing that is!

Blessings and peace,

*Pastor Chet*

# Thankful

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*

*Philippians 1:3-5*

*We would like to thank each and every one of you for the love shared with our family. Thank you for the prayers, help with finding a place to live, the move-in-help, gifts, attention to detail with allergies, and more. It is a blessing! We are thankful for each of you and appreciate you!*

*Pastor Chet, Beth, Gracie, Chloe,  
Myla and Paul*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy spirit.*

*Romans 15:13*



August 2023

The BOD met on August 21, 2023. Our financial situation continues to be sound. The Board thanks everyone for your consistent giving. Now that we have a fulltime Pastor, we ask that you consider a special gift earmarked for Pastor Chet's move to our area so we can defray the expenses of that move, as well as considering your giving for the rest of the year, taking into account the necessity of supporting a full-time pastor in the mission of the congregation. The Board will follow our giving and keep you updated on our progress.

Work on Oktoberfest 2023 continues. We encourage everyone who wants to support this Mission project to join us as we continue our preparation. We thank everyone who has participated in the preparation but remind you that we have a lot to do prior to October 7, 2023. Let's continue the good work preparing for Oktoberfest and recognize that we do it to extend God's kingdom through the proceeds that go to mission. To God Be the Glory!!

Ongoing Board issues include:

- The Board needs to replace Chris Longman who is leaving the area. If you are interested in becoming a Board member, please speak to Mark concerning the duties on the Board. It is a great way of serving the congregation.
- We are looking for persons who are willing to serve as ushers and ask that if interested, to sign up on the appropriate sheet found in the Narthex. We need one usher per Sunday to assist in communion. We also need someone to step forward and ensure that we have ushers every Sunday. Please contact Mark or Chris to volunteer.
- The minutes of the Board meetings are posted on the bulletin board located in the narthex.

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.

In his service and yours,

The Board



LWML MITES collected on Sunday, August 6, 2023, totaled \$138.70. Thank you for your prayers and support for the Mission Grants selected in convention by the Gulf States District and National LWML.

Can you believe it - summer is almost over!?! Some children have already begun a new school year in our community. On Sunday, August 20, 2023, we will celebrate with Pastors, guests, and friends from our community, and churches all over the Southern District - LCMS, for the Installation and Reception for Rev. Chet Scherbarth, his wife, Beth, and family. It is truly a special time for our congregation as we have waited for over two years for God to send us our next Shepherd. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!! Let's welcome the Scherbarths with Joy as they settle in their new home and community.

Saint John Lutheran members and friends have already begun preparing for the 43rd Oktoberfest. During August, there were many opportunities to share your gifts of talent and enjoy the fellowship of friends in making and freezing the apple strudels and German mustard. Already, some members have been baking special breads, pies, cakes for the Deli. The last week of September will be the busiest time! Members will be baking the apple strudels and wrapping them for the Deli, making the German potato salad, sauerkraut, decorating and setting up for the "big day". What a wonderful way to share the Love of Jesus in our community and world! All monies will go to Missions!

On Sunday, September 3, 2023 (Labor Day weekend), LWML will hold a Business Meeting immediately following the worship service in the Community Room. Please make plans to attend this important meeting as we will be hosting the Magnolia Zone Fall Rally on Saturday, October 28, 2023. This will be the first time we have hosted the Fall Rally since 2016. Magnolia Zone President, Hanna Dunlap, members from Christ Lutheran, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lutheran Church of the Pines, St. Matthews Lutheran Church, and St. Paul Lutheran Church will be in attendance. Also, the Gulf States District President, Cherie Endrihs, may be in attendance. The theme of the Rally is "JOY."

LWML MITES will be collected next on Sunday, September 3, 2023. 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.

#### 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





Jesus commanded the Twelve, "Take nothing for the journey" (Luke 9:3). This absolute detachment from possessions required the disciples to be completely reliant on God.

