



# ST. LUKE NEWS

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

### Pastor's Letter



Dear Church Family,

As the leaves turn and the daylight shortens, we're reminded that life is always in motion. Seasons shift without asking our permission, and so do many parts of our lives. Headlines rise and fall; policies change; prices climb; vocations pivot; relationships stretch; bodies age. Many of us feel it: social currents moving faster than we remember, political conversations sharper than we'd like, and economic pressures that make simple decisions heavier than they used to be.

These changes are not all good. They can bring frustration when plans unravel, anxiety when budgets tighten, fatigue when the news cycle never rests, and loneliness when disagreements fracture the community. Some of us are carrying questions that do not sleep: Will my job be secure? Will our leaders choose wisdom? Will our children and grandchildren be okay? What will tomorrow cost, and what will it require of me? Change has a way of rattling the soul.

And yet, in the very middle of it all, there is a more ancient, sturdier truth:

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." (Lamentations 3:22–23)

Seasons turn, but God does not. Economies fluctuate, but God's character does not. Leaders come and go, but "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) Our hope is not anchored to polls, prices, or predictions; it is anchored to a faithful God who keeps his promises. God's faithfulness is a living power. Because God is faithful, we can pray honestly without pretending we are fine; be generous even in tight seasons, trusting that our security is in the Giver and not the gift; listen charitably and speak gently, embodying Christ's love in a polarized time; and gather around Word and Table, in small groups and service, so that none of us bears our burdens alone.

As a church, let's lean into practices that form our faithfulness: weekly worship, daily Scripture and prayer, open-handed service to our neighbors, and steady encouragement of one another. If you need prayer, counsel, or simply a listening ear, please reach out. You are not alone. Seasons will keep changing. Our lives will keep unfolding. But the One who holds us is unchanging, unfailing, and good. New mercies await you tomorrow morning.

Grace and peace in Christ,  
Rev. Ivan M. Milosi



## ST LUKE NOVEMBER & DECEMBER OUTREACH EVENTS

**Thank you all for your contributions to Operation Christmas Child. We will be sending the boxes that you all contributed to the end of November.**

We will be taking up an offering during services on November 16<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup> for Matt Talbot and the Salvation Army Toy Store.

### Blankets for Matt Talbot

During the month of November, we're collecting new and gently used (clean) blankets for Matt Talbot's Household Pantry. The Pantry 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 & dignity --all at no cost to them. Your donation can provide a fresh start for someone in need.

### Salvation Army Toy Drive

Between Nov 15 - Dec 14, bring new, unwrapped toys to the church. Donated toys help provide gifts for children who would otherwise go without. If you don't like to shop you can donate money and our Youth Group will do the shopping for you. Toys can be for all ages, but older youth items are especially needed. All toys need to be here by Dec 14th.

### New Hats, Gloves, Mittens and Socks are Needed

We're collecting new gloves, hats, mittens and socks for the Peoples City Mission to help provide some warmth to those in need. There will be a place for these items in the Fellowship Hall Nov 15 - Dec 21.

### 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!!



## CALENDAR

- Alcohol Anonymous meets every Wednesday - 6:30pm
- Al-Anon meets every Thursday - 11am
- Men's Fellowship meets every Thursday - 7am at HyVee
- Women's Fellowship meets at 10am on the 3rd Monday of each month at Hy-Vee (Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 19)
- Choir practices on Wednesday evenings - 7pm

Nov 15 - Annual District Charge Conference 2pm - 4pm - Christ UM Church (4530 "A")

Nov 16 - Giving Thanks Dinner (serving begins at 11am)

Dec 14 - 10:30am Worship Service - Children's Annual Christmas Program

Dec 21 - 8:30 & 10:30am Worship Services - Choir presents Christmas Cantata

Dec 24 - 4 & 7pm - Christmas Eve Worship Services



### Christmas Worship Schedule

#### Join us for Christmas Eve Worship Services

Dec 24th 4pm & 7pm  
(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. Please call the church office if you can help.

**THANK YOU!**



There will not be a Hanging of the Greens event this year, but help is still needed decorating our church for the Christmas season.

If you can help, please contact the church. We usually start this process right after Thanksgiving.



## WORSHIP

Sunday Services 8:30am & 10:30am

Communion is the first and third Sunday of each Month.

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent 1- Hope	<b>Sunday, November 30, 2025</b> Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9; Luke 1:26-38 Theme: A Shoot from a Stump --A Sign of Hope	Prophecy Candle (Purple)
Advent 2- Peace	<b>Sunday, December 7, 2025</b> Scripture: Isaiah 27:1-6, Matthew 3:1-12 Theme: From Repentance to Growth	Bethlehem Candle (Purple)
Advent 3- Joy	<b>Sunday, December 14, 2025</b> Scripture: Isaiah 41:17-20, Luke 1:46-55 Theme: From Wilderness of Despair to Flourishing of Joy 10:30am Worship Service - Children's Christmas Program	Shepherds' Candle (Pink)
Advent 4- Love	<b>Sunday, December 21, 2025</b> Scripture: Isaiah 37:26-32; Matthew 1 Theme: Christmas Cantata	Angel's Candle (Purple)
Christmas Eve	<b>Wednesday, December 24, 2025</b> (Services at 4pm and 7pm) Scripture: Isaiah 61; Luke 2:1-20 Theme: The Promised Seed	Christ Candle (White)

### Interested in Membership? Let's Talk!

Exploring membership at St. Luke UMC? Pastor Ivan hosts a brief, casual meet-up over coffee/tea and donuts every last Sunday of the month at 9:45am and 11:40am. Or any other day by appointment. Learn what we believe, how we serve, and how you can make St. Luke your church home. We warmly welcome all who are interested!



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

We have been having a great time at Sunday School learning about Heroes of the Bible!

Our Children's Christmas program will be during the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The title of our program is "'Twas the night before Christmas." Everyone is invited and encouraged to join us!

We will be taking a break from Children's Sunday School on December 21st and December 28th and will resume on January 4th. Our Youth (6th to 12th grade) will be helping serve at the 10:30am service on January 5th.

On January 11th we will have a pajama day where all kids can wear their warm pj's if they want.



### Sunday, December 21st 8:30 & 10:30am Worship Services

This season, our choir is joyfully preparing Pepper Choplin's *Night of the Father's Love*, featuring songs such as "The Coming of the Lord," "Waiting," "Angels Are Making Their Rounds," "The Shepherds' Song," "Fall On Your Knees," and "Christ Is Born, Nowell!" Each piece beautifully tells the story of hope and wonder surrounding Christ's birth.

**We warmly invite everyone to join us in celebrating this season  
through music that lifts the heart and spirit**





We need volunteers!!! Volunteering at church is an amazing way to meet new friends, to challenge your knowledge and the strength of your faith, and to give you a way to experience your faith with other people.

Please call the church office if you can volunteer and we can provide areas where you can help.



**Snow will Soon  
Be Falling - - -**

## CHURCH SNOW REMOVAL

Can you help with snow removal for the church? Please sign up on the form in the narthex or call the church office. We'll provide you with a key to the garage to use our snowblowers.



## NEED FIREWOOD?

Call Scott Opfer at 402-219-4539

Proceeds from the sale of firewood  
goes to our Youth Group.



## RADA IS AN ONGOING FUNDRAISER AT ST LUKE

Rada has good dip and soup mixes which are great to keep on hand during the busy holiday months and for last minute gatherings.

You can pick up a book in the narthex and place your order in the basket. When we get around \$50 or more in sales, we will send in an order. If you would like to place an order and don't have a catalog, you can look online and call the church office with your order. **Thanks for your support!**

## 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](http://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.

**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!

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

## YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

This fall the Youth Group has been meeting during the Sunday School hour instead of in the evenings. We're also planning a couple special Sundays for service or fellowship activities, such as filling the food pantry, laser tag, a planetarium visit, indoor mini-golf, or a movie. Youth are encouraged to share their own ideas too!

Stay tuned for dates and details, and thank you for supporting our youth as they grow in faith and fellowship.