

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

MAY 2026

## You Can Understand the Bible

“There are some things in there that are hard to understand.” While this statement has undoubtedly been uttered by countless people with respect to Bible passages, this particular quote is from Peter – yes, that Peter. It is from 2 Peter 3:16 regarding the letters of Paul. If he could be an apostle and could write on behalf of God and still have a hard time understanding Scripture, we shouldn't be surprised if we do, too.

I know that you can count me among those within that number of struggling to understand at times as well. That is why I find these words from Paul to Timothy so comforting, “Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything” (2 Timothy 2:7). This is an amazing acknowledgement by Paul. He says, in essence, “I know some of what I am writing won't make sense to you immediately, and you may even be tempted to think you cannot understand it – but you can. So, don't give up too easily and don't assume this is beyond your comprehension. Know that God can make His words clear to you.”

This doesn't mean we just sit alone with our Bibles until we understand everything, though. Remember, those in the early church didn't even have a Bible – they only had oral traditions from synagogues or in the case of New Testament writings, caves and residences and the preaching of the early Christian church leaders. But now we have the written word, and we have many ways for understanding. First and foremost is church, then articles, books, commentaries, podcasts, online resources and more.

To say we can understand everything in the Bible is not to say that will be immediately and fully. Most likely you won't. It takes time and repetition, and perhaps discussion with another. But as we read and re-read, and live our lives in the light of God's words, the verses will emerge with greater meaning and relevance. So expect to understand something now, then more tomorrow or next week or next month or even next year.

But we must know and trust this: the One who reveals Himself within the Bible wants to make Himself clearly understood. He doesn't just want to have divinely inspired words upon a page to be read. He wants them understood and written upon our hearts. He wants us to understand and be satisfied and transformed.

“Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.” Yes, God is the One who gives understanding, but that doesn't mean that you still won't have to work at it. In Joshua 1:9, God told Joshua, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” “I will be with you” didn't mean, “You won't have to do the fighting,” but “fight all the harder because you know I'll fight with you and for you.”

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So when you open your Bibles, attend our Bible study on Tuesday mornings or adult education before Sunday service. or whether you may follow along each service during our lessons, be strong and courageous. God will be with you wherever you read. Don't be discouraged, but continue to dwell in His Word, confident and trusting that the Lord loves to provide you understanding.

With Blessings  
Vicar Jon



## May Calendar

First Sunday Fellowship  
May 3, after worship

Mother's Day Lasagna Dinner  
May 8, 5:30 - 7:30pm

Church Council Meeting (open to all)  
May 12, 6:00pm



## 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.*

Prudy Goodyear  
Madi Herdman  
*Keith Languell's grand daughter*  
Nancy Hodosko  
Duane Hughes  
*Brother of Dora Johnson*  
Judy Jasper  
*Sister-in-law of Tom & Linda Jasper*  
George Lassel  
Charlene Olsen  
Jim Penix  
Marilyn  
*Martha Davis' sister*  
Vicar Jon's mother

*We extend Christian sympathy to the friends, family and loved ones of those who have recently passed.*

Pastor Larry Baker



## LASAGNA DINNER !

Friday May 8th @ 5:30pm-7:30pm

\$5 per person



Dinner includes :

Lasagna, bread stick, salad, drink and dessert

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St. John's Lutheran Church

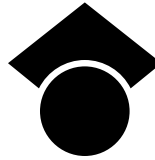
380 Keny Blvd. London OH

740-852-1522

## Finance Report

	March 2026	2026 YTD
Income	\$26,664.74	\$65,031.39
Expenses	48,800.46	85,193.98
Net	<b>\$22,135.72</b>	<b>\$20,152.59</b>

The expenses for March include the mortgage payoff.



### Schilling Scholarship

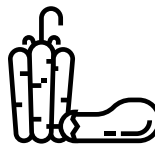
Applications for the Schilling Scholarship are being accepted through May 31. Application forms are by the church entrance.

This is for active members who will be or are attending college.



### A E D AED / CPR Training

The church is applying for a grant to purchase an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator. One of the conditions of the grant is that some members have training in CPR so the church is looking into scheduling a CPR course.



### Community Garden

The church is considering allocating some of our property to a community garden and is looking for someone interested in spearheading the project.



### Good Samaritan Fund

The church now has *The Good Samaritan Fund*. Proceeds from this fund will be used to meet emergency needs within the community and in the congregation. Please consider contributing to this fund.

Starting in July, the line item on your offering envelopes for the mortgage will be replaced by this fund since we no longer have a mortgage.

Some of this fund will be used to purchase gift cards to be given out by the church office (with documentation to prevent abuse) to those coming to the church for assistance. Some of this fund will be contributed to the H.E.L.P house for their community emergency fund.

## 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

## May Birthdays



- 2 James Dillion
- 3 Elmer Olsen
- 4 Noah McComas  
Oliver Riley
- 5 Derek Miller
- 6 Bart McComas
- 11 Ryan Browning
- 12 Fred Heckel
- 19 Fran Datz
- 21 Dorothy Amling
- 25 Nancy Penix

## May Anniversaries



- 27 Blair & Ellen Miller

## First Sunday Fellowship



Join us after worship the first Sunday of each month in Luther's Café for coffee, snacks and fellowship. Since the first Sunday in April is Easter, the fellowship will be the Easter Bruch at 8:30.

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 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 9:00am David Room - *Animate: 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.**

## Adult Sunday School

Starting May 3, we begin a series titled *Animate: Faith*. Each session starts with a video featuring a leading Christian voice followed by time for personal reflection and journaling and then sharing ideas with the group.

- God | Faith is a Quest *Brian McLaren*
- Religion | Spirituality is Not Enough *Lilian Daniel*
- Jesus | The Revolution of Love *Mark Scandrette*
- Cross | Where God Is *Nadia Bolz-Weber*
- Bible | A Book Like No Other *Lauren Winner*
- Church | An Imperfect Family *Bruce Reyes-Chow*

Please join us a 9:00 am in the David Room. All are welcome. Feel free to attend even if you can't attend all sessions.



## Council Highlights

Council approved joining the Madison County Chamber of Commerce with annual dues of \$75.

This will allow us to publicize the church through them.

Liz researched the Ekdahl fund. It was funded by a bequest from an estate with a value of over \$200,000. There were no stipulations on the use of the money. As near as she has been able to tell, the fund has been exhausted.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled July 26 - 30 (Sunday through Thursday). We are looking for someone to coordinate this ministry.

The Madison is not interested in having St. John's provide a worship service as they already have one from Cypress. They are interested in hymn sing service. We are looking for someone to coordinate this ministry.

Vicar has contacted a sign company about repairing our sign.

Valerie has found a grant program that will give us an AED. To qualify, we will have to have AED / CPR training.

While the mortgage has been paid off, the church hasn't received the final paperwork to release the lien from the lender. This can take six weeks. We will schedule a celebration once the mortgage has been removed.

Council discussed church cleaning. Although we have authorized up to eight hours a week, the cleaner is only working a couple of hours and isn't doing all that needs to be done. For example, the kitchen floor is not being mopped.

Council approved sending a minimum of \$3,000 to the Synod for Benevolence. If members designate more than that in their giving, the amount received will be sent. We will send \$1,500 in June and the remainder in December.

Council discussed using some of our property for community gardens. We are looking for someone to coordinate this ministry.

Council named the new community emergency fund *The Good Samaritan Fund*. Since we no longer have a mortgage, that line on the offering envelopes will be changed to *The Good Samaritan Fund* (this will start with the July envelopes).

The H.E.L.P House is also setting up a fund for community emergency assistance. Council approved contributing \$250 per quarter from *The Good Samaritan Fund* to this fund.





## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MAY 2026

MINISTRY	MAY 3	MAY 10	MAY 17	MAY 24	MAY 31
ACOLYTE	ANDY WOOD	GENE NOBLE	TIM AMLING	MIA PATRICK	ALEX SPOHLER
USHERS	PAM SMATHERS NANCY PENIX	VALERIE AND MACY EADES	GENE NOBLE WALLY WARD	Fritz Heckle DOMINIC GAMMELL	ALLEN & FRAN DATZ
LECTOR	DOREEN BROWNING	DANA FISHER	LINDA WARD	MARK ERBAUGH	DEBBIE
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	DAVID AND MELONIE FISHER	SUSAN FRIEND KELLY COOLEY	SHARON DIL- LION & NANCY HODOSKO	AARON AND VICTORIA PATRICK	MARTY & ELAINE KOMIVES
POWER POINT VIDEO/ SOUND	JOHN AND D'ANNE STECKLI	MIKE AND ANDY WOOD	MIKE AND ANDY WOOD	JOHN AND D'ANNE STECKLI	SCOTT AND ANNA SPOHLER
ALTAR GUILD	LIZ LASSEL	LIZ LASSEL	LIZ LASSEL	LIZ LASSEL	LIZ LASSEL
OFFERING CAREGIVERS	TIM AMLING FRITZ HECKLE	MARIE WOOD	KELLY COOLEY MARK ERBAUGH	VALERIE EADES AARON PATRICK	SHARON DILLION NANCY HODOSKO
ALTAR FLOWERS	NOAH AND BART BIRTHDAYS GIVEN BY AMY MCCOMAS	<u>HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!</u> DORA JOHNSON & PAM SMATHERS	TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY DEBBIE VECCHIARELLI		
ETERNAL FLAME	THE MCCOMAS FAMILY	THE MCCOMAS FAMILY	THE MCCOMAS FAMILY	THE MCCOMAS FAMILY	THE MCCOMAS FAMILY