



HOPEWELL NEWS GAZETTE

St. John Lutheran Church (Hopewell Township)

September
2026

What a wild last month it has been with the weather! I don't remember an August with such green grass. And none of our farmers have been wishing for more rain!

We have been right up to the edge here... actually bordering on too much rain... in August!

This is not usual. Usually... usually... we are busy praying for some rain! Usually, the grass is pale green and edging towards brown. Usually, we are worried about there being enough moisture for the beans and corn to fill out.

Usually, we are looking for the rain to come and bring with it the life that this world needs!

Usually.

Here, in west-central Ohio, we have been up to that edge and even a little over toward too much rain. But to our southeast and southwest, the rain has gone right past that edge, even past too much water in the fields... and right up to water in the houses and streets turned into rivers.

What we are usually praying for to bring us life has brought about destruction and death.

Spiritually speaking, this is also the way it is with both the cross of Jesus Christ and with baptism.

With our Lord and his cross, that which is death and destruction – the death of our Lord and the killing of his mortal body – his death for us is also the thing that gives us life. Eternal life through the forgiveness that his death for us and our sin has been accomplished.

And baptism is much more clearly related to this earthly water situation where the thing that brings destruction is also the thing that we desperately need for life. Baptism is that event in the church, that sacrament, that connects us to, that immerses us in, and that washes us with the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the water that is given with the Word, the Lord himself speaks through the voice of a minister and promises us each, by our own names, that we are included with Christ in his death and resurrection... that Jesus *really* is for us... for you. God's promise to us in baptism is so sure that we can say, along with the Apostle Paul in Romans Chapter 6, that we ourselves have died with Christ and been raised with him. We have died to sin. We have been raised to new life with God.

Baptism... and Jesus himself... are both death and life for us. As baptized Christian people we live the life of continual dying to ourselves and our sin. And as baptized Christian people we live the life of continually being given new life... forgiven... washed clean... and refreshed... in the resurrection to new life to God through Jesus Christ.

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Acolyte for the Month



Acolyte Schedule for the month of September—

6th	Caleb Poe
13th	Bailee Menchhofer
20th	Elias Poe
27th	Aaron Sheets

September Readers

September 6th
September 13th
September 20th
September 27th

Cheri Menchhofer
Michelle Tribolet
Britt Menchhofer
Brad Carr



The next monthly meeting of the St. John Church Council will be held on Wednesday, September 9th, 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).



Church Women Bible Study will be Wednesday, September 2nd at 1:00 p.m. Please note we need a leader for the lesson in September. We will start on Page 37, Lesson 4 in the small lesson book. Also remember our homework: "Make a list of ways you can use your words to encourage someone's dream." See you on September 2nd!



Volunteers for the Backpacks: Our volunteers will be helping prepare BackPacks on Tuesday, September 8th and 22nd at 9:00 a.m., at the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry in Celina.



Blessing of the Hunters is a service of prayer and Word that will be held at Zion (Chatt) on Thursday evening, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. We will pray for God's provision, thank him for his creation and blessings, and ask for safety and wisdom.

Our benevolence contributions for the month of September will benefit Christmas Break Bags for Parkway Students.

Noisy Offering: There will be a "Noisy" Offering on Sunday, September 6th, during worship; to benefit the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry Backpack Program. Thanks for your support!

That which is death to us... is life for us. And that which is life for us... is also our death.

This is the life we live – both dying and being raised – through the Word and promise of God to us until that day when Word and promise received in faith becomes what we see and hold – until that day when we physically die and are fully united to the death of Christ so that we will also be fully united to his resurrection and be raised with him to eternal life.

In the meanwhile, let us do what we can in Christian love and charity for those who have suffered from too much rain. Perhaps through our love and service what has been destruction for them might be turned to life and faith in Jesus Christ.

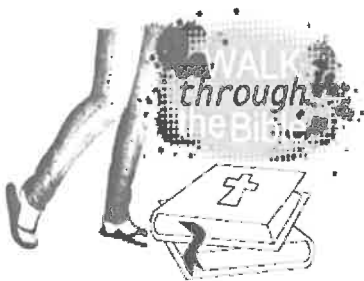
Pastor Adam



Join us for a Rally Day celebration and fellowship at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 13th at St. John's. The Parish Board of Education will be providing sandwiches and drinks for the luncheon following the service. Members of St. John's may contribute a hot side or dessert and members of Zion may contribute a cold side or dessert to the meal.



The St. John Lutheran Men in Mission will be meeting on Wednesday, September 16th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, "Family Stress - "Good discipline" based on Hebrews 12:1-13, will be led by Lee Post. Mark Kimmel will share the scripture and prayer. All men are invited to attend.



"Walk Through the Bible" Event: Zion Lutheran Church ~ St. Mary's will be hosting the North West Ohio District "Walk Through the Bible" event, on Saturday, September 19th, at 10:00 a.m.; registration opens at 9:30 a.m. The North West Ohio District of the NALC will be covering the cost. This event is open to all ages and is aimed to help people overcome obstacles to knowing and living God's Word. Lunch will be included, a free will offering will be accepted. If you are planning to come, please be sure to sign up so Zion St. Mary's has an idea of how many plan to attend; signup sheet can be found on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Thanks!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Women of the Church Meeting 1:00 p.m.	2 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	3 Blessing of the Hunters Service at Zion (Chart) 7:00 p.m.	4	5 “Walk Through the Bible” Event at Zion St. Mary’s 10:00 a.m. Registration at 9:30 a.m.
6 Worship w/Holy Communion & “Noisy” Offering 9:00 a.m.	7 Labor Day	8 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	9 Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10 	11 	12
13 Grandparents Day Rally Day-Joint Worship w/Holy Communion & Commissioning of SS Teachers & Youth Leaders at St. John 10:00 a.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m. 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18 	19
20 Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	21 	22 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m. 	23 	24 	25 	26
27 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	28 	29 	30 			september 