

St Luke UMC

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

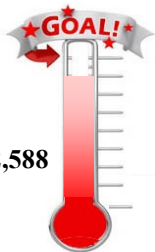
December 1, 2021



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2021 Apportionments

\$16,499



\$12,588

Financial Update



Thank you to everyone for your continued support of St Luke ministries. These offerings were received in the month of November:

Total of \$11,153 which included:

- \$ 589 - Apportionments
- \$ 500 - Heifer Project
- \$ 435 - Building Fund
- \$ 150 - Christmas Offering
- \$ 64 - St Nicks Books
- \$ 20 - UM Student Day
- \$ 12 - Sunday School to St Luke
- \$ 10 - Doug Williams

Christmas FOOD DRIVE

Jasper County – Salvation Army Food & Supply Drive Advent/Christmas 2021

We will be collecting different focus items each week of Advent and Christmastide this year. Please bring these items with you on Sunday Mornings during Advent and Christmas.

- **1st week of Advent - November 28, 2021**
Paper products
- **2nd week of Advent - December 5, 2021**
Pasta Meal items
- **3rd week of Advent - December 12, 2021**
Nut Butters (peanut/ almond/ etc) and Jellies (any flavors)
- **4th week of Advent - December 19, 2021**
Soups and Cereals
- **1st week of Christmastide - December 26, 2021**
Canned fruits and veggies
- **2nd week of Christmastide - January 2, 2022**
Canned fruits and veggies



Let's flood the Salvation Army Food pantry with an offering of Love and Support as they end one year and begin a new one.

Corinne, NOW Missions



Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings
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Article Submission by the 13th of month.

Website: www.stlukenewton.com

Website Manager: Stephen Pageler

YouTube: St Luke United Methodist Church

Facebook: St Luke Newton

Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com

Advent/ Christmas Offering 2021

La Fundicion de Cristo/Christ's Foundry is located in Dallas, Texas. This bilingual congregation is shepherded by pastor Amy Spaur. The past two years have been difficult for every congregation due to the pandemic. This is no different for La Fundicion de Cristo, however, on top of the pandemic, this missionary congregation was also impacted by a tornado prior to the Covid 19 shutdowns and then by the deep freeze that impacted people across Texas in February 2021.



Our financial support enables the congregation and our own Amy Spaur, to continue to care for their community. It also helps us share Christ's love and hope for the future with Amy's congregation. I have asked Amy to send me some stories about her congregation and I will share those with you in the coming weeks. Let's flood this congregation in the North Texas conference with our LOVE and Support!

Corinne, NOW Missions

My Story

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... Isaiah 9:6a



Are you like me? Do you hear the music when you hear this scripture? I always hear Handel's Messiah in my head when this scripture is read. Okay, let's be honest, I end up singing this scripture, almost every time. I can't seem to help myself. Christmas music, for me, is a huge part of the season. I like to listen to it (but not until December). I like to sing it in worship, in my car, at my desk at work. It always seems to bring back happy memories of Christmas' past.

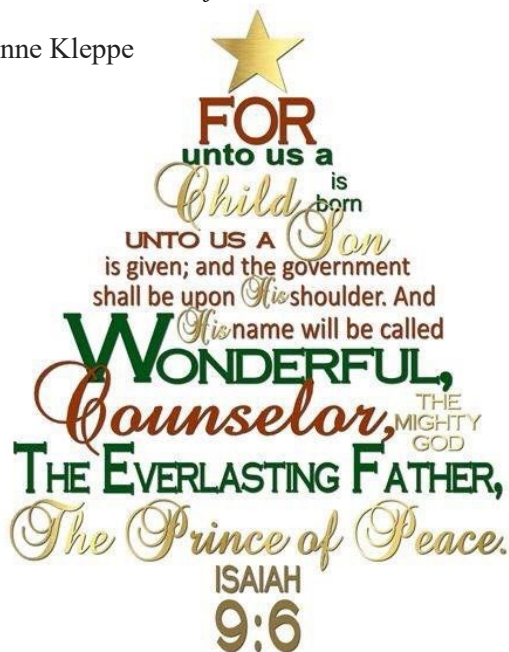


A few times in my adult life, I have found myself with little to no voice during the holiday season. As frustrating as it is for me when my voice is silenced, keeping me from celebrating the birth of Jesus the way I would wish to celebrate, at times it can be a gift also. A couple of years ago, I developed laryngitis around Thanksgiving and really didn't get my full voice back until January. That Christmas season, I found myself listening to the voices around me. I enjoyed the season in a new way as I experienced the joy of the sounds of Christmas, without adding my own voice into the mix.

Don't get me wrong, I still wanted to sing, but I learned that I can still experience that joy, through the voices of others. As we move into the Advent and Christmas season, I pray we all rejoice in the sounds of Christmas... the scriptures, the music, the voices... like we never have before.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Corinne Kleppe



Messengers of Change

LUKE 1:68-79

To live towards God's reign in hope and expectation.

Zacharias was born into a family of *priests*. He served in the temple of Jerusalem, as had his father before him. His wife, Elizabeth, too, came from a priestly family. Both were quite old and childless. One day Zacharias was chosen to perform his "priestly duties" in God's presence, in the sacred precincts of the temple.

Suddenly Zacharias realized he was not alone; Gabriel, a messenger from God appeared and informed him that his wife Elizabeth was going to have a son. The parents should name their son John; he would be a prophet; and he would turn *many of the children of Israel around to follow the path to the Lord their God*. John's birth would fulfill a prophecy and *prepare the people and make them ready for God*.

Responding with incredulity, Zacharias questioned Gabriel: *How can I be sure of what you're telling me? ... This is hard to believe!* The messenger Gabriel told him, *"Because you didn't believe my message, you will not be able to talk – not another word – until you experience the fulfillment of my words."*

Much occurred in the time between Gabriel's visit and John's birth: It took a while for Zacharias's acquaintances to figure out why he was unable to talk; Gabriel appeared to the unmarried Mary, explaining that *she* would bear a son, Jesus, who would become known as the Son of the Highest God. Mary would visit her cousin Elizabeth. Zacharias and Elizabeth broke custom and named their newborn son John, as the messenger Gabriel had initially directed. (Custom at that time dictated children be named after *someone in their family*.)



When Zacharias's voice was restored he *sang from the fullness of the Spirit a prophetic blessing, Luke 1: 68-79*, praising God for His intervention and the birth of his and Elizabeth's son and John's destiny to be a prophet.

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings, after the 9:30 church service. To honor all present we are immunized and wear face masks. The class's emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings.

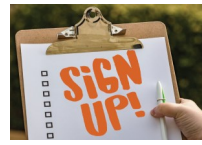
∞ **Lectionary Readings for December 2021** ∞

- **December 5:** Luke 1:68-79 | Messengers of Change
To live towards God's reign in hope and expectation.
- **December 12:** Luke 3:7-18 | What Should We Do?
To discern, in John's message, guidance for faithful living.
- **December 19:** Luke 1:39-45 (46-55) | Nurturing God's Promise
To discern how we might bear God's love into the world.
- **December 26:** Psalm 148 | Finding Joy
To celebrate the awesomeness of God with all creation.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Dec. 5	9:30 AM	
Ushers (2)	Amy Murphy	
Greeters (2)		
Reader	Kathy Trotter	
Acolyte	Rachel Pageler	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	
Projection	Ethan Pageler	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy	
Coffee Time	Rose Hartschen	
Counters (2)		
Dec. 12	9:30 AM	
Ushers (2)	Corinne Kleppe	
Greeters (2)	Joyce Stonehocker, Jan Lewis	
Reader		
Acolyte		
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	
Projection	Peg Ehler	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston	
Coffee Time	Hiap Thongvanh	
Counters (2)		
Dec. 19	9:30 AM	
Ushers (2)		
Greeters (2)		
Reader		
Acolyte		
Keyboard	Jan Lewis	
Projection		
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark	
Coffee Time	Karen Clark	
Counters (2)		
Dec. 24	7 PM	11 PM
Greeters (2)		
Dec. 26	9:30 AM	
Ushers (2)		
Greeters (2)		
Reader	N/A	
Acolyte		
Keyboard	Jan Lewis	
Projection		
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	
Coffee Time		
Counters (2)		

December Worship Assistants

We are looking for volunteers to be worship assistants for the month of December. If you would like to volunteer you can email the church office at: worship@stlukenewton.com, use the sign-up sheets on the coffee counter or you can add your name to our new online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:

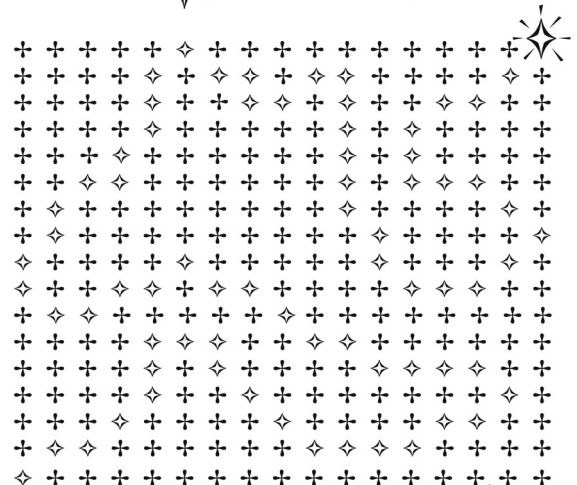


<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f571kMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUHXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We still have quite a few openings so please sign up if you are able. If we continue to have a lot of unfilled positions we may have to return to assigning worship assistants. We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help. Thank you!

Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the ✨ path that leads to baby Jesus.



START



Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

LD OG NCAKNRIENFSE RYHMR

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh

Worship Assistants

Please find a sub or trade if you cannot do it as scheduled. Then contact the church office so we can print correct names.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:15 pm Choir Practice	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship - Communion Sunday School to Follow Children's Christmas Program 	6 6:30 pm Zoom Advent Study	7 5:30 pm Discover Hope Supper	8 7 pm Page Turners Book Club FH Rsrvd 7:15 pm Choir Practice	9	10	11 9am-4pm Quilt Guild FH Rsrvd
12 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow 	13 6:30 pm Zoom Advent Study 	14	15 7:15 pm Choir Practice	16 6:30 pm Quilt Guild FH Rsrvd	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow 	20 6:30 pm Zoom Advent Study	21	22 7:15 pm Choir Practice	23	24 1-5 pm FH Rsrvd Patty Family  Christmas Eve Services 7 & 11 pm	25 
26 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow 11:30 am—3:30 pm FH Reserved Patty Family 4-6 pm—FH Reserved Mills Family	27	28	29 7:15 pm Choir Practice	30	31 	

Read Calendar closely for events not appearing elsewhere in Newsletter. Thank you.



United Methodist Women

December
No Meeting

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
John 1:1

- Dec. 1 - Last day to remit pledges and gifts to District Treasurer
- Dec. 1 - Member's Report Due

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

A Season of Waiting

Our oven recently bit the dust, and the needed replacement part is no longer manufactured. Due to an appliance shortage, we had to wait eight weeks for a new oven! Yet even amid inconvenience, I see God's purpose. We were thankful to have a grill and slow cookers in the meantime. We creatively attempted to cook favorite meals in different ways. And though we craved anything baked in an oven — cookies, casseroles, even chicken nuggets — we realized that waiting eight weeks for an oven isn't truly a trying time.

Many of us wait for much greater milestones and miracles: physical healing, the return of a prodigal child, an end to financial struggles. Paul offers us hope as we wait: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had" (Romans 15:5, NIV).

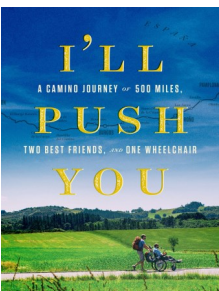
When you're in a season of waiting — including Advent! — consider what you're thankful for and what you crave. Tell God how you're feeling and ask for endurance while you wait.

—Janna Firestone

Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 class is reading and discussing the book *I'll Push You* by Patrick Gray. *I'll Push You* is the story of two best friends who decide to do the Camino de Santiago across Spain. It is the true story of Justin and Patrick. Justin has been diagnosed with a neuromuscular disease that robbed him of the use of his arms and legs, thus Patrick will need to push the wheelchair on their journey. He not only pushes the wheelchair, but also has to feed and care for Justin. "A travel adventure full of love, humor, and spirited truth."

If you are looking for a class with variety and topical studies, this would be a good class for you. We read the book together, so there is no "homework". There is always room for more to join the conversation. We meet in Room 5 in the education wing right after Worship.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 5 - During our 9:30 am Worship Service

If only...

There are many of you ... who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby! I would have washed his linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!"

LOVE
your neighbor
AS YOURSELF.

Mark 12:31

Yes, you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time, you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. ... Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself.

2022 MMDC Trip Update

Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) is located in central Illinois. It is packed full of a wide variety of mission projects and is powered by volunteers. St. Luke will be sending a team of volunteers January 23-26, 2022. We have 14 people, with 8 of them being St Luke members, going on our work trip to Midwest Missions. This is our biggest trip ever. We have many diapers and other supplies to take as well as 8 sewing machines which are all in good working order. It is going to be a great trip with hands on mission work, fellowship, and learning more about world missions.



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Poinsettias

Poinsettias are welcome during Advent Season to decorate the Altar. If given in honor or memory, please write your name and theirs in an email or note and send to the church office. If you order the flowers to be delivered, have the florist call ahead before delivering to be sure someone is available to receive them. You are also welcome to bring them on Sunday morning.



A Special Blessing for those with December Birthdays

- December 1 - Barb Swihart
- December 4 - Pam Smith
Caleb Leonard
- December 6 - Allen Barr
- December 8 - Pam Arrowood
- December 10 - Marianne Spaur
Mike Wood
- December 12 - Bryan Reicks
- December 13 - Rachel Guillaume
- December 14 - Austin Stoullil
- December 15 - Mike Kaldenberg
- December 16 - Larry Howard
- December 19 - Dan Marston
Hannah McConkey
- December 20 - Amy Murphy
- December 21 - Baylee Munson
Leah Osborn
- December 24 - Carolyn Cook
- December 28 - Frances Mills
- December 30 - Kandace Breckenridge



If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the office.

Weather Cancellation Policy

If school is cancelled/dismissed early due to weather, then St. Luke activities are cancelled that day/evening as well. Sunday Worship is rarely cancelled. Check our Facebook page and watch for text messages for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.



"I decided to give everyone on my list a 3-D printer and let them make their own gifts."

ST LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas

E V E

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 | 7 & 11 PM



December Salvation Army Pantry Request
Jello, Pudding, & Canned Fruit

PUZZLE

H
M
V
S
R
B
O
L
Y
Q
X
A
V
H
R
T

What's in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

"S_e w_ll __ve b ir__
to _ s_n, and __u a_e to
gi_e _i_ the __me J__us,
b_c_u__ he _ill s_e his
__op_e f_o_ t__ir s_n_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

← START HERE →

U
E
L
W
B
A
R
V
H
P
Q
E
F
L
S
R
Z
M

A I N G F I P (H) S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV