



The Clothes Line | Early Winter 2022

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2023 SHOP & EAT

Saturdays 10am - 1pm

March 4
May 13

August Back-to-School Dates TBD

With Gratitude

It was a rainy, cold morning as we opened the church doors and greeted families to our fifth Shop & Eat event of the year, but all we could feel was the warmth from helping hands and open hearts as we welcomed fourteen families with a total of 25 children into Luke's Closet. From the big smiles at the greeters' table, to our shopping hosts helping little ones choose their favorite shirts and carrying bags of clothes, to our meal hosts chatting it up with families, it was a great day!

In the backdrop were the racks of carefully sorted clothes, jackets & snow pants, organized bins of undergarments and a lunch buffet. Tucked away here and there was a bin of extra hangers, a stack of folded white paper shopping bags, a shelf of colorful pillowcases and an assortment of pens, post-its and forms - all evidence of a well-organized workflow.

Every week, clothes are donated, sorted and restocked. Every week, personal shopping appointments are made and/or clothing requests are filled. Every week, bags of clothes are delivered to our pick-up partner sites.

As we near the end of 2022 with the holiday season upon us, we are filled with immense gratitude for the volunteers who keep the wheels turning at Luke's Closet. We are dedicating this newsletter to those who make Luke's Closet happen every week and every Shop & Eat event. We hope this gives our supporters a better idea about the good work happening at Luke's Closet. Thank you for being part of it.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

SORTING

The team of volunteers inspects each item of clothing for quality and then sorts clothing by size, type and function. Items that are not in new or nearly new condition are given to other community clothing organizations where they will be used. Some items are laundered or receive light mending.



"I volunteer for Luke's Closet because I am extremely grateful for the generous donations that people give to children that are in such need. If these children can feel good about what they have to wear and know that others care enough about them to give them these gifts, they can concentrate on other concerns in their life.... I enjoy doing the laundry for St. Luke's Closet because it is something I can do in my own home and by doing this, items that would otherwise be discarded can be donated to those that will appreciate them. I have always loved doing laundry and this brings me joy to know that the kids will get clean clothes to wear." - Jean Bloomberg

"God calls us to help others, and Luke's Closet...reaches out to connect and serve the community. As a volunteer, I am grateful to have been welcomed

by the experienced volunteers, and the ease and flexibility of signing up for various tasks. There is something for every comfort level.” – Carol Franchi

STOCKING

The small but mighty team of inventory clerks oversee the organization and restocking of closets, ensuring a variety of sizes and styles are always available to fulfill needs. They also identify gaps in stocked clothing that are then communicated to our broader community for suggested donations.



“Volunteering at Luke’s Closet satisfies my desire to help behind the scenes rather than being an out-front leader. The pay-back is enormous when I see so many families served with much-needed clothing. Keeping control of the inventory is a flexible task and suits most any schedule my coworker and I desire.” - Sylvia Donaldson

“I love Luke's Closet and all the people involved! I volunteer at Luke's Closet because I want to make a direct impact on an underserved and high-need community. I love knowing that this ministry is reaching local families.” - Cori Ludwig

DELIVERY

Each week, fulfillment volunteers fill clothing requests by selecting 5-7 outfits for each child along with socks, underwear, pajamas and outerwear, as needed. Clothing is then packed in a homemade pillowcase chosen especially for that child. Once clothes are packed, they are driven to one of our community pick-up sites around Dane County or if needed, delivered to a person’s home. On occasion, and especially helpful for teenage children and emergency foster placements, personal shopping appointments are arranged allowing a child to shop the closet with the



guidance of a fulfillment volunteer.

"I wanted to lend a hand to foster/kinship families while waiting to be licensed as a foster parent myself; Luke's Closet was the perfect way to do this!" - Jennifer Kuschman

"I love working with the Luke's Closet team. It is such an honor for me to pack and deliver clothing. Working with the kids and their guardians to pick the clothes they love on Shopping Days is so joyful for all of us! This program is so needed and appreciated by so many families. I am so grateful to be a part of this caring program." - Lisa Carey

SHOP & EAT

Five times a year, Luke's Closet hosts Shop & Eat events where families are invited to St. Luke's Lutheran Church to shop Luke's Closet and share a meal. Many volunteers are required to make these events happen! Different roles include organizers, greeters, shopping hosts, food donors and servers.



"I am proud to be a volunteer with Luke's Closet. The program serves a tremendous need in the community. The smiles on the faces of our families along with the many thanks proves that what we are doing means so much to our guests on shopping days." - Wendy Norberg

"I always look forward to volunteering with Luke's Closet simply because I get to do two of my favorite things - shopping and helping others. It is also great spending time with the other volunteers." - Jennifer Kuschman

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Current Needs

We are accepting new or nearly new winter clothing, size 12 months - teenage styled adult XXXL, with specific needs of:

- Girls 2T tops & bottoms
- Women's leggings (large - 3X)
- Women's tops (XL - 3X)

[Shop our Target Wishlist](#)

[Clothing Guidelines](#)



**Now Accepting
FALL & WINTER
CLOTHING**

We welcome new or nearly new clothes for toddler thru teenage-styled adult sizes.

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MIDDLETON
LUKE'S CLOSET
OUR "GOOD NEIGHBOR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITY" MINISTRY

Contactless drop-off:
Mon - Fri 8:30am - 4pm
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
7337 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI 53562

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS



Luke's Closet was recently awarded \$1,500 from the Attic Angel Association Fund and \$750 from the Theodora H. Kubly Fund, both component funds of the Madison Community Foundation. These funds will be used to support Luke's Closet Shop & Eat events.

Earlier this fall, the Middleton Lions Club donated \$1,000 to Luke's Closet to help fund children's shoes and boots.

If you are part of a grant-giving organization, please consider contacting Kirsten Pederson, Luke's Closet Fundraising Coordinator.

[Donate](#)



Mission Statement: *To serve and support foster, kinship and adoptive families residing in Dane county by providing free, high-quality clothing. Clothing is made available quickly and is easily accessible.*

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Our thanks to [St. Luke's Lutheran Church](#) for housing and supporting Luke's Closet.

