

July
2022



HOPEWELL NEWS GAZETTE St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

Our church body, the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), does not do much with social statements, and generally tries to stay out of politics. That shying away is **not** because social issues are not important. It is **not** because we ought to be disengaged from politics. It *is* because social issues and politics are **not** to be our central issue. *Our central issue is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.* The Gospel is the core of our worship, our study, and the place where our action in the world unfolds from.

It is God's Word to us in Jesus that informs our place in politics and society. It is not to be the other way around! Consequently, we Christians very rarely fit neatly on the sides of social issues and politics. We want lower taxes and fewer, if any, government "entitlements" ... but we heavily invest in helping the poor. We want a secure border, but we are very concerned with the poor and needy and who genuinely seek safety and a productive life in this country. We often do not fit neatly. And that is fine! It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that defines us and calls us... not the categories of "left and right"!

So, while the NALC does not have much in the way of social statements so that we might be more focused on the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ... *we do have a statement on abortion.* If you would like to read it, it is available on the NALC website under the "Resources" tab and "NALC Statements".

The NALC and the pan-Lutheran group Lutherans for Life, along with a great many other people of various denominations, have been praying and working toward the overturning of Roe vs. Wade for decades. That great event has now occurred! In many states, laws drastically restricting abortion are already going into effect. We thank and praise God for the many lives that will be saved!

We also need to recognize that *this is just the beginning of our work.* For many years the NALC, our local congregations, and many others have been supporting pregnancy crisis/care centers. The need for those centers and their services is about to drastically increase. And the need for us Christians to get very seriously active in adoption and foster care is upon us.

In the same way that our Father and God has rescued us out of sin and death and adopted us who were sinners and rebels to be his own children, so now we are going to be called, more and more, to the love and adoption of children born in need or perhaps unwanted.

The popular taunt from pro-abortion advocates is that conservatives only care about life up until birth and after that, conservatives don't care anymore. Maybe that's true of some conservatives... I don't know. **But.** Let God's people care. Let God's people love. Let God's people provide. Let God's people adopt and foster and do what is necessary to share and show the Father's love – the Father who grants life and formed each one of us.

Psalms 139: 13 "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Pastor Adam Poe
Parsonage Telephone: 419-942-2591
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Office Administrator: Kara Stachler

July Readers

July 3rd Brad Carr
July 10th Jennifer Smith
July 17th Scott Tribolet
July 24th Cindy Canary
July 31st Sherry Shaffer



The next monthly meeting of the St. John Church Council will be held on Thursday, July 14th, 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).

Acolyte for the Month



Acolyte Schedule for the month of July—

3rd	Payton Smith
10th	Emmery Temple
17th	Logan Smith
24th	Nick Forlow
31st	Carly Smith



Happy Independence Day to everyone on Monday, July 4th!! **A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to all who are currently serving or who have served our country!! Thank you for your dedication and many sacrifices. God bless you!!



Save the Date: Our church will be hosting our annual Ice Cream Social on Thursday, July 14th with serving from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the great food and fellowship! Dine in or carry out will be available. Sign-up sheets can be found on the kitchen counter. Donations will be greatly appreciated!

A free will offering will be taken that day with all proceeds to benefit the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry ~ Backpack Program. Thank you for your support!



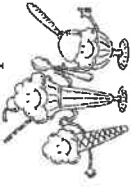



Women of the Church

The next book we are studying is "Be Anxious About Nothing" by Max Lucado. Books and a personal study guide are in the back of the church. You will need both. The next meeting is August 3rd, and you need to read pages 19-62 and do the personal study with it. Next meeting, the Bible Study leader will discuss the study with a book study guide and discussion questions. See you there!!

Our benevolence contributions for the month of July will benefit the Do Good Restaurant, Osgood, OH.

JULY 2022 CALENDAR -- St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	 Independence Day				1	2
3 Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	11	12	13	14 Ice Cream Social 4:30-6:30 p.m.  Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15	16
17 Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	18 Newsletter Articles are Due 	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.						