St Luke United Methodist Church
Rev Chad Jennings
501 E 19th Street N
Newton, IA 50208

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Sunday, February 4:
8/10:30 am Worship - communion
9:15 am Sunday School

February 4-7: MMDC Mission Trip

Sunday, February 11:
Campership Sunday
8/10:30 am Worship - guest speaker Gabe Dorrell
Special Offering for Campserships
9:15 am Sunday School

Tuesday, February 13:
January Newsletter Articles Are Due

February 14 -- March 29

February 14: Ash Wednesday & Annual Pancake Supper

5-6:30 pm Pancake Supper
6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Sunday, February 18:
8/10:30 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
6 pm IWIC Worship at Mitchellville

Sunday, February 25:
Disabilities Awareness Offering
8/10:30 am Worship
9:15 Sunday School

Monday, February 26:
7 pm New Member Orientation

Tues, Feb 27 & Wed, Feb 28:
Pictures taken for Church Directory at St Luke

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

February 2018

THE Flame
CATCH THE FIRE!

Financial Update

These are the numbers for our 2017 Conference Giving & Special Offerings:

$24,561 Apportionments (Paid In Full)

$755 District Askings

$6807.58 Special Offerings towards various special projects making St Luke a Rainbow Covenant Church. For a breakdown on these offerings, see the Church Remittance Statement for December 2017 which is posted by the office.

Thank you for your prayerful and generous giving.

These offerings have been received in the last month:

December 31: $4,421 including $325-Building Fund; $700-Apportionments; $74-Christmas Offering; $33-Heifer Moolah.

January 7: $5,399 including $50-Apportionments; $160-Building Fund; $16-Sunday School supplies.

January 14: $1,405 including $116-Building Fund; $13-Larry & Jane Kies; $54-Human Relations offering.

January 21: $1,204 including $49-Building Fund; $20-Human Relations offering.

January 28: $1204 including $49-Building Fund; $20-Human Relations offering; $17-Larry & Jane Kies

The balance on the building loan is $3,170 thanks to your generosity.

Lenten Bible Study

Lenten Study will begin following Ash Wednesday, on Sunday, February 18 at 9:15 am at St Luke and on Monday, February 19 at 1:30 pm at the home of Karen Clark or 6:30 pm at the home of Brad & Jenni Patty. A volunteer facilitator for the Sunday group would be appreciated or people can take turns. We will be using the book *Embracing The Uncertain: A Study For Uncertain Times* by Magrey deVega.

"Just turning on the news lets us know we are living in uncertain times. Economic instabilities, eruption of violence, and natural catastrophes can alter the lives and landscapes of entire communities. Our individual lives are often just as unsteady: relationships can break, plans can falter, and confidence can fail.

Uncertainty can definitely be uncomfortable. Many of us prefer stability and a predictable future to an unknown fate. We are wired to want to control our destiny.

The reality is that in our fast-changing, unpredictable world there are few guarantees in life. It's those who are willing to embrace uncertainty and make the risky decision to follow Jesus despite the many "unknowns" who will reap the greatest rewards. *Embracing the Uncertain* invites readers this Lent to engage and wrestle with life's uncertainties, not ignore them."

Sign-up sheets for the 3 meeting times are on the Servant's Counter.

Ash Wednesday, February 14
Pancake Supper & Worship Service

Ash Wednesday which is February 14th will be the date for St Luke United Methodist Church's Annual Pancake Supper from 5-6:30 pm. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverages. A sign-up sheet for donations and workers will be on the Servant's Counter. A free will offering will go to the St Nick Kids Book Fund and to the Building Fund in anticipation of a major roofing project.

Following the Pancake Supper at 6:30 pm will be an Ash Wednesday Worship Service.

Photographs For New St Luke Photo Directory
February 27 & 28
See page 2 for details

It's February already. A lot has happened in the last 7 months. We've seen some new faces at St. Luke. We had six people join in November. We have several more who are interested in joining in March. We have done three baptisms. Exciting things are happening here.

We are just getting started.

This year, we have set some goals. The first is to hold some bridge events. Bridge events are events that are held for the sole purpose of *bridging* the gap between St. Luke and Newton. They are events that invite people in the community to experience the love that St. Luke has for the community. They can be held at the church or they can be held somewhere else in the community. The key is that they aren't supposed to ask anything of the community other than to share in the fun. They are not fundraisers. They are a chance for us to give, and secondarily, they are a chance for us to invite. We have not set any of these yet. Perhaps you have a great idea we can try.