Jesus now passes on his gift of healing the sick. But it was equally important for the disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

We are made up of soul and body. To address the soul without addressing the body is to ignore the reality of our human makeup. We have spiritual needs and physical needs. When one aspect is fragmented or experiencing illness, the other becomes affected. So, we seek healing for the Spirit and the Body.

One evening, I attended a healing mass for the sick at St. John's Catholic Church in Gulfport, MS. I witnessed others being healed. I, too, received healing. The church was filled with believers. If there were any doubters present, surely, they left with a change of heart or at least aware of something very special happening.

The energy in the room was intense. The praying was intense. The main focus was on Jesus: "Thank you, Jesus," "Praise Jesus," "Amen, Jesus." A regular mass was also held. Because of the church's rules, Catholics received the Eucharist; those of other faiths were blessed instead. Everybody present received an anointing. As each person was touched, we fell down. It didn't feel as though there was a choice of standing or falling, one simply fell. Being open and receiving the Holy Spirit is overwhelming. I did not pass out but felt extremely alive inside and filled with absolute peace. I can say I was in a heavenly state of being. I knew without question that God loves me. The priest leading this particular mass is a man called to proclaim the Word and heal the sick.

God calls us together every week so that we hear His Words and learn again and again of Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God. God is with us. And he calls us to heal the sick—those with spiritual and physical needs through the gift of praying. Thank you, Father, for the grace of Your healing. Let us praise His name. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Christina Keiper  
Altar Guild



## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. MATTHEW 5:16

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We should never think that only pastors do the work of the Lord. Pastors are called to do particular work of the Lord. But there's a whole lot of other work that pastors aren't good for.

God has work to do with all of us. "You are the light of the world," Jesus says (Matthew 5:14). God wants to work in us so that others will see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven. That's what Jesus says (Matthew 5:16). That's both humbling and enlivening, at the same time.

We should probably say a prayer about this. Oh, wait. We pray this all the time in the Lord's Prayer, "Hallowed be Thy name." God's name, of course, is holy all by itself. But we get to be a part of it! We get to take His holy name into the world so that others will see our good works and give glory to our Father.

How will we do this? It seems like a tall task for unholy people like us. For this high calling, God has given us His *Holy Spirit*, who works through the *Holy Scriptures* and *Holy Baptism* and *Holy Communion* to make us holy. And so we pray that His name would be *holy* as we carry it out into our homes, our schools, our work, our country, our conversations, and everywhere we go.

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*Father, may Your name be holy among us in all we say and do. Amen.*

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*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6:10-11 (NIV)*

Have you ever played that game "Two Truths and a Lie"? You present three statements about yourself — two that are true and one that isn't — and then everyone guesses which statement is false.

Over the years, I've noticed that the people who are really good at that game are the ones who make their lies simple, not over the top. The "I won the lottery last year" lie is obvious — the kind of lies that seem normal, everyday, are the ones nobody second-guesses.

The same goes for our self-talk. Our minds are a battleground of affirmation and deception. But it's hard to discern what's true and what isn't. Every thought is a game of truth versus lies. If you're a follower of Jesus, you have the ultimate Truth. And that makes you dangerous to the enemy, who is the *"father of lies"* (John 8:44, NIV).

But take heart: If you believe in Jesus, the devil can't touch your eternity (Ephesians 1:13-14), though he will try to render you ineffective on earth. And one way he tries to do that is through the "normal," everyday lies that pop in our minds:

*I am not [fill in the blank] enough.*

*I am the only one who feels this way.*

*I don't think God means what He says about me.*

The good news is: You don't have to have a black belt in karate to fight back.

There are steps you can take:

### **Step One: Take Inventory**

What decisions have you recently made, or what are you weighing the pros and cons of? The greater the impact of your decisions, the greater the battle Satan wages to try to keep you from following God's will. What godly influence might the evil one be trying to stop you from having?



## **Step Two: Bring to the Light**

I don't think it's a coincidence that light is the first thing God created when He made our world (Genesis 1:3). The devil may delight in the darkness, but the light always overcomes it (John 1:5).

