

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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[www.stjohnslondon.org](http://www.stjohnslondon.org)

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2026

## From Vicar Jon

Spring is here! That time when all the meticulous planning and weekend projects will be done to ensure that our gardens and landscaping make us the envy of the neighborhood. Have you seen the special on houseplants and orchids at WalMart? What about the petunias and hyacinth at Tractor Supply?

Our calling by God includes taking time to plant as well, and we each have a special role to play as both sower and seed. We read in Mark 4 that the sower dropped seeds along a path, rocky ground, among thorns and also good soil. Not all resulted in growth, in fact, most did not. A career as a farmer or botanist would not have been well suited for this sower of seeds. But the job as a sower of seed wasn't to hold onto the seeds until everything looked just right, it was to scatter them, indiscriminately, every day.

We know the seeds being sown is the message of the Gospel. These are the seeds that must be scattered, this is a message that must be shared. It cannot just be received by each of us through God's gift of grace and kept to ourselves without sharing and extending it to others. Like the sower, we must plant the seeds.

There is to be no discretion with whom it is to be shared. There is no perfect time or perfect person(s) to share it. (And certainly not just on Sunday mornings between others in Christ.) It must be shared to all, believers and non-believers. Those of other faiths, those without faith whatsoever. Those who may look like me or may not, those who are young and old, those in homes and those without.

Whether the message takes root is up to the one receiving it through their willingness to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Nature takes its course with seeds planted within the ground,

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St. John's Lutheran Church  
380 Keny Blvd. London OH

*Easter Service*

10 AM SUNDAY  
APRIL 5, 2026

\*Easter Breakfast 8:30am-9:30am  
\*Egg Hunt for the kids following Service !!!

and there is nothing one can really do to speed things up. We cannot grow impatient with our view of how things should be growing according to our own standards. Our role as His followers, as His children, are to sow seeds, and not be preoccupied with producing a harvest. Seeds of the Gospel are nurtured by God alone; the harvest and the time it takes is up to Him. All we can do is spread the message and trust they will grow in accordance with God's timing.

Simultaneously, we are also the seed. We are but a small part of the kingdom of God, a kingdom with small beginnings throughout scripture: A Savior born in a manger from a no-where town of Nazareth in Galilee. A Savior who then selects 12 uneducated, fearful men, slow to understand and slow to believe, to be His followers to grow His kingdom. A Savior who came to die for us. A Savior who was then planted as a seed Himself in a tomb, but even death could not hold Him. And after Him the blood of His followers, the martyrs who spread His message, became the new seeds for the church we find ourselves in to this day.

As small as seeds throughout. Spectacularly unspectacular. What was 12 became 120 which grew to 3000 at Pentecost, which now continues worldwide these 2000 years later; with so much more to do. More than 3 billion worldwide unreached, still to receive the message of the Gospel according to what I read last week.

But our own smallness must not be confused with insignificance, for it is through these small things God's greatness, His love and grace emerge. One small seed at a time.

As the warmer weather is now upon us, I wish you happy planting! Oh, and good luck with your gardens and landscaping, too.

With blessings  
Vicar Jon



## April Calendar

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

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

[Easter](#), April 5

Breakfast: 8:30 - 9:30am

Worship: 10am

Community Easter Egg Hunt: after worship

Church Council Meeting (open to all)  
April 14, 6:00pm

Flower Pot Painting: TBA



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

# LASAGNA DINNER !

Friday May 8th @ 5pm  
\$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



## 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

## Finance Report

Lasagna Dinner

	February '26	2026 YTD
Income	\$21,683.65	\$38,366.65
Expenses	\$17,598.31	\$36,383.52
Net	<b>\$4,085.34</b>	<b>\$1,983.13</b>
<b>Mortgage Balance (3/1)</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

# Mortgage Payoff

## Initial: \$971,747

## Current: \$0

## Bob Sellars New Address

382 Stillwood Drive  
Newnan, Ga 30265

## Peg Saupe Birthday

April 20 is Peg Saupe's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I'm sure she would appreciate a card:

1551 MLK ST SE  
Unit #4042  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506



**The mortgage has been paid off.**

Look for a mortgage burning celebration once the paperwork has been completed.

## 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

## April Birthdays



- 2 Blair Miller
- 9 Mark Erbaugh
- 12 Aaron Eades  
Marty Komives  
Kameron Zirkle
- 15 Debra Browning  
Dana Fisher
- 17 Wally Ward
- 19 Pat Farmer
- 20 Peg Saupe
- 21 Bobby Wood
- 27 Cecilia Davis
- 28 Lucas Lappie  
Onyx Strawder

## April Anniversaries



- 25 Amy & Bart McComas

## 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 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.**

## Adult Sunday School

Vicar's son, Christian, is leading a series: *Exploring the Big Questions of Faith*. 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:

- What is / isn't the Gospel?
- How do we know Jesus is God?
- Why does God allow evil?
- Is eternal punishment unfair?
- What about those who have never heard the Gospel?
- What about violence in the Old Testament?
- Why does God seem so hidden at times?
- Are there contradictions in the Bible?



## Council Highlights

Council continued discussion on using St. John's as a warming center for the unhoused next winter.

Vicar is in discussion with Lincoln Comer at Fairhaven about resuming our DD Service.

*The Madison* has suggested a Hymn Sing service in lieu of a Bible study, which Cypress is already doing.

The Church has ordered a laptop for Vicar. The current Windows 11 desktop in Vicar's office will be moved to Amy's office to replace the current computer that cannot be upgraded to Windows 11. Mike Wood is looking into upgrading the computer in the sound room.

Future stewardship and fund raising events were discussed.

Liz Lassel is planning a flower pot painting event in April (TBA).

Instead of a Mothers' Day Brunch following worship which many skip for family activities, the church will hold a lasagna dinner the Friday evening before (May 8).

We will have a BBQ following worship for Fathers' day.

Will will have a fellowship event on July 3 to watch the London fireworks.

We discussed possible participation in the Synod's *God's Work, Our Hands* community service event on September 13.

We will plan a mortgage burning celebration, once the paperwork has been completed.

The council approved contracting with Allscapes for landscape mulch and cleanup and routine mowing for this season.

The council continued discussion on the new Emergency Assistance Fund and authorized Vicar and/or Amy to make immediate distributions in the form of gift cards (not cash) of up to \$100 with proper documentation for immediate needs (i.e. gas / food). Larger requests will still require council or congregation approval.

Council investigated the large For Sale Signs near the Church. The signs are for land adjacent

to Church property, but are on our property. The Church is not selling any of our property, but unless there is confusion in the community about the signs, we won't ask that they be moved.

Council clarified paid time off for Amy and will be coordinating a performance review for her later this spring.

# 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 5 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!*

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.  
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(740) 506-1325

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR APRIL 2026

<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>APRIL 5 EASTER</b>	<b>APRIL 12</b>	<b>APRIL 19</b>	<b>APRIL 26</b>	
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	GENE NOBLE	ANDY WOOD	ALEX SPOHLER	MIA PATRICK	
<b>USHERS</b>	SHARON DILLION NANCY HODOSKO	WALLY AND LINDA WARD	KRISTEN DUNCAN AMY McCOMAS	AARON PATRICK MARTY KOMIVES	
<b>LECTOR</b>	SUSAN FRIEND	VALERIE EADES	DOMINIC GAMMELL	ELAINE KOMIVES	
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</b>	DOROTHY AND TIM AMLING	KELLY COOLEY RACHEL FISHER	ALLAN AND FRAN DATZ	JERRY AND DEB BALL	
<b>POWER POINT VIDEO/ SOUND</b>	THE SPOHLER AND WOOD FAMILIES	JOHN AND D'ANNE SKECKLI	MIKE & ANDY WOOD	SCOTT & ALEX SPOHLER	
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	JERRY AND DEB BALL	JERRY AND DEB BALL	JERRY AND DEB BALL	JERRY AND DEB BALL	
<b>OFFERING CAREGIVERS</b>	TIM AMLING FRITZ HECKLE	MARIE WOOD KELLY DAVIS	KELLY COOLEY MARK ERBAUGH	VALERIE EADES AARON PATRICK	
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	GIVEN BY DEBBIE & JERRY BALL	DANA FISHER BIRTHDAY BY MARIAN FISHER	MEMORY OF MOTHER MARY KOMIVES BY DEBBIE VECCHIARELLI	BART AND AMY McCOMAS ANNIVERSARY	
<b>ETERNAL FLAME</b>	THE BLAIN FAMILY	THE BLAIN FAMILY	THE BLAIN FAMILY	THE BLAIN FAMILY	