

# St Luke UMC

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

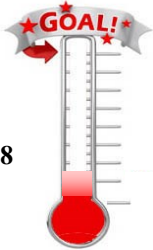
March 1, 2023



# THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2023 Apportionments

**\$15,279**



\$338

**Financial  
Update**



Thank you to everyone for your continued support of St Luke ministries. These offerings were received in the month of February:

Total of \$7,812 which included:

- \$ 370 - Building Fund
- \$ 135 - Apportionments
- \$ 500 - UMCOR Turkey/Syria
- \$ 130 - UMCOR Ukraine
- \$ 73 - Disability Awareness
- \$ 69 - Heifer Project
- \$ 55 - Florence Mefor Missionary



## 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:  
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**Newsletter Editor:** Corinne Kleppe  
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**Article Submission** by the 13th of month.

**Website:** www.stlukenewton.com

**Website Manager:** Stephen Pageler

**YouTube:** St Luke United Methodist Church

**Facebook:** St Luke Newton

**Prayer:** prayer@stlukenewton.com

## Delivery to MMDC

Thank you once again for all of the donations we were able to take with us to MMDC in February. I thought you would be interested in knowing what and how much we actually delivered.

- 1796 Hand made cloth diaper
- 8 Infant Gowns/Sleepers
- 20 Infant washcloths
- 100 diaper pins
- 4 Electric and 1 Treadle sewing machines
- 124 pencils
- 21 boxes of colored pencils
- 38 boxes of crayons
- 39 rulers
- 47 kid sized scissors
- 36 erasers
- 48 One subject notebooks
- 36 pencil sharpeners
- 100 rubber gloves
- 18 hand towels
- 53 wash clothes
- 16 deodorants
- 15 bottles of shampoo
- 22 bars of soap
- 30 toothbrushes AND
- 82 ziplock bags



Thank you for your generosity.

Corinne Kleppe,  
NOW Missions and MMDC team member





## My Story

I was driving to work one morning when it started to snow. Not the big fluffy flakes that float quietly in the air, this morning I realized this was LOUD snow. It was that tiny pebble like snow that is reminiscent of styrofoam balls, and as it pelted my car it created quite the racket. Loud Snow is a bit of an oxymoron, like organized chaos, a small crowd or an original copy.



Life is full of oxymorons; those terms of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction. We can even find a few oxymorons in the Bible itself. Jesus tells Nicodemus in John 3 “Unless you are born again, you can never get into the Kingdom of God”. We are told in Romans 8 that “Those who die to themselves will Live”. In Mark 9: 35 we are told “the first must be last and the last will be first.”

Seemingly contradictory terms and yet, they work together and they make a strange kind of sense. Yes, snow can be loud, silence can be deafening, a crowd can be small, we can be “born again” from heaven, and perhaps the greatest oxymoron of all... The Son of God was born in a lowly stable.

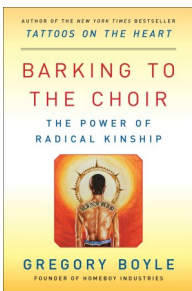


Corinne Kleppe

## Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class is reading and discussing the book *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Gregory Boyle. If you are familiar with *Tattoos on the Heart* or *The Whole Language*, you will enjoy reading Gregory Boyle’s 2nd book in this series. In a nation deeply divided and plagued by poverty and violence, *Barking to the Choir* offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins. Sergio, arrested at age nine, in a gang by age twelve, and serving time shortly thereafter, now works with the substance-abuse team at Homeboy to help others find sobriety. Jamal, abandoned by his family when he tried to attend school at age seven, gradually finds forgiveness for his schizophrenic mother. New father Cuco, who never knew his own dad, thinks of a daily adventure on which to take his four-year-old son. These former gang members uplift the soul and reveal how bright life can be when filled with unconditional love and kindness.

If you are looking for a class with variety and topical studies, this would be a good class for you. We read the book together, so there is no “homework”. There is always room for more to join the conversation. We meet in Room 5 in the education wing right after Worship.





**Bible Study**  
**Sunday**  
**School**  
**Class**  
**Meets in the**  
**choir room**

## Through the Night

John 3:1-17

*Risking transforming encounters with Jesus*

Of the four March lectionary readings, three deal with Jesus performing miracles: Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well; healing a blind man on the Sabbath; and the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

The other lectionary reading describes Jesus’ night time conversation with Nicodemus, the Pharisee. Interestingly, Jesus speaks to the phrase saying *I tell you the truth* four times in his “under the cloak of darkness” meeting with Nicodemus.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee with *limited* powers to rule. He wanted to *know more* about Jesus, but apparently did not want his contemporaries to be aware of his seeking out Jesus for a one-on-one question and answer session.

It is in this related conversation that Jesus broaches the subject of being “born in the Spirit.” *Even you, an educated and respected man among your people, must be reborn by the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God.*



Nicodemus struggled with this concept. Jesus continued: *We speak about the things we know, and we give evidence about the things we have seen, and you choose to reject the truth of our witness. If you do not believe when I talk to you about ordinary, earthly realities, then heavenly realities will certainly elude you.*

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings, after the 9:30 church service. To honor and respect all present we are immunized. The class’s emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings. Various Bibles’ presentations of the same passage are compared and discussed, and sometimes we discover issues which we had never before considered.

### •Lectionary Readings for March 2023•

- **March 5:** John 3:1-17 | Through the Night  
*To risk transforming encounters with Jesus*
- **March 12:** John 4:5-42 | With Thirst for New Life  
*To explore Jesus’ gifts of living water and words of empowerment*
- **March 19:** John 9:1-41 | After Vision Shifts  
*To follow Jesus’ invitation to shift our vision for the sake of love*
- **March 26:** John 11:1-45 | Out of the Depths  
*To honor doubt and belief as we witness God’s steadfast love in the midst of death*



United Women in Faith

## United Women in Faith

March  
No Meeting

*“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (NIV)*

Isaiah 40:31

### Happy Birthday UWF!

March 3 - World Day of Prayer

March 23 - UWF 154th Anniversary



### 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.

### RECYCLING REMINDERS: REMOVE THE LIDS NO PLASTIC BAGS

**Plastic bags** are **NOT** recyclable. Please do not put plastic bags into your recycling tubs. Please do **not** use plastic bags to separate recyclables. Wal-Mart, Hy-Vee, and Fareway all have bins for plastic bags.

The **lids** to plastic containers are **NOT** recyclable. Please remove screw-off lids from rinsed and crushed plastic containers, before placing those plastic containers in your recycling tubs. The lids should go into your garbage bag.



**SET YOUR CLOCKS  
FORWARD ONE HOUR**  
Daylight Saving Time Begins  
Sunday, March 12

## UMCOR Sunday Offering Sunday, March 19th

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR's work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.



Gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering cover the costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. UMCOR has no source of revenue for administration except from UMCOR Sunday.

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

### Jasper County Take Away Hunger

The next packaging event for Jasper County Take Away Hunger will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We would like to organize a team of 12 volunteers to package meals at the event. They ask for a donation of \$35 per person to help cover the cost of the food packaged. If you are interested in volunteering or making a monetary donation to help cover the cost for our volunteers, please sign up at the servant's counter or contact Peg Ehler at 641-417-9979 no later than March 19.



### Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, March 23 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](http://www.daysforgirls.org).



### 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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	2	3	4
			5 9:30 am Worship - Communion Sunday School to Follow 	6 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group	7 7 pm P.E.O. Meeting FH Rsvrd 6:30-9 pm	8 6:30 pm Praise Team  7 pm Page Turners FH Rsvrd  7:15 pm Choir Practice
12 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow  Daylight Savings Time Begins 	13 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group  	14 7 pm Ad Council Meeting	15 6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	16 6:30 pm Quilt Guild Meeting FH Rsvrd	17 	18
19 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow  UMCOR Sunday Offering 	20 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group  	21	22 6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	23 9am - 2pm Days for Girls @ 1st Presbyterian Church	24	25 JCTAH Packaging Event @ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
26 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	27 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group  6:30 pm JCRC FH Rsvrd	28 7pm Mission Coalition FH Rsvrd	29 6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	30	31	

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

<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</b>	
<b>March 5</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Rose Evans & Pam Andrews
Greeters	Russ & Lori Leix
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	Rachel Pageler
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Ethan Pageler
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Amy Murphy
<b>March 12</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Rose Evans
Acolyte	Rachel Pageler
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Wendy Jennings
<b>March 19</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Dennis & Pam Smith
Greeters	Marianne Spaur
Reader	Jeff Carter
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Ethan Pageler
Camera	
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark
Coffee Time	Marianne Spaur
<b>March 26</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers (2)	Joel & Karin Mills
Greeters (2)	Joyce Stonehocker
Reader	Dennis Smith
Acolyte	Nathan Figland
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Lori Leix

### March Worship Assistants

For 2023 we are excited to try something new with our worship assistant sign up. We would like to see more of our volunteer position filled so we have decided to start passing around sign-up



sheets for 3 months at a time. We had a wonderful response for our January-March volunteers and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up.

Most positions are filled now through March but there are still a few spots open. If you would like to volunteer or see what positions are available you can email the church office at: [worship@stlukenewton.com](mailto: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. Thank you!

### Midwest Mission Thank You

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at St Luke UMC,

Thank you for your generous donation of the Treadle sewing machine, electric sewing machines, diapers, sewn items, school supplies, hygiene items and supplies for the Personal Dignity Kit 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!

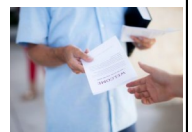
Yours in Christ,

Chantel Corrie  
Executive Director



### 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 March Birthdays

- March 2 Martha Stewart
- March 3 Roy Patty  
Rhondi Machin  
Chom Thongvanh
- March 4 Abby Jennings  
Shirley Guillaume
- March 6 Ethan Pageler  
Rosemary Hartschen
- March 7 Brad Patty
- March 8 Aniston Chambers  
Allison Thongvanh
- March 9 Kathy Trotter
- March 14 Rusty Deppe
- March 15 Dale Fifer
- March 16 Jenni Patty  
Dwight Huggins
- March 20 Shelley Vasquez  
Nathan McConkey  
Jeff Eisbrener
- March 24 Peg Ehler  
Chad Jennings
- March 25 John Onstot  
Erin Stonner  
Ethan McConkey
- March 27 Hannah Marston
- March 29 Alan Andrews



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



### March Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Macaroni and Cheese,  
Tuna and Hamburger Helper



MICHAEL

Moses misunderstands his doctor's orders.



# 2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## June 26-30

### VBS Volunteers Needed!







Please email ([annericleonard@gmail.com](mailto:annericleonard@gmail.com)) or call (641-521-2463) Ann Leonard if you are interested in helping.



## A seasonal reminder



Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

*Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> plants grow here</li> <li> to coil and jump<br/><i>(also a season of the year)</i></li> <li> to expand and get bigger</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> seeds are planted in this</li> <li> when watered, these make plants</li> <li> another word for seedling</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

For as the \_\_\_\_\_ makes the \_\_\_\_\_

                        
 come up and a \_\_\_\_\_ causes

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, so the  
                      

Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise \_\_\_\_\_ up before all nations.



ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring