



ST. LUKE NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

Pastor's Letter

Dear Beloved,

Happy New Year! Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we step into this new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the faithfulness of God and to express my deepest gratitude to each one of you for the role you have played in our church community.

First, thank you for your generous financial support over the past year. Your willingness to give from your heart has blessed this church, enabling us to continue sharing God's love and doing His work. Your generosity has provided for our ministry's needs and allowed us to thrive in every good work God has placed before us. Because of you, we have been able to serve our church and community in meaningful ways.

Secondly, thank you for your participation in our worship services and other programs last year. Your presence and involvement brought life to our gatherings, whether in worship, fellowship, or service. Together, we experienced the joy of community and the beauty of shared faith, growing closer to God and one another. It is through these connections that our church remains vibrant and united.

Finally, as we journey into this new year, I invite you to be a source of love, encouragement, and comfort to one another. Let us continue to inspire one another toward acts of kindness and faithfulness, always remembering the importance of coming together in the community. Doing so strengthens our bond as the body of Christ and provides the support we all need in times of challenge and celebration.

Thank you for being a vital part of our church family. May the Lord bless you and keep you in His care throughout this new year.

With love and gratitude,

Your Pastor
Ivan Milosi

<http://www.stlukelincolln.org>

St. Luke UMC 1621 Superior St Lincoln, NE 68521 402-477-2032



Souper Bowl of Caring - Jan 19th thru Feb 16th

The Goal posts are up, and the barrel is ready for donations.

Join our team & tackle hunger!

On Sunday, Feb 9th millions of people will be gathering to watch the Big Game. Who will you be cheering on? No matter what, we hope you'll join us in being gamechangers and champions for those in our community who need help tackling hunger. You can help make sure everyone has food in their bowls by participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring.

To make it "FUN" we have put up a football field and goalposts in the narthex. Please place non-perishable food items in the containers marked for the service you attend. We will count each week and move their football until each service reaches a "Touchdown".

We will start playing on January 19th and end on February 16th. Let's see how many Touchdowns we can make! Of course, in the end we are all winners by providing food to those who are less fortunate in our community.



One Day Without Shoes

The National day for "One Day Without Shoes" is May 10, 2025. We will once again be collecting shoes for those in need for the Peoples City Mission. Start thinking about giving your gently used shoes you no longer are using or purchasing a new pair.



SNOW ANGELS

We are in need of those that can help with Snow Angels. Snow Angels provides snow removal for those in our community that are unable to shovel. If you can help, please sign up in the narthex, call the church office or contact Scott Opfer (402-219-4539).



New Membership Class



Considering becoming a member of St. Luke Church?

If you are interested in becoming a St. Luke United Methodist Church member, please let us know by calling the church office or simply indicating your interest on the attendance pad in the pews. Pastor Ivan would be delighted to connect with you to share more about the significance of membership and answer any questions you may have.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

The children put on a GREAT Christmas program!

The church was completely full - what a joyous way to end 2024!

We are planning some outreach projects this year. Our first will be helping collect food for Matt Talbot Souper Bowl of Caring. More information will be sent in an email to all parents.

Our Sunday School Teachers are all keeping our Children's Sunday School going. However, we would really like to have a Children's Education Director. This is a part time and paid position. If you would like to know more about this position, please talk to Pastor Ivan or give the office a call.



Thank you to our youth group who decorated cookies on December 15th and took them to some of our members who are not able to attend services. They also sang a couple of Christmas tunes.

We would like to get all parents of youth (those 6th to 12th grade) together to discuss some outreach projects. Everyone is so busy with school and sports activities it has been hard to find time for anyone to coordinate. **We would like to meet the end of January/first of February and will be contacting parents when a date is confirmed??**



Please let the office know if you would like a statement of your giving for 2024. We will not automatically send these out unless requested.



Please help us keep our records up to date. If you have moved, or your phone number or email address has changed, please call the church or send email to: office@stlukelincoln.org. We are charged \$.90 each time a newsletter is returned to us. Thanks for your help!!



A big THANK YOU to Nancy Edwards! She continues to make our church so beautiful for each holiday. She spends a lot of hours putting up the Christmas decorations and taking them down. We know she has a little help from others, but she does a lot by herself. If you see her, please let her know how much she is appreciated.

We had a wonderful outpouring of gifts for the Salvation Army Toy Store. A big thank you to everyone for their generosity! A lot of children had a nice Christmas because of your donations. The mitten tree and large sock were full! There will be many that will keep a little warmer because of your donations.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, March 4th 5:30pm to 6:30pm



Come for yummy pancakes, sausage, fruit, & juice.
 Hope to see you all there! Free Will Offering.



Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday Nite Live Soup, Salad, Dessert Supper
March 5th to April 9th

Ash Wednesday service - March 5th 6:30pm

Each Wednesday from March 5th through April 9th, we will have a soup/salad/dessert supper. We will start serving at 5:45pm. There will be a sign-up form asking for soups, salads, desserts and to help serve on the information table in the narthex the middle of February. Starting March 12th there will be a vesper service from 6:45 to 7:00pm in the sanctuary after supper.

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.

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.stlukelincoln.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.



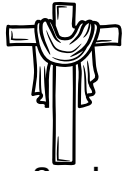
We recently cancelled church because of a potential snow storm. It did not develop into what was predicted, but out of caution we wanted to make sure everyone was safe. We put information of our closing on 10/11 news, sent out an email to those that we have email address for, and sent out a text announcement. If you have not signed up for text announcements yet, we encourage you to sign up. Below are directions of how to sign up. Please let us know if you need any help setting up.

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."

WORSHIP



Sunday Services 8:30am & 10:30am

Communion is the first and third Sunday of each Month.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 12th

Theme: When We Lose Sight of Jesus

Scripture: Luke 2:41-51

Sunday, Jan 19, 2025

Theme: Missing Jesus

Scripture: Luke 2:41-45

Sunday, January 26th

Theme: The Search Begins

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Sunday, February 2nd

Theme: In the Temple

Scripture: John 4:1-15

Sunday, February 9th

Theme: Unexpected Places

Scripture: John 4:1-15

Sunday, February 16th

Theme: Sent With A Purpose

Scripture: Luke 2:47-51

Sunday, February 23rd

Theme: Abiding In Him

Scripture: John 15:4-5, Philippians 3:8-10

GOLDEN WEDS RECEPTION

On Feb. 9th during fellowship time after the 8:30 service, we will be celebrating those couples who will be married 50 years or more in 2025.



Pastor's Bible Study - Invitation to a Bible Study on Exodus



This Lent, join us for a five-week Bible study as we journey through the second part of the book of Exodus (Chapters 20-40). Together, we'll delve into the meaning and significance of the giving and receiving of the Ten Commandments, God's covenant with Israel, and the biblical and historical foundations of what we do—and don't do—in worship.

This study is open to everyone seeking to grow in faith, understanding, and connection with God's Word. Don't miss this opportunity to reflect deeply on Scripture and its relevance to our lives today.

We look forward to another meaningful time of learning, relearning, and unlearning together.

March 6th - April 3rd, 2025

Each Thursday - 10am and 7pm (Both via Zoom and in person)

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 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month

Jan 14 Leadership Board - 7pm

Jan 20 Women's Fellowship - 10am

Jan 25 Fellowship Hall - Private Use

Jan 27 Care Team Meeting - 7pm

Feb 3 Women's Fellowship - 10am

Mar 4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Mar 5-Apr 9 Wednesday Nite Live Soup/Salad/Dessert Supper - 5:45pm

Mar 5 Ash Wednesday Service - 6:30pm

Mar 12 Apr 9 Vesper Service - 6:45 - 7pm

Community Garden



It is hard to think about gardening when the temperatures outside are in the single digits at night and 20s and low 30s during the day. However, now is the time for planning what will be grown and where it will be placed in the garden. Please let Mary or Jim Kulhanek know if there is something new you would like to be planted in the garden. If you would like to help in the garden please let us know so you can be included on the list of people to notify when there is a workday. We are always in need of people to help in the garden, so prayerfully consider helping this year.



Easter Cantata April 13, 2025



Choir practices each Wednesday from 7pm to 8pm. **New singers are needed!!!** If you like to sing and have fun with others, please join us on Wednesday evenings. The choir sings during services on the first and third Sundays each month.



Little Food Pantry



A huge THANK YOU to all who contribute to our little food pantry. The items you place in the pantry **provide food for those who may not have enough.** Please help us by placing non-perishable food in the food pantry in our parking lot.

Thank you for your continued support!