

St Luke UMC

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

January 1, 2023



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2022 Apportionments

\$14,313



\$14,313

Financial Update

Thank you for your prayerful and generous giving to St Luke. These are the numbers for our 2022 giving as of Dec. 29, 2022.



\$14,313	Apportionments
\$680	RP District Askings
\$10	World Communion Day
\$10	Methodist Student Day
\$174	Human Relations Sunday
\$70	Peace with Justice
\$123	Native Am. Awareness Day
\$75	Disabilities Awareness Day
\$20	Christian Education Sunday
\$90	Golden Cross Sunday
\$65	Rural Life Sunday
\$295	Women at the Well UMC
\$379.5	Heifer Intl—Living Gifts
\$728	Africa University Scholarships
\$266	Jane Kies Spt-Africa Univ.
\$25	Water and Sanitation
\$56	St Andrew Potato Proj-VA
\$245	UMCOR General Fund
\$2,295	UMCOR Disaster Resp-Intrnl
\$480	UMCOR Disaster Resp-USA
\$40	Bruna Farát da Silva
\$40	Temba Nkomozepi

Where to Find Us

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5th Sunday

WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE

Food Insecurity Event

Sunday, January 29, 2023

January WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE Event

We hope you can join us on January 29 for our upcoming WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE Food Insecurity Event. This is an opportunity to share God's love through acts of service as an act of worship.

On the morning of January 29, our worship will be packing meals for Take Away Hunger and turning some of those meals into burritos that Robyn Taylor will take to the homeless in Newton throughout the winter. This is an opportunity for us to really dig into something that affects our community and to do something about it. For your part, Give around \$30 or more for the ingredients of the meal packets we will pack, Pack the ingredients during worship on January 29 or Cook the burritos for the community, and Pray that God will lead us to the next ministry in our community to address the issue of food and housing insecurity.

Thank you for all you do, and for your participating in this exciting ministry opportunity at St Luke UMC.

Thank you

**Many Thanks for the Love Offering
You have given to the staff of St Luke!
From Pastor Chad, Jennifer & Jenny**



My Story

But those who wait upon GOD get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind. Isaiah 40:31

It was a crisp Sunday morning a few years ago, and as I drove to church I was thrilled to see a bald eagle sitting regally in a tree along the Skunk River near Kellogg. I gasped when I saw it and then giggled in my excitement.

As a child it was a rare and beautiful gift to see a bald eagle. They were on the endangered species list, so when we saw one in the world it was exciting.

My cousin once excitedly pointed out the bald eagles along the Mississippi River to her nieces. They lived in Burlington Iowa and so they looked at her and shrugged saying; "Yeah, we see those all of the time." It was nothing out of the ordinary for them to see this beautiful bird.

Many times as Christians, we can find ourselves thinking it is nothing out of the ordinary to know that Jesus Christ died on a cross and rose from the grave to conquer sin and death. We know this by faith. We've heard it over and over. We sometimes take it for granted.

But it was and it is a truly extraordinary thing. He died for ME and for YOU over 2000 years ago. HE knew us by name, even then. When is the last time that thought... that knowledge made you giggle in your excitement? Don't take it for granted. Share the story. Give that rare and beautiful gift to someone who doesn't know the story.



The bald eagles continue to grow in numbers, thanks to people changing what they were doing and making a conscious effort to make a difference. We can make that same difference in the lives of those around us by making a conscious effort to bring others to Christ.

Corinne Kleppe

January Sunday School Mission Offering

The January 2023 Sunday School offerings from the 2nd through 5th Sundays will be designated toward materials for the meals/ burritos packing event scheduled for Sunday morning January 29. You may also give to this event by putting "Mission in Worship event" on the memo line of your check, and placing it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.



Corinne Kleppe, NOW missions



Following the Call

Matthew 4:12-23

Participating in the call to follow Jesus

Not long after Jesus was baptized by his relative, John the Baptizer, John was beheaded by Herod Antipas. Likely in response to John's murder, Jesus went back to Galilee, from Nazareth to Capernaum, a town by the sea. Traveling and preaching, as an itinerant, Jesus's message was *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*, encouraging people to turn away from sin and toward God.

Jesus was in need of friends and followers who would help Him carry out the mission of sharing His message. The first followers were called disciples, which means apprentices.

The first two disciples Jesus "recruited" were Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew, fishermen. *Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.* Next, James and John, brothers, were in a boat with their father, Zebedee, *and immediately they left their boat and their father to follow Jesus.* These ordinary individuals left their families, comfort of their homes, and assured livelihoods. They were inspired!



From there Jesus continued to ask people to repent, healed the sick, and proclaimed the kingdom of God.

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. The class's emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings. Various Bibles' presentations of the same passage are compared and discussed, and sometimes we come up with our own questions which we had never before considered. Below are each week's main passages.

•Lectionary Readings for January 2023•

- **January 1:** **Matthew 2:1-12** | New Epiphanies
To hear and celebrate the story of the visit of the Magi
- **January 8:** **Matthew 3:13-17** | Slow Epiphanies
To clarify our sense of the leading of God's Spirit
- **January 15:** **Isaiah 49:1-7** | Called Together
To explore more deeply the call to serve God faithfully
- **January 22:** **Matthew 4:12-23** | Following the Call
To participate in the call to follow Jesus
- **January 29:** **Matthew 5:1-12** | Beautiful Vision
To explore how we can feel blessed, and can be a blessing to others



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

January
No Meeting

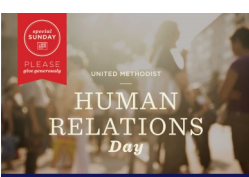
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (NIV)

Jeremiah 29:11

Human Relations Day January 15th

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" - Micah 6:8b

Human Relations Day is an opportunity for United Methodists to share in seeking justice for our neighbors.



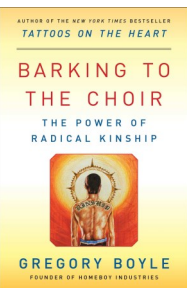
On this day, congregations are given the unique opportunity to join with individuals, groups, businesses, community organizations and residents to heal the wounds of social inequality. The special offering sup-

ports neighborhood ministries, community advocacy and work with at-risk youth.

Human Relations Day encourages us to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to stay on the side of those whom others choose to forget.

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.



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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.

UMCOR Advance #982450 Aiding Those Affected in Ukraine

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) assists the most vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need. In the Ukraine UMCOR is assisting civilians with - -

- Transportation, food, water, clothing, medication, and safe shelters for displaced families, women, children, and those with disabilities;

- Urgently needed medical supplies to hospitals to help doctors and nurses care for the sick and injured;

- Legal assistance, counseling, and social support for those who have lost their homes, belongings, and livelihoods;



- Winterization and repairs at shelters, as well as construction on longer-term lodging for those displaced by the war;

- Repairs on homes as people return to communities impacted by months of warfare, and;

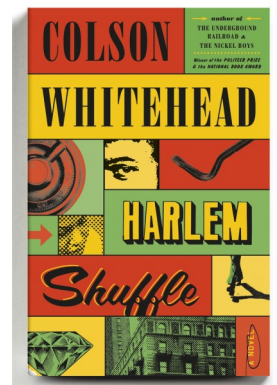
- Explosive removal and mine education throughout the country to reduce risks to those returning to their homes and communities.

Won't you prayerfully consider donating to UMCOR's mission of Ukrainian relief through **Advance #982450**? Consider a one-time gift OR a small monthly donation. Below is a 2:11 minute video sharing UMCOR's many Ukrainian contributions.

https://vimeo.com/761866434?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=3312022

New Monday Night Study Group

We will be starting a new book for our Monday Night Zoom Study Group beginning January 9 at 6:30 pm. We will be reading the book "Harlem Shuffle" by Colson Whitehead. Books are \$14. Sign up at the servant's counter or contact the office if you are interested in joining this study.



"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson





Meet Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai has been assigned as the resident bishop for the Iowa Area, effective Jan. 1, 2023. She was elected to the episcopacy at the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference. Before her election, she served as the chief connectional ministries officer of the Connectional Table for the United Methodist Church since 2018.

Bishop Bigham-Tsai, has served as a district superintendent in the Michigan Annual Conference and as a local church pastor in Kalamazoo and East Lansing, Michigan.

Bigham-Tsai said of her vision of the church: “I envision a United Methodist Church that fully claims its identity as a church that centers grace. This is a church that is open and inclusive of all people. It is a church that addresses racism in the church and in society and actively seeks reconciliation, healing, and justice for its LGBTQIA+ children. Such a church approaches ministry with an outward-facing and invitational love.” She describes her leadership as a “relational, collaborative, and innovative leader who makes my own physical, emotional, and spiritual health a priority. I am a visionary who is mission-directed and willing to experiment. I believe in surrounding myself with strong leaders, then equipping and allowing them to lead. I enjoy leading with people who are open to the creative movement of the Spirit, and I enjoy mentoring and developing new leaders.”



Bishop Bigham-Tsai is married to Kee Tsai. They have two children, Keeton and Kandem Bigham-Tsai, and a German Shepherd, Kylo.

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai said she feels “elated, deeply humbled and a little bit emotional” after being elected and assigned to Iowa. She asks that the people of Iowa would pray that her family would be well in their transition to Iowa, that God would surprise them and delight them in ways that they can’t yet imagine, and in her leadership that she will be able to listen closely, not just to the words, but to what is underneath the words.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 | 6 PM

St Luke Fellowship Hall

Calling All Cooks at St. Luke

We are having a chili cookoff on Saturday, January 21st at 6 pm in fellowship hall. All ages are welcome. Each family can bring either a crockpot of chili or a side to share. Ideas would be corn bread, salad, dessert, crackers. There will be a sign up sheet after the first of the year. We will vote on our favorite chili by monetary contributions. The money will be used to buy ingredients for the burritos which we are making Sunday, January 29th. After dinner, we would like to find a game which we all can play as teams like charades or Pictionary. A few years ago we had a game where you had about 5 charade words which you had a limited time to portray and get your team to guess correctly. If anyone else remembers this and knows the name of the game let Barb Kaldenberg know. Hope we have a great turnout for our return of socials at St. Luke.



**Diaper Sewing Days
January 16 & 17 | 9 am-3 pm**

We will be sewing diapers for Midwest Missions Distribution Center Monday January 16 and Tuesday January 17, 9 AM - 3 PM in Fellowship Hall. This will be our final push of diaper sewing before our February trip to MMDC. Please bring a sack lunch for yourself. There will be a job for anyone interested in helping. You can sew, cut, pin, iron, count and pack. If you are one who sews please bring your sewing machine and basic supplies. Come for any part of either day that works for you. This is a great time for fellowship as well as working for a needed mission project. Contact Karen Clark if you have questions.



Fresh Starts

I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade. That’s why I also like sunrises, Mondays and new seasons. God seems to be saying, “With me you can always start afresh.”



—Ada Lum

St Luke News

Hi St. Luke Family,

Thank you for all the wonderful gifts in the student spotlight care package. The kind words, food, socks, and gift cards were all very thoughtful. I just finished up finals here at Iowa, and I am enjoying winter break right now. I graduate in the spring and have an internship lined up for the summer in St. Paul, Minnesota. I hope to see all of you soon!

Thanks again,
Jacob Murphy



It's a boy! Congratulations to Jon and Lisa Merkle on the birth of their son, Arthur Robert Merkle. Arthur was born on December 16, 2022 at 1:20 pm. Proud grandparents are Brad and Jenni Patty and proud great-grandparents are Roy and Pat Patty. Welcome to the world little one!



Our deepest condolences and prayers go out to Rose Evans on the passing of her mother Esther Klosterboer. Esther passed away on December 20 and was 91 years old. Services will be held in the spring in Grundy Center where they will celebrate the lives of both Esther and Vernon Klosterboer.



Writing Our Life — With God's Help

A journalist once said you can measure the quality of a piece of writing by the quality of what has been cut. No matter how beautiful or interesting a phrase or sentence is, the piece may be stronger without it.

Rabbi Evan Moffic applies this wisdom to life in general. Too often we refuse to let something — a habit, a memory, a process — go, even when it no longer serves us. Thinking of our life as a book, we can cut out, edit or rearrange some pages or sentences to reflect our new learnings and growth.



This is not always easy, but we don't have to do it alone. "God is our 'editor-in-chief,'" says Moffic, "and we are part of God's story. [While] God ... gives us free will to decide what to write on the pages of our lives, ... God is always there for conversation and consultation. And God left us a great guidebook called the Bible. Its lessons make our writing shine with truth and beauty." With God's guidance, what will you "write" in the new year?



Wisdom from MLK

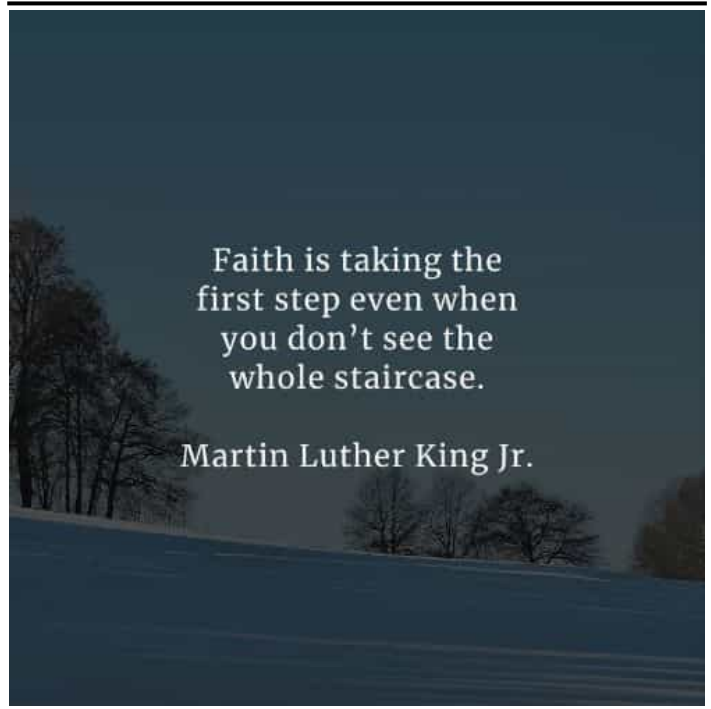
I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.



—Martin Luther King Jr.

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

Martin Luther King Jr.



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.



Coffee & Chat

MercyOne Newton Medical Center is now sponsoring a grief support group using materials from Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D., of the Center for Loss and Life Transition. The group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 9:30 AM—11 AM in the MercyOne in-service room. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP by calling 515/643-6150.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship - Communion Sunday School to Follow 	2	3	4 Praise Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm	5	6	7 10 am-4 pm FH Rsrvd Ehler Family
8 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	9 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group	10	11 Praise Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm	12	13 	14
15 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Human Relations Day Offering	16 9am-3 pm Diaper Sewing-FH 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group 	17 9am-3 pm Diaper Sewing FH Rsvd	18 Praise Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm	19 6:30 pm Quilt Guild Meeting FH Rsrvd	20	21 Chili Cookoff 6-9 pm 
22 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	23 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group	24	25 Praise Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm	26	27	28 1-5 pm FH Rsrvd Patty Family
29 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow 5th Sunday Worship-In Service Food Packaging Event	30 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group	31				

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
Jan. 1	9:30 AM
Ushers	Rose Evans
Greeters	
Reader	Rose Evans
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	

Jan. 8	9:30 AM
Ushers	
Greeters	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	

Jan. 15	9:30 AM
Ushers	
Greeters	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark
Coffee Time	

Jan. 22	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	

January Worship Assistants

We are looking for volunteers to be worship assistants for the month of January. If you would like to volunteer 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 new online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUHXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We still have quite a few openings so please sign up if you are able. We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help. Thank you!

Jan. 29	9:30 AM
Ushers	
Greeters	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Tamara Lloyd
Coffee Time	



Thank You! To all of the volunteers at St Luke UMC. Whether you teach a VBS or Sunday School class, donate food for a meal, make a casserole for someone recovering from surgery, donate your time for a project at the church, visit a member that needs a friend or send a greeting card, you are making a difference. 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.



A Special Blessing for those with January Birthdays

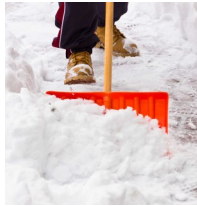
- January 1 - Ethan Squire
- January 2 - Lori Leix
- January 4 - Zoe Smith
Jona Swersie
- January 5 - Stefanie Squire
Bruce Maach
- January 6 - Dennis Smith
- January 8 - Nathan Jennings
- January 14 - Gabe Swersie
- January 19 - Pam Stiles
- January 24 - Jeff Carter
Jeff McKibben
- January 25 - Jeff Murphy
- January 26 - Joyce Stonehocker
CJ Osborn
Gatlin Chambers
- January 27 - Rachel Swersie



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

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 and watch for text messages for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.

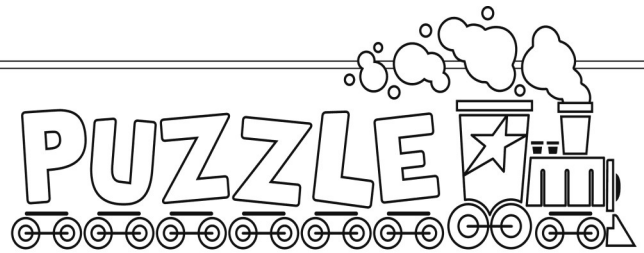


“Thanks for calling the Believer’s Support Line. For a word of encouragement, press one. For a verbal pat on the back, press two. For immediate praise and adulation, press three. For a faith that worketh patience, press on!”



January Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Detergent & Dish Soap



Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.

FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH

- God made wild animals and livestock. ○ _ _ _
- God said, “Let there be light.” _ _ _ ○
- God gathered the waters under the sky into one place. ○ _ _ _
- God made a vault to separate the waters and called it “sky.” _ _ _ _ ○
- God created plants and trees. _ _ _ _ ○
- God separated the light from the darkness. ○ _ _ _
- God made the water teem with living creatures. _ _ _ _
- God made the sun and moon. _ _ _ _ ○
- God made birds fly above the earth. _ _ _ _
- God made stars. ○ _ _ _
- God created mankind in his own image. _ _ _ _

God _aw all tha _he _ad ma_e, an _ _t was ve_y g_od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fifth, fourth, sixth, and it was very good.