

St Luke UMC

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

January 2020



THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

2019 Apportionments

\$24,351



\$17,351

Financial Update

Thank you for your prayerful and generous giving to St Luke. These are the numbers for our 2019 giving as of December 27, 2019: \$17,351 Apportionments

ments

- \$0 District Askings
- \$122 World Communion
- \$80 Methodist Student Day
- \$95 Human Relations Sunday
- \$67 Peace With Justice
- \$147 Native American Awareness
- \$92 Disabilities Awareness
- \$136 Golden Cross
- \$10 Rural Life
- \$929 Iowa Disaster Relief
- \$430 Women At The Well UMC
- \$1046 Justice for our Neighbors
- \$169 Africa University-Kitchen
- \$229 Ingathering Postage
- \$961 Heifer International
- \$106 Doug Williams/Argentina
- \$618 Larry & Jane Kies
- \$48 Water & Sanitation
- \$77 St Andrew Potato Project
- \$12 UMCOR Disaster Response-International
- \$186 UMCOR Disaster Response-USA
- \$??? Church World Service - Not totaled
Donations still coming in



Fill the Moolah Tube For Heifer International

THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT!

Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.

Dan West founded Heifer International in 1944 with the "teach a man to fish" philosophy. That philosophy still inspires their work to end world hunger and poverty throughout the world once and for all.

For more information about Heifer International, visit their website at: www.Heifer.org.



Thank You

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

OUR HOPE IS NOT
IN THE NEW YEAR
BUT IN THE ONE
WHO MAKES

all things new



Welcome to the new year.
Welcome to the new decade.
Welcome to the opportunity to
do something new.



2020 is a year full of angst and hope.

So much will happen in the next year. An election will happen, which will bring either a new term or a new president, either will bring angst and hope to those that voted. It will also bring the voice of the people to several offices of public interest, and with it, the angst and hope of those people who voted.



In the United Methodist Church, 2020 will bring another General Conference. In May, the worldwide representatives of the Church will gather in Minneapolis to determine the course of the Church for the next four years. This is a time full of angst and hope. There are many who are preparing for the debate over proposed legislation and the decisions that need to be made. Angst and hope.

You may even be seeing this in your own life. You may be making decisions in the next year that have an unclear outcome. These decisions will be filled with angst and hope.



Such is the nature of the unknown future. We can't know everything that is going to happen in the next year. And really, this is exciting. It means that we can help write the future for ourselves. It means that while God is

writing the future, we get to be agents in that future. What a blessing to be active participants in the world and what God is up to.

So, now is decision time. No, you don't have to make all those decisions that bring the angst and the hope. But, we do have to decide to participate. We have to decide to be active players in the outcome of the year, rather than the passive nature of letting things happen to us. Sometimes it feels like we have no control over the things that happen in our lives. This is true. However, we do have control over how we respond. We can see each thing that happens to us as a source of angst or a source of hope.

This year, choose hope. Choose hope when the results of General Conference are in. Choose hope when the re-

sult of the elections are in. Choose hope when you receive the news you were not expecting. Choose hope, knowing that God is the God of possibilities and hope.

Happy New Year.

Chad



Are you interested in becoming a member of St. Luke? We will have a New Member Orientation on Sunday, January 26 at 4pm. In this 1 hour meeting, you will

hear St. Luke's story, learn about membership in the church, and meet others who are considering membership. Even if you are just thinking about it at this stage, come and participate in this event.

How to find peace

Blessed are the single-hearted, for they shall enjoy much peace. If you refuse to be hurried and pressed, if you stay your soul on God, nothing can keep you from that clearness of spirit which is life and peace. In that stillness you will know what his will is.



—Amy Carmichael



Human Relations Day January 19th

"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 supports 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.



United Methodist Women

No January Meeting

The United Methodist Women will only be meeting 6 times per year in 2020.

The first meeting will be February 19th at 1:15 pm at the home of Joyce Stonehocker, whom will be hostess and present the program.

“Since you are all set apart by God, made holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a *holy way of life*: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”
Colossians 3:12

Sunday School Mission Offering

Larry and Jane Kies are missionaries with Africa University in Zimbabwe. Larry, an Iowa native who grew up in Jesup, works as a technical Advisor to the Africa University farm in Mutare. Jane teaches Intensive English to students from non-English countries at Africa University.



The 2nd through 5th Sundays of the month from January through April, our Sunday school offering will go toward meeting our covenant with Larry and Jane Kies.

