

# St Luke UMC

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

December 1, 2020



# THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

## 2020 Apportionments

**\$22,929**



## 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 \$13,722 which included:  
\$ 1,605 - Building Fund  
\$ 737 - Apportionments  
\$ 45 - Heifer Project  
\$ 10 - Salvation Army  
\$ 150 - Building Use  
\$ 100 - Flannel

We are quickly approaching the end of the 2020 fiscal year. During this last year we have truly been blessed by your generosity. We are thankful to still be in good shape but we have a little ways to go to achieve our 2020 apportionment goals. Please continue to remember St Luke and our connection to the larger church ministries that we share in through apportionments. Please help us to be faithful in our giving.

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

## 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 - Thurs, 3:30-5:30 pm  
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

**Prayer:** prayer@stlukenewton.com



# Send us your photos!

## A St. Luke Christmas Card

This year, we will be creating a video Christmas card. To do this, we are asking every St Luke person to submit a Christmas Card picture. We've all seen Christmas card pictures. We have even been a part of many of them. Some are meant to be funny. Some are funny anyway. Some are coordinated and planned. Some are chaotic. We love them all.

The only thing that we are asking for you to include in this picture is a sign with a message for the St. Luke community. This message could say *Merry Christmas*, or *Stay Hopeful*, or *Share Joy*, or whatever your family wants to say in this card.

Please take a picture with a message and submit it to [worship@stlukenewton.com](mailto:worship@stlukenewton.com) by Dec. 10. We will compile all the pictures into a video, which we will share with all of you. Thank you in advance for your participation.



**OUTDOOR**  
*Christmas Eve*  
CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24TH

5:00 P.M.

## Christmas Offering

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' Matthew 25:37"*

This year, the NOW committee has chosen the Salvation Army of Jasper County as the recipient of our Advent/Christmas offering. Currently the greatest need for the Salvation Army is the food pantry. With churches not meeting in person for much of this year, the in kind donations have also been reduced, at a time when the demand has increased. Lets help those in need throughout Jasper county by giving to our local Salvation Army.



NOW Missions



## My Story

When I was in college, the return to Ames after Thanksgiving meant I would be greeted by Christmas lights twinkling in dormitory windows. I loved that little piece of Christmas sparkle in the evening sky. Christmas lights have always been one of my favorite December sights. As a kid I would lie beneath the lighted Christmas tree and soak up the peace and hope for the coming year.

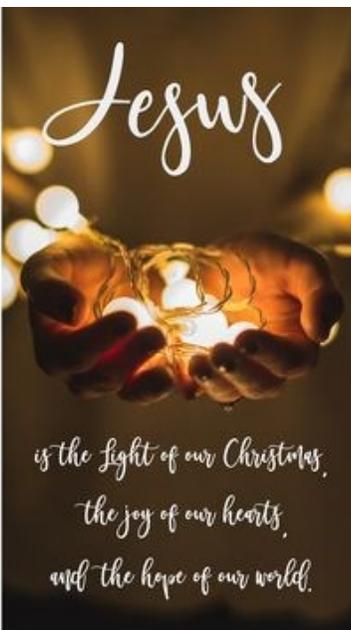


The characters in the Christmas Story also soak in the peace and hope provided by the light. The light from a multitude of angels (Luke 2:

9, 13-14) sent the shepherds to the manger to witness the birth of the king. The light from a guiding star (Matthew 2: 10-11) led the wise men to the Christ child. The light from the angels and the star led the shepherds and wise men to THE LIGHT of the world.

<sup>12</sup>When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

The year 2020 has been an exhausting year that has caused a lot of stress, fear and at times sadness and despair. As we move into this Advent Season, find time to soak in the presence of the Light of the World. Soak in the



peace and hope the light provides and believe in the promise of a new year.

Peace and Hope to you for a Blessed and Light filled Christmas.

Corinne Kleppe

"Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind."

—Helen Steiner Rice



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

## Reaffirm, Redeem, Rename

LUKE 2: 22-40

To participate in God's promise to reshape and restore our lives.

Think about your name. Does it have meaning? Why were you named thus? Is someone named after you; or you after someone? In this passage of Luke, we read of Jesus' earthly parents taking him to the Jerusalem temple to follow the laws of Moses. This is a ceremony of circumcision and dedicating the child. *They were fulfilling the Lord's requirement that "every firstborn Israelite male will be dedicated to the Eternal One as holy."* They also offered the sacrifice required by the law of the Lord, "two turtledoves or two young pigeons." Even from infancy Jesus and His parents followed the law of Moses.

Simeon was a man who lived during the time of Jesus' birth. According to Luke 2:25 he was considered "righteous and devout." Because the "holy spirit was upon him" he had confidence he would see the Messiah during his lifetime.

While Mary and Joseph were at the Jerusalem temple dedicating their infant Jesus, Simeon recognized the significance of their child. Simeon picked up their baby Jesus and said, "Now, Lord and King, You can let me, Your humble servant, die in peace. You promised me that I would see with my own eyes what I'm seeing now: Your freedom, raised up in the presence of all peoples. He is the light who reveals Your message to the other nations, and He is the shining glory of Your covenant people, Israel."



Anna, a prophet, also spent time in prayer waiting for God's Messiah. That day she, too, approached Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. She spoke her thanks to God and began spreading the word about Jesus, sharing her hope for the rescue of Jerusalem.

### ∞ Lectionary Readings for December 2020 ∞

- **December 6: Isaiah 40:1-11** | Remind, Reveal, Reinforce  
*To consider ways to embody hope and peace as messengers of God's love.*
- **December 13: Psalm 126** | Refocus, Restore, Rejoice  
*To consider what it means to rejoice in the promise of God's faithfulness.*
- **December 20: Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55** | Reflect, Resist, Re-imagine  
*To reflect on what it means to live with confidence in God's faithfulness.*
- **December 27: Luke 2:22-40** | Reaffirm, Redeem, Rename  
*To be active participants in God's promise to reshape and restore our lives.*



## United Methodist Women

December  
No Meeting

*"Glory to God in the heavenly heights,  
Peace to all men and women on earth  
Who please him."  
Luke 2:14*

## Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

### Indoor Worship Update

At this time Bishop Laurie Haller has recommended that United Methodists in Iowa refrain from in-person worship until January 17, 2021, which is 2 weeks after New Years. This is the minimum amount of time needed for those traveling for the holidays to quarantine. We will be following this guideline.



We will continue to send out an online message each weekend during this time. Check our Facebook page and your email for the link to the service.

**"Tell me the weight of a snowflake,"** a sparrow asked a wild dove.

"Nothing more than nothing," came the answer.

"In that case, I must tell you a marvelous story," the sparrow said. "I sat on a branch of fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow - - not heavily, not in a raging blizzard - - no, just like in a dream, without sound, and without any violence. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When 3,741,953 dropped onto the branch, nothing more than nothing, as you say, the branch broke off."



Having said that, the sparrow flew away. The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while, and finally said to herself, "Perhaps only one person's voice is lacking for peace to come into the world."

*Used with permission  
From Illustrations Unlimited  
James S. Hewett, ed., Tyndale House 1988  
presented by Seasons of the Spirit™,  
December 6, 2020*

## December Calendar of Events

Dec 1	Discover Hope Supper	5:30 pm
Dec 5	Quilt Guild in F-Hall	9 am-5 pm
Dec 9	Page Turners in F-Hall	7:00 pm
Dec 12	P.E.O. Meeting in F-Hall	9 am-12pm
Dec 17	Quilt Guild in F-Hall	6:30 pm
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service	5:00 pm
Dec 25	Christmas	
Dec 31	New Year Eve	

## St Luke News

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to Carolyn Cook on the passing of her mother Mary Cook.

## Diaper Sewing Update

Thank you to all who have been helping to sew flannel diapers for Midwest Mission Distribution Center! There are more diapers to be sewn available in the fellowship hall if you would like to help sew. We will take them to MMDC in February and will continue sewing until then. May God bless the children and families who will use these diapers.



Karen Clark

## 2021 MMDC Trip Update

We have decided to cancel the January MMDC trip, but at this time we are still planning to take a group February 21-24. We will leave after church Sunday and return on Wednesday evening after working at the center and staying in their dorm. We will work together and live together. It has always been a wonderful time of Christian living and doing the Lord's work. Please let Karen Clark know if you are interested or planning to attend the February trip.



## Thank You

A big thank you to all who provided food and monetary donations for our Discover Hope meal in December. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our St Luke family in helping to provide these wonderful meals for our community. We also want to thank Dale & Karen Dorrell and Hiap Thongvanh for donating two turkeys for our upcoming February meal. Another thing we wanted to mention is that Discover Hope has an Ongoing Needs List. The first few items that they need are: copier paper, coffee, bars, cookies. Items can be dropped off at Discover Hope or you can them labeled at the church and Peg Ehler will deliver them.



Joyce Stonehocker and Peg Ehler

## 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
- December 30 - Kandace Breckenridge

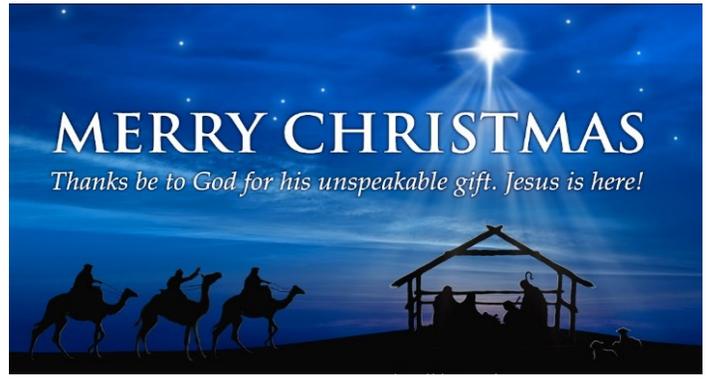


If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the office.





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



### St Luke Christian Education Program

The Sunday School (now called F.R.O.G., or Friends Relying on God) has been meeting weekly through Zoom since September. If you have a child or grandchild that would like to join us please email us at:



worship@stlukenewton.com.

- PreK - 2nd Grade - Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm via Zoom
- 3rd - 6th Grade - Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm via Zoom
- Middle School - Wednesdays After School @ St Luke



## PUZZLE

### WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

*Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.*

PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
❄️ for	❄️ give	❄️ come	❄️ together	❄️ around	❄️ after
❄️ self	❄️ into	❄️ settle	❄️ eternal	❄️ thanks	❄️ forgive
❄️ God	❄️ LORD	❄️ says	❄️ without	❄️ Christ	❄️ warmth
❄️ love	❄️ sins	❄️ scarlet	❄️ other	❄️ light	❄️ praise
❄️ red	❄️ star	❄️ white	❄️ snow	❄️ winter	❄️ peace

↓ EXIT

“ \_\_\_\_\_ now, let us \_\_\_\_\_ the matter,” \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

“Though your \_\_\_\_\_ are like \_\_\_\_\_, they shall be as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ ....”

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow