

# St Luke UMC

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

January 1, 2021



# THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

## 2020 Apportionments

**\$22,929**



\$22,929

## Financial Update

Thank you for your prayerful and generous giving to St Luke. These are the numbers for our 2020 giving as of Dec. 30, 2020:

- \$21,956 Apportionments
- \$973 District Askings
- \$10 UMCOR Sunday
- \$147 Human Relations Sunday
- \$787 Peace With Justice
- \$99 Disabilities Awareness
- \$100 Heifer Intl-Living Gift
- \$145 Heifer International
- \$315 Larry Kies-Africa University
- \$314 Jane Kies-Africa University
- \$69 Water & Sanitation
- \$28 St Andrew Potato Project
- \$24 UMCOR General Fund
- \$132 UMCOR Disaster Resp-USA



## Where to Find Us

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I saw a very clever commercial this morning. It had the devil meeting the year 2020. They hit it off and the next several scenes had them in various dating scenarios. It ended with Match.com suggesting that we make 2021 our year.



This commercial plays cleverly off the notion that 2020 has been the year we'd like to forget. I can't really argue with that. But my Dad recently asked the family if we could share anything positive that has come in 2020. Silence filled the space. How would you answer this?

Don't dismiss this too quickly. I found this exercise difficult, but worthwhile. 2020 has been a difficult year. With the virus, the lockdown, the economic instability, the derecho, and the political battle, this is a year that will be talked about well into the future, but not for anything good. I grew up hearing about the blizzard of 1973. This is one of those stories.

For this reason, it would do us a lot of good to add something positive to the story. When we tell this story, it would be beneficial to include positive attributes along with the list of negatives. In my church life, I can find many positive things. We are finishing the year in decent financial shape. At the beginning of this saga, many were predicting the closing of churches alongside the loss of small businesses. With so many people economically stressed, churches were also to suffer from the lack of resources. We could have suffered greatly as a church, but we have survived with minimal discomfort (though Russ may tell a different story. Thank you, Russ.).

We missed each other greatly, and there are so many people who haven't been able to be with us because of this virus. On the other hand, we made due with sporadic gatherings in our backyard. As I spoke with many other pastors about their experiences, many were not able to have outdoor gatherings because they didn't have a yard large enough to gather. We are blessed with a yard. And even when the yard was filled with debris from the storm, we came together to clean up and barely missed a beat.

Throughout this year, we have cared for each other. We've kept our distance. We've worn our masks. We've watched worship online when we couldn't be together. And while these haven't been our ideal choices, we've done them for each other. I will remember 2020 as the year that we protected our families...and we are family.

As I look back on 2020, I must say thank you. Thank you for supporting me. Thank you for caring for each other. Thank you for giving faithfully. Thank you for being the church, even when it is hard. 2020 has shown us that we can carry on our mission even when it seems impossible to do so.

I will gladly welcome 2021 and hope for a much better year. But I will also look back on 2020 with an appreciation of those God has placed in my life.



Pastor Chad



## My Story

Do you remember the kids Christmas cartoon movie, Santa Claus is Coming to Town? At one point Kris Kringle meets the evil Winter Warlock, who is angry at the world. As they talk, Kris learns that the Winter Warlock needs to see and feel love and help. He gives him a toy train which melts the heart of the Winter Warlock and soon Kris begins to sing “You put one foot in front of the other and soon you’ll be walking across the floor.” Kris reminds Winter that taking one step at a time you will get closer to your goal and one step closer to feeling happy with your world.

Sometimes we hold our anger and mistrust in our heart, forgetting that we are “freezing out” the world. We find ourselves speaking or writing in ways that hurt or shut out others, all because we don’t agree with them. We forget that what we say can create a frozen wall of pain, for ourselves and others.

<sup>11</sup> For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: (1 John 3: 11, 18-19)



When we find ourselves in that frozen space, set aside from others and forgetting that our words and actions can cause pain, we must remind ourselves of what the first Christians were directed to do, and we must be determined to move forward as true Christians:

They don’t agree with you? Love them ANYWAY! They don’t think like I do? Love THEM anyway! They don’t believe what I believe? LOVE them anyway! You put one foot in front of the other...and LOVE THEM ANYWAY!

Corinne Kleppe



Love them  
anyway.  
- LUKE 23:34

St. Luke



Seasons  
OF  
THE SPIRIT

**BIBLE STUDY**

Sunday  
School  
Class  
meets 9:15 a.m.  
in the  
choir room

## Coming Through the Night

I SAMUEL 3: 1-10  
(11-20)

Considering how,  
and what it means  
to place our trust in God.

Hannah was married to Elkanah, who (also) had a second wife, Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah, none. Hannah asked the Lord for a son, promising to give him back to God for “the service of God.” Later Hannah *did* conceive a son, named him Samuel, and eventually took him to the temple where he would be raised under the care of the priest Eli.

One night Samuel three times awoke from his sleep, upon hearing his name called. Each time Samuel then reported to Eli and each time Eli would respond that ‘no,’ he had *not* called Samuel’s name. After the third “calling,” Eli realized it must have been the *Eternal One* who was calling to Samuel. Eli instructed Samuel to respond, “*Speak Eternal One. Your servant is listening,*” the next time he heard his name being called.

