

St Luke UMC

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

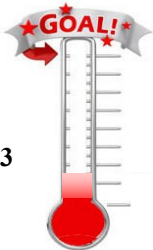
February 1, 2023



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2023 Apportionments

\$15,279



\$203

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 \$27,932 which included:

- \$ 1,570 - Building Fund
- \$ 203 - Apportionments
- \$ 80 - Human Relations Day
- \$ 226 - Christ's Foundry UMC
- \$ 32 - Heifer Project
- \$ 30 - UMCOR Ukraine

Happy Valentine's Day

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

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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](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeNewton)

Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com

Ash Wednesday SERVICE

FEBRUARY 22 | 6:30 PM

Ash Wednesday Service

We will be having an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 pm. We hope to see you there!

Adult Candlelight Potluck Dinner & White Elephant Gift Exchange



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 | 6 PM

ST LUKE FELLOWSHIP HALL

**A-A-A Candlelight Potluck Dinner
With White Elephant Gift Exchange
February 18, 6 pm**

Help beat away the winter blahs! Mark your calendar to join friends for a potluck supper in Fellowship Hall on Saturday evening, February 18, 6 p.m. **ADULTS of ALL AGES** (A-A-A) are welcome! Each **person** is invited to provide 1- a contribution to the potluck supper and 2- a white elephant gift.



My Story

I'll admit it... I love a good pizza. One where the cheese is gooey and soft. The toppings just right. The crust a little crisp and also a little soft. Can you visualize the TV commercial, where the cheese is stringing out from a slice being lifted away from the pizza? Can you almost smell it as the person on the screen takes a bite? Is your mouth watering right now? How enticing is that commercial? Do you want to order a pizza for supper?



Wouldn't it be nice if we could entice others to experience Christ, simply by the way we live? Wouldn't it be nice to know that the things we do and say in our daily lives might encourage others to get to know Jesus for themselves?

1 Timothy 4:11-14 Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor,



by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use.

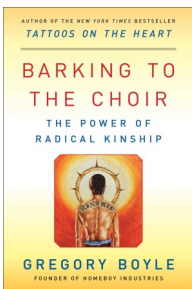
Savor your relationship with Jesus and find ways to be a "Commercial" of faith that leads others to Christ.

Corinne Kleppe

Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class is reading and discussing the book *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Gregory Boyle. If you are familiar with *Tattoos on the Heart* or *The Whole Language*, you will enjoy reading Gregory Boyle's 2nd book in this series. In a nation deeply divided and plagued by poverty and violence, *Barking to the Choir* offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins. Sergio, arrested at age nine, in a gang by age twelve, and serving time shortly thereafter, now works with the substance-abuse team at Homeboy to help others find sobriety. Jamal, abandoned by his family when he tried to attend school at age seven, gradually finds forgiveness for his schizophrenic mother. New father Cuco, who never knew his own dad, thinks of a daily adventure on which to take his four-year-old son. These former gang members uplift the soul and reveal how bright life can be when filled with unconditional love and kindness.

If you are looking for a class with variety and topical studies, this would be a good class for you. We read the book together, so there is no "homework". There is always room for more to join the conversation. We meet in Room 5 in the education wing right after Worship.



Sacred Encounter

Matthew 17:1-9

Being open to the mystery of God's transforming presence

Jesus was entering the last year of His earthly ministry. Accompanied by Peter, James, and John, Jesus traveled to the top of a "high mountain." (*Why did He choose those three to accompany Him?*)

In a *preview* of Jesus' body being *transfigured*, the three disciples witnessed the face and clothing of Jesus begin to shine. We do not know how, but the three also *recognized* two others who then appeared: Moses and Elijah. Jesus engaged in conversation with the two prophets while the three disciples looked on.

Peter felt compelled to "act" upon the presence of the two miraculous guests, asking Jesus: *Should I quickly build some shelter, three small tabernacles, for You, for Moses, and for Elijah?*



And then a bright cloud enveloped **all**, and a voice was heard: *This is my beloved Son. With Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him.*

With that, it seems as though Peter was more of a doer, than a *listener*; and God was telling us that sometimes it might be better to *listen*, than feel like we need to use our energy to *do*.

When we listen, do we usually feel the need to immediately make what the speaker said *about us*? Are we capable of "just listening," and staying with the topic of the speaker, or do we feel the need to always then reply; transforming what the speaker said, to make the topic about **our** life, turning the topic away from the speaker?

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings, after the 9:30 church service. To honor and respect all present we are immunized. The class's emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings. Prepare yourself for each week's new passages!

•Lectionary Readings for February 2023•

- February 5:** **Matthew 5:13-20** | Greatness of Heart
To respond to Jesus's call to be like salt and light as we live into God's realm
- **February 12:** **Matthew 5:21-37** | From the Heart
To grow in our understanding of the heart of the law as we live into God's realm
- **February 19:** **Matthew 17:1-9** | Sacred Encounter
To be open to the mystery of God's transforming presence
- **February 26:** **Matthew 4:1-11** | Into the Wilderness
To encourage choices which signify trust in God



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith

February 15 - 1:15 pm
At St Luke UMC

If weather is below zero, icy or otherwise unreasonable, we will postpone until March 15.

"It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body." (NRSV)
1 Corinthians 15:44

Sunday February 12 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.



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.

Have Household Goods or Furniture to Donate?

Contact Lori Leix



Sunday School Missionary Offerings February through June 2023

The 2nd through 5th Sundays of each month the Sunday school offering will be designated toward Missionary support. This year our NOW Missions team has selected Florence Mefor as our recipient during the months of February through June. Even if you are not attending Sunday school, you too can support our Missionary friends by noting "Missionary – Florence Mefor" on the memo line of your check and placing the check in the offering plate during worship.



