#### St Luke United Methodist Church **Rev Chad Jennings** 501 E 19th Street N Newton, IA 50208



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#### Thursday, May 3: **National Day of Prayer**

#### Sunday, May 6:

8/10:30 am Worship - communion 9:15 am Sunday School



Sunday, May 13: Mother's Day 8/10:30 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School

Sunday, May 13: **June Newsletter Articles Are Due** 





Sunday, May 20: Pentecost

8/10:30 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 6 pm IWIC Worship at Mitchellville



#### Sunday, May 27: **Golden Cross Offering**

8/10:30 am Worship -

**Graduate Recognition** 9:15 am Sunday School



June 9-11, 2018 Hy-Vee Hall Des Moines, IA

Save the Date: VBS 2018 Mon-Fri, July 16-20 9 am-11:30 am

3 yr olds – just completed 6th grade 7th grade – adults lead and help

Several leader positions are available.

Talk with Amy Murphy to volunteer to lead a class or activity or to be a helper.



## St Luke UMC

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

**May 2018** 





#### Financial Update

It's always good to report positive news when it comes to St. Luke's financial situation. In early April, Russ was able to pay off the final portion of the

Building Fund loan. Thanks to the generous and prayerful giving of the congregation, that item has been taken care off. We now need to use our financial gifts to get caught up with our apportionment giving. Our apportionment goal for 2018, is approximately the same as it was in 2017, so we know our goal is obtainable.

By now, you have probably received information from the Trustees concerning needed maintenance to our church building. Some of the items include new roofing, windows, and several other items. We will be doing some fund raising projects to help pay for the upgrading of our facility.

We on the Finance Committee realize that this is a large monetary obligation. However, knowing the history of the members of St. Luke, and the generous giving nature that the congregation has shown it the past, the new construction projects are doable.

Again, thank you for your generous giving. The Finance Committee

These offerings have been received in the month of April:

Total of \$15,112 which included:

\$1,800-Building Fund;

\$713-Church World Service Blankets.

\$198-Larry & Jane Kies;

\$155-Apportionments;

\$380-Diakonos Offering;

\$65-Heifer Moolah.

\$31-Native American Ministries

\$125-Wills & Memorials.



#### Congratulations to the 2018 St Luke graduates!

Newton Sr High Ryan Constant

Iowa State University

Hannah Marston - Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education

University of Iowa

Rachel (Clark) Cole - PhD in Neuroscience



We are gathering names for any graduates (high school or college) of our St Luke family. Are we missing anybody? Please call or email the office and give us the name of your graduate, to be sure they're included. We would also like a picture to put on display. Deadline for receiving your graduate's information/picture will be Thursday, May 17th.

We plan to celebrate their accomplishments with a recognition and reception on May 27th during and following both services.

#### **Good News! And More News!**

Thanks to your prayerful giving, we have paid our building loan for the remodeling and portico off early! Way to go, St Lukers!

However, our church building is more than 50 years old and needing some work to keep it in good shape for many years to come. The Trustees have been taking a good look at our building and taking note of things that need attention. Number 1 on the list is the roof.



As you know, many roofs in Newton took a beating from a hail storm last June. The church and parsonage took a beating too and there are plans to replace them this summer. The insurance payment covers part of the replacement but not all. Also, the Sanctuary roof has no insulation in it and while the roof is being repaired would be the ideal opportunity to insulate it to help with our heating and cooling costs down the line.

Over the years, the people of St Luke have shown how much they care about their church home. We can all be a part of keeping our church in good condition. We will need to keep our donations to the building fund coming in to pay for the upkeep of our church home.



It's Going to be a Tough

This is going to be a tough year for the United Methodist Church. Since the last General

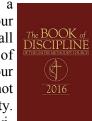


Conference in 2016, the United Method-

ist Church has been waiting. We have been waiting for the report from a special commission that was tasked with finding a way for us to break the stalemate that has existed since the early 1970s on the issue of homosexuality in the church. The Commission on a Way Forward will soon release its report to the Church in preparation for a special General Conference to be held in February of 2019 that will decide how the Church will proceed.

