 **St Luke United Methodist Church**  
 Pastor Audrey W Young  
 501 E 19th Street N  
 Newton, IA 50208

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit 419  
 Newton, IA 50208

ADDRESS SERVICE  
 REQUESTED

**St Luke UMC**  
 501 E 19th Street N  
 Newton, IA 50208  
 641-792-5736

**March 2017**



«Mailing Name»  
 «Address»  
 «City», «State» «F9»

**2017 Apportionment Goal**



**Financial Update**

Apportionments are missions. For United Methodists the apportionment method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition. **The Ministerial Education Fund** is our way of helping men and women to answer the divine call to pastoral ministry. Our United Methodist seminaries lead the effort to proclaim God's word in a world desperately in need of that message. See more at [www.umc.org/how-we-serve/apportioned-funds](http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/apportioned-funds). We'll continue 2nd Sunday Noisy Offerings for "A-PORTION-MEANT-FOR-OTHERS." Checks can be written anytime to *St Luke* with *Apportionments* in the memo.

**Pancake Supper & Worship Service  
 Ash Wednesday, March 1**

Ash Wednesday which is March 1<sup>st</sup> will be the date for St Luke United Methodist Church's annual pancake supper from 5-6:30 pm. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverages.



Pancake Supper

A signup sheet for donations and workers is on the Servant's Counter. A free will offering will be used for the St Nicholas book fund. 2017 will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of providing a book for each child in the program.



**Ash Wednesday Worship**

at 6:30 pm

following the Pancake Supper.

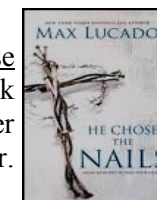
**Sunday, March 5 is the First Sunday of Lent.**

The Worship Team has chosen "Essential Lent, Holy Moments & Sacred Experiences for Your Whole Congregation" to guide us through Lent with color and drama, special music and more.



**Lenten Study Begins Sunday, March 5**

This year's Lenten study is Max Lucado's *He Chose the Nails*. It is a five session discussion with a study book and DVD. Each session includes a DVD to watch, a chapter to read and discussion and personal questions to answer. We are in need of leaders/hosts to facilitate this study.



The second adult Sunday school class will be using this study during Lent beginning Sunday, March 5. We hope we can have one or two more groups which can meet either at church or at the host's home. The dates will be March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9<sup>th</sup>. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet your interest in the Lenten classes, what day of the week and time of the day works for you, and if you are willing to be the facilitator.

**UMCOR Sunday is March 19**

Formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, the name has changed to its actual purpose and recipient, United Methodist Committee on Relief or UMCOR. Our gifts help UMCOR bring light out of darkness.

Reaching people in more than 80 countries, including the US, UMCOR provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own. Our contributions ensure UMCOR's response in times of crisis. The UMCOR Sunday Offering restores and rebuilds lives around the world.



|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <b>Ash Wednesday March Pancake Supper</b><br>5 - 6:30 pm<br><b>6:30 pm Worship</b>   |  |
|  | <b>Sunday, March 5<br/>1st Sunday of Lent</b><br>Worship at 8 & 10:30 am<br>Communion<br>Sunday School at 9:15 am                                  |   |
|  | <b>Wednesday, March 8<br/>International Ring Bells<br/>for Women's Rights</b><br>supported by UMW & UMC  |   |
|  | <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i><br><b>2nd Lent Sunday, March 12<br/>Apportionment Sunday</b><br>Worship at 8 & 10:30 am<br>Sunday School at 9:15 am | <b>A Portion Meant for Others</b>   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>3rd Lent Sunday,<br/>March 19<br/>UMCOR Sunday Offering</b><br>(formerly <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> )<br>Worship at 8 & 10:30 am<br>Sunday School at 9:15 am<br>6 pm ICIW Worship-Mitchellville | <br>Our Church Supports UMCOR Sunday |
|    | <b>Thursday, March 23</b><br>9 am - 2 pm<br><b>Days for Girls Work Day</b><br>1st Presbyterian Church                     |
| <b>4th Lent Sunday, March 26<br/>Discover Hope 5:17 Guest</b><br>(receives 1/2 our Easter Offering)<br>Worship at 8 & 10:30 am<br>Sunday School at 9:15 am   |                                      |

