



HOPEWELL NEWS GAZETTE

St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

September
2023

About a month ago, shortly after writing the last Newsletter article I had a great idea for the next one! But...

But I didn't write it down... I remember where I was! I was in the office at St. John. I had been talking to Kara. It was a good and practical idea.

And now, I can't remember. I've been looking around in the nooks and crannies of my brain for several days. I searched my planner just in case I did write something down. Nothing.

Maybe it wasn't such a good idea after all... maybe the Lord decided that was not the thing to write or address this month! OR... MAYBE... maybe I am a little too sure of myself and memory. Maybe I am a bit forgetful. Maybe I have intentions that I don't follow up on.

I have been told by a certain St. John member that they kind of like it when I make a mistake on Sunday mornings. It makes them feel more comfortable with me. It shows that the Pastor is just another person.

Funny... because when I look in the mirror, just another person is exactly what I see! I see a middle-aged guy with progressively graying hair. I see a husband whose wife gets irritated with him and who loses patience with his wife. I see a dad who is all too imperfect of a parent and wonders what my kids might have to tell a therapist one day. And I see a Pastor who regularly gathers with other pastors to talk about the struggles, successes, and failures of being a person who is called to vocational ministry in the church... just like any other professional gathering with peers.

I don't know everything. I don't react as I ought in all situations. I don't have all the right answers. Sometimes I stumble over my words. Sometimes I forget great ideas. In myself I am just another person.

As we all are.

All in the same metaphorical boat. All members of this fallen humanity. All imperfect. All sinful. All accused under the Law and guilty in ourselves. All not able to save ourselves. All under the same curse and all moving closer and closer, one grey hair, one forgetful moment at a time, closer to the fulfillment of that curse – our final breath.

Thank God for Jesus Christ who came for us all! Even pastors! Thank God for Jesus who took on our humanity, who carried our sin and imperfection, and who died our death! Thank God for Jesus who is with us and one of us, who lived and died and gives us himself and includes us with himself. We are included in his life, included in his death for sin, and given forgiveness through him. Even more than that, we are given hope. Hope that our final breath is only the final breath of this sinful and imperfect life. Hope in the promise that just as Christ was raised to die no more, so we too, as people included in Jesus, will also be raised to a new and eternal life.

Pastor Adam

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Acolyte Schedule for the month of September—

Acolyte for the Month



3rd	Aaron Sheets
10th	Bailee Menchhofer
17th	Elias Poe
24th	Isaac Menchhofer

September Readers

September 3rd Cindy Canary
September 10th Sherry Shaffer
September 17th Terry Carr
September 24th Cheri Menchhofer



The next monthly meeting of the St. John Church Council will be held on Wednesday, September 13th, 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).

Noisy Offering: There will be a "Noisy" Offering on Sunday, September 3rd during worship; to benefit Samaritan's Purse. Thanks for your support!

Volunteers for the Backpack Program

Our "Backpacker" volunteers will begin their duties for another school year on Tuesday, September 5th & 19th at the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry in Celina beginning at 9:00 a.m. thank you for your help with this ministry.



The Women of the Church will be meeting on Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will open with Devotions by Cindy Canary and the Bible Study will be led by Pastor Adam Poe. Sharon Miller and Luanne Watson will oversee the Altar flowers for the month. Project of the month will benefit C.A.L.L. Backpack Program. All Women are welcome to attend!

Our benevolence contributions for the month of September will benefit the WTLW TV 44 (Lima).



Catechism Class & Youth Group Information: Here is the schedule for September.

- 1) Sunday, September 10th, at Zion - 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!.
- 2) Sunday, September 24th, at Zion - 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!

"Fall" Bible Study



Pastor Adam will be having a "Fall" Bible Study. The study will begin on Sunday September 17th at St. John Lutehran Church (Hopewell) and continue every other Sunday through the month of October (1st, 15th, & 29th). All of the group studies will begin at 6:00 p.m. The first two, studies will be held at St. John (Hopewell) and the last two will be at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt). Please plan to join him!!



The St. John Lutheran Men in Mission will be meeting on Wednesday, September 20th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, "The tender Jesus— 'Jesus wept'" based on John 11:1-44, will be led by Paul Miller. Don Smith will share the scripture and prayer. All men are invited to attend.



Please join us for Rally Day on Sunday, September 24th at 9:30 a.m. at St. John (Hopewell). Rally Day will be a joint worship service with Zion (Chatt). During the worship service we will also be having the Commissioning of our Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders; all teachers and youth leaders, please plan to attend! There will be a program following worship and lunch at 11:30 am.







The Board of Parish Education will provide sandwiches and drinks. Please bring a dish to share and join us for food and fellowship.



Blessing of the Hunters

Please join Pastor Adam in a special blessing of a "Word and Prayer" service at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt) on the evening, of Thursday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m. This is a service for good intentions of a faithful and honorable hunt. All are welcome!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 2 Worship w/Holy Communion & "Noisy" Offering 9:00 a.m.					1	2
3 Worship w/Holy Communion & "Noisy" Offering 9:00 a.m.	4 	5 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	6 Women of the Church Meeting 7:00 p.m.	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:00 a.m. Catechism Class at Zion 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at Zion 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. 	11 	12 	13 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17 Worship w/Holy Communion &/guest Kathleen Lutz 9:00 a.m. "Fall" Bible Study w/Pastor Adam at St. John 6:00 p.m.	18 	19 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	20 Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m.	21	22	23 
24 Joint Worship w/Commissioning of SS Teachers & Youth Leaders at St. John 9:30 a.m. Program ~ after worship Lunch 11:30 a.m. Catechism Class at Zion 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at Zion 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	25 	26 	27 	28 "Blessing of the Hunters" Word & Prayer Service at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt) 7:00 p.m.	29	30 