

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
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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2026

On the 25th, we will celebrate Reformation Sunday, and we will join good Lutherans all over the world in belting out loudly, A Mighty Fortress Is our God. And on that Sunday for the first time in a few years, we will welcome newly confirmed members, Alex Spohler and Sophia Penwell.

What are your memories of Catechism? Saturday morning classes for two years for me. There were memorizations of the 10 Commandments, knowing how many books were in the Old and New Testament. Did your pastor give you weekly writing assignments throughout the courses? Mine didn't, but I hear theirs did!

Do any of you happen to recall your confirmation? Were you required to speak before the church, or dare I say, give a testimony?. Or perhaps you were asked to share your favorite verse and what that may have meant to you.

In speaking with another pastor recently, he opted to eliminate the students speaking in such a fashion at their confirmation. (I have yet to decide, by the way.) Why did he make this decision? Because it would most often be a very stressful event for the student, standing before so many faces and giving a response to an area of their life so very important, but so very new, they would often panic in fear of forgetting what to say or perhaps say the wrong things. And in this world, as parents and grandparents would most likely be raising their cell phones to make a video of the event, so too, would their fellow students. And if there was any possible embarrassment to be found, you could most likely find it on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and other social media outlets – for the world to see. That is why the pastor decided to remove that part from their confirmation service.

Isn't odd, and maybe even sad, that the youth in our world and even within our congregation, must be so concerned with their lives being on display almost 24/7 due to social media? That private moments are so private anymore? That their humble love of Christ could run the risk of negative feedback from peers right from its very beginning, within the first few solo steps being taken on their walk with Him.

These two students have been my first class, and I will always remember that. But what I hope they most remember aren't just some facts from the Bible, or laws that we study, then learn we don't stand a chance to keep.

What I want them to take out of this experience is that they recognize their own personal relationship with Christ as being the most important relationship they will ever have (sorry mom, dad, grandma and grandpa). But that's the fact. That they see and feel in Christ the comfort and strength of His love, forgiveness and patience, that is so much greater than what anyone else could ever provide. That they recognize they will fall, and He will lift them. They will question, and He will answer. They will say, "I'm sorry, I messed up," and He will say, "I have already forgiven you, on the cross"

People of St. John's, as we sing that mighty anthem in a few weeks as Jesus stands victorious as our Protector, may we do so in a manner that both Alex and Sophia know that we are their

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protectors, too. We walk that walk with them. They may learn from each one of us, in fact, that should be the call to each one of us, to help guide their walks. We will help at times when they stumble, and who knows, maybe soon they will do the same for us.

With blessings
Vicar Jon



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.

Madi Herman
Nancy Hodosko
George Lassel
Barbara Mills
Charlene Olsen
Piper Thompson
Debbie Vechiarelli
David Friend
Valerie Meister
Ray Scharf
Melanie Fisher
Martha Davis
Alex Komives
Barbara Mills

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

Prudy Smith Goodyear

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.

October Birthdays



- 1 Spohler, Scott
- 4 Davis, Kelly
- 5 Adkins, Brynne
Cooley, Connor
- 6 Cooley, William
- 7 Harbage, Monroe
- 8 Zirkle, Krew
- 11 Eades, Kirstin
- 12 Heckel, Fritzi
- 14 Eichenlaub, Melanie
Fisher, Melonie
- 15 Meister, Jon
- 18 Blain, Christopher
Cooley, Steve
Dillion, Sharon
- 22 Ball, Debra
Ballenger, Marilyn
Lappie, Gracie
- 23 Komives, Elaine
Noble, Harold
- 24 Jasper, Jr., Tom
- 26 Davis, Marie
- 30 Patrick, Mia

October Anniversaries



- 22 Mullet, Dan & Jennie

Snacks for All Abilities Service

There is a sign up sheet for snacks for the second service.

PowerPoint Help Needed

We are in need of volunteers to run the PowerPoint computer for the Sunday afternoon service.

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.

October Calendar



First Sunday Fellowship

October 4, after worship

The Chosen Showing

October 6, 13, 20, 27 - 1:00pm

October 8, 15, 22, 29 - 7:00pm

Church Council Meeting (open to all)

October 13, 6:00pm

Trunk or Treat

October 25, 5:30 - 7:00pm

Bell Choir Practice

October 28, 6:00 - 7:00pm

Vocal Choir Practice

October 28, 7:00-8:00pm

Madison County Food Pantry



The Madison County Food Pantry now has a website: 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

Finance Report

	August 2026	2026 YTD
Income	\$50,450.31	\$199,793.88
Expenses	64,101.03	262,689.18
Net	\$-13,650.72	\$-62,895.30

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.

Kroger Rewards



Thank you to the 22 households participating in the Kroger Community Rewards program. From May through July you contributed \$66.54 to St. John's. The Kroger Rewards go into our *Good Samaritan* Fund.

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



Good Samaritan Fund

The church now has a *Good Samaritan* fund. This fund will be used to meet emergency needs within the community and in the congregation. Please consider contributing to this 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, Treasurer	(740) 845-1877	mark.election@gmail.com
Melanie (Fritzi) Heckel, Secretary	(920) 279-8044	heckelf6@gmail.com
Aaron Patrick, Vice President	(937) 417-8346	ampatrick29@gmail.com
(vacancy)		
Jon Meister, Vicar	(614) 204-8073	jmeistersam@stjohnslondon.org

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

Adult Sunday School

We continue with our series titled *Animate: Faith*. Each session has a video featuring a leading Christian voice surrounded by time for personal reflection and journaling and then sharing ideas with the group.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| • God | <i>Faith is a Quest</i> | Brian McLaren |
| • Religion | <i>Spirituality is Not Enough</i> | Lilian Daniel |
| • Jesus | <i>The Revolution of Love</i> | Mark Scandrette |
| • Salvation | <i>Abundant Life Now</i> | Shane Hipps |
| • Cross | <i>Where God Is</i> | Nadia Bolz Weber |
| • Bible | <i>A Book Like No Other</i> | Lauren Winner |
| • Church | <i>An Imperfect Family</i> | 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.



Daylight Bible Study

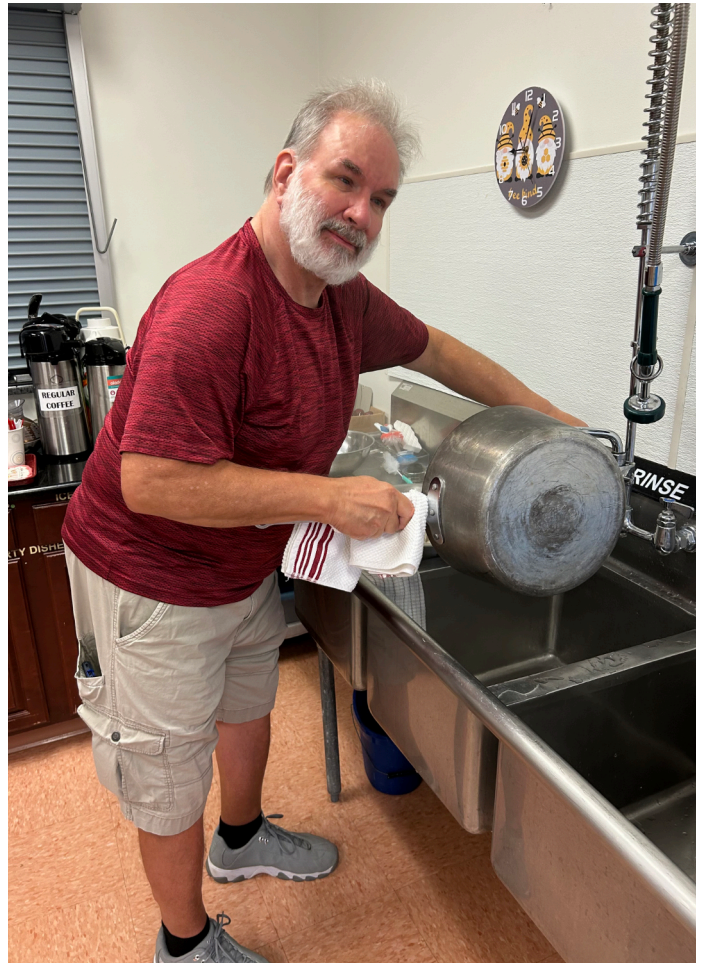
10am Tuesdays at the Church

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

The last Tuesday of each month we meet at local restaurants so the community can see us. Contact Linda or the church office for the location.

H.E.L.P House

We had a great crew this month who worked hard to get out over 150 hot meals. Thank you to those who were hands on helpers and to those who donated food, baggies or cash to help us stay in the black.





Council Highlights

Minutes for September 8, 2026

Submitted by Melanie Heckel

Members present were:

Victoria Eades, pres.
Fritzi Heckel, Sec
Jon Meister, Vicar

Aaron Patrick, VP
Martha Davis, Board
Guests: Thrivent Representatives: Dave Ritter & Alex

Mark Erbaugh, Tres
Kelly Davis, Board
Guests: Thrivent Representatives: Dave Ritter & Alex

Presentation by Thrivent reviewed that they are a christian based investment company started by Lutherans. Now they cover all denominations and must give back through community projects and nonprofits. If you are interested in learning more about your existing investment or want other information, you may contact Dave Ritter at 937-642-6825. He will be St. John's main contact person. Fritzi Heckel can also explain the grant money and how to apply for it.

Mark's treasurer's report showed total cash assets of \$231,301.44 which is down \$13,649.82 from last month. This is mostly due to the \$37,610.00 down payment for the new roof.

Mark is going through the steps to get access to the information about a CD the church holds at Merchant's Bank. Mark is working to streamline the three PNC checking accounts. There was discussion as to how to track designated funds. The accounts audit is underway between Fred Heckel and Mark Erbaugh.

Vicar Jon reported on outreach communication with London's Chamber of Commerce, Madison County Food Council, London Unhoused, and H.E.L.P. House. The latter is still in need of cash donations to cover renovations to the new facility. Vicar was able to schedule viewing of The Chosen, Dart League (for fun), and a Fantasy Football League (also for fun). He reported that VBS was a success and thank you to all involved. Confirmation will be October 25. His continued education will begin this fall, his son is getting married this month and Vicar Jon will be moving to London. He has also been working to use our building for community events, like a blood drive, that will benefit others. He also analyzed and shared the results of a survey to organize ministry teams within the church.

We have a new cleaning team that will start this month.

We are taking nominations for at least one church council position opening up this December. Please consider sharing your time to keep St. John's missions moving forward.

Meeting was adjourned.

Dartball



Community Garden

We have baby cucumbers, beans and corn all growing strong.





Each week at St. John's Lutheran Church

Tuesday afternoons at 1:00

Thursday evenings at 7:00

Free to the congregation and friends!

Our Hands, God's Work





Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.
Help save lives.

Give blood.

Blood Drive
St John's Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
380 Keny Blvd
London, OH 43140

Thursday, September 24, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: SJLC to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Fall into the habit of donating! Get a \$15 e-gift card when you come to give blood Sept. 21-Oct. 18.

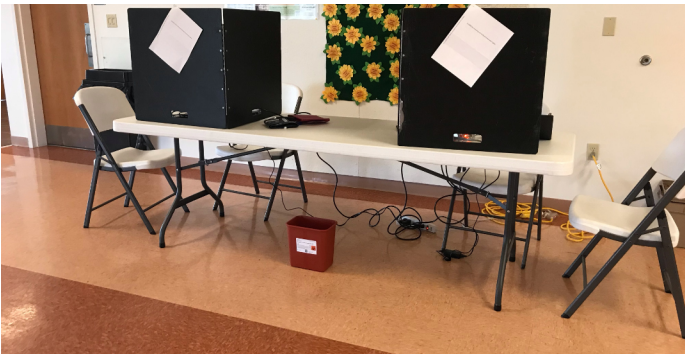


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God Loves Things



by Becoming Them



Anyone can find God alone on a picturesque mountaintop, the hiking trail, or the sunset.

The miracle is that I can find God in the company of other people who are just as annoying as I am.

Candy Bible Verse

MATCH-UP GAME

1. Psalm 34:8		
2. Psalm 126:2		
3. Psalm 119:103		
4. Matthew 3:16		
5. Galatians 5:22-23		
6. Proverbs 24:26		
7. Luke 9:24		

Once you have the answers, have send them to the church email. There will be a small sweet prize.

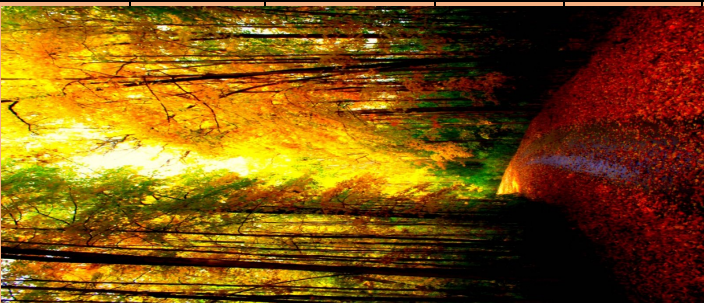
St. John's Trunk or Treat

Sunday October 25th, 5:30PM- 7:00PM



Please join us in the church parking lot and bring goodies to pass out to the trick or treaters. Invite your friends, neighbors, bring your children and grandchildren all ready to collect treats in their costumes!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR OCTOBER 2026

MINISTRY	OCTOBER 4	OCTOBER 11	OCTOBER 18	OCTOBER 25	
ACOLYTE	MIA PATRICK	DOMINIC GAMMELL	GENE NOBLE	MIA PATRICK	
USHERS	LINDA AND WALLY WARD	MACY EADES VALERIE EADES	JERRY AND SANDY GOSSETT	PAM SMATHERS DORA JOHNSON	
LECTOR	DOREEN BROWN-ING	RICK DAVIS	EILEEN WEST	D'ANNE STECKLI	
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	NANCY HODOSKO SHARON DILLION	ALLEN AND FRAN DATZ	RUTH PETERS MALENIE HADIDON	MORGAN RILEY AMY MCCOMAS	
POWER POINT VIDEO/	SCOTT AND ALEX SPHOLER	JOHN & D'ANNE STECKLI	MIKE AND MARIE WOOD	SCOTT AND ALEX SPHOLER	
ALTAR GUILD	DEBBIE AND JOHN HENNEMAN	DEBBIE AND JOHN HENNEMAN	DEBBIE AND JOHN HENNEMAN	DEBBIE AND JOHN HENNEMAN	
OFFERING CAREGIVERS	TIM AMLING FRITZ HECKLE	MARIE WOOD KELLY DAVIS	KELLY COOLEY MARK ERBAUGH	VALERIE EADES AARON PATRICK	
ALTAR FLOWERS	CONNOR & WILL COOLEY BIRTHDAY	VALERIE AND KIRSTEN EADES BIRTHDAYS	JIM AND SHARON DILLIONS BIRTHDAYS	IN MEMORY OF FATHER ALEX KOMIVES BY DEB VECCHIARELLI	
ETERNAL FLAME	SHARON & JIM DILLION	SHARON & JIM DILLION	SHARON & JIM DILLION	SHARON & JIM DILLION	