These offerings have been received  
**Jan 26:** \$1662 including \$11-Kies Missionaries; \$25-Heifer Project; \$220-Women At The Well; \$243-Haiti Mission.  
**Feb 5:** \$2886 including \$135-Building Fund; \$9-St Andrews; \$9-Sunday School Supplies.  
**Feb 12:** \$1985 including \$150-Apportionments; \$65-Building Fund; \$15-Kies Missionaries; \$6-St Andrews.  
**Feb 19:** \$4443-including \$55-Building Fund; \$20-Apportionments; \$11-Kies Missionaries; \$5-St Andrews; \$72-Disabilities Awareness; \$53-Heifer International; \$950-Rental Income.  
**The balance on the building loan is \$12,293 thanks to your generous giving. You are Amazing!**

**Thank You!**



### Dear St Luke Family,

One morning three old cowboys came to see student pastor Bill Cotton to ask a favor. Their friend had died. They told him that old Jim didn't go to church but if he had, he would have leaned toward the Methodists.

Bill went to see his Old Testament professor for help because this old cowboy had broken at least twelve of the Ten Commandments and everyone in town knew it. Dr. Powers asked the young preacher, "Well, did they ask you to be his judge or to preach his funeral?"

Author and theologian Walter Brueggemann speaks of two ways to read any text. We can read it as if we are looking out the window. There we see a lot going on and it is easy to pass judgment—because we see only from our own perspective.

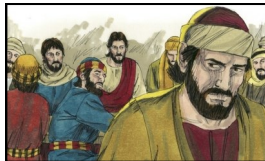


Brueggemann recommends that we look at the text as if we are looking in the mirror. When we look in the mirror first thing in the morning, it is not pretty—and it is up close and personal. The mirror approach is to see one's self in the story.



For example, think of the text about that terrible moment when Jesus announces that "one of you who breaks bread with me will betray me." From a window approach, one feels safe knowing who he means. But the mirror approach places one's self at that table, not knowing with certainty.

We can smell the fresh bread and the aroma of wine, & see we are all in this together as we voice the "Is it I?"



As Paul advised: *Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, who is the head.*

*The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.* Ephesians 4:15-16

Rather than putting others on trial, it is better to first put ourselves in the story. Always, run a text by the mirror before you put it into use.

*From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.* Phil 4:8

I will always pray for you and ask for your prayers for me.

*Pastor Audrey*



### March Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Macaroni and cheese, tuna and hamburger helper

### Lent: World Worth Saving

God believes the world is worth saving—and you can help! If you're weary of the Lent-as-usual appeal to give up chocolate, this Lent, you'll discover how you can be the hands of Christ in the world. See Lent as your opportunity to become involved in acts of mercy and compassion.



This engaging Lenten study through sermons will help you grow in your prayer life. You'll pray about daily news reports, discover the needs of persons around you, and see how you can respond with love and compassion.

You'll deepen your commitment to God's work in the world as you explore these themes and songs:

Fasting from Apathy & What Wondrous Love Is This  
Serving God by Serving Others & A Charge to Keep  
Feeding Others & Starving Our Guilt & Love Divine  
March 26 - Discover Hope 5:17 Ministries

Other subjects include Seeking Justice & Go to Dark Gethsemane, Healing the World & There Is a Balm.

Our guide for this series is UMC Pastor George Hovaness Donagian, author of "A World Worth Saving, Lenten Spiritual Practices for Action."

### Please Sign up Now for Bake Sale Fundraiser for Days for Girls on April 9

Several St Luke members are involved with the Days for Girls project of making personal care items. We would like to support this program with a fundraiser on Palm Sunday, April 9. A bake sale is planned with a freewill offering for the baked goods. We are asking for those who would like to contribute baked goods to sign up on the volunteer sheet.



The bake sale will be at church both services. Buy cinnamon rolls, bread, cookies, etc. to use immediately or freeze for your Easter celebrations.

### The Last Supper Drama followed by Potluck At St Luke - Tentatively March 19 or April 2 Watch the Trifold for updates

Last Supper Drama by West Des Moines United Methodist Men, at 10:30 worship followed by a potluck. With a cast of 25 people in the cast, they are still securing actors for either March 19 or April 2. The scene for the drama is the last supper the apostles had with Jesus in the upper room, but based on the scene in Leonardo de Vinci's painting of the Last Supper, which depicts that moment just after Jesus had said, "One of you will betray me."



### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

| March 5    | 8 AM                          | 10:30 AM                    |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ushers     | Larry/Darlyne Howard          | Roy/Pat Patty               |
| Greeters   | Dick/Pam Stiles               | Sue Crook                   |
| Reader     | Russ Leix                     | Darin Swarts                |
| Acolytes   | Ron Lisk                      | Kael/Ella Swarts            |
| Nursery    | Parents take turns            | Kali Draper                 |
| Keyboard   | Bev Thomas                    | Jan Lewis                   |
| Special    |                               |                             |
| Projection | Brad Patty                    | Jacob Murphy                |
| Fellowship | Rose Hartschen                | Marston Family              |
| Care Core  | Tamara Lloyd                  | Kari Ann Munson             |
| Communion  | Lisa Pageler                  | Comm Asst: Ella Swarts      |
| Counters   |                               | Brad Patty/Deb Stoullil     |
| March 12   | 8 AM                          | 10:30 AM                    |
| Ushers     | Bill/Linda Hotger             | Deb/Austin Stoullil         |
| Greeters   | Tamara Lloyd                  | Jeff/Amy Murphy             |
| Readers    | Dale Dorrell                  | Dennis Smith                |
| Acolytes   | Ron Lisk                      | Evan/Emma Grimm             |
| Nursery    | Parents take turns            | Volunteer Needed            |
| Keyboard   | Jan Lewis                     | Jan Lewis                   |
| Special    | Choir                         | Choir                       |
| Projection | Peg Ehler                     | Carolyn Cook                |
| Fellowship | Ann/Ben/Caleb Leonard         | Amy Murphy                  |
| Care Core  | Jan Lewis                     | Lisa Marston                |
| Counters   |                               | Pat Patty/Russ Leix         |
| March 19   | 8 AM                          | 10:30 AM                    |
| Ushers     | Dick/Pam Stiles               | Swarts Family               |
| Greeters   | Larry/Darlyne Howard          | Barb Kaldenberg             |
| Readers    | Rosemary Hartschen            | Rose Evans                  |
| Acolytes   | Ron Lisk                      | Kleo Walker-O'Brien         |
| Nursery    | Parents take turns            | Pat Patty                   |
| Keyboard   | Jan Lewis                     | Jan Lewis                   |
| Special    | Praise Team                   | Praise Team                 |
| Projection | Peg Ehler                     | Karen Clark                 |
| Fellowship | Peg Ehler                     | Michelle Walker-O'Brien     |
| Care Core  | Joyce Stonehocker             | Karen Clark                 |
| Counters   |                               | Rose Evans/Barb Kaldenberg  |
| March 26   | 8 AM                          | 10:30 AM                    |
| Ushers     | Margaret Gullett/Tamara Lloyd | Carolyn Cook/Corinne Kleppe |
| Greeters   | Bill/Linda Hotger             | Roy/Pat Patty               |
| Readers    | Pastor Audrey                 | Pastor Audrey               |
| Acolytes   | Ron Lisk                      | Jacob Murphy                |
| Nursery    | Parents take turns            | Volunteer Needed            |
| Keyboard   | Bev Thomas                    | Jan Lewis                   |
| Special    |                               |                             |
| Projection | Brad Patty                    | Pam Smith                   |
| Fellowship | Tamara Lloyd                  | Karen Clark                 |
| Care Core  | Barb Kaldenberg               | Marianne Spaur              |
| Counters   |                               | Deb Stoullil/Jan Lewis      |

### Where to Find Us

**Pastor:** Audrey Young  
pastorayoung@gmail.com  
Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 641-840-0119  
**Adm. Assistant:** Shirley Guillaume  
Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 8-Noon  
NewtonStLukeUMC@gmail.com  
Phone: 641-792-5736  
**Newsletter Editor:** Corinne Kleppe  
ckleppe@gmrc.com, Phone: 641-831-2639  
**Article Submission** by the 13th of month.  
**Website:** http://www.stlukenewton.com  
**Website Manager:** Shirley Guillaume  
**Facebook:** St Luke United Methodist Church Newton

### St Luke News

Congratulations to Christy and Mike Lester on the birth on their son, Benjamin. He is the grandson of Bill and Linda Hotger.

Our sympathies to the family of Evelyn Davis on her passing. Family includes Michelle and Kleo Walker-O'Brien, Mike O'Brien, Charles and Linda Walker.

Sympathies also to Betty Skaggs on the passing of her special friend, Francis Moore.

I thank God every day for my wonderful, supportive Church Family. A special "Thank You!" to all the ladies who brought in meals while I was home-bound.

In Christian Love - Betty Skaggs

Congratulations to Margaret Gullett for receiving the UMW Special Mission Recognition pin for her service at St Luke UMC.

Many thanks to the 45 people plus the music people that participated in the Advent services.

Thank you to all who donated food and volunteered their time to serve the January 5th Monday Supper at Trinity UMC. 120 people were served that evening.

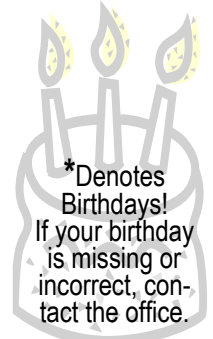

Congratulations to our honor roll students at NHS: Ryan Constant, Kali Draper, Morgan Fifer, Kyle Hansen, Jacob Murphy, Savannah Reicks, Josi Swihart; Berg: Kleo Walker-O'Brien, Jonathan Breckenridge, Kael Swarts. DMACC Dean's list - Austin Stoullil

**Address change for Rose South:**  
3035 Salem Meadows Dr SW #B4  
Rochester, MN 55902-2847

### 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. It's a way for us to get to know one another.



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <br><b>March</b>  | <br>*Denotes Birthdays!<br>If your birthday is missing or incorrect, contact the office. |   | <b>1</b><br><b>5-6:30 pm</b><br><b>Pancake Supper</b><br><b>6:30 pm</b><br><b>Worship</b><br><br><i>Ash Wednesday</i> | <b>2</b><br>*Martha Stewart<br>  | <b>3</b> <b>World Day of Prayer</b><br>*Roy Patty<br>*Rhondi Machin<br>*Chom Thongvanh<br>*Randy Wadle                        | <b>4</b><br>*Shirley Guillaume  |
| <b>5</b><br><b>1st Lent</b><br><b>8/10:30 Worship - Communion</b><br>9/11:30 Fellowship<br>9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.<br>*Shawnda Nine   | <b>6</b><br>*Ethan Pageler<br>9:30-3:30<br>Pastor at Cont. Ed   | <b>7</b><br>*Brad Patty<br><b>NO Trustees Meeting</b> | <b>8</b> *Allison Thongvanh<br><b>Int'l Ring Bells for Women</b><br><b>6:30 pm</b><br><b>Praise Team</b><br><b>7:15 pm Choir</b><br>7 pm Page Turners Book Club - Entry                                | <b>9</b><br>*Fung Walker<br>*Colton Hansen<br><b>All those interested, come to 6:30 pm VBS meeting</b>   | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>   |
| <b>MMDC Work Trip</b>   |   |   |  |  |   |   |
| <b>12</b><br><br><b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b><br><b>8/10:30 2nd Lent Worship 2nd Sunday</b><br><b>Apportionment Offering Choir</b><br>9/11:30 Fellowship<br>9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. | <b>13</b><br><b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>   | <b>14</b>   | <b>15</b><br>*Dale Fifer<br><b>1:15 pm UMW at St Luke</b><br><b>6:30 pm Praise Team Practice</b><br><b>7:15 pm Choir Practice</b>  | <b>16</b><br>*Jenni Patty<br>*Dwight Huggins<br>7 pm Quilt Guild - F Hall  | <b>17</b><br><br><b>St. Patrick's Day</b> | <b>18</b><br>Jan-April 2nd-5th Sunday School Offerings For Larry & Jane Kies - Missionaries in Africa |
| <b>19</b><br><b>8/10:30 3rd Lent Worship Praise Team</b><br><b>UMCOR Offering</b> (was One Great Hour of Sharing Offering)<br>9/11:30 Fellowship<br>9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.   | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b><br><b>6:30 pm N.O.W. Meeting</b>            | <b>22</b> *Bryce Rhone<br><b>6:30 pm Praise Team Practice</b><br><b>7:15 pm Choir Practice</b>   | <b>23</b><br><br>9am-2pm<br><b>Day for Girls</b><br>1st Presbyterian Church | <b>24</b><br>*Peg Ehler   | <b>25</b><br>*Erin Stonner<br>*John Onstot  |
| Newton Schools Spring Break   |   |   |  |  |   |   |
| <b>26</b><br><b>8/10:30 4th Lent Worship</b><br><b>Guest Speakers from Discover Hope 5:17</b><br><i>(1/2 Easter Offering to them)</i><br>9/11:30 Fellowship<br>9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.  | <b>27</b><br>*Hannah Marston<br>*Kris Weston  | <b>28</b><br><b>6:30 pm SPRC meeting</b>              | <b>29</b> *Alan Andrews<br><b>8:30 am Collate Newsletter</b><br><b>6:30 pm Praise Team Practice</b><br><b>7:15 pm Choir Practice</b>   | <b>30</b><br><b>Easter is Apr 16</b><br><b>Easter Offering is 1/2 to Discover Hope &amp; 1/2 to U.S. Disaster Relief</b>   | <b>31</b><br><b>St Luke Bake Sale on April 9</b><br><b>Laity Day with Bishop Haller is April 23</b>                           | <b>Sunday, April 2</b><br><b>10:30 am S.S. Children Sing in Worship</b>                               |

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



**United Methodist Women  
Wednesday, March 15**

1:15 pm  
At St Luke UMC

*"Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near."*

Philippians 4:4-5

Program: Serving Communities  
Around the World: 150th Anniversary  
By Shirley Guillaume  
Hostess: Shirley Guillaume



**Sunday School Mission Offering**

Larry and Jane Kies have spent much of their adult lives in mission service. They currently live and teach in Zimbabwe, Africa at the Africa University. Larry works as the Technical advisor to the Africa University Farm at Mutare. And Jane teaches English at the Africa University in Mutare.

Once again this year we have covenanted with the Kies with our goal being \$1 per member for each of them. The NOW committee has chosen Larry and Jane as our January to April Sunday School Mission offering. The first Sunday of each month will continue to go toward Sunday School administrative costs including our Sunday school materials and resources.

Our 2017 Annual \$100+ Covenant with Women at the Well UMC in ICIW, Mitchellville has already been met. Thank you.  
Corinne Kleppe- NOW missions



**Discover Hope 5:17**

On Sunday, March 26, Discover Hope 5:17 will be at St Luke for both 8 & 10:30 worship to update us on their ministry in Newton. Half of our Easter offering will go to this local ministry.

**News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark**

We have a wonderful new resource in our library, National Geographic's *Who's Who In The Bible*. The timeless stories of the people of the Bible come alive in this fascinating illustrated text. This book is an indispensable guide to the ideas, motives, and aspirations of the people of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. In many ways the Bible is a story of families, of men and women who set out to fulfill their destiny, guided by the hand of God. The human quality of these stories is the basis for this book. You will find cross referencing which highlights some of the most exciting new archaeological discoveries in the Holy Land. Time lines let readers know what's happening elsewhere in the world. More than 400 photographs, maps, and diagrams offer a wealth of knowledge about the Bible. Check it out today to add another layer to your at home Bible reading and study. You will find it on top of the newsletter shelf, right inside the door of our little library in the corner.



**2017 Easter Offering**

This year as the NOW committee discussed where we should designate our Easter offering, our thoughts went in two directions. First nationally and then locally.



Already this year the United States has seen ice storms, flooding, mudslides and tornados. And, as in most years, there is always the possibility of forest fires, earthquakes and hurricanes. Natural disasters happen – and the Disaster Relief fund is there to respond. This Easter, one half of our offering will go to the United States Disaster Relief Fund.

Locally we talked of a couple of options & landed on Discover Hope 5:17. Discover Hope is a faith based addiction support group that is available days and evenings. Founders Robbie Robinson and Aaron Groves based their program on 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!"* The other half of our Easter offering will go toward support of this life transforming group located right here in Newton, Iowa. To learn more about Discover Hope 5:17, go to: [www.discoverhope517.org](http://www.discoverhope517.org).

NOW Committee - Missions

**VBS 2017**

We set the dates for VBS for this year at the January NOW meeting. It will be July 10-14 and we will keep the same time from 9-11:30. This year's theme is Hero Central-Discover Your Strength in God - from Cokesbury.



Anyone interested in volunteering that week, please contact Amy Murphy @ 641-417-9458. There will be an organizational meeting on Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 pm for those interested in being a part of the VBS this year. Be watching for more information coming up-it takes many great minds and hands to make this successful! Any help is greatly appreciated!! You never know whose hero you may end up being with God's help!!



### My Story

My nephew recently proposed to his girlfriend at a volleyball game. His mom asked why he couldn't find a more romantic place to propose. His response was that it was romantic because it was where they had met. You see, it is all in your perspective. His fiancé said it was the perfect place for him to ask her to marry him.

In much the same way our perspective of our own lives is very different from God's perspective. Our perspective is narrow, whereas God's perspective sees the whole picture.



*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* Isaiah 55:8-9

Next time you are feeling confused or frustrated by life, remember, God knows how to use your struggles and questions for your good. In those times, have faith and simply hang in there. Trust in God's loving grace and know that God will bring you through your struggles and frustrations to brighter days. Corinne Kleppe - Editor

### Children's Sunday School

Pre-K through 4th graders are on a faith journey called *Deep Blue*, the awe-inspiring resource for children which includes adventure, exciting stories, science experiments, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games -all combined into a living-faith experience that will help children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today!



### Lenten Study Adult-2 Class

We will be finished with *Postville* in time to do the Lenten study, *He Chose the Nails* beginning March 5. Our next book will study the issue of Israel through the eyes of a Palestinian Christian. It is *Blood Brothers* by Elias Chacour. As a group, we decided that we really don't know a lot about their conflict. Hopefully, this book will give us some insight, and deeper understanding.

There is always room for more to join the discussion in the 3rd room on the left in Ed Unit at 9:15 on Sunday mornings.



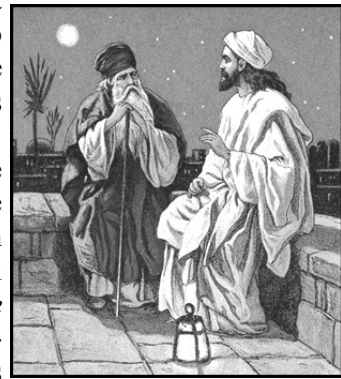
**BIBLE STUDY**  
Sunday School Class  
meets 9:15 a.m. in the choir room

### Glimpses of Grace

*Risking transforming encounters with Jesus*  
John 3:1-17

The Pharisees, along with the Sadducees comprised the ruling class of Israel. The Sadducees tended to be wealthy, held powerful positions, and seemed to be more concerned with politics, than religion. The Pharisees were mostly middle-class business people and were more in contact with the common person. Pharisees were more concerned with religion, than politics. They believed in strict adherence to oral laws and traditions.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee who came to visit Jesus "under the cloak of darkness." (Is this because he believed more about Jesus than he wanted others to know, OR because he wanted to have a quiet conversation?) Nicodemus began by telling Jesus that some of them "had been talking." And that Jesus was "obviously a teacher who had come from God." -And that the proof was because of the "signs" Jesus had been doing. (*miracles*)



Jesus responded by stating that the only way for a person to come into the kingdom of God was by being born anew from above. Nicodemus' literal mind questioned, "How can a man be born when he is old?" (A **physical** -- rather than a **spiritual** rebirth, as Jesus meant.) Jesus continued: *Unless one is born of water and spirit, one cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.*

Nicodemus and Jesus were both "teachers," yet they did not share common ground. Jesus was descended "from above," and Nicodemus had not yet been born "from above." This may have been the reason Nicodemus struggled with understanding Jesus. Yet, Nicodemus was mentioned **two** more times in John: defending Jesus before the Council, 7:50, and bringing ointments to anoint Jesus's body, 19:39.

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. Come, join in the learning!

Below are the lectionary scriptures that the Sunday school class participants will be learning about each week in March. Even if you can't come to class, consider taking the time to read them at home!

#### ∞ Lectionary Readings for March 2017 ∞

•**March 5:** **Matthew 4:1-11** | And So It Begins  
*To encourage choices which signify trust in God.*

•**March 12:** **John 3:1-17** | Glimpses of Grace  
*To risk transforming encounters with Jesus.*

•**March 19:** **John 4:5-42** | Finding Refreshment  
*To explore Jesus's gifts of living water and words of empowerment.*

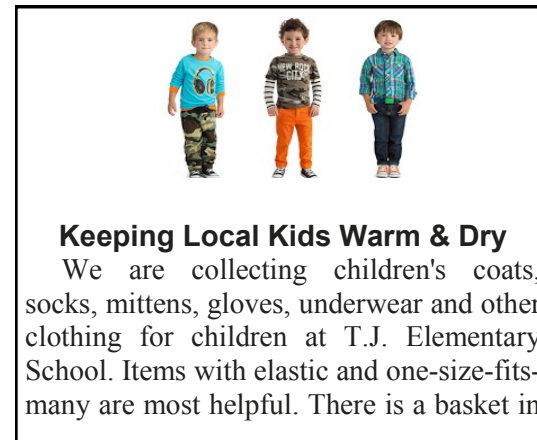
•**March 26:** **John 9:1-41** | Seeing with Heart  
*To follow Jesus's lead in re-examining rules for the sake of love.*

### Days for Girls Report

After our January work day, we were able to send 27 kits to Guatemala. The next work day is Thursday, March 23rd from 9 pm - 2 pm. You can come anytime during those hours and stay as long as you want. Lunch is provided. You don't need to know how to sew.

We are hoping to purchase a "cutter." This machine greatly speeds up what is a very time-consuming, cutting process. Cash donations toward this major purchase are welcome. We can also purchase snaps, ribbon, labels at a greatly reduced price, so money is also needed for those purchases.

St Luke is planning a Palm Sunday Bake Sale to benefit Days for Girls.



### Keeping Local Kids Warm & Dry

We are collecting children's coats, socks, mittens, gloves, underwear and other clothing for children at T.J. Elementary School. Items with elastic and one-size-fits-many are most helpful. There is a basket in

### 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.



### St Luke News

Thanks to all of my St Luke friends for the many birthday greetings. Pat Patty

One of our 2017 goals is to offer two church-wide studies. Please join a Lenten Study, *He Chose the Nails*, on Sundays at 9:15 or sign up for a weekday/night that works for you.

### January MMDC Mission Trip Report



Back row: Barb & Mike Kaldenberg, Karen Clark, Ginny Dalton, Patty Huffman, Mike Dalton and Carolyn Cook.  
Front row: Joyce Stonehocker and Katie Jones.

A group of us traveled to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in late January. There were six St. Luke Members and three members of Prairie City United Methodist Church. We took nearly a pick-up truck load of donations from the two churches, seven sewing machines, a box of school bags, all the layette kits made in December, 60 flannel diapers, 40 baby kimonos, and seven covered with love quilts. While there we assembled 573 personal dignity kits (similar to UMCOR health kits), 102 birthing kits, and 216 flood buckets. This work included preparing some of the items for kit building.

Two of our members rolled 7,002 Handi-Wipes into bundles of 18 in preparation for the flood bucket building. The two men in our group spent their time working in the wood shop where they built eight school desks from reclaimed wooden gym bleachers. The sewing machines will be refurbished and sent somewhere in the world where someone will be taught to sew items which will provide support for a family.

Nothing stays on the shelf long at MMDC. This is a distribution center, not a warehouse. The goal is to get items to where they help someone. The networking used is nothing short of a miracle. We heard stories of military ships transporting goods free of charge and soldiers setting things up once it has arrived. We heard stories of an Order of Franciscan Sisters in the Kansas City area sharing used medical equipment and also distributing school desks and other supplies.

We heard stories of a non-profit in Florida shipping goods from MMDC free of charge to the Caribbean nations. We have seen a Walmart truck headed to North Carolina, free of charge, loaded with goods from the center. There are new stories of networking every time we go.

There is another group going to MMDC March 5-8. We will be taking the 130 school bags we made in February with fabric we brought from the center in January. We can also take more sewing machines with us. If you have access to new or used sewing machines of any vintage that you are willing to part with, we can take them with us.



The January group included Barb and Mike Kaldenberg, Carolyn Cook, Katie Jones, Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark, and from PC United Methodist Mike and Ginny Dalton and Patty Huffman.