

# St Luke UMC

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

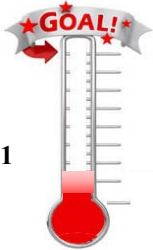
March 1, 2022



# THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

## 2022 Apportionments

**\$14,313**



\$241

## 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 \$24,880 which included:
- \$ 3,275 - Building Fund
- \$ 75 - Apportionments
- \$ 130 - Human Relations Day
- \$ 20 - Jane Kies
- \$ 75 - Disability Awareness
- \$ 58 - Heifer Moolah



## 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 am - 12 pm  
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  
**YouTube:** St Luke United Methodist Church  
**Facebook:** St Luke Newton  
**Prayer:** prayer@stlukenewton.com



## MARCH 2 | 6:30 PM

### Ash Wednesday Service

We will be having an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 pm. Masks will be optional. We hope to see you there!

### Lenten/Easter Offering 2022

Lent 2022 begins on Wednesday March 2, with Easter day being Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>. This year the N.O.W. committee has chosen to split our Lenten/Easter offering between the Women at the Well UMC and Worldwide Mobility (formerly PETS). Both of these missions are here in Iowa and St Luke has a history of working with each of them.

Watch the Mid-March Newsletter for more information about these two worthy recipients.



### Lenten Study

We will be having a Monday night Lenten Study via zoom starting March 7 at 6:30 pm. We will be reading the book "The Difficult Words of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine. Books are \$13. Sign up at the servant's counter if interested.

Monday Night  
**LENTEN Study**  
March 7 - April 11  
Books are \$13  
Sign up TODAY!



## My Story

A nice blanket of white snow covered all of the dirt and grime of the past couple of weeks. Once again, the yard looked crisp and clean. When you look at snow piled on the ground it all looks the same. And yet, if we look closer, each flake is unique. Each flake has its very own angles and forms.



With humans we need to sometimes look at them the opposite way. Yes, each of us is unique. We have different forms, different shades, different views that give each of us our uniqueness. If however, we pull back on the lens and look at humans as a whole, we are way more alike than we are different. We all have one heart and one brain. Our blood, sweat and tears are all the same color. I once watched a disaster movie about a volcanic eruption happening along the San Andreas Fault in California. At the end of the movie everyone was covered in gray soot and a small boy spoke with awe, "Look they all look the same." Take away our skin, hair and eye color... we are the same. Take away our political views and we are all very much alike. While it is important to see our uniqueness, sometimes it is much more important to see how much we are all alike.

<sup>5</sup> *Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.* <sup>6</sup> *Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other.* <sup>7</sup> *For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? 1 Corinthians 4: 5-7*

Don't judge others by their looks or even their views, but rather, look for the ways in which they are similar to yourself, and start from there. Let's envelop our world in a blanket of love that covers the dirt and grime of our world.

Corinne Kleppe

## Congregation Assessment Tool™ (CAT)

Please take the CAT Survey  
February 27—March 20  
Check your email for the link.

It takes less than  
30 minutes  
to take the CAT!



You can take it  
online or on paper.



## Ritual of Promise

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

*Affirming trust  
in God's promises in times  
of hope and  
in times of difficulty*

Some research indicates Abram was a *wealthy* man from Ur. Married to his half-sister Sarai, he likely lived as an upper-class free man. In Genesis 12:1 God called Abram to leave the land of his father/ancestors and go to a land which He would show him. By then Abram was approximately 70 years old. Abram was told specifically what he must leave behind: country, relatives, his father's house. Abram and Sarai went out, not knowing what their destination was. Initially, fellow travelers included Abram's father, Terah, and Lot, Abram's nephew.

Abram and Sarai eventually lived in a tent in Canaan. They had given up living in a house, a stable water supply, predictable climate, and "conveniences of civilization." They made the choice between God and comfort and money.

One day God appeared to Abram in a vision, telling him to not be afraid and that Abram's "reward" for loyalty and trust would be immense. Abram replied, asking what God could give that would make "that much of a difference in my life?" Abram and Sarai were still childless, and their servant Eliezer stood to inherit all Abram owned. "No one but your very own child will be an heir for you... Your descendants will be as many as the stars."



From there God made a covenant with Abram and described to him the **ritual procedure** of such. This ritual covenant was a symbol of something "forged" between God and Abram; Sarai and Abram's future was changed.

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 and wear face masks. The class's emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings.

