

380 Keny Blvd.  
London, OH 43140

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Sunday Worship 10:00am

# the Chimes

Christ in us, the hope of glory!

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2026



## From New Vicar Jon Meister

*At a special congregation meeting on December 21, the members of St. John's voted to enter the TEEM program (see article later in this newsletter) with Jon Meister as our new full time Vicar. Jon's start date has yet to be determined.*

Greetings St. John's London!

Having just preached my eighth Christmas Eve service, I shared with the small gathering of people at Zion in West Jefferson, that each year I hope to convey a message that may be new for everyone, possibly something that no one has heard another pastor preach on Christmas Eve in speaking of this glorious event, the birth of Jesus. But truly, what is it that I may be able to present that hasn't been heard in all these years?

Last Saturday morning, as I began to kick into gear for writing this sermon, a hymn I am certain you all know came to rest within my mind and soul: "I Love to Tell the Story." The words within this familiar song soon resolved my anxiety. "I love to tell the story, for some have never heard..." soon turns into, "I love to tell the story, for those who know it best." The point isn't how we, or in this instance, I, tell the story, or even to whom the story is being told. It is simply that the story is indeed told, and the ones hearing the message, will either hear for the first time or be reminded and perhaps deepen their own understanding of Jesus and His love. It is the story, not simply the messenger, which carries the love and truth of Christ.

I love to tell the story – just as the hymn goes. But don't you, too? Don't you love to tell the story? And as we tell the story, we must realize each of our stories are part of God's story, too. No two journeys of faith look the same. But all of our experiences, as they relate to the love of Christ we know today, may help another in the steps they seem unsure to take. Whether we may fully understand, we are right where God has intended us to be. And that is within a world and a local community in desperate need to know the good news of Jesus Christ. Our neighbors not only need to hear, but need to see in each of us, and the church as a body of Christ, the true gospel message within the lives we lead.

As we move forward together, I encourage all to tell the story – again and again – to those who've never heard, and to those who may know it best. The story must be told, not just by fearful shepherds who turned into evangelists, or even bankers turned into Vicars. Telling the story doesn't have to just come from a pulpit, it can be told in a restaurant or book store, the grocery store or within one's own home. It is told within the words we choose, and the love we show one another. The gospel is the story we all must tell.

I am truly humbled and blessed by the opportunity to serve each of you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is with

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great excitement that I eagerly await to learn more of your story, and how together, we may lead others to the love of Christ as we begin the next steps of our journeys together.

With heartfelt blessings and prayers of a safe and happy new year for all.

Jon

### TEEM Process

Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) is a program of the Synod providing a path to ordination by second career individuals. Instead of transitioning from undergraduate education to seminary, these individuals have had a secular career before responding to the call to ordained ministry.


After appropriate training from the Synod, the candidate becomes a Synod Approved Minister (SAM), approved to lead worship, administer sacraments and perform other pastoral duties at a specific congregation. The only thing they can't do is marry people as that requires a license from the state reserved for ordained ministers (and no, they can't get an online ordination as that would invalidate the ordination they are working on).

Candidates attend United Lutheran Seminary in Pennsylvania online with one or two weekends on site per semester.

The Synod matches these candidates with congregations with a pastoral vacancy based on the candidate's strengths and the congregation's needs. If the congregation agrees, the candidate serve as Vicar, providing full time pastoral services with supervision from the Synod. The congregation provides salary and benefits and pays for the education. The education costs are much less than full time seminary tuition.

Once the candidate has completed the program and is approved for ordination (usually in two or three years), the congregation votes to call the candidate as pastor (a call is the final pre-requisite for ordination). Once called, the candidate is ordained and serves the congregation as Pastor. Upon entry to the TEEM process, the congregation has agreed to call the candidate and candidate has agreed to accept the call at the conclusion of the TEEM process.

### Upcoming Events

 [First Sunday Fellowship](#)  
January 4, after worship

Church Council Meeting (open to all)  
January 13, 6:00pm

Annual Meeting  
January 25 after worship

[First Sunday Fellowship](#)  
February 1, after worship

Church Council Meeting (open to all)  
February 10, 6:00pm

Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent  
February 18

[H.E.L.P House Meal Preparation](#)  
March 16, 8:00am - noon

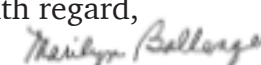
November 21, 2025

Dear St. John's,

I have received so many cards from my friends at St. John's so I decided to say one big thank you to everyone. I transferred my membership from Upper Arlington's Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to St. John's in 1955, so I have been a member for a while.

Since I've moved to Columbus and I'm not driving, St. John's will always be my church. My new address is Marilyn Ballenger, 2870 Snouffer Road, Apt. 232, Columbus, Ohio, 43235. My telephone number is 614-973-5503.

I would love to have visitors. I miss seeing all of you.

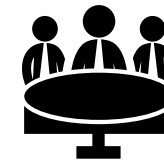
With regard,  


### Weather Cancellation Policy



Church Council has determined that if Madison County is on a level 2 or 3, worship will be cancelled for that day. We will do our best to let you know in advance.

### Council Highlights



Council scheduled a special congregation meeting for December 14 to vote on moving forward with the TEEM process to hire a vicar and to present a compensation package for the vicar to the congregation.

Dave Fisher patched the potholes in the parking lot.

Mike Datz will provide snow removal this winter.

Treasurer Liz is preparing a budget for 2026. Liz will step down as treasurer at the end of 2026. We are looking for a replacement.

Council scheduled the annual meeting for after worship on January 25.



### Prayer Requests

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

Marilyn Ballenger  
Marian Fisher  
Ryan Lapp  
George Lassel  
Charlene Olsen

Jim Penix  
Peg Saupe  
JoAnn Stibb-Roesch  
(pr. Josh's mother)

We extend prayers of Christian sympathy to the family of Vici Geer.

### Daylight Bible Study

10am Tuesdays at the Church



Linda Ward is leading this Bible study which is currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. New members are always welcome.

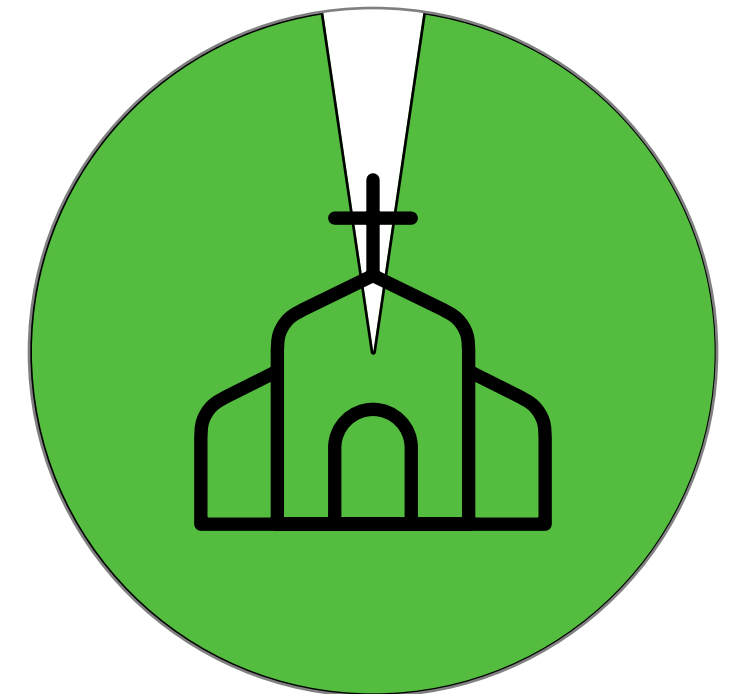
### Church Council

Name	Phone / Text	Email
Kelly Davis	(614) 581-8929	rick_and_kelly@yahoo.com
Martha Davis	(740) 248-6440	mjdavis7085@gmail.com
Valerie Eades, President	(614) 419-0232	vjeeades@gmail.com
Mark Erbaugh, Council Secretary	(740) 845-1877	mark.election@gmail.com
Melanie (Fritzi) Heckel	(920) 279-8044	heckelf6@gmail.com
Liz Lassel, Treasurer	(614) 769-3986	agourdus1@yahoo.com
Aaron Patrick, Vice President	(937) 417-8346	ampatrick29@gmail.com
Josh Stibb, Interim Pastor		

### Finance Report

	November	YTD
Income	\$19,689.05	\$252,546.39
Expenses	\$9,512.11	\$161,694.29
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$10,176.94</b>	<b>\$90,582.10</b>
<b>Mortgage Balance (12/11)</b>		
		<b>\$45,245.36</b>

*Mortgage Payoff*  
**Initial: \$971,747**  
**Current: \$45,245**



## January Birthdays



- 1 Jacob Datz
- 2 Sonia Hazlett
- 4 Mike Datz
- 5 Brookston Fisher  
Barry Hoeman
- 7 Debbie Veccherialli  
Lisa Lash
- 14 Lacy Lappie
- 15 Amy McComas  
Judy Ruble
- 16 Randy Lash
- 19 Adalynn Ball  
Kirk Miller
- 20 Kenton Komives  
Rachel Fisher
- 26 Martha Davis

## January Anniversaries



- 4 Rick & Kelly Davis
- 12 Scott & Brandy Ackley
- 21 All & Fran Datz
- 22 Aaron & Valerie Eades

## First Sunday Fellowship



Join us after worship the first Sunday of each month in Luther's Café for coffee, snacks and fellowship.

If you are interested in hosting one of the First Sunday Fellowships, please see the sign up sheet in Luther's Café. It's not that much work and there are always other folks willing to bring food and help out.

## Volunteer Opportunities



There are many ways you can help St. John's. If you would like to volunteer, contact the church office.

Some areas where help is needed

- Webmaster
- Fellowship coordinator
- Historian / Archivist
- Vacation Bible School
- Maintenance
- Worship Assistants
- Vocal / Instrumental Musicians

## January Sunday Readings

	Sunday	1st Reading	Psalms	2nd Reading	Gospel
4	2 Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalms 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John: 1:[1-9] 10-18
11	Baptism of our Lord	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalms 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
18	2 Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalms 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
25	3 Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalms 27:1,4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

## Christian Education

[Daylight Bible Study](#) - Tuesday 10:00am Luther Café - Gospel of John  
**Adult Sunday School** - Sunday 9:00am David Room - Nicene Creed  
**Children's Sunday School** - Sunday 10:00am Nursery

## Alter Flowers / Eternal Flame

The Altar Flowers and Eternal Flame charts are posted in Luther's Café. If you would like to sponsor one or the other in memory of or in honor of someone special, please sign up on the chart or call the church office.

The altar flowers are \$35.00 and the eternal flame is \$10.00 per week.

## Madison County Food Pantry



The Madison County Food Pantry now has a website: [www.madisoncountyfoodpantry.org](http://www.madisoncountyfoodpantry.org)

The Food Pantry serves an average of 800 households which includes an average of roughly 3,000 individuals every three months. Food and financial support can be dropped off at 125 S. Oak St. in London during distribution hours: 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. every Wednesday and Saturday, or by special arrangement

## Kroger Rewards



Thank you to the 19 households participating in the Kroger Community Rewards program.

Between May 1 and July 31 you contributed \$43.92 to St. John's. The Kroger Rewards goes into our Ekedahl Fund.

If you are interested helping St. Johns through the Community Rewards program, visit <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>.

## H.E.L.P House

The H.E.L.P House is a nonprofit organization who provides Madison County residents with daily needs. They collect clothing, furniture, bedding, and of course food. The people running H.E.L.P House use all the donations collected to help people in need. All donations will get redistributed around this area. Organizations like St. Johns Lutheran take turns providing a hot home cooked meal certain days of the month. Our congregation works together to prepare at least 150 individual servings that friends in need can pick up at the H.E.L.P House. St. Johns does this four times a year on the third Monday of March, June, September and December. Donations are always welcome in the form of:

1. Cash
2. Loaves of bread
3. Cookies
4. Onions
5. Applesauce
6. Large cans of green beans
7. Buffet ham
8. Quart size zip bags
9. Snack size zip bags
10. Raw potatoes

There will be a sign up sheet on the board by the entry for anyone to sign up to donate or help prepare the meal. We appreciate all the help! We socialize as we chop veggies and fill the containers. It is very enjoyable and uplifting so please feel free to join us from 8:30-11:30 or anytime in between. The next opportunity is March 16.

Please contact Fritzi Heckel at 920-279-8044 or [heckelf6@gmail.com](mailto:heckelf6@gmail.com).

## Care Group



Interested in learning about the Care Group? We send birthday, anniversary, get well, etc. cards to families. The church furnishes the cards. It's nice to be remembered and you'll feel good for doing the remembering!

Questions, please see Debbie Ball or the church office.

## Women's Christmas Dinner

We had a good turnout for the Christmas dinner this year. It had been at least 6 years since we had one here at St. John's. The ladies were served by the finest men here at St. John's. The menu consist of salad, ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, tea, coffee, water, and peach cobbler crisp. The ladies were entertained by Charles Powell (Amy's cousin) who sang and played Christmas carols on his guitar. We enjoyed a "friendly" game of White Elephant gift exchange. I want to give a huge shout out to my husband, Bart, who helped set up and prepared the meal with me. Mark Erbaugh, Marty Komives, Mike Wood, Andy Wood, Noah McComas, Matthew McComas and Bart McComas was so amazing taking care of our ladies; thank you for doing such a great job. Hopefully we can keep this tradition going for years to come.

Happy New Year!!  
Amy F. McComas

## Christmas Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi and the peace of the Christ Child.

Photos

Breakfast with Santa



Women's Christmas Dinner



Women's Christmas Dinner



Christmas Eve



Women's Christmas Dinner



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY 2026

MINISTRY	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25 Congregational Meeting	
ACOLYTE	Andy Wood	Gene Noble	Mia Patrick	Alex Spohler	
USHERS	Dora Johnson Pam Smathers	Linda Ward Wally Ward	Jeff Blain Aaron Patrick	Gene Noble Dominic Gammell	
LECTOR	Fran Datz	Dana Fisher	Victoria Patrick	Susan Friend	
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Sharon Dillion Nancy Hodosko	Amy McComas Kristen Duncan	Jerry and Deb Ball	Kelly Cooley Tim Amling	
POWER POINT VIDEO/SOUND	Scott Spohler Alex Spohler	Mike Wood Andy Wood	John & D'Ann Steckli	Scott Spohler Alex Spohler	
OFFERING CAREGIVERS	Tim Amling Fritz Heckle	Marie Wood Kelly Davis	Mark Erbaugh Kelly Cooley	Valerie Eades Aaron Patrick	
ALTAR GUILD	Linda Ward Amy McComas	Linda Ward Amy McComas	Linda Ward Amy McComas	Linda Ward Amy McComas	
ALTAR FLOWERS	Rick and Kelly Davis 40th wedding anniversary		Fran and Al Datz 65th wedding anniversary	In memory of Gary Peters by the Peters' family	
ETERNAL FLAME	Debbie Vecchiarelli	Debbie Vec- chiarelli	Debbie Vec- chiarelli	Debbie Vec- chiarelli	