



# HOPEWELL NEWS GAZETTE

## St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

After reviewing the last two years' worth of May newsletters, this year looks... plain. Tame. Simple.

Two years ago, I was graduating from seminary and being ordained. Last year Clara was graduating from high school, and we were moving.

This year... there are no scheduled major life events for the Poe family. How nice! It's all just normal end-of-the-year school stuff.

The calendar looks almost... quiet.

And I hope it stays that way. So, what will be going on? I imagine we will enjoy the garden. Maybe go camping. Maybe I will have time to train for the half-marathon this year. And of course, the calendar is not actually empty.

As the seasons change and spring will start to edge toward summer, and as I consider the difference that a year makes, I am reminded that the seasons of life change as well. Let us consider the words of "the Preacher" recorded in the book of Ecclesiastes:

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

- <sup>2</sup> *a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*
- <sup>3</sup> *a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;*
- <sup>4</sup> *a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*
- <sup>5</sup> *a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*
- <sup>6</sup> *a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;*
- <sup>7</sup> *a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*
- <sup>8</sup> *a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

In each and every season of life, the Lord is present with us. In good and hardship. In joy and in suffering. In busyness and life change. In normality and the everyday. The Lord is with us, giving us Jesus, speaking his Word and promise, calling us to be his children in our here and now and in eternity at the return of Jesus.

Pastor Adam

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**Acolyte Schedule for the month of May—**

*Acolyte for the Month*



7th	Elias Poe
14th	Aaron Sheets
21st	Issac Menchofer
28th	Caleb Poe

**May Readers**

May 7th	Sherry Shaffer
May 14th	Terry Carr
May 21st	Cheri Menchofer
May 28th	Michelle Tribolet



The next monthly meeting of the St. John Church Council will be held on Wednesday, May 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).



Cap and Gown Day will be on Sunday, May 14th.  
Congratulations to our high school graduate, Julia!



The **Women of the Church** will be meeting on Wednesday, May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will open with Devotions by Sharon Miller and Bible Study will be led by Pastor Adam Poe. Rene Balyeat and Deb Hecht will be in charge of the Altar flowers for the month. Project of the month will benefit Choosing Life Pregnancy Center. All Women are welcome to attend!

**Volunteers for the Backpack Program**

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

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

On Sunday, May 7th we will have Worship with the **Blessing of the Seeds, Soil, and Water**. Anyone who would like to bring in items to be blessed can do so.






**Funeral Planning**

When I arrived at the congregations, I inherited a small set of funeral pre-planning sheets from Pastor Karen. They have been very helpful, both for me, and for the family members of those who passed. In the same way that funeral pre-planning at the funeral home is a great gift and stress reliever for one's family, so is funeral service pre-planning. It takes a lot of stress off a family to not have to wonder which songs or verses mom or dad might have wanted for the service. Additionally, such planning can serve as a witness to the faith for your family members, even after you have gone home to be with the Lord.

I invite congregation members to meet with me and take a bit of time to outline their wishes for their funeral services.

Pastor Adam

# MAY 2023 CALENDAR -- St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Worship with Us!</p> 	1	2	3 Women of the Church Meeting 7:00 p.m.	4  National Day of Prayer	5	6 Ohio Mission Region Convocation Westerville, OH
<p>7 Worship with Holy Communion &amp; "Blessing of the Seeds, Soil, &amp; Water" 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.</p>	8	9 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	10 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13
<p>14 Cap and Gown Day Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.</p> 	15  Newsletter Articles are Due	16	17	18 Ascension Day	19	20
<p>21 Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.</p>	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>28 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.</p>	29  MEMORIAL DAY	30	31			