Florence serves as a mid-wife and Nurse with the Mutambara Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe. Her work focuses on expecting and postpartum mothers and children under 5-years old, Florence has delivered hundreds of babies, and prays that God will continue to give her the strength to continue to do God's work with the mothers.

As always the Sunday School offering for the first week of the month will be designated for Sunday School administration costs.

Corinne, NOW Missions

Calling VBS Volunteers!

We want you! To help us spread the word of God to local youth during Vacation Bible School which is June 26-30. We need volunteers in the areas of: classroom teachers, crafts, snacks, recreation, music, and drama. If you are able to help, please contact Ann Leonard at americleonard@gmail.com or call/text her at 641-521-2463.

**SAVE THE DATE - VBS 2023
JUNE 26-30, 2023**



Love Aces the Test

Author Adele Calhoun describes life as "our 'open-book' test on love." How can we ace it? In *Invitations From God*, she points out that daily decisions are the make-or-break factors: "Day in and day out as we plan, work, produce, commute and relate, we make life-altering choices to either love or neglect others."



For another study guide, reflect on St. Augustine's timeless words: "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of [people]. That is what love looks like."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Praise Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship - Communion Sunday School to Follow 	6 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group	7 5:30 pm Discover Hope Supper	8 Praise Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm	9	10	11
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">  </div>						
12 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Disabilities Awareness Sunday Offering 	13 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group 	14 	15 1:15 pm UWF Meeting Sam's Rsrvd Praise Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm	16 6:30 pm Quilt Guild Meeting FH Rsrvd	17	18 10 am P.E.O. Meeting FH Rsrvd 9 am - Noon 6 pm Adult Potluck Dinner/ White Elephant Gift Exchange
19 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	20 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group 	21	 Ash WEDNESDAY Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	27 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group 6:30 pm JCRCC FH Rsrvd	28 7pm Mission Coalition FH Rsrvd				

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
Feb. 5	9:30 AM
Ushers	Karen Clark & Carolyn Cook
Greeters	Brad & Jenni Patty
Reader	Emily McConkey
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Pat Patty

Feb. 12	9:30 AM
Ushers	Amy Murphy
Greeters	Carolyn Cook
Reader	Ann Leonard
Acolyte	Frances Mills
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Karen Clark

Feb. 19	9:30 AM
Ushers	Peg Kimberley
Greeters	Dennis & Pam Smith
Reader	Pat Patty
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark
Coffee Time	Peg Ehler

Feb. 26	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Roy & Pat Patty
Greeters (2)	Pam Andrews & Rose Evans
Reader	
Acolyte	Nathan Figland
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Megan DeJong

February Worship Assistants

For 2023 we are excited to try something new with our worship assistant sign up. We would like to see more of our volunteer position filled so we have decided to start passing around sign-up



sheets for 3 months at a time. We had a wonderful response for our January-March volunteers and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up.

Most positions are filled now through March but there are still a few 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/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhxQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help. 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 February Birthdays

- February 1 Tate Osborn,
Lauren Figland
- February 2 Pat Patty
- February 4 Hiap Thongvanh,
Ann Leonard,
Conner Marston
- 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

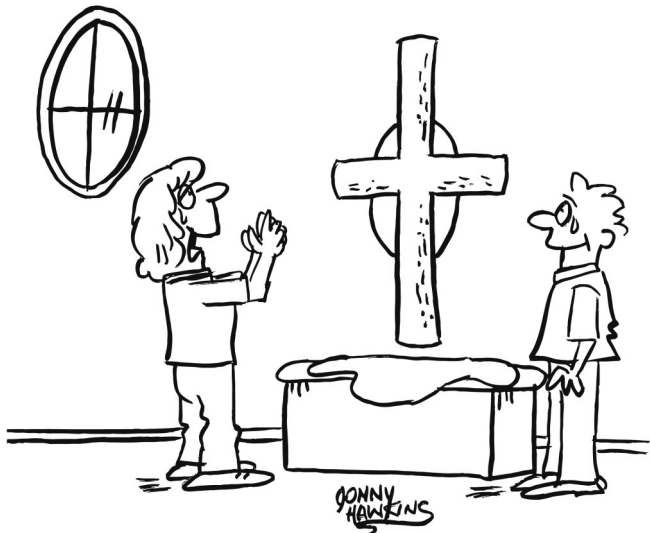


If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the office.

Newsletter



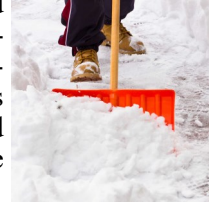
If you know someone that would like to receive the monthly Newsletter via email, please send their name and email address to the church office to be placed on the email list, at: Worship@StLukeNewton.com.



"Because of this, my sins were crossed out."

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 and watch for text messages for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.



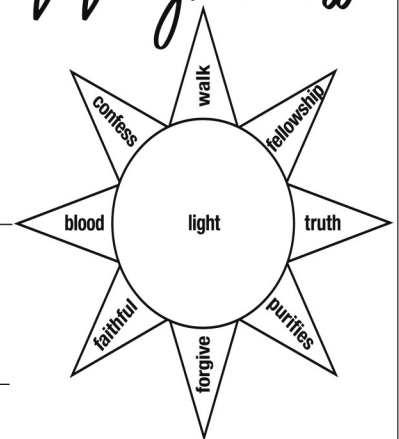
February Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Muffin, Bread, Pancake Mixes and Syrup



The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?



Directions:
Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.

But if we _____ in the _____, as he is in the _____, we have _____ with one another, and the _____ of Jesus, his Son, _____ us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the _____ is not in us. If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just and will _____ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV

Answer: walk, light, light, fellowship, blood, purifies, truth, confess, faithful, forgive