

# St Luke UMC

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

January 2019

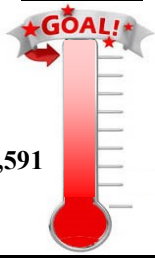


# THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

## 2018 Apportionment

**\$25,591**



\$25,591

## Financial Update

Thank you for your prayerful and generous giving to St Luke. These are the numbers for our 2018 giving as of December 31, 2018:

\$25,591	Apportionments
\$1,500	District Askings
\$50	World Communion
\$96	Methodist Student Day
\$84	Human Relations Sunday
\$58	Peace With Justice
\$193	Native American Awareness
\$80	Disabilities Awareness
\$154	Christian Education
\$107	Golden Cross
\$151	Rural Life
\$200	Iowa Disaster Relief
\$1,378	Women At The Well UMC
\$470	Itineration Fund
\$392	Ingathering Postage
\$383	Heifer International
\$237	Doug Williams/Argentina
\$600	Larry & Jane Kies
\$106	St Andrew Society
\$102	UMCOR Disaster Response- International
\$717	UMCOR Disaster Response- USA
\$???	Salvation Army - Not totaled Donations still coming in



happy  
new  
year

## Diaper Sewing Days

Monday & Tuesday, January 14th & 15th  
Wednesday & Thursday, January 30th & 31st  
9 am-4 pm

We will be sewing baby diapers for layette kits in the church Fellowship Hall. Bring your sewing machine, some light colored thread, and basic sewing tools or you can come help us by cutting, pinning, or pressing. We will have a light potluck for lunch. This will be a time of fellowship and production. Feel free to come to any, some or all of the days for as much as you are able or like. Sign-up at the Servant's Counter. See you there!



## Fill the Moolah Tube For Heifer International

**THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT!**

Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.

Dan West founded Heifer International in 1944 with the "teach a man to fish" philosophy. That philosophy still inspires their work to end world hunger and poverty throughout the world once and for all.

For more information about Heifer International, visit their website at: [www.Heifer.org](http://www.Heifer.org).



Thank You!

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



## Reclaimed Wood, New Year's Resolutions and You



Reclaimed wood is all the rage right now. If you watch HGTV, you will see a project made from salvaged wood from many different sources. I usually enjoy watching them transform this old, dilapidated wood into something beautiful. It takes a good eye and a creative imagination to see something beautiful in that worn-out, weathered scrap.

I've certainly enjoyed doing that in the church. The walls that now line the front of the chancel area provide warmth and color, as well as a way to soften the sound coming from the voices and instruments. From the first few times I walked into the sanctuary, I could picture how it would look. I knew that it would look great and that it would soon become a part of the building in a way that looked like it was always supposed to be that way.



As we enter into the new year, we will be pressured from many places to take our old, worn-out selves and transform them into something new and beautiful. Exercise, diet, read for self-improvement. Become the best version of you.

While this is always a good endeavor, it should only be done if *you* want it. There might be pressure from your spouse, your doctor, your children, or your friends, but the only way that self-improvement works is if *you* want it.

You may even feel the pressure to improve from the church. Scripture does give us instructions about our own improvement. Jesus taught us how to become better humans by being more generous, by sticking up for others, and by refraining from self-destructive behavior. It would certainly seem like the Bible would be a big promoter of resolutions.



But scripture also teaches us that we have been set free for freedom's sake. While we are compelled to receive new life, it isn't so that we will be perfect. It is so that we can be the person that God already sees in us. We are the old, dilapidated wood and God is the creative eye that sees the beauty that is inside each of us. When we let

God give us new life, we will be the person that God intended all along.

So, make some resolutions, start something new to improve your life; these things won't hurt you. But know that God sees the best you already. You are that beautiful creation that God made, even if you don't see it yet.

Have a great new year.

Pastor Chad



## Human Relations Day January 13<sup>th</sup>

*"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.

## Disaster Relief Offering January 27<sup>th</sup>

Tornados, floods, fires, hurricanes, earthquakes and mudslides. Natural disasters happen every month of the year. Just this past December, there was a tornado in Illinois. The Disaster relief fund helps to provide assistance by way of clean-up buckets (ask any of our St Luke UMC, MMDC volunteers about these) and emergency grants and so much more. Please consider a donation toward our Disaster Relief offering on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Someone, somewhere, will be very thankful for your loving support.



NOW Missions



## United Methodist Women

January 16

1:15 pm

At the home of  
Joyce Stonehocker  
1018 S 5th Ave W

*“Cast all your anxiety on him,  
because he cares for you.”*

1 Peter 5:7

Program: Persistent Women  
By Joyce Stonehocker  
Hostess: Joyce Stonehocker

January 11 - Human Trafficking Awareness Day

### Sunday School Mission offering

The 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month from January through April, our Sunday school offering will go toward meeting our covenant with Larry and Jane Kies. Larry and Jane are missionaries with Africa University in Zimbabwe. Larry, an Iowa native who grew up in Jesup, works as a technical Advisor to the Africa University farm in Mutare. Jane teaches Intensive English to students from non-English countries at Africa University.



The first Sunday of each month the Sunday school offering will go toward our Sunday school administration costs, including Sunday school materials.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW – Missions Chair

### “Our Purpose” conversation January 14 @ 7 pm

The final conversation of discerning “Our Way Forward” is for those who care about St. Luke and its mission in the world. It’s for those who care about the United Methodist Church. It’s for those who care about what God wants for the world. It’s for you. Come be a part of the conversation.



Sign-up at the Servant’s Counter or just show up and be a part of the Conversation.



### January Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Detergent & Dish Soap

### News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

A couple of months ago I wrote about the book *Tattoos On The Heart* by Gregory Boyle, the Jesuit priest who shares what working with gang members in Los Angeles has taught him about faith, compassion and the enduring power of kinship. That book introduced us to Homeboy Industries, the largest gang-intervention program in the world. This month I want to tell you about his book *Barking To The Choir*, which offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins. You can read stories of boys arrested at age nine, a gang member by twelve, jailed as a teen, and now working with the substance abuse team at Homeboy, helping others find sobriety. There are stories of children abandoned by parents eventually extending forgiveness to parents who are mentally ill. There are stories upon stories of former gang members which reveal how bright life can be when filled with unconditional love and kindness. These books are easy reads with powerful insights and are great books to start out the new year with a fresh perspective on how God works in our lives when we are open to seeing the goodness in each other. I dare you to check it out!



## SILENT AUCTION

The St. Luke **silent auction** building renovation fund raiser is on hiatus and will resume Sunday, January 20. Our deep thanks to you for providing new or gently-used items for the auction and also for supporting the project through your bidding. Around \$300 was collected from the December event, the funds of which will be directed to the many projects on the list of those to be accomplished.

Have you taken a good look at our much-needed storage space which has developed in place of the former glass doors pass-through area between the education wing and narthex? Wow! What a wonderful addition!

Through an interesting suggestion we are going to test drive a new tactic on some auction items. Some items will be offered-up at a **“buy now”** option. Continuing to bid upon those items may be an option, OR one may immediately purchase them at a set price.

### Clothing Drive for MMDC

Our next mission work trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL is set for January 20-23. We are collecting warm winter clothing to send with the group. If you have questions on what is needed, please contact Joyce Stonehocker.

- Warm winter coats - all sizes
- Hats & scarves
- Mittens & gloves
- Warm socks
- Boots





## My Story

PSALM 27:4 *One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.*

It was a frosty morning as I drove to church. I looked around at the crisp surroundings and was drawn to the beauty all around me. The fields were shades of heathered brown and the sky a blend of pale blue and pale pink. And off in the distance a little fog blanketed the low lying areas in a misty white. Peaceful...that's how it looked. Peaceful and Beautiful.



Sometimes our personal worlds feel cold and barren, as if we are all alone. However, if we look closely we can find God's beauty in every circumstance. It could be in a kind neighbor or co-worker. It could be in a song or a spoken word. It could be in the simple touch of a hand or the presence of a friend.

Throughout the year the drive from Grinnell to Newton changes. The colors of each season are beautiful in their own right. The frozen landscape of winter will flow into the lush greens and new growth of spring. Spring will flower into the multitude of summer colors. And summer will move toward the reds, oranges and yellows of autumn. Each season is beautiful. All of the artwork of God is beautiful and ever changing. This winter let us remember that spring will come. Renewal will come.

And just as the seasons change, so does our emotional world. We can take comfort in knowing that the winter will pass and spring will return.

Corinne Kleppe - Editor

## Adult-2 Class

The Adult-2 Class will continue reading and discussing the book *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. It is an unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.



If you are looking for a class with variety and topical studies, this would be a good class for you. There is always room for more to join the conversation.

 	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> Sunday School Class meets 9:15 a.m. in the choir room
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**Consumed**  
**By the Fire of a Star**  
*Hearing and celebrating the story of the visit of the magi:*  
**Matthew 2:1-12**

**Zoroastrianism** is a religion, active yet today, which served as the state religion of the pre-Islamic *Iranian empires*, from around 600 BCE to 650 CE. The three "wise men," or magi were likely Zoroastrian astronomers. They believed their god had charge of the stars until one day, their god was consumed by the fire of a star. Such a belief helps explain their inclusion in Jesus' birth story in the book of Matthew.

The word magi describes followers of Zoroastrianism. The three magi, or wise men, being consumed by study of the stars, noted an exceptionally bright star. Their traveling, in an attempt to learn what that star's sign might reveal, led them to Jerusalem.



Making a "courtesy call" on King Herod in Jerusalem, the magi met and made inquiries: *Where is this newborn, who is the King of the Jews? When we were far away in the East we saw His star, and we have followed its glisten and gleam all this way to worship Him.*

Herod then referred to all of the leading Jewish teachers,- chief priests, and head scribes. He was told of the reference in Micah 5:2 in which **Bethlehem** would produce a ruler. After questioning the magi, Herod sent them on their way.

The star continued leading them to Bethlehem and the structure in which Jesus and His family abided. *As soon as the wise men arrived, they saw Him with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him.*

The wise men later had a dream warning them not to go back to Herod (as he had requested). *The wise men heeded the dream* and returned to their homes in the East by a different route.

The Seasons of the Spirit **Bible Study** Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 to read about and discuss issues related to each week's prescribed lectionary readings. Please feel **welcome** to come join in the learning - every Sunday morning - after the 8 o'clock service, or before the 10:30 service!

Below are the lectionary scriptures the Sunday school class participants will be learning about each week in January. Consider taking the time to read these scriptures at home!

### ◇ Lectionary Readings for January 2019 ◇

- **January 6: Matthew 2:1-12** | Consumed by the Fire of a Star  
*To hear and celebrate the story of the visit of the magi.*
- **January 13: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22** | Remembering God's promises  
*To explore the role of God's promises and love in our lives.*
- **January 20: John 2:1-11** | Witness to God's new way in the World  
*To explore new "ways" God might be calling to us.*
- **January 27: Luke 4:14-21**  
Shaped by God's Word  
*To be inspired by Jesus' bold word about the ways of the Spirit.*



### Prayer for putting away ornaments

Lord Jesus today we will put away all our Christmas decorations.

Soon we will enter into Ordinary Time.

Our house will look ordinary again, but Lord, you know and we know that our house has a secret.

Deep inside it, all our Christmas decorations are still here.

The blessing of Christmas is always with us, kept in the deep quiet of the house.

And Lord, our lives will become ordinary again, but you know that each of us has the grace of baptism.

The grace you gave us is always with us, in the deep, quiet places of our soul.

Help our house be a house with Christmas at its core, and help our souls be a place where Jesus always dwells.

Help us live the grace of Christmas every day, only without the trappings.

Amen.

<http://stmartin.eduk12.net/webpages.asp?Teacher=Jill Otto>

### MMDC Mission Trips

We have two teams of volunteers heading to Midwest Missions Distribution Center this winter. The first team leaves January 20th and is 9 people including 4 from St. Luke, 3 from Prairie City UMC, one from Reasoner UMC, and one from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. All have gone with us in the past. The second team, leaving February 24th, is still forming but looks to be larger with some of the same people returning for a second time and others adding on. Please pray for these teams as they prepare and travel on this mission for God's Kingdom.



### St. Luke Social Club Potluck Event To Be Held Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

The St. Luke Social Club will host a potluck/white elephant gift/candlelight dinner event Saturday evening, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Adults of ALL ages are invited to attend! Please bring food items for the potluck supper and one wrapped white elephant gift per participating person.

### Days For Girls

The Newton Days For Girls team is adding an evening session.

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, January 24 from 9 am-2 pm and 6-9 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans or Karen Clark.



### RECYCLING CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It is that time of year when you may be bringing out your Christmas lights. If you are like many, there may be some strands which no longer function as desired.

**Do not throw them away.** Take the non-working lights to St. Luke to be **RECYCLED**. Place your non-working light strings in the *marked box* located in the narthex.

Share this information. Set an example for others that members of St. Luke care about our legacy and **Reducing-Reusing-Recycling!**



### St. Luke VBS Leadership Opportunity

Please consider climbing on board to co-direct VBS this year with Peg Ehler. Peg is awesome to work with and has great creative vision for decorating and working on the skit for VBS. The director position is responsible for selecting the curriculum, filling the leadership and volunteer positions, ordering materials, helping Peg with decorating, advertising, making class lists, taking pictures during the week, picking a mission project, and just overseeing that everything runs smoothly. It is a lot of fun and St. Luke always has great volunteers that step up to fill the positions needed.



If you think this sounds like a position for you, please contact the church office so that you can start working on selecting the curriculum in January/February. It is very rewarding to see all the young people learning about Jesus under the roof of St. Luke. The energy and fun is contagious!!












**Thanks to Our Volunteers!**

**Thank You!** to all of the volunteers at St. Luke UMC. Whether you teach a VBS or Sunday School class, 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! Thank You!



### Want a printed copy of the Newsletter?

Printed copies of the Newsletter are available at the church. They can be found on the table by the church office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>January</b></p>		<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 pm Trustees meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 <b>Epiphany</b> 8/10:30 <b>Worship - Communion</b> 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.</p>   <p>SHARE order deadline</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p> <p>7 pm Page Turners Book Club - F Hall</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8/10:30 <b>Worship Human Relations Day</b> 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.</p>  <p>Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>Diaper Sewing Days</b> 9 am - 4 pm</p>  <p>7pm "Our Purpose" Conversation</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 pm <b>NOW</b> meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:15 pm <b>UMWomen @ St Luke</b></p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7pm Quilt Guild - F Hall 7 pm NAMI - Choir Room</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7-8 am <b>SHARE</b> Pick-up @ 1st UMC</p> 
<p>20</p> <p>8/10:30 <b>Worship</b> 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 6 pm ICIW @ Mitchellville</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>9 am-2 pm 6 - 9 pm Day For Girls @ 1st Presbyterian</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>← <b>MMDC Mission Trip</b> →</p>						
<p>27</p> <p>8/10:30 <b>Worship - Dennis Smith preaching Disaster Relief Offering</b> 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 pm <b>SPRC</b> meeting</p>	<p>30</p> <p><b>Diaper Sewing Days</b> 9 am - 4 pm</p>  <p>6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>31</p>		

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

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

January 6	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Larry/Darlyne Howard	Carolyn Cook/Amy Onstot
Greeters	Pageler Family	Jeff/Amy Murphy
Reader	Dave Miller	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Doug McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Peg Ehler	Jacob Murphy
Fellowship	Rose Hartschen	Pat Patty
Care Core	Barb Swihart	Amy Murphy
Communion	Lisa Pageler                  Counters	Jan Lewis/Barb Kaldenberg
January 13	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Dennis/Pam Smith
Greeters	Leonard Family	Joe/Stefanie Squire
Readers	John Onstot	Rose Evans
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Ava Smith
Nursery	Parents take turns	Mary Nelson
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Praise Team	Praise Team
Projection	Brad Patty	Wendy Jennings
Fellowship	Pam Andrews	Carolyn Cook
Care Core	Jenni Clark	Lisa Marston
Counters		Rose Evans/Doug McIntyre
January 20	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Chuck Springer/ Ben Leonard	Karen Clark/Lori Leix
Greeters	Dale/Karen Dorrell	Brooke Chambers/ Mike Wood
Readers	Rose Hartschen	Corinne Kleppe
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Aniston Chambers
Nursery	Parents take turns	Pat Patty
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Pam Smith
Fellowship	Tamara Lloyd	Lisa Marston
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Counters		Barb Kaldenberg/ Deb Stoullil
January 27	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	John/Mary Onstot	Mike/Kleo O'Brien
Greeters	Bill/Linda Hotger	Karen Clark/Rhondi Machin
Readers	Mike Kaldenberg	Jeff Carter
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	
Special		
Projection	Peg Ehler	Karen Clark
Fellowship	Peg Ehler	Wendy Jennings
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Jenni Patty
Counters		Brad Patty/Jenna McIntyre

### Where to Find Us

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**Article Submission** by the 13th of month.  
**Website:** www.stlukenewton.com  
**Website Manager:** Stephen Pageler  
**Facebook:** [St Luke Newton](#)

### St Luke News

I want to thank the people of St Luke for your support while serving as food chairman. We have helped the people of Des Moines at Trinity UMC plus all the suppers for church fundraisers.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!  
 Joyce Stonehocker

Congratulations to Karen and Dale Dorrell on the birth of their granddaughter, Eloise Jane Burnham. Eloise is the daughter of Angela and Joshua Burnham and sister of Philip and Titus.

Thank you for partnering with Heifer International. The end of extreme poverty is within our grasp, and your help matters. Your commitment to helping others gives hope to families who once struggled with hunger and poverty and provides the foundation for strong farming families.

Pierre U Ferrari – President and CEO of Heifer International

A big THANK YOU to all who helped with the St Nick Book Distribution!

The St Nick Book Crew: Larry, Deb & Austin Stoullil; Jan Lewis, Lisa Marston, Shirley Guillaume, Brad & Jenni Patty, Jean Schnell, Pam & Alan Andrews, Barb Kaldenberg, Karen Clark.

Rose Evans

Thank You to Rose Evans for organizing and obtaining the books for the St Nick Kids.

Thank you, St Luke UMC, for making the Society of St Andrew your partner in ending hunger through your gifts. Through your gifts, you are sharing fresh, nutritious produce with people who don't have enough.

### 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
- January 5 - Stefanie Squire
- January 6 - Dennis Smith
- January 7 - Betty Carlsen
- January 8 - Nathan Jennings
- January 19 - Pam Stiles  
Wilma Eatwell
- January 24 - Jeff Carter  
Jeff McKibben
- January 25 - Jeff Murphy
- January 26 - Joyce Stonehocker  
CJ Osborn



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

### Newsletter



If you know someone that would like to receive the monthly Newsletter via email, please send their name and email address to the church office to be placed on the email list, at: [Worship@StLukeNewton.com](mailto:Worship@StLukeNewton.com).

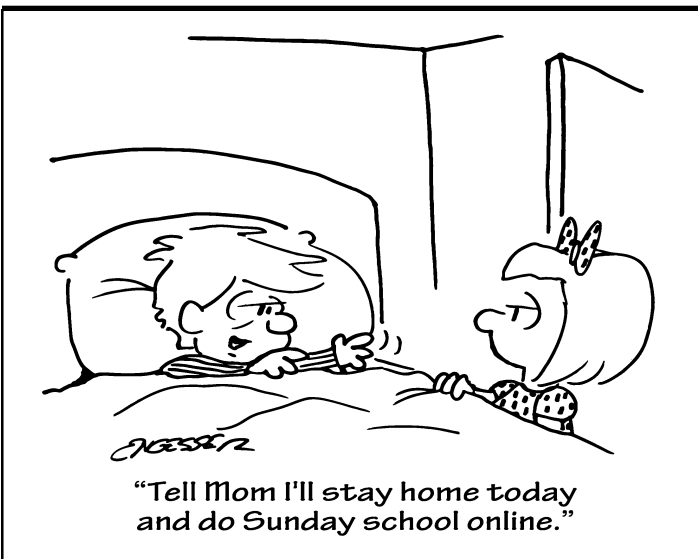
“Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence.”



—Henry David Thoreau

### SHARE Food Program

Buying discounted groceries through SHARE is an easy way to stretch your food budget. You can check out and order online for the program at [www.SHAREIOWA.com](http://www.SHAREIOWA.com), or call First UMC. “SHARE boxes” can be ordered by Sunday, January 6 and picked up at First UMC on Saturday, January 19, between 7:00-8:00 am, when you can also order and pay for the next month.




### Weather Cancellation Policy

If school is cancelled/dismissed early due to weather, then St Luke activities are cancelled that day/evening as well. Sunday Worship is rarely cancelled. Check our Facebook page or listen to the radio for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.



“Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.”

—Jonathan Edwards



## A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

*Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.*

---

We were therefore buried with him  
through baptism into death in order that,  
just as Christ was raised from the dead  
through the glory of the Father,  
we too may live a \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 6:4, NIV

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: f i e l e w n j new life