



St Luke United Methodist Church
 Rev Chad Jennings
 501 E 19th Street N
 Newton, IA 50208

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St Luke UMC
 501 E 19th Street N
 Newton, IA 50208
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June 2018



«Mailing Name»
 «Address»
 «City», «State» «F9»

Sunday, June 3:
 8/10:30 am Worship - communion
 9:15 am Sunday School



2018 IOWA CONFERENCE
 The United Methodist Church
June 9 - 11, 2018
 Clergy and Laity Sessions
 on Friday June 8
 Hy-Vee Hall
 Des Moines, IA
CREATING Difference Makers
 In New Communities of Faith
 www.laumc.org/ac2018



Sunday, June 10:
Peace With Justice Offering
 8/10:30 am Worship
 - guest preacher
 Mikey Carter
 9:15 am Sunday School



Wednesday, June 13:
June Newsletter
Articles Are Due



Sunday, June 17:
Father's Day
 8/10:30 am Worship
 9:15 am Sunday School
 6 pm IWIC Worship at Mitchellville



Sunday, June 24:
 8/10:30 am Worship
 9:15 am Sunday School
 11:30 am Pot Luck Luncheon with
 Ice Cream Sundae Bar



Save the Date: VBS 2018
Mon-Fri, July 16-20
9 am-11:30 am
 3 yr olds – just completed 6th grade
 7th grade – adults lead and help



See the article on
 Page 5 for details.
 Registration form on
 the insert, online or
 available at the
 church.



Financial Update

As many of you know, in May, the church congregation voted on a building proposal that the Board of Trustees brought before the Administrative Council. The proposal was for much needed repairs throughout the church building. The proposal was shared with the congregation on several different occasions. In early May, the congregation was asked to vote on the proposal. It passed with a 95% approval.

Work will soon begin on the first phase of the project, with repairs being made to the roof. The rest of the repair/remodel will take place in terms of highest priority. This is not an inexpensive undertaking as was explained during the information session presented by the Trustees. It was decided during a joint meeting by the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee to secure a construction loan so that the work can be started.

You will notice through the year that there will be numerous fund raising opportunities, to help this project succeed. We encourage everyone to prayerfully consider giving to these fund projects as they are presented. At the same time, we have our ongoing expenses to keep St. Luke going on a day to day basis. Of course one of important items is our apportionments, which we like to pay on a regular basis if we can.

Both the Trustees and the Financial Committee, have great faith in the congregation's prayerful and generous giving, and that our goals of general giving and giving to the building project will be met.

Bruce Maach
 Finance Committee

Summer and ice cream, what could be better?

St. Luke NOW committee is hosting a potluck dinner on Sunday, June 24th at 11:30 AM. We are asking everyone to bring a dish to share: a main dish, salad, bread or vegetables. Our dessert will be a build your own ice cream sundae. Peg Ehler is again generously offering Dane's ice cream from Iowa City and all the toppings needed to make a great ice cream sundae. We are asking for a freewill offering for the sundaes with the proceeds going to Vacation Bible School. NOW committee will provide beverages. Join your St. Luke family for food, fun and fellowship at this potluck dinner.



Good News! And The Next Big Thing!

Thanks to your prayerful giving, we have paid our building loan for the remodeling and portico off early! Way to go, St Lukers!

However, our church building is more than 50 years old and needing some work to keep it in good shape for many years to come. The Trustees have been taking a good look at our building and taking note of things that need attention. Number 1 on the list is the roof.

As you know, many roofs in Newton took a beating from a hail storm last June. The church and parsonage took a beating too and there are plans to replace them this summer. The insurance payment covers part of the replacement but not all. Also, the Sanctuary roof has no insulation in it and while the roof is being repaired would be the ideal opportunity to insulate it to help with our heating and cooling costs down the line. Along with the roofs, we will be replacing the gutters which will include leaf guards.



Other items to be updated are: new flooring for the sanctuary, fellowship hall, old entryway and parsonage; replace all windows with the exception of the sanctuary and the 3 new windows from the previous remodel; dry wall and insulate the ceilings of the education wing and new LED lighting. The old glass entryway will be enclosed and insulated. The parsonage will be having kitchen and bathroom cabinets replaced as well as new bathroom fixtures.

Over the years, the people of St Luke have shown how much they care about their church home. We can all be a part of keeping our church in good condition. We will need to keep our donations to the building fund coming in to pay for the upkeep of our church home.

The congregation voted on May 6 to move forward with The Next Big Thing. 75 votes were counted and 95% voted in favor of the project. Thank you for your support of these vital improvements to the church property.



I hear it often. I hear things said on behalf of God that can only be described as bad theology. Sure, when these things are said, they are said with the sincerity of those who want to ease pain and to make things better. But these statements don't make things better. For example, when someone dies, faithful, well-meaning Christians will say something like, "God must have needed them more than we do." Sounds good on the surface.



But not so fast. When we play this out, it turns God into a selfish, self-centered being. It means that God doesn't care how we feel enough to wait another year, or another decade, to take our loved one from us. And I fear that this well-intentioned phrase will cause more harm than good.

Let me be clear: God doesn't need someone more than us. God doesn't need someone in heaven more than we need someone here with us. First, God is timeless and eternal. God doesn't have a need to skip patience and take someone before their time. God already has them as they live.



We say things like this because we need to believe that there is a reason that this person died. It doesn't make sense to us. We need it to make sense. We need to know that God is in control. And so, this thing that happened that is out of our control, this thing that doesn't make sense, must make sense to God and be in God's control.

But the truth is that control is an illusion. We are in control of so little of our lives. We don't control the economy. We don't control the weather. We don't control our health. We don't control the drivers in the cars around us. We don't control the earth.

And while God could control all of these things, God does not. God has chosen some rules to live by based around one very fundamental thing: love rules all. God has set up the world in order to allow love to reign. For love to be true, we have to be able to choose whether or not to love and to be loved. We know that we cannot really love without choice. If I force someone to love me, it is not really love, it is coercion. We call this free will.

Free will means that we have to have the choice to say no to God's love. We must have the ability to make our own choices, however poor those choices may be. We must have the choice to drive too fast and take risks that put others in danger or free will would not exist. Sometimes, this means that the driver that makes these poor decisions kills someone who is in the wrong place at the wrong time and no sense can be made of that.

When this happens, we wonder why. Why did this person have to die? Why did the other driver get behind the wheel? Why did they ignore the speed limit? Why did

God let this happen?

There is no reason that makes sense. It is just tragic.

Does God want this? No.

Did God cause this? No.

Is this in God's plan? No.

Now, I know that when I explain this to people, they recall Romans 8:28, *all things work together for good for those who love God*. This is often misquoted as, God works all things together for good. As in, God causes all things, the good and the bad, for some good purpose. Not quite. God doesn't need someone to die for someone else to be comforted. God can find another way. However, if my experience can help someone, and I am willing to share my experience, then something good may happen.



My father died by suicide when I was 15. That was not God's design. God wouldn't want a 15-year-old boy to lose his father for some future purpose. I believe that God wept with me. I believe that God felt that deeply.

I also believe that when a young man knocked on my door 15 years later, devastated by finding his father dead by suicide, that my experience was vital in comforting this young man. I knew what he was feeling and I could sit in the grief he was experiencing because I had been there.

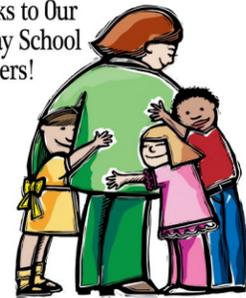
Ultimately, the tragedy in my life became something that brought good to someone else. I am thankful that I could do God's work in that moment. But I don't believe that God orchestrated my father's death for this moment.

God is love, which means that God does not purposefully cause us harm. God only wants the best for us. When that can't happen because of the randomness of this world, God is there to feel our pain with us, and maybe to bring someone into our lives to help us through it.

So, please stop saying that God took someone, or needed someone in heaven. Just say, "I'm sorry. I'm here. I love you." That is the most helpful thing you can say.

Pastor Chad

Thanks to Our Sunday School Teachers!



THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to our Sunday School Teachers for your dedication this past year. The Children's teachers are: Tamara Lloyd, Lisa Marston, Wendy Jennings and Mary Onstot. Adult facilitators are Carolyn Cook and Rose Evans.

