

St Luke UMC

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Newton, IA 50208
641-792-5736

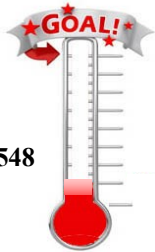
February 1, 2021



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2021 Apportionments

\$16,499



\$1,548

Financial Update



Thank you to everyone for your continued support of St Luke ministries. These offerings were received in the month of January:

Total of \$13,081 which included:
\$ 910 - Building Fund
\$ 1,548 - Apportionments
\$ 122 - Human Relations Day



Where to Find Us

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ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 17 | 6:30 PM

Lenten Study

In much of our Christian life, we have known about the Ten Commandments. For some, the Ten Commandments are rules to live by. For some, they are absolutes with dire consequences. For others, they are outdated and obsolete. And yet, Jesus didn't call them obsolete. Jesus had a high regard for them and even upped the ante on some.

Words of Life

Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today

Adam Hamilton
Bestselling author of Making Sense of the Bible

What should we make of them? That's a question that takes more than a newsletter article to answer. In fact, it takes a deep dive with careful attention to their origin and their meaning through the ages.

I am inviting you to take that deep dive into the Ten Commandments during Lent. Through the six weeks of Lent, we will take this journey with Adam Hamilton, a leading pastor and teacher in the United Methodist Church through his book and study called *Words of Life*.

We will read the book on our own, 1 chapter each week. Then we will gather by Zoom to watch a video and talk about the chapter together.

If you are ready to invest in your spiritual growth; if you are willing to take this dive with others from the St. Luke family; and if you are hopeful for how your life may be enriched by these ancient rules for living together, then please join me.

Books are \$18. We will order books on Feb. 8 and the first session will begin the week of Feb. 21. Please sign up at the counter or by contacting Jennifer at the office. The Zoom session will be on Mondays at 6:30 pm and Thursdays at 6:30 pm.

If you are interested in this study, but Zoom is not your thing, you may buy a book and study it on your own, or if there is enough interest in an in-person group, I am willing to explore that as an option.

Pastor Chad



My Story

There was a stately old pine tree at the end of the alley by which I access my garage. The August 2020 derecho left that tree battered, with more than 2/3rds of the tree gone. What remains is a handful of branches, making this once beautiful tree a sad, bedraggled remnant of its former self.

As I drove to work one January morning, there was fog in the air, and since there was snow on the ground, that fog brought with it... hoarfrost. I love hoarfrost! It creates such a magical world. I headed down the alley that morning and looked up at that pine tree and in its hoarfrost covered state...it was beautiful! True it was a different kind of beauty than in years past, but beauty all the same.



We can be just like that tree. We become run down by the stresses of our lives. We begin to see ourselves as a bedraggled remnant of our former selves. We need to remember that though we



cannot wear a coat of hoarfrost, we can cover ourselves with God's grace. The truth is, to God we are beautiful in all of our states, but when we have faith in

God's love and cover ourselves in His grace we become so much more.

*For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*

Corinne Kleppe



 <p>St. Luke</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>Sunday School Class meets 9:15 a.m. in the choir room</p>
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Coming Through Captivity

MARK 1:29-39

Exploring healing and freedom from things that hold us captive: A Reciprocal Ministry

After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan and having spent forty days in the wilderness, He walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Along this journey the following joined Him as His disciples: the brothers Simon and Andrew and also the brothers (sons of Zebedee) James and John. In their traveling Jesus went for rest with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. They told Him about Simon's mother-in-law who was there in bed, sick and feverish. Jesus went to her side, took her hand, and lifted her up. As soon as He touched her, the fever left *and she felt well again—strong enough to bustle around the house taking care of her visitors.* Word continued to spread of his deeds and crowds began to

press in around the dwelling seeking more words and deeds of power (healing) from Jesus.

The next morning Jesus rose very early, while it was still dark, and left by himself, seeking a deserted place to pray. Simon and the others eventually noticed him missing and began looking for Jesus. They finally found him saying, "Everybody wants to know where You are!" In that brief time apart Jesus found renewed energy in God, the source of His strength.



Jesus moved on with the disciples to preach, heal, and cast out demons throughout Galilee.

Jesus restored the mother-in-law of Simon and was, himself, restored to continue preaching and healing. Common to both was a sense of ministering to and with others. God calls us to be active in God's mission; but God also calls us to rest and enter the stillness in which we can hear God's voice and be restored by God's peace.

[Did you know Simon's mother-in-law was the first person identified as serving or ministering to Jesus?]

∞ Lectionary Readings for February 2021 ∞

- **February 7:** Mark 1: 29-39 | Coming through Captivity
To explore healing and freedom from things that hold us captive.
- **February 14:** Mark 9: 2-9 | Coming through the Cloud
To explore our call to be witnesses to hope.
- **February 21:** Genesis 9: 8-17 | Signs of Promise
To explore God's promise of renewal for all creation.
- **February 28:** Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 | From Generation to Generation
To examine God's promises and love for all.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
Feb. 7	9:30 AM
Ushers (3-4)	Jeff & Amy Murphy Dennis & Pam Smith
Greeters (2)	Rose Hartschen
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Counters (2)	

Feb. 14	9:30 AM
Ushers (3-4)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	Jeff & Amy Murphy
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Counters (2)	

Feb. 21	9:30 AM
Ushers (3-4)	
Greeters (2)	Ann & Caleb Leonard
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection (1)	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark
Counters (2)	

Feb. 28	9:30 AM
Ushers (3-4)	
Greeters (2)	Barb & Mike Kaldenberg
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg, Jenna McIntyre
Counters (2)	Rose Evans, Barb Kaldenberg

March 7	9:30 AM
Ushers (3-4)	
Greeters (2)	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Counters (2)	

February Worship Assistants

We are continuing with our worship assistant sign-up during the month of February. We want our church family to feel as safe and comfortable as possible worshipping indoors so we are asking for volunteers at this time.



If you would like to volunteer you can email the church office at: worship@stlukenewton.com, use the sign-up sheet on the Coffee Counter or you can add your name to our new online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We appreciate everyone who has so willingly volunteered to help during this time. If this works well we may continue with a sign-up and will add or adjust positions as needed. Thank you!

Puzzle!

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M=1, N=2, O=3, ... A=15, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
15 _____ 1 2 3 _____

FIRST CLUE: 15 7 15 13 3 9 2 21 1 15 2

22 19 25 23 26 26 19 18 7 3 1 19 3 2 19.

SECOND CLUE: 22 19 11 15 7 8 19 2 18 23 2 21

7 22 19 19 4 23 2 8 22 19 18 19 7 19 6 8

11 22 19 2 21 3 18 17 15 26 26 19 18 22 23 1.

THIRD CLUE: 15 7 15 16 15 16 13 22 19 11 15 7

20 3 9 2 18 20 26 3 15 8 23 2 21 23 2 15

16 15 7 25 19 8 23 2 8 22 19 2 23 26 19 6 23 10 19 6.

Who is this person? _____

Answer: Moses

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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	2 6:30 pm 3rd-6th Zoom Ed. Class 5:30 pm Discover Hope Supper	3 3:15 pm Middle School Ed. Class 6:30 pm K-2nd Zoom Ed. Class			
7 9:30 am Worship	8 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	9 6:30 pm 3rd-6th Zoom Ed. Class	10 3:15 pm Middle School Ed. Class 6:30 pm K-2nd Zoom Ed. Class 7 pm Page Turners Book Club F-Hall Rsrvd			13 9 am-5 pm Quilt Guild F-Hall 
14 9:30 am Worship Disabilities Awareness Sunday 	15 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	16 6:30 pm 3rd-6th Zoom Ed. Class	17 3:15 pm Middle School Ed. Class 6:30 pm K-2nd Zoom Ed. Class <i>Ash</i> <i>Wednesday</i> <i>Service</i> 6:30 pm	18 6:30 pm Quilt Guild F-Hall	19	20
21 9:30 am Worship	22 6:30 pm Zoom Lenten Bible Study	23 6:30 pm 3rd-6th Zoom Ed. Class 7 pm Mission Coalition	24 3:15 pm Middle School Ed. Class 6:30 pm K-2nd Zoom Ed. Class	25 6:30 pm Zoom Lenten Bible Study	26	27
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">  </div>						
28 9:30 am Worship						

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



United Methodist Women

No February Meeting

The United Methodist Women will not be meeting until April 2021. We will post updates as more details become available.

February MMDC Mission Trip

MMDC Trip News ~ St. Luke has a team of nine folks heading off to Midwest Missions Distribution Center on February 21st through the 24th . We will be preparing and assembling kits, building school desks, and whatever other jobs they ask us to do. The results of our work there will be disbursed throughout the world as needed. The network of needs assessment and transportation used by the staff is as remarkable as it is faith filled. The center has a small handful of paid staff and the bulk of the work is done by volunteers. During the few years we have been going we have seen the center grow warehouse by warehouse. All of the building and equipment is funded by gifts and no money has ever been borrowed. It is good to be involved in their mission. We are grateful for the vision of this place, grateful for the work done there, grateful for the support swelling from St. Luke and surrounding churches. We ask that you please pray for our team of volunteers going to Midwest Missions Distribution Center in February as they prepare and travel on this mission for God’s Kingdom.



“Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone; we find it with another.”
—Thomas Merton



Camp Season Is Coming Soon

It’s time to start planning and signing up for camp at one of the beautiful Iowa United Methodist Camps. Catalogs are available at the church or you can go online to check out what’s available at www.iaumc.org/camps. Get ready for your adventure of a lifetime.

Diaper Sewing Update

Thank you to all who have been helping to sew flannel diapers for Midwest Mission Distribution Center! There are more diapers to be sewn available in the fellowship hall if you would like to help sew. We will take them to MMDC in February and will continue sewing until then. May God bless the children and families who will use these diapers.



Karen Clark

Jane Kies – Missionary

Jane Kies is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries teaching Intensive English. Here is a note from Jane, published on the Board of Global Ministries site.

“Having grown up in southern Africa, I have always felt drawn to this amazing part of the world. Someone once said: “You are not born in Africa; Africa is born in you!” Though circumstances and studies took me to England for a while, I knew I would return. My first missionary experience was as a teacher in a small school in Uganda. Now, 36 years later, I am a Global Ministries missionary at Africa University in Zimbabwe. I teach English to students from other countries on the continent. Zimbabwe has had (and still has) its share of economic turbulence, uncertainty and strife in the 26 years my husband Larry and I have lived here, but the people and the country have given us a home that we love. I thrive on the lasting friendships, meaningful family life and active roles in the church. I love the relationships and influence of so many Zimbabwean and international students. I love watching students smile with pride as they become more fluent in English and move on to their degree program with greater confidence.” November 2020.



For more in Jane’s own words, check out her article at <https://umcmision.org/year-end-2020/educating-for-peace-in-pan-african-relations>

To support Jane as our missionary at Africa University, note on the memo line of your check your support and either mail in your check or place it in the offering plate at worship.

NOW Committee – Missions

Sunday February 14, 2021 Disability Awareness Offering

100% of this offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference. The purpose of the Disability Awareness offering is to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and to promote their full inclusion in the community. This offering provides funds for educational opportunities as well as providing grants to local churches in need of assistance in removing architectural and attitudinal barriers to accessibility.



A Special Blessing for those with February Birthdays

February 1 Tate Osborn
Lauren Figland
February 2 Pat Patty
February 4 Hiap Thongvanh
Conner Marston
Ann Leonard
February 6 Lisa Pageler
February 9 Jennifer Rhone
February 10 Glenda Lewis
February 11 Kali Draper
Katherine Thomas
February 13 Andrew Miller
February 14 Tom Lloyd
February 20 Russ Leix
February 22 Karen Dorrell
Emma Carter
February 24 Tori Boleyn
Hannah Squire
February 25 Michaela Bleeker
February 26 Jan Lewis
Evan Grimm
February 28 Mackenzie Bleeker



If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please 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.



St Luke F.R.O.G. Program

Did you know there are frogs at St Luke? It's true! Since September, some of the young people have been meeting with their leaders on Zoom to learn and stay connected. They voted for the group name to be F.R.O.G., Friends Relying On God. The older kids hop onto Zoom on Tuesdays and the younger kids on Wednesdays. They read a different bible story each month and do activities that relate to it.



The older kids like sharing their 'highs and lows' with each other and the younger group is practicing saying the Lord's Prayer. Included in each month's activities is an opportunity to serve others by reaching out to church members and the community. So far they have shared prayer cards, painted and shared special gourds, made special placemats for Meals on Wheels, sent Christmas cards to senior friends, and assembled and donated Care Bags. This success has been a result of the work and guidance of our un'frog'getable team; Pastor Chad, Lisa Marston, Wendy Jennings, and Peg Ehler. A big thank you to these wonderful volunteers for finding a fun and safe way to keep our youth engaged during this time. We appreciate all you do!

If you have a child or grandchild that would like to join us please email us at:

worship@stlukenewton.com.

PreK - 2nd Grade - Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm via Zoom
3rd - 6th Grade - Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm via Zoom
Middle School - Wednesdays After School @ St Luke

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.



February Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Muffin, Bread,
Pancake Mixes
and Syrup



A Daily Prayer

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.

