

# St Luke UMC

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

July 1, 2023



# THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

## 2023 Apportionments

**\$15,279**



\$2,374

## Financial Update



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

Total of \$12,209 which included:

- \$ 490 - Building Fund
- \$ 245 - Apportionments
- \$ 35 - Peace with Justice Sunday
- \$ 92 - Heifer Project
- \$ 40 - UMCOR Ukraine
- \$ 100 - UMCOR
- \$ 10 - Mobility Worldwide
- \$ 20 - Emmanuel Mefor

## Mission Kit Supplies Collection: 2023

Each year we collect items that will complete kits of different types. In years past we have delivered these items to the fall Ingathering. The past 2 or 3 years we have held these items and delivered them to Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) directly when our team travels there in January or February.

This year we will begin by collecting items that will one day become a part of a school kit. In July we will collect the following items:

- Unsharpened Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Boxes of 12 colored pencils
- Erasers – 2 inches or larger
- Boxes of 24 crayons



Items can be placed in the “Ingathering” Basket on the Mission table at St Luke.

There will also be two separate kit lists on the Mission table. The “Ingathering Kits” and the “MMDC Kits” You are welcome to bring items that could be used in any of the listed kits. All kit items are welcome. Thank you in advance.

Corinne Kleppe NOW Missions



## Where to Find Us

**Pastor:** Rev. Chad Jennings  
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**Article Submission** by the 13th of month.

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**Website Manager:** Stephen Pageler

**YouTube:** St Luke United Methodist Church

**Facebook:** St Luke Newton

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

## Missionary Highlight July through October 2023 Emmanuel Mefor

(Global Missionary Advance # 13990z)

Dr. Emmanuel Mefor serves as a Medical Doctor with Mutambara Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe. It is the only hospital in the Chimanimani region serving over 140,000 people with only three doctors. Dr. Mefor and the staff provide medical care to all who come regardless of ability to pay. Dr. Mefor says that in his mission, "We treat but God heals."

Our Sunday School offerings for the second through fifth Sundays from July 9 through October 29. You are welcome to add your donations to those funds, by putting Emmanuel Mefor on the memo line of your check and placing it in the offering plate. (note: the first Sunday of each month the Sunday School offering goes towards Sunday School administration costs.)



Corinne Kleppe NOW Missions



## My Story

As a child, did you ever pick a handful of dandelions to give to your mom? Did you ever make a dandelion chain or crown? Or perhaps you made a wish on a dandelion before blowing the seeds into the air. For a child, dandelions are a beautiful gift and a source of wonder. For many adults, however, they are a frustrating weed that does its best to take over our lawns.



No matter how we feel about dandelions, there are things we can learn from them. We can learn to go where the winds of faith blow us. We can learn to send down deep roots and hold our ground. We can learn to thrive in even the toughest environment. We can grow and change and move as we are designed.

<sup>7</sup> *Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before. Colossians 2:7*

Corinne Kleppe



## Struggle

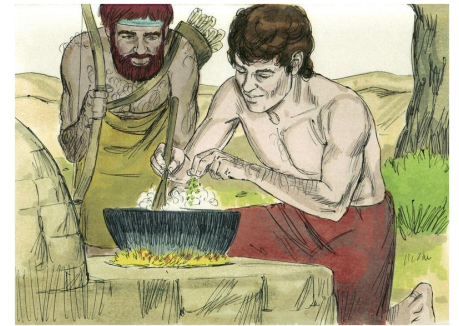
Genesis 25:19-34

*Navigating the tensions and struggles of communal life*

Abraham and Sarah parented a son named Isaac. When forty years of age Isaac prayed for his wife Rebekah who was childless. God eventually answered his prayer with twins in her womb: "...the older will serve the younger."

Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth. Their first born, Esau, was red with a hairy body. Jacob, the second, was born grasping Esau's heel. Esau grew up to be an outdoorsman and Jacob was content to stay at home. Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

One day Esau came in to their encampment, weary and hungry, asking Jacob for some stew. Jacob demanded Esau first sell his birthright. Overpowered by hunger, Esau replied, "What good is the birthright to me?" He then swore an oath in selling his birthright.