And the next time the Eternal One called to Samuel He told Samuel that the day was “*coming when I will carry out the vow I made to Eli about his family, every word of it. I have told him that I will punish his house forever for the sins of his sons, bringing a curse on themselves that he (Eli) knew about, but did nothing to stop. So I vow that the sins of the house of Eli may never be atoned by sacrifice or by offering.*”



The next morning Samuel went to Eli and shared everything God had told him the previous night. Eli knew his sons had dishonored God and did deserve punishment.

Samuel grew and gained the respect worthy of a prophet and his words were trusted.

We, too, must be able to “hear” a *call* before we can respond to it. Consider what “calls” you feel you have heard. Upon what calls has St. Luke heard and acted? Upon what “calls” has the United States heard and either “acted,” or “not acted?”

### ∞ Lectionary Readings for January 2021 ∞

- **January 3: John (1:1-9) 10-18** | Recognize, Re-engage, Respond  
*To explore the mystery of God as revealed through Jesus, called logos.*
- **January 10: Mark 4: 1-11** | Coming through the waters  
*To respond to God’s voice calling us into new directions for our lives.*
- **January 17: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)** | Coming through the Night  
*To recognize and live from a new vision of ourselves and the world.*
- **January 24: Mark 1:14-20** | Coming through the Call  
*To consider how, and what it means to place our trust in God.*
- **January 31: Mark 1:21-28** | Coming through the Holy Places  
*To be grow in our knowledge, understanding of authority.*

<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</b>	
<b>Jan. 17</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers (3-4)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	Peg Ehler
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark
Counters (2)	Jan Lewis, Barb Kaldenberg
<b>Jan. 24</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers (3-4)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters (2)	Brad & Jenni Patty
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	Peg Ehler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg, Jenna McIntyre
Counters (2)	Mike Kaldenberg, Brad Patty
<b>Jan. 31</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers (3-4)	
Greeters (2)	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	Peg Ehler
Care Core	Tamara Lloyd, Jenni Patty
Counters (2)	Rose Evans
<b>Feb. 7</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers (3-4)	
Greeters (2)	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	Peg Ehler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Counters (2)	
<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers (3-4)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection (1)	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Counters (2)	

## Worship Assistants For January & February

As we attempt to worship indoors again we are continuing with our worship assistant sign-up. We want our church family to feel as safe and



comfortable as possible worshipping indoors. Instead of assigning church members we are asking for volunteers for the months of January and Febru-

ary. We are planning to return to in-person worship on January 17 so we want to make sure we have volunteers available. We still have several volunteer opportunities available.

If you would like to volunteer for a potential Sunday you can email the church office at: [worship@stlukenewton.com](mailto:worship@stlukenewton.com) or you can add your name to the sign-up link that was emailed out. There is also a sign-up sheet on the Coffee Counter for use when we resume in-person services again. We appreciate everyone who has so willingly volunteered to help. If this works well we may continue with a sign-up and will add or adjust positions as needed. Thank you!



### **A Prayer For Putting Away Christmas Decorations**

Lord Jesus today we will put away  
all our Christmas decorations.

Soon we will enter into Ordinary Time.

Our house will look ordinary again,  
but Lord, You know and we know  
that our house has a secret.

Deep inside it,

all our Christmas decorations are still here.  
The blessing of Christmas is always with us,  
kept in the deep quiet of the house.

And Lord, our lives will become ordinary again,  
but You know that each of us  
has the grace of baptism.

The grace You gave us is always with us,  
in the deep, quiet places of our soul.

Help our house be a house  
with Christmas at its core,  
and help our souls be a place  
where Jesus always dwells.

Help us live the grace of Christmas every day,  
only without the trappings. Amen.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3	4 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	5 6:30 pm 3rd-6th Zoom Ed. Class	6 3:15 pm Middle School Ed. Class 6:30 pm K-2nd Zoom Ed. Class	7	8	9
10	11 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	12 6:30 pm 3rd-6th Zoom Ed. Class	13  3:15 pm Middle School Ed. Class 6:30 pm K-2nd Zoom Ed. Class  7 pm Page Turners Book Club	14	15	16
17 In-person Worship Resumes  9:30 am Worship	18 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	19 6:30 pm 3rd-6th Zoom Ed. Class	20 3:15 pm Middle School Ed. Class  6:30 pm K-2nd Zoom Ed. Class	21 6:30 pm Quilt Guild F-Hall	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship	25 6:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	26 6:30 pm 3rd-6th Zoom Ed. Class	27 3:15 pm Middle School Ed. Class  6:30 pm K-2nd Zoom Ed. Class	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship		7 pm Mission Coalition				

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



## United Methodist Women

No January Meeting

The United Methodist Women will not be meeting until April 2021. We will post updates as more details become available.



### Can/Bottle Redemption

The Seasons of the Spirit Sunday School class has taken responsibility of the can and bottle redemption bin in the northwest corner of the parking lot. Class members decided to apply the proceeds to our apportionments. In 2020 that contribution totaled \$319.25. Thank you St. Luke members and friends.



