

St Luke UMC

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

February 15, 2024



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

College student SPOTLIGHT February

Care Packages for our St Luke College Students

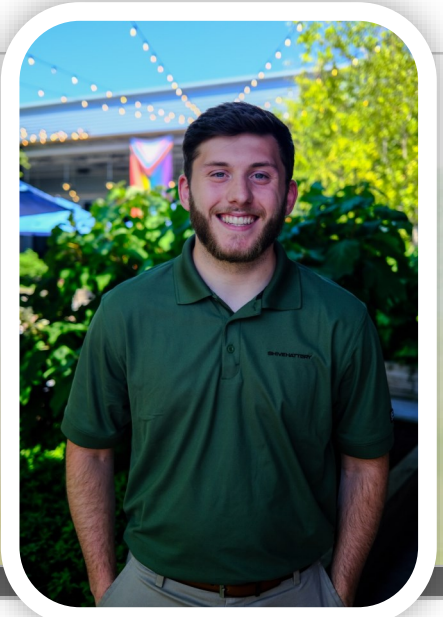
Our St Luke family includes several college students who are working hard (hopefully) on their studies and we would like to support and encourage them! There is an area outside the sanctuary that displays a poster of all of our students and a Student Spotlight table that will highlight two students each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

Jacob Murphy

Master's Program at The University of Iowa,
Majoring in Structural Engineering

He enjoys cooking, playing cards, trivia, disc golf, video games, bowling, fantasy football and listening to Noah Kahan, Lawrence and Surfaces.

His favorite verse: Mathew 7:7



Class
of
2024

Gattlin Chambers

Senior at University of Northern Iowa,
Majoring in Advertising/Digital Media

He loves playing video games and his favorite place is Chicago. He also enjoys listening to 80's and country music.

His favorite verse: John 3:16

Sunday School Offering January and February 2024

For the first two months of 2024 we will be designating the Sunday School offerings for the 2nd through 4th Sundays to the St Luke Food Insecurity events. For the past few years we have held a Mission in Worship meal packing/burrito making event in January and a burrito event in the fall. The Sunday School offering in January and February will help with the cost of supplies for these events.



As always, if you would like to contribute to this mission and you do not attend Sunday School, please put "Food Insecurity Events" or "Mission in Worship" in the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW missions

Discover Hope Thank You

We would like to give a big thank you for everything that was donated for the February Discover Hope meal. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our St Luke family and we can't thank everyone enough. The meal that we provided for February was Reuben casserole, a relish tray, rolls, deviled eggs and red hot's applesauce. A big thank you also to Deb and Donna that came and helped with preparing the food and all those that came and helped serve the meal at Discover Hope. We couldn't do this without all the help from our St Luke family. Thank you!

Jan Lewis & Joyce Stonehocker

LAKE OKOJOI • WESLEY WOODS



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. Get ready for your adventure of a lifetime.

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 for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe. Our services are also live streamed on our St Luke United Methodist Church YouTube channel if you are unable to make to church and would like to watch the service online.



Facing the Future

Don't worry about the future. Worry quenches the work of grace within you. The future belongs to God. He is in charge of all things. Never second-guess him.

—François Fenelon



Calling VBS Volunteers!

We want you! To help us spread the word of God to local youth during Vacation Bible School which is June 24-28. We need volunteers in the areas of: classroom teachers, crafts, snacks, recreation, music, and drama. If you are able to help, please contact Ann Leonard at annericleonard@gmail.com or call/text her at 641-521-2463.

Grocery Sacks Needed

We are in need of plastic grocery sack donations. They will be used to make plarn (plastic yarn) to weave sleeping mats for the homeless. If you have any extra plastic grocery sacks you would like to donate please bring them to Joyce Stonehocker or put them in the donation box at the church.



Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, February 22 from 9 am - 2 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans. If you would like more information about Days for Girls you can visit their website at www.daysforgirls.org.



2023 Days for Girls Annual Report

Days for Girls International (DfGI) empowers women and girls around the globe by providing sustainable menstrual hygiene products and health education. A new milestone was hit this year having reached three million girls and women with menstrual health education and washable menstrual pad kits!

Our Newton IA Team met for nine workshops in 2023. All were held in (Presbyterian church) fellowship hall, 9 am – 2 pm with an average of 10 volunteers. We continue to work on creating and collecting the menstrual kit components: sewn components (cloth drawstring bag, moisture barrier shield, absorbent flannel liner, waterproof carry pouch); non-sewn components (non-white washcloth, underwear, small bar of soap, care and use card). In May we were pleased to receive our official notification and certificate for passing the Gold Standard Recertification on the sewn kit components.

At our September Workshop we had an Open House to celebrate seven years of providing the highest quality in washable menstrual products to girls around the world! On display were team member photos, menstrual kit components, and the completed kit components ready to be taken to our distribution center (165 moisture barrier shields, 145 absorbent flannel liners, 106 cloth drawstring bags, 69 waterproof carry pouches, 277 small bars of soap, 101 non-white washcloths, 317 underwear and 1,000 individually wrapped disposable pads).

The flooding in Venezuela and the earthquake in Morocco were two Emergency Response Projects which our kit components helped support as well as the Humanitarian Response Projects in Cuba and at the Mexico/U.S. Border.

In the fall, Celeste Mergens, Creator and CEO of DfGI, published the book, *The Power of Days*, detailing the purpose and history of DfGI plus the impact it has made throughout the world in its fifteen years. An inspiring and educational read!

The DfGI Newton IA Team is an ecumenical group of about 35 active volunteers and is open to anyone interested in the dignity of women and girls.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn McCallister & Julie Fisher, Co-team Leaders



Members of this group from St Luke are Rose Evans, Karen Clark, Hiap ThongVahn, Pat Patty, Katie Jones and Barb Kaldenberg.

About Our Diaper Making Ministry

Some of our members started making diapers for UMCOR Layette Kits when Midwest Missions made us aware of the need in February 2018. A team of us working there for a few days talked it over and decided to ask for an offering from St. Luke to fund this project. We hoped to make 300 diapers to take to Midwest Missions on our next trip. As usual, St. Luke responded in a big way with enough money for several times that many diapers. Honestly, I don't remember how many we made that first year, but I do know that we have donated over 10,000 flannel diapers to families with new babies all over the world since that day in 2018.



How can you help? Some of us get together to sew several times a year. Some people sew diapers at home. We have had people who like to sew who don't even go to our church sew piles of diapers. We have some people who help us cut flannel, others who pin or iron or turn partially finished diapers right side out for us. We always have good fellowship when diaper sewing days come around and we would love to have you join us. Each diaper costs about \$1 for the flannel. This ministry has been paid for through some donations from a foundation, private donations, and some donations from church members. We do need to raise some money to continue to fund this project and that is another way you can help. Please drop you donation in the offering plate and clearly mark it Flannel Fund. The fact that our puny dream of 300 diapers has turned into thousands clearly means that God is behind this project. Thank you for helping to keep it going!

Spring Training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season "spring training for Christians." This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God's favor.



As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we'll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, "Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed" (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.

January Worship-In-Service Food Insecurity Event

Here are some pictures from our Worship-In-Service Food Insecurity Event on January 28. We packaged 5,100 meals for Jasper County Hunger Relief and made 489 burritos to give out to the food insecure in Newton. 399 of those burritos were distributed that same evening. Thank you to all of our wonderful St Luke volunteers for making this event such a success.



February Midwest Mission Trip

A team of nine people representing 3 local churches traveled to Midwest Mission near Springfield, Illinois. The mission statement for Midwest Mission proclaims “We send tangible resources to those in need to make an intangible difference in their lives through hope and empowerment.” Their work includes the areas of disaster relief, education, health, and micro business, and it depends on volunteers to help with this work.



During the time there some built school desks, others packed Personal Dignity Kits (wash cloth, hand towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of soap, lotion, shampoo, and deodorant) into a ziplock bag then into a drawstring backpack. Another job was boxing over a half million medical exam gloves into boxes for shipping. We always hear wonderful stories of needs being perfectly matched with items being donated to the center. This time it was mattresses having been donated by a local university and a short time later being requested from Jamaica! This place is a beautiful witness of the hands and feet of Jesus working around the corner and around the world. Another group will be traveling there next winter. You are welcome to come along! This year’s group included Pastor Chad, Rose Evans, Corinne Kleppe, Karen Clark and from St Stephen’s Episcopal Church Jonnelle Farver, and from Prairie City UMC Mike and Ginny Dalton and Jeff and Merri DeReus.

Midwest Mission Trip—February 2024

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



COLORING PAGE



God is
LOVE



| WORSHIP ASSISTANTS | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Feb. 18 | 9:30 AM |
| Ushers (2) | Karen Clark |
| Greeters (2) | Peg Kimberley |
| Reader | Karen Clark |
| Acolyte | |
| Keyboard | Bev Thomas |
| Projection | |
| Camera | Megan DeJong |
| Care Core | Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker |
| Coffee Time | Karen Clark |
| Feb. 25 | 9:30 AM |
| Ushers (2) | Corinne Kleppe |
| Greeters (2) | Kaldenbergs |
| Reader | Emily McConkey |
| Acolyte | |
| Keyboard | Jan Lewis |
| Projection | Rachel Pageler |
| Camera | Ethan Pageler |
| Care Core | Barb Kaldenberg |
| Coffee Time | Kaldenbergs |
| March 3 | 9:30 AM |
| Ushers (2) | Amy Murphy |
| Greeters (2) | Dennis & Pam Smith |
| Reader | Amy Murphy |
| Acolyte | |
| Keyboard | Bev Thomas |
| Projection | Rachel Pageler |
| Camera | Ethan Pageler |
| Care Core | Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy |
| Coffee Time | Amy Murphy |
| March 10 | 9:30 AM |
| Ushers (2) | Amy Ryan |
| Greeters (2) | Pam Andrews |
| Reader | Jeff Carter |
| Acolyte | |
| Keyboard | Jan Lewis |
| Projection | |
| Camera | Megan DeJong |
| Care Core | Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston |
| Coffee Time | Peg Kimberley |

Worship Assistants

For 2024 we are going to continue with passing sign up sheets around for 3 months at a time. This worked very well last year in getting more volunteer positions filled. We have had a wonderful response of volunteers for our first 3 months of 2024 and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. Most positions are filled now through March but there are still some spots open. If you would like to volunteer or see what positions are available 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 online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:



<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help on Sunday mornings. Thank you St Luke Family!

Online Worship

If your schedule keeps you from attending worship, join our live-streamed worship services or watch past services by visiting our St Luke United Methodist Church YouTube channel. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office and we will be happy to help you.



Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings

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

worship@stlukenewton.com.

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Article Submission by the 13th of month.

Website: www.stlukenewton.com

Website Manager: Stephen Pageler

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

Prayer: 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.

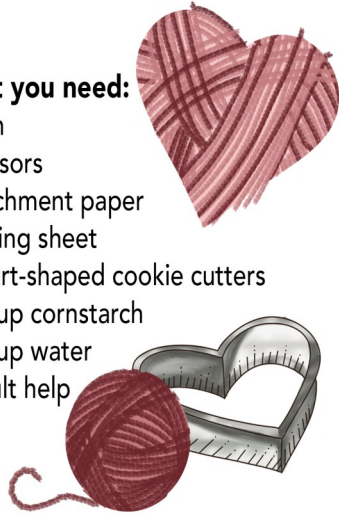


HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

$14 - 7 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Father}$

$10 + 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ heavenly}$

$9 + 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ the}$

$12 + 12 = \underline{\quad} \text{ blessing}$

$2 - 1 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Praise}$

$7 + 7 = \underline{\quad} \text{ has}$

$11 + 11 = \underline{\quad} \text{ every}$

$13 + 13 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Christ}$

$8 + 8 = \underline{\quad} \text{ us}$

$10 + 10 = \underline{\quad} \text{ realms}$

$8 + 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ in}$

$5 + 5 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Lord}$

$10 + 11 = \underline{\quad} \text{ with}$

$10 + 15 = \underline{\quad} \text{ in}$

$10 - 5 = \underline{\quad} \text{ God}$

$6 - 3 = \underline{\quad} \text{ to}$

$12 - 6 = \underline{\quad} \text{ and}$

$6 + 6 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Christ}$

$18 - 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ our}$

$22 - 11 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Jesus}$

$1 + 1 = \underline{\quad} \text{ be}$

$7 + 6 = \underline{\quad} \text{ who}$

$2 + 2 = \underline{\quad} \text{ the}$

$10 + 5 = \underline{\quad} \text{ blessed}$

$4 + 4 = \underline{\quad} \text{ of}$

$10 + 13 = \underline{\quad} \text{ spiritual}$

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | |

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV