



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

February
2026

I don't know... I don't know if I have it in me. But I hope so.

It happened while we were in church. In another church. In St. Paul Minnesota. A group of "protestors" entered a sanctuary and disrupted a worship service. They yelled. They accused. Some even threatened violence.

In response, some sat quietly. Some attempted reason. Some... especially the young children... cowered and hid under pews. At least one grey haired woman (I could see her on one of the videos) stood, raised her hands in the air in the direction of her nearest disrupters, and she was praying for them.

That is the right thing.

Love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you.

There is this fantastic moment in the Gospel of John when they come to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus asks who they are looking for. They answer that they are looking for Jesus. Jesus answers, "I am he". And they are all knocked to the ground at his word. Jesus did not have to go. He did not have to be arrested. He did not have to be tried. Or beaten. Or crucified. Or die. But he did. He handed himself over to violent and sinful men and suffered and died... for us... and for them.

I hope I have in me, to peacefully pray for enemies, if and when I am confronted with such a situation. But I don't know. I have some anger. My thoughts turn to the "what ifs". What if they got violent? What if they assaulted someone? You? My wife? My kids? I cannot imagine standing still for that and... just praying!

At what point do things turn toward Jesus flipping over tables and running people out of the Temple for disrupting worship and abusing worshipers? Is there such a point for us? There was for Jesus... but I, we, are not Jesus.

Here is what I know. I am angry enough that I know it is not right. When Ash Wednesday comes, I have some things to continue to repent over. As always, I need the Lord to lead me to the cross... his cross and mine. As he died for me, I know that I need to die to myself. And this year... this year I feel it a bit more than usual.

Pastor Adam

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hopewell Township
9009 State Route 118
Celina, Ohio 45822

Church Telephone: 419-363-2154
Church Email: stjohnht@bright.net
Church Website: www.stjohnht.org
Facebook: St. John Hopewell Lutheran Church

Pastor Adam Poe
Parsonage Telephone: 419-942-2591
Email: ympoe@yahoo.com
Office Administrator: Kara Stachler

Acolyte for the Month



Acolyte Schedule for the month of February—

1st	Caleb Poe
8th	Isaac Menchhofer
15th	Elias Poe
22nd	Bailee Menchhofer

February Readers

February 1st
February 8th
February 15th
February 22nd

Terry Carr
Cheri Menchhofer
Michelle Tribolet
Britt Menchhofer



The next monthly meeting of the St. John Church Council will be held on Wednesday, February 11th, 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 February.

- 1) Sunday, February 1st, at Zion (Chatt)** - 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, February 15th, at Zion (Chatt)** - 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!



"Backpacker" Information: Our volunteers for the Backpack Program will be helping at the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry in Celina on Tuesday, February 3rd & 17th beginning at 9:00 a.m.



The Women of the Church will meet at the Motor Inn on Wednesday, February 4th at 12:00 p.m. Our project of the month is NALC Disaster Response. Barb Bensman will take care of the altar flower for the month.

Our benevolence contributions for the month of February will benefit Rockford Food Pantry.



“Souper Bowl” Sunday: The Chatta John Youth Group and the Board of Parish Education will be hosting a soup lunch on Sunday, February 8th, at 11:15 a.m. (after Sunday school). The lunch will feature sandwiches and soups. A freewill offering will be collected to support the youth group.



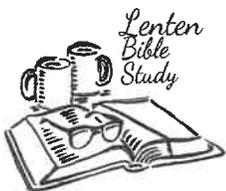
Please join us for the Joint Parish, Ash Wednesday Service *opportunities* to be held at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (Chatt) on Wednesday, February 18th, at 9 a.m. or at 7:00 p.m.



The St. John Lutheran Men in Mission will be meeting on Thursday, February 19th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, “Demands ‘Paul’s boasting’” based on 2 Corinthians 11:16-33, will be led by Dennis Hecht. Lee Post will share the scripture and prayer. All men are invited to attend.

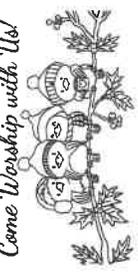


Fundraiser Dinner: Zion Lutheran Church (St. Mary’s) 210 N. Wayne St., will be hosting a spaghetti fundraiser dinner on Friday, February 20th from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. You may eat in the auditorium or take it to go. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children, they can be purchased prior to the meal by calling the St. Mary’s office or you can get them at the door. The adult menu consists of spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and dessert and the youth menu is hotdogs, mac and cheese, applesauce. Proceeds will benefit seminary students and the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT).



Please join Pastor Adam as we begin the Lenten season with a Bible Study on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The series of studies will begin on February (22nd) at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt). The studies will continue each Sunday evening through March 22nd. The first three studies will be held at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt) and the last two will conclude at St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell).

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 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.	2  Groundhog Day	3 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	4 Women of the Church Luncheon at Motor Inn 12:00 p.m.	5	6	7
8 "Souper Bowl" Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Soup Lunch 11:15 a.m.	9	10	11 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14 Valentine's Day! 
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 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.	16  Newsletter articles are due.	17 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	18 Joint Ash Wednesday Worship at Zion (Chatt) 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.	19 Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m.	20 Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner at Zion Lutheran Church (St. Mary's) 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.	21
22 Worship w/Reception of New Members 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Lenten Bible Study at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt) 6:00 p.m.	23	24	25  Come Worship with Us!	26	27	28 
No flowers on the altar during Lent.						