



# Update: Christmas Is Coming Soon

## Remembering—Good King Wenceslas

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite Christmas poems is the 162-year-old carol: Good King Wenceslas. The poem tells about King Wenceslas & his page giving alms to a poor peasant; his page needing help against the cold; and then finding heat miraculously in the King's footprints in the snow. I can relate to the steadfast page.



### Good King Wenceslas

*Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gath'ring winter fuel*

*"Hither, page, and stand by me  
If thou know'st it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes' fountain."*

*"Bring me flesh and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I will see him dine  
When we bear him thither."  
Page and monarch forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the rude wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather*

*"Sire, the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart, I know not how,  
I can go no longer."  
"Mark my footsteps, my good page  
Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly."*

*In his master's steps he trod  
Where the snow lay dinted  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure  
Wealth or rank possessing  
Ye who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing*

**John Mason Neale, 1853**

Our journey together at LUM through the past year has been eventful and at times challenging.

### During 2015 at LUM...

- **197 at-risk youth** learned & grew in the After School Program, 5th Quarter Summer Learning Program & LUM Camp
- **650 homeless individuals** were served by the Emergency Shelter
- Tax Assistance Program served 790, returning more than **\$1.3 million in refunds**
- Good Samaritan Program serves up to **12 families each day**; more than 2,000 families this year
- Last month **767 individuals** received emergency food assistance from the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry
- Community Thanksgiving Celebration **served 900 individuals**, ID Clinic served more than **150 clients**, Immigration Clinic served **19 individuals**, and of course Jubilee Christmas over **1,700 children!**

By the end of 2015, Lafayette Urban Ministry will have touched and improved the lives of **more than 6,000 low-income households** living in Tippecanoe County.

Just as King Wenceslas's page found his journey to be daunting, at LUM it's a little overwhelming too. But when we remember we're following in the faithful footsteps of others like **YOU**, it seems somehow more manageable. In the spirit of Good King Wenceslas, I hope you will make a generous Christmas season gift to the children & families served by Lafayette Urban Ministry.

**Your gift of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 will be used right here in our own community to support LUM's important programs of service and self-help.**

On behalf of each child & family served by LUM, please accept my heartfelt thanks. On behalf of each person at LUM who serves another, please accept my gratitude for making our sometimes challenging work all that much easier. Merry Christmas!



Joe Micon  
Executive Director  
Lafayette Urban Ministry

PS: Please give online at [www.lumserve.org/donate](http://www.lumserve.org/donate) or mail in your donation to Lafayette Urban Ministry, 420 N 4th Street, Lafayette, IN 47901

## Become a Tax Volunteer—Make a Difference

Make a difference in your community by becoming a LUM tax volunteer. Volunteers are needed from January-April 2016 for the [LUM Tax Assistance Program](#).

No experience is necessary — and training is provided. You may even qualify for continuing education credits. There are a number of volunteer roles available — click [HERE](#) to see descriptions. For tax preparers, some accounting experience is desired.

In all tax volunteer roles, LUM seeks individuals who are bilingual, multi-lingual, and have international experience. As a volunteer, you'll join a program that's helped millions of people file tax returns at no charge for more than 40 years. Your help will make a difference.

LUM strengthens our community through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. VITA, a nationwide IRS program, secures greater financial stability and economic opportunity for working families — and directly impacts OUR community.

If you are interested or need more information please click [HERE](#), or please call or email Marilyn Zerbes (765-423-2691 | [mzerbes@lumserve.org](mailto:mzerbes@lumserve.org)).



## Jubilee Christmas is this weekend!

- ◆ **Volunteer** — there are still a few spots open to volunteer & serve families in need. To sign up to help out with Jubilee Christmas, click [HERE](#).
- ◆ **Donate** — to give to Jubilee Christmas, click [HERE](#). Remember, It's "For the Kids."

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