

# St Luke UMC

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

February 15, 2021



# THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

## Care Packages for our St Luke College Students

Our St Luke family includes several college students who are working hard (hopefully) on their studies and we would like to support and encourage them! There is an area outside the sanctuary that displays a poster of all of our students and a Student Spotlight table that will highlight two students each month. There are ideas for goodies to bring for a care package and bins underneath to place items. There are also notecards to write them a message, or bring your own note! All items are due on the last Sunday of the month and will be sent to the students that week.

### February Student Spotlight:



*Student*  
SPOTLIGHT

### Angel Gallagher

Angel Gallagher is a sophomore at DMACC studying Elementary Education. She likes reading, sunflowers, yellow and Taylor Swift.

### Jenna McIntyre

Jenna McIntyre is attending University of Arizona Global Campus to get her degree in Marketing and Public Relations. She likes Oklahoma Sooners, Iowa Hawkeyes and family time.

*Student*  
SPOTLIGHT



Stay tuned for next month's opportunity for our Smart Cookies!

Monday Night  
**LENTEN**  
*Study*  
**March 7 - April 11**  
**Books are \$13**  
**Sign up TODAY!**

The  
**DIFFICULT**  
**WORDS** of  
**JESUS**  
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO HIS MOST PERPLEXING TEACHINGS

### Lenten Study

We will be having a Monday Night Lenten Study via zoom starting March 7 at 6:30 pm. This will be a 6 week study going through April 11. We will be reading the book “The Difficult Words of Jesus” by Amy-Jill Levine. Books are \$13. Sign up at the servant’s counter or contact the office if you are interested in joining this study.

**MARCH 2 | 6:30 PM**

### Ash Wednesday Service

We will be having an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 pm. The service will be live streamed for those who are unable to join us in-person. We hope to see you there!

### First in Line



We were rushing to our next destination when yet another traffic light turned red. As usual, I had packed too many tasks into the day. Now we’d be even later. While I stewed in frustration, my son had a completely different reaction to being stopped. “Yes — I love this!” he shouted as we sat. “We’re first in line!”

What an important lesson on perspective. I focused on the negative, but he saw the good in the situation. As Proverbs 15:13 says, “A joyful heart brightens one’s face, but a troubled heart breaks the spirit” (CEB).

Now instead of pep talks about half-full or half-empty glasses, our family offers reminders about being stopped by a light versus being first in line. The next time I’m delayed, I hope I can think, “Yes — I love this!”

—Janna Firestone

### Camp Season Is Coming Soon

It’s time to start planning and signing up for camp at one of the beautiful Iowa United Methodist Camps. Catalogs are available at the church or you can go online to check out what’s available at [www.iaumc.org/camps](http://www.iaumc.org/camps). Get ready for your adventure of a lifetime.

### Discover Hope Thank You

We would like to thank everyone that donated to our February meal for Discover Hope as well as Mike & Barb Kaldenberg and Bill & Peg Ehler for helping to serve the meal. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our St Luke family.

Joyce Stonehocker and Peg Ehler



### Thank you!



There are no words to express our gratitude for such generosity! Thank you so much for all you love and support!

Rev Amy D Spaur

### MMDC Thank You

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at St Luke UMC,

Thank you for your generous donation of the diapers, school supplies, sewing machines and bicycles to Midwest Mission. Each donation is a blessing God uses to bless you and others. Your donation will leave Midwest Mission and be a practical example of God’s love in the world to the “least of these”. “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

It is due to your generosity and partnership with Midwest Mission that we can touch so many lives for Christ around the world and around the corner. Thank you so much for blessing others through the ministry of Midwest Mission.

Yours in Christ,  
 Chantel Corrie  
 Executive Director



## MMDC Trip—January 2022

Here are some pictures from the recent trip our St Luke team took to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Illinois.



This is a line of our workers verifying and assembling Personal Dignity Kits and more Personal Dignity Kits being verified and made in another room.



We prepared and ate our meals in the dorm room where we stayed. We were all grateful when Pastor Chad volunteered to carve this delicious ham. We ate well and had fun playing games in the evening.



Flannel went on sale the day after we got back from our trip. So, we restocked and are ready to make more diapers.



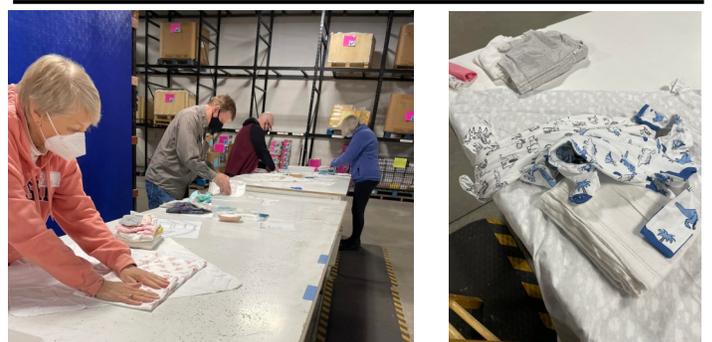
These two taped all of these bottles of shampoo tightly closed. By all these bottles, I mean all the bottles in all those boxes. These bottles of shampoo will go into Personal Dignity Kits.



Here are some of our workers making desks.



These are some of the donations and the sewing machines our group brought to the center.



On our last morning we assembled layette kits. Layette items are folded and packed a certain way and wrapped in a receiving blanket.

# January Worship-In-Service Food Insecurity Event

Here are some picture from our Worship-In-Service Food Insecurity Event on January 30. We had around 50 volunteers and we packaged 972 meals for Jasper County Take Away Hunger and made 460 burritos to give out to the homeless in Newton. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for making this such a success.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
Feb. 20	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	
Reader	Rose Evans
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	
Counters (2)	

Feb. 27	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters (2)	
Reader	Pat Patty
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Kathy Trotter
Counters (2)	

March 6	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	
Counters (2)	

March 13	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Reader	Kathy Trotter
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Hiap Thongvanh
Counters (2)	

## Worship Assistants For February & March

We are looking for volunteers to be worship assistants for the months of February & March. If you would like to volunteer you can email the church office at: [worship@stlukenewton.com](mailto:worship@stlukenewton.com), use the sign-up sheets on the coffee counter or you can add your name to our new online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:



**Volunteer!**

<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. If we continue to have a lot of unfilled positions we may have to return to assigning worship assistants. We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help. Thank you!



Send your prayer requests to:  
[prayer@stlukenewton.com](mailto:prayer@stlukenewton.com)

### Where to Find Us

**Pastor:** Rev. Chad Jennings  
[chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com](mailto:chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com)  
 Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867  
**Adm. Assistant:** Jennifer Etter  
 Church Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 am - 12 pm  
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 Phone: 641-831-2639  
**Article Submission** by the 13th of month.  
**Website:** [www.stlukenewton.com](http://www.stlukenewton.com)  
**Website Manager:** Stephen Pageler  
**Facebook:** [St Luke Newton](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeNewton)  
**Prayer:** [prayer@stlukenewton.com](mailto:prayer@stlukenewton.com)

### 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.



## January Mission Trip to MMDC

We hit the road, twelve of us, in cars and a truck pulling a trailer. We had coolers and bags with our provisions, boxes full of diapers to donate, along with 16 baby sweaters, 3 covered in love quilts, 7 sewing machines in good working order, 3 bikes, and a big box of our kits from last fall. We were off for fellowship, fun, and the opportunity to do good work at Midwest Mission Distribution Center just south of Springfield, Illinois. We came home with so much more! We heard stories of MMDC partnering in a huge humanitarian project where all branches of the US military work together to build schools and hospitals in Honduras and Guatemala later this year. We were able to work in the newly heated warehouses as we verified and packed Personal Dignity Kits. Some of us worked on a mailing. Others worked on school desks, and on the last morning we had the thrill of verifying and packing Layette kits for new mothers and their babies. While we were there the center received a donation of food and they wondered where it could go. We had a trailer, and yes, we had a food pantry back home that could take it. So, when we left, we brought with us cases of carrots, potatoes, cheese, bananas, and onions that replaced the boxes of donations we hauled to Illinois. There is no end to the partnerships available at MMDC and little did we know that our own neck of the woods would be the recipient! We are grateful for your support in the effort to continue working with and at MMDC. Mark your calendar and plan to join the next trip February 5-8, 2023. It is an education, an opportunity, and a great experience.

Karen Clark



**MIDWEST MISSION**  
DISTRIBUTION CENTER  
midwestmission.org

## Calling VBS Volunteers!

Warmer weather is just around the corner which means we need to start planning for VBS! Mark your calendar for June 27-July 1 during which St. Luke will host kids to celebrate and learn about God. This year's theme is a really fun one - Food Truck Party ...on a Roll with God.

If you are able to volunteer in any capacity (teacher, recreation leader, snack leader, etc), please contact Ann Leonard at 641-521-2463 or [annericleonard@gmail.com](mailto:annericleonard@gmail.com).

Vacation  
Bible  
School



**June 27 - July 1**

## Qualified Charitable Deduction

Funds from an Individual Retirement Account, (IRA) may be donated to a Qualified Charity, like St. Luke, and you avoid paying tax on the distribution while potentially lowering your Adjusted Gross Income, (AGI).

For those of us who have now reached the age for a Required Minimum Distribution, (RMD), from our retirement savings accounts, Selecting the Qualified Charitable Deduction may have significant benefits. You can select St. Luke to receive the funds directly. The distribution meets the RMD requirement, and you do not pay tax on the distribution. This will work for either all or a portion of the RMD.

Additionally, this method also lowers the AGI, this may be a significant benefit as it will help you avoid the Medicare high income surcharge which increases the premium on parts B & D. Keeping the distribution out of you AGI may make less of your Social Security Benefits taxable.

This strategy will work on distributions from Inherited IRA's as well.

All in all, the Qualified Charitable Deduction maybe a tax strategy you will want to consider. Check with your Financial Institution to insure you follow all the rules. I would be happy to answer questions concerning the QCD.

For full disclosure, I have retired and no longer affiliated with or licensed by any Financial Institution.

Michael Kaldenberg

## PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!

We are inviting you to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line instrument that will help leaders gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping the leaders of St Luke as they make decisions about the future of St Luke United Methodist Church.

In a few weeks, you will receive an email with a unique link to the CAT. Beginning February 27, we are asking you to go online by clicking on the link provided and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers.

If you need a paper copy, please come to the office, and we will provide one for you.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Chad.

Many thanks,  
Karin Mills & the St Luke (CAT) Team

