



## From Vicar Jon

*<sup>18</sup>As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

Matthew 4:18-20

Jesus simply said, "Follow me." And with that, He began calling His disciples. Two words. Their response to these two words would change their lives forever in ways they could never imagine. With their response to these two words, they would soon be part of changing the lives of nearly everyone who would walk the face of the earth, even thousands of years later. Forever.

Disciples normally chose to become students of a particular rabbi, not the other way around. Only the most radical teachers called their own disciples. To follow Jesus, to be a disciple of Jesus, was, and is, a radical change. It should be most evident by now that not only through the words of Scripture but within our own lives, following Christ is not always easy. But there is beauty and wonder, a peacefulness and confidence that is found within those words, "Follow me."

Do you know what it is?

He chose us. He takes the initiative. The disciples didn't seek Jesus within this passage. They didn't ask to follow. He came to them. Read from anywhere in scripture – God chose Noah, Abraham, Moses and David. He chose the prophets. He chose Israel to be His people. Just as the Father chose His people in the Old Testament, Jesus chose His disciples in the New. John 15:16, Jesus tells His disciples, "You did not choose me, but I chose you."

He chooses us. His choice has nothing to do with anything within the disciples then, nor within us now. It is all because of His love and grace. Ephesians 1:4-6, "For He (God) chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will, to the praise of His glorious grace."

To be a follower of Christ, to be a disciple, means we go all in. There is no "little bit." You can't be a passive follower of Christ. You can't be, "a little bit of this, but I'm not about that." It's all or nothing, and if it isn't, you aren't just wasting your time and wasting your life, but your eternity as well. This opening of Jesus' ministry is Matthew's portrayal of how disciples should answer Jesus' call, both in His time of this writing and within our time. As Lutherans, we all know the joke that we like to sit in the back row on Sunday morning, or at least not too close to the front. But in following Christ there is no back row, no seat that you can sit in and feel you can avoid being heard or participating until you may feel entirely comfortable or you may be able to sneak out in

Continued on Page 2

### In this issue

From Vicar Jon	1
Upcoming Events	2
Prayer Requests	2
Weather Cancellation Policy	2
Vicar Contact Info	2
Council Highlights	3
Finance Report	3
Church Council	3
Daylight Bible Study	3
Special Congregation Meeting	3
February Birthdays	4
February Anniversaries	4
Altar Flowers / Eternal Flame	4
Volunteer Opportunities	4
First Sunday Fellowship	4
Kroger Rewards	4
Madison County Food Pantry	4
Christian Education	4
February Sunday Readings	5
H.E.L.P House	5
Care Group	5
Night to Shine	5
Good Luck Pastor Josh	6
The Madison Cinnamon Saturdays	7
The Madison Mens' Breakfast	7
Worship Assistants	8

case you want to leave early. Because there is no other place to go but to follow Him.

Jesus still calls, "Follow me." We may not audibly hear those words, but the call remains as clear and direct to each of us, "Follow me." When these first four were invited to fish for people, they dropped their nets and left their boats behind. They left behind their livelihood. They left their families. They didn't go home to mull things over a bit before giving their decision. No discussions with family as to what to do, no tying up loose ends before they left their business, no who gets the boat, no change of address forms at the post office. They just followed Him, immediately.

Too often we often view this call to discipleship to be primarily (or even exclusively) for ministers and pastors, bishops or priests. But the life of discipleship is one for all people. Remember, His call was to ordinary fishermen – and He calls to us, the ordinary people in the midst of our lives as students and teachers, 9-5 workers and business owners and those retired from years of hard work. He calls to us who are parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters because we are all first and foremost, His children. He calls us to be His disciple. Seeing Jesus as the light of the world that scatters darkness; striving to be unified in and sharing this gospel message not only with the community of faith – our own church – but with the entire world in which we live. God's good news for us is good news for the world. It is news that ordinary average people like Peter and Andrew, James and John, and each one of us are called to share. He may not be literally calling us to leave our boat so to speak, but He is calling us to take up the anchors within our lives and the weights of our sins and distractions and all of which hold us down, to follow Him.

My prayers for each of you to maintain good health and a positive spirit in these snowy days to come.

With blessings.  
Jon

## Vicar Contact Info

cell phone / text: (614) 204-8073  
email: [jmeistersam@stjohnslondon.org](mailto:jmeistersam@stjohnslondon.org)

## Upcoming Events



Annual Meeting  
February 1, after worship

### [First Sunday Fellowship](#)

(welcome Vicar Jon)  
February 1, after worship

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

Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent  
February 18, 7:00pm

Lenten Mid-Week Services  
February 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25  
Light Supper: 6:00pm  
Worship: 7:00pm

### [First Sunday Fellowship](#)

March 1, after worship

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

### [H.E.L.P House Meal Preparation](#)

March 16, 8:00am - noon



## 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.*

Pr. Larry Baker  
Robby Geesling  
Prudy Goodyear  
Charlene Olsen

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

We extend prayers of Christian sympathy to the family of Trisha Nagel (daughter of Ann & Rich Paysen)

## 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 authorized treasurer Liz Lassel to request information on a Certificate of Deposit at Merchant's National Bank.

Council approved a donation in lieu of flowers of \$250 to Via Quest Hospice, Marysville in memory of Bishop Dilahunt's mother, Carol Darcy.

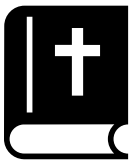
The church received an unexpected tax bill of around \$18,000 from the IRS with a threat of asset seizure. Council approved payment, but will research.

## Special Congregation Meeting

On December 21, the congregation approved motions to enter the TEEM program to hire Jon Meister as vicar and a compensation package for Jon.

## Daylight Bible Study

10am Tuesdays at the Church

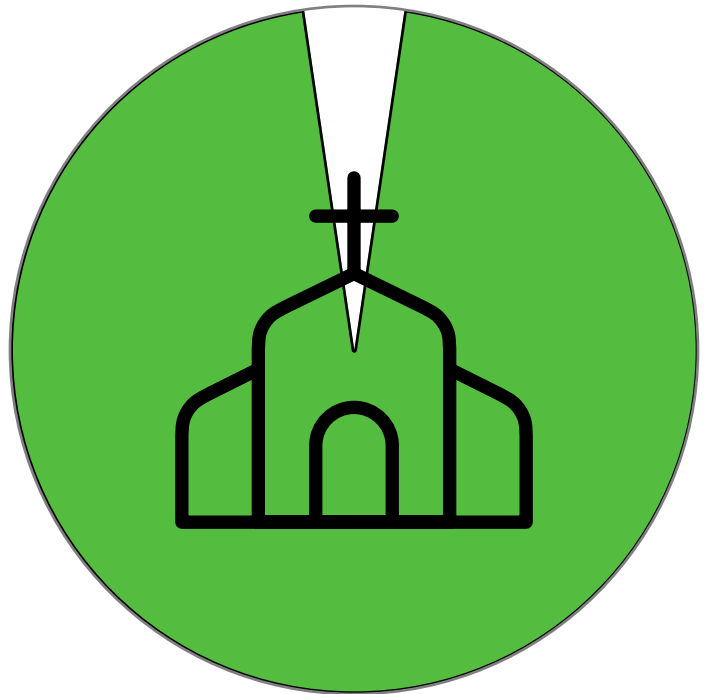


Linda Ward is leading this Bible study which is currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. New members are always welcome. The study will not meet if London City schools are closed due to weather.

