

St Luke UMC

501 E 19th Street N
Newton, IA 50208
641-792-5736

January 1, 2024



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2023 Apportionments

\$15,279



15,279

Financial Update

Thank you for your prayerful and generous giving to St Luke. These are the numbers for our 2023 giving as of Dec. 28, 2023.

\$15,279	Apportionments
\$700	RP District Askings
\$815	UMCOR Sunday
\$40	World Communion Day
\$80	Human Relations Sunday
\$45	Peace with Justice
\$65	Native Am. Awareness Day
\$73	Disabilities Awareness Day
\$74	Christian Education Sunday
\$30	Golden Cross Sunday
\$265	Rural Life Sunday
\$898	Heifer Intl—Living Gifts
\$220	Emmanuel Mefor, Nigeria
\$130	Florence Mefor, Nigeria
\$566.07	Africa University Scholarships
\$62	Water and Sanitation
\$25	St Andrew Potato Proj-VA
\$1,642.5	UMCOR Disaster Resp-Intrnl
\$1,642.5	UMCOR Disaster Resp-USA

Thank You!

Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings
chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com
Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867

Adm. Assistant: Jennifer Etter
Church Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
worship@stlukenewton.com
Phone: 641-792-5736

Newsletter Editor: Corinne Kleppe
corinne.kleppe@grinnellmutual.com
Phone: 641-831-2639

Article Submission by the 13th of month.

Website: www.stlukenewton.com

Website Manager: Stephen Pageler

YouTube: St Luke United Methodist Church

Facebook: St Luke Newton

Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com



5th Sunday

WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE

Food Insecurity Event

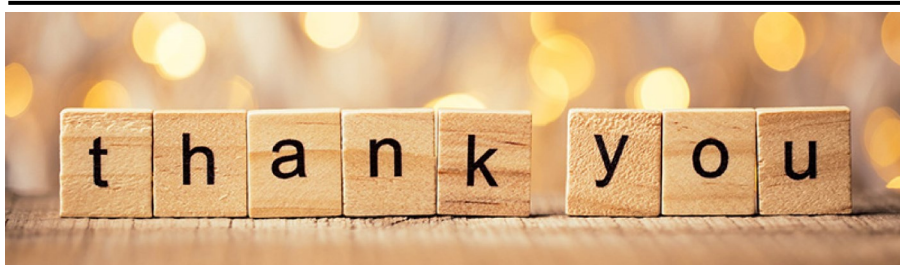
Sunday, January 28, 2024

January WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE Event

We hope you can join us on January 28 for our upcoming WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE Food Insecurity Event. This is an opportunity to share God's love through acts of service as an act of worship.

On the morning of January 28, our worship will be packing meals for Jasper County Hunger Relief and turning some of those meals into burritos that will be given to the food insecure in Newton throughout the winter. This is an opportunity for us to really dig into something that affects our community and to do something about it. For your part, Give for the ingredients of the meal packets we will pack (we need to raise \$1800 for the ingredients), Pack the ingredients during worship on January 28 or Cook the burritos for the community, and Pray that God will lead us to the next ministry in our community to address the issue of food and housing insecurity.

Thank you for all you do, and for your participating in this exciting ministry opportunity at St Luke UMC.



Many Thanks for the Love Offering You have given to the staff of St Luke! From Pastor Chad, Jennifer & Jenny



My Story

One Sunday morning, I left my apartment, ready to go to worship. I tromped through the gently falling snow, climbed into my car and soon I was pulling out of the alley, headed for Newton. I drove two blocks before I shook my head – I couldn't even see half a block ahead of my car. I wasn't going anywhere by car... except back home.

The snow was falling steadily but the wind was minimal, and since I couldn't drive to Newton, I decided to worship God a different way. I bundled up in warm clothes and snow boots and took a walk in the snow. The town was blanketed in quiet beauty as the snow fell around me. There were no cars on the streets, no dogs barking, no people out and about, the sounds in the air felt buffered and calming. I felt like I was in my very own snow globe. It was a perfect winter walk for praising God and celebrating the beauty only God can create.



Our world can be a very noisy place. Sometimes we need to step into a "snow globe" world of quiet so that we can focus on God.

I'm asking GOD for one thing, only one thing: To live with him in his house my whole life long. I'll contemplate his beauty; I'll study at his feet. That's the only quiet, secure place in a noisy world, The perfect getaway, far from the buzz of traffic. Psalm 27: 4-5.

As often as possible Jesus withdrew to out-of-the-way places for prayer. Luke 5:16

Both the Psalmist and Jesus knew that there are times when we must find a quiet place to be with God. To stop listening to the noisy world around us and focus on God. Step into your "snow globe" and look for the peace that only God can give.

Corinne Kleppe



JESUS OFTEN *withdrew*
TO THE WILDERNESS
FOR PRAYER.

Luke 5:16

Grocery Sacks Needed

We are in need of plastic grocery sack donations. They will be used to make plarn (plastic yarn) to weave sleeping mats for the homeless. If you have any extra plastic grocery sacks you would like to donate please bring them to Joyce Stonehocker or put them in the donation box at the church.



Sunday School Offering January and February 2024

For the first two months of 2024 we will be designating the Sunday School offerings for the 2nd through 4th Sundays to the St Luke Food Insecurity events. For the past few years we have held a Mission in Worship meal packing/burrito making event in January and a burrito event in the fall. (Please see the separate article about the January event and the costs involved.) The Sunday School offering in January and February will help with the cost of supplies for these events.



As always, if you would like to contribute to this mission and you do not attend Sunday School, please put "Food Insecurity Events" in the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW missions

A Year That Whispers Jesus

For author Nancy Tichy, a small holiday gift once sparked big-picture thoughts about Christian living. One December she received a kitchen towel with the message "I want a Christmas that whispers JESUS." That prompted thoughts of what it's like to have an entire year that whispers Jesus.

For starters, that involves daily quiet time, devotion and prayer. "Sometimes I wake with the thought of a person on my mind," writes Tichy. "I'm quiet with this impression, interceding for the family member or friend until it has lifted. Could this be a whisper from our Savior?"

Many other daily occurrences are "worthy of [Jesus'] whispered response of love," Tichy points out. That's true whether we're distracted by tasks and troubling thoughts or buoyed by encounters with contentment and joy. "For me," she writes, "whispering is part of intimacy, and that is what I want to make a hallmark of the coming year. I want closeness with our Savior that enables me to hear from him, even when he whispers."



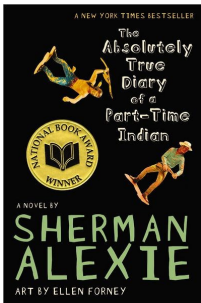
New Year,
NEW DAY
and, always,
NEW LIFE
in Christ.

*Thank You,
Lord!*



The Banned Book Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class has decided to read “banned” books. Our first choice is *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. The book is about a Native American boy who leaves Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white high school in a near farm town.

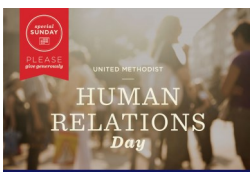


The book has been described as “heartbreaking, funny and beautifully written.” It was written primarily for adolescents, but from USA Today: “Sure to resonate and lift spirits of all ages for years to come.”

We invite you to join us. We meet at 10:30 am (following worship) in Room 5, the 3rd room on the left, in the education wing.

Human Relations Day January 14th

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" - Micah 6:8b

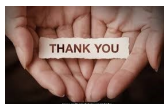


Human Relations Day is an opportunity for United Methodists to share in seeking justice for our neighbors. On this day, congregations are given the unique opportunity to join with individuals, groups, businesses, community organizations and residents to heal the wounds of social inequality. The special offering supports neighborhood ministries, community advocacy and work with at-risk youth.

Human Relations Day encourages us to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to stay on the side of those whom others choose to forget.

Thank You

We want to thank you for all you have done for Discover Hope and Salvation Army this year. Both places have welcomed us every time we have come. Without all your time and help these projects couldn't succeed. We will be continuing both of these projects again in 2024. May our heavenly father be with all of you at St Luke United Methodist Church.



Jan Lewis & Joyce Stonehocker



Potluck Dinner White Elephant Gift Exchange Event To Be Held Saturday evening, January 20th

A St. Luke potluck/white elephant gift/candlelight dinner will be held Saturday evening, January 20th, 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Adults of ALL ages are invited to attend! Please bring food items for potluck supper and one wrapped white elephant gift **per participating person**. Break your winter blahs!



Resolve To Go Micro

Most New Year's resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that's why “micro-resolution” is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.



Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church's missions committee isn't possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  Office Closed	2 12 - 3 pm P.E.O. Meeting FH Rsrvd	3 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	4 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	5	6 9 am - 5 pm FH Rsrvd Ehler Family
7 9:30 am Worship w/ Communion  Sunday School to Follow	8 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom	9	10 6:30 pm Praise Team 7 pm Page Turners 7:15 pm Choir Practice	11	12	13 
14 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Human Relations Day	15 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom	16	17 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	18 9 am - 5 pm Quilt Guild Sew Day FH Rsrvd 5:30 - 6:30 pm P.E.O. FH Rsrvd 7 pm Quilt Guild	19	20 5:30 pm Adult White Elephant Potluck Dinner FH Rsrvd
21 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	22 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom 6:30-9 pm FH Rsrvd	23 7 pm Mission Coalition	24 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	25 9 am - 2pm Days for Girls @ First Presbyterian	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Worship-In-Service Food Insecurity Event	29 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom	30	31 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice			

Read Calendar closely for events not appearing elsewhere in Newsletter. Thank you.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
January 7	9:30 AM
Ushers	Joel & Karin Mills
Greeters	Carolyn Cook
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	Frances Mills
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Karen Clark
January 14	9:30 AM
Ushers	Russ & Lori Leix
Greeters	Peg Ehler
Reader	Russ Leix
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Michelle O'Brien
January 21	9:30 AM
Ushers	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	Roy & Pat Patty
Reader	Pat Patty
Acolyte	Camryn Lemons
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	Megan DeJong
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Peg Kimberley
January 28	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Kaldenbergs
Greeters (2)	Russ & Lori Leix
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	Payton & Brenna Figland
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Kaldenbergs

January Worship Assistants

For 2024 we are going to continue with passing sign up sheets around for 3 months at a time. This worked very well last year in getting more volunteer positions filled. We have had a wonderful response of volunteers for our first 3 months of 2024 and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. Most positions are filled now through March but there are still some spots open. If you would like to volunteer or see what positions are available you can email the church office at: worship@stlukenewton.com, use the sign-up sheets on the servant's counter or you can add your name to our online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:



https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSz_oXUhXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing

We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help on Sunday mornings. Thank you St Luke Family!



Thank You! To all of the volunteers at St Luke UMC. Whether you teach a VBS or Sunday School class, donate food for a meal, make a casserole for someone recovering from surgery, donate your time for a project at the church, visit a member that needs a friend or send a greeting card, you are making a difference. Thank You!



Worship Assistants

Please find a sub or trade if you cannot do it as scheduled. Then contact the church office so we can print correct names.



A Special Blessing for those with January Birthdays

- January 1 - Ethan Squire
- January 2 - Lori Leix
- January 4 - Zoe Smith
Jona Swersie
- January 5 - Stefanie Squire
Bruce Maach
- January 6 - Dennis Smith
- January 8 - Nathan Jennings
- January 14 - Gabe Swersie
- January 19 - Pam Stiles
- January 24 - Jeff Carter
Jeff McKibben
- January 25 - Jeff Murphy
- January 26 - Joyce Stonehocker
CJ Osborn
Gatlin Chambers
- January 27 - Rachel Swersie



If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the office.



January Salvation Army Food Pantry Request
Detergent & Dish Soap



GONNY HAWKINS

"We'd love to have you speak, Ezekiel, but we're a non-prophet."



HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			

- The second Monday _____
- The last Monday __
- The 16th _____
- One day before the 20th ___
- The day before the first Friday __
- The last weekday of the second week _____
- The day after the 20th __
- The day after 18th __
- The first day of the second weekend _
- The last Sunday __
- The last day of the month _____

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.