

St Luke UMC

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

March 1, 2021



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2021 Apportionments

\$16,499



\$1,848

Financial Update



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

Total of \$21,972 which included:

- \$ 3,150 - Building Fund
- \$ 300 - Apportionments
- \$ 200 - Days For Girls
- \$ 85 - Salvation Army
- \$ 50 - MMDC
- \$ 25 - Human Relations Day
- \$ 25 - Native American Sunday
- \$ 25 - World Communion
- \$ 20 - Jane Kies
- \$ 13 - Disability Awareness

Hello, March!



Where to Find Us

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Article Submission by the 13th of month.
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Website Manager: Stephen Pageler
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February MMDC Mission Trip

Midwest Mission



St Luke had a team of 9 volunteers that worked at Midwest Mission Distribution Center during the last week in February. Pastor Chad Jennings, Karen Clark, Dave Miller and Corinne Kleppe from St. Luke were joined by Corinne's mom—Merilee Kleppe, Karen's neighbors—Mo & Jim Lockwood and Mike & Ginny Dalton from the Prairie City UMC. This wonderful group of volunteers worked on a variety of jobs including: assembling 382 home care kits, sanding and finishing school desks, sewing machine repair, checking over personal dignity kits, packaging toilet paper and stuffing envelopes for mailing. They also brought with them 1,307 diapers, 6 sewing machines, lots of school supplies for school kits, 3 baby sweaters and 1 baby gown. All of these supplies are available for distribution throughout the world as needed. The center partners with a number of agencies for distribution in a network that is nothing short of miraculous.



Lent/Easter Offering

The NOW Committee has chosen 3 separate entities to be the recipients of the 2021 Lenten/Easter Offering. 2/3 of the offering will be designated to local programs, Discover Hope Ministries and Neighbor Helping Neighbor. The other 1/3 will go to the Church World Service blanket program. In the Mid-March edition of the newsletter, we will give you program information about each of these ministries and the good work they are doing for our community and our world.



Corinne, NOW Missions



My Story

The hill wasn't very big, but I had no traction thanks to the snow pack. I had decided I should back down the hill and take another route, but before I could change gears, I was sliding sideways into the drift on the other side of the road. And there I was, stuck in a snow drift, two blocks from my destination.

I put my car into park, got out of my car and using my hands, I started to dig snow away from the tires. Soon an older gentleman walked up and offered to push. We tried... but there was still no movement. I got back out of my car and went back to digging snow away from my tires. When I stood up again, there were two women standing next to him, all three were smiling and ready to push my car free. There is strength in numbers and through teamwork, they soon had me on my way to my appointment.



In our world at this time we are told to keep our distance. Don't get too close. We wear masks to protect ourselves and others. It's important, but it is also difficult and at times lonely.

That day, we forgot all of that for a short time as we worked together and smiled at each other while freeing my vehicle. Three smiling strangers were willing to stop what they were doing and help me. It reminds me that we all need to be willing to offer assistance but also to ask for help from others and from God. Just ask!



Isaiah 41:13 For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

Corinne Kleppe



 <p>St. Luke Seasons OF THE Spirit</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY Sunday School Class meets 9:15 a.m. in the choir room</p>
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Palm/Passion

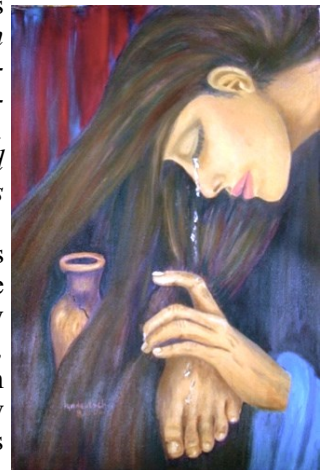
MARK 11:1-11 AND
MARK 14:1-15:47

Exploring the stories of Holy Week

Passover is one of the most widely observed holidays of the Jewish religion. It is held in observance of the Israelites being “passed over” by God’s angel of death, brought on by the Egyptian pharaoh’s refusal to release them. The Israelites marked their door frames with a lamb’s blood so that the angel of death would recognize and “pass over” the Jewish residences. Those whose residences the angel of death did *not* pass over were to suffer the death of their firstborn.

On the evening after Passover the Jewish people were told by God to not allow their bread to rise, but to take everything, *as is*, and leave immediately. Past (baking) practice had been to leaven bread (use yeast) as part of the bread-making process, but the people were now instructed to bake the bread “as is,” and depart. Thus began the Feast of the Unleavened Bread.

Two days before the Feast of Passover and, later, the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, Jesus was in Bethany eating dinner in the house of Simon the leper. Bethany was less than 2 miles from Jerusalem. *A woman came into the house carrying an alabaster flask filled with precious, sweet-smelling ointment made from spikenard. She came to Jesus, broke the jar, and gently poured out the perfume onto His head.*



Spikenard, a highly-prized perfume, is a derivative of the honeysuckle plant. An online search states it may help with *anxiety, depression, insomnia, and stress*. Besides being used as an agent to cover the dead, can you see how it might benefit one who knows He is facing imminent death?

Many of Simon’s dinner guests were critical of the woman’s “wasting” this precious ointment, commenting how the value of it could bring funds used to help the poor, instead. Jesus rebuked them, saying, “*Leave her alone. Why are you attacking her? She has done a good thing. The poor will always be with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you want. But I won’t always be with you. She has done what she could for Me—she has come to anoint My body and prepare it for burial. Believe Me when I tell you that this act of hers will be told in her honor as long as there are people who tell the good news.*”

∞ Lectionary Readings for March 2021 ∞

- **March 7:** Psalm 19 | Faithful Living Together
To deepen our wonder for God’s creation and explore how to live faithfully in it.
- **March 14:** Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 | Choose to Give Thanks
To explore the ways of God’s steadfast love in all situations.
- **March 21:** Jeremiah 31:31-34 | A Heart for God
To affirm God’s presence and promise in the center of our being.
- **March 28:** Mark 1:1-11 & Mark 14:1-15:47 | Palm/Passion
To explore together the stories of Holy Week.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
March 7	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Jeff & Amy Muphy
Greeters (2)	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Counters (2)	
March 14	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Counters (2)	
March 21	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark
Counters (2)	
March 28	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg, Jenna McIntyre
Counters (2)	Rose Evans
April 4	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Counters (2)	

March Worship Assistants

We are continuing with our worship assistant sign-up during the month of March. 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:

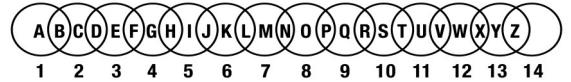
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhxQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

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!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

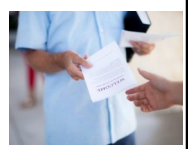
3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

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 Lenten Bible Study	2 Election F-Hall in Use All Day 6:30 pm 3rd-6th Zoom Ed. Class	3 3:15 pm Middle School Ed. Class 6:30 pm K-2nd Zoom Ed. Class	4	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship - Communion 	8 6:30 pm Zoom Lenten 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	11	12	13 9 am-5 pm Quilt Guild F-Hall 
14 9:30 am Worship UMCOR Sunday 	15 6:30 pm Zoom Lenten 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 	18 6:30 pm Quilt Guild F-Hall	19	20 F-Hall Reserved 11am-5pm 
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	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship  Palm Sunday	29 6:30 pm Zoom Lenten Bible Study	30 6:30 pm 3rd-6th Zoom Ed. Class	31 3:15 pm Middle School Ed. Class 6:30 pm K-2nd Zoom Ed. Class			

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



United Methodist Women

March
No Meeting

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

Happy Birthday, UMW!

March 5 - World Day of Prayer
March 23 - UMW 152nd Anniversary

UMCOR Sunday Offering Sunday, March 14th

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR's work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.

Gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering cover the costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. UMCOR has no source of revenue for administration except from UMCOR Sunday.

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

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.



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.

St Luke News

Thank you Roy and Pat Patty for many years of sorting, cleaning and counting the recycled cans and putting the money in the apportionment fund.



Thank you members for bringing your cans for recycling.

Jane Kies – Missionary

With the absence of Sunday School at this time, our support of missionary work must still go forward. For several years, our Sunday school offerings have gone toward supporting these missionaries. We have a covenant with Jane Kies, to provide \$300 each year. Will you help? Please consider donating toward this covenant and help us reach our goal of \$300 for Jane. Jane serves at Africa University in Zimbabwe, teaching English.



The LORD
will be your
Everlasting
Light ISAIAH
60:20

A Breath of Fresh Prayer

Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby described prayer as simply letting God into our lives. God "knocks," he said, "not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer" but "in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind ... when you need him most."



Prayer, added Hallesby, is as essential to life as air. "As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon," he said. "Let your prayers ascend to [God] constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit."



"Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone's heart."

—Mandy Hale

A Special Blessing for those with March Birthdays

- March 2 Martha Stewart
- March 3 Roy Patty
Rhondi Machin
Chom Thongvanh
- March 4 Abby Jennings
Shirley Guillaume
- March 6 Ethan Pageler
Rosemary Hartschen
- March 7 Brad Patty
- March 8 Aniston Chambers
Allison Thongvanh
- March 15 Dale Fifer
- March 16 Jenni Patty
Dwight Huggins
- March 20 Shelley Vasquez
Jason Hanson
Nathan McConkey
Jeff Eisbrener
- March 22 Bryce Rhone
- March 24 Peg Ehler
Chad Jennings
- March 25 John Onstot
Erin Stonner
Ethan McConkey
- March 27 Hannah Marston
- March 29 Alan Andrews



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



March Salvation Army Food Pantry Request
Macaroni and Cheese,
Tuna and Hamburger Helper



St Luke F.R.O.G. Program

The Sunday School (now called F.R.O.G., or Friends Relying on God) has been meeting weekly through Zoom since September. 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.



BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.

-  VDEO _____ (Genesis 8:8)
-  LWO _____ (Psalm 102:6)
-  GEELA _____ (Isaiah 40:31)
-  TOKRS _____ (Jeremiah 8:7)
-  APROSWRS _____

“Are not five _____ sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many _____.”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, sparrow