



A note on repentance.

The season of Lent is one in which repentance and turning from sin is emphasized. We enter into Lent with Ash Wednesday and the sign of the ashes reminding us that “you are dust and to dust you shall return”. We are reminded of our mortality, of the fact that we will not live forever, of the fact that we are not God, but only human. As human creatures, we are called on to recognize our sin and turn to God in humble repentance, which means to turn around from our sinful ways and turn back to God.

I want to remind us all of our motivation for doing so.

In Joel 2: 12, 13, we are told: ““Yet even now”, declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning, and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding with steadfast love”.

Also consider Jesus’ very first message: “Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand”.

Why do we repent? Out of fear? Out of demand? So that God will notice and like us?

Nope.

God IS gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The kingdom of God IS at hand. The call to repentance and return to God comes to us from a God who comes to us in love and forgiveness in the midst of our sin and rebellion. We don’t make the first move with repentance. We repent because God has made the first move in love in forgiveness. We repent because God has come to you and to me in Jesus Christ, given to die for our sin, and raised to proclaim our new life.

Like all good gifts in the Christian life, even repentance is a good gift of God. It is his turning us from sin and rebellion to life and obedience in the Spirit.

This Lent let us hear God’s Word for us in Jesus Christ and joyfully turn to God our Savior who is gracious and merciful.

V. Adam

**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**

**Vicar Adam Poe
Email: ympoe@yahoo.com**

Office Administrator: Kara Stachler

Acolyte for the Month



**Acolyte for the month of March —
Payton Smith**

Mission quarterly for Sunday School, for the month of March will benefit Helping Hands/Parkway Local Food Pantry, Rockford, Ohio.

Please note, there will not be a Junior Lutherans meeting for the month of March.



Women of the Church

Come join us for our next meeting and Bible Study to be held on Thursday, March 5th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Bible Study this month will be led by Cindy Canary. Offering meditation will be given by Sherry Shaffer. Project of the Month is the Lutheran Social Services soap for Lent. Hostesses are Shirley Williams, Michelle Tribolet, Betty Sites, and Deb Harner. We welcome ALL women to our meetings for fellowship & conversation.

March Greeters

March 1st	Dennis & Deb Hecht
March 8th	Paul & Sharon Miller
March 15th	Don & Marilyn Smith
March 22nd	Larry & Vicki Frahm
March 29th	Betty Sites & Marge Frahm

March Readers

March 1st	Scott Tribolet
March 8th	Cheri Menchhofer
March 15th	Cindy Canary
March 22nd	Sherry Shaffer
March 29th	Terry Carr



The next monthly meeting of the St. John Church Council will be held on Thursday, March 12th, 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, March 2nd & 30th, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Thank you for your continued help.

Our benevolence contributions for the month of March will benefit the C.A.L.L. Mattress Project.

Volunteers for the Backpack Program

Our "Backpacker" volunteers will be continuing their duties on Tuesday, March 10th & 24th, 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, March 10th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, "The call of Abraham" based on Genesis 11: 27-12:9, will be led by Don Smith. Dennis Hecht will share the scripture and prayer, and Warren Menchhofer will be the server. All men are invited to attend.

Chatta-John Youth Group and Catechism Class Information:

Here is the schedule for March.

1) Chatta-John Youth Group Fundraiser will be Thursday, March, 5th - Saturday March, 7th. The Youth will provide the Concession Stand at Parkway HS for the 3rd, 4th & 5th grade boys Basketball Tournament which will consist of many local teams. This fundraiser allows the Youth Group to purchase gifts for the County Home Residents, make donations to local needs and the Henderson Settlement as well as supporting the Youth activities throughout the year.

***A volunteer sign-up sheet has been placed in the kitchen with dates & times. All the Youth will be expected to work, any help from parents, relatives, friends, etc. is WELCOMED!

Please see Holly Smith with any questions. Thank you!

- 2) Sunday, March 1st, - Catechism Class from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Youth Group from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please bring a friend!
- 3) Sunday, March 15th - Catechism Class from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Youth Group from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please bring a friend!
- 4) Sunday, March 29th - Catechism Class from 5:00 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, March 22nd. All young people from 2nd grade through 8th grade are invited to join the choir. Thank you.

Lenten Worship Schedule, March - April

Wednesday, March 4th	Joint Midweek Lenten Worship at Zion	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 11th	Joint Midweek Lenten Worship at Zion	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 18th	Joint Midweek Lenten Worship at Zion	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 25th	Joint Midweek Lenten Worship at St. John	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 1st	Joint Midweek Lenten Worship at St. John	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 9th	Joint Maundy Thursday Worship at St. John	7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 10th	Chatt Valley Community Good Friday Worship at St. John	7:00 p.m.

MARCH 2020 CALENDAR -- St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship with Holy Communion & "Noisy Offering" 9:00 a.m. after worship - Congregational Meeting Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at St. John 5:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at St. John 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	2 Volunteers at Shane Hill 2:00 p.m.	3	4 Joint Lenten Worship Service at Zion 7:30 p.m.	5 Women of the Church Meeting 7:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group's Concession Stand at Parkway High School 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	6 World Day of Prayer Chatta-John Youth Group's Concession Stand at Parkway High School 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	7 Chatta-John Youth Group's Concession Stand at Parkway High School 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	9	10 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m. Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m.	11 Joint Lenten Worship Service at Zion 7:30 p.m.	12 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	13	14
15 Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at St. John 5:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at St. John 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	16 	17	18 Joint Lenten Worship Service at Zion 7:30 p.m.	19	20 First Day of Spring	21
22 Worship 9:00 a.m. after worship ~Junior Choir Practice after worship - Blood Pressure Check Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	23	24 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	25 Joint Lenten Worship Service at St. John 7:30 p.m.	26	27	28
29 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at St. John 5:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at St. John 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	30 Volunteers at Shane Hill 2:00 p.m.	31 Parish Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.		Come Worship the Lord 