The second goal is to pay off the current building debt. We are so close to this goal already. In the last year, people have faithfully given to the building fund in the amount of $8, 843.42. Thank you for your faithful giving. That leaves us with a balance for 2018 of $5,399.74. This is a very achievable goal, and I anticipate that we can get this done in the first quarter. This is important because we anticipate that the roof, which was damaged last year, will need more to repair it properly than the insurance check we received. The Trustees are working on this. You will hear more about that after the information has been gathered.

Our third goal is to increase attendance and participation at worship and ministry events through invitation. We can already see what a value it is to have people show up. When more people come, there is more energy and excitement. We want to see people receive the benefits that we get from being a part of St. Luke and its ministries. But in order to do that, we need you! We need you to invite people. We need you to welcome them. We need you to complete this goal.

Our fourth goal this year is to develop a clear discipleship system. When most people are asked how they became a disciple, they can't really explain it. Many will talk about a key person in their life that encouraged and mentored them. That is an important part of anyone's discipleship journey. But, we also need to define what it looks like to be a disciple at St. Luke. And we need to know how we expect people to get from a first time visitor to a disciple.

Over the next year, we will talk about this often. This is an important part of our mission at St. Luke and my hope is that we will be able to make the pathway to discipleship simple enough that everyone here will be able to explain it to someone else.

These goals are big, and they are important. We need everyone to participate in order to make them happen. Join us in making 2018 a great year for God's Kingdom.

Chad

SAVE THE DATES!

The dates have been set to take photographs for a new church directory. It has been several years since a directory has been compiled and we have many new faces to include!

The photographer will be at St. Luke **February 27** and **28** taking appointments **from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m.** You will have the opportunity to make an appointment when you come to worship a few weeks before those dates OR sign up for an appointment online. Everyone will receive a FREE printed copy of the directory and a professionally printed 8 X 10 photograph. There will be opportunities to purchase additional photographs, if you desire. Please listen for more announcements and watch the tri-fold or Facebook for more details as the dates approach.

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper & Worship Service
Pancakes 5-6:30 pm
Worship 6:30 pm

February Salvation Army Food Pantry Request
Muffin, Bread and Pancake Mixes and Syrup

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.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

February 4	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Larry/Darlyne Howard	Dennis/Pam Smith
Greeters	Rose Hartschen	Lori Leix
Reader	Jenni Patty	Jeff Carter
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Pat Patty
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Dean Stonner	Dean Stonner
Projection	Peg Ehler	Carolyn Cook
Fellowship	Pam Stiles	Amy Murphy
Care Core	Tamara Lloyd	Kari Ann Munson
Communion	Ann Leonard Counters:	Brad Patty/Jan Lewis
February 11	**8 AM**	**10:30 AM**
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Barb Kaldenberg/Katie Jones
Greeters	Bill/Linda Hotger	Sue Crook
Readers	Dale Dorrell	Rose Evans
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Abby Jennings
Nursery	Parents take turns	Doug McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Peg Ehler	Karen Clark
Fellowship	Tamara Lloyd	Jenna McIntyre
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Lisa Marston
Counters		Barb Kaldenberg/Rose Evans
February 18	**8 AM**	**10:30 AM**
Ushers	Chuck Springer/ Margaret Gullett	Jeff/Amy Murphy
Greeters	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Readers	Karen Dorrell	Dennis Smith
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Mikey Carter
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Projection	Brad Patty	Pam Smith
Fellowship	Pam Andrews	Sue Crook
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Counters		Russ Leix/Pat Patty
February 25	**8 AM**	**10:30 AM**
Ushers	Pageler Family	Roy/Pat Patty
Greeters	Ann/Ben/Caleb Leonard	Doug/Jenna McIntyre
Readers	Barb Kaldenberg	Mikey Carter
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Ushers
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Praise Team	Praise Team
Projection	Brad Patty	Wendy Jennings
Fellowship	Rose Hartschen	Michelle O'Brien
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Marianne Spaur
Counters		Deb Stoulil/Jan Lewis

Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings
chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com
Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867
Adm. Assistant: Shirley Guillaume
Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 1:45-5:45pm
worship@stlukenewton.com.
Phone: 641-792-5736
Newsletter Editor: Corinne Kleppe
corinne.kleppe@grinnellmutual.com
Phone: 641-831-2639
Article Submission by the 13th of month.
Website: www.stlukenewton.com
Website Manager: Stephen Pageler
Facebook: St Luke Newton

St Luke News

Thank you to everyone for the very nice card and Christmas bonus!

Jenny Wells

Many thanks for the generous Christmas Love Gift. The appreciation and love shown to me by the St Luke Family humbles me.

Shirley Guillaume

Thank you for the use of your facility!

The TOPS Group

Thank you to the TOPS group and Piecemaker's Quilt Guild for the gifts of paper products.

Remember to schedule
An Appointment
To have your picture
Taken for the
New Directory
On February 27 or 28

Please--Update All Addresses

including college students. We are constantly updating addresses of our members & friends. Help us by supplying us with those you know. We don't want to lose track of our church family. 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. It's a way for us to get to know one another.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 *Tate Osborn *Lauren Figland **6:30 pm Trustees meeting**	**2** *Pat Patty *Emma Carter	**3**
4 **8/10:30 Worship - Communion** 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. *Hiap Thongvanh *Conner Marston	**5**	**6** *Lisa Pageler **6:30 pm NOW meeting**	**7** **6:30 pm Praise Team** **7:15 pm Choir Practice**	**8**	**9** *Jennifer Rhone	**10**
11 **8/10:30 Worship** **Guest Speaker: Gabe Dorrell** **Campership Offering** 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. *Kali Draper *Katherine Thomas	**12** *Diane Hartschen-Law SHARE Orders Go online, or call First UMC or First Christian.	**13** *Andrew Miller **Newsletter Articles Due** → 14 *Tom Lloyd	**14** **5-6:30 pm Pancake Supper** **6:30 pm Worship Service**	**15**	**16**	**17** *Taylor Reicks
18 **8/10:30 Worship** 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Lenten Study 6 pm ICIW	**19** **Lenten Study** **1:30 pm** **6:30 pm**	**20** *Russ Leix **7 pm Council meeting**	**21 1:15 pm UMW at St Luke** **6:30 pm Praise Team** **7:15 pm Choir Practice** 7 pm Page Turners	**22** *Karen Dorrell 9am-2pm Days For Girls @ 1st Presbyterian Church	**23**	**24** *Hannah Squire 7:30 am SHARE Pickup
25 **8/10:30 Worship** **Disabilities Awareness Offering** 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 9:15 Lenten Study *Michaela Bleeker	**26** *Jan Lewis *Evan Grimm **Lenten Study** **1:30 pm** **6:30 pm** **7 pm New Member Orientation**	**27** **Directory Photos Taken 2-9 pm** **6:30 pm SPRC meeting**	**28** **8:30 am Collate Newsletter** **6:30 pm Praise Team** **7:15 pm Choir Practice**	← **28** *Mackenzie Bleeker	*Denotes Birthdays! If your birthday is missing or incorrect, contact the office.	

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

United Methodist Women
February 21, 2018
At St Luke
(Note this is a change.)
1:15 pm

"Great is his faithfulness each day."
Lamentations 3:23 NLT

Program: God's Word: The Sacred Space for Encountering God by Joyce Stonehocker
Hostess: Joyce Stonehocker

March 2 - World Day of Prayer

Sunday School Mission Offering
January – April 2018

Go Therefore Into All the world… The first Sunday of each month, the Sunday school offering goes toward the supplies needed for Sunday School. The second through fifth Sundays of each month the offering is given to Missions.

The great commission sends us into the world to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Some are called to service right here, where we live. Others are called to serve around the world. Larry and Jane Kies were called to serve in Africa. Our January to April 2018 Sunday School Mission offering will once again go toward fulfilling our covenant to partner with Larry & Jane in their ministry.

The Kies work at Africa University in Zimbabwe. Larry is the technical advisor to the Africa University Farm and Jane teaches English at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Please join us in supporting these Iowa Missionaries in their work. If you do not currently attend Sunday School, please feel free to support this ministry by placing your check in the offering plate, with *Larry & Jane Kies* in the memo line.

Corinne Kleppe – Missions Chair

Day by day

Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close. Then let every one of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourself.

—John Ruskin

News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

With the new year firmly in hand and Valentine's Day around the corner, why not pick up a book on marriage from our little library in the corner. Here are a couple of my favorites. *Love & Respect* by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs declares that cracking the communication code between husband and wife involves understanding that unconditional respect is as powerful for his as unconditional love is for her. Couples can find help and enrichment between the covers of this book. Many who have taken this biblically based counsel to heart find ways to stop the crazy cycle of conflict, begin to energize the cycle of change and enjoy the reward of the cycle of passion. Or, maybe Eddie and Tamara George's *Married for Real* is more to your liking. The couple writes with the goal of building a loving, powerful life together. They openly share lessons that have strengthened their relationship and deepened their commitment to each other. They write as real people who have been through good and bad and have come out smiling. You will find these books on top of the shelf right inside the door. Check it out!

Campership Sunday
February 11, 2018

Have you ever been to church camp as either a kid or an adult? Were you a camper or a counselor?

I remember spending a week at Pictured Rocks near Monticello as a kid. Bible Study, hiking, singing, campfires, games, friends and so much more. I was lucky enough years later to spend some time at Wesley Woods as a 1st Grade Camp counselor… I even met some young St Lukers one year… and was a counselor with another former St Luke member the next year. Summer camp in either capacity was a fun and faith filled adventure.

On Sunday February 11th, we will be lucky enough to have Gabe Dorrell (also a former St Luker) join us to talk about the opportunities of church camp. Gabe is now the director of Pictured Rocks United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center. We will also be receiving a special offering on the 11th which will be used as camperships (scholarships) to send our own St Luke Youngsters to camp this year. Please join us to hear Gabe's message and to give to the adventures of our kids.

Corinne Kleppe - NOW Committee

Trip to MMDC

Please pray for safe travels and a meaningful experience for our group of people headed to MMDC February 4-7. There are 14 people from St Luke and other area churches going to Chatham, Illinois to prepare kits, sort donations, build desks or sew school bags. Blessings to them as they go out to serve others.

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

My Story

The fog was there when I left Marshalltown for home but it wasn't too thick, so I kept going down the road. By the time I was half way home the fog had settled in like a blanket. I could barely see the car ahead of me, but as I left Gilman that car was no longer in front of me. Apparently they had stayed in Gilman. The miles between Gilman and Grinnell were cloaked in a thick white blanket. I was tense as I slowly made my way through the cloud, feeling like I was very much alone. During that drive I prayed for safety and for the miles to slip away so I could park in my garage and walk into the safety of my apartment.

Much like that drive, there are times in our faith journey when we feel as if there is a cloud blanketing us. We feel very alone, surrounded by nothing, and unsure of our safety. That is when we need to pray. Pray for our path to be clear. Pray for our eyes to be opened to see God's glory around us. Pray for our hearts to be open to the saving grace of God on our path. Simply Pray!

"Open my eyes, that I may see. Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me; Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready my God, Thy will to see, Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!" (Clara H Scott - 1895)

Corinne Kleppe - Editor

Adult-2 Class

The Adult-2 Class invites you to join them as they read and discuss the book "*Go Tell It on the Mountain"* by James Baldwin. It tells the story of John Grimes, an intelligent teenager in 1930s Harlem, and his relationship to his family and his church. The novel focuses on the role of the Pentecostal Church in the lives of African-Americans, as a negative source of repression and moral hypocrisy and also as a positive source of inspiration and community.

If you are looking for a Sunday School class with topical studies, this would be a good class in which to participate. There is always room for more to join the discussion.

St. Luke Seasons of the Spirit

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

The Blessing of Generations

Examining God's promises and love for all:
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Abram was 75 years old when he was called by God to travel with his wife Sarai to an unknown land far from their ancestral home of Haran. He also took with him his brother's son Lot, all of their possessions, and all the persons they had acquired for their household. God told Abram He had put a special blessing on him and "*Through your descendants, all the families on the earth will find their blessing in you*."

Within the span of 24 years Abram continued to travel, many times leaving behind alter tables to God. Among the places he traveled were the regions of Bethel, the Negev, Egypt, back to the Negev, the Canaan Valley, and the Hebron.

24 years later, when Abram was 99 years old, God again appeared to him assuring Abram of the promise of a child yet to come. "*If you are true and trust Me, then I will make certain the covenant with you that I promised. I will bless you with a throng of descendants… To symbolize your* ***foundational role*** *in this covenant, I hereby change your name. Your new name will be 'Abraham,' … I hereby make this covenant—this* ***sacred bond****—between Me and you and all of your children and their children's children throughout the coming generations."*

"*As for Sarai, your wife, the covenant applies to her, as well. No longer will she be known as Sarai; her new name will be Sarah. She will receive My* ***special blessing****, and she will conceive a son by you."*

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 to read about and discuss issues related to each week's prescribed lectionary readings. Come join in the learning! **It is not too late to fulfill a New Year's resolution** of attending a weekly Bible study by joining this group every Sunday morning - - after the 8 o'clock service, or before the 10:30 service!

Below are the lectionary scriptures that the Sunday school class participants will be learning about each week in February. Even if you can't come to class, consider taking the time to read them at home!

◊ Lectionary Readings for February 2018 ◊

•February 4: Mark 1:29-39 | Called to Healing
To balance the call to serve God and neighbor with the call to prayer and self care.

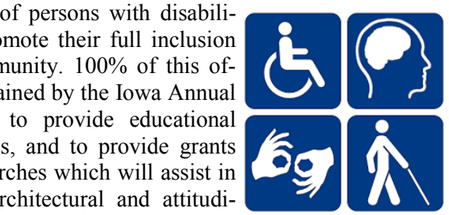
•February 11: Mark 9:2-9 | A Mountaintop Experience
To recognize and live from a new vision, ourselves, and the world.

•February 18: Genesis 9:8-17 | God Loves Us
To explore God's promise of renewal for all creation.

•February 25: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 | Blessing of Generations
To examine God's promises and love for all.

Disabilities Awareness Offering
Sunday, February 25

The purpose of this offering is to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and promote their full inclusion in the community. 100% of this offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference to provide educational opportunities, and to provide grants to local churches which will assist in removing architectural and attitudinal barriers to accessibility.



New Members Class
Monday, February 26

Are you thinking about becoming a member of St Luke? Maybe you have some questions about what it means to be a member. All those who are interested in learning about becoming a member of St Luke UMC are invited to join Pastor Chad for more information on Monday, February 26 at 7 pm in the Narthex. Sign-up sheet is on the Servant's Counter or let the office know you are coming.

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9, ESV). We walk with Jesus along the road to Jerusalem, the road to death but also resurrection, the road of faith and worship.

Church Directory Photograph Sign-Up

Be sure to schedule An Appointment To have your picture Taken for the New Directory On February 27 or 28

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper & Worship Service
Pancakes 5-6:30 pm
Worhship 6:30 pm

Days For Girls Update

DAYS FOR GIRLS INTERNATIONAL

A quick recap of 2017 for the DFG Newton IA Team:

- created 192 kits
- sent 27 to Guatemala
- sent 15 to Uganda, Africa
- sent 1 to Kentucky
- sent 40 to Zambia, Africa
- Number of volunteers involved - 26 with average of 16 per workshop

Looking into 2018:

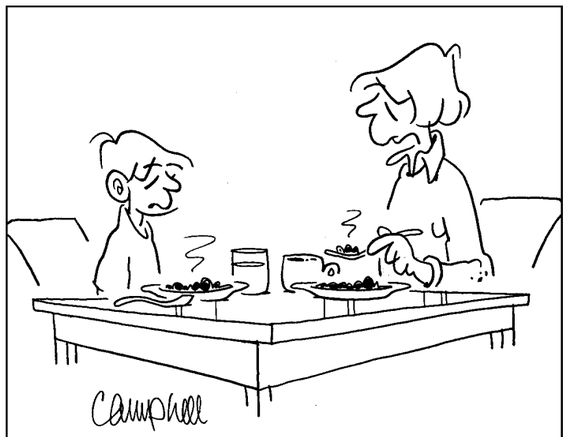
- continue with 4th Thursday of the month until November & December from 9-2, at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
- Plan to supply 100 kits to a gal from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids who will be traveling to Haiti, Feb. 23-March 4. This will be her second trip within 6 months!

The February meeting of Days For Girls will be held on February 25 from 9 am - 2 pm at 1st Presbyterian Church, Newton. There are several St Luke people that participate in the Days For Girls group. More people are always welcomed. Donations of kit items or monetary appreciated.

SHARE Food Program

Buying discounted groceries through SHARE is an easy way to stretch your food budget. You can check out and order online for the program at www.SHAREIOWA.com, or call either First UMC or First Christian Church. "SHARE boxes" can be ordered by Monday, February 12 and picked up at First UMC on Saturday, February 24, between 7:30-8:30 am, when you can also order and pay for the next month.

SHARE Working, Helping, Sharing Together



"These are vegetables, mother. You wouldn't want me to eat something I've given up for Lent, would you?"