

St Luke United Methodist Church
 Rev Chad Jennings
 501 E 19th Street N
 Newton, IA 50208



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St Luke UMC

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

December 2017



«Mailing Name»

«Address»

«City», «State» «F9»

2017 Apportionment Goal



Financial Update

The Finance Committee would like to thank the congregation for its great response to the Estimate of Giving cards that have been turned in thus far. The totals are ahead of

last year for both the general fund and the building fund. Hopefully we will soon be able to have the building fund paid off! There is still time to turn in your Estimate of Giving cards if you have not had time to do so yet.

Also, as the end of the year draws near, we are reminded that the remainder of our 2017 apportionment (\$8,000) need to be paid. We are getting closer, but we need to go over the top. Thank you for your prayerful, generous giving.

These offerings have been received for the month of November:

October 29: \$2901 including \$100-Building Fund; \$10-Salvation Army; \$48-Heifer International; \$1301-Ingathering.

November 5: \$4902 including \$280-Building Fund; \$9-Sunday School supplies; \$50-Salvation Army; \$941-Wills & Memorials.

November 12: \$2601 including \$140-Building Fund; \$19-Salvation Army; \$200- apportionments.

November 19: \$3267 including \$20- Apportionments; \$27-Salvation Army; \$264-Building Fund; \$200-building use.

November 26: \$1872 including \$38-Salvation Army; \$148-Apportionments; \$150-Building Fund; \$160-UM Student Offering.

The balance on the building loan is \$4,669 thanks to your generosity.

Thank You!



St Luke Annual Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale
Saturday, December 9
9 am until Sold Out

It's time to go through your recipes and choose your favorites to bake for this year's St. Luke Christmas Cookie Sale set for Saturday morning, December 9th at 9 AM. We are looking for a wide variety of holiday goodies, both cookies and candy. We have the red buckets and with your help we will be ready to go! *This year we are asking that you clearly mark your containers with the name of your cookies and if they contain peanuts, peanut butter, or if they are gluten free.*

Please bring your cookies to the church kitchen on Friday 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM or 5:00 - 6:00 PM or 7:30 AM Saturday morning when we start plating the cookies and candy. A sign-up sheets for both workers and cookie/candy donations is located on the Servant's Counter. Thank you for making this project possible year after year.



Children's Sunday School Program
Sunday, December 10
10:30 am Worship

The Sunday School Children will be presenting their program, "You Are There" for the 10:30 am Worship. Invite your family and friends to join you in worship as the children share the excitement and anticipation of the Christmas season.



Christmas Eve Services

Morning Services at 8 & 10:30 am

7 pm Candlelight Service

11 pm Candlelight & Communion Service



<p>Saturday, December 2: 12-2 & 6-8 pm St Luke UMC Rings Salvation Army Bells At Thiesen's</p> 
<p>Sunday, December 3: 1st Sunday of Advent 8/10:30 am Worship - communion 9:15 am Sunday School</p> 
<p>Saturday, December 9: 9 am Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale</p> 
<p>Sunday, December 10: 8/10:30 am Worship 10:30 am Children's Christmas Program during Worship 9:15 am Sunday School</p> 
<p>Newsletter Articles Due</p> 
<p>Wed, December 13: January Newsletter Articles Are Due</p>

<p>Wednesday, December 13: 6:30 pm Christmas Caroling</p> 
<p>Sunday, December 17: 8/10:30 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 6 pm IWIC Worship at Mitchellville</p> 
<p>Sunday, December 24: 8/10:30 am Worship No Sunday School 7 & 11 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services</p> 
<p>December 25</p> 
<p>Sunday, December 31: 8/10:30 am Worship No Sunday School</p>



Advent is upon us. Advent means *waiting*. In this day of instant everything, we have a hard time waiting. We want everything *now*. This only seems to get worse as time goes on.



my excitement grew. And the shorter the chain, the harder it was to wait. I often wondered if Christmas would come more quickly if I ripped an extra link or two.

I wonder what it would have been like for the ancient Jews to wait for the messiah. Of course, they didn't have the instant communication that makes us impatient. However, they had been waiting for centuries for the messiah to come. How could they wait that long? Did their anticipation become so stale that they had given up?

God sent prophets to tell the Israelites that the messiah was coming. These messengers reminded the people that God was still here, and that God still cared for them. God still planned to send the savior, and he would be called Immanuel, or *God with us*. And then, God sent Jesus to show us what love is.

We celebrate Advent to remind us that *God with us* came to live among us. We celebrate to remind us that the promise of God coming again is still valid, even though it has been centuries since the promise was made. *God with us* is coming someday, and comes every day. Christmas is coming. The chain has been made.

Until then, Advent is here. Let's anticipate Christmas together and share in the excitement that this season brings by sharing *God with us* with the world.

Pastor Chad



WELCOME New Members

St Luke welcomed new members on Sunday, November 12th. Joining our community of faith were the Jennings family; Chad, Wendy, Nathan and Abby as transfers from Marion Christ Community Church. Jeff Carter, Doug and Jenna McIntyre and their daughter, Teagan, have joined by profession of faith. Be sure to introduce yourselves, if you haven't already, and get to know our new members.

If others are interested in joining St Luke UMC as members, please talk to Pastor Chad.



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

St Nick's Christmas Club

Back in 1988 St. Nick's Christmas Club was formed by a few individuals who knew of some children in the community that needed extra help at Christmas. From this beginning 29 years ago, St. Luke United Methodist Church has been there to assist. We are now up to 600 children in Jasper County and our church continues their faithfulness by providing clothes, toys, and monetary support so the underprivileged children can have a brighter Christmas.



From St. Nick's Christmas Club to YOU, we say, ***"THANK YOU! Thank you for your continued nurturing and caring for the children in our County and beyond. Without you, they would NOT have a Merry Christmas!"***

It is an amazing outpouring of unity and caring that occurs during this season for the ***"LOVE OF A CHILD."*** That is why we say

***"YES, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS...
IT'S YOU!!"***

Mark 9:37 "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent!"

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
December 3	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Larry/Darlyne Howard	Roy/Pat Patty
Greeters	Tamara Lloyd/Randy Tabor	Marianne Spaur
Reader	Brad Patty	Mikey Carter
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Corinne Kleppe/Praise Team	Corinne Kleppe/Praise Team
Projection	Peg Ehler	Carolyn Cook
Fellowship	Pam Andrews	Michelle O'Brien
Care Core	Tamara Lloyd	Kari Ann Munson
Communion	Barb Pherigo	Counters: Rose Evans/Jan Lewis
December 10	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Jeff/Amy Murphy
Greeters	Bill/Linda Hotger	Lori Leix
Readers	Dale Dorrell	Corinne Kleppe
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Jacob Murphy
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Mary & Amy Onstot	Sunday School Kids
Projection	Brad Patty	Peg Ehler
Fellowship	Dick/Pam Stiles	Amy Murphy
Care Core	Jan Lewis	Lisa Marston
Counters		Deb Stoullil/Russ Leix
December 17	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Margaret Gullett/Jean Schnell	Deb/Austin Stoullil
Greeters	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Readers	Russ Leix	Katie Jones
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Ushers
Nursery	Parents take turns	Pat Patty
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Projection	Brad Patty	Pam Smith
Fellowship	Peg Ehler	Betty Skaggs
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Counters		Jan Lewis/Brad Patty
December 24	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Randy Tabor/Tamara Lloyd	Mike/Kleo O'Brien
Greeters	Ann/Ben/Caleb Leonard	Sue Crook
Readers	Barb Kaldenberg	Dennis Smith
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Peg Ehler	Karen Clark
Fellowship	Ann/Ben/Caleb Leonard	Carolyn Cook
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Marianne Spaur
Counters		Barb Kaldenberg/Pat Patty

Where to Find Us

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Phone: 641-831-2639


Article Submission by the 13th of month.
Website: www.stlukenewton.com
Website Manager: Stephen Pageler
Facebook: [St Luke Newton](#)










Dec 24	7 PM	11 PM
Ushers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Greeters	Volunteers	Volunteers
Acolytes	Ushers	Ushers
Keyboard	Jan Lewis	Bev Thomas
Special	Mary/Amy Onstot	Dale Dorrell/Allen Barr
Projection	Carolyn Cook	Brad Patty
Communion	-----	Katie Jones
Counters	-----	B Patty
Dec 31	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	B Kaldenberg/C Springer	Dennis/Pam Smith
Greeters	D/K Dorrell	W/N Jennings
Readers	Jenni Patty	Jeff Carter
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Abby Jennings
Nursery	Parents take turns	Kali Draper
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Brad Patty	Carolyn Cook
Fellowship	Margaret Gullett	Lori Leix
Care Core	Jan Lewis	Jenni Patty
Counters		Rose Evans/Deb Stoullil



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. It's a way for us to get to know one another.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8/10:30 Worship - Communion 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 	4 SHARE Orders due. Go online, or call First UMC or First Christian. *Pam Smith 	5 6:30 pm Trustees meeting	6 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	7	1 8 St Nick Gifts Due *Pam Arrowood	2 9  9 am Cookie & Candy Sale
10 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. *Marianne Spaur	11	12 *Bryan Reicks 7 pm PEO - F Hall 13 *Rachel Guillaume 	13 Newsletter Articles Due 7 pm Page Turners Book Club 6:30 pm Christmas Caroling 	14 *Austin Stoullil	15 *Mike Kaldenberg	16 7:30 am SHARE Pickup *Larry Howard
17 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 6 pm ICIW	18	19	20 1:15 pm UMW at St Luke *Amy Murphy	21 *Baylee Munson *Leah Osborn 10:30 am - 1:30 pm Blood Drive  6 pm Quilt Guild - F Hall	22	23 F Hall Reserved
24 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship Christmas Eve Services 7 & 11 pm *Carolyn Cook-Barr 	25  12-5 pm F Hall reserved	26	27 8:30 am Collate Newsletter	28	29	30 *Kandace Breckenridge
31 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship					 *Denotes Birthdays! If your birthday is missing or incorrect, contact the office.	

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



United Methodist Women
December 20, 2017
 At St Luke UMC
 1:15 pm

"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."
 Luke 2:19 NRSV

Program: Facing Difficulties at Christmas
 By Betty Skaggs
 Hostess: Jan Lewis

Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!



Sunday School Mission Offering

From September through December 2017 we are going local with our Sunday School Mission offering. As always the first Sunday of each month the offering will go toward Sunday School administration including materials and supplies.

Weeks 2 through 5 the offerings will go to the Salvation Army Food Pantry in Newton. Funds given to this cause will provide necessities for local families in need of a little help. In kind donations are also welcome as always. Those can be placed in the shopping cart in the glass entry.



Corinne Kleppe- NOW Missions



Christmas Caroling

The Chancel Choir invites you to join them for Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 pm. Meet at St Luke for a short rehearsal, then carpool to a couple of nursing homes in the community to sing. Following the caroling, the Onstot's invite you to come to their home at 421 W 3rd St S for snacks.

The Star

The Star is an animated story of the donkey, Bo, three wisecracking camels and other assorted animals that become accidental heroes in the greatest story ever told - the first Christmas. It will be showing at the Capital II Theatre December 8-14. Check for the website showtimes.



News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

As we enter the season of Advent we find ourselves about to get caught in the crunch of the season. A fine way to keep the balance is by winding down with a good Christmas book. Our little library in the corner has books for children as well as adults. Let the kids pick a few books to help explain the reason for the season in stories and pictures. Then choose a book for yourself, too. You can find heartwarming stories of Christmas faith and miracles as well as faith forming books, too. There are too many titles to list, but you will find adult books on the Seasonal Books shelf and kids books displayed on the low shelf under the window as well as in the seasonal section below. Check it out!



The Jennings Family
Invites You to
Your Parsonage for an
Open House
On
Sunday, December 10
2 - 4 pm

CHRISTMAS
Open House

SHARE Food Program

Buying discounted groceries through SHARE has returned to Newton, Iowa. You can check out and order online for the program at www.SHAREIOWA.com, or call either First UMC or First Christian Church. "SHARE boxes" can be ordered by Monday, December 4 and picked up at First UMC on Saturday, December 16, between 7:30-8:30 am, when you can also order and pay for the next month.



Trip to MMDC

Our next mission work trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL is set for February 4-7, 2018 and it is time to sign up to go. There are opportunities for people of all skill levels, from sorting, counting, and assembling kits, to sewing, woodworking, sewing machine repair and more. If you are willing to go, they will find a job for you! You will be impressed when you see the scope of the work done there and hear about the world wide network they have developed for mission work.



We will be staying on site in the dorm and preparing some of our own food while at the center. We will travel Sunday afternoon, work 2-1/2 days and travel home Wednesday. There is some financial commitment and a deposit of \$62 (payable to MMDC) is needed by December 31. Contact Karen Clark with questions, comments or to reserve a place on this trip.

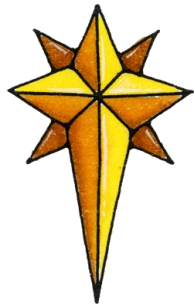


My Story

"Star Light, Star Bright the first star I see tonight. I wish I may, I wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight."

It's a child's poem, a frivolous wish, a dream, but... it could be more if you stop before you get to the wishes. Star Light, Star Bright the First Star...

The Wisemen or Magi followed the symbols they read in the sky. They knew the Hebrew scriptures from Isaiah, Psalms, Joel and Micah that told of the signs to watch for. The stars communicated with them and the scriptures told them where to look for the Messiah. Micah 5:2 "The LORD says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times."



The Magi learned to see the symbols and they found the star of the Messiah and followed it to Bethlehem and to Jesus himself. (Matthew 2).

We may not need to read the stars to find Jesus this Christmas, but I wish I may, I wish I might have this wish..." I wish we all find the symbols God gives us this Christmas. The symbols that lead us closer to Jesus every day." Merry Christmas and God Bless!

Corinne Kleppe - Editor

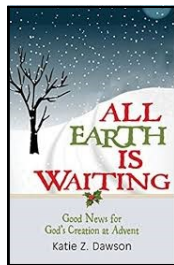
Adult-2 Class

The Adult-2 Class invites you to join them as they read and discuss the Advent study, All The Earth Is Waiting by Katie Z. Dawson.

If you are looking for a "short-term" Sunday School class, this would be a good time in which to participate. There is always room for more to join the discussion.

Advent Study

The Advent study All the Earth is Waiting by Katie Z. Dawson has begun and will conclude the week of December 17th. Two groups are meeting; the Adult-2 Class at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings and on Monday afternoons at 1:30 pm at Katie Jones' Park Centre apartment. Please feel free to join in for the remaining weeks of the study.



St. Luke BIBLE STUDY
 Seasons OF THE Spirit
 Sunday School Class meets 9:15 a.m. in the choir room

New Beginnings
Rejoicing and being active Participants in God's ongoing promise to reshape and restore our lives:
 Luke 2:22-40

According to the law of Moses, Jesus' mother, Mary, was required to observe *ceremonial days of postpartum purification*. Mothers of sons were considered unclean for seven days and on the eighth day the child was circumcised. Following this observation Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to **Jerusalem's** temple to present Him to the Lord. [Women then continued in their *purification* for thirty-three more days (totaling 40).] In the temple, Joseph and Mary offered the required sacrifice of two turtledoves or two young pigeons.

At the same time in the temple was a man named **Simeon**. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the *Lord's Anointed One*. Simeon had been led to the temple that day by the Spirit, and there he saw the child Jesus with His parents, fulfilling their sacred obligations. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and blessed God: *Now, Lord and King, You can let me, Your humble servant, die in peace.*

Jesus' father and mother, of course, were shocked to hear Simeon say these things. Simeon went on to bless *them* both, too, and he made predictions concerning both Jesus and Mary.



At that moment an elderly prophetess, Anna, stepped forward. The eighty-four year old woman began speaking out thanks to God; she continued spreading the word about Jesus to all those who shared her hope for the "rescue" of Jerusalem.

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 to read about and discuss issues related to each week's prescribed lectionary readings. Come join in the learning!

Below are the lectionary scriptures that the Sunday school class participants will be learning about each week in December. Even if you can't come to class, consider taking the time to read them at home!