It going to be a tough year. The United Methodist Church has been dealing with this issue almost since its beginning. The UMC formed in 1968, when the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Evangelical United Brethren merged. It wasn't in that first General Conference, but in the next one, that this issue was raised. In the decades since, the issue keeps being raised and the answer remains largely the same: gay Christians who wish to be

United Methodists are welcomed...to a point. Our Book of Discipline, which is our book of rules that we live by, states that all persons are of sacred worth. (UM Book of Discipline 2016, p.26) It also states in our social principles that the UMC does not condone the practice of homosexuality. (UM BOD 2016, p. 113) And in the provi-



sion of membership in the local church, the BOD states that All people may attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments and become members in any local church in the connection. (UM BOD 2016, p. 155) The matter is complicated by two other prohibitions, 1) that pastors shall not conduct homosexual marriages or unions, and 2) pastors may not be self-avowed and practicing homosexuals.

This has been a complicated issue since the beginning. The faithful Christians that believe that homosexuality is a sin believe so because of their reading of the Bible in which it is prohibited. They believe that God said this is wrong and if God wanted to change God's mind, we would have a scripture that explicitly said that. The faithful Christians that believe that homosexuality is not a sin believe so because of their reading of the Bible which shows that Jesus embraced all people, even those who the world labelled sinners. The woman at the well was called a sinner and Jesus accepted her. The tax collector was labelled a sinner and Jesus accepted him.

Notice that I called both sides faithful. They both believe they are acting faithfully in their beliefs. They both have historical and biblical source material to back them up. And in recent years, they have had a difficult time talking, hearing, and living with the other. This is what has led to this tough year.

We don't know what the outcome will be. There are those who believe that the prohibitions will remain. There are those that believe that a local option will become available. In other words, each Annual Conference, or each local church, will be allowed to decide if they will be open to LGBTQ pastors and marriages in their church. There are those who are hoping that a new openness will prevail. We don't know what the outcome will be.

It has been my practice to focus on other issues. I believe that we have plenty to do in the world. We have people who need to know Christ. People in our community need to know the love of God through us. There are hungry people who need food. There are homeless people that need shelter. We have enough work to do.

However, this is an issue that we cannot ignore. The United Methodist Church will be in increasing conflict over the next year, and maybe in the years to come. Every

one of us needs to engage in this issue, and to join the conversation about this. Where do we stand as individuals? Where do we stand as a church? Where should we stand as a denomination? Where should we stand as the people of God?



Other denominations have faced this. We are not alone. The Presbyterian Church, USA and the Episcopal Church of the United States have been in the news in recent years about this issue. These denominations have opened themselves to the ordination of LGBTQ pastors. They have also experienced fractures because of it. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is going through this process now.

And we are in deep conflict with ourselves. The last election of bishops included the election of Bishop Karen Oliveto, an openly gay pastor. There have been several trials of pastors that have declared their homosexuality to their congregations. It has been a tough few years in anticipation of the Commission on a Way Forward's report.

I write this article as an invitation. I invite you to join the conversation about this. No matter which side of the faithful you find yourself, I welcome conversation about this. If you need help seeing the other side as faithful, I can help. But this must be



a conversation. It cannot be one-sided. It cannot be me preaching my understanding at you all. It cannot be me claiming to know more than you because I have a religious degree. I am one of the faithful, no more. We are a family that may or may not agree, but we are a family.

Over the next year, I want us to be engaged in the conversation. It will largely be shaped by your needs. If you want individual conversation, my door is always open. If you want small group discussions, make your desire known. When enough people want to come together, we will. But we cannot ignore this. We may be asked

(Continued on page 3)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS						
May 6	8 AM	10:30 AM				
Ushers	Larry/Darlyne Howard	Mike/Kleo O'Brien				
Greeters	Margaret Gullett	Jeff/Amy Murphy				
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg	Corinne Kleppe				
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Michelle O'Brien				
Nursery	Parents take turns	Pat Patty				
Keyboard	Jan Lewis	Jan Lewis				
Special	Margaret Christian	Margaret Christian				
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Carolyn Cook				
Fellowship	Rose Hartschen	Sue Crook				
Care Core	Tamara Lloyd	Kari Ann Munson				
Communion	Ann Leonard Counters:	Brad Patty/Deb Stoulil				
May 13	8 AM	10:30 AM				
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Rose Evans/Katie Jones				
Greeters	Pageler Family	Wendy/Nathan Jennings				
Readers	Peg Ehler	Jeff Carter				
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Kleo O'Brien				
Nursery	Parents take turns	Doug McIntyre				
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis				
Special		Sunday School Kids				
Projection	Brad Patty	Karen Clark				
Fellowship	Tamara Lloyd	Amy Murphy				
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Lisa Marston				
Counters		Russ Leix/Pat Patty				
May 20	8 AM	10:30 AM				
Ushers	Chuck Springer Margaret Gullett	Karen Clark/Sue Crook				
Greeters	Joyce Stonehocker	Rose Evans				
Readers	Brad Patty	Amy Murphy				
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Abby Jennings				
Nursery	Parents take turns	Mikey Carter				
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis				
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir				
Projection	Peg Ehler	Pam Smith				
Fellowship	Mike/Barb Kaldenberg	Lori Leix				
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Karen Clark				
Counters	But Handellooig	Rose Evans/Barb Kaldenberg				
May 27	8 AM	10:30 AM				
Ushers	Chuck Springer/	Roy/Pat Patty				
	Margaret Gullett	-				
Greeters	Rose Hartschen	Doug/Jenna McIntyre				
Readers	Jan Lewis	Marianne Spaur				
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Ushers				
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer Needed				
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis				
Special	Skunk River Singers	Skunk River Singers				
Projection	Ethan Pageler Wendy Jennings  Page Ehlor  Mighello O'Prion					
Fellowship Care Core	Peg Ehler	Michelle O'Brien				
	Joyce Stonehocker	Marianne Spaur				
Counters		Brad Patty/Jan Lewis				

#### Where to Find Us

**Pastor:** Rev. Chad Jennings

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

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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

Sympathy to Jean Schnell and her family with the passing of her husband, Kenneth.

Since the loss of my husband, I am so grateful for the emotional support I have received from the St Luke family. Ken and I were blessed with 62 years of wonderful memories, a loving family and supportive friends.

I would like to share a quote a friend sent me. "Grief never ends. . . But it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith . . . It is the price of love."

With love,

Jean Schnell and family



#### Please--Update All Addresses

including college students. We are constantly updating addresses of our members & friends. Help us by supplying us with those you know. We don't want to lose track of our church family. Thank you.



#### **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
		7 pm PEO - F Hall	6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice  *Gloria Simpson *Krista Guillaume	3 NATIONAL Popular PR R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R	4	5
6 8/10:30 Worship - Communion 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.  *Scott Kaldenberg *Derrick Cannon	SHARE Orders due. Go online, or call First UMC or First Christian.	8	9 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice 7 pm Page Turners Book Club	*Whitney Breckenridge  Ascension DAY	11	*Eloise Anthony
13 Mother's Day 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	<b>14</b> *Linda Greene	6:30 pm NOW meeting	16 1:15 pm    UMW at    St Luke  *Blake Squire *Tony Ehler  6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	7pm Quilt Guild - F Hall	Fellows Rese	•
20 Pentecost 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship & Egg Roll Sale 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 6 pm ICIW *Dean Diamond *Vieng Thongvanh	*Joe Stonner *Terry Swihart	*Chuck Springer	23 *Gaylon Pherigo	9am-2pm Days For Girls @ 1st Presbyterian Church	25 *Taylor Arrowood *Jack Chadwick *Dick Stiles	26
8/10:30 Worship Golden Cross Offering 9/11:30 Fellowship & Graduation Recognition Reception 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	28	6:30 pm SPRC Meeting	8:30 am Collate Newsletter	31	Birth If your b miss incorred	notes ndays! pirthday is sing or st, contact office.

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



## United Methodist Women May 16, 2018

At St Luke 1:15 pm

"Look at how good and pleasing it is when families live together as one." Psalm 133:1 CEB

Program: The Sacred Place of Prayer (Transfiguration) by Barb Kaldenberg Hostess: Betty Rhone

May 18-20: UMW Assembly in Columbus, OH

## "From the Pastor" Continued from page 2

to make a decision one way or another. I don't want us to make that decision in a reactionary way. We need to know each others' hearts and make the decision knowing the implications.

It's going to be a tough year. But...but, Christ is with us and chooses to be at work in the world through us. That won't change. And that is the reason why we must go through this tough year together.

Pastor Chad.

If you'd like to look at the Book of Discipline, you may find a free version here:

 $\underline{www.cokesbury.com/forms/}$ 

<u>DynamicContent.aspx?</u>

id=87&pageid=920#9568 or you may look at my copy.



#### Golden Cross Sunday Offering May 27

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.

#### **News from our Librarian** ~ Karen Clark

Did you know that our little library in the corner near the pastor's office is nicely stocked with children's books. You will find them on the low shelves under the window. Feel free to let your kids browse the books.



That is why they are on a shelf too low for me to be comfortable! Your kids can sit right there on the floor and read books! Feel free to check out books when grandchildren are going to visit, too. Check



out is easy. Write your name on the card and the date of when you take the book. Put the card in the blue recipe card box on the shelf. When you return the book, simply put it in the basket under the card box. I will find it and return it to the shelf. If there are children's authors you would like to see added to our library just let me know.

#### Sunday School Mission Offering May Through August 2018

Go Therefore Into All the world... The first Sunday of each month, the Sunday school offering goes toward the supplies needed for Sunday School. The second through fifth Sundays of each month the offering is given to Missions.

The great commission sends us into the world to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Some are called to service right here, where we live. Others are called to serve around the world. Larry and Jane Kies were called to serve in Africa. Our May through August 2018 Sunday School Mission offering will continue to go toward fulfilling our covenant to partner with Larry & Jane in their ministry.

The Kies work at Africa University in Zimbabwe. Larry is the technical advisor to the Africa University Farm and Jane teaches English at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Please join us in supporting these Iowa Missionaries in their work. If you do not currently attend Sunday School, please feel free to support this ministry by placing your check in the offering plate, with *Larry & Jane Kies* in the memo line.



Each year we covenant with Larry & Jane Kies to give \$300 to each of them for their ministry. We are currently more than halfway to reaching our \$600 goal. Thank you to all who give through the 2<sup>nd</sup>through 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday school offerings and to those who have given during worship by putting "Larry & Jane Kies" in the memo line. Once we meet our covenant, the NOW committee will choose a new recipient for the Sunday School Mission offering.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW – Missions Chair

#### Adult-2 Class

The Adult-2 Class invites you to join them as read and discuss the book "Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)" by Robert D. Lupton.

How to Reverse It)" by Robert D. Lupton.

If you are looking for a Sunday School class with topical studies, this would be a good class in which to participate. There is always room for more to join the discussion.



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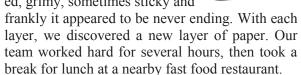


My Story

A team of Iowa State Students descended on the Habitat for Humanity home on the East side of Des Moines. Our job for the day was basically to do some demo and to

Some of our group began cleaning in the bathroom and kitchen. The rooms had an overwhelming smell and a greasy grime coating every surface. The rest of us were given supplies like soapy water and scrapers... our job... remove the

old wallpaper from a couple of the rooms in the house. What we didn't know as we began the iob was that there were FIVE layers of wall paper. It was faded, grimy, sometimes sticky and



When we returned to the home after lunch, for our next round of work, the difference was immediately evident. As we walked through the door to the home, you could smell the difference in the air. And, the home seemed brighter than it had in the morning. There was still a lot of work to do to remove the dirt of the past and reveal a fresh surface. But we could already see and feel a difference.

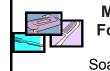
That is what Jesus does in our lives. He comes in and cleans out all of the grime, the stink and the layers of our sin. He creates a cleaner, healthier "home" for our souls which allows the love of God to shine from us. Many times we still have some work to do, but when we let Jesus in we can see evidence in our lives of the fresh surface.

Psalm 51:7 Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than

1 John 1:7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Will you let Jesus come in and clean out the grime and stink in your life? Will you let him scrape away the layers and refresh your soul?

Corinne Kleppe - Editor



May Salvation Army Personal care items

**Food Pantry Request** Soap, shampoo, tooth care



#### **Pentecost Sunday**

Celebrating the Gift of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2:1-21

The Feast of Weeks (Shavuot) is a Jewish holiday occurring sometime between May 14 and June 15. It commemorates the anniversary of God giving the Torah to the nation of Israel assembled on Mount Sinai; it also marks the wheat harvest. Its date is directly linked to 50 days after Passover. Followers of Jesus were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, thanking God for the harvest. Christians today celebrate the Feast of Weeks (Christians now call it Pentecost) 50 days after Easter. Pentecost is now called the "birthday of the church."

Christ's disciples and followers, men and women, at least 120, were gathered in the Upper Room - - the room of the Last Supper. Without warning the whole structure reverberated with the roaring sound of a violent wind. A flame ap-



peared with offshoots of smaller flames spreading to everyone present. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking languages they had never before spoken. Jesus had promised his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit after He was gone (John 16:7). They, of course, did not know when that would occur. But the Holy Spirit did appear on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter!

Other Jews present in Jerusalem heard the noise, and consequently the Christian group speaking in multiple native languages. At first those who had received the Holy Spirit were questioned why and how they could speak the languages of the multiple ethnic groups present in Jerusalem. To this Peter shouted, explaining that this was the fulfillment of the prophecy. The *Spirit* had been offered to His servants. "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

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 every Sunday morning - - after the 8 o'clock service, or before the 10:30 service!

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

♦ Lectionary Readings for May 2018 ♦

•May 6: John 15:9-17 | Loving Friends To explore what it means to be friends together in the community that is the Body of Christ.

•May 13: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 | Love Leads the Way To explore the role of faith in individual and community decision-making.

> •May 20: Acts 2:1-21 | Pentecost Sunday To celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

•May 27: Isaiah 6:1-8 | Take Notice

To consider anew God's presence and call in our lives.

# St. Luke

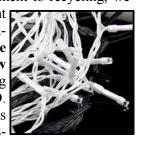
#### **RECYCLING STRING LIGHTS**

Way, to go, St. Luke! You recycled THREE big boxes of string lights in December and January! Those products did not end up in our landfill, but were delivered to two places: The Metro Waste Authority in Bondurant and the Habitat Re-

Store on East Euclid in Des Moines (which forwarded them on to be properly processed).

Because of your terrific commitment to recycling, we

are leaving our designated string light recycling box available for an extended length of time to collect any more discarded products. Do not throw them away. Take the non-working lights to St. Luke to be **RECYCLED**. Place your non-working light strings in the marked box located in the Mission Corner.



Share this information. Set an example for others that members of St. Luke care about our legacy and Reducing-**Reusing-Recycling!** 

#### Items being Collected for MMDC

MMDC is asking for donations of the following items to put in kits. Joyce Stonehocker will take these items to MMDC with her in early May when she goes for a board meeting. Items can be left in the box in the Narthex.

Blue & Black ink pens Glue Sticks Bike Reflectors 24-count Crayon Rubber Bands



#### **Church Camp Time Is Here!**

Which of the "Best Week Ever" camps will you attend? Catalogs are available on the table by the church office. Information can also be found at: www.iaumc.org/

Camperships are available through the St Luke UMWomen; talk with UMW Treasurer Pat Patty or Camp Coordinator Jenni Patty. Financial assistance is also available through Iowa Conference Funding.

CREATING

#### **Annual Conference** June 9-11

fference Creating Difference Makers in

New Communities of Faith is the theme for the 2018 Iowa Annual Conference session where lay and clergy will gather for the three-day event will be held at the Iowa Events Center/Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines. The 175<sup>th</sup> annual yearly meeting will feature powerful preaching, inspiring singing, informative teaching sessions, vital reporting, and the reconnection of fellow United Methodists from across the state.

### Save the Dates for **VBS July 16-20**



Are you called to volunteer to be a part of VBS? Contact Amy Murphy.

#### Days For Girls Update

The May meeting of Days For Girls will be held on May 24 from 9 am - 2 pm at 1st Presbyterian Church, Newton. More people are always welcomed. Donations of kit items or monetary gifts are also appreciated.



#### **SHARE Food Program**

Buying discounted groceries through SHARE is an easy way to stretch your food budget. You can check out and order online for the program at www.SHAREIOWA.com, or call either First UMC or First Christian Church. "SHARE boxes" can be ordered



by Monday, May 7 and picked up at First UMC on Saturday, up at First UMC on Saturday, May 19, between 7:30-8:30 am, when you can also order and pay

#### **Care Core**

Have you ever wondered what "Care Core" does for St. Luke? Our intent is to care for and nurture members of the St. Luke community who are experiencing ups and downs in their life. We follow up on requests for prayer or other special needs that are mentioned during joys and



concerns. Sometimes this might mean sending an encouraging card or joining Pastor Chad on a home visit.

Because we have two services and some months contain five Sundays, we often have a lot of needs to cover. If you are looking for a way to uplift others and offer support, we would love to have you join us in Care Core. We could especially use some extra help during the 10:30 service. Please contact me or Pastor Chad if you have any questions.

Jenni Patty Care Core chair

#### Egg Roll Sale/Fundraiser

Sunday, May 20 following both Worship services Hiap Thongvanh will be offering her DELICIOUS EGG ROLLS for sale. Funds raised will go towards our mission giving to Women



At The Well. Be sure to get some to take home for lunch and to help support this mission!