

St Luke UMC

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

February 2019

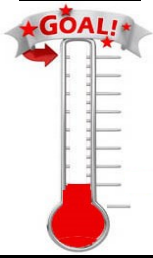


THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

2019 Apportionment

\$24,351



Financial Update

2018 Mission offerings in Review

Our 2018 Rainbow Covenant mission report was recently completed. Because we

started 2018 with 298 St Luke members, our giving goal was: 1) Apportionments paid in full; 2) \$3576 in second mile giving (this is divided into categories like international, national, state, hunger & poverty, umcor, etc); and 3) \$894 in third mile giving (missionaries and local giving). So our total goal after our apportionments = \$4470.

So, you may be asking “how did we do?” 1) We paid 100% of our 2018 apportionments. 2) We gave \$9744.36 toward 2nd mile giving and we gave \$3329.10 toward third mile giving. And those numbers do not include volunteer hours to Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Days for Girls, Mobility Worldwide, Trinity 5th Monday Suppers and any other volunteer hours people gave. What this shows is that St Luke is a giving congregation. Wahoo! Great Job! God Bless.

NOW – MISSIONS

THANK YOU

“Do something wonderful; people may imitate it.”



—Albert Schweitzer

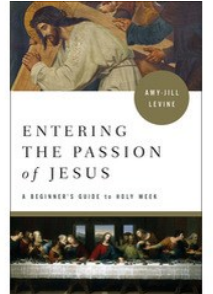
Lenten Study beginning in March

This year’s Lenten study will be *Entering The Passion of Jesus: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. It explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story.

Jesus’ final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

There will be 2 or 3 groups meeting for the Lenten study. Be sure to find a group to join starting the week after Ash Wednesday and meeting until Easter. Sign-up sheets are on the Servant’s Counter.



FINDING A WAY FORWARD

prayer. peace. unity. hope.

iaumc.org/gc2019

General Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Later this month, hundreds of United Methodists from around the world will gather as our elected representatives to converse, debate, listen to the Holy Spirit, and make decisions regarding the United Methodist rules applying to LBGTQ+ persons. This General Conference was specially called for this specific purpose.

This special General Conference will take place in St. Louis, Missouri on February 23-26. Information regarding the General Conference and updates between now and then can be found at www.iaumc.org/gc2019.

What can you do?

Pray. Our prayers are important in the work of the Spirit. At Annual Conference, it was suggested that we pray from 2:23-2:26 each day, representing the dates of the gathering.

Pay attention. The General Conference will be live-streamed. You can watch our Church decide its future. The first 2 days will be dominated by prayer and worship. The legislation should begin on day 3. However, I believe that looking at daily briefings will be more effective than watching a live-stream.

Know. While our future may be unclear as a denomination, we know that St. Luke will still have vital ministry to do in Newton and beyond. God is calling us to be agents in the world, and to continue to be faithful followers of God.



February is the longest month. I know that by calendar days, it is always the shortest month. But with the cold, wind, snow, and darkness, it is the longest month of the year for me.



Perhaps it is because there isn't much to look forward to. Football is over at the beginning of the month. Basketball doesn't get exciting for me until the madness of March. My bike is hanging in the garage.

But even in the midst of the dreariness of February, God shows us that there is reason to hope. On those days that the sun comes out, I am reminded that the winter, as long as it is, will turn to spring very soon. Even with the snow on the ground, I see rabbit tracks and smile with the evidence of life enduring.



Soon spring will come. Just knowing that it will come sparks hope that is stronger than winter.

The same can be said of the kingdom of God. It has been a long time since Jesus ascended into heaven with the promise to return. We have been in a winter for a long time. But Jesus promised to return. That promise is as sure as the calendar. As the days tick on toward March, we know that spring is coming. As the days tick on toward March, we know that the day that Jesus comes again is getting closer, even if we can't see when yet. On top of that, we can see the tracks in the snow: the tracks left behind by the work that God is doing in the world. When we see the goodness of people who are helping in developing nations, we see God's tracks. When we participate in disaster relief around the world, we see God's tracks. When we see folks in our own church reaching out to those who are suffering, we see God's tracks.

February may be a long month, and I may be thankful when it is finally over, but I also know that living through it is important. Likewise, as we live in waiting for Jesus to come again, I know that our living through this time is important. We still have things to do to prepare for Jesus' return. Do them.



In the meantime, watch for those tracks.
Chad



St. Luke Social Club Potluck Event Saturday, February 2nd

The St. Luke Social Club will host a potluck/white elephant gift/candlelight dinner event Saturday evening, February 2nd, 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**.

St Luke News

Congratulations to Stephen Pageler and Pam Smith for being this year's recipients of the UMWomen Mission Recognition awards. Your commitment to serving St Luke UMC is very much appreciated. Thank you for your service.



Sunday, February 10 The Heart of the House Offering

The Central District is raising funds to furnish a kitchen for the Ubuntu Retreat Centre at Africa University. The Centre houses mission teams, visiting professors and conference attendees. The Heart of the Centre is a place to gather for meaningful conversation and relationship building while prepping food, serving meals and cleaning up.



Think of how our kitchens are the heart of our homes and of the fellowship we have in our St Luke Kitchen. Our offering will help the Ubuntu Retreat Centre become a special place too.

Sunday, February 24 Disabilities Awareness Offering

The purpose of this offering is to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and promote their full inclusion in the community. 100% of this offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference to provide educational opportunities, and to provide grants to local churches which will assist in removing architectural and attitudinal barriers to accessibility.





United Methodist Women

February 20

1:15 pm

At St Luke UMC

But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

Luke 11:28

Program: Women Expanding the Table of Inclusion By Jan Lewis
Hostess: Tamara Lloyd

March 1 - World Day of Prayer
March 8 - International Bell Ringing for Women's Rights

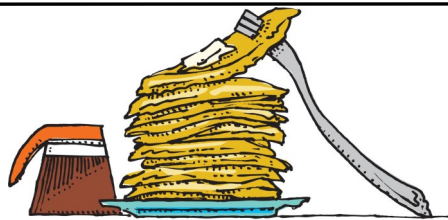
Sunday School Mission offering

The 2nd through 5th Sundays of the month 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



Pancake Supper

Pancake Supper - Ash Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday which is March 6th will be the date for St Luke United Methodist Church's annual pancake supper from 4:45-6:15 pm. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverages. A sign-up sheet for donations and workers will be on the Servant's Counter in February. A free will offering will be a part of our Easter offering for Justice For Our Neighbors.

News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

Lately the theme of grace keeps popping up in my life. That makes me think that God wants me to notice his grace and to be grateful, to talk about it, and to keep noticing. There are some books about grace in our little library and one of my favorites is *In The Grip Of Grace* by Max Lucado. He shares the discovery of God's grace by taking us on a journey through the mountaintop truths found in Paul's letter to the Romans. "Romans is the grandest treatise on grace ever written. You'll find the air fresh and the view clear," says Lucado.



You will find this book filled with refreshing truths of God's powerful love for each of us, perfect winter reading to fill the heart with spirit and refreshment for the daily walk. You will find it on the Newsletter shelf in our little library in the corner. Check it out.

February Salvation Army Food Pantry Request



Muffin, Bread, Pancake Mixes and Syrup

SILENT AUCTION

The St. Luke **silent auction** building renovation fund raiser for this month will close February 17th. If you will have bid on any item/s, please bring your funds to church that day, or soon after, so the transactions may be completed. Some of the items available for February bidding include a portable fire ring, sausage stuffer, puzzle, multi-picture frame, winter décor, crafts idea book, and lots of home decorating items. Progress continues on the pass-through storage area - - wiring, sheet rock, mudding; the status changes frequently. Thank you for your continued support of all St. Luke property improvements! And **thank you** to our volunteer carpenters which help this to happen!

Care Core

Have you ever wondered what "Care Core" does for St. Luke? Our intent is to care for and nurture members of the St. Luke community who are experiencing ups and downs in their life. We follow up on requests for prayer or other special needs that are mentioned during joys and concerns. Sometimes this might mean sending an encouraging card or joining Pastor Chad on a home visit. Because we have two services and some months contain five Sundays, we often have a lot of needs to cover. If you are looking for a way to uplift others and offer support, we would love to have you join us in Care Core. We could especially use some extra help during the 10:30 service. Please contact me or Pastor Chad if you have any questions.



Jenni Patty - Care Core chair



My Story

The firetruck hurried past my home early one morning. An hour later, as I drove to work, I could see and smell the smoke. Lots of thick black smoke rolled out from a downtown business in Grinnell. When I got to work, the fire was all that people could talk about. We learned that the fire was located in a restaurant in the middle of the street. Whenever anyone learned something new, the word spread throughout the room. We worried about the remainder of the downtown area. We worried about the fire fighters from 6 area fire departments, some of whom are our coworkers. We wondered about the cause and many of us prayed for the restaurant owners, firefighters, downtown residents and the other downtown businesses.



Just as talk of the fire in downtown Grinnell spread quickly at work, word of the “antics” and “message” of John the Baptist spread quickly throughout Judea, drawing people to the Jordan River. Some came to see the spectacle and find out what it was all about. Some came to question who he was and who sent him.

John 1: 22-23 *Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”*

Others came to be baptized and learn from him. John challenged them to repent and turn away from their sins. He told them how to live changed lives and to prepare for the coming of one who was greater than himself.

Excerpts from Luke 3:10-18 // *“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same” // Tax collectors: “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” // Soldiers: “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” // And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.*

In today’s world we need to remember the voice of John the Baptist calling people to make the crooked roads straight and the rough ways smooth. Let’s spread the word... let’s spark the “fire” of someone’s faith. Be a voice in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Corinne Kleppe - Editor



**Being Surprised
Turning Blessings
Upside Down:
Luke 6:17-26**

At the beginning of Luke 6, verses 1-11, we saw Jesus confronting the verbal challenges of His knowledge and authority in the Galilean temples. Soon thereafter the twelve emissaries, or apostles, were chosen. They, along with the rest of His followers, traveled to a level plain at the base of a mountainous area. They were joined by a great crowd of people from across a wide region, coming to hear Jesus, be healed of diseases, and freed from demonic spirits.

It was a struggle for everyone to get near, as they wished to touch Him and be healed and feel the *power* emanating from Him. In what would later come to be known as the **Sermon on the Plain** Jesus addressed what it meant to be “blessed,” turning the usual definition upside down.

People do not usually consider themselves feeling blessed if they see themselves as poor, hungry, sad, hated, insulted, or excluded. Such a situation creates a heart-wrenching feeling of separation from the rest of society. And likewise, those whom we deem as gifted, or more “blessed” than us, are people with whom we may feel a disconnect. This is the stuff of social classes, social circles, and a barrier to sharing gifts with each other.



Jesus’ message that day gave hope to those who were downtrodden. The listeners were told that for as much as they were feeling separation and sadness, they would be aptly rewarded in heaven: *When these things happen, rejoice! Jump for joy! Then you have a great reward in heaven. For at that moment, you are experiencing what the ancient prophets did when they were similarly treated by the ancestors of your detractors.*

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 February. Consider taking the time to read these scriptures at home!

◇ Lectionary Readings for February 2019 ◇

- February 3:** **Luke 4:21-30** | Power of the Word
To discern the prophetic ways of God, which may not be our ways.
- February 10:** **Luke 5:1-11** | Being Surprised
To weigh our response to Jesus’ call to follow in God’s ways.
- February 17:** **Luke 6:16-26** | Being Surprised
To explore what it means to be blessed and to be a blessing.
- February 24:** **Luke 6:27-38** | Be Holy
To explore Jesus’ call to love our enemies and work for peace.

Adult-2 Class

The Adult-2 Class is continuing to read and discuss 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.

MMDC Mission Trip

A team of 10 went to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in January. Barb and Mike Kaldenberg, Carolyn Cook, Jan Lewis, and Joyce Stonehocker from St. Luke were joined by five others from various churches. A larger team will be going on February 24th. Please pray for safe travel and for hearts of joy, love, and gratitude as these folks do meaningful work for God's Kingdom.



Meals On Wheels

St Luke is responsible for delivering Meals On Wheels on the weekends for the month of March. Two people are needed each day to deliver 2-12 meals. A sign-up sheet is on the Servants' Counter.

Contact Joyce Stonehocker if you have any questions.

Shrines

Along European and Latin American roads, especially in Catholic countries, it's common to encounter sculptures of Jesus, Mary or another religious image often set within a little shelter. People have erected these wayside shrines for centuries to mark an important event's location, indicate a parish boundary or help a traveler find the way. They may be at crossroads, on hilltops or along stretches of open road. The shrines allow travelers to pause, offer prayers and turn heart and mind to God.



What places in your life serve as wayside shrines, encouraging you to turn to God? For many Christians, weekly worship is such a place. Daily devotional reading might be a wayside shrine for you. Could the "empty" time, not of your choosing, between jobs or other life experiences be a wayside shrine, inviting you to step off the road and rest, pray and listen to God? When you take up your journey again, heart refreshed, remember that God always walks with you.

Days For Girls

The Newton Days For Girls team now has an evening session.

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, February 28 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 are probably putting away 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!**



Adventure of a Lifetime
2019 IOWA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS
LAKE OKOBOJI • PICTURED ROCKS • WESLEY WOODS
IOWA CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church
Camp and Retreats
www.iaumc.org/camps

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>February</p>					1	2  6pm St Luke Social Club - Potluck & White Elephant Exchange
<p>3 8/10:30 Worship - Communion </p> <p>9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.</p> <p> SHARE order Deadline</p>	4	5	6 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	7 6:30 pm Trustees meeting	8	9
<p>10 8/10:30 Worship Heart of the House Offering</p> <p>9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.</p>	11	12	13  Newsletter Articles Due 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice 7 pm Page Turners Book Club	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15	16  7-8 am SHARE Pick-up @ 1st UMC 9 am PEO - F Hall
<p>17 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 6 pm ICIW @ Mitchellville</p>	18	19 7 pm Council meeting	20 1:15 pm UMWomen @ St Luke 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	21 7pm Quilt Guild - F Hall 7 pm NAMI - Choir Room	22	23
<p>24 8/10:30 Worship Disability Awareness Offering</p> <p>9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.</p>	25	26 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting 7 pm Mission Coalition	27 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	28  9 am - 2 pm 6 - 9 pm Day For Girls @ 1st Presbyterian		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>← MDMC Mission Trip →</p> </div>						

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

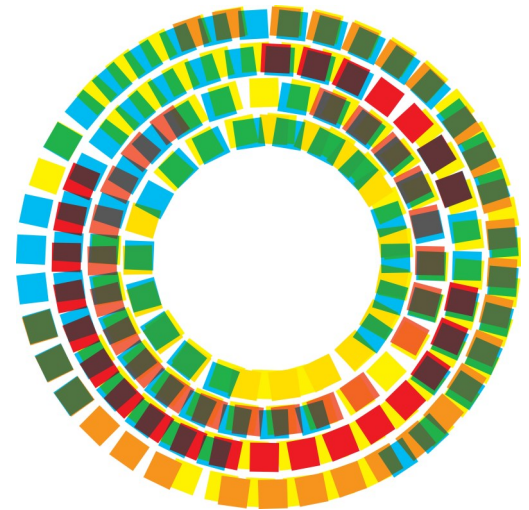
February 3	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Larry/Darlyne Howard	John/Mary Onstot
Greeters	Pam Andrews	Roy/Pat Patty
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg	Amy Murphy
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Doug McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Praise Team	Praise Team
Projection	Deb Stoulil	Jeff Carter
Fellowship	Pam Stiles	Lori Leix
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Amy Murphy
Communion	Ann Leonard	Counters Russ Leix/Pat Patty
February 10	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Corinne Kleppe/Karen Clark
Greeters	Chuck Springer	Amy Onstot
Readers	Karen Dorrell	Dennis Smith
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Ava Smith
Nursery	Parents take turns	Mary Nelson
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Doug McIntyre
Fellowship	Ann Leonard	Karen Clark
Care Core	Barb Swihart	Lisa Marston
Counters		Jan Lewis/Mike Kaldenberg
February 17	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Mike/Barb Kaldenberg	Jeff/Amy Murphy
Greeters	Larry/Darlyne Howard	Rose Evans
Readers	Russ Leix	Mikey Carter
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Pat Patty
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Projection	Brad Patty	Carolyn Cook
Fellowship	Barb Kaldenberg	Katie Jones
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Karen Clark
Counters		Rose Evans/Doug McIntyre
February 24	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Dave Miller/Ben Leonard	Deb Stoulil/Rhondi Machin
Greeters	Dick/Pam Stiles	Lori Leix
Readers	Dale Dorrell	Pat Patty
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Aniston Chambers
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Peg Ehler	Pam Smith
Fellowship	Barb Swihart	Mary Nelson
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Jenni Patty
Counters		Deb Stoulil/Jenna McIntyre

Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings
 chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com
 Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867
Adm. Assistant: Shirley Guillaume
 Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 1:45-5:45pm
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
Facebook: [St Luke Newton](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeNewton)

St Luke News

Many thanks to Shelley Vasquez, Angel Gallagher, Nathan and Abby Jennings for helping to take down and put away all the Christmas decorations.



A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.
 —Henri J.M. Nouwen

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
 February 2 Pat Patty, Emma Carter
 February 4 Hiap Thongvanh
 Conner Marston
 February 6 Lisa Pageler
 February 10 Glenda Lewis
 February 11 Kali Draper
 February 14 Tom Lloyd
 February 20 Russ Leix
 February 22 Karen Dorrell
 February 24 Tori Boleyn
 Hannah Squire
 February 25 Michaela Bleeker
 February 26 Jan Lewis
 February 28 Mackenzie Bleeker



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.

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, or call First UMC. "SHARE boxes" can be ordered by Sunday, February 3 and picked up at First UMC on Saturday, February 16, between 7:00-8:00 am, when you can also order and pay for the next month.




"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."

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.



"In the coldest February, as in every other month in every other year, the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other."
 —Linda Ellerbee



PUZZLE

WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.

ALWAYS

REFUGE

LOVE

PEACE

CHRIST JESUS

STRENGTH

God is our _____ and _____,
 an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

"Surely I am with you _____." Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
 your hearts and your minds in
 _____ . Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
 and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect