

**St Luke UMC**  
**501 E 19th Street N**  
**Newton, IA 50208**  
**641-792-5736**

**December 2018**

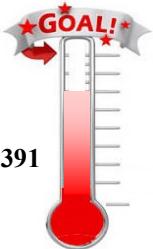


# THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

**2018 Apportionment**

**\$25,591**



\$14,391  
with present expenses as well as being able to continue the upgrades to the church building.

We still have a little ways to go to achieve our 2018 apportionment goals. We are making progress, and we still have the month of December to give to this portion of our budget. St. Luke has a long history of meeting our goal of 100% in apportionment payments. This is something that we at St. Luke can be proud of. Not all churches of the Iowa Conference make their goals. For example, in 2017, apportionment payments statewide to the Iowa Conference, were about 80%. 2018 is projected to be about the same. For St. Luke UMC to be 100% for so many years is a tribute to your generous giving. We have confidence that we will once again make our goal.

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

St. Luke Financial Committee



"The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart."

—Helen Keller

**Financial Update**

We are quickly approaching the end of the 2018 fiscal year. The congregations' giving this year has been very generous. We have been able to keep up

**"No Cookie" Cookie Sale  
Coming after Thanksgiving**

No Cookie Cookie Sale? That's right! This year, St. Luke will have *no cookies* at their cookie sale. Sounds weird, right? Well, we thought, who has time to bake cookies? Who wants to clean their kitchen?

Instead, we would like for everyone to give directly. Think about the time, the energy, and the ingredients you would buy. Think about what that is worth and give that money directly to St. Luke.



For those out there that haven't baked for us, those who burn everything they put in the oven, and those who wouldn't think of touching an icing bag, this is your chance to be a No-Baker with us.

Be sure to get your bucket if you haven't gotten one yet and place your cookie money in it. You may bring it back on either of the first two Sundays in December. This money will go toward mission giving through Connectional Giving (apportionments).

Then, you will get to take your bucket home with you again for our Christmas offering, which is for the Salvation Army and their fund to help people with utilities, rent, gas, etc. It will now become your own personal Red Kettle. This is an important mission and the way in which we help people who seek assistance.



Have some fun with this. Put it on your dinner table. Share it with your family and friends. Thank you for sharing God's love this Christmas season.

**Christmas Eve Services**

**7 pm Candlelight Service**

**11 pm Candlelight & Communion Service**



## SpaceX, Christmas, and the shortest of nights.

Last week, without much press or fanfare, SpaceX launched a rocket into space carrying a communications satellite. This happened without much fanfare because satellites have become such a part of our lives that we often don't think about them. We don't think about how we use them every minute of every day. Without satellites, we wouldn't know what time it is, where we are, or what's happening in the world. We've come to rely on them to keep precise control on much of our lives, from banking to GPS to television broadcasting. Life would be vastly different without them.

The amazing thing about last week's launch wasn't that a satellite was carried from the earth to orbit, but that it was done on a rocket that had already been used. The booster rocket was then recovered on a remote ocean platform to be used again in a short amount of time. This is a technological marvel and is one of the things that is necessary to make travel to Mars feasible in our future.

Now, whether you think we will set foot on Mars, or whether you think it is possible or even advised, the quest to put people on Mars is a quest of perpetual hope. In order to accomplish this, scientists, astronauts, and even companies like SpaceX have had to have more hope than practicality to get beyond the failures, beyond the loss of property and life, beyond the obstacles that stand in the way of the ultimate goal: Mars.

That hope is a deep part of us. Hope is one of the things that makes us human. From an early age, we engage in perpetual hope. Hope is what we see in the faces of children as they look at wrapped packages, hoping that what they asked for is hidden beneath the colorful paper and the anonymous shape of a cardboard box.

That hope of an unopened present is a reminder of the hope that we have at Christmas. In the early centuries after Christ, followers took the celebration of the Winter Solstice and turned it into a hopeful celebration of the gift of Jesus. As we get closer to Christmas, the days will become shorter and the nights longer until December 21. For many, the long periods of darkness is hard to live through. Even if we don't realize it, the



darkness affects our mood, our sleep patterns, and our outlook on life.

To counter this, celebrations took place as the days started to become longer. Families would get together and celebrate the hope of the light returning to the earth and the joy we would experience with the almost perpetual night over at last.

Christians had a different take on this. They saw the symbol of the return of the light as a reminder of Jesus, the light of the world. They recalled the opening of the Gospel of John, *In the beginning was the Word...The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.* Christmas is the time when things seem darkest, but the hope of the light is upon us and the almost perpetual night is over at last.

In a world that always seems to have something happening that brings darkness over the world, Christmas reminds us that Jesus is more powerful than the darkness. Jesus is the light that shines through the darkness and brings us hope for a future that is always more powerful than whatever is happening now.

And that is something that all humans need. Hope is built into us. It is what gives us the drive to explore new worlds. It is what gives us the ability to have families and to dream for their future. It is what keeps us going when we are confronted by obstacles and failures.

In the midst of this season, keep watch for signs of hope and cherish that gift every chance you get.

Pastor Chad



You are invited to a

### Holiday Open House

Sunday, Dec 9 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, Nathan, and Abby*

(Kinnick will NOT be in attendance!)



## United Methodist Women

December 19

1:15 pm

St Luke UMC

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*

John 1:5 NRSV

Program: Incarnation: The Sacred Space of God With/In Us By Martha Stewart

Hostess: Wendy Jennings

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

## Sunday School Mission offering Now – December 2018

Tornados, hurricanes, floods, fires and lava, natural disasters that displace families and businesses. Through UMCOR's Disaster Relief fund, we are able to aide the victims of these disasters. Our funds pooled together with the gifts from others provide materials, food, assistance, human power, and so much more to those in need. Our Sunday School Mission offering for the last 4 months of the year ( 2-5<sup>th</sup> Sundays ) will be split between national and international disaster relief.

As always the First Sunday of every month the Sunday school offering goes toward our Sunday school administration and supplies.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW – Missions Chair

## "Our Purpose" conversation December 3 @ 7 pm

These conversations are a part of discerning "Our Way Forward" and are for those who care about St. Luke and its mission in the world. They are for those who care about the United Methodist Church. They are for those who care about what God wants for the world. They are for you. Come be a part of the conversation. There will be another session offered on January 14.

Sign-up at the Servant's Counter or just show up and be a part of the Conversation.



## December Salvation Army Pantry Request

Jello, Pudding, & Canned Fruit

## News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

As we enter the season of Advent we find ourselves about to get caught in the crunch of the season. A fine way to keep the balance is by winding down with a good Christmas book. Our little library in the corner has books for children as well as adults. Let the kids pick a few books to help explain the reason for the season in stories and pictures. Then choose a book for yourself, too. You can find heart-warming stories of Christmas faith and miracles as well as faith forming books, too. There are too many titles to list, but you will find adult books on the Seasonal Books shelf and kids books displayed on the low shelf under the window as well as in the seasonal section below. Check it out!



# Silent Auction

The current silent auction fundraiser will gavel to an end the third Sunday of December. We have had some wonderfully generous and appealing items up for bid. The total contributed to the building renovation fund through this endeavor was around \$500 for the month of November. Please consider what skills or possessions you may have to share through this activity to help improve the missions of St. Luke United Methodist Church. We can tentatively plan on each silent auction ending the **third Sunday** of the month. We appreciate **YOU** for bidding on the offered items and your donations to the table.



This beautiful wall plaque is available in the December auction!



## Clothing Drive for MMDC

Our next mission work trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL is set for January 20-23. We are collecting warm winter clothing to send with the group. If you have questions on what is needed, please contact Joyce Stonehocker.

