

SPREADING HOPE

SERVING DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES



THE CHURCH BEYOND THE BUILDING



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Council President

This was not the year any of us expected. Yet, when days seemed dark, St. Luke's spread hope. We spread the hope and love of Jesus through our words and by our service. We spread hope by reaching out to youth and by helping our neighbors with love and support.

The people of St. Luke's adjusted, rallied, and continued to support the church beyond the building. Church has always been about the people and St. Luke's continues to care and serve people — spreading hope everywhere we reach. It's a glorious story that only God could write. And this story isn't finished!

Our pastoral transition progresses as we joyfully welcome Pastor Tim Maybee as St. Luke's Senior Pastor. The Associate Pastor Call Committee will begin its work in 2021 in search of a pastor to extend our outreach efforts.

Thank you for your past support, and we pray you continue to find the joy of spreading hope to our community.

2021 BUDGET GOALS

Enhancing connection and outreach:

- 1 Funding the Children's Coordinator position for elevated programming and family engagement.
- 2 Hiring a Communications Director to deliver St. Luke's message more effectively and allowing current staff to better focus on people and programming.

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, SO THAT YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

ROMANS 15:13

Spiritual Connection

The shift to online-only worship was abrupt but our team didn't miss a beat. Remember the spring days when nothing was occurring and sitting down to watch worship was all you had on your calendar? Connecting with our faith community was life-giving and fulfilling.

St. Luke's continued to offer Sunday and Wednesday services online along with Daily Devotions and Inspirations. Online services also reach those who hadn't felt comfortable coming into the church building before. On some Sundays, we had more people watching church on a Sunday than we would have had in the building! Our online services have spread the hope of God's love to so many. **Drive In Worship services are underway** — bringing the joy of worshipping together.

Our pastors and lay leaders are connecting weekly with vulnerable members of our congregation. **The Friendship Boat program** was developed to allow small groups of seniors to talk weekly via phone connecting to others, many of whom are alone. The **Prayer Group** and **Prayer Shawl** ministries continue their faithful service.

5,780

Estimated **personal contacts** made by Pastors, Youth Minister, Lay Ministers, Stephen Ministers and other ministry leaders through GriefShare, DivorceCare, Friendship Boats, Forget-Me-Nots and Adult Faith Academy this year.



Drive-in, be safe and experience the joy of worshipping together, again.



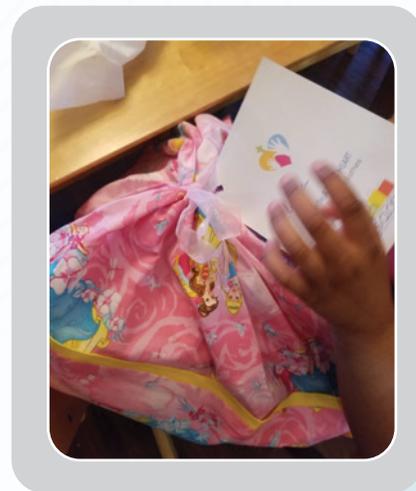
Outreach

St. Luke's continued to provide education, food, clothing and warmth to our community and beyond – ministries adjusted how they served without losing their passion or mission.

Feed My Lambs quickly adapted and continued coordinating with the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District and other churches to make sure children didn't miss a food bag. **Luke's Closet** adjusted with social workers to ensure clothing was still able to reach the kiddos and **Martha Circle** continues to make fleece blankets for them. Working from home and in safe small groups, **Merry Mission Quilters**, made 74 quilts to keep people warm in impoverished countries.

When loneliness is heightened during isolation, **GriefShare** and our **Adult Faith Academy** sustained many. Both programs were virtual in the spring/summer and are now offering the option to participate in person (distanced small groups) or from home in an integrated virtual option.

Through our **Puerto Rican partnership**, we provided to our partner church, Divino Salvador, Cantano, sanitizing supplies and food to struggling unemployed members due to the pandemic.



"I cannot thank you all for what you have done for these kids. They were so excited to open their bags and could not wrap their minds around why someone would give them all of this fabulous stuff... It was glorious and special."

EMAIL SENT TO LUKE'S CLOSET

Children, Youth & Family

By thinking out of the box, the message of joy, hope and love resounds.

COVID isolation is taxing our youth at a time when youth mental health issues were already on the rise. Offering safe events and sharing the message of joy, hope and love has been critical for many of our young people.

New youth opportunities include:

- **Partnering with Second Harvest** on “local mission trips” so our youth can serve others while having fun with friends.
- **Hikes, runs and campfire/game nights** offering much needed social opportunities.
- **10 for 10.** 10 days with 10 daily themes and conversations around youth mental health.

Our foundational programs continue:

- **Children’s Message** — integrated into our Sunday online worship services.
- **Sunday School** — resources for families available online and via take-home bags for 4 year olds - 4th graders.
- **JOY & Confirmation** — faith formation for 5th - 9th graders.
- **Middle & High School Youth Groups** — a opportunity for connection, service, conversation and fun!
- **Vacation Bible School** — offered virtually over the summer and reached a similar number of children as in previous years.

Thanks to your support last year, St. Luke’s is able to shift to a fully-integrated Children’s, Youth and Family (CYF) ministry. Be on the lookout for more CYF offerings.



The partnership St. Luke’s Youth developed with Second Harvest food bank showed Second Harvest the benefits of church partnership and inspired other churches to serve and partner.

St. Luke's continued to serve this year...

"When I joined GriefShare I was lost, despondent and convinced my life was essentially over. GriefShare has helped me understand grief and accepted me where I was at. I now know my life can still have meaning even though my feelings change from day to day. Thank you GriefShare and thank you wonderful leaders."

GRIEFSHARE PARTICIPANT

500

Estimated average weekly **online worship** viewers.

298

Total number of **new members, baptisms, weddings, Sunday school** children and **confirmation** students.

152

Children receiving clothes from **Luke's Closet** this year. Volunteers from inside and outside of St. Luke's serve together on this thriving ministry.

150

Weekly number of children on average who received weekend food bags from **Feed My Lambs** and their Middleton partners this school year and summer.

114

Children participating in virtual **Vacation Bible School** which reaches many non-St. Luke's members.