



## The Clothes Line | Spring 2022

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### 2022 SHOP & EAT DATES

**May 14** (Saturday 10am - 1pm)

**Aug. 20** (Saturday 10am - 1pm)

**Aug. 23** (Tuesday 5pm - 7pm)

**Nov. 5** (Saturday 10am - 1pm)

### SPRING INTO ACTION!

Spring is here...at least in Dane County the calendar says it's spring! The weather is trying to warm up and everything and everyone's buzzing about. Luke's Closet is buzzing too!

On a very cold day in March we welcomed many new and returning families to our first of five 2022 Shop & Eat events. The Madison Reading Bus joined in the fun and Little John's provided take-home meals. We are looking forward

to welcoming families again on Saturday, May 14. If you'd like to volunteer, please visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Delivery requests are on the rise as well with 11 kiddos receiving clothes in just one week.



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## CURRENT CLOTHING NEEDS

Spring and summer clothing, size 2T - teenage styled adult XL, with specific needs of:

- Boys socks (toddler & 9-2 youth)
- Boys pants (size 5-7)
- Girls short & long sleeve t-shirts (size 6-10)

New and nearly new in-season clothing is always welcome.



Drop off at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 7337 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI

[Shop our Target Wishlist](#)

[Clothing Guidelines](#)

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## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Several weeks ago, we received an incredible and inspiring donation of athletic clothes for over 90 girls. The anonymous donor recalled in an attached letter the feeling of putting on her first pair of NIKE socks and wanted other girls to have that feeling. Shirts, sports bras, shorts and socks were sorted by size and color and packed in an athletic string bag along with a note of her inspiring words. Thanks to this amazing donor, bags are finding their way into the hands of girls in care all over Dane County with the message to “run fast, play hard and feel loved.”

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## MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH from Susan Sweitzer, Community Outreach & Foster Parent

In Dane County, there are currently 166 licensed foster homes and over 200 children in care. About one-third of children in care are 0-4 years old, one-third are 5-14 years old and another third are 15 years of age or older. Regardless of age, all children need and benefit from supportive, trusted adults in their lives. If you're interested in helping beyond [Luke's Closet](#), other avenues include:

- [Foster Care in Dane County](#)
- [Welcome Bags for Dane County Foster Children](#)
- Local school social workers.
- MTZ Mentorship Program, a local partnership for teenagers in care. Contact [Monique Bryson](#).
- [Learn more about what it Means to be a foster family](#).

If you know a foster family, ask them how you can specifically help, such as:

- Providing meals or helping with household chores.

- Inviting the family over for a social event -- share a meal or meet at a park.
  - Offering to help with the family's non-foster children.
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## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT LUKE'S CLOSET

*"Families truly appreciate Luke's Closet. Clothing is in excellent condition, and there is a lot of variety and sizes. This program has been very popular with kinship families, as they have limited financial assistance as compared to foster families. Families enjoy the shopping days and personal connection they have with the volunteers."*

*Dawn Douglas-Mellom, out of home care consultant, Dane County Department of Human Services*

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## SEWERS NEEDED!

Luke's Closet is low on our pillowcase inventory. Before delivery, clothing is packed into a homemade pillowcase with a design chosen especially for each child. In a life of frequent temporary places and things, this pillowcase may be one of the few things that is permanently theirs and isn't outgrown.

A standard size pillowcase requires 1 yard of fabric. When choosing fabrics for children and teens, opt for joyful & modern colors, geometric patterns, child-themed, or generic sports themes. Contact us at

[lukesclosetdaneco@gmail.com](mailto:lukesclosetdaneco@gmail.com) if further information is needed. Pillowcases can be dropped off in the Luke's Closet donation bin inside the doors at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Please include your name and contact information so we can thank you!



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## **VOLUNTEER with LUKE'S CLOSET**

Our volunteers serve many roles and often work independently. In early May, we had the opportunity to gather all together for our Volunteer Meet & Greet day. This event allowed us to recognize our volunteers for their vital and important work, meet each other in person and share ideas. Luke's Closet is humbled by the energy, support and talent our volunteers bring to this ministry. If you are interested in becoming more involved with Luke's Closet, please visit our website, <https://www.stlukes-elca.org/luke-closet>, to learn more.



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## **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FINANCIAL DONORS**

Luke's Closet is grateful to receive funding from our local community and even out-of-state supporters. St. Luke's Lutheran Church has generously supported Luke's Closet since its inception with funds and use of facilities allowing all financial donations to directly support clothing needs. Our mission continues to be fulfilled because of your generosity. Thank you.

[Donate](#)

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**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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<https://www.instagram.com/lukesclosetdaneco/>

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

