

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

November
2026

Sometimes thankfulness is hard.

On a bright sunny day like it is today as I write this article, it is not so hard! The fall weather has been exceptional. All things harvest look to be going well for the farmers. I already got a deer (a small one, so I hope for another, but still!).

But in the evenings lately, it's been mixed for me. I have been going through my mom and dad's old pictures to distribute between us four kids. On the one hand I am grateful and thankful for the memories. My mom and dad were great ones. They raised us well and loved us. But… but they also went far too soon. The only one of my kids who really knew grandma and grandpa was Clara. Then mom's dementia/Alzheimer's set in. And dad quit taking his meds. They both quickly lost a lot of capability, and their house was no longer the one we gathered at.

You can see it in the pictures… in the fact there are lots of pictures of Clara… then just a few of Elias… then none that my mom took of Caleb.

So, I am thankful for them both. And I am also a bit sore that they are gone and over all that happened with them… and mostly for my kids who never really knew them.

Sometimes thankfulness is hard.

When loved ones are lost. When you lose a job. When there is a new diagnosis, a new pain, a new problem, another loss of ability and corresponding independence. When the car breaks down. When the weather turns grey and cold and the nights get long. When everything is different. When the kids are growing up and not coming home like they used to. When we are lonely.

And yet, the Lord is with us. Even in all these things. And especially when thankfulness is hard, he is with us.

Our Lord Jesus did not come to save us from good, from a life a plenty, from bliss, and from perfection. He came to save us from a broken and sinful world, from death through his death, and from the devil and all temptations to sin and forget our loving and providing God.

He is the one who has suffered for us and is with us in all our suffering. He is the one who has died for us and is with us even in loss and our own dying. And he is the one who is raised for us and the promise that the hardships of this life are temporary… and that eternal life, forgiveness, restoration, and heaven are ours.

Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, yet he is with us.

So how is it that we can find thankfulness even when it is hard? Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Pastor Adam

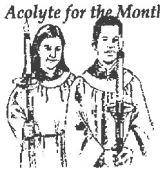
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November Readers

November 1st	Sherry Shaffer
November 8th	Terry Carr
November 15th	Cheri Menchhofer
November 22nd	Michelle Tribolet
November 29th	Britt Menchhofer



Acolyte Schedule for the month of November—

1st	Aaron Sheets
8th	Isaac Menchhofer
15th	Caleb Poe
22nd	Bailee Menchhofer
29th	Elias Poe



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



All Saints Sunday is November 1st. We will honor the memory of our St. John members, who passed away since the last All Saints Sunday, by lighting a candle on the altar.



Volunteers for the Backpacks: Our volunteers will be helping prepare BackPacks on Tuesday, November 3rd and 17th at 9:00 a.m., at the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry in Celina.



Veterans' Day is Wednesday, November 11th! A HUGE shout -out to all our Veterans' who have made many sacrifices to keep our country safe and our freedom free! Words cannot express enough of how greatful we are to have someone like you. THANK YOU! May God Bless You Always!

Our benevolence contributions for the month of November will benefit the C.A.L.L. Food Pantry.

The **Parish Board of Education** will be meeting on Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m.



Church Women Bible Study will be Wednesday, November 4th at 1:00 p.m. Sharon Miller will offer devotions and Barb Bensman will lead the Bible Study (lesson 6). The project of the month is the Family Crisis Center. The Altar flowers for the month will be taken care of by Barb Bensman.



OCC boxes are ready to be filled for 2026 and are located in the back of the church. Packing suggestions for both boys and girls are available. Don't forget the label and to select the age group and boy or girl. If you have any questions, see Michelle Tribolet. Filled boxes should be returned by Sunday, November 22, when we will be blessing them and sending them on their journey to their recipient.

The ***OCC Packing Party*** will be held on November 15th for the Chatta John youth group and anyone wanting to help pack OCC boxes. We will have a meal and will plan to meet here at St. John's at 6:00 p.m.



The St. John Lutheran Men in Mission will be meeting on Wednesday, November 18th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Bible Study, "Who is the Boss –'Workers in the vineyard'" based on Mathew 20:1-16, will be led by Paul Miller. Dennis Hecht will share the scripture and prayer. All men are invited to attend.



The **Chatt Valley Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service** this year will be on Sunday, November 22nd at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (Chatt) at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and offer praise to our Lord, giving thanks for all of our blessings during this past year.



Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends, and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.
~ Mary Fairchild

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"All Saints" Sunday 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	2	Election Day 3 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	4 Women of the Church Meeting ~ Lesson 6 1:00 p.m.	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	9	10 Parish Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Veterans' Day 11 Thank you! Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15 Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Chatta-John O.C.C. Packing Party at St. John's 6:00 p.m.	16 	17 Volunteers for the Backpack Program 9:00 a.m.	18 Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting 7:00 p.m.	19	20	21
"Christ the King" Sunday 22 Worship w/"Blessing of the O.C.C. Boxes" 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Chatt Valley Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Zion Lutheran Church (Chatt) 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25	26 	27	28
29 Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	30					