Bringing your dark thoughts to the light can mean a lot of things, including releasing your thoughts through prayer, journaling, or processing with a trusted friend or counselor. In the dark, you feel alone, and fear, worry and hopelessness multiply faster. But in the light, you have company, support, and freedom.

## **Step Three: Discern the Lies From the Truth**

With your thoughts revealed, how can you tell the difference between something true and something false? The Holy Spirit *convicts us* when we make sinful choices so that we can repent, but the devil *shames us* to hide instead of heal. Satan's lies will undermine, discourage and destroy, but God's Truth will empower us in — or convict us toward — our true identity and affirm God's character.

For example:

LIE: My brokenness and imperfections are beyond repair or hope.

TRUTH: Jesus' love and sacrifice cover my brokenness and imperfections.

If we believe in Jesus, there is no longer any condemnation for us, only redemption (Romans 8:1).

## **Step Four: Fight the Lies With Truth**

For every lie that crosses your mind, you can cover it with Scripture and render it meaningless. Allow Jesus, not the evil one, to be victorious in that thought.

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes"* (Ephesians 6:10-11).

And always remember: God is with you. God's Spirit lives *within* you if you've placed your faith in Jesus. He is for you. He is protecting you, empowering you, and helping you be victorious in the battle of your mind.

*Jesus, the thoughts we have and choose to believe hold much power over our lives. Grant us wisdom to discern what is true and what is not. May our minds be filled with Your Truth about who You are and who You say we are. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

*Lisa Case*



## What is Oktoberfest?

Oktoberfest is the world's largest folk festival held yearly in Munich, Germany. It began in 1810 when Bavaria's Crown Prince Ludwig married Theresa of Saxony. The townsfolk held a party in a large field outside the city to celebrate, and it was so popular they held it again a year later. The same field has hosted the festival ever since and came to be named "Theresienwiese" or "Theresa's Meadow" in English. The rest, as they say, is history. It is, without a doubt, the largest festival in the world. It regularly draws over six million people through its sixteen-day run.

Although called Oktoberfest and originally beginning on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the festival date was changed to September in 1872 to take advantage of better weather. To determine when the festival begins in any year find the first Sunday in October and count back fifteen days to the starting Saturday.

For many people, the only reason for the festival is beer, but drinking is not the only thing to do at Oktoberfest. The Oktoberfest grounds are over 100 acres and host a dazzling array of "bier" tents, food stands, carnival rides, games and more. Many families enjoy taking the children to Oktoberfest and, in fact, Tuesdays at the festival are family days with reduced food, beer and ride prices.

That is the background for the festival we at Saint John celebrate. However, our emphasis is not on beer but rather on mission work and spreading the love of Jesus throughout Hattiesburg and the world beyond. Our festival is held on the first Saturday in October which this year is October 7th.

It is a lot of work and requires all hands-on deck. If you have not been contacted about working for Oktoberfest, please speak to Mark Keyl, call the church office, or sign up on the lists when they appear. We always need help preparing and serving the food, baking for the delicatessen, and setting up and cleaning up. There is a spot for your talent!

## The History of Our OKTOBERFEST

Our Saint John Oktoberfest began as a congregational potluck 43 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 24th 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.

### It's time to order Brats!

If you would like to order Bratwurst, the cost is \$50 for a box of 40 Brats (2 pkgs). Orders must be placed by Sunday, August 20th and will be delivered in the first week in October. For more information and to order your Brats, please contact Eric Martin at 601-260-3403.

### OKTOBERFEST Is for Everyone

43rd Annual Oktoberfest  
Saturday, October 7th, 11am to 3pm

Oktoberfest at Saint John Hattiesburg brings together some of the most important values of the congregation. It's **inclusive** of the whole congregation; we believe everyone can enjoy the camaraderie of shared preparation tasks, working shoulder to shoulder on Oktoberfest day, and including newcomers to the congregation and friends in the community.