◇ **Lectionary Readings for December 2017** ◇

- December 3: Isaiah 64:1-9** | Two-Sided Coin
To find ways to both wait and work for God's new life for all.
- December 10: Isaiah 40:1-11** | God's Way of Love Lasts Forever
To consider ways to embody hope and peace as messengers of God's love.
- December 17: Psalm 126** | Shout With Joy
To consider what it means to rejoice in the promise of God's faithfulness.
- December 24: Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55** | Here I Am
To reflect on what it means to live with confidence in God's faithfulness.
- December 31: Luke 2:22-40** | New Beginnings
To rejoice, and to be active participants in God's ongoing promise to reshape and restore our lives. promise to reshape and restore our lives.



RECYCLING CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It is getting close to that time of year when you may be bringing out your Christmas lights. If you are like many, you may need to jettison those strands which no longer function.

Do not throw them away. Take the non-working lights to St. Luke to be **RECYCLED**. Place your non-working light strings in the *marked box* located beneath the narthex coat rack.

Share this information. Set an example for others that members of St. Luke care about our legacy and **Reducing-Reusing-Recycling!**

Sewing Days

We will be sewing one-handle school bags in Fellowship Hall January 30 and 31. We can use help no matter what your skill set. Bring your sewing machine and your serger along with basic sewing supplies and thread. We can use people to cut fabric and press seams along with those who sew. These bags will be taken to Midwest Mission Distribution center the following week. We will start at 9 am and sew until about 4 pm. At noon, we will break for a potluck type lunch. This is always a fun event with lots of fellowship while we work, so come join on one or both days, or even part of a day if you can. Sign-up on the Servant's Table, please, so we can have enough tables in place.



Christmas Mission Offering 2017



Our Christmas offering is set. The NOW committee has chosen to split our offering this year between a local mission and a national mission that continues to be in need.

One half of our offering will go to Bedz 4 Kidz. This is a bunkbed project started by the Christian Church in Newton. They build bunkbeds for children in the Newton area. Our funds will be used to purchase bedding to go with the bunkbeds they build.

The other half of our offering will go to UMCOR's National Disaster Relief fund. UMCOR is currently active in several parts of the United States following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Jose as well as Wildfires in Montana and California. The funds will also be there to help in any new disasters that are currently unknown.

NOW Committee

4 Christmas Gift Challenge

1.  Something they want
2.  Something they need
3.  Something to wear
4.  Something to read

Days For Girls



The Days For Girls Newton group will not be meeting in the month of December. Please plan to join them for a sewing day on the 4th Thursday in January or other months in 2018.

St Luke News

Many thanks to all those that provided pies or purchased pies at the McCann Pie and Craft sale in October. \$840 was raised to help with Rent Assistance to people in our community.

The organizers of the Jasper County CROP Walk send thanks to all the contributors for the 2017 event.

Thank you to all that contributed food and volunteered to help prepare and serve the meal at Trinity UMC for CFUM on October 30. 120 people were served a delicious meal of chicken chili and corn bread.

The Anthony Family wanted to take this time to personally thank the St. Luke Family for taking the time out of you busy day to think about us. Your generosity in food, phone calls, and home visits have lifted our spirits and made our days brighter. We recently had family visit and it was wonderful for them to see the outpouring of caring and thoughtfulness. Your food and meals fed our family and your prayers filled our heart. We cannot express to you how appreciative we are of your efforts to ease our minds during this trying time. They you to everyone who has kept us in their thoughts and prayers.

Thank You,
The Anthony Family

Thank you to Pastor Chad and all the friends who visited Arnold Cook when he was in the hospital. Thank you, St. Luke family, for sharing words of support, memorial gifts, and cards. Thank you to the UMW and St. Luke personnel who provided and served snacks after the services for Arnold at Newton Village October 3rd.
~Feeling grateful, Mary and Carolyn Cook & family

Tintinnabulation Bells & Skunk River Singers

Come and Hear Sounds of the Season performed by Tintinnabulation Hand Bell Ensemble on Sunday, December 3 at 2 pm in the Jasper County Museum and on Monday, December 11 from 5-8 pm at Culver's Restaurant.



The Skunk River Singers will also be performing at the Jasper County Museum on the Sunday, December 3 at 2:30 pm. Be sure to come out for these enjoyable holiday events.