



HOPEWELL NEWS GAZETTE

St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

April
2026

The old adage about March is that it comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. This March had been wildly variable in its weather! Up and down, warm and then cold, with some record high winds to top it all off.

And we are certainly looking forward to more consistency with the weather! It will be nice when the cold snaps are only cool and the warmth becomes more consistent.

Likewise, it will be good to transition from Lent into Easter!

Lent has, intentionally so, a somewhat gloomy mood. We hear from the Lord all about us... about our failings... about our sin... about our need for him and his salvation. Of course, we also enjoy the highs of the fact that the Lord gives what we need! And because he does give the forgiveness and salvation we need we can face repentance.

The Easter season, like spring, changes tone. It is more consistent. Warmer. Brighter.

Not that the “lows” of our failure, our sin, and our need for repentance go away, or are all done with! In this life we are sinners, always in need of the Lord and his salvation! But in Easter, the focus changes to a more consistent proclamation of the fact that the Lord has forgiven and has saved in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for us.

In Lent, we hear more from the gloom of the Lord’s Law that condemns and threatens and convinces of our need. But in Easter, we hear more from the brightness of the Gospel that calls us to our life as God’s own children.

The movement is the same. Always from sin to repentance. From guilt to forgiveness. From death to eternal life. And we certainly need to hear from both perspectives! To be both turned from our sin and to be called toward holiness and righteousness.

But the change toward the outright good news of forgiveness and eternal life in the victorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is always welcome!

Very soon it will be ours to proclaim: He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Adam

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Acolyte for the Month



Acolyte Schedule for the month of April—

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

April Readers

April 5th
April 12th
April 19th
April 26th

Sherry Shaffer
Terry Carr
Cheri Menchhofer
Michelle Tribolet



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

Lenten Schedule

Holy Week begins on Sunday March 29th, with Palm/Passion Sunday. We will have the procession of palms during worship at 9:00 a.m. On Thursday, April 2nd will be the Joint Maundy Thursday Worship at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (Hopewell) at 7:00 p.m., and Chatt Valley Community Good Friday Worship is on Friday, April 3rd at St. Paul's Country Church at 7:00 p.m. There will not be a bible study for Holy Week.



Easter Worship Schedule ~ April 5th

Easter Sunrise Service by the St. John Youth Group 7:15 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Easter Worship with Holy Communion – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.

Our benevolence contributions for the month of April will benefit Parkway Needy Kids Fund.



The Women of the Church will be meeting on Wednesday, April 8th at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Pat Siebert will offer devotions and Terry Carr will lead the Bible Study. The project of the month is the Henderson Settlement. The Altar flowers for the month will be taken care of by Sharon Miller.



The St. John Lutheran Men in Mission will be meeting on Wednesday, April 15th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, "Blowing It – "The good news of forgiveness" based on 1 John 1:1-2:14, will be led by Mark Kimmel. Paul Miller will share the scripture and prayer. All men are invited to attend.



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



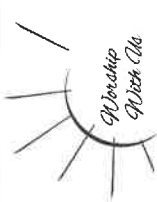

Catechism/Youth Group Information: Here is the schedule for April.

1) Sunday, April 19th, 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!.

Easter Floral Cross Information: The St. John Youth Group will again be displaying our traditional Easter Floral Cross on Easter Sunday. There are two sign-up sheets in the back of the sanctuary (#1 -- "In Memory Of" and #2 -- "In Honor Of"). Please feel free to add all your loved ones to the lists! We are asking for donations of \$2/each to help offset the cost. There will be a basket at the back of the church for Easter Floral Cross donations if anyone would like to contribute. If you have any questions, please see Britt Menchhofer. Thank you!

Representative Needed: Our congregation is in need of a congregational voting representative to the Ohio Convocation of the NALC; which will take place on May 2 at St. John Lutheran in Grove City, OH, a suburb of Columbus.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Resurrection of Our Lord 5 Easter Sunrise 7:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. ❖ Just a reminder to pick up your Easter Flowers!!	6	7	8 Women of the Church Meeting 1:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Maundy Thursday 2 Joint Maundy Thursday Worship w/Holy Communion at St. John (Hopewell) 7:00 p.m.	10 Good Friday 3 Chatt Valley Good Friday Worship at St. Paul's Country Church at 7:00 p.m.	11
12 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	 13 Newsletters Articles are Due	14 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	15 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 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Chatta-John Youth Group at Zion 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	20	21	22 Earth Day Administrative Professionals Day	23	24	25
26 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	27	28 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	29	30		