## Finance Report

	December	2025
Income	\$32,544.86	\$285,091.25
Expenses	\$12,010.72	\$172,705.01
Net	\$20,534.14	\$111,386.24
<b>Mortgage Balance (1/09)</b>		<b>\$45,245.36</b>

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



## 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
Jon Meister, Vicar	(614) 204-8073	jmeistersam@stjohnslondon.org

## February Birthdays



- 1 Gayla Heckel
- 5 Kathy Erbaugh
- 6 Linda Ward
- 10 Laura Toops
- 17 Karen Streit
- 18 Lillian Ball
- 28 Michael Klamo

## February Anniversaries



- 6 Kimberly & Darrell Storck

## 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

## February Sunday Readings

	Sunday	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
1	4 Epiphany	Micah 1:6-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
8	5 Epiphany	Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]	Psalm 112:1-9 [10]	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20
15	Transfiguration of our Lord	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Psalm 2 or 99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
22	1 Lent	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11

## Christian Education

**Daylight Bible Study** - Tuesday 10:00am Luther Café - Gospel of Matthew

**Adult Sunday School** - Sunday 9:00am David Room

**Children's Sunday School** - Sunday 10:00am Nursery

## Altar 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 sign-up sheet is posted on the memo board for our next meal preparation which is March 16th. Anyone may participate from 8:30-11:30am to help put cookies in bags, cut potatoes, dish up the meals or put messages on the lids. It's nothing too difficult and provides a good opportunity for socializing. You may have heard that the facility that H.E.L.P House uses has been sold so they need to find a different location. Until they find a new place, they are grateful that churches like ours are still willing to make meals. On the off weeks where a church is not covering a meal, the staff at H.E.L.P House creates and prepares the meal with donations in their on-site kitchen. Since the lease is done in March, they are hoping to find a new place to prepare those meals. Please add this community need to your prayer list that their next facility is found soon.

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.



## Night to Shine

"Night to Shine" is a prom night experience for people with special abilities ages 14 and older. This event is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation and held at Madison County Vineyard Church in London. Mark Erbaugh and Fritzi Heckel teamed up to create the fun refrigerator magnet to be added to the goodie bags each prom guest will receive. The magnet has the "Night to Shine" logo followed by "with love from St. John's Lutheran Church" to let the guests know they are loved by God and our church family.

## Good Luck Pastor Josh

The weather didn't cooperate and we had to cancel services on January 25, which meant we cancelled our farewell fellowship for Pastor Josh.

Here are some pictures of his time with us.





Please join us for

# Cinnamon Saturdays

at

## The Madison

Senior Living Community

COMPLEMENTARY WARM CINNAMON ROLLS AND COFFEE EVERY SATURDAY!  
7:30AM-9:00AM

351 Keny Blvd.  
London, Ohio

(740)-506-1325



YOU'RE INVITED

# men's BREAKFAST

The last Tuesday of every month!

8AM-9:30AM

## The Madison

Senior Living Community

351 Keny Blvd.  
London, Ohio 43140  
(740) 506-1325

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026

MINISTRY	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 18 Ash Wednesday	February 22
ACOLYTE	Tim Amling	Nancy Hodosko	Mia Patrick	Andy Wood	Gene Noble
USHERS	Jeff Blain Wally Ward	Marian Fisher Rachael Fisher	Keith Languell Tim Amling	Gene Noble Dominic Gammell	Valerie Eades Macy Eades
LECTOR	Linda Ward	Susan Friend	Liz Lassel	Mark Erbaugh	Doreen Browning
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Rick & Kelly Davis	Ruth Peters Nancy Penix	Al & Fran Datz	Jerry & Deb Ball	Victoria & Aaron Patrick
POWER POINT VIDEO/SOUND	Mike Wood Andy Wood	John & D'Anne Steckli	Scott Spholer Alex Spholer	Amy McComas	Mike Wood Andy Wood
OFFERING CAREGIVERS	Tim Amling Fritz Heckle	Marie Wood Kelly Davis	Mark Erbaugh Kelly Cooley	Amy McComas	Valerie Eades Aaron Patrick
ALTAR GUILD	Debbie and John Henneman	Debbie and John Henneman	Debbie and John Henneman	Debbie and John Henneman	Debbie and John Henneman
ALTAR FLOWERS	In memory of Zack Ward by the Ward Family	In memory of Brandy Keller by the Eades Family			
ETERNAL FLAME	In memory of Zack Ward	In memory of Zack Ward	In memory of Zack Ward	In memory of Zack Ward	In memory of Zack Ward