



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

January  
2026

*... they worshipped him saying, "Truly you are the Son of God".*

At our December Men In Mission meeting we read and studied the lesson where Jesus walks on the water in the Gospel of Matthew. After the feeding of the 5000 Jesus sends the disciples in the boat but he stays behind to pray. The weather becomes windy and the disciples are hindered in their crossing, stuck in the middle of the lake all night. Just before dawn, Jesus comes walking on the water.

In our study we talked mostly about Peter and his brief walk on the water before he became afraid, sunk, called out to Jesus, and was saved. We did not talk much about the last phrase of the lesson because it was not the subject of the night's study.

Seeing Jesus calmly walking on wind swept waves, saving Peter, and even calming the wind – at the demonstration of Jesus's complete mastery over creation itself – the disciples have a moment of clarity about who Jesus is. He is the Son of God – God incarnate – "Immanuel" (God with us). And they worship him.

In January we will move from the season of Christmas to the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is that season that reveals the baby born and named Jesus as the Savior of the world and the Lord and God of all creation.

Much like the disciples on that boat, the visit of the magi/wise men/three kings ends with worship. They present their gifts to the holy family and they worship the Son of God.

As our January season of Epiphany progresses we will read many of the Gospel events that demonstrate Jesus is God incarnate... God the Son... the Son of God. May we too be moved to worship our Lord who is born for us, who gives us his Word and promise, and who is coming for us and our eternal life.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Adam

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

*Acolyte for the Month*



4th	Isaac Menchhofer
11th	Elias Poe
18th	Bailee Menchhofer
25th	Aaron Sheets



Please note that we will not be having a Women's meeting in January, but we will still be supporting our Project for the Month which is Kathleen Lutz Missionary. Pat Siebert will be taking care of altar flowers for the month.

**January Readers**

January 4th  
January 11th  
January 18th  
January 25th

Scott Tribolet  
Pat Siebert  
Angel Forlow  
Sherry Shaffer



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

**Catechism/Youth Group Information: Here is the schedule for January.**



**1) Sunday, January 4th, 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, January 18th, 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.**



**"Backpacker" Information:** Our volunteers for the Backpack Program will be helping at the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry in Celina on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m.



**The St. John Lutheran Men in Mission** will be meeting on Wednesday, January 21st, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, "Fourth and Goal – "Peter steps out of the boat" based on Mathew 14:22-33, will be led by Russ Bensman. Bob Miller will share the scripture and prayer. All men are invited to attend.

**Our benevolence contributions for the month of January will benefit Institute of Lutheran Theology.**

# JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR -- St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				New Year's Day 1	2	3
4 Worship with Holy Communion & Installation of New Council Members & Board of Education 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at St. John 5:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at St. John 6:00 p.m.	5	6 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	7 NO Women of the Church Meeting	8 NWOMD Pastor's Meeting at St. John (Hopewell) 9:00 a.m.	9	10
11 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	12 	13 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	14 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17
18 Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism Class at St. John 5:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at St. John 6:00 p.m.	19	20 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	21 Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m.	22	23 NA LC	24
25 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	26 Pastor's	27 Retreat	28 Virginia Beach, VA	29	30	31 