Warm winter coats - all sizes

Hats & scarves

Mittens & gloves

Warm socks

Boots





## My Story

Do you remember the joy you felt as a child, when the first snowflakes began to drift down? It evoked a sense of wonder and added to the excitement of the coming Christmas season. Growing up in Northeast Iowa, the snow was often a signal that the decorations would soon be appearing. With those decorations comes the story of Jesus' birth, and the beginning of the most amazing and wonderful love story ever experienced.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* John 1:1

The Word ... was and is Jesus!

The Word ...the love of God for this world.

The Word... the promise of Grace.

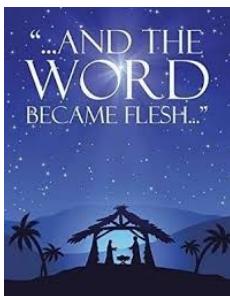
The Word... the greatest love ever known.

The Word... the greatest love ever shown.

The Word...the JOY given to us all in the form of a baby born in a stable and laid in a manger. The Joy of the World and To the world. JESUS!

Merry Christmas! And GOD Bless us all.

Corinne Kleppe - Editor



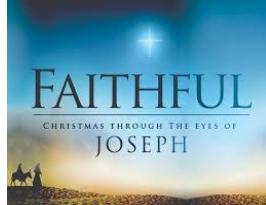
"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."

—Janice Maeditere

## Advent Study

The Advent study, "*Faithful: Christmas Through The Eyes Of Joseph*" by Adam Hamilton. This examines Christmas through the eyes of Joseph, a humble carpenter. Joseph provides us with a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

There are 2 groups to choose to meet with. The one group will meet at the home of Katie Jones on Mondays beginning on November 26 at 1:30 pm. The Adult-2 Class will also be doing the study and invite you to join them the first four Sundays in December at 9:15 am.



 <b>St. Luke</b> <i>Seasons OF THE Spirit</i>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> Sunday School Class meets 9:15 a.m. in the choir room
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**Welcoming the Goodness of God**  
*Discerning how we might bear God's love into the world:*  
*Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)*

The news that Zacharias, whose wife, Elizabeth, was past child-bearing age, was (at last) going to become a parent was revealed to that priest by the messenger angel Gabriel while Zacharias was working in the temple. Because he responded to the angel with disbelief, Gabriel declared Zacharias would be unable to speak until the fulfillment of his words occurred.

Shortly thereafter Zacharias returned home and Elizabeth did become pregnant. (Elizabeth avoided public contact for the next five months.) Six months after Zacharias's encounter with the angel Gabriel, the angel made another appearance -- this time with Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, a descendent of King David.

Mary traveled to the hill country in the province of Judah to visit her cousins, Elizabeth and Zacharias. The moment Mary was seen and greeted Elizabeth, Elizabeth felt her baby "leap in her womb" for joy. Without Mary uttering a word, Elizabeth knew of Mary's "calling" to become the mother of the Lord's fulfillment of prophecy.

Verses 46-55, commonly known as *Mary's Song* or the *Magnificat*, show her response is different to the angel's news, than Zacharias's response of disbelief to the angel. The verses quoting Mary are poetic, speaking of a reversal of roles. *The rulers... God has brought down low.... Those who were humble and lowly, God has elevated with dignity...*



The Seasons of the Spirit **Bible Study** Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 to read about and discuss issues related to each week's prescribed lectionary readings. Please feel **welcome** to come join in the learning - every Sunday morning - after the 8 o'clock service, or before the 10:30 service!

Below are the lectionary scriptures that the Sunday school class participants will be learning about each week in December. Consider taking the time to read these scriptures at home!

### ◊ Lectionary Readings for December 2018 ◊

- **December 2: Jeremiah 33:14-16 | Sprouting Leaves**  
*To live with trust and hope in God's reign now and toward the future.*
- **December 9: Luke 1:68-79 | The Sound of a Promise Kept**  
*To live towards God's reign in hope and expectation.*
- **December 16: Luke 3:7-18 | Collide with a Promise Kept**  
*To discern, in John's message, guidance for faithful living*
- **December 23: Luke 1:39-45, 46-55**  
*Welcoming the Goodness of God*  
*To discern how we might bear God's love into the world.*
- **December 30: Psalm 148 | Universal Glory**  
*To celebrate the awesomeness of God with all creation.*

## MMDC Mission Trips

This coming winter we have two work trips scheduled at Midwest Mission Distribution Center at Chatham, IL, January 20-23, 2019 and February 24-27, 2019. It is time to think about signing up to go. There are opportunities for people of all skill levels, from sorting, counting, and assembling kits, to sewing, woodworking, sewing machine repair and more. If you are willing to go, they will find a job for you! You will be impressed when you see the scope of the work done there and hear about the world wide network they have developed for mission work.

We will be staying on site in the dorm and preparing some of our own food while at the center. We will travel Sunday afternoon, work 2-1/2 days and travel home Wednesday. There is some financial commitment and a deposit of \$62 (payable to MMDC) is needed by November 25 for the January trip and by December 30 for the February trip. Contact Karen Clark with questions or comments. Sign up at the Servant's Counter to reserve a place on either or both of these trips.



## Tintinnabulation Bells

Come and Hear Sounds of the Season performed by Tintinnabulation Hand Bell Ensemble on Wednesday, December 5 at 6 pm at the Newton Public Library.



## Christmas Caroling

The Chancel Choir invites you to join them for Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 12 at 6 pm. Meet at St Luke for a short rehearsal, then carpool to a couple of nursing homes and individual homes in the community to sing. Following the caroling, the Onstot's invite you to come to their home at 421 W 3rd St S for snacks.



## Christmas offering – December 16 – 30

Remember to fill your families' red bucket for the 2018 Christmas offering. The funds received in the Christmas offering will be given to the Jasper County Salvation Army.



NEWS  
LETTER

## Want a printed copy of the Newsletter?

Printed copies of the Newsletter are available at the church. They can be found on the table by the church office.

## Days For Girls

There will be no meeting in December due to the Holidays. The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, January 24 from 9 am-2 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans or Karen Clark.



## St Luke News

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our St. Luke family during the passing of our Dad, Grandpa and Husband. The outpouring of support and love has been heart-warming, to say the least. It was so good to be able to say our goodbyes in this wonderful, comfortable place we call our church home. Thank you to the ladies of UMW for supplying our family and friends with a wonderful lunch. And thank you to Pastor Chad for giving us the words of comfort we so needed to hear. Thanks to our beautiful, talented members and friends, Jan & Dale, for saying yes so easily when we asked if they would provide the music. St. Luke has been 'home' to our family for over 50 years. We are blessed to be a part of this congregation.

Love & Blessings,  
The Family of Dean Diamond

Thank you to all that contributed food and volunteered to help prepare and serve the meal at Trinity UMC for CFUM on October 29. 140 people were served a delicious meal of chili and corn bread.

We received your organization's contribution of \$822 to Women at the Well UMC. We are humbled by the generous support of organizations like yours who give to keep this ministry going.

We are a mission congregation. The women inside the prison will never be able to fund the costs of this ministry. With less than 35% of our annual budget being supported by various grants, many of which are diminishing during these difficult economic times, we depend on organizations like yours to make this ministry possible. Thank you so very much!

Lee A. Schott, Pastor  
Women at the Well UMC

## RECYCLING CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It is that time of year when you may be bringing out your Christmas lights. If you are like many, there may be some strands which no longer function as desired.

**Do not throw them away.** Take the non-working lights to St. Luke to be **RECYCLED**. Place your non-working light strings in the *marked box* located in the narthex.

