

St Luke UMC

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

December 15, 2021



THE BI-WEEKLY flame CATCH THE FIRE!

ST LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas E V E CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 | 7 & 11 PM

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

We are continuing to collect different focus items each week of Advent and Christmastide this year. We are so thankful to those that have already donated items during the first half of our food and supply drive. Please continue to bring these items with you on Sunday Mornings.

- **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 continue to 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

ST LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Newton, Iowa

5th Sunday WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE Food Insecurity Event

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Get Ready to WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE



What is WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE? It is an opportunity to share God's love through acts of service as an act of worship.

One of the big goals that St Luke adopted for 2022 at our Charge Conference was to become more aware of the food and housing insecurity that many people in Newton face every day. This came about because of the growing awareness of homeless in our community through recent news articles. The leaders of St Luke felt that we could do something to address this need in our community.

The way we are going to do this is to learn a bit about the homeless and hungry in Newton by inviting some local experts to tell us about it. On January 9, we will hear from Bill Bennett from Jasper County Take Away Hunger. We have worked with this organization before, hosting food packing events at St Luke. You may have even participated in a packing event.

But, do we really know what they do or how our participation makes a difference? Bill will share with us so that we will have a better understanding of the need in the world and how this organization makes a difference.

On January 16, we will hear from Robyn Taylor, who has worked with Newton's homeless and has earned their trust.

The culmination of this will happen on January 30 during worship. On that morning, our worship will be packing meals for Take Away Hunger and turning some of those meals into burritos that Robyn will take to the homeless in Newton throughout the winter.

This is an opportunity for us to really dig into something that affects our community and to do something about it. For your part, Give \$30 or more for the ingredients of the meal packets we will pack, Pack the ingredients during worship on January 30 or Cook the burritos for the community, and Pray that God will lead us to the next ministry in our community to address the issue of food and housing insecurity.

Thank you for all you do, and for your participating in this exciting ministry opportunity at St Luke UMC.

Pastor Chad



2021 VBS Offering Update

When Ann Leonard approached me in early summer with the idea of our Vacation Bible School offering to help the homeless in Jasper County, I thought this was a terrific idea.

Thanks to many generous contributions from kids and adults at Bible School and subsequent offerings at regular services, I presented a check for almost \$900 to my friend Michelle Smith, who started an initiative to help homeless in Newton 3-4 years ago, after observing homeless people around her workplace at Windstream.

Michelle held the money in an account as cold weather approached, then in October began planning a distribution which she had outlined to me when I gave her the check.

On Friday, November 5, with help from several families, a meal of sandwiches, chili, granola bars, and water was served. 20 tents, 20 sleeping bags, and 20 hygiene kits were given to homeless people of the area. Quote from Michelle: "Thank you! Thank you! Please tell your congregation what a blessing they helped to provide!"

Leslie Maach



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 Example of Mary

"We must look to Mary's example to know how to deal with the glorious impossibilities of God," writes Calvin Miller in *The Christ of Christmas*. "Look how she turned the world upside down by making one simple statement."

Jesus surely could have come to earth without Mary's aid. But God seems to prefer partnering with people to accomplish miracles such as salvation and healing. So God chooses Mary to carry the Savior. Later, Jesus often declares people's own faith crucial to their healing. And today, God works justice through us, not apart from us.



God doesn't force us into collaboration. Yet, notes Miller, "God needs only a little of our agreement in order to work mighty wonders." Like Mary's humble assent: "I am the Lord's servant. ... May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38, NIV). And like yours — for whatever partnership God invites you into. God will do the heavy lifting, for certain, but he hopes you'll say yes.

Discover Hope Thank You

We would like to give a big thank you for everything that was donated for the December Discover Hope meal. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our St Luke family.

Joyce Stonehocker and Peg Ehler



La Fundicion de Cristo/Christ's Foundry – Dallas Texas

2021 Advent/Christmas Mission Offering

The mission of Christ's Foundry United Methodist Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ through helping children, youth, and families. While COVID-19 forced us to change our methods, we have continued to live into our mission of helping our neighbors through holistic ministry in mind, body, and spirit.

When our neighbor "Juan" lost his job due to the impacts of COVID-19, he began driving through our parking lot to receive daily lunches and weekly produce bags. One Saturday as Juan was picking up his produce, a Christ's Foundry volunteer invited him to stay for our weekly outdoor communion service. Juan timidly responded that he had felt distant from God for many years but had been feeling the desire to draw close again in recent weeks. Juan stayed and returned every Saturday, always arriving early to help set up the chairs for service. One Saturday, he received a text early in the morning informing him we had run out of produce bags. He came to the communion service anyway, saying to those who had gathered: "I may not receive food for my body today, but I didn't want to miss receiving food for my soul."

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Christ's Foundry United Methodist Mission! Your support enables us to make an impact in the life of Juan and hundreds of neighbors like him. We are grateful for your partnership and support as together we make a difference in Northwest Dallas and the Kingdom!



Rev. Amy D. Spaur
La Fundicion de Cristo/Christ's Foundry
www.fcdallas.org
Office: 214.366.4275
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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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
Dec. 19	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Doug & Jenna McIntyre
Greeters (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Reader	
Acolyte	Rachel Pageler
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Karen Clark
Counters (2)	

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve—7 PM
Greeters (2)	Doug & Jenna McIntyre
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Ethan Pageler

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve—11 PM
Greeters (2)	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	

Dec. 26	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Reader	N/A
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Peg Ehler
Care Core	Barb Swihart
Coffee Time	Peg Ehler
Counters (2)	

Jan. 2	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	
Counters (2)	

Worship Assistants For December & January

We are looking for volunteers to be worship assistants for the months of December & January. 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/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhXQL7s/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!



Where to Find Us

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Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com

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.



Confirmation 2021

Congratulations to our 2021 Confirmation Class and newest St Luke members: Ethan Pageler and Ben Leonard. They were confirmed and received into membership on November 7, 2021. Welcome to the St Luke family!



Congratulations
to our 2021 Confirmation Class



Children's Christmas Program

A big thank you to Peg Ehler and Pastor Chad for another successful Children's Christmas Program this year. We appreciate all you do for St Luke! The children did a wonderful job and there were definitely some good laughs. If you missed the program you can watch it on our St Luke United Methodist Church YouTube channel listed under our 12.5.21 service.



December College Ministry Project

Ready or not: finals week is here for our college students and we are sending them all warm wishes for their tests. They all received a wintery mug with cocoa, peppermint tea, cider, a chocolate marshmallow, a candy cane, and hot cocoa kisses to help keep their spirits (and blood sugar) up. Thank you to everyone for your support and prayers for these very special young people!



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