Oktoberfest is **hospitality** toward the community; we believe that the best celebrations are those that heartily welcome friends and strangers. We want to throw open the Biergarten gates and sit a spell with good food and brew, to catch up on where the time has gone, and to tell a few tall tales. Laughter shared is friendship doubled!

Oktoberfest is **mission**; we believe that we're on this earth and a part of this neighborhood, this community, and this city for greater purposes than the mere enjoyment of life. We give back by pouring into the lives of others around us, by extending God's blessing to those in need, by sharing tasks and making room for new people, by providing financially for worthy efforts in our region and around the world.

At Saint John Hattiesburg, **Oktoberfest is for everyone!** Let's come together, find a place to help, and raise a toast to friends old and new!

Every year, St. John's Kaffee Klatsch creates a beautiful quilt. You have a chance to win this quilt!

Raffle tickets are \$2.00 each. The more you buy, the more chances you have to win! Church members will have already received a packet of tickets to sell (or purchase for yourself). The drawing will be held on October 7th during our 43rd Annual Oktoberfest.

Remember: Check your mailbox in the Narthex. There is a packet of tickets just for you!



S E P T E M B E R



**Church Office Hours:** 8:00am – 12:00pm, Monday – Thursday

**Phone:** 601.583.4898

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

**Sept 2nd:** 9:00 Men's Breakfast at Chesterfield's

**Sept 3rd:** LWML will collect MITES, and have a business meeting after worship

**Sept. 6th:** 1:30 Kaffee Klatsch

**Sept. 9th:** 10:00 Altar Guild meeting

**Sept. 16th:** 9:00 Oktoberfest Food Prep – Bacon Event!

**Sept. 30th:** 9:00 Oktoberfest Food Prep – Potato Salad Event!

#### **Reminders:**

- **Kaffee Klatsch will only meet on the 6th in September**
- **The Avenues Bible Study Group will not meet during September but will resume their studies after Oktoberfest.**

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9am Men's Breakfast 10am AA
3 10:30am Worship MITES Collected BreadBasket	4 12pm AA	5 12pm AA	6 12pm AA 1:30pm Kaffee Klatsch	7 12pm AA	8 12pm AA	9 10am AA 10:00am Altar Guild Meeting
10 10:30am Worship	11 12pm AA	12 12pm AA	13 12pm AA	14 12pm AA	15 12pm AA	16 9:00am Fry Bacon 10am AA
17 10:30am Worship	18 12pm AA	19 12pm AA	20 12pm AA	21 12pm AA 6pm FH in Use 6:30pm BOD	22 12pm AA	23 10am AA
24 10:30am Worship	25 12pm AA	26 12pm AA	27 12pm AA	28 12pm AA	29 12pm AA	30 9:00am Potato Salad 10am AA

## **Serving in September**

### **Pastor**

Chet Scherbarth

619.385.2094

pastorscherbarth@gmail.com

### **Piano**

Sandy Barnett

### **Altar Care Team**

Debbie Frederick + Cindy Landry + Diana Rymarz

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

**Portals of Prayer for July – September** are still available in the Narthex.

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

**October Newsletter Deadline** — Monday, September 18th.

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



## September Celebrations!



### **B I R T H D A Y S**

Lisa Case	9/1
Logan Lovdahl	9/2
Reagan Lowry	9/7
Al Rymarz	9/8
Michael Jimenez	9/9
Marcel Thiel	9/13
Maurice Gault	9/18
Jeremy Noffke	9/18
Rev. Chet Scherbarth	9/19
Scott Chaney	9/19
Jennifer Blair	9/28
Julian Noffke	9/30



### **B A P T I S M S**

Gabriell Wastvedt	9/18
Jayce Wastvedt	9/18
Debbie Geroux	9/22
Marcel Thiel	9/27



### **W E D D I N G A N N I V E R S A R I E S**

Mark & Barbara Keyl, 46 yrs.	9/3
Jerry & Helga Herrington, 60 yrs.	9/18



***Surprise the World!***  
**Love. Like. Jesus. + Hope for the City.**



**Saint John Lutheran Church**

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