

St Luke UMC

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

December 1, 2022



2022 Apportionments

\$14,313



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 \$13,992 which included:
- \$ 965 - Building Fund
 - \$ 1,749 - Apportionments
 - \$ 20 - UMCOR Ukraine
 - \$ 61 - Heifer Project
 - \$ 70 - UM Student Day
 - \$ 200 - Advent Offering
 - \$ 33 - Christ's Foundry UMC



Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings
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 Church Office Hours:
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Article Submission by the 13th of month.
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Website Manager: Stephen Pageler
YouTube: St Luke United Methodist Church
Facebook: St Luke Newton
Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com

Christmas Food Drive

Jasper County – Salvation Army Food & Supply Drive Advent/Christmas 2022

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 Sunday of Advent – November 27

Focus items: Paper Products and Cleaning Products

• 2nd Sunday of Advent – December 4

Focus items: Peanut Butter / Jelly / Honey



• 3rd Sunday of Advent – December 11

Focus items: Boxed Foods (ie: cereals, mixes, pastas, etc)

• 4th Sunday of Advent – December 18

Focus items: Canned Goods (ie: fruits, vegetables, soups, etc)

• Christmas/New Years – December 25 / January 1

Focus items: Jarred Foods (ie: pasta sauces, pickles, olives, oils, etc)

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

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services**
 Saturday, Dec. 24 | 7 & 11 pm

**Christmas Day
Worship Service**
 Sunday, Dec. 25 | 9:30 am



My Story

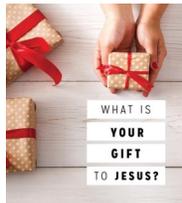
The December I was 5 years old, I spent a part of the month in the hospital. I came home right before Christmas, but when it was time to head to worship on Christmas Eve, my parents decided I should stay home. My sister, Kamela, stayed home with me. We spent that time, laying on the couch, watching the stop motion Christmas special, *The Little Drummer Boy*.

When you think about it, the little drummer boy is a strange concept... a little boy playing his drum for Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. I mean, who really wants a drum solo when they are trying to get their infant to sleep? The story, however, is more than a drum solo. The story is of the transformation of a little boy who has lost a lot to tragedy and struggle, before meeting the magi caravan that is following the star toward Bethlehem. In the end, the little drummer boy learns gratitude and his only gift is his drumming ability, so he shares that with the holy family.

This story demonstrates an important concept for faith expression, we may not have the same abilities that others have to express our faith and gratitude. However, each of us has a gift to share with Jesus. Each of us can show our love for our Messiah through our talents. Each of us can honor Jesus this Christmas season, in our words, our deeds, our gifts and our spirit.

So the question for each of us remains... What gift will you bring to the King?

Corinne Kleppe

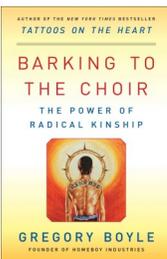


Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class is reading and discussing the book *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Gregory Boyle. If you are familiar with *Tattoos on the Heart* or *The Whole Language*, you will enjoy reading Gregory Boyle's 2nd book in this series.

In a nation deeply divided and plagued by poverty and violence, *Barking to the Choir* offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins. Sergio, arrested at age nine, in a gang by age twelve, and serving time shortly thereafter, now works with the substance-abuse team at Homeboy to help others find sobriety. Jamal, abandoned by his family when he tried to attend school at age seven, gradually finds forgiveness for his schizophrenic mother. New father Cuco, who never knew his own dad, thinks of a daily adventure on which to take his four-year-old son. These former gang members uplift the soul and reveal how bright life can be when filled with unconditional love and kindness.

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.



God With Us in Our Dreams

Matthew 1:18-25

Celebrating Joseph's trust and faithfulness in fulfilling his role in the story of God's saving love

The book of Luke tells of Jesus's birth, originating from **Mary's** perspective, when she received a message from the angel Gabriel that she would conceive and give birth to a son, Jesus. The book of Matthew begins the story from the perspective of **Joseph** and *his dream*.

Not wanting to publicly disgrace the pregnant woman to whom he was engaged, he decided to break the engagement quietly. *As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit..." All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet*

(Isaiah 7:14): *The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').* There are other Biblical versions stating Joseph was instructed to name the child Jesus, which means *the Lord saves*.



Some have considered how Jesus has been called *the Son of David*, given his biological lineage via Mary, and *not* a traditionally literal descendent of King David. Matthew 1:1-19 delineates the family tree of Jesus, descending from Abraham. It is in this (lengthy) "family tree" that David, son of Jesse, and father of Solomon, finally leading to Joseph, is exhibited. Without Joseph's becoming betrothed to Mary the prophesy foretold by Isaiah (7:14) would not come to fruition.

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings, after the 9:30 church service. To honor and respect all present we are immunized. The class's emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings. Prepare yourself for each week's passages!

•Lectionary Readings for December 2022•

- December 4:** **Isaiah 11:1-10** | Playing Pretend
To discern ways to live with hope into the vision of God's shalom
- **December 11:** **Luke 1:47-55** | Singing a New Song
To explore the role of courage in the fulfillment of God's promises
- **December 18:** **Matthew 1:18-25** | God With Us
To celebrate Joseph's trust and faithfulness in fulfilling his role in the story of God's saving love
- **December 25:** **Psalms 98** | Joy to the World
To celebrate the joy of Christmas with all creation



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith

December
No Meeting

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. (NIV)
Luke 2:14

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!



Advent/ Christmas Offering for Christ's Foundry UMC

I asked Marian Spaur to give me some insight into Christ's Foundry UMC as someone who has attended worship there. She shared several bits of information and thoughts about this missionary congregation in Dallas, Texas.



Besides being a United Methodist congregation, this church and St Luke have similar beginnings. Christ's Foundry, like St Luke, did not have a building of their own when their story began nearly 20 years ago. Their ministry began in the founding pastor's home. Their next location was a gathering space in an apartment complex. Soon they had outgrown that space and another UM congregation invited them to worship in their church building.

On Christmas Eve 2011, they had their first worship service in their OWN space. Marianne was there to celebrate with them and to witness this very special worship service. She choked up when she described the emotions displayed by the congregation that Christmas Eve. She said people were hugging, laughing, crying and praising God for the gift of their own space for worship.



This Hispanic congregation continues to praise God for this gift today. As well as being grateful for generous people and congregations, both near and far, who support this missionary congregation. Our support allows this congregation to meet needs within their community, and allows them to praise God as a body of faith.

Corinne Kleppe , NOW missions



February 2023 MMDC Trip

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 February 5-8, 2023 and you could be one of those workers. In the past some of our team has worked in the wood shop area, making school desks from discarded gym bleachers. Some of us have assembled kits

such as layette kits the go to new mothers and hold clothing and diapers for newborn babies. We have assembled cleaning buckets, a 5 gallon bucket filled with cleaning supplies that aid those in areas hit with floods and storms. We have even had a person work in the sewing machine shop helping to clean and repair sewing machines that are donated to help support families. These projects and so many more are sent near the center and around the world to those in need. Christ is at the center of these projects and the stories that can be told of networking to make it all happen are miraculous. We stay in a dorm on site and eat meals together which we prepare in the dorm kitchen. We enjoy fellowship as we eat, worship, and play games. If you are interested please talk to Karen Clark at church or at 641-831-4526 or skclark1978@gmail.com.

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.



"The good news of great joy changed the course of every silent night to come."



—Alicia Bruxvoort

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="color: green; margin: 0;">DECEMBER 2022</h1>				1	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship - Communion Sunday School to Follow   <small>Second Sunday @ Advent</small>	5 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study	6 5:30 pm Discover Hope Supper	7 Praise Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm	8	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Children's Christmas Program  FH Rsrvd - Noon-6 pm Daniels Family	12	13  <small>Newsletter Articles Due</small>	14 7 pm Page Turners FH Rsrvd Praise Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm	15 6:30 pm Quilt Guild Meeting FH Rsrvd	16	17
18 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow  <small>Fourth Sunday @ Advent</small>	19	20	21	22	23 4 pm FH Rsrvd Patty Family	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 7 & 11 pm  <small>Christmas Eve</small>
25 9:30 am Worship Christmas Day  <small>Christmas Day</small>	26	27	28	29	30	31  <small>New Year's Eve</small>

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
Dec. 4	9:30 AM
Ushers	
Greeters	
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	Rachel Pageler
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Pat Patty

Dec. 11	9:30 AM
Ushers	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	
Reader	
Acolyte	Nathan Figland
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Peg Ehler

Dec. 18	9:30 AM
Ushers	
Greeters	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark
Coffee Time	

Dec. 24	7:00 PM
Greeters	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Ethan Pageler

Dec. 24	11:00 PM
Greeters	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	

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

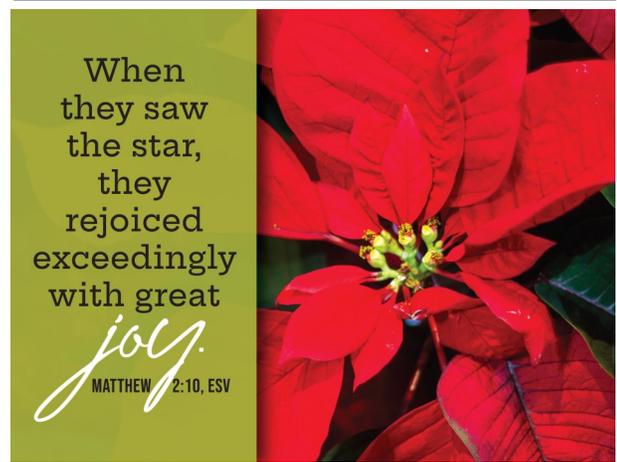


sign-up sheets on the servant's counter or you can add your name to our new online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f571kMBVLyocfFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We still have quite a few openings so please sign up if you are able. We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help. Thank you!

Dec. 25	9:30 AM
Ushers	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters	
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	



"The good news of great joy changed the course of every silent night to come."
—Alicia Bruxvoort

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.



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



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

The SPRC invites St Luke to Continue Our Tradition

If you would like to give a Love Gift for our pastor and staff you can put it in one of the gift boxes at the church or mail 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



CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight Service
DECEMBER 24 | 7 & 11 PM
ST LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

PUZZLE

Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

Shepherds
 Child
 Nazareth
 Census
 Baby
 David
 Mary
 Travel
 Town
 Register
 Born
 Night

"Today in the town of David a _____
 has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."
 LUKE 2:11, NIV