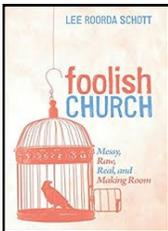
The first Sunday of each month the Sunday school offering will go toward our Sunday school administration costs, including Sunday school materials.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW – Missions Chair



Adult-2 Class

The Adult-2 Class is reading and discussing *Foolish Church* by Lee Roorda Schott. *Foolish Church* shares the lessons that Rev Schott has learned while serving at Women At The Well Church at the women’s correctional facility in Mitchellville with the hope that we might be inspired, equipped and encouraged to live out our calling.



If you are looking for a class with variety and topical studies, this would be a good class for you. There is always room for more to join the conversation.

News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

Library News ~ Start your new year out with some inspiration from our St. Luke library. I have the perfect book for you, *The Power of Faith* by Chris and Terry Norton. You may have heard about Chris Norton, the Luther College football player who hails from Bondurant. In October 2010 Chris was playing on special teams and after the play he did not come up; he had suffered a debilitating spinal cord injury. In that moment Chris’ life and the life of his family and many around him changed. This book, written by Chris and his father Terry, the Director of DMACC’s Jasper County Career Academy right here in Newton, tells the story of how Chris defied the odds and through faith has used his quest for recovery to inspire many throughout the world. Father and son tell both sides of the story, Chris’s grueling recovery and Terry’s struggle to be the rock his son and his family need to lean on during their worst nightmare. The book is honest, horrifying and uplifting. You will read through it quickly. Check it out!



MMDC Mission Trips

MMDC Trip News ~ St. Luke has a team of eleven folks heading off to Midwest Missions Distribution Center on January 19th through the 22nd. We will be preparing and assembling kits, building school desks, and whatever other jobs they ask us to do. The results of our work there will be disbursed throughout the world as needed. The network of needs assessment and transportation used by the staff is as remarkable as it is faith filled. The center has a small handful of paid staff and the bulk of the work is done by volunteers. During the few years we have been going we have seen the center grow warehouse by warehouse. All of the building and equipment is funded by gifts and no money has ever been borrowed. It is good to be involved in their mission. I am grateful for the vision of this place, grateful for the work done there, grateful for the support swelling from St. Luke and surrounding churches as our January team represents 3 other churches besides our own. We also have a trip scheduled for February 23-26 as well. We ask that you please pray for our teams of volunteers going to Midwest Missions Distribution Center in January and February as they prepare and travel on this mission for God’s Kingdom.



Silent Auction News

The St. Luke **silent auction** building renovation fund raiser for this month will close January 19th (the third Sunday of the month). If you have bid on any item/s, please bring your funds to church **that day**, or as soon as possible after, so the books on the January auction may be closed. Thank you for your continued support of all St. Luke property improvements! Next up on the list of projects relates to the parsonage sump pump and church kitchen ceiling & lights. **Thanks** to all of you helping to make these updates possible!

SILENT AUCTION



My Story

We were supposed to be learning to cross country ski. I put the skis on and stood up. I started forward... my skis crossed and I fell down. I struggled back to my feet and then.. repeat... I was on the ground again. The truth is, I do not do well with added length to my feet. Cross country or skis of any kind are not really for me.



On the other hand, that day, as I attempted to cross country ski, I also found myself giggling with my friend as we struggled to straighten out our skis and rise to our feet. Our laughter made what could have been a frustrating attempt at skiing, something that we enjoyed. We found the light within the struggle.

It is so important to find the good within the bad, no matter what that bad happens to entail. To embody the lightness, to search for it in ourselves and others, that is the goal.

*Matthew 5:16 "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be **light**, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you **light**-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a **light** stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a **light** stand—**shine!** Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.*

Let your light shine this year... Be the happiness that you seek in others. Show the colors of GOD even when you are frustrated. And, perhaps... Laugh at yourself! It really does make the day brighter.

Corinne Kleppe



Choosing Hope

MATTHEW 2:1-12

Hearing and celebrating the story of the visit of the magi.

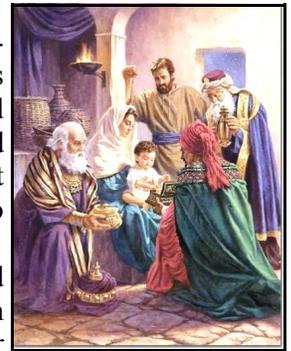
The magi, or priests, from ancient Babylon or Syria, saw a star in the sky which they believed symbolized the birth of a new ruler. After deciding to seek out this newborn, they prepared for the journey. How did they know *where* their travels would take them, or *how long* they would be traveling? - -Camels, food, bedding, hired help- - Night travel was the only means of "following the star."

