St Luke UMC

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

December 1, 2024

BI-WEEKLY

THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

2024 Apportionments

$16,882

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 $19,540 which included:
$ 280 - Building Fund
$ 8144 - Apportionments
$ 10 - Christ Foundry UMC
$ 460 - Doug Williams—Missionary
$ 10 - Old Mutare Hospital
$ 90 - Heifer International
$ 20 - UMCOR US Disaster Resp.

Where to Find Us

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Fill the Grocery Cart this Advent!

Each week of Advent we will feature a different type of grocery item. Let's fill the grocery cart at St Luke for the Salvation Army Food Pantry!

- **December 1** CANNED GOODS – fruits, veggies, soups… if it's in a can bring it and fill the cart.
- **December 8** BOXED GOODS – pasta, cereal, pudding and jello mixes… if it's in a box bring it and fill the cart.
- **December 15** JARS OR BOTTLES – pickles, spaghetti sauce, cooking oils… if it's in a bottle or jar bring it and fill the cart.
- **December 22** PEANUT BUTTER/JELLY/HONEY - if it's nut butter, jelly, jam, or honey bring it and fill the cart.
- **December 29** PAPER PRODUCTS – facial tissues, paper towels, TP… if it's in a paper product bring it and fill the cart.
- **January 5** ANY ITEMS IN ANY FORMAT… canned, boxed, jarred, bottled, paper… bring it and fill the cart.

Corinne - NOW Missions

Advent/Christmas Offering 2024

This year, the NOW committee has chosen to split our Advent/ Christmas offering between two very worthy Mission recipients – One local and one in Dallas Texas (with local ties). Half of our offering this December will go to the Local Salvation Army, to be used where they need it most. The 2nd Half of the offering will be designated for Christ's Foundry UMC / La Fundicion de Cristo in Dallas Texas. For the past several years, we have chosen to donate to Christ's Foundry -a Missionary Church in Dallas. Their pastor, Rev. Amy Spaur grew up in our midst, she has worked in the mission field for many years. First with the General Board of Global Ministries and most recently as the senior pastor of this Bi-lingual Missionary Church in Dallas.

For more information about each of these recipients, check out their websites: https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org and www.fdcdallas.org

Corinne – NOW Missions

THE SALVATION ARMY DOING THE MOST GOOD

LA FUNDICIÓN DE CRISTO CHRIST'S FOUNDRY MISIÓN METODISTA UNIDA

My Story

We created a path in the snow, alongside the garage… where it wouldn't be seen. Then we snuck up to the door and set the box on the porch, rang the doorbell and ran down our pre-made path, to hide quietly behind the garage. Soon we heard the door open and sounds of excitement and wonder as the box was discovered. We didn't dare move yet… we knew they would be looking for whomever had delivered the box. Finally, we heard the door close and we snuck away to find our way home.

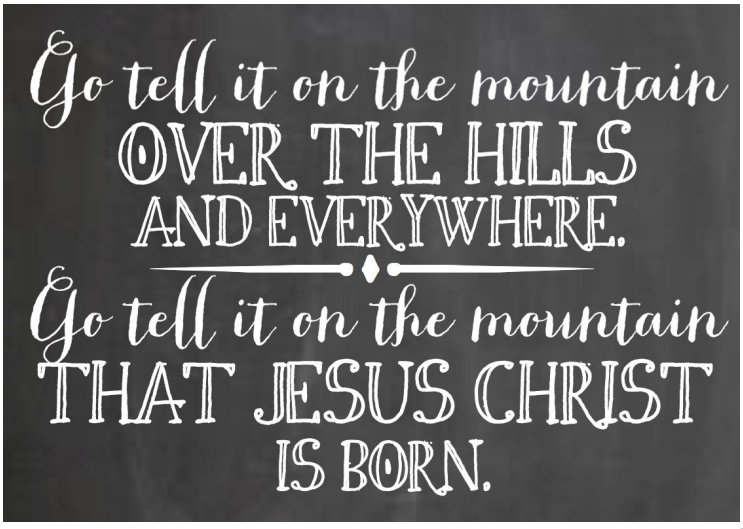
The box we had delivered was full of gifts for each family member, along with a few edible treats for the family. This wasn't our first box… we had been picking a family each year for several years. With excitement we would discuss which family we would choose for the year, selecting their gifts and determining the delivery date. Often, we delivered while the family was at a school or church event, and on this occasion, while the family was home. At times we were even blessed with hearing the stories of their discovery, at school the next day.

We chose families that wouldn't normally be gifted in this way. They weren't people in need of necessities… they weren't people who couldn't purchase their own gifts… they were simply people we wanted to bless with the joy and wonder of the Christmas Season.

The song "Go Tell it on the Mountain" encourages us to "go… over the hills and everywhere… to tell people that Jesus Christ is Born!" The song encourages us to tell everyone! To share the JOY of CHRIST with everyone! This season find a new way to share the Joy of Jesus birth with those around you. Share the Blessing… Share the Joy!

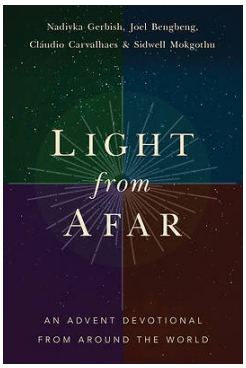
"Down in a lowly manger, our humble Christ was born. And brought us all salvation, that blessed Christmas Morn. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere! Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is Born!"

Merry Christmas,
Corinne Kleppe



Advent Study

We will be doing an Advent Study starting December 2. This study will have both in-person and zoom options. It will be on Monday evenings at 5:30 pm for the in-person option and 6:30 pm for the online zoom study. We will be reading the devotional "Light from Afar" by Nadiyka Gerbish, Joel Bengbeng, Claudio Carvalhaes & Sidwell Mokgothu. Books are $14 and are on the table outside the office. Sign up at the servant's counter if you are interested in joining this study or if you would like a book to read this devotional on your own.



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.

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 1. Feel free to contact Lori Leix with any questions.

United Women in Faith

December
No Meeting

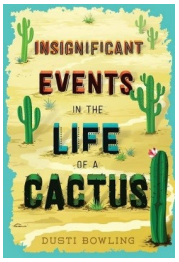
"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (RSV)
1 Peter 4:10

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class is currently reading and discussing the book *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling.

Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.



If you are looking for a class with variety and topical studies, this would be a good class for you. We read the book together, so there is no "homework". There is always room for more to join the conversation. We meet at 10:30 am (following worship) in Room 5, the 3rd room on the left, in the education wing.

Sympathies

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to Pastor Chad & Wendy Jennings and family on the passing of Chad's father, Robert Matthew Benton.

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

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 3. We will be having ham loaf, cornbread, cooked broccoli and cauliflower with cheese sauce, apple 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 1. Any questions please contact Joyce Stonehocker or Jan Lewis.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

Each year The Salvation Army of Jasper County located in Newton serves approximately 300 people in the community. The individuals and families they assist count on them to provide food boxes, back to school supplies and Christmas toy shop and so much more.

Starting November 14 The Salvation Army's red kettles will be located outside a variety of stores and businesses throughout the area. Volunteers stand near the kettle and ring a little bell to capture the attention of people passing by. Many people see them and put money in the kettle or donate to The Salvation Army using their phone.

This year The Salvation Army is in need of bell ringer volunteers. Volunteers can pick the day, time and location where they will be stationed. They can even check back later to see how much money they raised during their shift! Individual registration is quick, easy and available online at www.registertoring.com.

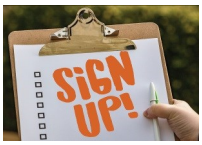
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **9:30 am Worship w/ Communion** **Sunday School to Follow** 	**2** **2:30 pm** **Rm 5 Rsvd** **TR** 5:30 pm In Person Advent Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom** **Advent Study**	**3** Discover Hope Meal 5:30 pm @ DH	**4** **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**5** 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	**6**	**7**
8 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** **Children's Christmas Program** 	**9** **2:30 pm** **Rm 5 Rsvd** **TR** 5:30 pm In Person Advent Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom** **Advent Study**	**10**	**11** 6:30 pm Praise Team **7 pm** **Page Turners** **FH Rsrvd** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**12**	**13** 	**14** **9 am - 4 pm** **Piecemakers** **Sew Day** **FH Rsrvd**
15 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** 	**16** **2:30 pm** **Rm 5 Rsvd** **TR** 5:30 pm In Person Advent Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom** **Advent Study**	**17**	**18** **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**19** **7pm** **Piecemakers Meeting**	**20**	**21**
22 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** 	**23** **2:30 pm** **Rm 5 Rsvd** **TR** 5:30 pm In Person Advent Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom** **Advent Study**	**24** Christmas Eve Services 7 & 11 pm 	**25** **Merry Christmas!**	**26**	**27** 3 - 9 pm FH & Sam's Rsrvd Patty Family	**28** 4 - 8 pm FH Rsrvd Frances Mills Bday Party
29 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow**	**30** **2:30 pm** **Rm 5 Rsvd** **TR**	**31** New Years Eve				

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
December 1	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	David Spiker
Greeters	Carolyn Cook & Allen Barr/ Amy Ryan
Reader	Rose Evans
Acolyte	Teagan McIntyre
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Karen Clark
December 8	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Mike & Michelle O'Brien
Greeters	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	Teagan McIntyre
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Michelle O'Brien
December 15	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters	Joyce Stonehocker
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg
December 22	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	Amy Ryan
Greeters (2)	Joyce Stonehocker
Reader	Dennis Smith
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Hiap Thongvanh

December Worship Assistants

We have had a wonderful response of volunteers for 2024 and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. 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/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhXQL7s/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**
Ushers	
Greeters	
Reader	
Acolyte	Payton & Brenna Figland
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Stephen Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler

December 24	**11:00 PM**
Ushers	
Greeters	Carolyn Cook & Allen Barr
Reader	Jenni Patty
Acolyte	
Keyboard	
Projection	
Camera	

December 29	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Peg Kimberley
Greeters	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty
Coffee Time	

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 Stoulil
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
December 31 - Bea

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 the gift box 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

December Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Tuna & Tuna Helper

CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.
Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	$

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	(	)	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a _ _ _ _ _ (3 8 9 # 4) is _ _ _ _ (2 ^ (%), to us a _ _ _ ( ) ^ %)
is _ _ _ _ _ _ (7 9 > 5 %), and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (3 ^ ? %) 5 # ^ (),
_ _ _ _ _ _ ($ 9 7 8 - ;) God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the
greatness of his government and _ _ _ _ _ (& 5 1 3 5) there will be no _ _ _ (5 % 4).
He will reign on David's _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (- 8 (^ % 5) and over his _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (@ 9 % 7 4 ^ $),
establishing and upholding it with _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (! ?) - 9 3 5) and righteousness
from that time on and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (6 ^ (5 > 5 (). *Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV*

Answers: child, born, son, given, Counselor, Mighty, peace, end, throne, kingdom, justice, forever