

St Luke UMC

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

June 1, 2020



THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2020 Apportionments

\$22,929



\$4,227

Financial Update



These offerings were received in the month of May:

Total of \$11,660 which included:
\$2230 - Building Fund
\$72 - Apportionments
\$37 - Heifer Moolah
\$10 - Larry & Jane Kies
\$20 - St Andrews

June Salvation Army Food Pantry Request



Canned
Meat
& Fish



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
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
Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com



Outdoor Worship Service Sunday, June 7 at 10:30 am

We have missed our wonderful St Luke Church Family! In an attempt to safely gather again for the first time, we are planning an outdoor worship service for Sunday, June 7 at 10:30 am.

Your safety continues to be our number one priority. We will ask that you bring your own lawn chair and spread out to keep six feet of distance between your family and others. We also ask that everyone please wear a mask until everyone is seated. Those who are considered high risk may want to continue wearing a mask during the service as well. Please be safe during this time and continue to properly social distance yourself from others. If this goes well we hope to be able to have another outdoor service soon. You can also bring along your own bread and juice and we will do Communion together.

Please note in case of rain we will plan on moving this service to the following weekend as we cannot move it inside at this time. For those who are unable to attend we will be posting the service online hopefully by 1 pm. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces as we finally worship together again!

We missed you!
(A LOT)

New Sermon Series

We will be starting a new series in June called You Asked For It. In this series, Pastor Chad will be tackling all your questions: fun ones, serious ones, and the ones you've always wanted to ask. This has the potential to be fun and to provide something different during this strange time.



Please help us to get this going by submitting your ideas and questions by email. During this series he may also ask you to be his host in a talk show style conversation. That means that you'll be able to ask the questions, from the silly to the serious, and he will attempt to answer them. Please send us all your questions and let us know if you would be willing to join Pastor Chad for one of these fun sessions.



My Story

I was taking a walk around the pond after work. The air was fresh, and the sound of lawn mowers filled the air. Ahead of me, there was a group of Canadian

Geese on the sidewalk. As I rounded the corner, the adult geese began guiding the young goslings toward the water. The parents protected their young by keeping them between the pair. Once they reached the water the group swam around with the goselings in the mix. The parents were ever watchful. On my next lap around the pond I watched the geese move across the sidewalk and away from the pond, the goselings



still between the parents as they headed away from the water and me. They reached the tall grasses at the bottom of the hill and one parent

kept a watchful eye on the area as the youngsters meandered about. Canadian Geese parents are diligent about protecting their young from danger as they stick together for a season and teach them the important things will need to survive.

It's really not that different for us humans right now. Families are learning again how to stick together and to be diligent in their habits. We are learning what to touch and where to go and how to act in ways to keep us safe. Children are being guided, directed, and protected by their parents, and family units are sticking together for this season of uncertainty. Hopefully we



are also learning new ways to see the love and beauty of God in the world around us.

Teach us Lord, to see your beauty in the midst of our daily lives. Teach us to see your light in the midst of being alone in the darkness. Teach us to feel you and to be your hands in feet in the world around us. Teach us Lord and help us to teach others. Amen

Corinne Kleppe



“Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine.”
—Lord Byron

 <p>St. Luke</p> <p>Seasons OF THE Spirit</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>Sunday School Class meets 9:15 a.m. in the choir room</p>
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Solidarity

MATTHEW 10:24-39

To explore what it means to trust God when facing the challenges of discipleship

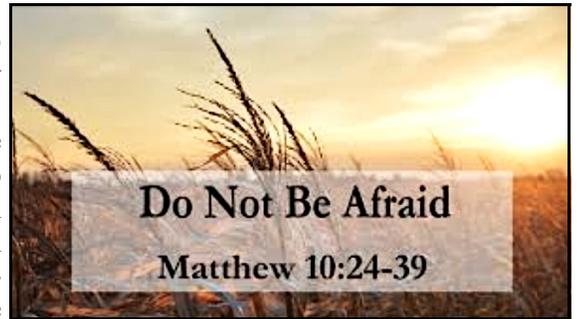
Matthew's passage asks us to make a commitment to stand with those who are of the body of Christ, even if it means denying family and friends.

...don't be afraid of those people because nothing is hidden that won't be revealed, and nothing secret that won't be brought out into the open. What I say to you in darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, announce from rooftops.

WORTHINESS: *Those who love father or mother more than me aren't worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren't worthy of me. Those who don't pick up their crosses and follow me aren't worthy of me. Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them.*

This chapter of Matthew addresses Jesus' teaching about the cost of discipleship and the promise of such. He "warns" that marginalization may come to those who follow God's direction.