As a matter of courtesy, or protocol, the magi visited King Herod in Jerusalem. The magi could tell they were fast approaching the birthplace of the new ruler, or "king." Herod inquired as to why they were passing through his land. The magi explained, "*Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.*"

With this, Herod conferred with his priests and teachers who referenced Micah 5:2,4.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah...out of you one will come...that is to be ruler in Israel.

Bethlehem was about six miles southwest of Jerusalem. Herod then shared this information with the visitors and directed them to go to Bethlehem. He requested the magi to seek the child and then report back directly to him, so he, too, could go worship Him.



Upon hearing this, the magi continued on their way, now knowing the destination was Bethlehem. They followed the star which shone, lighting the place of the newborn child. The magi presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Because there are **three** gifts mentioned in Matthew 2:11, it is believed there were **three** magi.)

Having been warned in a dream before departing Bethlehem, the magi did *not report back to Herod, but instead returned to their home country by a different route.*

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings, sandwiched between the end of the 8 a.m. church service and the beginning of the 10:30 service. The class's emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings. **All** are welcome to join in the discovery and learning!

∞ Lectionary Readings for January 2020 ∞

• **January 5: Matthew 2:1-12** | Choose Hope
To hear and celebrate the story of the visit of the magi.

• **January 12: Matthew 3:13-17** | Loved
To clarify our sense of the leading of God's Spirit.

• **January 19: Isaiah 49:1-7** | Called
To explore more deeply the call to serve God faithfully.

• **January 26: Matthew 4:12-23** | Follow
To participate in the call to follow Jesus.



Discover Hope Supper Club:

We are taking on a new mission on the first Tuesday of every other month starting January 7, 2020. We will provide an evening meal at Discover Hope on First Avenue East in Newton. We will provide food, paper plates and cups, napkins and utensils. We will be able to cook the meal in the kitchen at Discover Hope so we won't have to transport heavy roasters. Please sign-up at the Servant's Counter to provide food and/or help with preparation and serving for our first meal.



EMAIL SCAM

Watch out for this email scam.



Scams are quite common. This is unfortunate, but it is the world we live in. In recent months, a couple of people have received requests from "me" for assistance of some kind. In one email, the request came from me

by name for a favor. Once the person responded, a request was made for an Amazon gift card to be sent to a cancer patient.

In each case, the email came from a generic gmail account that could have come from me. In each case, it used information found in the newsletter, which is available online, or on our website.

What can you do? When you receive an email from me asking for assistance, especially of a monetary nature, be skeptical. Don't respond using the same form of communication. If the request comes through an email, call me or text me. If it comes through text, email or call me. If you get a call from me, and you aren't sure if it is me, text me to check.

I will only contact you through official channels if I need something from you. I will use my official St. Luke email, which contains my full name and a stlukenewton.com suffix. I will call you from the church landline or my mobile number, which is printed in the bulletin and the newsletter. Even then, with the ability that crafty people have to spoof phone numbers (copy them), I will not take offense if you ask me to call you back from the landline or visit you in person in order to verify that it is actually me.

We need to be wary of communications that seem suspicious. We also need to be partners in watching out for these scams. Let's help each other.

Chad



Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, January 23rd from 9 am -2 pm and 6-9 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans or Karen Clark.



January Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Detergent & Dish Soap

RECYCLING CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It is that time of year when you may be taking down your Christmas lights. If you are like many, there may be some strands which no longer function as desired.

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 narthex.



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



Thank You! to all of the volunteers at St Luke UMC. Whether you teach a VBS or Sunday School class, 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!



Diaper Sewing Days

**Thursday & Friday, January 9th & 10th
9 am-4 pm**

We will be sewing baby diapers for layette kits in the church Fellowship Hall. Bring your sewing machine, some light colored thread, and basic sewing tools or you can come help us by cutting, pinning, or pressing. We will have a light potluck for lunch.



This will be a time of fellowship and production. Feel free to come to any, some or all of the days for as much as you are able or like. Sign-up at the Servant's Counter. See you there!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 January			1  No Praise Team No Choir Practice	2	3	4
5 8/10:30 Worship - Communion 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	6	7 5:30 pm Discover Hope Supper	8 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir 7 pm Page Turners Book Club	9  Sewing Days 9 am - 4 pm	10 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting	11
12 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	13  Newsletter Articles Due	14 6:30 pm N.O.W. Meeting	15 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir	16 7 pm Quilt Guild - F Hall 7 pm NAMI - Choir Room	17	18
19 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir	23  9 am - 2 pm 6-9pm Days For Girls @ 1st Pres- byterian	24	25
 MMDC Trip						
26 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 4 pm New Member Orientation	27	28 6:30 pm SPRC 7pm Mission Coalition	29 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir	30	31	

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

January 5	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Leonard Family	Lori Leix/ Abby Jennings
Greeters	Linda Hotger	Shirley/ Alayna Guillaume
Reader	Peg Ehler	Wendy Jennings
Acolytes	Ushers	Aniston Chambers
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Mary Nelson
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Karen Clark
Fellowship	Barb Swihart	Pat Patty
Care Core	Barb Swihart	Amy Murphy
Communion	Lisa Pageler Counters	Brad Patty/ Doug McIntyre
January 12	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Deb Stoullil/ Chuck Springer	Dennis/ Pam Smith & Ava
Greeters	Barb Swihart	Carolyn Cook
Readers	Dale Dorrell	Corinne Kleppe
Acolytes	Ethan Pageler	Ava Smith
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Mikey Carter
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Stefanie Squire	Pam Smith
Fellowship	Rosemary Hartschen	Karen Clark
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Lisa Marston
Counters		Pat Patty/ Russ Leix
January 19	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Dick & Pam Stiles	Mary Nelson/ Wendy Jennings
Greeters	Pageler Family	Mike Wood/ Brooke Chambers
Readers	Jenni Patty	Mike Kaldenberg
Acolytes	Ushers	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Doug McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Projection	Deb Stoullil	Abby Jennings
Fellowship	Leonard Family	Lori Leix
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Counters		Jan Lewis/ Barb Kaldenberg
January 26	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Pageler Family	Karen Clark/ Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	Pam Andrews	Jeff/ Amy Murphy
Readers	Rosemary Hartschen	Pat Patty
Acolytes	Ethan Pageler	Abby Jennings
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Volunteers
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Praise Team	Praise Team
Projection	Peg Ehler	Brad Patty
Fellowship	Tamara Lloyd	Lisa Marston
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Jenna McIntyre
Counters		Mary Nelson/ Mike Kaldenberg

Where to Find Us

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Website Manager: Stephen Pageler
Facebook: [St Luke Newton](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeNewton)

St. Luke News

Mission Coalition wants to thank everyone that participated from St. Luke in ringing bells for the Salvation Army and delivering Meals on Wheels during the month of December.

Many, many thanks to the following people for helping with the St. Luke UMC/St. Nick Book Project. We have now participated for 5 years! This year we gave away 546 books!

Pam and Alan Andrews, Quinton and Shirley Guillaume, Mike and Barb Kaldenberg, Jan Lewis, Pat Patty, Karen Clark, Shelley Vasquez, Diana Pals, and all who have contributed to keep this project going.

Rose Evans, Chairperson

Thank You to Rose Evans for organizing and obtaining the books for the St. Nick Kids.

Every time I receive a package at the University, I get an email! It was a pleasant surprise to see that it was a package from my St. Luke family. Thank you so much for the notes, gift cards, candy, food, and toys! I appreciate all you guys and you made my night! -Jacob Murphy

Thank you so much for all the gifts! I definitely enjoyed eating the snacks and reading the messages on the box and from the cards! It was all very generous and I am very grateful for all the support and well-wishes. Thank you again for all the generous support! -Austin Stoullil

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
- January 5 - Stefanie Squire
- January 6 - Dennis Smith
- January 8 - Nathan Jennings
- 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, contact the office.



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.



Want a printed copy of the Newsletter?

Printed copies of the Newsletter are available at the church. They can be found on the table by the church 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 or listen to the radio for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.



At home with God



Of all persons, the Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New Year brings. In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid because yesterday he turned his feet into the ways of peace and today he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation. —A.W. Toze

Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.

that river to might God the Jordan from one

a peoples if that always the on tell

know had the fear are So you earth LORD

together of each powerful ask of the what

So _____ the _____ the

_____ the _____

the _____ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV