

St Luke UMC

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

February 2020

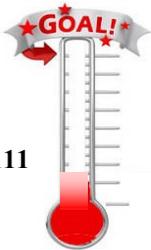


THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

2020 Apportionments

\$22,929



\$2,111

Financial Update

Thank you for your prayerful and generous giving to St Luke. These are the numbers for our 2019 Conference Giving and Special Offerings:

\$24,351 Apportionments (Paid in Full)
\$997.50 District Askings
\$6224.63 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 2019 which is posted by the office.

These offerings have been received in the last month:

December 29: \$11,881 including \$55-Building Fund; \$5,175 Apportionments; \$30 Christmas Offering; \$173 Church World Service; \$15 St. Nick Books; \$12 Doug Williams.

January 5: \$6,124.51 including \$340 Building Funds; \$40 Apportionments; \$16 Sunday School supplies; \$62.29 Heifer Moolah.

January 12: \$5,992.43 including \$2,075 Building Fund; \$2070.65 Apportionments; \$15.25 Larry and Jane Kies, \$10 St. Nick Books.

January 19: \$13,024 including \$2550 Building Fund; \$97 Larry and Jane Kies; \$97 Human Relations Day

January 26: \$1,401 including \$60 Building Funds; \$14 Larry and Jane Kies

thank you



“There is only one happiness in this life: to love and be loved.”

—George Sand

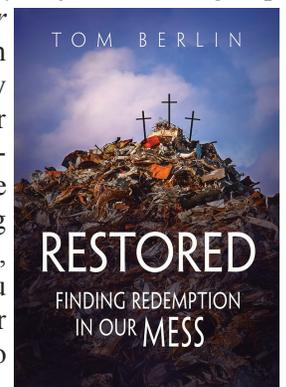
January MMDC Trip

St. Luke had a team of 9 volunteers that worked at Midwest Mission Distribution Center January 19-22. Some assembled school kits, which contain 3 spiral notebooks, a 12 inch ruler, 6 pencils, scissors, pencil sharpener, an eraser, 12 colored pencils and 24 crayons. Some worked on making school desks from reclaimed gym bleacher wood. One other job was to cut flannel for padding in feminine hygiene kits. All of these supplies are available for distribution throughout the world as needed. The center partners with a number of agencies for distribution in a network that is nothing short of miraculous.



Lenten Study

This Lenten season there will be an opportunity to join a small group study. *Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess* encourages us to reflect and mediate through our own brokenness, showing us that it is only when we focus on the cross as a place to surrender control that we can leave our mess and find redemption. It is written by Rev. Tom Berlin. There will be 2 or 3 group meetings, including an evening opportunity beginning soon after Ash Wednesday, February 26 and continuing for six weeks. If you would be willing to host a group, please let Pastor Chad or Barb Kaldenberg know. Sign-up sheets to attend will be on the Servant's Counter.



Ash Wednesday, February 26 Pancake Supper & Worship Service

Ash Wednesday which is February 26th will be the date for St. Luke United Methodist Church's annual pancake supper from 4:45 - 6:15 pm. The menu will include pancakes, sausages, fruit and beverages. A sign-up sheet for donations and workers will be on the Servant's Counter in February. A free will offering will be for apportionments.

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



Welcome to February, the longest shortest month of the year. Maybe it's the cold. Maybe it's the grey sky. Maybe it's the wind. But I didn't want to talk to you about the weather.



Thank you. Thank you for your generous nature. Over the last two and a half years, I have witnessed the amazing generosity of this congregation, giving more than 2000 diapers to MMDC, more than \$7000 to missions around the world, in addition to the \$24,000 that we sent beyond our local church to shared mission and ministry in the Iowa Annual Conference.



That last piece is what we often refer to as apportionments. They are called apportionments because they are the portion that each church in the conference pays to support shared ministry. These include many things that are important in the life of United Methodists, ministries like Bidwell Riverside Center in Des Moines, which serves the lower income population with daycare, clothing, food, and more. These include campus ministries at our United Methodist related schools like Simpson, Morningside, and Iowa Wesleyan, but also the Wesley Foundations at UNI, Iowa State, Drake, and the University of Iowa.

Apportionments pay for things that aren't fun to talk about, but are important, such as the District Superintendents, and to fund the moving expenses for pastors. They support mission congregations like Women at the Well.

A portion of our apportionments are sent beyond Iowa. These funds support missionaries around the world. They support Africa University, where the Kies serve. They support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which goes wherever there are disasters to provide support and assistance. UMCOR was significant during the floods of 2008 in Cedar Rapids and the floods of 2019 in western Iowa. They are on the ground now in Puerto Rico in the wake of the earthquakes.

During Lent, we will focus our extra giving on UMCOR. The extra giving will go directly to the needs of people because our apportionments provide the overhead support the organization needs to operate. Because we give our full apportionments, UMCOR can use 100% of additional giving in areas of need.

So, you can see that apportionments are extremely important. They allow us to be so much bigger than we are on our own. We could never afford to support a missionary in Africa. Through apportionments, we support

thousands. We could never afford to make a difference for hurricane survivors. Through apportionments, we do. We couldn't provide legal support to immigrants by ourselves. Through apportionments, we do.

In 2019, we paid our apportionments in full, but it gave us some stressful moments in December. Ideally, we should save ourselves the stress by paying some each month. We are off to a good start. In January, we have already paid \$2111. That's awesome! Let's keep it up.

Our share for 2020 is \$22,929. That equates to \$1,911 each month. Let's stay ahead of this. Let's show our commitment to these ministries by making our goal by October. We can do it.

Chad

St Luke News

Congratulations to Hiap ThongVahn and Ann Leonard for being this year's recipients of the UMWomen Mission Recognition awards. Your commitment to serving St Luke UMC is very much appreciated. Thank you for your service.



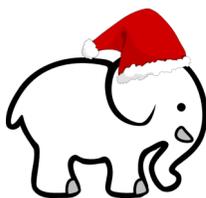
Bible Quiz



The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- A. 200-300 B. 400-500
- C. 600-700 D. 800-900

Answer: C



St. Luke Social Club Event Saturday, February 8th

The St. Luke Social Club will host the annual potluck/white elephant gift/candlelight dinner event Saturday evening, February 8th, 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Adults of ALL ages are invited to attend! Please bring food items for potluck supper and one wrapped white elephant gift per participating person.



United Methodist Women

February 19

1:15 pm

At the home of
Joyce Stonehocker
1018 S 5th Ave W

*"Fill us with your love every morning.
Then we will sing and rejoice all our lives."
Psalm 90:14*

Program: How the Light Gets In
By Joyce Stonehocker
Hostess: Joyce Stonehocker

February 26 - Ash Wednesday
March 6 - World Day of Prayer

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



Meals On Wheels

St Luke is responsible for delivering Meals On Wheels on both Saturdays and Sundays during the month of March. Two people are needed each day to deliver 2-12 meals. This responsibility is through Mission Coalition. A sign-up sheet is on the Servants' Counter.



February Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Muffin, Bread,
Pancake Mixes
and Syrup

News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

Library News ~ This month's book is aimed at women who are transitioning from and who are beyond middle age. I am one of these people and this book was recommended to me by another. The first paragraph of the book's introduction tells us precisely about the book: "Women Rowing North is about the specific issues women face as we transition from middle age to old age. The core concern of this life stage, with all of its perils and pleasures, is how to cultivate resilient responses to the callings we face. Resilience is built by attention and intention. We can take responsibility for our attitudes and focus on our strengths and our joys. We can go deep and face truth squarely. We can learn the skills that allow us to adapt to anything. Yes, anything." This thoughtful book uses stories to give us hope and skills for maneuvering through our remaining years with grace and wisdom. You can find it on the shelf by the door in our little library in the corner. Check it out!



MMDC Mission Trips

MMDC Trip News ~ St. Luke has a team of eight folks heading off to Midwest Missions Distribution Center on February 23-26. 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. We ask that you please pray for our teams of volunteers going to Midwest Missions Distribution Center in February as they prepare and travel on this mission for God's Kingdom.



January Diaper Sewing Days

We had a great group of ladies gathered at St. Luke to sew diapers during the month of January.



A big thank you goes out to everyone that helped with diaper sewing days. We took a total of 766 diapers to MMDC in January!





My Story

Pray without ceasing.

I asked my family to help me create a display of the ways that people pray. They posed for photographs, standing, sitting, and kneeling in prayer. One picture showed a small



group standing in a circle holding hands. Others photos featured my niece with kneeling with her hands folded and her head bowed, and my nephew sitting with his hands and face upturned. Praying... alone, in pairs, in a group... all praying and knowing God is there to listen.

Prayer can come in many forms; silently conversing with God; crying out loudly, or even singing praises. There are group prayers and personal prayers. It does not matter what the form or style of prayer is, they are all important. They



can be short popcorn prayers or long involved prayers. No form of prayer is more important than another. The only thing of importance, truly is, that your prayers are a true conversation with GOD,

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

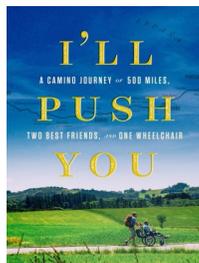


1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Corinne Kleppe

Adult-2 Class

The Adult Sunday School Class II has chosen their next book. It is called "I'll Push You" by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck. This book is a story of friendship, love, humor, and faith as they strive to travel the rough, mountainous terrain of Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain. Justin is confined to a wheelchair, and Patrick has volunteered to push him on this pilgrimage. If the book seems familiar to you it is from our own library and was featured in a recent St Luke newsletter. Come join us as we venture on the journey of this 500-mile trek. All are welcome, and there is no "homework".



St. Luke

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday
School
Class

meets 9:15 a.m.
in the
choir room

Seasons
OF THE Spirit

Encounters with God

MATTHEW 17:1-9

To be open to the mystery of God's transforming presence.

Biblical generations have considered mountains to be a place of holy presence. Moses ascended **Mount Sinai** about eight times to meet with God. It is written in Matthew 17 Jesus ascended to the top of a(n **unnamed**) **mountain** with Peter, James, and John.

There something spectacular happened. Jesus' face began to glow and gleam. The prophets **Elijah** and **Moses** appeared, joining Jesus' company and engaging in conversation at the top of this mountain.

Why He chose these disciples or this mountain is unknown. In Exodus Moses faces a burning bush which is not consumed. In Matthew 17 Jesus' clothes began to glow and shine like "sunlight mirroring off a snowfall: He was *transfigured*, gleaming brightly.

Peter (eventually "gathered his wits" and) suggested he make three small tabernacles, or shelters - - one each for Jesus, Elijah, and Moses. As Peter spoke a bright cloud enveloped him, James, and John. From it they heard the words *This is my beloved. With Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him.*



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 February 2020** ∞

• **February 2: Matthew 5:1-12** | Blessed
To explore how we are blessed and can be a blessing.

• **February 9: Matthew 5:13-20** | Shine
To respond to Jesus' call to be like salt and light as we live into God's realm.

• **February 16: Matthew 5:21-37** | Grow
To grow in our understanding of the heart of the law as we live into God's realm.

• **February 23: Matthew 17:1-9** | Sent
To be open to the mystery of God's transforming presence.





Discover Hope Supper Club:

We are taking on a new mission on the first Tuesday of every other month. 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. Our next meal will be on March 3rd. Please sign-up at the Servant's Counter to provide food and/or help with preparation and serving for our next meal.



Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, February 27rd from 9 am-2 pm and 6-9 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans or Karen Clark.



Adventure of a Lifetime
2020 IOWA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS

LAKE OKOBOJI • 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.

RECYCLING CFLs

Are you aware **compact fluorescent** light bulbs should **not** be placed with your regular trash destined for our landfill? Containing mercury, CFLs need to be disposed at appropriate toxic waste depots, rather than tossed out with ordinary trash destined forever for placement at our landfills. Place your non-working CFLs in the *marked box* located by the narthex coat rack at St. Luke.



Don't know what to do with your unusable CFLs *until* you have found a safe "home" for them? Some people find it convenient to temporarily collect their no-longer-usable CFLs in a marked lidded clean ice cream bucket. You can create a storage container with your own possible materials available. Then take your burned-out CFLs to church and place them in the marked box by the narthex coat rack.



Share this information to educate others. Set an example that members of St. Luke care about our environmental legacy; persist with **Reducing-Reusing-Recycling!**

Diaper Sewing Days

Wednesday & Thursday February 5th & 6th
9 am - 4 pm

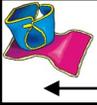
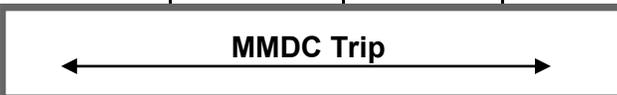
We will be sewing baby diapers for layette kits in the church Fellowship Hall. Bring your sewing machine, some light colored thread, and basic sewing tools or you can come help us by cutting, pinning, or pressing. We will have a light potluck for lunch. This will be a time of fellowship and production. 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 February 9, 2020 Disability Awareness Offering

100% of this offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference. The purpose of the Disability Awareness offering is to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and to promote their full inclusion in the community. This offering provides funds for educational opportunities as well as providing grants to local churches in need of assistance in removing architectural and attitudinal barriers to accessibility.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
2 8/10:30 Worship - Communion 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	3	4	5  Sewing Days 9 am - 4 pm	6 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir	7 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting	8 6 pm St Luke Social Club Potluck Event 
9 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	10	11	12 NO Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir 7 pm Page Turners Book Club	13 	14 	15 10 am Quilt Guild - F Hall
16 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	17	18 Council Meeting 7 pm	19 1:15 pm UMW @Joyce Stonehocker Home 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir	20 7 pm NAMI - Choir Room	21	22
23 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	24	25 6:30 pm SPRC 7pm Mission Coalition	26 4:45 - 6:15 pm Ash Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	27  9 am - 2 pm 6-9pm Days For Girls @ 1st Pres- byterian	28	29
						

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

February 2	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	John/Mary Onstot	Mike/Kleo O'Brien
Greeters	Peg Ehler	Jeff Carter
Reader	Russ Leix	Mikey Carter
Acolytes	Ushers	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Mary Nelson
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Deb Stoulil	Doug McIntyre
Fellowship	Pam Andrews	Wendy Jennings
Care Core	Barb Swihart	Amy Murphy
Communion	Wendy Jennings Counters	Jenna McIntyre/Brad Patty
February 9	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Leonard Family	Amy Onstot/Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	Chuck Springer	Lori Leix
Readers	Karen Dorrell	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolytes	Ethan Pageler	Ava Smith
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Mikey Carter
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Brad Patty	Wendy Jennings
Fellowship	Peg Ehler	Amy Murphy
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Lisa Marston
Counters		Pat Patty/Mike Kaldenberg
February 16	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Pageler Family	Abby Jennings/ Lori Leix
Greeters	Deb Stoulil	Roy/Pat Patty
Readers	Brad Patty	Amy Murphy
Acolytes	Ethan Pageler	Anniston Chambers
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Volunteers
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Projection	Peg Ehler	Pam Smith
Fellowship	Dick/Pam Stiles	Mary Nelson
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Counters		Jan Lewis/Doug McIntyre
February 23	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Peg Ehler/Chuck Springer	Jeff Carter/ Dave Miller
Greeters	Dick/Pam Stiles	Joe/Stefanie Squire
Readers	Mike Kaldenberg	Dennis Smith
Acolytes	Ushers	Abby Jennings
Nursery	Parents Take Turns	Doug McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Praise Team	Praise Team
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Karen Clark
Fellowship	Tamara Lloyd	Michelle O'Brien
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Jenna McIntyre
Counters		Mary Nelson/Rose Evans

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/Wed/Fri 8:30-11 am
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

Many thanks to all who helped to take down and put away all the Christmas decorations.

A big thank you to all who helped by providing food, cooking and serving to make our January Discover Hope meal a success. We served 60+ people and left food for their freezer and were able to serve seconds.

Thank you everyone for the care package! I really appreciated all of the notes and different gifts. Opening it and reading all of the notes was a great way to start my finals week. Thank you for the surprises and words of encouragement!
 Nathan Jennings



Five steps to a friendlier church

1. Speak to the other person first. Don't wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don't know, introduce yourself to him or her.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in those church activities that interest them.

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 February Birthdays

February 1 Tate Osborn, Lauren Patty
 February 2 Pat Patty, Emma Carter
 February 4 Hiap Thongvanh
 Conner Marston
 February 6 Lisa Pageler
 February 9 Jennifer Rhone
 February 10 Glenda Lewis
 February 11 Kali Draper
 Katherine Thomas
 February 13 Andrew Miller
 February 14 Tom Lloyd
 February 20 Russ Leix
 February 22 Karen Dorrell
 February 24 Tori Boleyn
 Hannah Squire
 February 25 Michaela Bleeker
 February 26 Jan Lewis, Evan Grimm
 February 28 Mackenzie Bleeker

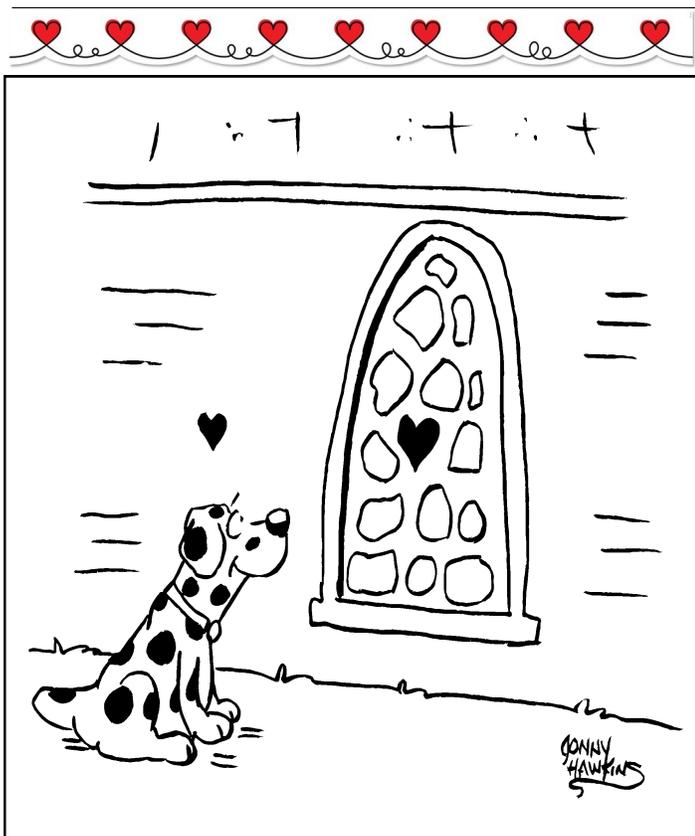


If your birthday is missing or incorrect, contact the office.

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.



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.



A prayer for Ash Wednesday



Lord of the winds,
 I cry to thee,
 I that am dust,
 and blown about
 by every gust
 I fly to thee.

Lord of the waters,
 unto thee I call.
 I that am weed
 upon the waters borne,
 and by the waters torn,
 tossed by the waters,
 at thy feet I fall.

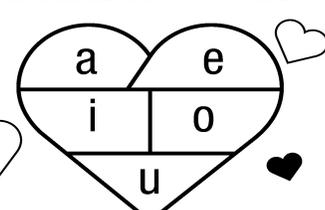
—Mary Coleridge (1861-1907)



A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.

Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.



“Y_ _ _ r_ _ my fr_ _ nds_ _ f
 y_ _ d_ _ wh_ _ t_ _ c_ _ mm_ _ nd. . . .
 Th_ _ s_ _ s my c_ _ mm_ _ nd:
 L_ _ v_ _ _ ch_ _ th_ _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. . . . This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV