

St Luke UMC

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Newton, IA 50208
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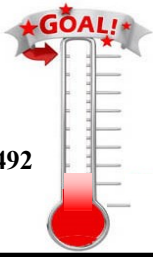
July 1, 2020



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2020 Apportionments

\$22,929



\$4,492

Financial Update



These offerings were received in the month of June:

Total of \$11,484 which included:

- \$640 - Building Fund
- \$215 - Apportionments
- \$787 - Peace with Justice
- \$100 - Larry & Jane Kies
- \$ 70 - Salvation Army Food Pantry
- \$100 - Heifer Project

July Outdoor Worship Services

Sundays: July 12 & 26 at 9:30 am

It has been so wonderful to see so many of our church family members at our outdoor services. What beautiful weather we have had to enjoy this time together. We are planning on having two outdoor services in the month of July. They will be on Sunday, July 12 and Sunday, July 26 both at 9:30 am.

Your safety continues to be our number one priority. We will ask that you bring your own lawn chair and spread out to keep six feet of distance between your family and others. We also ask that everyone please wear a mask until everyone is seated. Those who are considered high risk may want to continue wearing a mask during the service as well. Please be safe during this time and continue to properly social distance yourself from others. You can also bring along your own bread and juice again and we will do Communion together during the first service of the month.

Please note in case of rain we will plan on moving this service to the following weekend as we cannot move it inside at this time. For those who are unable to attend we will be posting the service online. We look forward to seeing you!



New Sermon Series

We will be continuing with our You Asked For It series in July. In this series, Pastor Chad will be tackling all your questions: fun ones, serious ones, and the ones you've always wanted to ask.

Please continue to submit your ideas and questions by email. During this series he may also ask you to be his host in a talk show style conversation. That means that you'll be able to ask the questions, from the silly to the serious, and he will attempt to answer them. Let us know when you submit your questions if you would also be willing to join Pastor Chad for one of these fun sessions.



Where to Find Us

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My soul finds rest in God alone...

PSALM 62:1



My Story

When I was in junior high and high school, the men in my church decided to play in a slow pitch softball league. Our church team was made up of men ranging in age from their teens to their fifties. And they had their very own large and vocal cheering section. As a church family we spent many summer evenings swatting at bugs in the bleachers and swatting at softballs on the field. We laughed a lot too.



The team held its own against the other teams in the league. Winning often and those times they lost, they took it in stride. If one man struck out, the next one would hit a double. If one man ran a bit too slowly, another would strongly encourage him to pick up his pace... or be carried home. They were a team and that meant working together each game.

Working together was the goal during those summer ball games. Working together as a team... as a country... as a church... and as a family; that should be our goal every day. Together we can do so much more than when we try to succeed on our own.




It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10a (the msg)

In our world today, there are many struggles and challenges. Many times they are not of our making, however, the only way to beat these struggles and to meet the challenges that arise is to work together as a team of humans. We must be willing to help our fellow teammates when they fall down. We must BE the hands of Christ in our world.

Corinne Kleppe



*You are the body of Christ!
Each one of you is a part of it.*

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

GENESIS 25: 19-34

Seeking God's counsel while navigating the tensions and struggles of communal life.

In the July 12th lectionary reading God has challenged the "norm" of the first born's traditional (major) inheritance. In a role reversal the younger son, Jacob easily talks his older brother, Esau, out of his traditional birth right.

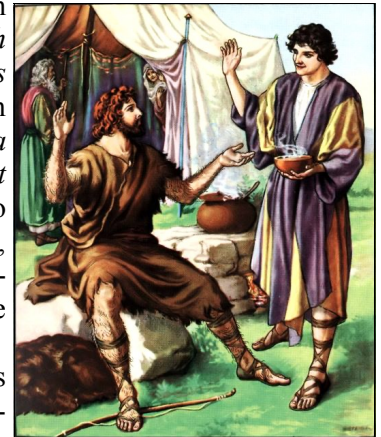
Once when Jacob was boiling stew, Esau came in from the field hungry and said to Jacob, "I'm starving! Let me devour some of this red stuff." That's why his name is Edom (red).

Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright today."

Esau said, "Since I'm going to die anyway, what good is my birthright to me?"

Jacob said, "Give me your word today." And he did. He sold his birthright to Jacob.