Class members, Roy and Pat Patty, have assumed responsibility to redeem the containers. It is easier to access the donations if they are not tightly sealed in boxes and bags and therefore quicker to sort, count and bag them. With your continued support we may exceed the 2020 donations in 2021.



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

### 2021 MMDC Trip Update

We have decided to cancel the January MMDC trip, but at this time we are still planning to take a group February 21-24. We will leave after church Sunday and return on Wednesday evening after working at the center and staying in their dorm. We will work together and live together. It has always been a wonderful time of Christian living and doing the Lord's work. Please let Karen Clark know if you are interested or planning to attend the February trip.



### 2021 Missionary Offerings

Most years I would be introducing this as the "Sunday School Mission Offerings". Hopefully, we will get back to that in 2021, but for now, we'll call this the "Missionary Offering". We have a goal each year of giving at least \$2 per member in support of United Methodist Missionaries. For years we have covenanted with Larry and Jane Kies, but in December 2020, Larry retired. With this in mind the NOW Committee discussed (by email) our 2021 Missionary offerings.

This is where we are headed in 2021:  
Goal #1: \$300 for Jane Kies, a missionary at Africa University in Zimbabwe. Jane teaches Intensive English to students from non-English speaking countries.  
Goal #2: \$300 for La Fundicion de Cristo/Christ's Foundry missionary congregation in Dallas, Texas. Our very own Amy Spaur is the pastor of this congregation in the North Texas Conference.

Goal #3: Once we have met our first two goals, we will look to sending support dollars to Doug Williams. Doug is a General Board of Global Ministries Missionaries in Argentina. Doug has visited St Luke in the past.

Each month I will send updates on how far we have come to reaching these goals. I will also provide more information about each of these recipients to help you understand the work of our missionaries. We invite you to support one or all of these missionaries in 2021, simply put a notation on the memo line of your offering check.

NOW Missions

### Diaper Sewing Update

Thank you to all who have been helping to sew flannel diapers for Midwest Mission Distribution Center! There are more diapers to be sewn available in the fellowship hall if you would like to help sew. We will take them to MMDC in February and will continue sewing until then. May God bless the children and families who will use these diapers.



Karen Clark

## A Special Blessing for those with January Birthdays

- January 1 - Ethan Squire
- January 2 - Lori Leix
- January 4 - Zoe Smith
- January 5 - Stefanie Squire  
Bruce Maach
- January 6 - Dennis Smith
- January 8 - Nathan Jennings
- January 17 - Esther Klosterboer
- January 19 - Pam Stiles  
Wilma Eatwell
- January 24 - Jeff Carter  
Jeff McKibben
- January 25 - Jeff Murphy
- January 26 - Joyce Stonehocker  
CJ Osborn
- January 29 - Gatlin Chambers



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

### Card Shower

Esther Klosterboer turns 90 on Sunday, January 17. She returned back home from Polk City on December 22. If you would like to send her a birthday card, you can mail it to: Esther Klosterboer, 309 E. 19th St. N., Newton, IA 50208.

Thank you!



### January Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Detergent & Dish Soap



"Because he works from home. That's why we never see God in person."

## 2021 Annual Conference Sessions June 4-6, 2021

After careful consideration and consultation the Iowa Conference UMC has made the difficult decision to move forward with a virtual conference for the 2021 session. Production of the annual conference session involves countless staff and volunteers and begins several months prior to the event. With all the uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic a virtual conference allows the planning to begin while honoring our commitment to Do Not Harm.

### St Luke Christian Education Program

The Sunday School (now called F.R.O.G., or Friends Relying on God) has been meeting weekly through Zoom since September. If you have a child or grandchild that would like to join us please email us at:



worship@stlukenewton.com.

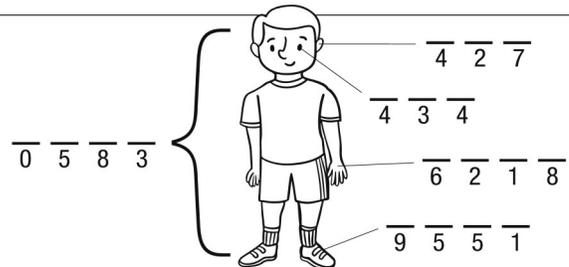
**PreK - 2nd Grade - Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm via Zoom**  
**3rd - 6th Grade - Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm via Zoom**  
**Middle School - Wednesdays After School @ St Luke**



## WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God's purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the \_\_\_\_\_ should say, "Because I am not a \_\_\_\_\_, I do not belong to the \_\_\_\_\_," ... And if the \_\_\_\_\_ should say, "Because I am not an \_\_\_\_\_, I do not belong to the \_\_\_\_\_," it would not for that reason stop being part of the \_\_\_\_\_. If the whole \_\_\_\_\_ were an \_\_\_\_\_, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole \_\_\_\_\_ were an \_\_\_\_\_, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one \_\_\_\_\_.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 16, ear = 11, hand = 13, foot = 17, foot = 20