In return Jacob gave Esau some bread and stew which Esau devoured, and afterwards proceeded on his way.

To learn of the future competitions between Esau and Jacob be sure to read **Genesis 27**: Jacob, with his mother Rebekah, conspired against Esau!

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings, after the 9:30 church service.

### •Lectionary Readings for July 2023•

•**July 2:** **Matthew 10:40-42** | Welcoming Community  
*To embrace the risks and rewards of offering hospitality in God's name*

• **July 9:** **Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67** | Choose  
*To find strength and comfort in the knowledge that God accompanies us on life's journeys*

• **July 16:** **Genesis 25:19-34** | Struggle  
*To seek God's counsel while navigating the tensions and struggles of communal life*

• **July 23:** **Genesis 28:10-19a** | Blessed  
*To be open to the mystery of God's leading and presence in our times of vulnerability*

• **July 30:** **Genesis 29:15-28** | Transform  
*To discern the surprising and persistent ways in which God works among us.*



## Bible Quiz

In what land and at what age did Moses die?

- A. The land of Israel; 100 years old
- B. The land of Canaan; 70 years old
- C. The land of Moab; 120 years old
- D. The land of Judah; 102 years old



Answer: C (See Deuteronomy 34:5, 7)





United  
Women  
in Faith

## United Women in Faith

July  
No Meeting

*"I can do everything through Christ  
who give me strength." (NLT)*  
Philippians 4:13

### Collection of Socks and Underwear For The Salvation Army

United Methodist Women now United Women in Faith have been collecting socks and underwear for distribution through the Salvation Army for many years. We are changing the collection period to June and July so we can get our contributions to the Salvation Army prior to their distribution to families in August. A collection box will be in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



### Days For Girls

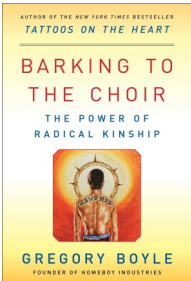
The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, July 27 from 9 am - 2 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans. If you would like more information about Days for Girls you can visit their website at [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org).



### Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class is reading and discussing the book *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Gregory Boyle. If you are familiar with *Tattoos on the Heart* or *The Whole Language*, you will enjoy reading Gregory Boyle's 2nd book in this series. In a nation deeply divided and plagued by poverty and violence, *Barking to the Choir* offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins. Sergio, arrested at age nine, in a gang by age twelve, and serving time shortly thereafter, now works with the substance-abuse team at Homeboy to help others find sobriety. Jamal, abandoned by his family when he tried to attend school at age seven, gradually finds forgiveness for his schizophrenic mother. New father Cuco, who never knew his own dad, thinks of a daily adventure on which to take his four-year-old son. These former gang members uplift the soul and reveal how bright life can be when filled with unconditional love and kindness.

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.



## God's Got You

In Roman 4 Paul writes: *"If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ... For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace"* (v. 14, 16, NRSV). Here and elsewhere, Paul firmly explains that we are saved through God's grace, or unconditional love, made known most profoundly in Jesus Christ. But this passage raises a question: If belief (trust, faith) reckons us as righteous before God, what if we don't trust, can't believe, have lost all faith?

Pastor Martin Luther (1483-1546) assures us that even this is a gift of God: "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead *the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith*" (*The Small Catechism*; emphasis added). Later in Romans, Paul declares that when we feel so lost (unbelieving, lacking in faith) that we don't even know how to pray, the *"Spirit himself intercedes for us"* (8:26, NIV). Rest assured, dear one: God's got you.

*Trust God,  
He's got you!*

—Heidi Hyland Mann

### St Luke Produce Table

Bring produce or take produce in exchange for a free-will donation in the Red Bucket for St Andrew Produce Project.



### It's a Miracle!

I believe in miracles. While I believe in the possibility, under God, of any kind of miracle, I am committed especially to the miracle of the changed life. When a human being goes from despair to hope, when a lost soul comes home, or when a mean and destructive person becomes kind and fruitful, the greatest of all miracles has occurred.

—J. Ellsworth Kalas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <b>9:30 am Worship w/ Communion</b>  <b>Adult Sunday School to Follow</b>	3	4  <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> Office Closed	5	6 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	7	8
9 <b>9:30 am Worship Adult Sunday School to Follow</b>	10 6:30 pm Monday Night Study Group via Zoom	11 6:30-8:30 pm TTT - KEN FH Rsrvd	12 7 pm Page Turners FH Rsrvd	13 	14	15
16 <b>9:30 am Worship Adult Sunday School to Follow</b>	17 6:30 pm Monday Night Study Group via Zoom	18	19	20 6:30 pm Quilt Guild Meeting FH Rsrvd	21	22
23 <b>9:30 am Worship Adult Sunday School to Follow</b>	24 6:30 pm Zoom Study Group 6:30 pm JCRCC FH Rsrvd	25	26	27 9am - 2pm Days for Girls @ 1st Presbyterian Church	28	29 12 - 8 pm FH & Kitchen Rsrvd Kalden- bergs
30 <b>9:30 am Worship Adult Sunday School to Follow</b>	31					

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

<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</b>	
<b>July 2</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters	Leslie & Bruce Maach
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Peg Ehler
Camera	Wendy Jennings
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg
<b>July 9</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Carolyn Cook
Greeters	Amy Onstot
Reader	Rose Evans
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Amy Onstot
<b>July 16</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	Pam Andrews
Reader	Leslie Maach
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Bruce & Leslie Maach
<b>July 23</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers (2)	Dennis & Pam Smith
Greeters (2)	Barb Swihart
Reader	Mary Onstot
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	

## July Worship Assistants

For 2023 we are trying something new with our worship assistant sign up. We would like to see more of our volunteer position filled so we have decided to start passing around sign-up



sheets for 3 months at a time. We had another wonderful response for our July-Sept. volunteers and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up.

Most positions are filled now through Sept. 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](mailto: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/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSz0XUhXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help. Thank you!

<b>July 30</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Pam Andrews & Rose Evans
Greeters	Brad & Jenni Patty
Reader	Jenni Patty
Acolyte	Payton & Brenna Figland
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Tamara Lloyd
Coffee Time	Michelle O'Brien

## The Gladdest Thing of All

Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all. Amen, and come Lord Jesus.



—Frederick Buechner,  
*The Clown in the Belfry*

## 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 July Birthdays

- July 1 - Brenna Figland
- July 4 - Mike Spaur
- July 6 - Mike O'Brien
- July 12 - Brooke Chambers
- July 14 - Eli Swersie
- July 15 - Audrey Boleyn
- July 17 - Ralph Simpson
- July 19 - Corinne Kleppe
- July 21 - Bill Ponder
- July 22 - Madison Bleeker
- July 24 - Danny Anthony
- July 26 - Holli Simpson
- July 27 - Emmett Andrews
- July 29 - Doug McIntyre



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

Happy **27th** Anniversary!

To Pastor Chad and Wendy on July 6!



## Have Household Goods or Furniture to Donate?

Contact Lori Leix



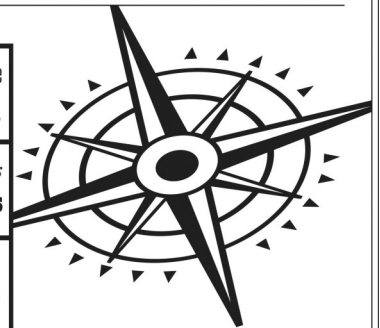
July Salvation Army Food Pantry Request  
Fresh Fruit & Vegetables

## PUZZLE SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion. What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

FROM	NORTH	at the
as is	from far	EAST FROM
can	far	FROM
is South	do	the THIS
AS	far EAST	up AS
WEST	far down	THE
THAT is East	WEST	be AS West



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west