

St Luke UMC

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

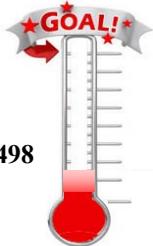
May 1, 2022



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2022 Apportionments

\$14,313



\$2,498

Financial Update



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

Total of \$13,917 which included:

- \$ 1,925 - Building Fund
- \$ 185 - Apportionments
- \$ 100 - UMCOR Sunday
- \$ 22 - Jane Kies
- \$ 140 - Easter Offering
- \$ 100 - UMCOR (Ukraine)



Calling VBS Volunteers!

Warmer weather is just around the corner which means we need to start planning for VBS! Mark your calendar for June 27-July 1 during which St. Luke will host kids to celebrate and learn about God. This year's theme is a really fun one - Food Truck Party ...on a Roll with God.

If you are interested in volunteering, here are the areas we need help:

- 3-4 year olds
- Pre-K
- 1st-2nd grade
- 3rd - 4th grade
- 5th-6th grade
- Snacks
- Registration
- Music
- Recreation
- Crafts
- Drama (help with the set and acting)



If you are able to volunteer in any capacity please contact Ann Leonard at 641-521-2463 or annericleonard@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 8th

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

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 am - 12 pm

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

YouTube: St Luke United Methodist Church

Facebook: St Luke Newton

Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com

2022 Graduates

We are gathering names for any graduate (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 are included. We would also like to include a photo of the graduate if at all possible.

Congratulations
CLASS of 2022



My Story

When I was in Middle School, they had us take an assessment to determine possible career paths. You started with a large block of cards that had holes in rows matching the # of questions. As you answered questions you would slide

a metal peg through the holes and lift up the stack of cards. With each question more and more cards would drop out. After the last question, the cards you had remaining were supposed to help you figure out your future career path. I remember being very disappointed and confused when my remaining cards included various contractor jobs. Things like carpentry and plumbing were in the mix. That did not make sense to my brain at that time.



About 7 or 8 years later, I traveled with my college friends to work on my very first Habitat for Humanity worksite, and suddenly that Middle School career assessment made more sense. I love working with a hammer. I love the smell of fresh cut wood. Who knew!

Many times we think we know ourselves and our wants and needs. We dream and we pray for what we believe we want in our lives. God's answer, however, may be "NO" or perhaps "Not Exactly". When God reveals His plan for us, it is far better than our dreams were to begin with. We may not always understand why God answers with a "No" but we should never stop praying.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Corinne Kleppe



Life-giving Acts

ACTS 9:36-43

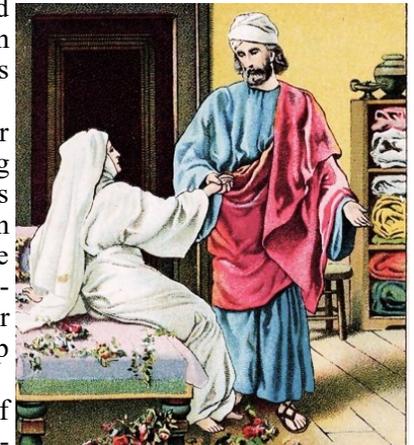
Inspiration by role models whose discipleship is compassionate

When Peter was in Lydda, an inland city, about a 10 hour walk northwest of Jerusalem, he received an urgent message to come to Joppa "as soon as possible." Joppa was a 5 hour walk from Lydda (using today's roads). It was the residence of Tabitha, or *Dorcas* in Greek, a *good woman - devotedly doing good and giving to the poor*. By the time Peter heard of Tabitha's situation she had died of her sickness.

Tabitha's fellow disciples had washed her body and placed her in an upstairs room. When Peter arrived at Tabitha's home he immediately entered the room where she lay. In that room were the many friends of Tabitha, crying and mourning the loss of their dear beloved. All showed the various items of clothing that Tabitha had made for them.

The mourners cleared the room upon Peter's request. Peter knelt and prayed for a while, then turned to Tabitha's body: *Tabitha, get up!*

Tabitha opened her eyes and sat up, looking at Peter. He extended his hand and assisted her in arising. Calling in all the previously removed disciples and widows, Peter "reintroduced" the group to the arisen friend.



News of the miracle of Tabitha spread throughout Joppa, causing many more to believe in the Lord.

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 and wear face masks. The class's emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings.

∞ Lectionary Readings for May 2022 ∞

- **May 1:** Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) | Going Global
To explore encounters of transformation in the story of Saul & Ananias
- **May 8:** Acts 9:36-43 | Life-giving Acts
To be inspired by role models whose discipleship is compassionate in word and deed
- **May 15:** Acts 11:1-18 | Boundary Breaking
To be open to God's call to create a community where all are welcomed
- **May 22:** Acts 16:9-15 | Together in Ministry
To be inspired by Lydia's ministry to engage with others
- **May 29:** Acts 16:16-34 | Liberating Love
To draw strength from the Spirit and the community in challenging situations



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

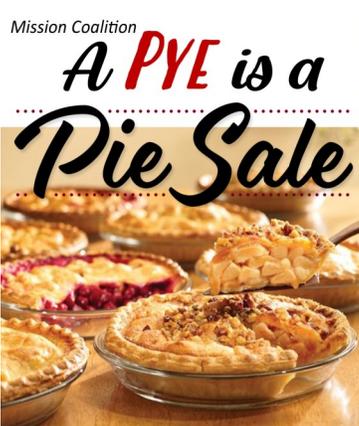
May 18 - 1:15 pm
At St Luke UMC

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

Program: Healing & Joy as We Grow
By: Marianne Spaur
Hostess: Joyce Stonehocker & Jan Lewis

May 18 - Mother's Day
May 20-22 - UMW Assembly, Orlando, FL



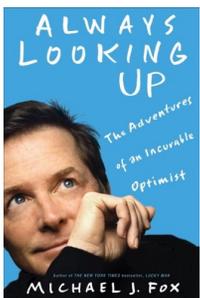
St Luke
United Methodist
Church
Fellowship Hall

501 E. 19th St. N., Newton, IA

Mission Coalition Pie Sale

Mission Coalition is having a pie sale in the St Luke Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 7 from 9 am—1 pm. If you are donating a pie, please bring your pie(s) to Sam's Place at St Luke on Saturday, May 7 between 8 and 8:30 am. Contact Joyce Stonehocker with any questions.

Adult-2 Sunday School Class



The Adult 2 Sunday School class is reading and discussing the book *Always Looking Up* by Michael J. Fox. In this memoir, Michael shares the themes of his life as he deals with Parkinson's Disease. He covers work, faith, and family. "With humor and wit, Michael describes how he became a happier, more satisfied person by recognizing the gifts of everyday life".

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.

Diaper Sewing Days

Our Baby Diaper Sewing Team will meet in Fellowship Hall to cut and sew diapers together on Tuesday and Wednesday May 3rd and 4th from 9 AM till 4 PM. We will be cutting and sewing, but we can also use folks who are willing to turn and press the diapers or even pin them to be ready for the sewing machines. Please bring your sewing machine and basic sewing tools and bring a sack lunch and your own drinks. If you have questions please contact Karen Clark.



Larry and Jane Kies

The Iowa Conference is excited to announce that Larry and Jane Kies will be visiting their supporting churches in Iowa from May 22 to June 22.

An Iowan, Larry retired in 2020 and Jane will retire in September 2022. As agricultural and educational missionaries, the Kies have faithfully served at Africa University for 21 years, and other locations before that.



Global Ministries is not itinerating missionaries due to travel bans and COVID cautionary issues but has given permission for the Kies to visit their Iowa supporting churches. They are scheduled to visit St Luke in Newton on Wednesday, May 25 at 7 pm.

In Mission Together Certificate

Dear Newton St. Luke's Mission Committee, Please accept this **Thank You** certificate for your participation in our **In Mission Together** efforts through yet another difficult pandemic year. Your steadfastness has been remarkable. Several of you lamented at the loss of mission trips, projects and many services and yet you still provided for the 'least of these' as Jesus commanded. Our missions locally and throughout the world succeed because of your generosity.

I have been amazed and encouraged by the stories our churches have shared. Many of you found new ways to be in relationship with others despite the pandemic. I look forward to sharing some of these stories throughout the year. I encourage you to share these stories with your congregation when they appear in the District and Conference newsletters.

In the meantime, CONGRATULATIONS on a job well done!

Kay Oliver
Riverview Park District
Mission Education Coordinator

Certificate is displayed on the bulletin board.

**Executive Summary of the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Results
for Newton, St Luke United Methodist Church
Written by Michaela Craigmile**

St Luke United Methodist Church recently completed the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT). The church had a response rate of 65 people, representing 100% of your average attendance. This gives us confidence that the results discussed here are representative of the entire congregation. We presented an in-depth interpretation of the results to church leaders on April 7th. This summary attempts to share the main insights of the results.

Church Vitality: Energy and Satisfaction

Holy Cow Consulting, the company that produces the CAT, advises that it makes it possible for leaders to “make better decisions in less time with greater confidence.” The CAT gives clarity about where you are as a church so that you can take more informed next steps. As part of the interpretation, we compare your church’s responses to around 2,500 other churches that have taken the CAT in the last 6 years. This allows us to characterize and categorize your church. The goal of any church is to be a vital part of the lives of the congregation and the community. Extensive research has shown that high vitality churches look very different in many ways but share high scores in the CAT measurements of satisfaction, energy, and flexibility.

St Luke UMC scored very high in satisfaction and flexibility and high in energy. These scores put your church in a category that is well positioned to grow and bring more people into a relationship with Jesus but can suffer from becoming complacent.

Your Unique Church: Drivers

The CAT measures the primary areas of focus and the highest areas of expectations for your congregation. These drivers characterize the long-standing DNA of your church or current points of conflict. While answering questions about satisfaction and energy, people in your church focused on the following areas, indicating that when these requirements are being met, your church thrives.

- Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership
- The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content
- When conversing with a person, our Pastor listens for feelings, as well as words and treats feelings as important
- In preaching, our Pastor engages people with a message that enriches their lives in the world
- Our Pastor helps us accomplish our mission by bringing out the best in everyone
- There is not frequently a small group of members that oppose what the majority want to do
- Our church does a good job supporting persons in ministry by reminding them that they are making a difference
- The leaders of our church show a genuine concern to know what people are thinking when decisions need to be made

You might notice some patterns in these drivers. Many of them center around leaders and your pastor, which can lead to a lot of pressure on them, but when their leadership is strong, your church will likely be a high vitality church.

Theological Perspective

The Theological Perspective Index is a measure of how members of the congregation relate to the nature of Scripture and the church's role in society. More conservative congregations have members that believe the Bible is the literal Word of God in matters of faith, history, geography, and other secular issues and that converting people to Christ is the first step in creating a better society. More progressive churches are less likely to be committed to the historic faith and believe that Christian education can have several purposes. This is not a measure of politics and may not coincide with views on today's social issues. Your responses indicate that you are average in theological diversity and more conservative than about 55% of churches. Theological perspective is not closely related to the measurements of satisfaction, energy, and flexibility and is not an indication of good or bad. Congregations across the spectrum can be successful and have high vitality.

Priorities and Social Justice

The CAT asked members where they would like additional energy placed. The responses were then analyzed, and the priorities were ranked. Like 98% of churches surveyed, St Luke UMC's top two priorities were to make changes to attract families and reach new people. These are important but difficult to execute goals, and it is often easier and more fruitful to start by investing in the third priority. The third priority, which is unique to you, is to expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society. Other top priorities also indicate a desire to expand outreach opportunities for healing and community revitalization as well as create opportunities to connect and work on social change. Of the social issues included in the survey, poverty issues were the top choice, with 82% of people believing your church should be advocating for them, followed by environmental causes, immigration issues, and LGBTQ rights, all at around 65%.

Strengths and Weaknesses

St Luke UMC showed many strengths in the CAT. You scored higher than at least 89% of churches in 6 of the 8 indices the CAT measures, including scores above 95% of churches in hospitality, conflict management, governance, and morale. It is important to acknowledge and celebrate your strengths as you have discussions about your next steps. Two places with room for improvement are spiritual vitality and worship and music.

Next Steps: Further Conversations

At the April 7th interpretation, church leaders and interpreters discussed these ideas in more detail, but in general, we would consider St Luke United Methodist Church as a high vitality church, well positioned to take next steps to grow in a way that makes sense for you. As you work to understand these results and decide where to move forward as a church, it is important for the congregation and leaders to be in conversation with each other about how to grow and strengthen current ministries while investing in future ministries. Immediate conversations should cover worship and music, spiritual vitality, and potential outreach ministries.

On a final note, with any assessment or time of self-learning, it is easy to be critical of yourself and others. Instead, we encourage you to adopt a posture of curiosity—listening to God, each other, and yourself. This is an opportunity for discernment, discovery, and growth. This is an opportunity to transform St Luke United Methodist Church into an even better version of itself.

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.” - Isaiah 40:31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:30 am Worship - Communion Sunday School to Follow</p> <p>Golden Cross Sunday</p>  	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9 am - 4 pm Diaper Sewing FH Rsrvd</p> <p>5:30 - 9 pm P.E.O. Meeting FH Rsrvd</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9 am - 4 pm Diaper Sewing FH Rsrvd</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10 am FH Rsrvd Joyce S.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 am - 1 pm Mission Coalition Pie Sale FH Rsrvd</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow</p> <p>HAPPY Mother's Day</p> 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7 pm Page Turners FH Reserved</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>9am-4pm Quilt Guild Sew Day FH Rsrvd</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:15 pm UWF @ St Luke FH Reserved</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 pm Quilt Guild Meeting FH Rsrvd</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Graduation Sunday</p>  <p>12-4 pm FH Reserved Jenni Patty</p> <p>Newton HS Graduation 3:00—4:30 pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir Practice</p> <p>7 pm Larry & Jane Kies Visiting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>FH/Kitchen Reserved Michelle O'Brien</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Last Day of School— Newton Community Schools</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>	 <p>May</p>			

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
May 1	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	Barb Swihart
Reader	Gloria Simpson
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Peg Ehler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	
Counters (2)	

May 8	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters (2)	
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	Rachel Pageler
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	
Counters (2)	

May 15	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark
Coffee Time	Leslie & Bruce Maach
Counters (2)	

May 22	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Reader	Leslie Maach
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Care Core	Jenni Patty
Coffee Time	
Counters (2)	

May Worship Assistants

We are looking for volunteers to be worship assistants for the month of May. If you would like to volunteer 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 new online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to

sign up online:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f571kMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUHXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We still have quite a few openings so please sign up if you are able. We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help. Thank you!

May 29	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Reader	Emily McConkey
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Care Core	Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	
Counters (2)	



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 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



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

Have Household Goods or Furniture to Donate?

Contact Lori Leix



Oh, by the way, don't use the salt.
I'll explain later.



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Monday, May 30th



**May Salvation Army
Food Pantry Request**
Personal care items
Soap, shampoo, tooth care



A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.



son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

1. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _
2. ○ _ _ _ _ _ ○ _
3. _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
4. ○ _ _ _ _ _
5. _ _ _ _ ○ _
6. ○ _ _ _ _ _
7. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _
8. ○ _ _ _ _ _
9. ○ _ _ _ _ _
10. _ _ _ _ ○

ono your _ather and _our mo_h_r,
so t_at y_u may _i_e l_ng in t_e land
the L_RD _ou_ God i_ givi_g you.

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.