June Salvation Army Food Pantry Request
Canned Meat & Fish

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
June 3	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Larry/Darlyne Howard	Jeff/Amy Murphy
Greeters	Bill/Linda Hotger	Karen Clark
Reader	Karen Dorrell	Bruce Maach
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Kleo O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Pat Patty
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Praise Team	Praise Team
Projection	Peg Ehler	Jacob Murphy
Fellowship	Ann/Ben/Caleb Leonard	Katie Jones
Care Core	Barb Swihart	Amy Murphy
Communion	Wendy Jennings	Counters: Deb Stoullil/Rose Evans
June 10	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Dick/Pam Stiles	Marianne Spaur/Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	Tamara Lloyd/Randy Tabor	Sue Crook
Readers	Rose Hartschen	Pat Patty
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Michelle O'Brien
Nursery	Parents take turns	Doug McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	
Special	Allen Barr	Allen Barr
Projection	Brad Patty	Carolyn Cook
Fellowship	Pam Andrews	Leslie Maach
Care Core	Jenni Patty	Lisa Marston
Counters		Brad Patty/Russ Leix
June 17	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Chuck Springer/Jean Schnell	Dennis/Pam Smith
Greeters	Ann/Ben/Caleb Leonard	Lori Leix
Readers	Jenni Patty	Amy Murphy
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Abby Jennings
Nursery	Parents take turns	Volunteer Needed
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special	Skunk River Singers	Skunk River Singers
Projection	Ethan Pageler	Karen Clark
Fellowship	Rose Hartschen	Lisa/Dan Marston
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker	Karen Clark
Counters		Jan Lewis/Barb Kaldenberg
June 24	8 AM	10:30 AM
Ushers	Pageler Family	Doug/Jenna McIntyre
Greeters	Dick/Pam Stiles	Bruce/Leslie Maach
Readers	Barb Kaldenberg	Katie Jones
Acolytes	Ron Lisk	Ushers
Nursery	Parents take turns	Mikey Carter
Keyboard	Bev Thomas	Jan Lewis
Special		
Projection	Peg Ehler	Pam Smith
Fellowship	Jean Schnell	Sue Crook
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg	Marianne Spaur
Counters		Pat Patty/Rose Evans

Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Chad Jennings
chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com
Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867
Adm. Assistant: Shirley Guillaume
Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 1:45-5:45pm
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](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeNewton)

St Luke News

Our deep sympathies to the families and friends of Betty Skaggs and Dolores Mawdsley on the loss of their loved ones.

Congratulations to our St Luke Graduates: Ryan Constant, Bryce Rhone, and Blayden Rhone from Newton High School; Hannah Marston from Iowa State University; and Rachel (Clark) Cole from the University of Iowa.

Thank you to all who donated food or volunteered their time in serving the meal for CFUM at Trinity UMC on April 30.

Joyce Stonehocker

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to CWS (Church World Service)!

Your partnership with CWS and compassion to help those most vulnerable is much appreciated.

For 72 years, CWS has provided help and hope to thousands of families and communities - thanks to caring congregations across the U.S.

Blessings,
Renee Overton, CWS

Thank you for choosing partner with Midwest Mission in Ministry. Your gift will be a blessing to many people in their time of need.

You are a blessing.
Chantel Corrie
Executive Director
Midwest Mission Distribution Center

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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 June			 *Denotes Birthdays! If your birthday is missing or incorrect, contact the office.		1	2 
3 8/10:30 Worship - Communion 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. *Doris Diamond	4	5 F Hall Reserved  ELECTION DAY *****	6 *Kris Reicks	7 6:30 pm Trustees meeting	8	9 *Mary Cook
10 8/10:30 Worship - Guest Preacher Peace With Justice Sunday Offering 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all.	11  SHARE Orders due. Go online, or call First UMC or First Christian. *Leslie Maach	12	13  Newsletter Articles Due 7 pm Page Turners Book Club	14 *Randy Hanson	15 *Lisa Marston	16 *Tamara Lloyd
17 Father's Day 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 6 pm ICIW 	18	19 *Alex Osborn 7 pm Council mtg	20  9 am UMW Cleaning Day @ St Luke *Stephen Pageler	21 7pm Quilt Guild - F Hall	22	23 7:30 am SHARE Pickup @ 1st UMC
24 8/10:30 Worship 9/11:30 Fellowship 9:15 Sunday School Classes for all. 11:30 Potluck & Ice Cream Sundaes 	25	26 *Grant Osborn *Jenna McIntyre 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting	27 8:30 am Collate Newsletter	28  9am-2pm Days For Girls @ 1st Presbyterian Church *Tina Ehler	29	30 

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



**United Methodist Women
June 20, 2018
At St Luke
9 am**

*"Praise be to the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of compassion and the God of all comfort."
2 Corinthians 1:3*

Clean and Organize Day
June 9-11: Iowa Annual Conference
June 10: UMW Gathering at Iowa Annual Conference

Fill the MMDC Truck at Annual Conference

Support the *Midwest Mission Distribution Center* by filling their truck with relief kits and supplies. Bring items to St Luke to be taken to Conference or bring items yourself and stay for the Conference!

These kits and supplies help care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis. They also help to sustain everyday life by providing basic necessities to people who lack ready access to essential supplies.

This year, MMDC is asking for kits of all types, but especially is asking for Layette Kit items - receiving blankets, gowns in 0-6 month size, and cloth diapers.

Other kits of all types and items to put into kits include: Clean-up kits, Health kits, Layette kits, Sewing kits and School kits. Lists with the items for these kits can be found on the MMDC website listed below.

They are also seeking used sewing machines and bicycles for refurbishing.

Visit the MMDC website for more information on this and other mission opportunities at: www.midwestmission.org.

CLEAN. SORT. ORGANIZE

On June 20th at 9 AM United Methodist Women will be meeting at church for a day of cleaning and organizing in the education wing, kitchen and fellowship hall.



A potluck lunch will be shared at noon and work will continue as long as the energy holds out. UMW invites everyone in the church who is available to join us in this day of service for our church family. Come and stay as long as you are available. We would also welcome trustee representation as we do our sorting and purging.

News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

We all feel unprepared when we are faced with the grief of another and none of us really knows what to say. We all want to reach out to one another, but sometimes we don't because we simply don't know how. I found a great little book, easy to read and full of practical ways to help. The book is *A Friend In Grief: Simple Ways to Help* by Ginny Galloway. Galloway, whose ten year old daughter Sara Jane died in a car accident, draws on her own experience and the stories of people she interviewed, whose loved ones died. These people have lived through grief and know first hand what comforts and what hurts. This book has honest answers you might be looking for.



You will find words and actions to reach out and support others with confidence and compassion. Topics include what not to say and why, small things you can do that make a big difference and even suggestions for writing notes as well as how to provide support when you live far away. You can find this book on the shelf along with other books recently featured in the newsletter. Take a minute to check out our little library in the corner.

**Sunday School Mission Offering
Now Through August 2018**

Go Therefore Into All the world... The first Sunday of each month, the Sunday school offering goes toward the supplies needed for Sunday School. The second through fifth Sundays of each month the offering is given to Missions.

The great commission sends us into the world to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Some are called to service right here, where we live. Others are called to serve around the world. Larry and Jane Kies were called to serve in Africa. Our May through August 2018 Sunday School Mission offering will continue to go toward fulfilling our covenant to partner with Larry & Jane in their ministry.



Each year we covenant with Larry & Jane Kies to give \$300 to each of them for their ministry. We are currently more than halfway to reaching our \$600 goal. Thank you to all who give through the 2nd through 5th Sunday school offerings and to those who have given during worship by putting "Larry & Jane Kies" in the memo line. Once we meet our covenant, the NOW committee will choose a new recipient for the Sunday School Mission offering.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW – Missions Chair

June 10 - Peace with Justice Sunday

Moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God's image, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice.

Although you may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace.





My Story

Matthew 7:7 *Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

There is a robin that has been pecking at the windows of the courtyard at Grinnell Mutual this spring. Every day, the bird flutters by the windows, sometimes tapping on the glass. Other times the bird is sitting on the ledge, looking inside at those of us passing by indoors. It is almost as if it is hoping just one person will open the window and let it inside.

That is what God does in our lives too. We tend to attempt to do things all on our own. However, God wants us to invite Him into our troubles, our joys, our struggles and our triumphs. God is persistent in His pursuit of each of us. God taps on our hearts. He looks into our eyes. He wants us to let Him into our hearts and lives. Will you? Have you?



Revelation 3:20 (ESV) *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

Corinne Kleppe - Editor

Adult-2 Class

The Adult-2 Class invites you to join them as they read and discuss the book *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)* by Robert D. Lupton.



If you are looking for a Sunday School class with topical studies, this would be a good class in which to participate. There is always room for more to join the discussion.

TAKE AWAY HUNGER

St Luke UMC to Host Take Away Hunger Packaging Event

Saturday, July 7
9 am - Noon

Form a team of 12 to help fill bags for an hour. Fee is \$30 per person. More Details to Come.

St. Luke BIBLE STUDY
 Seasons of the Spirit
 Sunday School Class meets 9:15 a.m. in the choir room

God's Role for Me

Exploring what it means to trust in God and see ourselves as "chosen" by God:
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

King Saul did not listen to God and obey. Because Saul failed to carry out God's commandments, God sent the prophet Samuel to anoint a future king of Israel. (Imagine how Saul, the current king, would feel if he knew a future king would soon be anointed: Rage? Jealousy? Charging the "conspirators" with treason?) Jesse of Bethlehem was chosen to provide a son as the next king.

From Jesse's (at that time) eight sons, the youngest, David, was eventually chosen by God through Samuel to be the future ruler. Integrated into that "choosing process" when Samuel assumed God would likely pick one of Jesse's older sons, was the communication from God to Jesse: *Humans care only about the external appearance, but the Eternal considers the inner character.* 1 Samuel 16:7b.

Anointed by Samuel with olive oil flowing from a horn, in the presence of his brothers and the elders the unlikely figure of David did emerge as **God's chosen one.**



God invites us to see all through God's eyes, recognizing the various talents all possess in comprising the "body of Christ."

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 to read about and discuss issues related to each week's prescribed lectionary readings. Come join in the learning every Sunday morning -- after the 8 o'clock service, or before the 10:30 service!

Below are the lectionary scriptures that the Sunday school class participants will be learning about each week in June. Even if you cannot come to class, consider taking the time to read those scriptures at home!

◇ Lectionary Readings for June 2018 ◇

(Get to "know" Samuel in the month of June!)

•**June 3:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) | Listening, Speaking, Acting
To recognize and live from a new vision ourselves and the world.

•**June 10:** 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)
Choices and Consequences
To explore issues of leadership.

•**June 17:** 1 Samuel 15:34—16:13 | God's Role for Me
To explore anew what it means to trust in God and see ourselves as "chosen" by God.

•**June 24:** 1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 | What We Know
To explore what we know about courage and power in the light of God's wisdom.

Church Camp Time Is Here!

Which of the "Best Week Ever" camps will you attend? Catalogs are available on the table by the church office. Information can also be found at: www.iaumc.org/camp.



Camperships are available through the St Luke UMWomen; talk with UMW Treasurer Pat Patty or Camp Coordinator Jenni Patty. Financial assistance is also available through Iowa Conference Funding.

Annual Conference

June 9-11

Creating Difference Makers in New Communities of Faith is the theme for the 2018 Iowa Annual Conference session where lay and clergy will gather for the three-day event will be held at the Iowa Events Center/Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines. The 175th annual yearly meeting will feature powerful preaching, inspiring singing, informative teaching sessions, vital reporting, and the reconnection of fellow United Methodists from across the state.



Program Ending

The Campbell's Labels For Education program is ending due to declining participation. We no longer need to collect these labels. Thank you to those who have contributed over the years.



Days For Girls Update

The June meeting of Days For Girls will be held on June 28 from 9 am - 2 pm at 1st Presbyterian Church, Newton. More people are always welcomed. Days For Girls kits are helping to improve the lives of teen-aged girls and women around the world. From the beginning, the Newton IA Team has made and sent 246 standard kits. 27 to Guatemala; 15 to Uganda; 1 to Kentucky; 40 to Zambia; 160 to Haiti. Donations of kit items or monetary gifts are always appreciated.



Questions? Contact Rose Evans or Karen Clark.

One-Room Sunday School

The One-Room Sunday School for children Pre-K through 6th grade will begin on Sunday, June 3. To give our school year teachers a break, volunteers are asked to sign-up to teach for a Sunday or two during the summer.



There is a sign-up sheet on the Servant's Counter for volunteers to choose the Sunday they would like to teach. If you have questions about the program, please talk to Tamara Lloyd.

VBS 2018

Vacation Bible School 2018 is rapidly approaching!!! We are getting very excited for our Rolling River Rampage Adventure from July 16-20! Our mission giving this year will go to Jasper County Take Away Hunger.



We are planning for 100 kids to walk through the doors of St. Luke. Registration sheets are available in the church office and on-line. Please return by July 1st.

Please prayerfully consider helping this ministry. We are specifically in need of:

- 3 year old teacher
- Music leader
- Many helpers



We need the following craft items:

- Small river pebbles
- Popsicle sticks (1200)
- Birdseed
- Elmer's glue (NOT glue sticks)

We need the following items for decorating: (please clearly label items so we can return them to the rightful owner)

- Christmas trees (assembled and without lights)
- Life ring
- Life jackets
- Paddles
- Canoe
- Inflatable raft
- Camping gear
- Tree logs

We need monetary donations to help cover the costs of:

- Classroom curriculum
- Decorations
- Snacks (be watching the servant's counter for specific food donations closer to the week of VBS)
- T-shirts (we have ordered 100 at \$5 each)



HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. LUKE ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE VBS!!!!

Free Breakfast & Lunch

Fuel up for Summer Fun. Eat Smart. Play Hard. Weekdays, June 4 - July 27 (Closed on July 4th)
Breakfast: 7:40-8:40 am @ Emerson Hough only
Lunch: 11 am - 12:20 pm @ Emerson Hough, Berg Middle School and the High School.
Open to all children age 1 - 18 years old.

