

380 Keny Blvd.  
London, OH 43140

☎ 740 852-1522

Sunday Worship 10:00am

# the Chimes

Christ in us, the hope of glory!

Vicar Jon Meister  
secretary Amy McComas  
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[www.stjohnslondon.org](http://www.stjohnslondon.org)

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2026

## From Vicar Jon

In Romans 15:7, Paul writes, "Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." As I approach one month being your Vicar, this is a wonderful summation of the warmth I have felt since day one. Just as the redeeming death of Jesus saves us as individuals, it does even more than this: it creates community, miraculously forming redeemed people into His church, who live as family with one another.

And that is what I have experienced at St John's. Family. A collection of people of all ages, shapes and sizes, backgrounds and futures, talents and passions, at various points within their spiritual journeys with Christ. But individuals that come together not to merely be seen or recognized for their gifts, but who do so for God's glory and the love of neighbor.

Every church I have I known wants to be known as a welcoming church. But the way churches often think of "welcoming" is limited to warm greetings on a Sunday morning, a simple smile and a handshake. Paul writes of an understanding of "welcome" far deeper than that – one that is rooted in the very soil of the gospel itself and reaching up to accomplish a feeling and relationship of something that only reflects one thing: family.

Christ's welcome of us is our model for our ongoing of welcoming one another, those new to St. John's and those within the community of London. Because Jesus died in our place to welcome us into God's family, our welcome of one another, both friend and stranger, means we live together as family, far beyond what we may need for only ourselves. We accept one another, we sacrifice for one another, we participate within the church and the community to serve one another in jobs that need doing – because that is what a healthy family does.

Without even trying to look, we find ways, big and small, through words and actions, that say, "You are family to me, so I will sacrifice to serve you." What does that look like? Shoveling snow from the walkways before a funeral, making tuna fish sandwiches before Lenten services and even making a heart-shaped wreath for the Vicar's door. It looks like those who help clean (even though we have a person for that), those who give their time to lead – whether it be the council leading the congregation or those that lead Bibles studies. And it sounds like those who jump in to lead closing hymns A cappella, sung by a congregation who gives glory to God through music louder than had the music gone off "perfectly" (although I think we'd all agree it sounded so much better in the manner it unfolded).

Because the welcome that is experienced at St. John's is not simply from greeters or even a welcome team, but of the entire church. Welcoming is not an event, it's a way of life. I am humbled to be a part of this family, a family that loves giving glory to God, and I am thankful for each of you. With blessings as we continue our life-journey together.

Jon

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## Upcoming Events



### [First Sunday Fellowship](#)

March 1, after worship

### [Lenten Mid-Week Service](#)

March 4, 11, 18, 25

Light Supper: 6:00pm

Worship: 7:00pm

Bell Choir Rehearsal

March 4, 11, 18, 25 6:00pm

Vocal Choir Rehearsal

March 4, 11, 18, 25 after Lenten service

Church Council Meeting (open to all)

March 10, 6:00pm

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

March 16, 8:00am - noon

[Maundy Thursday](#), April 2, 7:00pm

[Good Friday](#), April 3, 8:00pm

[Easter](#), April 5

Breakfast: 8:30 - 9:30am

Worship: 10am



## 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.*

Pastor Larry Baker

Marilyn (Martha Davis' sister)

Prudy Goodyear

Maddie Herdman

(Keith Languell's granddaughter)

Mike Larkins (Amy McComas' brother)

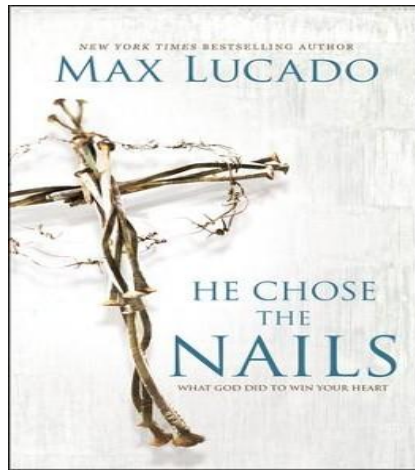
George Lassel

Kevin Londergan

Charlene Olsen

Jim Penix

Jeanie White



## Midweek Lenten Services

God's gifts shed light on God's own heart, God's good and generous heart. Jesus' brother, James, tells us: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down

from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). Every gift reveals God's love, but no gift reveals His love more than the gifts of the cross. They came not wrapped in paper, but in passion. Not placed around a tree, but a cross. And not covered by ribbons, but sprinkled with blood.

The gifts of the cross. Much has been said about the gift of the cross itself, but what of the other gifts? What of the spit, the crown of thorns, the nails, the sign and a simple choice. Have you taken the time to open these gifts?

He didn't have to give them. The only act, the only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet He did much more. So much more.

Please join us at the mid-week Lenten services (Wednesdays February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 7:00pm) where we will search the scene of the cross and find that Christ did far more than die for us on the cross. Using the book, "He Chose the Nails", by author Max Lucado, we will read that throughout the passion story, the weight of our sins was far greater than the cross itself.

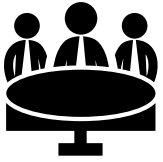
*Note: You don't need to read the book to participate (unless you want to).*

## Easter Flowers



Easter flowers can be ordered through March 5. Several different varieties, sizes and colors are available. Contact the Church Office for details, pricing and to order.

## Council Highlights

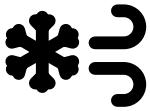


Council authorized the use of our kitchen for H.E.L.P house to prepare meals since they are losing their building.

Council established a fund to be used for emergency needs of the community and congregation. Expenditures over \$1,000 require congregational approval. Council seeded the fund with \$5,000 from general operating funds.

Donations will be solicited from the congregation. The fund will purchase gift cards to be given out by the church office to walk-ins as we don't give out cash.

## 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.

## 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.

## Vicar Contact Info

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

## 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

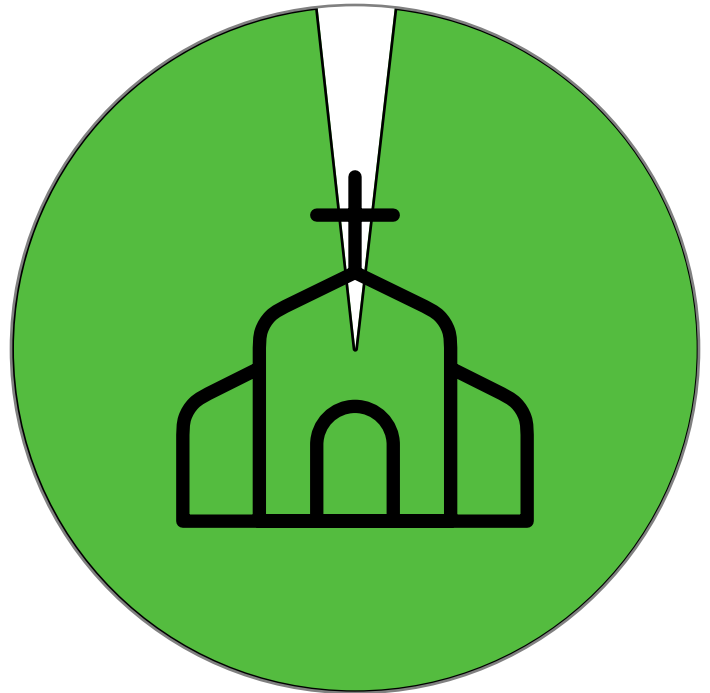
## Finance Report

	January '26	2025
Income	\$16,683.00	\$285,091.25
Expenses	\$18,785.21	\$172,705.01
Net	<b>\$(2,102.21)</b>	\$111,386.24
<b>Mortgage Balance (2/6)</b>		<b>\$33,987.82</b>

# Mortgage Payoff

**Initial: \$971,747**

**Current: \$33,988**



## Breaking News!

At the annual meeting, the congregation voted to pay off the mortgage early and funds have been submitted to our lender.

## March Birthdays



- 1 Bronsyn Bell
- 3 David Smith
- 4 Mike Wood
- 6 Bob Sellars
- 8 Shirley Dillion
- 11 Cara Dahlberg
- 15 Ellen Miller
- 16 Susan Friend
- 17 Kirsten Duncan  
Matt Riley
- 20 Keith Languell  
Darrell Storck
- 26 Jerry Bell  
Jim Penix, Sr.
- 27 Brendan Dahlberg  
Brian Mast
- 28 Linda Jasper

## 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.*

## 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.

## March Anniversaries



- 4 Sonia and Herb Hazlett
- 23 David and Melonie Fisher
- 31 Pam and Mack Smathers

## 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.

## 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

## 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

## Kroger Rewards



Thank you to the 21 households participating in the Kroger Community Rewards program.

Between November 1 and January 31 you contributed \$51.76 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/com>

## Christian Education

[Daylight Bible Study](#) - Tuesday 10:00am Luther Café - Gospel of Matthew

[Adult Sunday School](#) - Sunday 8:45am David Room - *Exploring the Big Questions of Faith*

[Children's Sunday School](#) - Sunday 10:00am Nursery

## H.E.L.P House

Changes at the H.E.L.P House

The H.E.L.P House is a nonprofit organization who provides Madison County residents with daily needs. Unfortunately, the building they were operating out of is not available anymore. The administration is searching for another facility to continue operations. Until one is located, the staff is still going to make meals but from different kitchen locations. Our St. John's council voted to allow the use of our kitchen for food/meal prep when the other churches are unavailable. We are not becoming a distribution or storage site. We also do not have to provide volunteers.

Organizations like St. John's Lutheran will continue to provide 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 enjoy. St. John's prepares a meal 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.

**Please contact Fritzi Heckel at 920-279-8044 with any questions or suggestions.**



## Community Care & Compassion Fund

At the February meeting, Church Council voted to establish the Community Care and Compassion (3C) Fund (tentative name). This fund will be used for grants to meet emergency needs within the community and the congregation. Individual grant recipient names kept confidential. The fund will also be used to purchase gift cards to keep in the Church Office to distribute to walk-ins (we don't give out cash). Grants over \$1,000 require congregational approval.

Council voted to seed the fund with \$5,000 from operating funds, and the congregation is encouraged to donate to this worthwhile cause. You can donate by adding an additional amount to your offering and designating 3C (or CCC) on your envelope or check. Note this should be in addition to your regular offering.

Watch for upcoming fund raisers for the 3C fund.

# Holy Week Schedule

## *March 29 Palm Sunday*

10:00AM Sunday Worship Service starts in the entrance  
of the church

## *April 2 Maundy Thursday*

7:00PM Worship with Holy Communion

## *April 3 Good Friday*

8:00PM Tenebrae Worship

“A Service of Darkness”

## *April 9 Resurrection of Our Lord*

8:30-9:30AM Easter Breakfast

10:00AM Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

*Come, Share the Fullness of the Story of Our Faith.*

*It requires a whole week to tell it!*

*The Story continues to unfold throughout this Very Holy Week.*

*Come, as we celebrate & cherish each moment together!*

## Adult Sunday School

Vicar's son, Christian, is leading a series: *Exploring the Big Questions of Faith*, through April 19. Topics are stand-alone so it's okay if you can't make them all.

Sunday school will start 15 minutes early at 8:45am to allow a time for sharing & prayer requests with the presentation starting promptly at 9:00am.

Topics:

- 2/22: What is / isn't the Gospel?
- 3/1: How do we know Jesus is God?
- 3/8: Why does God allow evil?
- 3/15: Is eternal punishment unfair?
- 3/22: What about those who have never heard the Gospel?
- 3/29: What about violence in the Old Testament?
- 4/12: Why does God seem so hidden at times?
- 4/19: Are there contradictions in the Bible?



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 MARCH 2026

MINISTRY	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
ACOLYTE	Andy Wood	Alex Spohler	Nancy Hodosko	Mia Patrick	Dominic Gammell
USHERS	Jerry and Deb Ball	Marty Komives & Gene Noble	Bob Sellers Fred Heckle	Dora Johnson & Pam Smathers	Wally and Linda Ward
LECTOR	Rick Davis	Elaine Komives	Eileen West	Jeff Blain	Fran Datz
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Kristen Duncan & Amy McComas	Nancy Penix Liz Lassel	Kelly Cooley Ruth Peters	Dana & Rachael Fisher	David and Melanie Fisher
POWER POINT VIDEO/SOUND	John & D'Anne Steckli	Scott and Alex Spohler	Mike and Andy Wood	John & D'Anne Skeckli	Mike and Andy Wood
OFFERING CAREGIVERS	Tim Amling Fritz Heckle	Marie Wood Kelly Davis	Mark Erbaugh Kelly Cooley	Valerie Eades Aaron Patrick	Sharon Dillion Nancy Hodosko
ALTAR GUILD	Tim Amling	Tim Amling	Tim Amling	Tim Amling	Tim Amling
ALTAR FLOWERS	Praise to God	Beverly Londergan	Leigh Spohler birthday		Nancy Hodosko
ETERNAL FLAME	Rick & Kelly Davis	Rick & Kelly Davis	Rick & Kelly Davis	Rick & Kelly Davis	Rick & Kelly Davis