



ST. LUKE NEWS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024



Pastor's Letter

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As we gather in the spirit of Advent, a season of hope and anticipation, we reflect on the recent presidential election. We are grateful for the peaceful, accessible, and fair election process and for the many people who worked diligently to uphold these values. Living in a nation where the freedom to vote and express one's conviction is cherished is a blessing.

While the election's outcome may evoke a range of emotions within us, it's important to remember that we are united in our faith. Our shared beliefs and values bind us together, providing a sense of connection and reassurance. Some may feel hopeful and content, while others may be grappling with uncertainty, sadness, or a sense of loss. We can find comfort in God's unwavering love and care for us in these moments. Regardless of our circumstances, He is our constant source of strength, hope, and assurance.

Amid political and social uncertainty, let us find solace in God's eternal promises. His kingdom is not of this world, and His plans for us are filled with hope and a future. Let us seek peace in the assurance that God's love transcends all human divisions and conflicts. This comforting truth gives us hope for a brighter future, a future where we can overcome our differences and stand united in His love.

As we journey through this Advent season together, let us continue to support and encourage one another. Remember, we are not alone in our feelings and experiences. We are a united community, a family bound by our faith and love for Christ. Our shared experiences and support for each other offer a beacon of hope to those around us. We can find strength in our faith and trust in God's perfect plan.

As we immerse ourselves in this Advent season, our hearts may be filled with renewed hope and peace. Let us rejoice in the coming of our Savior, who brings light to our darkest days and hope to our deepest despair.

With hope and love,

Your Pastor
Ivan Milosi



We will be sending the boxes that you all contributed to the end of November. Thank you all for providing items. This will be an ongoing project. There is a list of items needed in the narthex or you can call the church office and we can send you a copy.

Outreach Projects for November and December

We will be taking up an offering during services on November 17th and November 24th for Matt Talbot and Salvation Army Toy Store.

Matt Talbot has a new service – Household Pantry

This service allows individuals to choose items that fit their unique preferences and needs, empowering them to take charge of their own transition—enhancing their sense of autonomy, self-reliance, and dignity—all at no cost to them. Your donation can provide a fresh start for someone in need.

Salvation Army Toy Store

We will be collecting toys for the Salvation Army Toy Store again this year. The toys donated will go help provide gifts for children who would otherwise go without. If you don't like to shop, you can donate and our Youth Group will do the shopping for you. There will be a tree in the narthex that you can place your unwrapped toys under. We need all toys there by Sunday, December 15th.

Hanging of the Greens – November 23rd

4:00pm to 6:00pm

Please join us for making some crafts and decorating the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. **This event is for all ages!!** After all crafts and decorating are done, we will all gather for a potluck fellowship meal. Please bring something to share. Drinks will be provided.

Peoples City Mission Mitten

Hat, and Sock Drive

We will be collecting mittens, hats, and socks for the Peoples City Mission. Help us provide some warmth to those in need. There will be a place for these items in the fellowship hall.



Our theme for Sunday School this year is:



BUILT TO BE TOGETHER



BUILDING CHRISTMAS

Children's Christmas program will be during the 10:30am worship service on December 8th with a lunch following for all Sunday School kids and their families.

We will be taking a break from Children's Sunday School on December 22nd and December 29th and will resume on January 5th. Our Youth (6th to 12th grade) will be helping serve at the 10:30am service on January 5th.

On January 12th we will have a pajama day where all kids can wear their warm pajamas if they want.



Fellowship Hall of Wreaths

We would like to decorate the Fellowship Hall with Christmas Wreaths, decorated by the families of St. Luke.

If your family would like to bring a wreath, decorated with items that represent your family, interests, or just with Christmas cheer, that would be wonderful. We would like to have wreaths at the church as soon as you can get them to us. **THANK YOU!!**



Pastor plans to have 3 Bible Studies in 2025. Information will be coming in January or February on when the first study will begin and the topic.

Do you have an idea for a Bible Study?? Please send your ideas to Pastor Ivan.



Thank you to all who came to our Festival of Tables. A HUGE THANK YOU to Karen Karr Ammons and Shirley Gibson for organizing this event and preparing all the yummy goodies. We made a profit of a little over \$2,000!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Dale Robertson for heading up our "Giving Thanks" Dinner! We also want to thank all that came on Saturday and Sunday to help prepare!!

A Thank you to our Youth who brought a plate of food to us! The food was great and we had a great time in fellowship! We made a profit of around \$880.



Thank you to all who came and supported the Festival of Tables and Giving Thanks Dinner. The profits that we made from these events have helped, however we still need to hold more fundraisers. Our insurance rates have gone way up and we had to replace one of our furnace/air conditioning units. Please call the church office if you have any ideas on fundraisers.



**NEW FUNDRAISER
RADA CUTLERY**

There are catalogs and order forms in the narthex. If you would like to place an order and don't have a catalog, you can look online and call the church office or email Nancy at nancy@stlukelincn.org with your order! We will be sending in an order the end of November so we can get items back in time for Christmas. However, this will be an ongoing fundraiser so you can order any time.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!



Sermon by Phone

Pastor Ivan is recording his sermon weekly. It will be available by Tuesday of each week. To listen to phone sermon dial 1-402-261-0345.



Text announcements will remind you when livestream is starting on Sunday morning, special events, when we have to cancel church or events due to weather, etc.

Please sign up so we can keep you informed.

1. Open your text messaging app on your phone.
2. Start a new message.
3. In the spot where you put the person's phone number (To:) type: 43506
4. In the spot where you type the message, type the word: announce.
5. Press send.
6. If you did it correctly, you should get a response within a minute that says, "Welcome to St. Luke UMC announcements."



LIVE STREAM

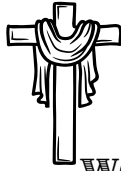
How to Access the Live Stream
(Step by Step)
Computer Access

1. Turn on computer.
2. Open web browser. (ie. Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer)
3. Click into the address bar at the top of the screen.
4. Type www.stlukelincn.org and press enter.
5. Scroll down and click on the red underlined phrase which says, "CLICK HERE FOR THE LIVESTREAM." This will take you to our YouTube channel.
6. You are able to leave comments on the right. (You will need to sign in to leave a comment.)

Phone Access

1. On your phone you can follow the same steps as above.
2. If you don't already have the YouTube app on your phone, it may ask you to install it. Once installed, follow the steps above again and it should open the YouTube page and click on the video with the red "live" next to it.

WORSHIP



Sunday Services 8:30am & 10:30am

Communion is the first & third Sunday of each Month.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Sunday, November 24th

Theme: Thanksgiving
Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-15

Sunday, December 1st

Theme: Hope - "Prepare the Way:
He is Near"
Scripture: Luke 1:1-25

Sunday, December 8th

Theme: Love - "Prepare the Way:
He is Among Us"
Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 15th

Theme: Peace - "Prepare the Way:
He Shows Us His Favor"
Scripture: Luke 1:39-59

Sunday, December 22nd

Theme: Joy - "Prepare He the Way: He is Glorified"
Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 29th

Theme: "The Results of the Gifts"
Scripture: Romans 6:15-23

Sunday, January 5th

Theme: "Faith in Action"
Scripture: James 1:22-25; Matthew 7:24-27

Sunday, January 12th

Theme: "Faith in Relationship"
Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12; Romans 12:10

**Join us for
Christmas Eve Worship Services
Dec 24th 4pm & 7pm only
(Communion at all services)**



Ushers, Communion Servers, and Advent Candle Lighters and Readers will be needed for both Christmas Worship Services. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Will you consider if this is something you could help with?



- Alcohol Anonymous meets every Wednesday - 6:30pm
- Al -Anon meets every Thursday - 11am
- Men's Fellowship meets every Thursday - 7am at Hy-Vee
- Women's Fellowship meets at 10am on Nov 18 and Dec 2
- Choir practices on Wednesday evenings - 7pm

November 18 - Care Team Meeting - 7pm

November 23rd - Hanging of the Greens,
followed with a potluck dinner - 4pm

November 27th - No Choir practice

December 8 - Children's Christmas Program - 10:30am,
followed with a fellowship dinner for SS Families

December 15 - Christmas Cantata presented by Choir - 8:30 & 10:30am

December 16 - Women's Fellowship Salad Brunch - 11am

January 14th - Leadership Board 7pm



ST. LUKE MUSIC MINISTRY

Christmas Cantata - December 15th

Our choir needs more people!! Anyone who likes to sing can participate in Choir, and new singers are welcome to join at any time! They rehearse every Wednesday at 7pm. Come and see how much fun it is to sing and fellowship with others!

Do you have a gift of music to share? If you would like to perform special music at a Christmas Eve Service (4pm or 7pm), please let Pastor Ivan or Nancy McMeen know.