

St Luke UMC

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

December 15, 2023



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!



Fill the Grocery Cart for the Jasper County Salvation Army Food Pantry Advent/Christmas 2023

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 Sunday of Advent - December 17th
Focus items: Jarred foods
(ie: pasta sauces, olives, pickles, oils, etc.)
- 1st/2nd Week of Christmastide - December 24th/31st
Focus items: Paper Products
(ie: facial tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, etc.)
- 3rd Week of Christmastide - January 7th
Focus items: Cleaning Supplies
(ie: dish soap, Clorox wipes, diaper wipes, cleaning sprays, etc.)

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. Proverbs 22:9

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 Kleppe, NOW Missions

Celebrate the Light

Bursting through December nights that could be long and cold, our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy with colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops, and from trees both small and tall, the lights cry out, "We have good news! We want to shout to all."

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold, the sorrow, war and fear; but God has sent his Son for all, to show his Love is here."

"The darkness can't put out God's Light. Christ's with us day by day, illuminating paths so we can follow in his way."

Light homes and streets and candles. Make your world shine clear and bright. God's love surrounds and blesses us. Come, celebrate God's Light!

—Peggy Ferrell



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.



Christmas / Advent offering Christ's Foundry UMC/ La Fundicion de Cristo

In 2001, the North Texas Conference decided to plant a new church in a Hispanic neighborhood in Dallas, Texas after research found an ever increasing Hispanic population. In 2002, the N Texas Conference voted to support the planting of a church in the area designated by this research. Christ's Foundry UMC was established and outgrew their original location by 2006. In 2011 their very own building was finished and was consecrated in May of 2012. In July 2017 the pastoral leadership transitioned from their founding pastor, Rev Owen Ross to Rev Amy Spaur.

We know Amy as the daughter of Marianne Spaur. She began her faith walk in Iowa, growing up in the St Luke UMC family. After college, Amy served for



6 years as a missionary with the United Methodist General Board of Global Missions. (1 1/2 years in Bogota, Columbia with CEPALC, 1 1/2 years as a translator for Justice for our Neighbors in Dallas, followed by 3 years with the Church and Community

Worker Program.) Following her 6 years as a missionary, Amy attended seminary and began her ministry in the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Now serving as lead pastor of the Christ's Foundry/ La Fundicion de Cristo, a bilingual congregation.

For the past few years, we have chosen to support Amy's Congregation as they go about the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ by helping children, youth and families.

Our offering this Advent /Christmas season will allow this missionary congregation to continue this mission throughout the coming year.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW Missions

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 for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.



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 and we can't thank everyone enough. The meal that we provided for December was turkey, dressing, broccoli and cauliflower with cheese sauce, rolls, cranberry salad and Christmas cookies for dessert. A big thank you also to everyone that came and helped with preparing the food and those that helped to serve the meal at Discover Hope. Pictured below are some of our wonderful volunteers that served our December meal.

Jan Lewis & Joyce Stonehocker



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



BLUE
Christmas Service

113 S. Monroe St.
Monroe, Iowa

Location: The Gathering Place
Date: December 21st
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Hosted by the Monroe United Methodist Church

Questions about the Event?
Call, text, or email Pastor Brandon Campbell at
PastorBMC@hotmail.com; 515-250-8749

Blue Christmas Service

For many who have lost loved ones the Holiday Season can be painful rather than joyful. A Blue Christmas service offers people who have experienced loss a safe place to grieve during the holidays. If someone you know is struggling with grief and just doesn't feel happy at Christmas, a Blue Christmas Service is for them.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
Dec. 17	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Amy Murphy
Greeters (2)	Carolyn Cook
Reader	Dennis Smith
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Peg Ehler

Dec. 24	9:30 AM	7 PM
Ushers (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg	
Greeters (2)		
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg	
Acolyte	Payton & Brenna Figland	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Projection	Peg Ehler	Peg Ehler
Camera	Wendy Jennings	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg	

Dec. 31	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Camera	Wendy Jennings
Care Core	Jenni Patty
Coffee Time	

Jan. 7	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Joel & Karin Mills
Greeters (2)	Carolyn Cook
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	Frances Mills
Keyboard	
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Karen Clark

Worship Assistants

For 2023 we tried something new with our worship assistant sign up. We wanted to see more of our volunteer positions filled so we passed around signup sheets for 3 months at a time. We had a wonderful response and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. Most positions are filled but there are still some spots open. If you would like to volunteer or see what positions are available 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 online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:

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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help on Sunday mornings. Thank you St Luke Family!