### ∞ Lectionary Readings for March 2022 ∞

- **March 6: Deuteronomy 26:1-11** | Practice Gratitude  
*To affirm and practice giving that is grounded in gratitude*
- **March 13: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18** | Ritual of Promise  
*To affirm trust in God's promises in times of hope and in times of difficulty*
- **March 20: Isaiah 55:1-9** | Open Invitation  
*To respond to the invitation of God's generous and empowering grace*
- **March 27: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32** | Welcoming Grace  
*To explore forgiveness, grace, and reconciliation in the parable of the prodigal*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
March 6	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Reader	Rose Evans
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Peg Ehler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg
Counters (2)	

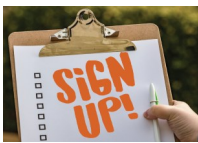
March 13	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	Pam Andrews
Reader	Kathy Trotter
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Peg Ehler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Hiap Thongvanh
Counters (2)	

March 20	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	Marianne Spaur
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Peg Ehler
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark
Coffee Time	Peg Ehler
Counters (2)	

March 27	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	Marianne Spaur
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Peg Ehler
Care Core	Jenni Patty
Coffee Time	
Counters (2)	

### March Worship Assistants

We are looking for volunteers to be worship assistants for the month of March. If you would like to volunteer you can email the church office at: [worship@stlukenewton.com](mailto:worship@stlukenewton.com), use the sign-up sheets on the coffee counter or you can add your name to our new online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:



<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUHXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We still have quite a few openings so please sign up if you are able. If we continue to have a lot of unfilled positions we may have to return to assigning worship assistants. We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help. Thank you!

# Puzzle!

Complete the Scripture verses (NIV, unless marked) using letters found in the words



## SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

See! The winter is \_ \_ \_ \_ ; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

"Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it \_ \_ \_ \_ , it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you." (Luke 11:36)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the \_ \_ \_ \_ , which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them ... ? (Psalm 8:3-4)

We all, like sheep, have gone \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and members of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

Answer: past, dark, stars, astray, saints

### 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
		<b>1</b> 5:30-9pm <b>P.E.O.            Meeting            FH Rsrvd</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		<b>6</b> 9:30 am Worship - <b>Communion</b> Sunday School to Follow 	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm <b>Zoom            Lenten            Study</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7 pm Page Turners FH Rsrvd 7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>10</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow  	<b>14</b> 1:30-3:30 pm Book Club Sams Place Rsrvd <b>6:30 pm            Zoom            Lenten            Study</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30-9 pm <b>P.E.O.            Meeting            FH Rsrvd</b>	<b>16</b> 7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Quilt Guild FH Rsrvd 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow 	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm <b>Zoom            Lenten            Study</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Mission            Coalition            7pm</b>	<b>23</b> 7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow <b>UMCOR Sunday</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm <b>Zoom            Lenten            Study</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>31</b>		

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



## United Methodist Women

March  
No Meeting

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Hebrews 10:25

### Happy Birthday, UMW!

March 4 - World Day of Prayer

March 23 - UMW 153rd Anniversary

### Sunday School Mission Offering Jane Kies, Missionary at Africa University in Mutare Zimbabwe

As of The end of February we have given \$20 of our \$300 goal in support of Jane's final year as a missionary. Can you help us reach our goal? The Sunday School offering for the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays will go toward this covenant goal. You can help by adding "Jane Kies" to the memo line of your check and placing that in the offering plate at worship. May we be a blessing to her in her final year of missionary service. Below is an excerpt from the January 2022 [Update from Mutare](#) newsletter:



"My own interaction with students over the break was assisting those on campus to practice their English skills. I have been encouraged to see our students take the initiative to organize small group debates and English Language 'clubs'.

#### Teaching and Covid

Like most places, Covid-19 has greatly changed the way we teach. Most of our students are off campus; throughout the continent, poor internet connectivity frustrates students and staff. Many students also do not own computers and so participating in lessons and assignments and even taking exams is done by smartphone. In Zimbabwe, although Covid-19 infection percentages have been comparatively low, many young children have suffered the consequences of interrupted classes and closures of schools.

On a positive note, we have all become familiar with a new way of teaching, and AU has expanded its student enrollment. Online instruction opens up possibilities of reaching far more students on the continent. The AU campus residence halls house close to 1000 students, the majority international and those doing practical subjects (such as Larry's Agriculture classes). Classrooms have been beautifully equipped with white boards and projectors in preparation for a blended teaching approach. "

Jane Kies.

## UMCOR Sunday Offering Sunday, March 27th

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.

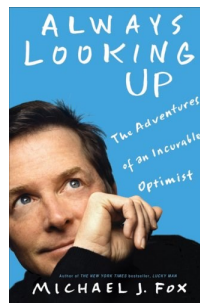
### United Methodist Women News

The St. Luke unit of United Methodist Women has received 5 Star designation for giving in 2021. The 5 areas of mission giving to earn this designation are: Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift in Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering. The pledges of the members enabled the group to contribute \$1349 to help women and children in the US and abroad. Congratulations and thank you for your faithful giving. Check out the certificate posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



### Adult-2 Sunday School Class

Beginning March 6th, the Adult 2 Sunday School class is going to begin to read and discuss the book *Always Looking Up* by Michael J. Fox. In this memoir, Michael shares the themes of his life as he deals with Parkinson's Disease. He covers work, faith, and family. "With humor and wit, Michael describes how he became a happier, more satisfied person by recognizing the gifts of everyday life".



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.



## 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 9 Kathy Trotter
- March 14 Rusty Deppe
- March 15 Dale Fifer
- March 16 Jenni Patty, Dwight Huggins
- March 20 Shelley Vasquez, Jason Hanson,  
Nathan McConkey, Jeff Eisbrenner
- 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.



**2022  
VACATION  
BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 27 - July 1**

### VBS Volunteers Needed!

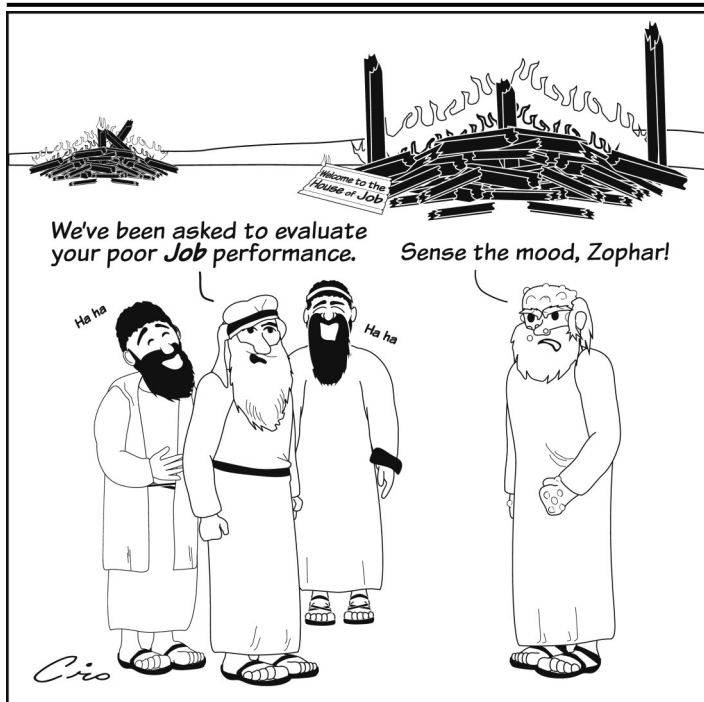
Please email ([annericleonard@gmail.com](mailto:annericleonard@gmail.com)) or call (641-521-2463) Ann Leonard if you are interested in helping.



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

## Have Household Goods or Furniture to Donate?

Contact Lori Leix



# PUZZLE

## A wondrous washing

David's prayer of repentance reveals a desire to be cleansed of his sin.

*Directions: Unscramble the words on the left. Then match them with the correct phrases from Psalm 51 (NIV) on the right.*

- |               |       |  |
|---------------|-------|--|
| ETRCAE _____  | _____ | out my transgressions (v. 1)               |
| HSAW _____    | _____ | away all my iniquity (v. 2)                |
| RSEEROT _____ | _____ | me with hyssop, and I will be clean (v. 7) |
| WNERE _____   | _____ | me, and I will be whiter than snow (v. 7)  |
| TLBO _____    | _____ | your face from my sins (v. 9)              |
| DIHE _____    | _____ | out all my iniquity (v. 9)                 |
| NATRG _____   | _____ | in me a pure heart (v. 10)                 |
| LNSECAE _____ | _____ | a steadfast spirit within me (v. 10)       |
| LBTO _____    | _____ | to me the joy of your salvation (v. 12)    |
| WWSA _____    | _____ | me a willing spirit, to sustain me (v. 12) |

Answer: blot, wash, wash, cleanse, wash, hide, blot, create, renew, restore, grant