



HOPEWELL NEWS GAZETTE

St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

March
2025

In Confirmation classes I assign the students the same task week after week – ready your Bibles, be ready to share a few things, or ask some questions, from what you read at the next class. This year's students are doing an exceptional job at living up to that task!

Each of the three students are working on something different. One student is working toward reading through the Bible, beginning to end. She is in the difficult reading of Numbers right now... pray for her!

Another student jumps around to whatever she feels like next. She started with all the shortest books and checked a bunch of book titles off!

And another started off skipping around but has now settled on going back to Genesis and working her way through from the beginning.

They are not setting any records in terms of pace. But that is not the goal! The goal is to develop a habit. The goal is to develop the practice of regular time exposed to the Word of God which is the primary medium through which the Holy Spirit speaks to us and works faith in us, granting us life and salvation with God our Father through Jesus Christ – the one to whom all the Scripture points. The goal is to get them *accustomed* to reading God's Word. I ask them for at least 5 minutes a day.

As we approach Lent and its tradition of "giving something up for Lent", I present that you might consider a "giving up" of time in order that you might add to your own reading of God's Word.

Perhaps you do not spend any regular time with your Bible outside of Sunday morning Worship. Give up 5 minutes. Grab a "Portals of Prayer" devotion booklet or go to the NALC Website and download their Lenten devotional. Commit to those 5 minutes of a devotional reading which is based on a particular Scripture reading. OR, do like the Confirmation students, and simply commit to reading at least a chapter of Scripture a day.

Maybe you are already reading your "Portals of Prayer" each day. What would be a next step for you? Perhaps each day you could find the selected reading for your devotion in your Bible and read that whole chapter in the Bible.

Whatever your own level of normal practice is, what is a next step? What Scripture reading project could you do for the Lenten season?

Consider a "giving up" that gives you opportunity to draw closer to the Lord through this Lenten season as we prepare for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. All "giving ups" of the Lenten season ought to have that goal! So too with a giving up of time to spend in the Word.

For your consideration,

Pastor Adam

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Acolyte for the Month



Acolyte Schedule for the month of March—

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 2nd | Elias Poe |
| 9th | Bailee Menchhofer |
| 16th | Aaron Sheets |
| 23rd | Caleb Poe |
| 30th | Isaac Menchhofer |



There will be a “Noisy” Offering on Sunday, March 2nd, during worship; to benefit the Angel Tree. Thanks for your support!



Volunteers for the Backpack Program

Our “Backpacker” volunteers will continue their duties on Tuesday, March 4th, & 18th at the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry in Celina beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thank you for your help with this ministry.



Please join us for the Joint Parish, Ash Wednesday Service *opportunities* to be held at St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell) on Wednesday, March 5th, at 9 a.m. or at 7:00 p.m.

Our benevolence contributions for the month of March will benefit the Operation Christmas Child .

March Readers

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| March 2nd | Michelle Tribolet |
| March 9th | Britt Menchhofer |
| March 16th | Brad Carr |
| March 23rd | Scott Tribolet |
| March 30th | Cindy Canary |



The next monthly meeting of the St. John Church Council will be held on Thursday, March 13th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All members of the church are always invited to attend the St. John Council meetings as guests.

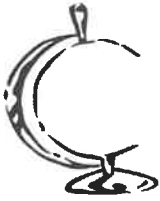
Copies of the minutes of the Church Council meetings will be on the table in the back of the sanctuary (when available).



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour!



The Women of the Church will be meeting on Thursday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Sharon Miller will offer devotions and Pastor Adam will lead the Bible Study. The project of the month is the Do Good Ministries. Shirley Williams and Michelle Tribolet will take care of the Altar flowers for the month.



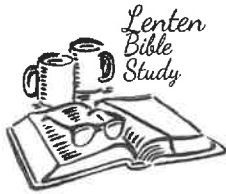
World Day of Prayer is on Friday, March 7th. Members of the church are encouraged to spend some extra time in prayer. The theme this year is "I made You Wonderful," based upon Psalm 139:1-18. The WDP motto is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action. WDP encourages people to recognize that God created each person with love and care.



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

1) Sunday, March 9th, at St. John (Hopewell) - 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, March 23rd, at St. John (Hopewell) - 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!



Please join Pastor Adam as we begin the Lenten season with a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The series of studies will begin on March (12th) at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt). The studies will continue each Wednesday evening through April 9th. The first three studies will be held at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt) and the last two will conclude at St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell). It will be centered around the content of the Nicene Creed.(it is the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea this year!


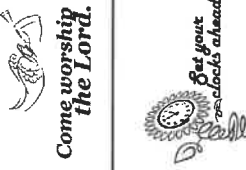





There will be a Parish Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, March 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



The St. John Lutheran Men in Mission will be meeting on Thursday, March 20th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, "Pressures – "Three men and a furnace" based on Daniel 3:1-30, will be led by Bob Miller. Russ Bensman will share the scripture and prayer. All men are invited to attend.

March 2025 CALENDAR -- for St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 Worship w/Holy Communion w/"Noisy" Offering 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. | 3 | 4 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m. | 5 Joint Ash Wednesday Worship at St. John (Hopewell) 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. | 6 Women of the Church Meeting 7:00 p.m. | 7  | 8  |
| 9 Daylight Savings Time Begins 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. | 10 | 11 | 12 Lenten Bible Study at Zion (Chatt) 7:00 p.m. | 13 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. "No flowers on the altar during Lent" | 17  | 18 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m. Parish Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m. | 19 Lenten Bible Study at Zion (Chatt) 7:00 p.m. | 20 Spring Begins Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m.  | 21 | 22 |
| 23 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. "No flowers on the altar during Lent" | 24 | 25 | 26 Lenten Bible Study at Zion (Chatt) 7:00 p.m. | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. "No flowers on the altar during Lent" | 31 | | | | |  |