Share this information. Set an example for others that members of St. Luke care about our legacy and **Reducing-Reusing-Recycling!**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <b>8/10:30 Worship - Communion</b>  9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Advent Study 	<b>3</b> 1:30 pm Advent Study @ Katie Jones' Apartment  <b>SHARE Orders due</b>  <b>7pm "Our Purpose" Conversation</b>	<b>4</b> 7 pm PEO - F Hall	<b>5</b>  6 pm Tintinnabulation Bells @ Newton Public Library	<b>6</b> <b>6:30 pm Trustees meeting</b>	<b>7</b> 	<b>1</b> 1-5 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing @ Fareway 
<b>9</b> <b>8/10:30 Worship</b> 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Advent Study 2-5 pm Open House @ The Jennings'  	<b>10</b> <b>1:30 pm Advent Study @ Katie Jones' Apartment</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>6 pm Christmas Caroling</b> 7 pm Page Turners Book Club	<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b>  10 am-6 pm St Nick Distribution Day	<b>15</b> 7:30 am SHARE Pickup @ 1st UMC 
<b>16</b> <b>8/10:30 Worship</b> 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Advent Study 6 pm ICIW @ Mitchellville 	<b>17</b> <b>1:30 pm Advent Study @ Katie Jones' Apartment</b>	<b>18</b> <b>7 pm Trustees Meeting</b>	<b>19</b> <b>1:15 pm UMWomen @ St Luke</b> <b>6:30 pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:15 pm Choir Practice</b>	<b>20</b> 7pm Quilt Guild - F Hall 7 pm NAMI - Choir Room	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>8/10:30 Worship</b> 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Advent Study 12-5 pm Church Reserved 	<b>24</b>  <b>Christmas Eve Services 7 &amp; 11 pm</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Merry Christmas!</b>	<b>26</b> <b>No Praise Team</b> <b>No Choir Practice</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9 am-2 pm Church Reserved
<b>30</b> <b>8/10:30 Worship</b> 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	<b>31</b>					

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

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<b>December 2</b>		
	<b>8 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Larry/Darlyne Howard	Dennis/Pam Smith
Greeters	Rose Hartschen	Karen Clark
Reader	Karen Dorrell	Pat Patty
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Ava Smith
Nursery	Parents take turns	Doug McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Corinne Kleppe	Corinne Kleppe
Projection	Brad Patty	Jacob Murphy
Fellowship	Ann Leonard	Amy Murphy
Care Core	Barb Swihart	Amy Murphy
Communion	Ann Leonard	Counters Jan Lewis/Deb Stouil
<b>December 9</b>		
	<b>8 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Katie Jones/Lori Leix
Greeters	Bill/Linda Hotger	Jeff/Amy Murphy
Readers	Barb Kaldenberg	Mikey Carter
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Pat Patty
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Praise Team	Praise Team
Projection	Peg Ehler	Wendy Jennings
Fellowship	Mike/Barb Kaldenberg	Jenna McIntyre
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Lisa Marston
Counters		Brad Patty/Russ Leix
<b>December 16</b>		
	<b>8 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Pageler Family	Mike/Kleo O'Brien
Greeters	Larry/Darlyne Howard	Lori Leix
Readers	Russ Leix	Amy Murphy
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Mikey Carter
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Pam Smith
Fellowship	Jean Schnell	Katie Jones
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Counters		Barb Kaldenberg/ Pat Patty
<b>December 23</b>		
	<b>8 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Tamara Lloyd/ Chuck Springer	Doug/Jenna McIntyre
Greeters	Mike/Barb Kaldenberg	Shirley Guillaume
Readers	Mary Onstot	Corinne Kleppe
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Abby Jennings
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Mary/Amy Onstot	Mary/Amy Onstot
Projection	Peg Ehler	Karen Clark
Fellowship	Rose Hartschen	Katie Jones
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Marianne Spaar
Counters		Jan Lewis/Deb Stouil

## Where to Find Us

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**Article Submission** by the 13th of month.  
**Website:** [www.stlukenevton.com](http://www.stlukenevton.com)  
**Website Manager:** Stephen Pageler  
**Facebook:** St Luke Newton



<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>11 PM</b>
Ushers		Jennings Family
Greeters	D/J McIntyre	D/J McIntyre
Keyboard	Jan Lewis	Bev Thomas
Special	Allen Barr M/A Onstot	Allen Barr M/A Onstot
Projection		Carolyn Cook
Communion	-----	Wendy Jennings
Counters	-----	B Patty
<b>Dec 30</b>	<b>8 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Mike/Barb Kaldenberg	Mary Nelson/ Rose Evans
Greeters	Chuck Springer	Roy/Pat Patty
Readers	Dale Dorrell	Jenni Patty
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Ava Smith
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer needed
Keyboard	Jan Lewis	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Peg Ehler	Carolyn Cook
Fellowship	Pam Stiles	Katie Jones
Care Core	Tamara Lloyd	Jenni Patty
Counters		Rose Evans/ Brad Patty

## 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**

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



**Newsletter**

If you know someone that would like to receive the monthly Newsletter via email, please send their name and email address to the church office to be placed on the email list, at: [Worship@StLukeNewton.com](mailto:Worship@StLukeNewton.com).

## **SHARE Food Program**

Buying discounted groceries through SHARE is an easy way to stretch your food budget. You can check out and order online for the program at [www.SHAREIOWA.com](http://www.SHAREIOWA.com), or call First UMC. "SHARE boxes" can be ordered by Monday, November 5 and picked up at First UMC on Saturday, November 17, between 7:30-8:30 am, when you can also order and pay for the next month.



**“Yes, it’s beautiful — but can we talk about its placement?”**

## **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 or listen to the radio for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.

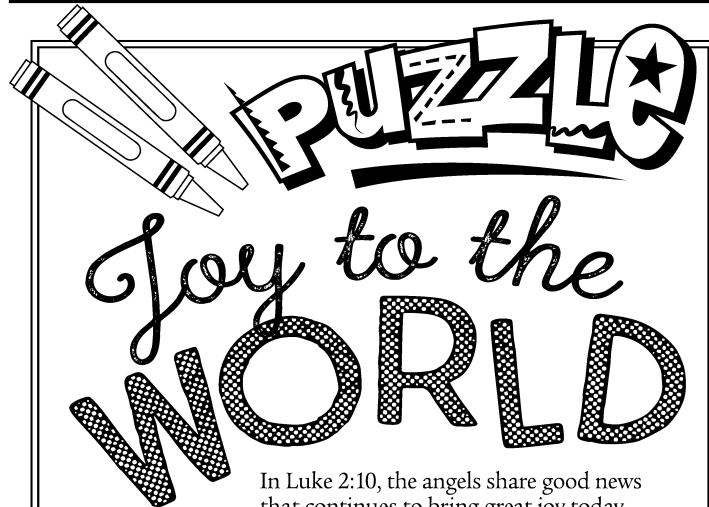


# Many happy returns

Somewhat, not only for Christmas,  
But all the long year through,  
The joy that you give to others,  
Is the joy that comes back to you.  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to you glad.

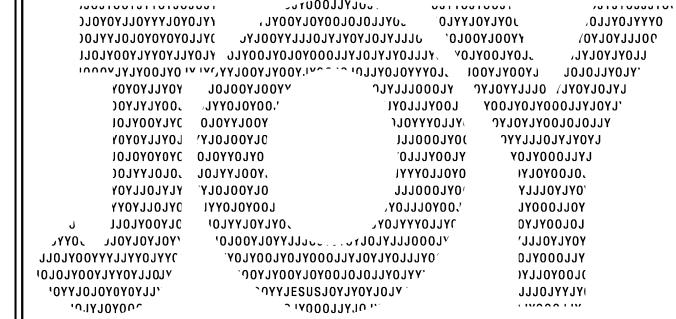


—John Greenleaf Whittier



In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

*Directions: Circle all the complete small "joy" words — forward only.  
Count the total. Bonus: See if you can find "Jesus" amid all the joy!*



TOTAL JOY= \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: 36 (10 in the J, 15 in the O, 11 in the Y); Jesus is at the bottom of the large O