The Advent Wreath

Pastor Chad taught the children all about the Advent wreath during Children's Time on Sunday, December 10. If you would like to watch this service or view any past services you can visit our St Luke United Methodist Church YouTube channel.



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

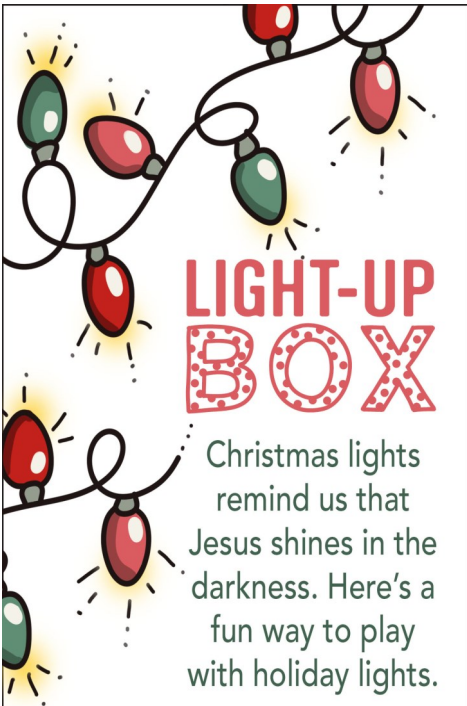
Facebook: [St Luke Newton](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeNewton)

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.



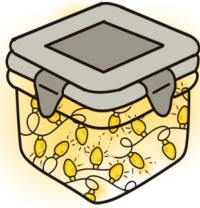


LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

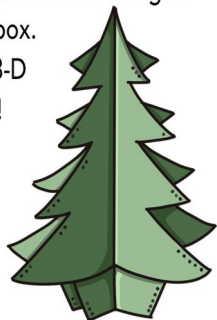
- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



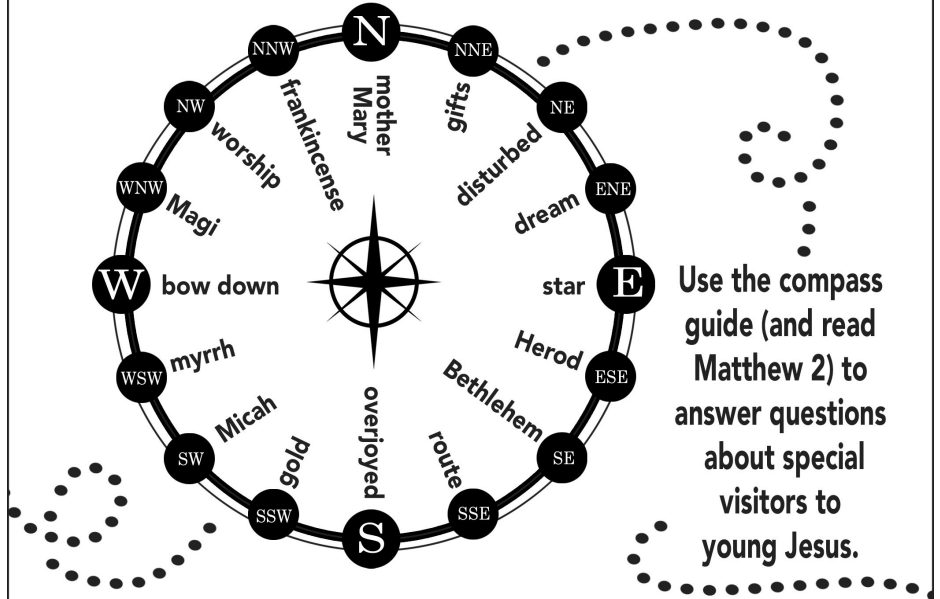
What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.

Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!



Puzzle!



Use the compass guide (and read Matthew 2) to answer questions about special visitors to young Jesus.

1. Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. Bethlehem; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold, frankincense, myrrh; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route