The storyteller in Genesis highlights the differences between Esau and Jacob's parents, Isaac and Rebekah **and** the differences between the twins. Esau was born first, *red all over, covered with hair*. Jacob came out *gripping his brother's heel*. Esau became an *outdoorsman*, and Jacob became a *quiet man who stayed at home*. Rebekah was inclined to love Jacob more, and Isaac, Esau. The status quo will be challenged and the stage set for role reversals and (family) struggle.



How can we bring injustices between groups to light by challenging the status quo? Why are some people content, or complacent, with the status quo and others, prepared to challenge?

While we are temporarily unable to meet as a Body of Christ in a building, consider weekly reading the (below listed) lectionaries to feed your spiritual "hunger" and continue "being the church" wherever you are!

∞ **Lectionary Readings for July 2020** ∞

• **July 5:** Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

A Love that Makes Neighbors

To find strength and comfort in the knowledge that God accompanies us on life's journeys.

• **July 12:** Genesis 25:19-34 | Love that Disrupts

To seek God's counsel while navigating the tensions and struggles of communal life.

• **July 19:** Genesis 28:10-19a | Presence

To be open to the mystery of God's leading and presence in our times of vulnerability.

• **July 26:** Genesis 29:15-28 | Subversive Silence

To discern the surprising and persistent way in which God works among us.

MMDC Update

A recent e-mail from Midwest Mission Distribution Center included information of interest. I noticed that in mid June two shipments of aid involved items packed by our group last winter. A huge shipment of humanitarian aid went to Addis Ababas, Ethiopia and will be distributed to an orphanage and to a non-profit supporting refugees from South Sudan. Included on that shipment were school kits verified and packed by St. Luke. Also, MMDC recently disbursed over \$43,000 worth of COVID-19 relief supplies to five local nonprofits. This included Personal Dignity Kits assembled by St. Luke. We have the possibility for two trips to MMDC early in 2022. Watch for more details to come later this summer.

See below for a thank you email from MMDC.



Thank you to all those who assembled these much needed relief kits!

Monday June 15, 2020 Midwest Mission sent a shipment of humanitarian aid to Addis Ababa Ethiopia.



thank you
YOUR HANDS, HEARTS & PRAYERS
WILL BE TOUCHING THOUSANDS OF LIVES
your supplies have shipped

These relief supplies will be going to a local orphanage and to a non-profit called, Community Hope Expansion & Development Action (CHEDA).

CHEDA supports the refugees in Ethiopia from South Sudan, particularly the vulnerable widows, women separated from their husbands, and their children.

This shipment was made possible by retired Springfield physician, Karen Holzier. After attending a mission trip last October to Ethiopia and meeting Founder of CHEDA, Gabriel Tott, Karen decided to collaborate with CHEDA and Midwest Mission to help the women and children in Ethiopia to receive life saving supplies. There is a total of about 32 women with CHEDA that will receive 47 electrical sewing machines, 8 treadle sewing machines, 1,229 lbs of fabric, 62 lbs of sewing items, along with a dozen sewing kits that will allow them to earn a living to help support themselves and their children.

The infants in the orphanage will be receiving:

- 576 Midwest Mission Layette Kits assembled by –
- Valpo UMC – Valparaiso, IN
- Atlanta UMW – Atlanta, IL

- Norma – Ortonville, MN
- Sue & Gerry – Estherville, IA
- Spooner UMC – Spooner, WI
- New Knoxville UMC – New Knoxville, OH
- 5 Women on Wheels - IL
- Lake Creek UMC, Smithton, MO
- Mt Horeb UMC – Mt Horeb, WI
- Algona FUMC – Algona, IA
- Stadel Family – WI, IL
- Bushnell UMC – Bushnell, IL
- Edwardsville UMC – Edwardsville, IN
- St Stephen UMC – St Stephen MO
- Dwight UMC – Dwight, IL
- 775 homemade boy outfits
- 1,312 homemade girl outfits
- 840 layette sweaters
- 389 lbs of redirect baby items
- 7 lbs of much needed diaper ointment

In addition the women and children will be receiving:

- 3,024 Midwest Mission Student Kits assembled by –
- Monticello UMC – Monticello, IL
- St. Luke UMC – Newton, IA
- Our Saviors UMC – Schaumburg, IL
- Taylorville UMC – Taylorville, IL
- Coleta UMC – Coleta, IL
- Prairie City UMC – Prairie City, IA
- 304 Bibles
- 16,389 pieces of women and children clothing and 65 pairs of new shoes
- 20 twin size mattresses
- 1,890 lbs of blankets, quilts and linens
- 1,480 Rice Meals that will feed 8,880 individuals
- 6 Laptops and 27 power adapters
- 315 pairs of reading glasses
- 538 lbs of redirected tarps from Lamar Advertisement

Total value of the shipment was \$144,561.50. The shipment left for the St. Louis area where it will then travel by rail to the east coast, then by ship – hopefully to arrive sometime in August.

Thank you all again for your help in assembling these Layette Kits!!

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.' – Deuteronomy 15:11 ESV

A Special Blessing for those with July Birthdays

- July 1 - Brenna Figland
- July 4 - Mike Spaur
- July 6 - Mike O'Brien
- July 7 - Jerry Rhone, Sharon Burton
- July 12 - Brooke Chambers
- July 15 - Audrey Boleyn
- July 16 - Dave Miller
- July 17 - Ralph Simpson
- July 19 - Corinne Kleppe
- July 21 - Bill Ponder
- July 22 - Madison Bleeker
- July 23 - Clayton Swihart
- July 24 - Danny Anthony
- July 26 - Holli Simpson
- July 27 - Emmett Andrews
- July 29 - Doug McIntyre



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

St. Luke News

St Luke Care Core,
I just want to say thank you for your blessings and gift in this trying time. I really appreciate the support from you guys so thank you.

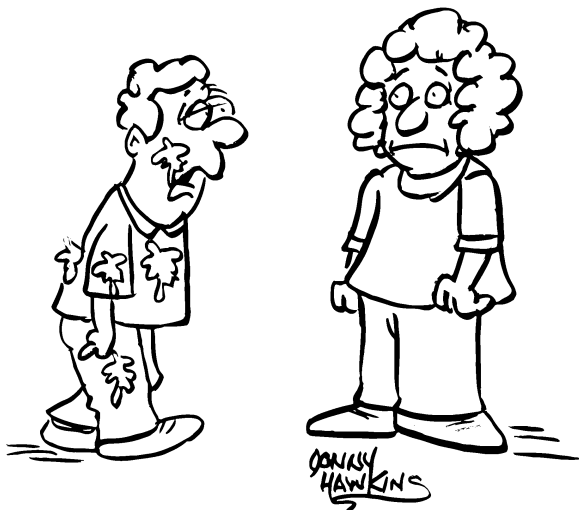
Logan Henning

Thank You!

St Luke Care Core,
From the bottom of my heart, thank you guys for being some of the most supportive people I have met! I am so beyond blessed for my church family! Thank you for the awesome graduation card and gift! I am so excited for my new journey!



Audrey Boleyn



"It's hard to bear the fruit of the Spirit when they're hurling rotten tomatoes."

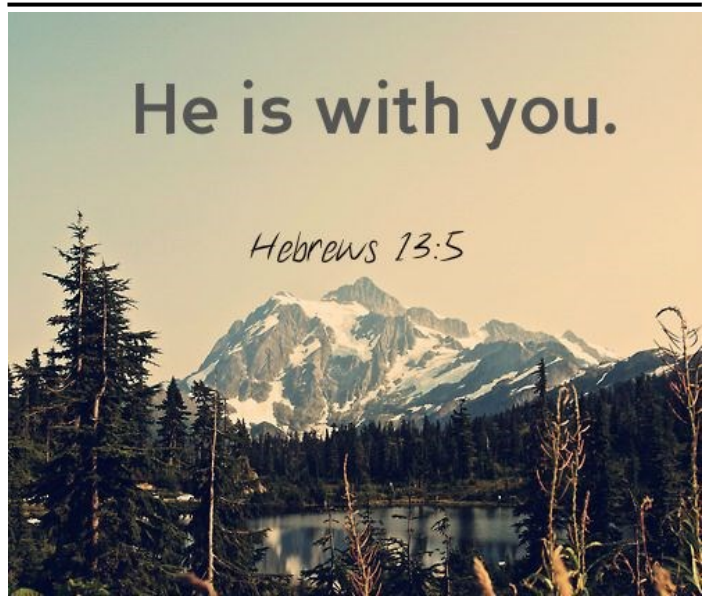


July Salvation Army
Food Pantry Request
Cereal and juice



July Calendar of Events

- July 4 Independence Day
- July 12 Outdoor Worship Service 9:30 am
- July 14 Ad Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- July 16 Quilt Guild in F-Hall 6:30 pm
- July 18 Fellowship Hall Reserved for Lizzie Stock
- July 26 Outdoor Worship Service 9:30 am



United Methodist Women

There will NOT be a UMW meeting held in July. Check the August newsletter for updates.