

# St Luke UMC

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

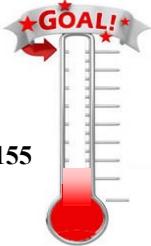
May 1, 2020



# THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

### 2020 Apportionments

**\$22,929**



\$4,155

### Financial Update



These offerings were received in the month of April:

- Total of \$12,920 which included:
- \$570 - Building Fund
- \$575 - Apportionments
- \$225 - Easter Offering
- \$25 - Larry & Jane Kies
- \$10 - UMCOR Disaster Relief

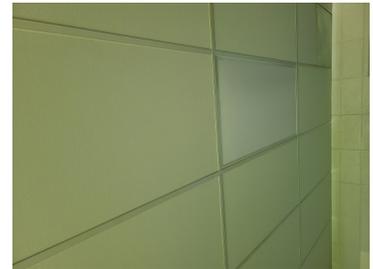
### New Kitchen & Nursery Ceiling

The Trustees have been hard at work replacing the ceiling and lights in the kitchen and nursery. A big thank you goes out to Jeff Murphy, Dave Miller, Joe Squire and Mike Kaldenberg for all their hard work on this project. Here is a picture of the recent work being done on the kitchen ceiling and some before and after pictures of the new lights.



Before

After



### May Salvation Army Food Pantry Request



Personal care items  
Soap, shampoo, tooth care

### Update on Church Services

Unfortunately at this time we will not be reopening for church services. We will update everyone as soon as we feel we can safely meet in person again. Please continue to watch for our weekly online messages via email and on Facebook. We miss 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 4-6 pm  
[worship@stlukenewton.com](mailto: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](http://www.stlukenewton.com)

**Website Manager:** Stephen Pageler

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

### 2020 Graduates

We are gathering names for any graduates (high school or college) of our St Luke family. Please call or email the office and give us the name of your graduate ASAP, to be sure they're included. We would also love to include a photo of the graduate if at all possible.





## My Story

3 times in just four weeks, I came home from the grocery store... without toilet paper. The first two times, I shrugged my shoulders and thought, no big deal I will get it next trip. But this time, I was becoming a little bit annoyed. I was down to my last roll. This was getting a little too close for comfort.

In an effort to find humor to chase away the irritation, I posted a message on Facebook about my dilemma. The next thing I knew I had friends from far and near, joking with me and others were offering to drive to my home to share. Then one local friend simply asked for my address and told me she would be by in 20 minutes. Problem solved. I voiced my concern and a friend met the need. It also strikes me how many people were willing to drive 16 miles or more to come to my aid, for something as funny as toilet paper.

It's funny how that works. We can stew about a problem and never find a solution, however, when we share the problem with others, often the solution is found or a new path is created. There are 348 verses in the Revised Standard version of Bible with the word help in the verse. Help from God. Help from the Jesus. Help from the Holy Spirit. And Help for one another. There are also 98 verses with the word share in them.



*Philippians 4:16 For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:14 And We urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them.*

*2 Corinthians 8:12-14 For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. <sup>13</sup>I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between <sup>14</sup>your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance.*

Are you willing to share your abundance to help others? Big or small, when we help others we create that balance between abundance and need. God bless the givers. God bless those willing to ask for help. God bless those willing to offer help.

Corinne Kleppe



## Life as a Christian, or Living Abundance?

ACTS 2:42-47

Exploring the witness of living and serving together as the Body of Christ.

This first-week-of-May scripture follows the story of Pentecost, which, as a result, about 3,000 people were baptized and added to the burgeoning community of Jewish Jesus-followers.

*They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in their fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer.*

Many miracles and signs took place; all believers shared everything in common; they sold their possessions and goods and divided the proceeds among the fellowship, so no one was in need.

Today, some of our identity cannot help but be tied up with what we purchase; those articles, experiences, and cultivated relationships. How many of us find ourselves with an overabundance of “things?”

This Acts selection shares a description of the early church where personal ownerships were turned over to the self-giving community. Such a vision may not be practical in 2020, but can it inspire us to “think twice” before we *continue acquiring possessions* that our offspring will ultimately have to dispose of, shaking their heads?



Can our *authentic self* be found in those places where we are able to be the most generous?

During this time of COVID-19 social distancing some of us may have time to take a look around our abodes and begin (or continue) purging our spaces of items about which *we now* shake our heads. The number of boxes of our items to pass-on via Salvation Army may continue to grow. Is it time for a reevaluation of priorities?

While we are temporarily unable to meet as a Body of Christ in a building, consider weekly reading the (below listed) lectionaries to feed your spiritual “hunger” and continue “being the church” wherever you are!

### ∞ Lectionary Readings for May 2020 ∞

- **May 3: Acts 2:42-47** | Living in Abundance  
*To explore the witness of living and serving together as the Body of Christ.*
- **May 10: Acts 7:55-60** | Living Stones  
*To be empowered as Christians to speak boldly when faith challenges culture.*
- **May 17: John 14:15-21** | A Vision of God's Love  
*To explore the experience and witness of the Spirit's work in our lives.*
- **May 24: John 17:1-11** | Community of Prayer  
*To live into Jesus's prayer for community with God and one another.*
- **May 31: Acts 2:1-21** | Spiritual Understanding  
*To celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

## St. Luke News

Dear Brother & Sisters in Christ,

Your loving support means the world to Midwest Mission and to the countless people who will be touched by your generosity. You are a shining light for Christ and a beacon of hope!

In His Service,  
Chantel Corrie  
Executive Director



*“Where flowers bloom, so does hope.”*  
—Lady Bird Johnson 



## Of Patience and Pruning

In many parts of America, Mother's Day is the recommended date for planting flowers outdoors. Subjecting blooms to the elements any sooner is risky, though sunny spring days sure make waiting tough. Perhaps that's why poet May Sarton calls gardening “an instrument of grace,” for it “slows us down and forces patience.”

Courage is also required. Gardeners “must be brave enough to cut back the old and sit with bare branches, awaiting new growth,” writes Cheryl Richardson (Waking Up in Winter). “And we must trust that it will come.” When God prunes us, we too must trust that new growth and new life are in store ... and then patiently wait.



## New Prayer Email Address



If you are in need of prayer or would like to share your joys and/or concerns with our prayer team you can now email them directly to:

[prayer@stlukenewton.com](mailto:prayer@stlukenewton.com)

We would love to hear from you!



## Camp Season Is Coming Soon

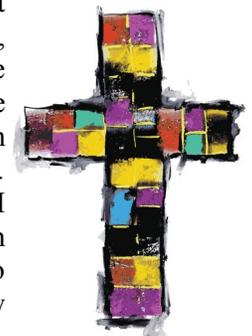
It's time to start planning and signing up for camp at one of the beautiful Iowa United Methodist Camps. Catalogs are available at the church or you can go online to check out what's available at [www.iaumc.org/camps](http://www.iaumc.org/camps). Get ready for your adventure of a lifetime.



## Trust the Artist

We must offer ourselves to God like a clean, smooth canvas and not worry ourselves about what God may choose to paint on it, but at each moment, feel only the stroke of his brush. ... It is the same with a piece of stone. Each blow from the sculptor's chisel makes it feel ... as if it were being destroyed. ... All I know is that I must stay immobile in the hands of the sculptor. ... I have no idea what he is doing ... but I know his work is the best possible.

—Jean Pierre de Caussade



The perfect cure for worry is trust in God.



## A Special Blessing for those with May Birthdays

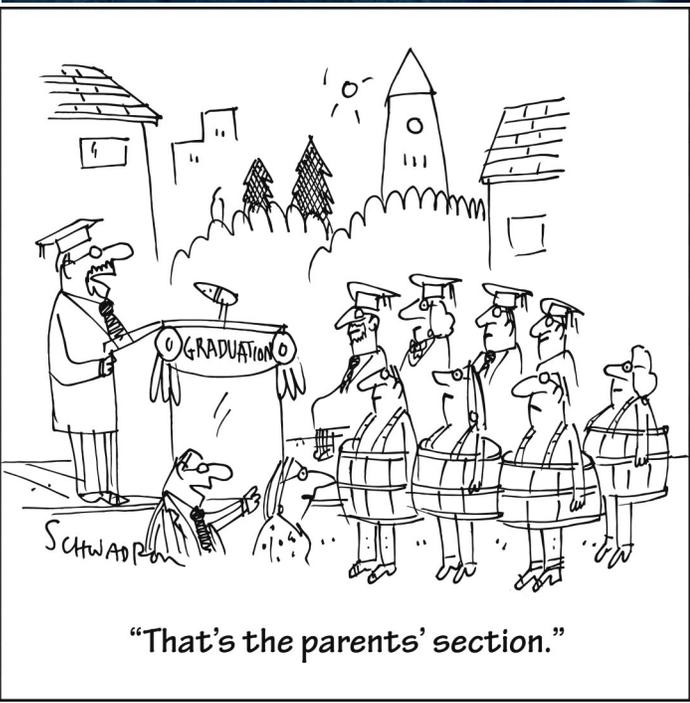
- May 2 - Gloria Simpson  
Krista Guillaume
- May 6 - Scott Kaldenberg
- May 16 - Blake Squire  
Tony Ehler
- May 19 - Joel Mills
- May 20 - Vieng Thongvanh  
Dune Carter
- May 21 - Terry Swihart  
Joe Stonner
- May 22 - Chuck Springer
- May 23 - Gaylon Pherigo
- May 25 - Dick Stiles  
Jack Chadwick



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

You may not always see the results of your kindness but every bit of positive energy you contribute to the world makes it a better place for us all.

- LISA CURRIE -



## 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. If you have questions, please contact Jeff Murphy.



## VBS Needs You

VBS will be July 20-24 and we need volunteers in the areas of teaching, recreation, music and snacks.

Anyone interested can let Ann Leonard know by calling 641-521-2463 or by emailing [annericleonard@gmail.com](mailto:annericleonard@gmail.com).



# Transformation **POWER**

Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly, God transforms us from old to new.

*Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*

BANŶYFONŶE, COHRZISCT, NŶEW,  
CŶREABTIŶOZŶL, COZME, ŶOLŶD,  
GOŶEB, SŶEZŶW, HBERŶE

Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_:

The \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here