



Some of you may be wondering why we ask you to fill out little cards with your name every time we have Holy Communion. Obviously, we like to have some idea who is attending and taking Holy Communion for our records. But there is another reason, beyond “record-keeping.”

Some very important activities happen every time we have an Annual Congregational Meeting. We vote on new Council members, and pass a budget for the coming year. It is important that everyone who is entitled to vote gets an opportunity to vote. But what does the Constitution of the congregation say about the opportunity to vote?

The St. John (Hopewell Township) Constitution says that “Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed, made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year, and be of legal voting age.”

#1 The opportunity to vote requires the ability to make sound judgments on matters of importance. That is why a voter should be a confirmed member. Confirmation means, you have had two or three years of catechism, and you know what the Bible says about important matters that may come up for the congregation to decide. Or at least, you know where to find answers to such questions in the Bible.

#2 We place some fairly important matters in the hands of the congregation at the time of an Annual Meeting. Beyond voting in a new council or passing a budget, a congregational meeting is the place where the buying or selling of property may be decided, or whether to be included in one denomination or another. The congregational meeting is actually a higher authority than the church council.

That is why voters at a congregational meeting should be regularly receiving Holy Communion. Regular reception of the sacrament means that they are taking an active part in the family of God. The little cards that are handed in when you are communing are a way for us all to be mindful of who is taking that responsibility seriously. It is good to be fed with the bread of heaven, to be spiritually in tune with God, and to grow in the means of grace. It is good to sharpen our minds with Christian education, to learn more, to become closer and to care for one another. All this happens at the time and place of worship.

#3 The opportunity to vote is also given to those who are contributing. Everybody who comes contributes, in one way or another! But by “contributing,” the Constitution means the monetary contribution that members are making. Some people may feel that the offering envelopes they are given at the beginning of the year are not necessary. Some feel that their giving is a matter between them and God. They do not want others (meaning, those who count the contributions) to know who is giving what.

This pastor is one person who never wants to know that—who is giving what. However, the Council must be aware of who is giving, because that is another qualifier for who may be allowed to vote on important matters at a congregational meeting. The Constitution requires “voting members” to make “a contribution of record” during the current or preceding year. If there is loose cash in the offering plate, there is no way of making a record of who gave it. There are some persons who are giving regularly, but with cash in the plate. There is no way to count that toward being a voting member; there is no “record” of it on paper.

Our young people who have been confirmed but are not yet out of school and in jobs are of concern here. If they want to take their opportunity to vote at congregational meetings, they must have acquired a record as “confirmed, communing and contributing” at least once in the current year or the preceding year. We heartily encourage our young folks who are eligible to use a check, or to put their name on a blank offering envelope to hand it in, even if they have not been given a box yet. Just so Council knows to count their name as a member on the “voting” list.

Yours in the work of the congregation,

Pastor Karen

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hopewell Township
9009 State Route 118
Celina, Ohio 45822

Church Telephone: 419-363-2154
Church Email: stjohnht@bright.net
Church Website: www.stjohnht.org
Facebook: St. John Hopewell Lutheran Church

Reverend Karen Tamorria, Pastor
Parsonage Telephone: 419-942-2591
Cell phone: 419-790-3891
Pastor's Email: prkaren@bright.net
Office Administrator: Kara Stachler

Acolyte for the Month



Acolyte for the month of January —
Julia Sheets

Devotions at the Maplewood and the Laurels

Members of St. John will be helping with devotions at the Maplewood Assisted Living Center on Wednesday, January 30th beginning at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Karen will also be doing devotions at the Laurels of Shane Hill on Wednesday, January 30th, beginning at 2:30 p.m. If you can help, please contact Pastor Karen. Thank you.

January Greeters

January 6th	Betty Sites & Marge Frahm
January 13th	Dennis & Deb Hecht
January 20th	Paul & Sharon Miller
January 27th	Sherry Shaffer

January Readers

January 6th	Sherry Shaffer
January 13th	Terry Carr
January 20th	Brad Carr
January 27th	Michelle Tribolet



The next monthly meeting of the St. John Church Council will be held on Thursday, January 10th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All members of the church are always invited to attend the St. John Council meetings as guests.

Copies of the minutes of the Church Council meetings will be on the table in the back of the sanctuary (when available).

Volunteers at Shane Hill

Our church will be providing volunteers for the residents at Shane Hill on Monday, January 7th, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Thank you for your continued help.

Our benevolence contributions for the month of January will benefit the Celina Unit of the Salvation Army.



Women of the Church

Please note that we will not be having a meeting in January, but we will still be supporting our Project for the Month which is Kathleen Lutz Missionary. A basket will be at the back of the church for anyone who wants to leave a donation. Pat Siebert and Cheri Menchhofer will be taking care of altar flowers for the month.

Volunteers for the Backpack Program

Our "Backpacker" volunteers will be continuing their duties on Tuesday, January 8th & 22nd, at the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry in Celina beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

Men in Mission Meeting

The St. John Lutheran Men in Mission will be meeting on Wednesday, January 9th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, "The parable of the persistent widow" based on Luke 18: 1-8, will be led by Bob Miller. Don Smith will share the scripture and prayer, and Paul Miller will be the server. All men are invited to attend.

Chatta-John Youth Group and Catechism Class Information: Here is the schedule for January.

- 1) Sunday, January 6th, - Catechism Class from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Youth Group from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please bring a friend!
- 2) Sunday, January 20th - Catechism Class from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Youth Group is to be announced.



Our Junior Choir will be practicing immediately following worship, on Sunday, January 6th and also on Wednesday, January 16th, from 6:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. All young people from 2nd grade through 8th grade are invited to join the choir. Thank you.


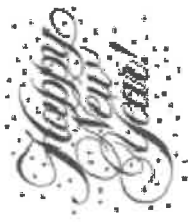



The Junior Lutherans will be meeting on Wednesday, January 16th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. All children ages kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to come for Bible stories, crafts, games, and snacks. A sign-up sheet is posted in the kitchen for anyone, who would like to furnish the snacks for one or more of the monthly meetings.



Congratulations to Nathan and Andrea on the baptism of their daughter Marion!

January 2019 CALENDAR -- St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. after worship ~Junior Choir Practice Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at St. John 4:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at St. John 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p>						
<p>6</p> <p>Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. after worship ~Junior Choir Practice Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at St. John 4:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at St. John 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Volunteers at Shane Hill 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Junior Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Junior Lutherans 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at St. John 4:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group ~ to be announced</p>	<p>21</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Worship w/Gideon's as guests 9:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Check - after worship Sunday School 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Devotions at the Maplewood of Shane's Village 10:00 a.m. Devotions with Pastor Karen at the Laurels 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p>		