



**The Sanctity of Nascent Life**  
**The Joint Commission on Theology and Doctrine**  
**North American Lutheran Church**  
**Lutheran CORE**

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The beginning of human existence, i.e., nascent life, carries in it the fullness of the genetic code, the complete chromosomal material of an individual. The strengths and characteristics given to us by God have not yet blossomed for all the world to see, yet they are fully present in the beauty of His love. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5) Luther's Small Catechism proclaims, "I believe that God has created me and all that exists," so in faith we continue to proclaim that our life, and every life, comes from God and belongs to God. In our earthly dependency upon the womb of our mothers for protection, nourishment, and love from the first moments of our lives, we see in the creation of each life the shape of faith. We will always be fully dependent upon God for life, for shelter, and for mercy—the God who uses men and women to bring forth every generation of His creation.

How we in the North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran CORE speak about the dignity of nascent life is indicative of so much more. As the fullness of God's mercy calls us into newness in each day, we come to know that no day in our lives is beyond His care. God himself has given us a pattern by which we know His love: the conception, gestation, and birth of our Lord Jesus. As we reflect upon when life begins and what life means, we look to what God has done in sending His Son to live among us from conception, to death, to resurrected life.

In the Annunciation of the Good News given to Mary, the Mother of our Lord, we come to know the gift of every life in a new way, and we come to know the holiness of her womb as a sanctuary of mercy for all humankind. She who is our Mother in the faith shelters the One who is the Savior of the world with her very body, a model of love beyond all fear, of obedience beyond all personal security, of faith in the One who is yet unseen.

In the self-emptying (kenotic) movement of God in the incarnation, He was never more vulnerable, more helpless than when He was *in utero*, swaddled in amniotic fluid. He was also never more intimately protected, swaddled in the myriad layers of a mother's love. It is the vision of this love that is ever so needed in this day—a death defying love, an eternal love, a fierce love, a sacrificing love. It is this vision that we are called to bear for the sake of generations to come. For in the disordered loving of a fallen world that removes sexual intercourse from the fidelity, trust, and delight of the marriage bed, there will continue to be the littlest among us, made in the image and likeness of God, who without a holy love, will be unprotected from the lies that say they are neither human nor of any value. In a time in human history when the laws of many nations sanction the destruction of new lives simply because they are an inconvenience, the North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran CORE, and all who belong to the Body of Christ, are called to teach and preach the message that the Lord who created the heavens and the earth, the Lord, who in the power of the Holy Spirit grew in His mother's womb, the Lord, who in obedience gave His life for all, The Lord is with you.

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
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*Acolyte for the Month*



**Acolyte for the month of April —**  
**Dani Huff**

#### **April Greeters**

April 7th  
April 14th  
April 21st  
April 28th

Dennis & Deb Hecht  
Paul & Sharon Miller  
Sherry Shaffer  
Don & Marilyn Smith

#### **April Readers**

April 7th  
April 14th  
April 21st  
April 28th

Jennifer Smith  
Cheri Menchhofer  
Cindy Canary  
Sherry Shaffer



The next monthly meeting of the St. John Church Council will be held on Thursday, April 11th, 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).

#### **Devotions at the Maplewood**

Members of St. John will be helping with devotions at the Maplewood Assisted Living Center on Wednesday, April 3rd beginning at 10:00 a.m. If you can help, please contact Pastor Karen. Thank you.

#### **Volunteers at Shane Hill**

Our church will be providing volunteers for the residents at Shane Hill on Monday, April 1st & 29th, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Thank you for your continued help.

Our benevolence contributions for the month of April will benefit the Henderson Settlement Project.



*Women of the Church*

Come join us for our next meeting and Bible Study to be held on Thursday, April 4th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Bible Study this month will be led by Jennie Smith. Offering meditation will be given by Barb Bensman. Project of the Month is Aya School Scholarship Fund. Hostesses are Sharon Miller, and Rene Balyeat. We welcome ALL women to our meetings for fellowship & conversation.

### Volunteers for the Backpack Program

Our "Backpacker" volunteers will be continuing their duties on Tuesday, April 2nd, 16th, & 30th, 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 Tuesday, April 9th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, "Moses decides to delegate" based on Exodus 18:1-27, will be led by Gene Hirschfeld. Pastor Karen will share the scripture and prayer, and Bob Miller will be the server. All men are invited to attend.

### Chatta-John Youth Group and Catechism Class Information:

Here is the schedule for April.

- 1) Sunday, April 14th, - 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, April 28th - 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!



Our Junior Choir will be practicing immediately following worship, on Sunday, April 7th and 14th. All young people from 2nd grade through 8th grade are invited to join the choir. Thank you.



The Junior Lutherans will not be meeting in April.

### Lenten Worship and Bible Study Schedule ~April

April 3rd	Lenten Bible Study	7:00 p.m. at Zion
April 10th	Lenten Bible Study	7:00 p.m. at Zion
April 17th	<u>No</u> Lenten Bible Study	
April 18th	Maundy Thursday	7:30 p.m. at Zion
April 19th	Good Friday	7:00 p.m. at St. Paul UCC





### **Easter Worship Schedule ~ April 21st**

Easter Sunrise Service by the St. John Youth Group ~ 7:15 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Easter Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. After worship – Junior Choir Practice Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	1 Volunteers at Shane Hill 2:00 p.m.	2 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	3 Devotions at the Maplewood of Shane's Village 10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study at Zion at 7:00 p.m.	4 Women of the Church Meeting 7:00 p.m.	5	6
7 Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. After worship – Junior Choir Practice Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	8 Newsletter articles are due 	9 Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10 Lenten Bible Study at Zion at 7:00 p.m.	11 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	12	13
14 Palm/Passion Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. After worship – Junior Choir Practice Catechism Class at Zion 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at Zion 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	15 Newsletter articles are due 	16 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	17 <b>NO</b> Lenten Bible Study <b>NO</b> Junior Lutherans	18 Joint Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion at Zion 7:30 p.m.	19 Chatt Valley Community Good Friday Worship at St. Paul UCC 7:00 p.m.	20
21 The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunrise Service 7:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Easter Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 9:00 a.m. After worship - Blood Pressure Check Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at Zion 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at Zion 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	29 Volunteers at Shane Hill 2:00 p.m.	30 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.				

*Please Note: Pastor Karen will be on vacation from Tuesday, April 30th, through Sunday, May 5th.*