

St Luke UMC

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

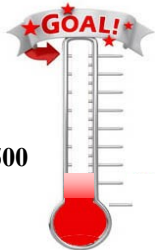
May 1, 2023



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2023 Apportionments

\$15,279



\$1500

Financial Update

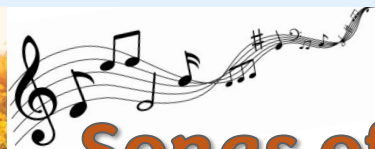


Thank you to everyone for your continued support of St Luke ministries. These offerings were received in the month of April:

Total of \$13,706 which included:

- \$ 500 - Building Fund
- \$ 129 - Apportionments
- \$ 1085 - Easter Offering UMCOR
- \$ 206 - Heifer Project
- \$ 15 - Florence Mefor Missionary
- \$ 40 - UMCOR Ukraine
- \$ 65 - Native American Ministries

New Sermon Series COMING THIS SUMMER



Songs of Our Souls

New Sermon Series Coming This Summer

Music is a big part of our life. It marks the events in our lives, both big and small. Hear that song from high school and you are suddenly there. Or the first dance with your spouse. When your kids were young. Sometimes, it is a song that gets us through the toughest time of our lives. These are the songs of our souls.

This summer, Pastor Chad will preach about some of these songs. So, he needs your help. Please think about those songs that hold great meaning in your life, the ones that got you through those tough times or helped you celebrate the gifts God has given you. For us church people, those are often hymns. But, set those aside for now and think of those songs that you heard on the radio, or in the movies.

Please submit a song or two for consideration. If you feel comfortable, include a brief note about why it is significant, or which lyric is most important.

This will likely come in August or September, but we need those submissions now to prepare. Thank you for your input.

Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 14

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:
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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

Calling VBS Volunteers!

Warmer weather is just around the corner which means we need to start planning for VBS! Mark your calendar for June 26-30 during which St Luke will host kids to celebrate and learn about God. This year's theme is a really fun one - Hero Hotline... Called Together to Serve God!

If you are able to volunteer in any capacity please contact Ann Leonard at 641-521-2463 or annericleonard@gmail.com.

We need your help with decorations this year. If you could please save and bring to the church any brown packing paper that may come in your shipping boxes we would really appreciate it. Thank you!





My Story

I struggled to write a My Story this month, so instead, I will share a poem written by my dad.

- Corinne

GOD CREATED IT ALL

I walked in the wood with timber tall
Where lacy patterns of shadow fall
There melodious songs waft from above
From treefrogs, crickets and a mourning dove
I'm in awe. And remember – God created it all

A squirrel overhead gives a warning call
He works on a nut, and lets the husk fall
Through a gap in the trees I see an eagle in flight
Suspended on high – what a beautiful sight
I'm in awe. And remember – God created it all

Too much of our life we're inside a wall
We miss so much beauty, ignoring it all
Like a tumbling brook as it falls to the sea
There are mountains and plains – so much to see
I'm in awe. And remember – God created it all

So stop – look around – don't miss it all
Listen – you'll hear it – it's nature's call
It's all around – down below – up above
A very special gift – God sent it with love
Be in awe. And remember – God created it all

Arnie Kleppe 7/27/03



In Loving Memory of Arnie Kleppe



A Prayer of Jesus

John 17: 1-11

*Jesus' prayer for
community with God
and one another*

In the 16th and 17th chapters of John, Jesus attempted to prepare His disciples for their work on earth after He would be gone. Jesus spoke more directly to them in Chapter 16 and prayed to God in Chapter 17.

He warned the disciples of their impending mistreatment: "...they will kick you out of the synagogue because some believe God desires them to execute you as an act of faithful service."

They felt encouragement when He revealed: "The day is coming when you will make a request in My name, but I will not represent you before the Father. You will be heard **directly** by the Father."

John chapter 17 is a prayer from Jesus that *all may be one*. The prayer takes place with the disciples, prior to

Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Jesus prayed that God would protect the disciples and "the church."

**The hope that we will recognize
that what unites us
is far greater
than what divides us.**

He prayed for unity and for the embodiment of God's love.

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.

•Lectionary Readings for May 2023•

•**May 7:** Acts 7: 55-60 | Emboldened to Proclaim
To be empowered as Christians to speak boldly
when faith challenges culture

• **May 14:** John 14:15-21 | To See Is to Love
*To explore the experience and witness of the Spirit's work
in our lives*

• **May 21:** John 17:1-11 | Sensory Glory
*To live into Jesus' prayer for community with God and
one another*

• **May 28:** Acts 2:1-21 | Life-giving Spirit
To celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit

Breath of the Spirit

The breathing I did yesterday will not keep me alive today. I must continue to breathe afresh every moment, or my life will cease. In like manner, yesterday's grace and spiritual strength must be renewed, and the Holy Spirit must continue to breathe on my soul from moment to moment in order that I may continue to enjoy him and to work the works he has assigned me.

—Augustus Toplady



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

May 17 - 1:15 pm
At St Luke UMC

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." (NLT)
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Program: Peacemakers and Justice Seekers
By: Kerri Deppe
Hostess: Kerri Deppe

May 14 - Mother's Day
May 20-22 - UWF Assembly, Orlando, FL

Golden Cross Sunday Offering Sunday, May 7th

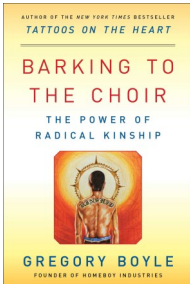
Golden Cross Offerings are used to celebrate health and welfare ministries and the roll in spiritual well-being within the annual conference. 100% of the offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference to fund grants to local churches and community groups.



Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class is reading and discussing the book *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Gregory Boyle. If you are familiar with *Tattoos on the Heart* or *The Whole Language*, you will enjoy reading Gregory Boyle's 2nd book in this series. In a nation deeply divided and plagued by poverty and violence, *Barking to the Choir* offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins. Sergio, arrested at age nine, in a gang by age twelve, and serving time shortly thereafter, now works with the substance-abuse team at Homeboy to help others find sobriety. Jamal, abandoned by his family when he tried to attend school at age seven, gradually finds forgiveness for his schizophrenic mother. New father Cuco, who never knew his own dad, thinks of a daily adventure on which to take his four-year-old son. These former gang members uplift the soul and reveal how bright life can be when filled with unconditional love and kindness.

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.



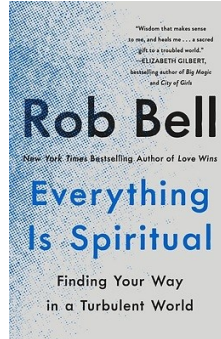
Thank You

Thank you for all of the prayers, hugs and support over the past few months. It is such a blessing to be a part of this church family.

Corinne Kleppe



New Monday Night Study Group



We will be starting a new book for our Monday Night Zoom Study Group beginning May 15 at 6:30 pm. We will be reading the book "Everything Is Spiritual" by Rob Bell. Books are \$15. Sign up at the servant's counter or contact the office by May 7 if you are interested in joining this study.

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.



Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, May 25 from 9 am - 2 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans. If you would like more information about Days for Girls you can visit their website at www.daysforgirls.org.










Missionary Spotlight – Florence Mefor

Florence Mefor serves as a mid-wife and nurse with Mutambara Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe. Her work focuses on expecting and postpartum mothers and children under the age of 5. Florence has delivered hundreds of babies and prays that God will continue to give her the strength to continue to do God's work with the mothers.



The St Luke N.O.W. Missions team, selected Florence as the recipient of our Sunday School Mission offerings (2nd through 5th Sundays) because her work with mothers and young children and our St Luke Diaper ministry work well together. If you would like to support Florence as one of our Missionaries, please put "Florence Mefor – missionary" on the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	4 Dance Banquet FH Rsrvd Afternoon/ Evening	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship - Communion Sunday School to Follow Golden Cross Sunday 	8	9 7 pm Ad Council Meeting	10 6:30 pm Praise Team	11	12	13 9am-4pm Quilt Guild Sew Day FH Rsrvd 
14 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow 	15 6:30 pm New Monday Night Study Group via Zoom	16	17 1:15 pm UWF Meeting Sam's Place	18 6:30 pm Quilt Guild Meeting FH Rsrvd	19	20
21 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Graduation Sunday  Newton HS Graduation 3:00 - 4:30 pm	22 6:30 pm Monday Night Study Group via Zoom 6:30 pm JCRCC FH Rsrvd	23	24	25 9am - 2pm Days for Girls @ 1st Presbyterian Church	26 Last Day of School - Newton Community Schools 	27
28 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	29  Memorial Day ★	30	31			

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
May 7	9:30 AM
Ushers	Cory & Lauren Figland
Greeters	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Nathan Figland
Acolyte	Payton Figland
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Ben Leonard
Camera	Caleb Leonard
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Megan DeJong
May 14	9:30 AM
Ushers	
Greeters	Marianne Spaur
Reader	Wendy Jennings
Acolyte	Rachel Pageler
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Barb Swihart
May 21	9:30 AM
Ushers	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	Leonard Family
Reader	Mary Onstot
Acolyte	Payton Figland & Nathan Figland
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Peg Kimberley
May 28	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters (2)	Peg Ehler
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	Rachel Pageler
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg

May Worship Assistants

For 2023 we are trying something new with our worship assistant sign up. We would like to see more of our volunteer position filled so we have decided to start passing around sign-up sheets for 3 months at a time. We had another wonderful response for our April-June volunteers and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up.



Most positions are filled now through June but there are still some spots open. If you would like to volunteer or see what positions are available you can email the church office at: worship@stlukenewton.com, use the sign-up sheets on the servant's counter or you can add your name to our online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSz0XUhxQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help. Thank you!

The Power of (God's) Light

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer? Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer.



Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1); “Let us walk in the light of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:5); “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (John 1:9). Darkness isn’t bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we “live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

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 May Birthdays

May 2 - Gloria Simpson
Krista Guillaume
May 8 - Roy Swersie
May 16 - Blake Squire
Tony Ehler
May 19 - Joel Mills
May 20 - Vieng Thongvanh
Dune Carter
May 21 - Terry Swihart
Joe Stonner
May 22 - Chuck Springer
May 23 - Gaylon Pherigo
May 25 - Dick Stiles



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



**May Salvation Army
Food Pantry Request**
Personal care items
Soap, shampoo, tooth care

2023 Graduates

We are gathering names for any graduate (high school or college) of our St Luke family. Please call or email the office and give us the name and information of your graduate ASAP, to be sure they are included. We would also like to include a photo of the graduate if at all possible. Thank you.






**“Next year let’s buy two carnations
for the oldest mother.”**

MEMORIAL DAY



Monday, May 29th

PUZZLE




Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. HEAV [] []
2. [] ABLE []
3. [] AY OF PENTECOS []
4. [] ONGUE []
5. [] PIRI []

6. [] OGETHE []
7. [] ES []
8. [] ONGUE []
9. [] A []
10. [] IND []



“When the _____³ came, they were all _____⁶ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____¹⁰ came from _____¹ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____⁹ what seemed to be _____⁴ of fire that separated and came to _____⁷ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____⁵ and began to speak in other _____⁸ as the Spirit _____² them.”

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind

6