

*Trunk or Treat*  
*Oct. 27th*  
*6:00 -7:00 PM*

**Sunday**  
**Worship Service**  
**10:00 AM**

*Adult Sunday School 9AM*  
*Children's Sunday School*  
*10AM*

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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**The Chimes**  
*Christ in us, the hope of glory!*

Pastor Blair Miller  
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October 2024

## *A Time and a Season for Everything*

These words may have a tone of familiarity. We could say: *they strike a chord* for many of us. The song "Turn, Turn, Turn" written by Pete Seeger & made popular in 1965, as sung by The Byrds, revealed lyrics for a Folk Song based on Holy Scripture. Yes, in the Bible, we can turn to the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3, verses 1-8, and hear a series of opposites reflecting circumstances of life that are pretty much universal.

To everything turn, turn, turn  
There is a season turn, turn, turn  
And a time to every purpose under Heaven  
A time to be born, a time to die  
A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal  
A time to laugh, a time to weep  
  
A time to build up, a time to break down  
A time to dance, a time to mourn  
A time to cast away stones  
A time to gather stones together

These are just some of the familiar words from scripture that provide a framework to understand cycles in life sharing both beginnings & endings...starts & finishes.

Sitting here in my Study on the Eve of October 1<sup>st</sup>, I'm not counting the days, but I am reflecting on days past as well as days that have yet to come, a time & a season. Having served as a pastor for 28+ years, this included 3 congregations. That means there were 3 times of sharing new beginnings and forming new relationships. One thing that has always been a mystery for me is this: unlike the first day at a new school when I felt nervous, lost and alone, every "first day" at each of the three congregations didn't feel strange or foreign, but instead, felt comfortable & good.

So thank you everyone for just being you and for warmly welcoming Ellen & me.

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Times of change challenge congregations, too...there is the fear of the unknown that makes people feel anxious. Yet historically, God has blessed congregations with a new beginning that provides exactly who & what is needed even before the need is fully identified! A time and season for everything; time for you to trust the Lord your God, present for the faithful back in 1878; ever-present & faithful now.

That holds true for me, too. This month will pass quickly. Soon I'll be exploring what it means to be retired, but I'm pretty sure I can find things to do. I'm just not sure how my diagnosis of Parkinsons will factor in...this too will have its season: a time to plant & laugh, a time to build up & dance. It's always the season to trust God is God...this is our common thread that moves us forward in peace and love!

- Pastor Blair

**Daylight Bible Study meets at 10:00 AM Tuesday's in Luther's Café. We are currently studying "The Life of Peter".**

**Adult Sunday School meets at 9:00 AM in the David Room. We are using the Daily Discipleship Bible Studies from the ELCA. Each Sunday's lesson will be based on the Gospel reading for that Sunday.**

**Children's Sunday School...10AM in the nursery.**

**We are no longer collecting pop tabs or prescription bottles.**

## **Madison County Food Pantry**

The Madison County Food Pantry welcomes donations of canned goods and other shelf stable food items. Donations can be brought to the Pantry on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00am - 11:45am. They are located at 125 S. Oak St., London.

A note: if you have the ability to make a monetary donation instead, your donation will go much further. Due to our membership in the [Mid Ohio Food Collective](#), for the amount you would spend buying a can of chili to donate, we could likely buy 4-5 cans through Mid Ohio. Either way, your help is appreciated!

## **A Goal for All Seasons**

*The following article was taken from "Bulletin Digest"*

Often times, I find myself lost in thought as to how I can improve as a worker in the kingdom of God. My thoughts most recently have been focused around the idea of the goal we pursue. So many aspects of Christianity seem to exist and all seem worthy of pursuit, however, God's word is much more simple than that. We must remember the singular goal of Christianity is to pursue God.

In our pursuit of God, we find ourselves devoutly committed to the church. We find ourselves seeking fellowship with other Christians. We find ourselves craving a deeper understanding of our Lord. We find ourselves building life around the church, and not the other way around. We find ourselves evangelizing at every opportunity. We find ourselves producing fruit, planting and watering as God provides the increase. These aspects themselves are not the goal, but a result of the true goal of Christianity: pursuing God. As the busy holiday seasons roll in, do yourself a favor and narrow your focus on the one goal that matters!

# Trunk or Treat

St. John's Lutheran Church Parking Lot  
380 Keny Blvd., London  
October 27th, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

We invite friends  
& neighbors to  
bring your  
children and  
grandchildren all  
ready to collect  
treats  
in their  
costumes!

## Christmas Shoebox Coming Soon!

Soon you can help yourself to a shoebox and a brochure and help a child in need. School supplies, stuffed animals, toy cars, dolls, socks, toothbrushes, etc. are a great starting point for sharing God's love with a child far away. The shoeboxes, along with a brochure, are a great place to begin and **will soon** be available on the table at the church entrance.

You can also visit: [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ)

## H.E.L.P. HOUSE

Please pick up a few extra non-perishable food items while grocery shopping and place your donations in the basket marked "H.E.L.P. House" at the church entrance. The H.E.L.P. House is always in need of everything from non-perishable food to personal care and hygiene items. New or gently used school clothing are particularly needed this time of year with cooler weather approaching. Your help is definitely appreciated!

*\*The Help House is in particular need of cereal, dry pasta (spaghetti, macaroni, etc.), egg noodles, dry beans (black beans, navy, pinto, red beans,) canned soups, crackers (saltines, Ritz, etc.)\**

*\*\*The Help House is collecting coats for their Winter Coat Drive.\*\**



*"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go"*







### Prayer Requests

*If you have a prayer request, please pick up a prayer request card in the church office. In agreement with the HIPAA Law, a prayer request should not be published without the person's knowledge.*

### Birthdays and Anniversaries October

1. Scott Spohler
4. Kelly Davis
5. Brynne Adkins, Connor Cooley
6. William Cooley
11. Kirsten Eades
12. Melanie Heckel
14. Melonie Fisher
18. Steve Cooley, Christopher Blain, Sharon Dillion
22. Deb Ball, Marilyn Ballenger *(95 years young!)*
23. Elaine Komives, Gene Noble
24. Tom Jasper
30. Mia Patrick

### Current Prayer Concerns:

Pastor Blair Miller	Andra Troyer	Patty Schmittauer
Diane Swartz	Janice Dehmer	Mary Jane Clifton
Jim Miller	Mary Jane Clifton	Rowena Wickline
Anita Boiven	Bill Hodosko	The family of Jacqui Groves
Piper Thompson		

### Church Council

**Pastor Blair Miller**  
**Mike Wood—President**  
**Nancy Hodosko—Vice-President**  
**Amy McComas—Council Secretary**  
**Valerie Eades**  
**Liz Lassel—Treasurer**  
**Mike Klamo— Building Chairman**  
**Mark Erbaugh**

### Prayers and Sympathy:

*We extend prayers of Christian sympathy to Sonia Groves and family on the death of her sister, Jacqui Groves.*

## Worship Assistants for October

Ministry		Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27
Acolyte	10:00	Andy Wood	Tim Amling	Gene Noble	Jeff Blain & Mia Patrick
Ushers	10:00	Gene Noble Nancy Penix	John & D'Ann Stekli	George & Liz Lassel	Rick & Kelly Davis
Lector	10:00	Ellen Miller	Dorene Browning	Mark Erbaugh	Scott Spohler
Communion Assistants	10:00	Jerry & Deb Ball	Linda Ward Debbie Vecchiarelli	Sharon Dillion Nancy Hodosko	Tim Amling Susan Friend
Power Point Video/Sound	10:00	Mike Wood Andy Wood	Scott Spohler Alex Spohler	Mike Wood Andy Wood	John & D'Ann Stekli
Offering Caregivers		Tim Amling Valerie Eades	Amy McComas Marie Wood	Michael Klamo Kelly Cooley	Nancy Hodosko Sharon Dillion
Altar Guild		Deb Henneman	Deb Henneman	Deb Henneman	Deb Henneman
Altar Flowers		The Cooley family	Nancy Hodosko	The Peters family	Rick & Kelly Davis
Eternal Flame		The Cooley family	The Cooley family	The Cooley family	The Cooley family