

St Luke UMC
501 E 19th Street N
Newton, IA 50208
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October 16, 2020



THE BI-WEEKLY
Flame
CATCH THE FIRE!



We're Coming Back (Inside)

I don't have to tell you...it's been too long. It's been a long and hard road through this pandemic. We've been dealing with the distancing and the protective measures for so many months that this has become our new normal.

We aren't out of this yet, and won't be for several months, but it is time to get a piece of normality back. I'm talking about in-person worship. While being outside has been nice (and safer), I am ready to get back inside and worship together.



But I'm also a bit nervous. There are so many of us with pre-existing conditions that put us at more risk from Covid-19 infection. Therefore, as we get ready to come back inside for worship, we must agree to care for each other with several precautions. So, here's the plan:

- 1. One service.** For the foreseeable future, we will have just one service. The best practice for mitigating any lingering virus is time. By having one service, we can maximize the amount of time between people touching common surfaces.
- 2. Masks.** The best precautionary measure is the wearing of face coverings. I will admit that I don't like wearing them, but a little discomfort on my part to protect those I love is worth it. I love all of you. I know you love each other. So, we will show that love by wearing masks while we are together.
- 3. Spacing.** As much as we want to be like we always are, we need to maintain space. I don't have any plans to block off pews at this time, but I am going to ask for ushers to seat us to maintain space. This will allow for flexibility for folks who come by themselves and those who come with four in their family to find a space where they can sit and still be separate from the next family unit. Please cooperate with the ushers and each other to honor this important piece of the puzzle.

We will also provide extra space by providing alternate worship space. If there are a few folks that need overflow space, we will set up some chairs in the welcome area just outside of the sanctuary. If more space is needed, or if there are more than a few people, the Fellowship Hall is set up to receive the livestream of worship. In this space, you will still be a part of the worshipping body.

- 4. New elements.** In order to maintain safety and unity between the worship spaces, we will be shifting how we do announcements and prayer sharing. The livestream audience cannot participate unless someone with a microphone speaks whatever is said. In the outdoor service, we experienced this as I repeated everything that was said. Unfortunately, I don't always get all the information right. To help with this, I will have you write down the things that need to be communicated. There will be announcement cards and prayer cards available in each worship space. These will be brought to me by an usher so that I can relay that information. The prayer card will have several lines for your prayer. Please include whatever information you want shared. There will also be a place for you to choose how the prayer is to be shared. If you check the box for share today, I will say the request out loud during the service. If you choose the confidential box, I will only share it with the prayer team for prayer throughout the week. There will also be a place to share birthdays and anniversaries on this card.

I believe that if we are respectful of each other and careful in our interactions, we can worship together safely. However, if I must quarantine for any reason, we may have to make alternate arrangements or cancel worship for the week. If that happens, we will communicate at the earliest possible time through the text system and our Facebook page.

Thank you for your understanding and your commitment through this time. I am grateful for your continued support as we give this next phase a try.

See you at the last outdoor worship on October 25 (for this season) and at our first indoor service on November 1.



Outdoor Worship Service Sunday, October 25 at 9:30 am

Be sure and join us for our last outdoor service on Sunday, October 25 at 9:30 am. 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. In case of rain or extreme cold we will cancel the outdoor service as we plan to open back up for indoor services starting Sunday, November 1.

For those who are unable to attend we will be live streaming our services on YouTube. You can watch live with us at home by going to our St Luke United Methodist Church YouTube page at 9:30 am on the day of the service and look for the LIVE video. Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel to make sure you don't miss any of our future videos. We hope you can join us in person or LIVE!



Online Sermon Series

We will continue with our You Asked For It series through October. In this series, Pastor Chad and Joel will keep tackling all your questions: fun ones, serious ones, and the ones you've always wanted to ask. Please continue to submit your ideas and questions by email to: worship@stlukenewton.com. Be sure to check our St Luke United Methodist Church YouTube channel or Facebook page for new videos on the weekends we are not having our outdoor services.



Thank you!

Thank you to all who donated this year to Larry and Jane Kies, our Missionaries. We have met our 2020 Covenant with Larry and Jane Kies. Once again. Thank you.

Corinne



PERSONAL DIGNITY KITS for MMDC

Personal Dignity Kits (PDK's) are sent out from MMDC for a variety of reasons. Your house is flooded in a natural disaster... A tornado or a derecho causes you to lose all or part of your home... a hurricane makes land-fall in your neighborhood... the list goes on. We can help MMDC with this mission by collecting the items that fill a PDK. Here is the complete list of items in a PDK:

- 1 Bath Hand Towel – No kitchen towels
- 1 Bath Washcloth – No kitchen dishcloths
- 1 Adult Tooth Brush – No multipacks
- 1 Toothpaste – 2.5 oz. or larger
- 1 Comb – sturdy - no rattail or picks
- 1 Bar Soap – 3-4 oz.
- 1 Razor – with guard
- 1 Shampoo – 15-18 oz
- 1 Nail Clippers – no files or emery boards
- 1 Deodorant – 2-3 oz. stick, roll on, or pump
- 10 Band-Aids – 3/4" x 3"

This year, we will be collecting the items (once we are back in our building), however, I will not be delivering them to the Ingathering this November. Since I will not have time to count and verify the PDK's and School Kits before the Ingathering, we will instead be organizing the items and delivering them to MMDC directly when we go to Chatham early next year. In the mean time, keep gathering the items and we will collect them once we are back in our building. Thank you in advance.



Corinne Kleppe
NOW Missions

Trips to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in 2021

We have two trips to MMDC scheduled in 2021. These dates were secured in 2019 long before we ever knew a pandemic was on the horizon. We have until No-

Midwest Mission



Distribution Center

ember to cancel our dates, so I would like to know by the end of October who is willing or planning to go. Our dates are January 24-27 and February 21-24. We will leave after church Sunday and return on Wednesday evening after working at the center and staying in their dorm. We will work together and live together. It has always been a wonderful time of Christian living and doing the Lord's work. Please let Karen Clark know by October 25 if you are interested or planning to attend one or both of these trips.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Nov. 1		9:30 AM	
Ushers (3-4)	Jeff Murphy, Amy Murphy, Corinne Kleppe, Jenni Patty		
Greeters (2)	Ann Leonard, Ben & Caleb Leonard		
Keyboard	Bev Thomas		
Projection (1)	Ethan Pageler		
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy		
Counters (2)	Rose Evans		
Communion	Pastor Chad		
Nov. 8		9:30 AM	
Ushers (3-4)	Dennis Smith, Pam Smith, Dale Dorrell		
Greeters (2)	Ann Leonard, Caleb Leonard		
Keyboard	Bev Thomas		
Projection (1)	Ben Leonard		
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston		
Counters (2)			
Nov. 15		9:30 AM	
Ushers (3-4)			
Greeters (2)	Jeff Murphy, Amy Murphy		
Keyboard	Bev Thomas		
Projection (1)	Deb Stoullil		
Care Core	Joyce Stonehocker, Karen Clark		
Counters (2)			
Nov. 22		9:30 AM	
Ushers (3-4)			
Greeters (2)	Shirley Guillaume, Rose Evans		
Keyboard	Bev Thomas		
Projection (1)	Ethan Pageler		
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg, Jenna McIntyre		
Counters (2)			
Nov. 29		9:30 AM	
Ushers (3-4)			
Greeters (2)			
Keyboard	Bev Thomas		
Projection (1)			
Care Core	Tamara Lloyd, Jenni Patty		
Counters (2)			

November Worship Assistants

As we start to worship indoors again we are trying something new with our worship assistants. Things have changed since we were last inside and we want our church family to feel as safe and comfortable as possible moving indoors. Instead of assigning church members we are asking for volunteers for the month of November.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

We have already had quite a few sign-up but we still have some open spots. If you would like to volunteer you can sign-up on the link that was emailed out or email the church office at worship@stlukenewton.com and we will put you on the schedule. We appreciate everyone who has so willingly volunteered to help. If this works well we may continue with the online sign-up and add or adjust positions as needed. Thank you!

THE ROOT OF JOY IS GRATEFULNESS...

IT IS NOT JOY THAT MAKES US GRATEFUL;

IT IS GRATITUDE THAT MAKES US JOYFUL. ♥

—DAVID STEINDL—RAST

St Luke News

Thank you so much for the sweet letter and candy. It is always so nice to receive a package in the mail. Even with Covid-19, college is going well and I'm liking my classes. I miss the St. Luke family.



Thanks again,
Jacob Murphy

Learning From Autumn Leaves

Every fall, I marvel at the beautiful leaves, studying the intricate shapes and God's creative, colorful displays. Despite its deterioration, the foliage reveals splendor — mere months after bursting out in spring and providing summer shade.

I often think I'm like an autumn leaf. Through many seasons, God has transformed me from a self-absorbed person to one who trusts his steadfast promises. Winter is approaching for me too. Yet the Holy Spirit keeps molding me to reflect God's goodness and beauty. During the autumn of my life, I pray that God helps me embrace changing seasons while reflecting his love and light to all.

—MaryAnn Sundby



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.





FLOOD. FIRE. WIND. COVID-19.

What’s the one thing that is the same for every disaster? The compassionate and caring response of God’s people.

For 80 years, and in this unprecedented time of one disaster after another, UMCOR has been swift to offer relief and is committed to the fullness of recovery. Support the immediate needs of disaster response in the United States.

Please give.

<https://www.umcmmission.org/umcor/serve/us-disaster-response>



**All Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 1**

We will be recognizing and remembering people from our families that have died in the past year.



Where to Find Us

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Tuesday, November 3

Just Be — and Be Still

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: “I am a human being, not a human doing. It’s okay to just *be* sometimes.” Many of us get anxious if we think we’re not *doing* enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it’s not a waste of time to just be: “To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most.”

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus’ spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and “do.” Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

It’s sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just be. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God’s presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. “In quietness and trust is your strength”

(Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