How can we bring injustices to light and stand in solidarity with those most impacted by those injustices?



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 June 2020 ∞

- **June 7: Genesis 1:1-2:4a** | The Mountains are Calling
To explore texts that have shaped the community of God's creation.
- **June 14: Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)** | Sacrifice
To trust in God's promise to be with us as we proclaim the good news.
- **June 21: Matthew 10:24-39** | Solidarity
To explore what it means to trust God when facing the challenges of discipleship.
- **June 28: Matthew 10:40-42** | Choosing a Braver Faith
To embrace the risks and rewards of offering hospitality in God's name.



St. Luke News

Our deepest sympathies to Dale Dorrell and his family on the passing of his mother Gladys Dorrell.

**HE GIVES
HOPE TO THE HOPELESS**

(Psalm 34:17-18)

Iowa United Methodist Camps Announce Summer Ministry Plans

The Summer of 2020 is just around the corner and with it comes opportunities to connect in different ways than ever before. Iowa United Methodist Camps are proud to announce “Backyard Camp”, a one-of-a-kind summer program offering from the combined staff at Wesley Woods and Okoboji United Methodist Camps.



Bryan Johnson, Director of Camps and Retreats says “connection with friends old and new is one of the best parts of the camping ministry. While

summer camp can’t happen in the way that it has in the past, we miss seeing you and don’t want to wait a whole year to be together. Backyard Camp is a great way to check in and continue growing together and sharing our love of Christ.”

There are five summer sessions available for campers with different themes and activities for all ages. Backyard Camp is more than just a virtual option, however, as program elements like group bible studies and horses are included, as well as individual time with year-round camp staff and activities to get campers away from the screen. For example, the Wesley Woods Equestrian Center is included with Backyard Camp.

Backyard Camp is open for campers to register today! Recognizing that this is a difficult time for many, Backyard Camp uses a ‘Pay What You Can’ tiered system. “Consistent with any Iowa United Methodist Camp Program, we won’t turn away any camper based on financial need,” says Bryan Johnson. “We believe that if people have the ability to help support camp by funding Backyard Camp at a level that works for them they will. We’re all in this together, after all!”

Registration for Backyard Camp can be found at www.iaumc.org/camps.

“If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life.”

—Author unknown



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



Missions

Right now, there are so many things in our world that are strange, unique and unusual. One thing that has not changed, however, people are still in need of a helping hand. Are you looking for a way to lend a helping hand? You can donate to a mission of your choosing by



**YOU
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

writing a check to St Luke and in the memo line, note the mission you are wishing to help. Here are just a few ideas of places your help would be appreciated:

1. Give funds designated to the Jasper County Salvation Army Food Pantry and help local families who are struggling to put food on their tables.
2. Give funds designated to the Society of St Andrew and help feed people throughout the United States.
3. Give funds designated to Women at the Well United Methodist church and help this mission church serve the needs of the prison ministry.
4. Give funds designated to United Methodist missionaries in Africa – Larry and Jane Kies.
5. Give funds designated to Heifer Project International as they fight hunger and poverty around the world.
6. Give funds designated to Midwest Mission Distribution Center as they meet needs both in the US and around the world.

NOW Missions

Treasure the Present

Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest ... to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.

—Henri Nouwen



A Special Blessing for those with June Birthdays

June 3 - Doris Diamond
 June 9 - Mary Cook
 June 11 - Leslie Maach
 June 15 - Lisa Marston
 June 16 - Tamara Lloyd
 June 19 - Alex Osborn
 June 20 - Stephen Pageler
 June 21 - Brayden Etter
 June 23 - Emily McConkey
 June 24 - Bradley Lind
 June 26 - Jenna McIntyre
 Grant Osborn
 June 28 - Tina Ehler
 Logan Henning



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.



"Their first argument — over whose parents they'll move in with."

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.



Sunday, June 21

Vacation Bible School Update

The VBS planning team has determined that in light of the continuing risk of serious infection of the Covid-19 virus, we will not be having in-person VBS this summer. It was not an easy decision to come to, but the modifications and restrictions necessary for the safety of children and volunteers would make the experience of VBS radically different. We worry about what this might do for future years, but we also worry about how we would feel if someone was hurt by our continuing as we are used to.



We are still looking into the possibility of having an online VBS this year. Cokesbury is hard at work to give churches options for this and as the planning team looks at these options, we will let you know if that will work for us.

For those of you who volunteered to serve, we thank you. We look forward to your participation when we do this VBS theme next summer. Ann will be in touch with you about returning your materials.

Thank you for understanding. I pray that we can return to some form of normal soon and that everyone can remain safe and healthy.

Pastor Chad

