



HOPEWELL NEWS GAZETTE

St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

October
2025

Revival or Reformation?

For many years now the faithful church has watched as, despite our own efforts, our country and even large swaths of mainline Christianity have moved, not just more 'liberal'... but more and more blatantly anti traditional Christianity and more and more pro-self, pro-sin... farther and farther away from the need for salvation in Jesus Christ and in him alone.

In our own tradition the moment of watershed came 15 years ago when the ELCA voted to allow actively practicing homosexual individuals to be pastors... not just people who "leaned that way" or had homosexual tendencies. Out of that blatant disregard for God's clear Word in the Scriptures on that subject, but also on other subjects as well, our current denomination, NALC (North American Lutheran Church), with its dedication to the authority of the Scriptures on all matters of faith and life, was born.

Since then, other denominations have gone through the same struggle that we once did. Many other scripturally condemned practices have become normalized. And in once free places like Canada, Great Brittan, and even spaces in our own country, simply speaking God's Word honestly and holding to his truth has been labeled as "hate speech" and has become subject to both persecution and prosecution.

But something has changed.

It was already changing... I think. But the death, the martyrdom, of Charlie Kirk has accelerated it. It was already the case that a shocking percentage of young people have been heading back to church. But now the internet is flooded with testimonials of people heading back to church or going for the first time in decades. Bible sales are through the roof right now. Over 300,000 people attended Charlie Kirk's memorial service and one hundred million more... over a third of the country!... tuned in to television and streaming coverage of the service.

And they all heard the Good News of God in Jesus Christ proclaimed again... and again in the course of that service!

Something is going on! The Lord is at work! The Holy Spirit is calling, gathering, and enlightening people to salvation in Jesus Christ!

In much of the Christian world, the word for this is "revival". It is a good word! This is the better word for the portion of what is happening that involves people coming to faith in Jesus... either for the first time or returning to a long-forgotten faith. Sinners are being made alive in the death resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our more Lutheran word would be "reformation". Reformation is better applied to the existing church that has become complacent... or hesitant... or tired... or mixed up with the world... the kinds of things that Jesus spoke to the seven churches in Revelation about. Reformation speaks of the church and the people of the church being renewed, returning to the Scriptures, being vitalized, being empowered and enlightened, for faithful living and faithful witness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we approach the celebration of the Reformation at the end of this month, may we be *reformed* in the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might be a place where those experiencing *revival* might find a home to worship and to live with and for our Lord!

Pastor Adam

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Acolyte for the Month



Acolyte Schedule for the month of October—

5th	Bailee Menchhofer
12th	Aaron Sheets
19th	Caleb Poe
26th	Isaac Menchhofer



Please join the Women of the Church on Wednesday, October 1, at 1:00 p.m. for a craft activity and dessert carry-in. Petrise Meyer will be leading the craft activity, with the cost being \$20 per person. Please bring your favorite dessert to enjoy with your church women family. A signup sheet is at the back of the church. We hope to see you!



Kingdom Kid's at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt) will begin on Wednesday, October 1st, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. All children ages 3-6th grade are welcome to attend. There will be lots to do including crafts, signing, Bible lesson and more; a meal is provided. Hope to see you there!

Bible Survey Class

The Bible Survey class will continue on Sunday evenings October 5, 12, and 19, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Location is at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt).

We will celebrate youth who complete the course with a "First Bible" presentation/recognition after the completion of the study.

October Readers

October 5th
October 12th
October 19th
October 26th

Britt Menchhofer
Brad Carr
Scott Tribolet
Cindy Canary



The next monthly meeting of the St. John Church Council will be held on Wednesday, October 8th, 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).



October is PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH!

Pastor Adam, we appreciate all that you do for us; here at St. John (Hopewell)! Thank you for all of your spiritual guidance and the impact that you have had on our lives and those outside of this congregation! God Bless!

Our benevolence contributions for the month of October will benefit Kingdom Harvest Ministry for Parkway and Celina Schools.



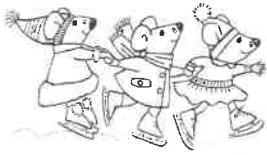
Catechism Class & Youth Group Information: Here is the schedule for October.

1) Sunday, October 5th, at Zion (Chatt) - Catechism Class from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2) Sunday, October 19th, at Zion (Chatt) - Catechism Class from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Blessing of the Harvest will be Sunday, October 12th, during worship. We will give thanks and bless the flowers or produce from the garden or fields. If anyone would like to bring flowers or produce from their garden or fields to be blessed, please have them arranged at the front of the church before worship.



Please help share the warmth!

Mercer County Winter Warmth Program: Our Home, Family Resource Center will be collecting new or clean and gently used; coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for children and adults in need from Mercer County. Donations should be taken to Our Home at 117 W. Fayette St. in Celina or any drop-off box location. For a complete list of box locations, please text COATS to 55498. *Donations are needed by Sunday, October 12th.* Thank you for your support!



"Backpacker" Information: Our volunteers for the Backpack Program will be helping at the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry in Celina on Tuesday, October 14th & 28th beginning at 9:00 a.m.



The St. John Lutheran Men in Mission will be meeting on Wednesday, October 15th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, "Blowing It — "Peter denies Jesus" based on Luke 22:54-62, will be led by Doug Watson. Warren Menchhofer will share the scripture and prayer. All men are invited to attend.

There will be a **Parish Board of Education** meeting on Tuesday, October 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Reformation Sunday is Sunday, October 26th. In remembrance of the fire and the Holy Spirit, please wear something red.

We will also be recognizing our Confirmation students, during Worship!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Women of the Church Craft Activity and Dessert Carry-in 1:00 p.m. Kingdom Kid's at Zion (Chatt) 6:00 p.m.	2	3	4
5 Worship with Holy Communion & 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at Zion (Chatt) 5:00 p.m. Bible Survey Class at Zion (Chatt) 6:00 p.m.	6	7	8 Kingdom Kid's at Zion (Chatt) 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12 Worship w/"Blessing of the Harvest" 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Bible Survey Class at Zion (Chatt) 6:00 p.m.	13	14 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	15 Kingdom Kid's at Zion (Chatt) 6:00 p.m. Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m.	16	17	18
19 Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at Zion (Chatt) 5:00 p.m. Bible Survey Class at Zion (Chatt) 6:00 p.m.	20 	21 Parish Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.	22 Kingdom Kid's at Zion (Chatt) 6:00 p.m.	23	24	25
26 Reformation Sunday (Please wear red) Worship w/Confirmation 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	27	28 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	29 Kingdom Kid's at Zion (Chatt) 6:00 p.m.	30	31	