# St Luke UMC

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

March 2020



# 2020 Apportionments \$2,901

#### **Financial Update**

The main way we support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church-

wide budget to conferences and local churches.

For United Methodists this method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition.

Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.

These offerings were received in the month of February:

Total of \$10,527 which included:

\$555 - Building Fund

\$790 - Apportionments

\$15 - Sunday School Supplies

\$55 - Larry & Jane Kies

\$99 - Disabilities Awarness Offering

\$44 - UMCOR Disaster Relief





"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."

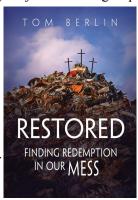
—Anthony J. D'Angelo

#### **Lenten Study beginning in March**

This Lenten season there will be an opportunity to join a small group study. Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess encourages us to reflect and mediate through our own brokenness, showing us that it is only when we focus on the cross as a place to surrender

control that we can leave our mess and find redemption. It is written by Rev. Tom Berlin.

There will be 2 group meetings for the Lenten study. One group will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am at the church. The other group will meet on Mondays at 6:30 pm rotating between the homes of Jenni Patty and Karen Clark. The study will begin on March 1st or 2nd and will continue for six



weeks. The sign-up sheet to attend is on the Servant's Counter.

#### Lent / Easter Offering

Earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, floods and tornados, they happen every year, and in every part of our world. "When a natural or a human-cause



disaster strikes within the United States, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) works with local Annual Conference disaster response ministries to provide financial and physical sup-



port. Outside of the United States UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. In the short term, UMCOR provides financial assisance and in the long term, UMCOR works with local partners toward recovery and reconstruction. Together, we are rebuild-SASTER ing hope in the lives of those in need all over the world." (Expert from the UNICO) world." (Excerpt from the UMCOR website)

As the NOW committee discussed this years Lent/Easter Offering we found ourselves focused on the Earthquakes in Puerto Rico and the Fires in Australia. That led us to the UMCOR Disaster Response funds, which we have named the 2020 Lent /Easter offering recipients. We will split the funds received between National Disaster Response - which will include Puerto Rico, and the International Disaster Response. (at this time there was not a fund for Australia but that may change)

The response to the Earthquakes in Puerto Rico include addressing urgent needs, providing shelter, distributing supplies, and conducting assessments and outreach. International responses can include funds to distribute food, hygiene supplies, shelter and other basic needs to ease human suffering. In the long term, the response includes working with local partners toward recovery and reconstruction. We can join hands with other United Methodists in this effort by giving to St Luke's 2020 Lent/ Easter offering for UMCOR Disaster Response. To read more, check out the website at www.umcmission.org



Welcome to Lent. Lent means different things to different people. If you grew up Catholic, or in a Catholic community, then you were used to see-



ing dark smudges on foreheads on Ash

Wednesday; you were used to seeing people eat fish on Friday at school or at the big fish fry in town. If you didn't have a Catholic church in your town, then maybe you missed these things. In my hometown of Carlisle, it was common for the kids in my class to talk about what they were giving up for Lent. Most of the kids tried to give up homework or cleaning their rooms but settled on candy or pop when their parents said no to the first.

As a United Methodist, we didn't do the things that the Catholics did during Lent. We didn't do Ash Wednesday. We didn't give up things for Lent. We didn't forbid meat on Friday. I suspect that we didn't do these things because we were still lingering in a time in our country when Catholics and Protestants didn't get along, which means we didn't do anything that looked too "catholic." (That's not a good reason to do or not do something.)

While we still don't officially observe the practice of giving something up for Lent, it is observed by many in the United Methodist Church. Many give something up to



remind them of the sacrifice that Christ made on the cross. Others observe Lent by taking on some-

thing new. They either add something to their devotion time, or they set reminders on their phone to pray throughout the day, or join a Lenten study group. These things are designed to help us pay more attention to God and to the things that God is asking of us now.

As I approach the season of Lent this year, I have been reflecting on those who are pushed to the edges of our society. Whether it is the political rhetoric or the preparation I'm doing for General Conference, my heart is aching for those that are afraid to speak. My heart aches for the family that can't afford medicine. My heart aches for the family that lives in fear of death and seeks a safer place to live, only to be turned away. My heart aches for people who have to hide a significant piece of who they are because if they don't, their families will reject them. My heart aches a lot.

That last one is on my mind the most in this moment. I have been going to the Governor's Conference on LGBTQ youth since moving to Newton and finding out

that the high school Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) has been going without a school sponsor because the school wouldn't let the teacher go unless she took a personal day. I didn't know what to expect the first time I tagged along, but I certainly didn't expect to see 1500 kids smiling, laughing, and having a great time. That might seem unusual, since these young people were missing a day of school for a conference, but I've been to many youth events over the years, and at every event there are at least a third of the youth that don't want to be there. Their parents made them come. Their teachers made them come. They'd rather be anywhere else but at the conference. And I had to ask myself why I didn't see a single person that looked that way.

And so I listened. I listened to these young people talk about how this was one place where they didn't have to hide. This is one place where they didn't have to worry about being bullied because they don't fit the mold that society forces them to fit in. This is one place where they can reveal their true selves without fear, without shame, without feeling like they weren't people of value. Don't we all want that?

I have been reflecting on this because I know of some students that want to go to this conference and experience that freedom, but they can't afford it. One young person doesn't live at home anymore because they aren't accepted. One has been told that they can't have money for that. My heart aches for them to have this one day of freedom and to experience what it means to be a child of God that has value. My Lenten sacrifice is to make sure they can have this.

Will you join me? If this makes your heart ache, will you join me? It really won't take much. \$350 is something that I can cover myself without much sacrifice. But

this is bigger than the money. This is about the lives of young people. This is about a day of wholeness that just might help them turn a corner for their whole lives. I don't want to hoard that for myself. I want to share this joy, and burden, with the people I call family.



Join me in this by giving a little to St. Luke designated to GSA conference.

We once didn't do anything that looked too catholic. We left that behind us. I hope that one day we leave this behind us, too, and that everyone will be able to feel like the child of God they are. Until then, my heart will ache.

Pastor Chad

#### **United Methodist Women**

March No Meeting

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

## Happy Birthday, UMW!

March 6 - World Day of Prayer March 23 - UMW 151st Anniversary

#### **Sunday School Mission Offering**

Larry and Jane Kies 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 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month from January through April, our Sunday school offering will go toward meeting our covenant with Larry and Jane Kies.

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

#### **MMDC Thank You**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous donation of the sewing machines and diapers to MMDC. Each donation is a blessing God uses to bless you and others. Your donation will leave MMDC and be a practical example of God's love in the world to the "least of these".

It is due to your generosity and partnership with MMDC that we can touch so many lives for Christ around the world and around the corner. Thank you so much for blessing others through the ministry of MMDC.

Yours in Christ, Chantel Corrie Executive Director



#### News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

**Library News** ~ This month's book is a true life sequel to *The Power of Faith When Tragedy Strikes:* A Father-Son Memoir which was written by Chris Norton and Terry Norton. Chris's new book is written



with his wife Emily Norton and is titled *The Seven Longest Yards*. It is the love story of pushing the limits while leaning on each other. Chris went from being a talented football player at Luther College to being a quadriplegic with barely a chance of ever moving again. The first book was about his determination and faith and the part they played in Chris's walk across the stage to accept his diploma, with the help of Emily, the love of his life. This new book is about what came next, from depression to faith, commitment, and a deep trust in God. This story of courage and grit led them to tackle the seven longest yards, one for each year since Chris's injury, down the wedding aisle and into a new life together. This new life includes Chris and Emily adopting five daughters and continuing to welcome foster children, seventeen and counting, into their home and hearts. What a story! You can check it out from our little library in the corner.

#### **MMDC Mission Trip Update**

**MMDC Trip News** ~ A team of 10 went to Midwest Mission Distribution Center during the last week in February. Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker and Corinne Kleppe from St. Luke were joined by seven others from various churches. They worked on a variety of jobs including: assembling school kits and personal dignity kits,

making desks, putting labels on future rice meals and cutting flannel for feminine hygiene kits. They were also able to bring an additional 500 diapers with them to add to the 766 they brought in January.



#### **Noisy Offering**

On the 5th Sunday of March we will be having a special offering for apportionments.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday...

Make some noise...

Bring your coins and your paper money too...Let's give our apportionments a NOISY boost from me and you!





#### **VBS Needs You**

VBS will be July 20-24 and we need volunteers in the areas of teaching, recreation, music and snacks.

Anyone interested can let Ann Leonard know at church, by calling 641-521-2463, or by emailing annericleonard@gmail.com.

My Story

When I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, the South Winneshiek girls varsity basketball team found themselves in the sweet sixteen of the Iowa Girls State Basketball tournament. The

excitement spread throughout the school buildings. The pep rally sent the girls off to Des Moines on a high note. In the end, they only played in one game before they were headed back to Calmar.

The entire South Winn community was still so proud of the team. We drove to Fort Atkinson which is to the West of Calmar, to meet the team's bus as it traveled toward home. The result was a snake of car headlights and taillights that stretched for miles around the curves and over the hills, lighting the pathway as we escorted the team the last 5 miles home.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the

lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your



good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5: 14-16)

The Bible has many stories that tell us to be the LIGHT for others. To point others toward Jesus. To support one another as we travel this road toward a Life of Faith. May we all be the light of faith that illuminates the pathway for others to meet Jesus

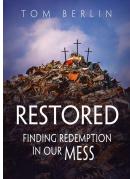
Corinne Kleppe

#### Adult-2 Class

The Adult Sunday School Class II will be

doing the Lenten Study. Finding Restored: demption in our Mess by Rev. Tom Berlin starting on Sunday, March 1. (See page 1 for description.)

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.







### Faith is more important than fear.

JOHN 3:1-17 God's promise to bless the people of God so **they** may be a blessing to all of creation.

The Pharisees and Sadducees comprised the ruling class of Jews in Israel. Religiously, the Sadducees were more conservative in one doctrinal area: they insisted on a *literal* interpretation of the text of Scripture; the Pharisees, on the other hand, gave oral tradition equal authority to the written Word of God. The Pharisees believed in an afterlife and in an appropriate reward and punishment for individuals, but the Sadducees denied the afterlife, holding that the soul perished at death. The Sadducees rejected the idea of an unseen, spiritual world, but the Pharisees taught the existence of angels and demons in a spiritual realm.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a person with some influence among his people. Under the "cloak of darkness" he came to visit with Jesus, hoping to question Him. Did he believe more about Jesus than he wanted others to know?

In their conversation Nicodemus acknowledged that Jesus was a teacher who "came from God." Jesus shared with him that only

someone who experiences birth for a second time can hope to see the kingdom of God. The concept of a "second birth" as a grown man seemed to confuse Nicodemus, as he stated its impossibility. Jesus elaborated: Even you, an educated



and respected man among your people, must be reborn by the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God.

"...vou do not comprehend the necessity of life in the spirit? I tell you the truth: we speak about the things we know, and we give evidence about the things we have seen, and you choose to reject the truth of our witness. If you do not believe when I talk to you about ordinary earthly realities, then heavenly realities will certainly elude you."

What would you ask, if you had a private audience with Jesus?

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings, sandwiched between the end of the 8 a.m. church service and the beginning of the 10:30 service. The class's emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings. All are welcome to join in the discovery and learning!

- $\infty$  Lectionary Readings for March 2020  $\infty$
- March 1: Matthew 4:1-11 | One Voice, One Choice To encourage choices which signify trust in God.
  - March 8: John 3:1-17 | Blessed to Be a Blessing To risk transforming encounters with Jesus.
- March 15: John 4:5-42 | The Well of Living Water *To explore Jesus' gifts of living water and words of empowerment.* 
  - March 22: John 9:1-41 | I Am Because We Are

To follow Jesus' lead in re-examining rules for the sake of love.

• March 29: John 11:1-45 | Conversations that Unbind Us To honor doubt and belief as we witness God's steadfast love in the midst of death



#### **Discover Hope Supper Club:**

We are taking on a new mission on the first Tuesday of every other month. We will provide an evening meal at Discover Hope on

First Avenue East in Newton. We will provide food, paper plates and cups, napkins and utensils. We will be able to cook the meal in the kitchen at Discover Hope so we won't have to transport heavy roasters. Our next meal will



be ham sandwiches and will be served on March 3rd. Please sign-up at the Servant's Counter to provide food and/or help with preparation and serving.

#### **Days For Girls**

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, March 26th from 9 am-2 pm and 6-9 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans or Karen Clark.





#### Meals On Wheels

St Luke is responsible for delivering Meals On Wheels on both Saturdays and Sundays during the month of March. Two people are needed each day to deliver 2-12 meals. This responsibility is through Mission Coalition. Sign-up Sheet is on the Servant's Counter.

#### Please--Update All Addresses

Do we have your current snail mail and e-mail addresses? Help us by supplying us with your address. We don't want to lose track of our church family.





#### **March Salvation Army Food Pantry Request**

Macaroni and cheese. tuna and hamburger helper



#### **Beef Burger Supper** Thursday, April 16

Mark your calendars! We will be having an open to

the public beef burger dinner fundraiser the Thursday following Easter. We will be serving beef burgers, coney dogs, baked beans, chips, a relish tray and deviled eggs. More details and a signup sheet to follow next month. Funds



raised will go to the building fund. Invite your friends!

#### **AEROSOL FOOD & HYGIENE CANS**

Are you aware there are two types of aerosol cans which can be recycled: those related



cares

to personal hygiene and food. All others must take up space in our land-So, please go ahead

and place those cans which have contained cooking spray, Reddi Whip, etc. - - any which

contained products related to food AND spray cans related to your personal hygiene into your weekly recycle tub. Don't send them to the landfill. (All other types of aerosol cans cannot be recycled.)

Share this information to educate others. Set an example that members of St.

Luke care about our environmental legacy; persist with Reducing-Reusing-Recycling!



#### **Diaper Sewing Days** Monday & Tuesday March 16th & 17th 9 am - 4 pm

We will be sewing baby diapers for layette kits in the church Fellowship Hall. Bring your sewing machine, some light colored thread, and basic sewing tools or you

can come help us by cutting, pinning, or pressing. We will have a light potluck for lunch. This will be a time of fellowship and production. Feel free to come to any, some or all of the days for as much as you are able or like. Sign-up at the Servant's Counter. See you there!



# FOR NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD."

LUKE 1:37



#### 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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8/10:30 Worship - Communion 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Lenten Study	2	5:30pm Discover Hope Supper	4 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir	5 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	6	7  MEALS WHEELS
8 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Lenten Study  MEALS WHEELS	9	10	6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir 7 pm Page Turners Book Club	6:30pm Trustees Meeting	Newsletter Articles Due	14  MEALS WHEELS
15 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Lenten Study		17 St. Patrick's Day 6:30pm N.O.W. Meeting wing Days am - 4 pm	18 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir	19 1st Day of Spring	20	21  10 am Quilt Guild - F Hall
22 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Lenten Study	23	24 6:30pm SPRC 7pm Mission Coalition	25 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir	9 am - 2 pm 6-9pm Days For Girls @ 1st Pres- byterian	27	28  AFALS WHEELS
8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Lenten Study	30	31	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	Ja.	reci	

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS						
March 1	8 AM	10:30 AM				
Ushers	Leonard Family	Roy/Pat Patty				
Greeters	Dale/Karen Dorrell	Shirley/Alayna Guillaume				
Reader	Rose Hartschen	Jenni Patty				
Acolytes	Ushers	Abby Jennings				
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Mary Nelson				
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Deb Stoulil				
Special Projection	Ethan Pageler	Jeff Carter				
Fellowship	Kelly Lange	Mikey Carter				
Care Core	Barb Swihart	Amy Murphy				
Communion	Lisa Pageler Counters	Brad Patty/ Doug McIntyre				
March 8	8 AM	10:30 AM				
Ushers	Deb Stoulil/ Chuck Springer	Jeff/Amy Murphy				
Greeters	Pam Andrews	Carolyn Cook				
Readers	Barb Kaldenberg	Rose Evans				
Acolytes	Ethan Pageler	Ushers				
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Mikey Carter				
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis				
Special						
Projection	Brad Patty	Doug McIntyre				
Fellowship	Rose Hartschen	Brooke Chambers				
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Lisa Marston				
Counters		Russ Leix/ Pat Patty				
March 15	8 AM	10:30 AM				
Ushers	John/Mary Onstot	Mike/Kleo O'Brien				
Greeters	Linda Hotger	Mike Wood/ Brooke Chambers				
Greecers						
	Karen Dorrell	Pat Patty				
Readers	Karen Dorrell Ushers	Pat Patty Michelle O'Brien				
Readers Acolytes						
Readers Acolytes Nursery	Ushers	Michelle O'Brien				
	Ushers Parents Take Turns	Michelle O'Brien Volunteers				
Readers Acolytes Nursery Keyboard Special	Ushers Parents Take Turns Deb Stoulil	Michelle O'Brien Volunteers Jan Lewis				
Readers Acolytes Nursery Keyboard	Ushers Parents Take Turns Deb Stoulil Chancel Choir	Michelle O'Brien  Volunteers  Jan Lewis  Chancel Choir				
Readers Acolytes Nursery Keyboard Special Projection	Ushers Parents Take Turns Deb Stoulil Chancel Choir Stefanie Squire Haip ThongVanh	Michelle O'Brien  Volunteers  Jan Lewis  Chancel Choir  Pam Smith				
Readers Acolytes Nursery Keyboard Special Projection Fellowship Care Core	Ushers Parents Take Turns Deb Stoulil Chancel Choir Stefanie Squire	Michelle O'Brien  Volunteers  Jan Lewis  Chancel Choir  Pam Smith  Carolyn Cook				
Readers Acolytes Nursery Keyboard Special Projection Fellowship Care Core Counters	Ushers Parents Take Turns Deb Stoulil Chancel Choir Stefanie Squire Haip ThongVanh Joyce Stonehocker	Michelle O'Brien  Volunteers  Jan Lewis  Chancel Choir  Pam Smith  Carolyn Cook  Karen Clark  Barb Kaldenberg/ Jenna McIntyre				
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#### Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings

chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867

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Church Office Hours: Mon/Wed,/Fri 8:30-11 am

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

#### St. Luke News

Thank you for the care package! I really appreciate all the goodies. Sorry so late!

Conner Marston

Thank you Jeff Murphy for the beautiful doors you have refinished.

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.



March 29	8 AM	10:30 AM	
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Kaldenbergs	
Greeters	Barb Swihart	Brad/Jenni Patty	
Readers	Dale Dorrell	Corinne Kleppe	
Acolytes	Ushers	Kleo O'Brien	
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Mikey Carter	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis	
Special			
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Karen Clark	
Fellowship	Haip ThongVanh	Katy Jones	
Care Core	Tamara Lloyd	Jenni Patty	
Counters		Mike Kaldenberg/ Mary Nelson	

#### **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 **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

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, 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.



#### **Weather Cancellation Policy**

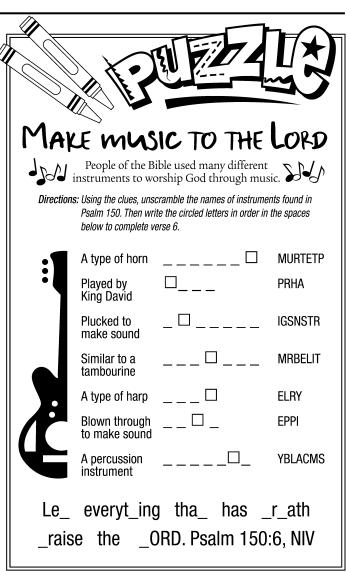
If school is cancelled/dismissed early due to weather, then St. Luke activities are cancelled that day/evening as well. Sunday Worship is rarely cancelled. Check our Facebook page or listen to the radio for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.





People travel to wonder at the height of the mountains, at the huge waves of the seas, at the long course of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars, and yet they pass by themselves without wondering.

—St. Augustine



Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals;