

St Luke UMC

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

April 1, 2024



2024 Apportionments

\$16,882



\$252

Financial Update



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

Total of \$9,331 which included:

- \$ 210 - Building Fund
- \$ 64 - Apportionments
- \$ 46 - Florence Mefor - Missionary
- \$ 550 - UMCOR Sunday
- \$ 250 - Easter Offering
- \$ 40 - UMCOR Ukraine



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 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
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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



Welcome Pastor Mark & Family

Welcome Pastor Mark and family! As you know Pastor Chad has been recently appointed to First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls, IA. We have been blessed to have Pastor Chad here at St Luke for the past 7 years and wish him and his family the best as he continues to share his ministry gifts with others. We are pleased to share that Chad's replacement has been officially named. Pastor Mark Johnson has been selected to serve our church beginning July 1st. Please welcome Pastor Mark and family to Newton and into our St Luke family. They will be wonderful additions to our church.

A Message from Pastor Mark

Hello everyone,

My name is Rev. Mark Johnson and I'm excited to serve as your new pastor!

I grew up in Clinton, IA and attended Central College as a music performance major. After living in Iowa City as a musician throughout my twenties, I began full-time ministry and seminary in 2016. My passion areas in ministry are preaching and pastoral care, though I also have experience in Christian education and administration.

My wife Alexis is also an Ordained Elder in the UMC. She will also be starting a new appointment in July at Oakwood UMC in Pleasant Hill. We currently live in Council Bluffs and have two kids. Magdalene (Maggie) is 9 and will be going into 5th grade. Nehemiah is 7 and will be going into 2nd grade.

We're incredibly excited to get to know our new church and community!

Until then, prayers and blessings from

Mark, Alexis, Maggie and Nehemiah Johnson





My Story

Bind Us Together Lord, Bind us Together with Cords that Cannot Be Broken.

My mom makes beautiful lap quilts. She enjoys blending colorful fabrics together to create patterns and piecing them together at her sewing machine. Following her carpal tunnel surgery last fall, however, she has struggled with then next step in her quilt making... the tying together of the layers. She had several quilts ready for this step but needed some help.

So, at the end of February, my sisters and I gathered at Mom's for a day of quilt tying, conversation, laughter and Mom's food. Each stitch we placed in the quilts helped to bind the layers together and add stability to the finished product. Each quilt we tied that day has now had the finish binding done around the edges making it a warm, colorful quilt of love ready to be gifted to someone.



Wouldn't it be nice if we found ways to greet those around us, both new faces and faces we see on a regular basis, in a way that wraps them in a warm quilt of Christ's love on earth?

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. *Colossians 3:12-15*

The last verse of the song Bind us Together Lord states: "We are the family of God, we are the promise divine. We are God's chosen desire, we are the glorious new wine." Bind us Together Lord with cords that cannot be broken. May we all remember this Eastertide season, that we are a warm colorful quilt made by God, bound together by Christ. Let's share the warmth of God's love with those we meet each day.

Corinne Kleppe

Thank You

To my St Luke family,

A huge thank you for all the prayers, cards, caregivers, rides, and food during my recovery from my recent surgery. I am healing, but I don't plan on any races in the near future!



With love,
Rose Evans

April Mission Highlight Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice

Iowa Justice for our Neighbors united with American Friends Service Committee Iowa to form Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice. The uniting of these two organizations creates a powerful opportunity to meet urgent needs for direct service while building a stronger movement for immigrant's rights in the state and region.

This unique dual program model has the capacity to fill unmet needs, build on existing relationships, continue to lead, work in coalition in solidarity with others and win concrete victories for all communities in our state. This organization values community leadership, funding, collaboration, and justice. (Excerpts from the Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice website)

If you would like to read more about this organization, check out their website at www.iowammj.org. If you would like to give to this organization, please put Iowa Migrant Movement on the memo line of your check and put your offering in the plate on Sunday.

Corinne Kleppe , NOW missions



SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, June 16
**A Celebration of Ministry and
Pastor Chad's Last Sunday**
More Details to Come!

The Joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.



—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

April 17 - 1:15 pm
At St Luke UMC

"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." (NIV)

John 12:26

Program: Food Justice

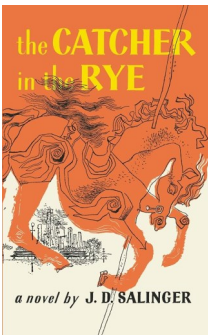
By: Jenni Patty

Hostess: Jenni Patty

April 22 - Earth Day

The Banned Book Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class has decided to read "banned" books. We are currently reading *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger. The book is about the life of a seventeen-year-old boy called Holden Caulfield. His story begins at Pencey Prep, a school he's been kicked out of for flunking almost all of his subjects. After having a fight with his roommate, Stradler, he leaves Pencey Prep a few days early and decides not to go straight home. Along his way he meets former teachers, old friends, his younger sister and many others.



We invite you to join us. We meet at 10:30 am (following worship) in Room 5, the 3rd room on the left, in the education wing.

Volunteers Needed For Summer Weekly Plant Watering

We are looking for weekly volunteers to come out and water the plants around the church grounds this summer. If you are interested please sign up at the servant's counter as soon as possible so we can get the summer schedules made. Contact Lori Leix with any questions.



Mowers Wanted

Do you like to mow? St. Luke has an opportunity for you to help keep our lawn looking good. St. Luke even has 2 riding mowers available to use. Sign up at the servant's counter if you are interested in mowing this summer so we can start working on the summer schedule. If you have questions, please contact Joel Mills.



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.

Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, April 25 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.



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.

Earth Day at the Newton Arboretum

The Newton Arboretum will be open from 9 am to 6 pm on April 22 for Earth Day. This year's theme is Planet vs. Plastic. They will be collecting plastic bags and plastic bottles. There will be a loom set up and bag cutting available to show how to weave plarn (plastic yarn) mats. Come out and join the fun and learn how to recycle plastic.



Discover Hope Supper Club

St. Luke has committed to providing the evening meal for Discover Hope the first Tuesday of every other month. Our next meal will be on April 2. We will be having spaghetti and meatballs, tomato cucumber and apple salad, corn and fruit bread. If you would like to sign-up to provide food, monetary donations or to help serve the meal there will be a sign-up sheet on the servant's counter. All donations need to be put in the church kitchen by Sunday, March 31. Any questions please contact Joyce Stonehocker or Jan Lewis.



Sunday School Offering March through June 2024

Our 2nd through 5th Sundays during the months of March, April, May and June, the Sunday School offering will be designated as support for Missionary Florence Mefor. Florence serves as a mid-wife and nurse with the Mutambara Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe. Her work focuses on expecting and postpartum mothers and children under 5 years old. Florence has delivered hundreds of babies and prays that God will continue to give her the strength to continue to do God's work with the mothers. (excerpt from The Mission Family – Iowa Missionaries newsletter). If you would like to support Florence and you can also give by placing your gift in the offering plate on Sunday morning and noting Florence Mefor on the memo line of your check.

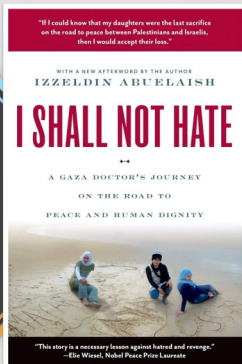


As always, the first Sunday of the month, Sunday school offering go toward administrative costs and for Sunday School materials.

NEW Monday Night Zoom Study Group

Starting April 8

Books are \$15
Sign up TODAY!



Monday Night Zoom Study Group New Book Starting April 8

We will be starting a new book for our Monday Night Zoom Study Group beginning April 8 at 6:30 pm. We will be reading the book "I Shall Not Hate" by Izzeldin Abuelaish. Books are \$15. If you are interested in joining this study please sign up at the servant's counter or contact Pastor Chad.

Native American Ministries Sunday Sunday, April 14

The people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus. Your gifts allow us to collaborate with existing native ministries, create programs and support seminary scholarships for United Methodist Native Americans.



"Where there is love there is life."
—Mahatma Gandhi



Mission Coalition Bake Sale



Saturday
April 20th
9 am - 12 pm

ST LUKE
United Methodist Church

BRING ANY DONATIONS
DIRECTLY TO BAKE SALE BETWEEN
7:30 - 8:30 AM ON APRIL 20

Mission Coalition Bake Sale

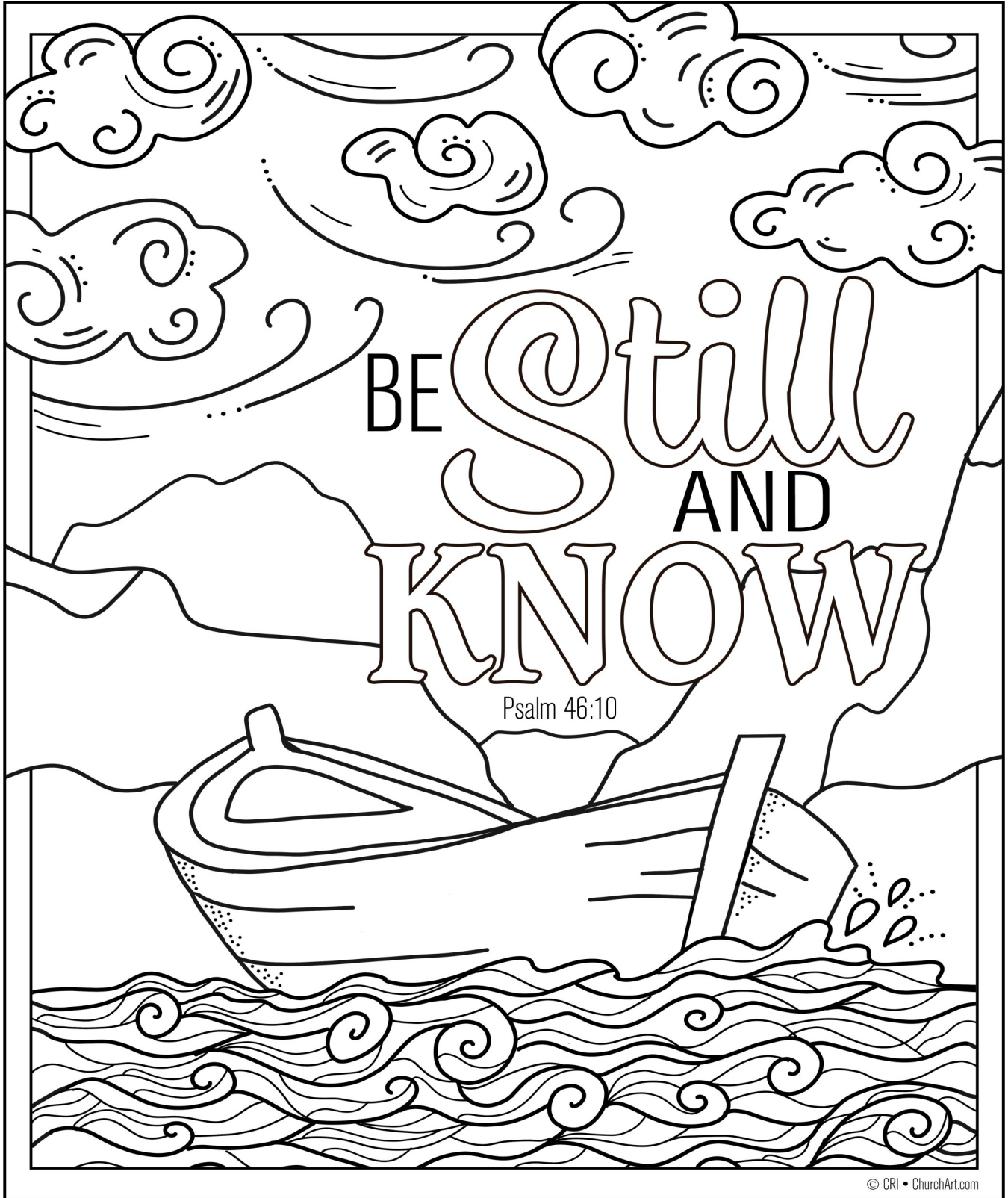
Mission Coalition is having a bake sale in the St Luke Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 20 from 9 am - 12 pm. St Luke is responsible for bringing double crusted pies. Sign up at the servant's counter if you would like to donate a pie. Please bring any pies to St Luke on Saturday, April 20 between 7:30 and 8:30 am. Contact Joyce Stonehocker with any questions.

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.



COLORING PAGE



Psalm 46:10

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5:30 pm Discover Hope Meal @ DH	3 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	4 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd Finance Meeting 6:30 pm	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship w/ Communion Sunday School to Follow 	8 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom	9	10 6:30 pm Praise Team 7 pm Page Turners FH Rsrvd 7:15 pm Choir Practice	11	12	13 
14 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Native American Minis- tries Sunday Offering	15 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom 6:30 pm VBS Meeting	16	17 1:15 pm UWF Meeting Sam's Place 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	18 9 am - 5 pm Quilt Guild FH Rsrvd 7 pm Quilt Guild Meeting	19	20 Mission Coalition Bake Sale @ St Luke 9 am - Noon
21 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	22 6:30-9 pm FH Rsrvd	23	24 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	25 9 am - 2pm Days for Girls @ First Presbyterian Church	26	27
General Conference April 23 - May 3						
28 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	29	30				
General Conference April 23 - May 3						

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
April 7	9:30 AM
Ushers	Peg Kimberley
Greeters	Roy & Pat Patty
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	Camryn Lemons
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Joel Mills
Camera	Karin Mills
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Amy Murphy
April 14	9:30 AM
Ushers	Amy Ryan
Greeters	Ann Leonard
Reader	Ann Leonard
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Megan DeJong
April 21	9:30 AM
Ushers	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Pat Patty
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Ethan Pageler
Camera	Megan DeJong
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Peg Kimberley
April 28	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Kaldenbergs
Greeters (2)	Pam Andrews
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	Frances Mills
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg

April 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

June 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!



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 April Birthdays

- April 1 - Ava Smith
- April 6 - Mary Nelson
- April 8 - Kleo O'Brien
- April 10 - Jacob Murphy
- April 11 - Karen Clark
Kelly Murphy
Payton Figland
- April 17 - Natalie McConkey
- April 20 - Mary Onstot
Mo Lockwood
- April 21 - Dale Dorrell
Jennifer Etter
- April 28 - Barb Ponder



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



April Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

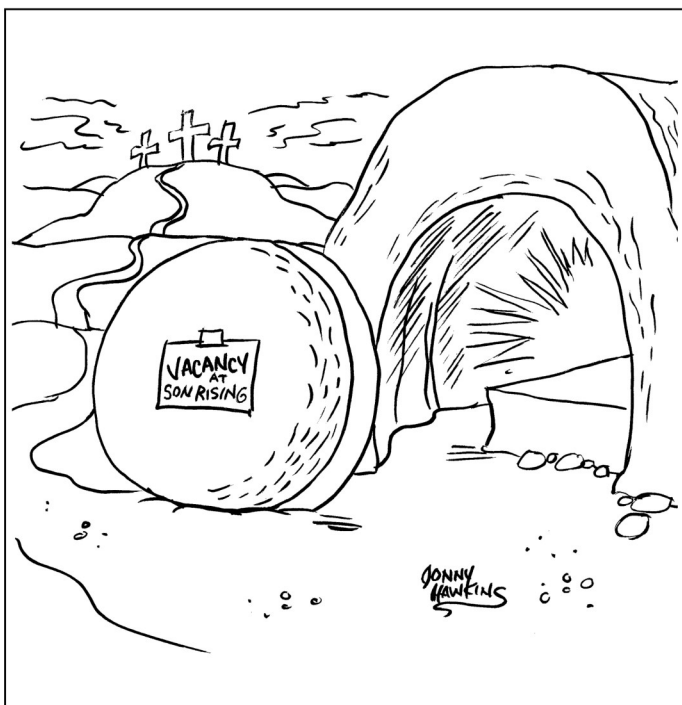
Instant Potatoes
Powdered Milk




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.



PUZZLE











PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY

 = God	 = grow
 = seed	 = one
 = planted	 = anything
 = watered	 = only

I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,
but _____ has been making it _____.

So neither the _____ who plants nor the _____ who waters is _____,
but _____, who makes things _____.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted; seed, watered, God, grow, one, one, anything, only, God, grow, one, one, grow, God, grow, watered, seed, planted; anything, only, God, grow