

St Luke UMC

501 E 19th Street N
Newton, IA 50208
641-792-5736

December 15, 2020

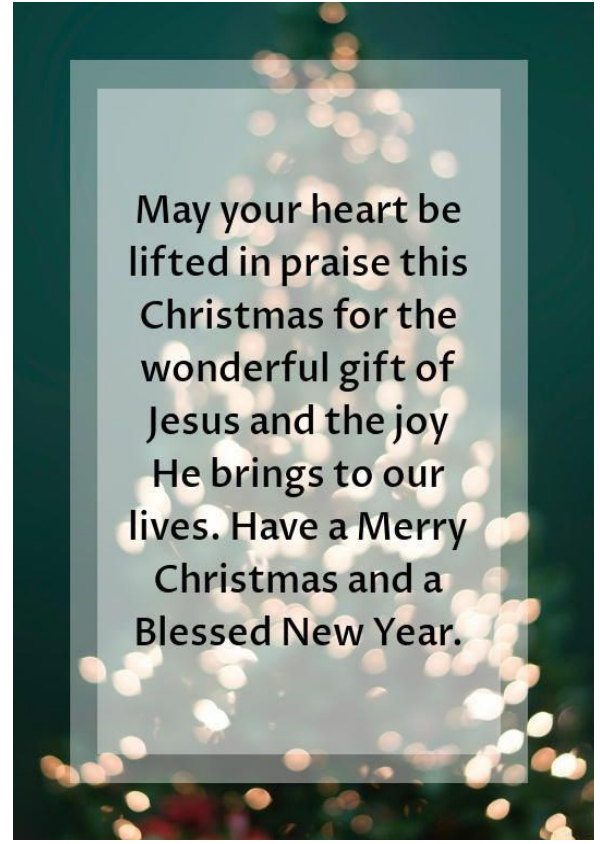


THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!



Outdoor Christmas Eve Service

Join us for an outdoor Christmas Eve service on Thursday, December 24 at 5 pm. This year our Christmas Eve service will look a little different than in the past. We plan to gather outdoors in the church parking lot at 5 pm. This will hopefully be the warmest part of the day that is dark enough for candles. We will sing carols, have prayer and end our service with Silent Night and candlelight. Plan to dress warmly and join us outside. We hope for this to be a safe and meaningful way for us to gather and worship together to celebrate the true meaning of the season.



Christmas Offering

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? Matthew 25:37

This year, the NOW committee has chosen the Salvation Army of Jasper County as the recipient of our Advent/Christmas offering. Currently the greatest need for the Salvation Army



is the food pantry. With churches not meeting in person for much of this year, the in kind donations have also been reduced, at a time when the demand has increased. Lets help those in need throughout Jasper county by giving to our local Salvation Army.

NOW Missions

St Luke News

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at St Luke UMC,

Thank you for your generous donation of the flannel diapers & baby sweaters to Midwest Mission during the Iowa Ingathering. Each donation is a blessing God uses to bless you and others. Your donation will leave Midwest Mission and be a practical example of God's love in the world to the "least of these".



"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

It is due to your generosity and partnership with Midwest Mission that we can touch so many lives for Christ around the world and around the corner. Thank you so much for blessing others through the ministry of Midwest Mission!

Yours in Christ,
Chantel Corrie
Executive Director



Why Advent?

Waiting can be hard, and not just for children. But I do love Advent: this four-week time when the Christian church prepares for Christmas.

Maybe I like Advent so much because it involves active waiting, not thumb-twiddling. It is a gift the church offers the world, to be active (which isn't the same as busy) in ways that open our hearts — and the hearts we touch — to the true meaning of Christmas.



Mother Teresa said, "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

When I take time during Advent to remember in prayer and with gifts of money and time those who have less food than I do, those who are lonely, those without a home; when I pause to share love with a child or an elder, or gratitude for a healthcare worker, pastor or teacher; when I wait for justice to replace oppression but, while I wait, find ways to work for that result ... the Spirit's warmth fills my waiting heart. I am ready to welcome Jesus.

—Heidi Mann

The SPRC invites St Luke to Continue Our Tradition

If you would like to send a Love Gift for our pastor and staff you can send it to: St Luke UMC, 501 E. 19th St. N., Newton, IA 50208 through the month of December. Please be sure and put it to the attention of "Love Gift." Thank you!

Lori Leix



Indoor Worship Update

At this time Bishop Laurie Haller is still recommending that United Methodists in Iowa refrain from in-person worship until January 17, 2021, which is 2 weeks after New Years. This is the minimum amount of time needed for those traveling for the holidays to quarantine. We will continue following this guideline.



We will continue to send out an online message each weekend during this time. Check our Facebook page and your email for the link to the service. Continue to watch for text messages, emails

and our Facebook page for updates.

If you have not signed up for our text messaging service you can text SUBSCRIBE to 641-323-2525 to sign up.

2021 MMDC Trip Update



We have decided to cancel the January MMDC trip, but at this time we are still planning to take a group February 21-24. We will leave after church Sunday and return on Wednesday evening after working at the center and staying in their dorm. We will work together and live together. It has always been a wonderful time of Christian living and doing the Lord's work. Please let Karen Clark know if you are interested or planning to attend the February trip.

St Luke News

Hold in prayer Bruce and Bev Thomas and family following the death of Bruce's father, Don Thomas of Mitchellville, Iowa.

Thanks so much for the goodie/snack bag I received. It was a great surprise and I certainly appreciate your thoughtfulness and encouragement. Finals this semester were definitely stressful so all your prayers were really appreciated. Thanks again.

Austin Stoullil

Thank you



Thank you from St. Nick's Christmas Club

The members of St. Luke have participated in the St. Nick's Christmas Club of Jasper County for over 30 years. Whether it was your adopting a child, monetary donations and/or through prayer, you have again-- even through this unprecedented time--successfully completed another year. My estimation is that our church has assisted 1000+ children over the many years, enabling them to have a MERRIER CHRISTMAS!

THANK YOU, ST. LUKE, for continuing to open your hearts for the underprivileged children of Jasper County! You represent the true meaning of Christmas- the Love of a Child!



For A Child is Born and they shall call Him Emmanuel –“God is with Us!”

Many Blessings for a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season,

Russ and Lori Leix
Elves of St. Nick's Christmas Club

Where to Find Us

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Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21

11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1

22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

15 10 3 17 14 1 25 1 18 23 12 14

24 15 25 14 10 12 14

I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6, NIV

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