

St Luke UMC

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

December 2019

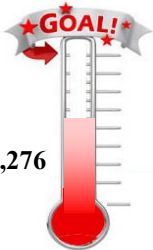


THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

2019 Apportionments

\$24,351



\$12,276

Financial Update

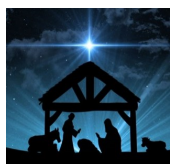
We are quickly approaching the end of the 2019 fiscal year. The congregations' giving this year has been very generous. We have been able to keep

up with present expenses as well as being able to continue the upgrades to the church building.

We still have a little ways to go to achieve our 2019 apportionment goals. We are making progress, and we still have the month of December to give to this portion of our budget. St. Luke has a long history of meeting our goal of 100% in apportionment payments. This is something that we at St. Luke can be proud of. Not all churches of the Iowa Conference make their goals. For example, the projected total of apportionment payments statewide to the Iowa Conference in 2019 is 68%. For St. Luke UMC to be 100% for so many years is a tribute to your generous giving. We have confidence that we will once again make our goal.

We thank everyone at St. Luke for your generous and thoughtful giving.

St. Luke Financial Committee



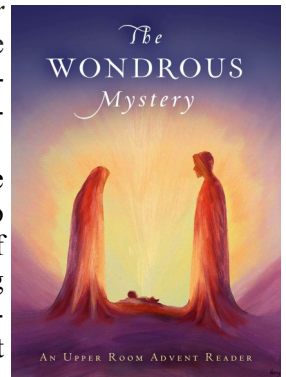
“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.”

—C.S. Lewis

Advent Study The Wondrous Mystery By Benjamin Howard

The season of Advent will soon be here. Make your Advent season more meaningful by being part of an individual Advent study. This year's study will be, *The Wondrous Mystery: An Upper Room Advent Reader* by Benjamin Howard. The study will begin on December 1st. If you are interested, books are \$9.00 and can be picked up any-time on the Servant's Table.

What is this book about? During Advent we think about a wondrous mystery: that God chose to become human and lived among us. The Savior of the world was born a vulnerable child. The king who will rule all of creation lies in a humble manger. *The Wondrous Mystery* invites you to reflect on several paradoxes that make up the Advent season: light and darkness, peace and strife, solitude and community, simplicity and complexity.



Join us December 24 for Christmas Eve Services.

7 pm Candlelight Service

11 pm Candlelight and Communion Service





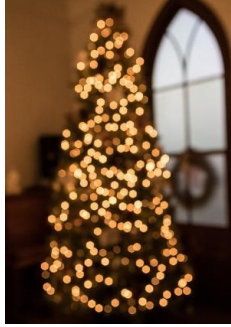
Christmas is coming. Breathe.

Christmas is a lot of things. It is music, food, decorations, presents, parties, and traditions. It is a time for joyfulness. It is a time of peace. It is a time of home.



Many of us will make a journey home to celebrate Christmas. Or perhaps, you will have people journey to you because you are home for them.

This is not possible for some. Some people are not able to travel home for Christmas. Some people can't travel because of their work schedules. Some cannot afford to travel. Some are very far away home or their family is far away from them. For these folks, the longing to be home for Christmas is even more tangible.



In the early Church, the community regarded each other as family. When they gathered, they ate together. They shared their joys and their hardships. They took care of each other and whatever they needed. They believed that each one was part of the family.



This Advent, we are going to focus a bit on family. We will talk about the importance of family at Christmas time, but also the importance of our church family in our lives. Where would you be without your church family?

Along with this, I invite you to participate in our family Christmas tree, which will be located in Sam's Place. Bring an ornament to share with us and place it on the tree. Please bring something that you are willing to talk about with people who ask about it. Bring something that isn't too valuable, that isn't too precious, just in case it happens to break.



I think this will be fun and keep us talking through the whole season. After Christmas, you may take your ornament home with you.

Let's enjoy this season as the St. Luke family.

Chad

Merry Christmas



FROM YOUR ST. LUKE CHURCH FAMILY

Mission Collition Pie Sale Thank You

We as Mission Collition would like to thank the people of St. Luke UMC. We had a very successful pie sale and made a total of \$958! These funds went to Neighbors Helping Neighbors and IMPACT.



Volunteer Needed



Needed: Someone to head up the Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper on February 26th. If you are interested, please talk to either Barb Kaldenberg or Peg Ehler.

A little smile, a word of cheer,
A bit of love from someone near,
A little gift from one held dear,
Best wishes for the coming year...
These make a Merry Christmas!
—John Greenleaf Whittier



Please join us for a Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 15 2-5 pm
At the parsonage: 1810 N 4th Ave E

No RSVP required. Fun, food, and fellowship provided.

The Jennings Family





United Methodist Women

December 18 - 1:15 pm

At St. Luke UMC

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And on earth peace among
Those whom he favors!”*

Luke 2:14

Program: Rooted in Our Foremothers:

Women’s Vision of Shalom

Hostess: Barb Kaldenberg

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Sunday School Mission Offering

We have completed our covenant with Larry & Jane Kies. Our 2nd through 5th Sunday school offerings will now be designated for Douglas Williams. Doug serves as pastor and Volunteer-In-Mission promoter of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina.



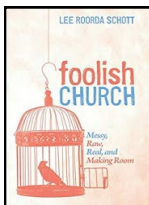
On the challenge of mission, he states: “Our world is becoming a global community and God wells up in me the desire to be part of seeing God’s peace expand and renewal take place. There are so many challenges that face us and time and time again God reveals in every challenge an opportunity for growth and healing.”

As always, the offering on the first Sunday of each month will be for Sunday School supplies and administrative needs.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW – Missions Chair

Adult-2 Class

The Adult-2 Class is reading and discussing *Foolish Church* by Lee Roorda Schott. *Foolish Church* shares the lessons that Rev Schott has learned while serving at Women At The Well Church at the women’s correctional facility in Mitchellville with the hope that we might be inspired, equipped and encouraged to live out our calling.



If you are looking for a class with variety and topical studies, this would be a good class for you. There is always room for more to join the conversation.

News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

Library News ~ Justin and Patrick were best friends for life, from childhood on through every stage of life. When Justin lost the use of his arms and legs his life changed forever, but his best friend was still his best friend. He had always dreamed of traveling the Camino de Santiago, a spiritual pilgrimage on foot through the mountains and rough terrain of northern Spain, and Patrick volunteered to push Justin’s wheelchair! It took 6 weeks to push the 500 miles and was indeed a physical and spiritual trek which both men claim as the most important journey of his life. This new book, *I’ll Push You* is written by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck and re-tells the tale of their journey. You will also read about how they live their lives to push others to be the best they can be. It is a story of love, faith, determination, and sacrifice. It is also a challenge to follow your dream even a big impossible dream. Check it out in our little library in the corner.



MMDC Mission Trips

MMDC Trip News ~ St. Luke has a team of eleven folks heading off to Midwest Missions Distribution Center in late January. We will be preparing and assembling kits, building school desks, and whatever other jobs they ask us to do. The results of our work there will be disbursed throughout the world as needed. The network of needs assessment and transportation used by the staff is as remarkable as it is faith filled. The center has a small handful of paid staff and the bulk of the work is done by volunteers. During the few years we have been going we have seen the center grow warehouse by warehouse. All of the building and equipment is funded by gifts and no money has ever been borrowed. It is good to be involved in their mission. I am grateful for the vision of this place, grateful for the work done there, grateful for the support swelling from St. Luke and surrounding churches as our January team represents 3 other churches besides our own. We also have a trip scheduled for February 23-26. We will stay in the dorm on site, eat our meals together, work at the center, play games, watch basketball, and enjoy fellowship. You are welcome to come along. We have room reserved for YOU. The decision deadline is Sunday December 15th. Please ask me any questions you might have and let me know that you are coming along. Karen Clark, call or text 641-831-4526, email skclark1978@gmail.com



Silent Auction News

The St. Luke building renovation fund-raiser silent auction will continue again this month offering new items for bid. This auction will conclude on December 15. Please continue save your new or gently-used items for donation to future fund-raising auctions. Your participation is **much** appreciated! St. Luke is grateful for your support of **donating** and **purchasing** items to help financially support the renovation projects.





My Story

He teased me for weeks about the gift he was making for me in his shop class. I knew all along that it was made of wood, but I didn't know what I was going to become. Then in one conversation he slipped and told me his teacher tried to buy my jewelry box. Oops! It took a moment before he realized what he had said. But when he asked me if I had heard, I fibbed and said I had been distracted and hadn't heard what he said. I felt bad for him because he had kept the secret for so long and I didn't want to ruin that fun for him. After all, I didn't know what it would look like, so it would still be a surprise for me.

That gift is still one of the most special gifts I have ever received. He spent time over those weeks, first choosing a gift and then creating that gift especially for me. It was important to him to make it special for me... and it is beautiful.

The perfect gift, usually, has thought and or meaning behind the choice. The wise men brought gifts to Jesus and though they are not gifts that were normally thought of as baby gifts, they were the perfect gifts for the Messiah. Gold as a symbol of earthly kingship. Frankincense as



a symbol of deity. Myrrh as a symbol of death. See, perfect! Jesus was both God and Man and He is the Savior of the world.

What gift would you give to the Messiah?

Matthew 2:11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Corinne Kleppe

November Diaper Sewing Days

Thank you to all who came to help sew diapers during the month of November. We made 187 more diapers this month which will be taken to



Midwest Misison Distribution Center in January. These are much needed diapers and will be sure to bring smiles to many mothers and babies around the world.

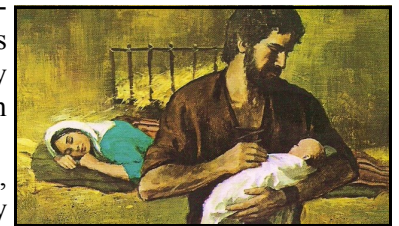


Choose to Trust MATTHEW 1:18-25

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

Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. If you read the genealogy presented in Matthew 1:1-17, you will learn that Joseph was, indeed, from the lineage of King David. Thus Joseph was called the *son of David*. *Some time before Mary and Joseph's wedding (and planned wedding feast) Mary became pregnant with Jesus. Mary understood it was God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, who had made her pregnant. Joseph wasn't so sure. He felt he had to break the engagement with Mary, deciding to do so quietly. In verse 20 we learn that a messenger of God came to Joseph in a dream: Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to wed Mary and bring her into your home and family as your wife... you will name Him Jesus, which means "the Lord saves," because this Jesus is the person who will save all of His people from sin.*

Joseph woke from his dream and proceeded as the heavenly messenger had directed: he married Mary and brought her into his home as his wife. When the baby was born, Joseph did name him Jesus, Savior.



Years and years, prior to that, Isaiah had prophesized the story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in Isaiah 7:14.

*A virgin will conceive and bear a Son
And His name will be Immanuel*

(which is a Hebrew name that means "God with us.")

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings, sandwiched between the end of the 8 a.m. church service and the beginning of the 10:30 service. The class's emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings. All are welcome to join in the discovery and learning!

∞ Lectionary Readings for December 2019 ∞

• December 1: Isaiah 2:1-5 | Choose to Wait

To explore what it means to wait... on God, for God's peace.

• December 8: Isaiah 11:1-10 | Choose a Better Way

To discern ways to live with hope into the vision of God's shalom.

• December 15: Luke 1:47-55 | Choose to be Courageous

To explore the role of courage in the fulfillment of God's promises.

• December 22: Matthew 1:18-25 | Faithful Response

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

• December 29: Psalm 148 | Let Everything Praise God

To celebrate, with all creation, the awesomeness of God

Church World Service Best Gift Advent/Christmas offering 2019

Did you ever receive a gift that was so perfect that you knew the giver had really thought about you as they shopped? We all want to know others care about us. Hopefully we all want others to know we care too.

This year our Christmas Offering will be something you choose. We will be offering you the opportunity to choose your "Best Gift" for Church World Service (CWS). For example:



You might choose to give toward a Health Center visit for an unaccompanied refugee child. Each visit is just \$5. Or perhaps your best gift is two hens and a rooster for \$18 or a goat for \$65. And those are just 3 of the many choices available on the CWS Best Gift list.

There will be a display on the Mission table that provides more information on the available gift options, as well as gift cards if you would like to give in honor of someone. When it's time for the offering, there will be bulletin inserts, where you can make your selection, as well as offering envelopes. May the spirit of giving fill your heart this Holiday Season with CWS Best Gifts.

N.O.W. Missions

Gift Card Ministry

When you are doing your Christmas Shopping this year, remember our newest St Luke ministry. The Gift Card Ministry. Pick up gift cards in values of \$5 to \$25 at local stores and restaurants. There will be a basket on the mission table to collect these gift cards to create a "Gift Card bank".

Many times Pastor Chad has persons come to the church in need of help, and while the Salvation Army is the resource people are often directed to, there are times when the needs cannot be met through this route. By donating through our new Gift Card Ministry, you will be helping Pastor Chad provide assistance as he sees a need.



Gift cards in denominations from \$5 to \$25 can be given throughout the year, but this Christmas lets start the "bank". Think convenience stores, restaurants, grocery stores and other local stores, the list is endless. Think about where you like to shop or eat a meal and then add our Gift Card Ministry to your Christmas Shopping list.

N.O.W. Missions



Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, December 5 from 9 am-2 pm and 6-9 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans or Karen Clark.



December Salvation Army Pantry Request

Jello, Pudding, & Canned Fruit

RECYCLING CHRISTMAS STRING LIGHTS

If you have been bringing out your Christmas lights and discover a few strands which no longer function as desired **do not throw them away to be sent to the landfill.**



Take the non-working light strings to St. Luke to be **RECYCLED**. Place your non-working lights in the *marked box located by the coat rack in the narthex.*

GUIDELINES:

Δ If your stringed lights have any decorative "attachments, or special characters," please REMOVE them before placing the light string in the recycle box; otherwise the person taking the lights to the waste center has to do that, first.

Δ Lightbulbs, themselves, are NOT RECYCLABLE, so please do NOT place *stand-alone light bulbs in the string light recycle box.*

Δ Do NOT place your stringed lights in a plastic sack, before placing the lights into the recycle box. The recycle center does NOT want received lights to be in plastic bags.

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












St. Luke News

Thank you St. Luke family for your participation in the care packages for our college students! Austin, Conner, Dune, Jacob, Jordan, and Nathan will appreciate the goodies, notes, and prayers coming their way just in time for the often stressful week of final exams. Your generosity and enthusiasm to support our college youth in this important time in their lives is awesome!



Thank you all for the prayers, cards and kind words following the death of our father, Les Trout. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness during this difficult time.

Jenni Patty and Leslie Maach

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8/10:30 Worship - Communion 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 	2	3	4 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir	5 Days for Girls 6:30 pm Trustees meeting	6	7 1-5 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing @ Fareway 
8 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 	9	10	11 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir 7 pm Page Turners Book Club	12	13 5 - 9 pm Church Reserved 	14 
15 8/10:30 Worship - Christmas Program 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.  	16	17 7pm Council Meeting	18 1:15 pm UMWomen Meeting @ St Luke 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir	19 7 pm Quilt Guild - F Hall 7 pm NAMI - Choir Room	20	21 10 am - 3 pm Church Reserved
22 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 12-4 pm Church Reserved 	23 3 - 9 pm Church Reserved	24 Christ- mas Eve Services 7 & 11 pm 	25  No Praise Team No Choir Practice	26	27	28 12 - 6 pm Church Reserved
29 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 12-4 Church Reserved	30	31				

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

December 1	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Pageler Family	Mike/Kleo O'Brien
Greeters	Jean Schnell	Jeff Carter
Reader	Karen Dorrell	Russ Leix
Acolytes	Ushers	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Doug McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Dale Dorrell	Dale Dorrell
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Karen Clark
Fellowship	Barb Kaldenberg	Katie Jones
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Amy Murphy
Communion	Wendy Jennings Counters	Jenna McIntyre/ Rose Evans
December 8	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Jean Schnell/ Chuck Springer	Doug/Jenna McIntyre
Greeters	Leonard Family	Joe/Stefanie Squire
Readers	Rose Hartschen	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolytes	Ushers	Anniston Chambers
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteers Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Praise Team	Praise Team
Projection	Deb Stoulil	Pam Smith
Fellowship	Pam Andrews	Lisa Marston
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Lisa Marston
Counters		Mike Kaldenberg/ Brad Patty
December 15	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Deb Stoulil/ Ben Leonard	Lori Leix/ Rhondi Machin
Greeters	Peg Ehler	Jeff/Amy Murphy
Readers	Jan Lewis	Dennis Smith
Acolytes	Ushers	Ava Smith
Nursery	Parents take turns	Mary Nelson
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Projection	Brad Patty	Doug McIntyre
Fellowship	Jean Schnell	Amy Murphy
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Counters		Barb Kaldenberg/ Jan Lewis
December 22	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Pageler Family	Corinne Kleppe/ Karen Clark
Greeters	Mike/Barb Kaldenberg	Doug/Jenna McIntyre
Readers	Mike/Barb Kaldenberg	Amy Murphy
Acolytes	Ushers	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteers Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Skunks	Skunks
Projection	Peg Ehler	Wendy Jennings
Fellowship	Rosemary Hartschen	Leslie/Bruce Maach
Care Core	Barb Swihart	Jenna McIntyre
Counters		Russ Leix/ Doug McIntyre

Where to Find Us

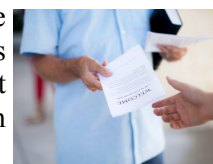
Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings
 chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com
 Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867
Adm. Assistant: Jennifer Etter
 Church Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-11 am
worship@stlukenewton.com
 Phone: 641-792-5736
Newsletter Editor: Corinne Kleppe
 corinne.kleppe@grinnellmutual.com
 Phone: 641-831-2639
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	Quinton/Shirley Guillaume	Jennings Family
Greeters	Doug/Jenna McIntyre	Doug/Jenna McIntyre
Keyboard	Jan Lewis	Bev Thomas
Special	Allen Barr	Allen Barr
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Peg Ehler
Communion	-----	Wendy Jennings
Counters	-----	Brad Patty
Dec 29	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Mike/Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters	Pam Andrews	Doug/ Jenna McIntyre
Readers	Mary Onstot	Rose Evans
Acolytes	Ushers	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteers Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Deb Stoulil	Brad Patty
Fellowship		Mary Nelson
Care Core	Tamara Lloyd	Jenni Patty
Counters		Mike Kaldenberg/ Russ Leix

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 4 - Pam Smith
- 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 Stouil
- December 15 - Mike Kaldenberg
- December 16 - Larry Howard
- December 19 - Dan Marston
- 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, contact the office.

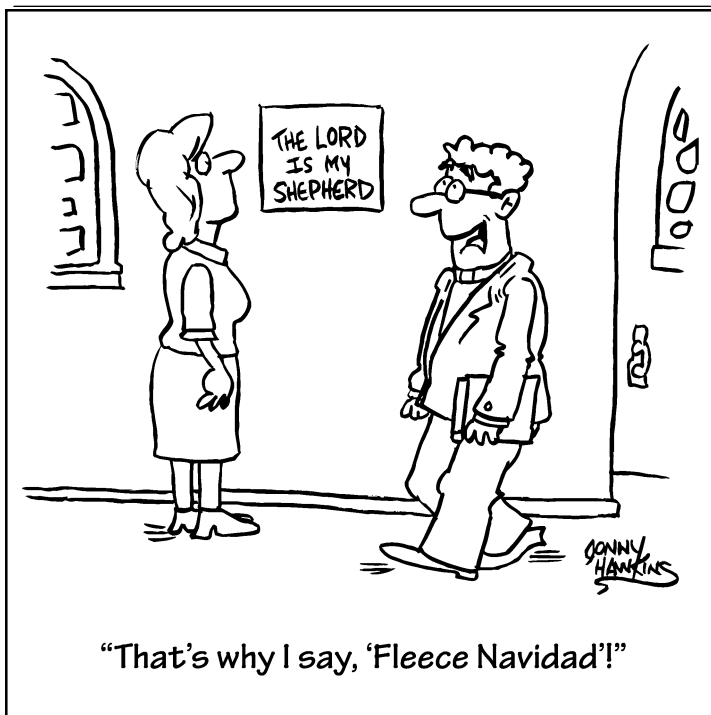
Newsletter



If you know someone that would like to receive the monthly Newsletter via email, please send their name and email address to the church office to be placed on the email list, at: Worship@StLukeNewton.com.

Want a printed copy of the Newsletter?

Printed copies of the Newsletter are available at the church. They can be found on the table by the church 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 or listen to the radio for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.




Welcome, Jesus!

Welcome all wonders in one sight,
Eternity shut in a span,
Summer in winter, day in night,
Heaven in earth, and God in man,
Great little one,
whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven,
stoops heaven to earth.

—Richard Crashaw (1612-1649)









PUZZLE

Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.

shepherd's staff _ □ □ _ _ _ □

tree that keeps its leaves _ _ _ □ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way _ _ _ □ _

green for eternal life,
red for Jesus' blood □ _ _ _ _ & _ _ _ □ □ _

sounds to announce
good news □ _ _ _ _

has no beginning or end _ _ _ _ □ _

Th □ □ ks b □ to □ od fo □ □ is
indesc □ □ ba □ le gif □ !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath, Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV