

St Luke UMC

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

December 1, 2023



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2023 Apportionments

\$15,279



\$5,979

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 \$12,839 which included:

- \$ 180 - Building Fund
- \$ 634 - Apportionments
- \$ 275 - Heifer
- \$ 102 - Christ's Foundry UMC
- \$ 40 - UMCOR Ukraine
- \$ 150 - UMCOR
- \$ 25 - UM Student Day



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 9:00 am - 12:00 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

YouTube: St Luke United Methodist Church

Facebook: St Luke Newton

Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com

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

We will be collecting different focus items each week of Advent and Christmastide this year. Please bring these items with you on Sunday Mornings during this Season of giving.

• 1st Sunday of Advent - November 26th

Focus items: Canned foods.

(ie: soups, veggies, fruit, etc.)

• 2nd Sunday of Advent - December 3rd

Focus items: Boxed foods

(ie: cereals, pastas, mixes, crackers, etc.)

• 3rd Sunday of Advent - December 10th

Focus items: Jelly / Honey / Peanut butter

• 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 give a portion of our bounty to those in need by filling our grocery cart each week during the Advent and Christmas Season. We are the hands and feet of Christ in this world. God Bless you all and those with whom we share our bounty.

Corinne Kleppe , NOW Missions



My Story

My dad used to tell the story of Christmas 1946; following WWII, without many funds for the family, expectations were low for Dad and his siblings. When Christmas Eve arrived, however, Dad and his siblings found gifts under the tree. Dad and his older brother, found a brand new Monarch bicycle in the living room. And a warm couple days following Christmas, during which they learned to ride that bicycle. It was a Christmas memory that he treasured for it's unexpectedness... it's joy...and it's usefulness for the coming years.



It seems to me the same feeling fit the original Christmas story as well.

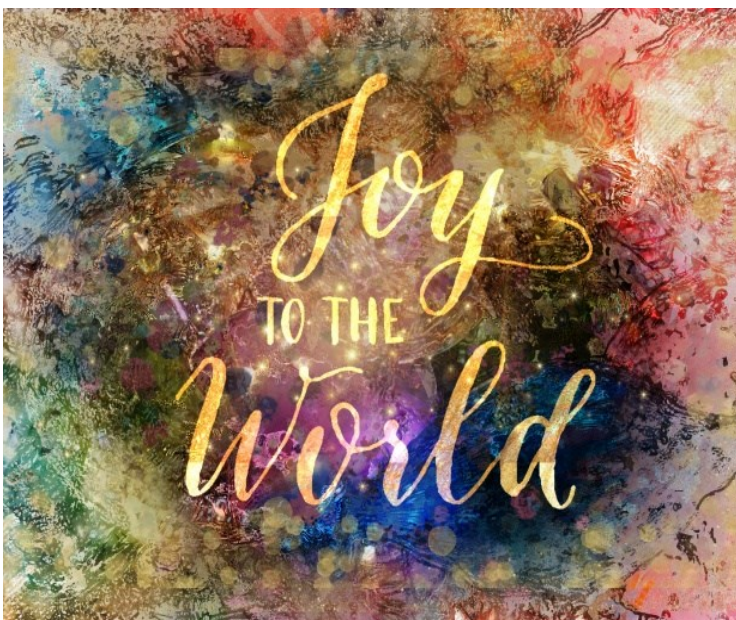
¹³ *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,* ¹⁴ *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”* Luke 2:13-14

Surprise! What an unexpected gift that was given to the shepherds. Who, other than God, would choose a group of ragamuffin shepherds in a field as the first to learn of the Messiah's birth?

²⁰ *And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.* Luke 2:20

What Joy they shared with all who would listen. And perhaps most important, what did this gift change for the future of the shepherds? How will this gift given to us so long ago affect us? Will we, like the shepherds glorify and praise God when we hear the story of the birth of our Messiah? Will we do as the Christmas songs tell us? Will we “Go Tell it on a Mountain?” Will we sing our “Joy to the World”? Will God be pleased with our reception of this gift to the world?

Corinne Kleppe



You are invited to a *Holiday Open House*

Sunday, Dec 10 from 2-5 p.m.
At the Parsonage: 1810 N. 4th Ave E.

We would love to have our
St. Luke family join us for some
food and fellowship.

Chad & Wendy
(Kinnick will NOT be in attendance!)

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 ½ years in Bogota, Columbia with CEPALC, 1 ½ 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



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith

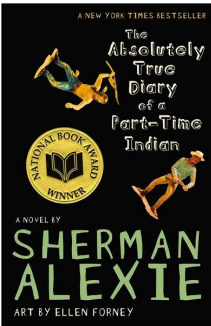
December
No Meeting

*"There are different kinds of gifts,
but the same spirit."* (NIV)
1 Corinthians 12:4

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

The Banned Book Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class has decided to read "banned" books. Our first choice is *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. The book is about a Native American boy who leaves Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white high school in a near farm town.



The book has been described as "heartbreaking, funny and beautifully written." It was written primarily for adolescents, but from USA Today: "Sure to resonate and lift spirits of all ages for years to come."

We invite you to join us. We meet at 10:30 am (following worship) in Room 5, the 3rd room on the left, in the education wing.

Thank You

We'd like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, food, and words of support and encouragement. Your care and concern for us as Austin faced major surgery and weeks of recovery meant so much to us and definitely helped us get through some rough days. We're humbled by your generosity and compassion these past weeks.



Thanks again,
Larry, Deb, and Austin Stoullil

New St Luke Members

We would like to give a warm welcome to our newest members – Jim & Mo Lockwood, who were received into membership on Sunday, November 19. Welcome to the St Luke family Jim & Mo! We are so glad you are here.




Children's Christmas program

Sunday, December 17
During our 9:30 am Worship Service

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.



Discover Hope Supper Club

St. Luke has committed to providing the evening meal for Discover Hope the first Tuesday of every other month. Our next meal will be on December 5. We will be having turkey, dressing, broccoli and cauliflower with cheese sauce, cranberry salad and Christmas cookies for dessert.

If you would like to sign-up to provide food, monetary donations or to help serve the meal there will be a sign-up sheet on the servant's counter. All donations need to be put in the church kitchen by Sunday, December 3. Any questions please contact Joyce Stonehocker or Jan Lewis.




St. Nick's Christmas Club

Spreading Christmas cheer in Jasper County, Iowa, since 1987

St. Nick's Christmas Club

HOHOHO -- St. Nick's Christmas Club is in full swing! Please bring all unwrapped presents from the adoption book back to St Luke by December 3. Feel free to contact Lori Leix with any questions.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 					1	2
Kitchen Rsvd — Preparing for Discover Hope →						
3 9:30 am Worship w/ Communion Sunday School to Follow   <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> Kitchen Rsvd - Preparing for Discover Hope </div>	4 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom 2:15-3:45 pm Tintinnabula- tion Reh. FH Rsvrd	5 5:30pm Discover Hope Meal @ DH	6 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	7 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsvrd	8	9 Quilt Guild Sew Day 9 am - 4 pm FH Rsvrd
10 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow FH Rsvd – After Worship to 4 pm - Daniels Family 	11 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom 2:15-3:45 pm T. Rehearsal FH Rsvrd	12	13  6:30 pm Page Turners Potluck—FH/ Kitchen Rsvrd 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	14 6:30 pm Quilt Guild Xmas Supper FH Rsvrd	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Children’s Sunday School Program FH/Sam’s Place Rsvrd After Worship to 5 pm Patty Family 	18 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom 2:15-3:45 pm T. Rehearsal FH Rsvrd	19	20 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	21	22	23 11 am - 4 pm FH/Sam’s Place Rsvrd— Patty Family
24 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	25  Merry Christmas!	26	27 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	28 FH Rsvrd 3:30-7:30 pm Mills Family	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow New Years Eve						

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
December 3	9:30 AM
Ushers	Amy Murphy
Greeters	Dennis & Pam Smith
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	Frances Mills
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Michelle O'Brien
December 10	9:30 AM
Ushers	Mike & Kleo O'Brien
Greeters	Barb Swihart
Reader	Jan Lewis
Acolyte	Frances Mills
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Camera	Wendy Jennings
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Barb Swihart
December 17	9:30 AM
Ushers	
Greeters	Carolyn Cook
Reader	Dennis Smith
Acolyte	
Keyboard	(Duet) Jan Lewis/Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	
December 24	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters (2)	
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	Payton & Brenna Figland
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	Wendy Jennings
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg

December 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 for our October - December volunteers and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. Most positions are filled now through December 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:



https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSz_oXUhXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing

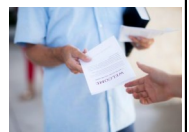
We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help on Sunday mornings. Thank you St Luke Family!

December 24	7:00 PM
Greeters	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	
December 31	9:30 AM
Ushers	
Greeters	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	Wendy Jennings
Care Core	Jenni Patty
Coffee Time	



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 1 - Barb Swihart
- December 4 - Pam Smith
Caleb Leonard
- December 6 - Allen Barr
- December 10 - Marianne Spaur
Mike Wood
- December 14 - Austin Stoullil
- December 15 - Mike Kaldenberg
- December 16 - Larry Howard
- December 19 - Dan Marston
Hannah McConkey
- December 20 - Amy Murphy
- December 24 - Carolyn Cook
- December 28 - Frances Mills



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

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



Did I remember to take the price tag off my gift?




Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

December 24th | 9:30 am & 7 pm



December Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

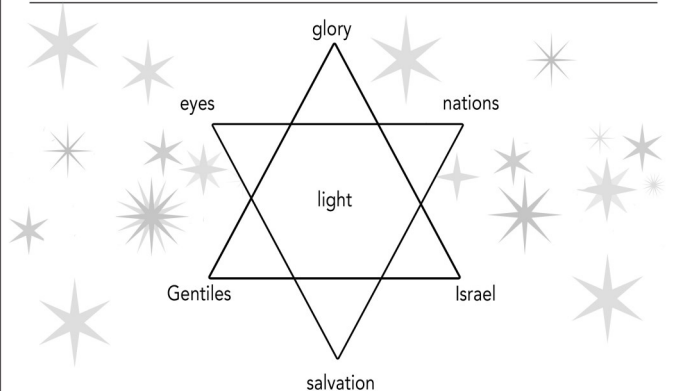
Tuna & Tuna Helper



SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____, and the _____ of your people _____."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, eyes, salvation, nations, light, nations, nations, Israel, Israel