St Luke UMC

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

November 1, 2024

BI-WEEKLY

THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

2024 Apportionments

$16,882

Financial Update

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

Total of $15,398 which included:
$ 160 - Building Fund
$ 275 - Apportionments
$ 1 - St Andrews
$ 74 - World Communion Sunday
$ 695 - UMCOR US Disaster Resp.
$ 40 - UMCOR Ukraine

Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Mark Johnson
mark.johnson@stlukenewton.com
Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 563-249-3287
Adm. Assistant: Jennifer Etter
Church Office Hours:
Mon -Thurs 9:00 am - 12:00 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

All Saints Sunday - Sunday, November 3

We will be recognizing and remembering St Luke members and people from our families that have died in the past year during our 9:30 am worship service.

Mission Highlight
UMCOR National Disaster Recovery
Hurricane Relief/Recovery

Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc along the East coast of the US, leaving piles of debris in its wake. Two weeks later Hurricane Milton stormed its way across the golf of Mexico toward Florida. The cleanup from Helene was still in progress, and that meant Milton had a lot of extra piles to throw around. Also, in the wake of Hurricane Milton, the state of Florida has the added danger of alligators and snakes in locations they are normally not seen.

Yes, the government sends assistance, but so can we. By giving to the UMCOR National Disaster Recovery fund we can be sure that our "help" is not going to be a part of the secondary disaster (that of giving material products that do not truly meet the needs of the area). By giving to the UMCOR Response, our dollars are added to those of other United Methodists, to help in the relief and recovery phases. Money given to UMCOR goes to where the help is most needed.

To give to this recovery effort, just put "UMCOR – hurricane recovery" on the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate.

Corinne, NOW Missions

My Story

"It could be a glove…it could be a hat… it could be a microphone…it could be a cup!" My friend Jeff went through this list as we walked a block to the convenience store. With each "it could be" he moved his refillable cup from his hand to his head and on and on. All, of this silliness, was an effort to make me laugh. Good friends, bring a lightness into our lives. They help us to find joy and silliness in our world.

But make everyone rejoice who puts his trust in you. Keep them shouting for joy because you are defending them. Fill all who love you with your happiness. Psalm 5:11 TLB

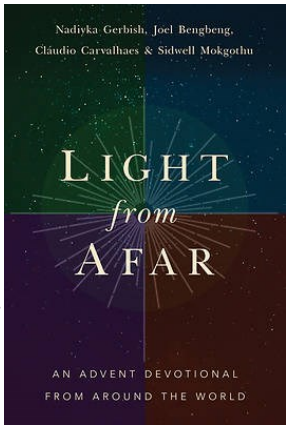
A friend who brings us joy and laughter… fills our "cup" with peace and happiness. Jesus, our friend, brings us even more joy when we learn to trust in Him.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 – MEV

It is the season of Thankfulness… Be thankful for the friends in your life who bring you Joy, Laughter and Hope. Happy Thanksgiving!

Corinne Kleppe

Advent Study



We will be doing an Advent Study via zoom starting December 2. It will be on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. We will be reading the devotional "Light from Afar" by Nadiyka Gerbish, Joel Bengbeng, Claudio Carvalhaes & Sidwell Mokgothu. Books are $14. Sign up at the servant's counter if you are interested in joining this study or if you just want a book to read this devotional on your own.

St Luke News

Our deepest condolences and prayers go out to Kathy Trotter and family on the passing of her husband Jack Trotter.

Our sympathies and prayers go out Russ and Lori Leix on the passing of Lori's sister-in-law Esther Dolphin.

Christmas Decorating Day at St Luke Sunday, November 24

Join us after worship on Sunday, November 24 to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season. This will be a time of Fellowship, Fun and Festive Decorating. Hope to see you there!

Mowing & Plant Watering Thank You

The colder weather is upon us and watering and mowing is behind us for the summer. Thank you for your volunteering and stewardship in maintaining the beautification around our church. It is appreciated by us all!

St. Luke United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark R. Johnson, Pastor

Friends of St. Luke,

I hope this message finds you well, filled with the peace and joy of Christ.

Over the past several months, it has been a joy for my family to get to know our new church family. We are deeply grateful for the love and support we've felt during this time of transition. Your hospitality has truly meant the world to us as we settle into new routines in this wonderful community.

As we continue with fall and harvest season, a time when the church reflects on God's blessings, we are reminded of the importance of sharing those blessings with others. This season invites us to be generous stewards of all we have been entrusted with.

With that in mind, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your generous support of our church. Whether through your time, talents, or financial gifts, your dedication reflects our shared calling to be stewards of God's mission.

Generosity is not just for today; it reaches beyond. The faith we have now was made possible by the generosity of those before us, and now we extend that same gift to future generations. Each act of giving builds a legacy that will bless this church and community for years to come.

When you give, you are not just supporting today's ministries—you are planting seeds for tomorrow. Your gifts ensure that St. Luke remains a place of hope, love, and transformation for many years ahead.

Stewardship is an act of faith and a way of leaving a legacy that reflects the values we hold dear. I am thankful to serve alongside you and witness the profound impact your generosity has on our shared mission.

As we move forward, I encourage you to reflect on the legacy we are building together. Each gift leaves a lasting mark, not only on this church but on the lives of those we touch. Your faithfulness today is shaping the future, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

Thank you for your partnership in this journey of faith and for being part of a legacy of love, hope, and service.

With heartfelt gratitude and prayers of blessing,

Rev. Mark R. Johnson
St. Luke United Methodist Church

501 E 19th St. N, Newton, IA 50208 Phone: 641-792-5736 worship@stlukenewton.com

United Women in Faith

November 20 @ 1:15 pm
St Luke

"Be joyful always. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (NIV)
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

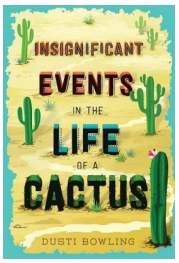
Program: Favorite Dish Potluck
By: Jan Lewis
Hostess: Marianne Spaur

Bring Your Thank Offering.

Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class is currently reading and discussing the book *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling.

Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.



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 at 10:30 am (following worship) in Room 5, the 3rd room on the left, in the education wing.

Weather Cancellation Policy

If school is cancelled/dismissed early due to weather, then St. Luke activities are cancelled that day/evening as well. Sunday Worship is rarely cancelled. Check our Facebook page and watch for text messages for announcements. If the weather and road conditions are questionable, use your best judgement and be safe.

"Prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God." —Teresa of Avila

Mission Coalition Thank You

Mission Coalition would like to give a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our bake sale! Thank you to those that donated pies, helped with the bake sale and for everyone that came out and bought some of our delicious baked goods. Thank you again St Luke from Mission Coalition.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

Each year The Salvation Army of Jasper County located in Newton serves approximately 300 people in the community. The individuals and families they assist count on them to provide food boxes, back to school supplies and Christmas toy shop and so much more.

Starting November 14 The Salvation Army's red kettles will be located outside a variety of stores and businesses throughout the area. Volunteers stand near the kettle and ring a little bell to capture the attention of people passing by. Many people see them and put money in the kettle or donate to The Salvation Army using their phone.

This year The Salvation Army is in need of bell ringer volunteers. Volunteers can pick the day, time and location where they will be stationed. They can even check back later to see how much money they raised during their shift! Individual registration is quick, easy and available online at www.registertoring.com.

November/December Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, November 21 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.

Mat Mondays

In Newton, Iowa, the **Looms of Love** programs is making a delightful difference!

This heartwarming resourcefulness program involves the entire community. Coming together to create **sleeping mats** for those who find themselves homeless. Volunteers process plastic shopping bags into these durable mats, providing comfort and warmth to those in need. It's like a cozy hug wrapped in recycled love! And guess what?

You can join the mission coalition on Mondays from 1pm-3pm at the First Christian Church in Newton, where we work on creating these mats. Your contribution could make a significant impact!

Let's weave some kindness together!

United Methodist Student Day Offering Sunday, November 24

Across the country, the people of The United Methodist Church are serving the people God loves in Jesus' name.

Right now there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously you are supporting these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together. Together, we're raising up gifted Christian leaders. Will you give to United Methodist Student Day?

Mission Coalition is Collecting Hy-Vee Receipts for Discover Hope

Do you save your Hy-Vee receipts? We hope so because Newton Hy-Vee wants to give back to the community through DH!

Bring your Newton Hy-Vee receipts dated January 17, 2024, through January 17, 2025, and if they make it to $100,000.00, Hy-Vee will donate $1000 to Discover Hope 517!

This includes catering, floral deliveries, prescription purchases, filling up at the fuel pump - anything!

You can drop off receipts at St Luke by putting them in the Hy-Vee receipt container outside the office or you can also bring receipts directly to Discover Hope.

So start saving those receipts STARTING TODAY!

Jasper County Hunger Relief

The next packaging event for Jasper County Hunger Relief will take place on Saturday, Nov. 2 at Lynnville Friends Church. We would like to organize a team of 12 volunteers to package meals at the event. They ask for a donation of $35 per person to help cover the cost of the food packaged. If you are interested in volunteering or making a monetary donation to help cover the cost for our volunteers, please sign up at the servant's counter or contact Peg Ehler no later than Oct. 27.

Receipts from Redemption Container

The deposits in the redemption container in the northwest corner of the parking lot are continuing to help fund our apportionments. As of January through September, 2024 proceeds from the collections have netted $341.15. Thanks for your continued contribution to this cause.

Roy and Pat Patty, representing the Sunday School class that meets in Room 2.

Hungry for Jesus

Many residents of first-world countries avoid true physical hunger, grazing at the slightest stomach rumble. Spiritually, the opposite is common. Many people run on empty, unaware of or rejecting Jesus' free gifts of grace, love and abundant life.

In her Magnificat, Mary proclaims, "He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:53, NIV). To be filled with Jesus, first we must empty ourselves and hunger for him. But what does that look like?

At Bible.org, pastor Steven J. Cole writes, "Starving people aren't interested in new smart phones or computers, unless they can somehow sell them to buy food. Hungry people have one focus — where to find food. It consumes their whole existence. … That's how we should hunger for God!"

Spiritual hunger leads to a feast of God's blessings. He generously gives us gifts that overflow into the lives of others. So let's share Jesus with people who are starving for him!

Online Worship

If your schedule keeps you from attending worship, join our live-streamed worship services or watch past services by visiting our St Luke United Methodist Church YouTube channel. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office and we will be happy to help you.

November

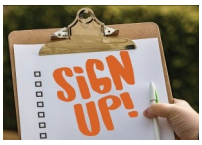
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 JCHR Packaging Event Lynnville Friends Church
3 **9:30 am Worship w/ Communion** **Sunday School to Follow** **All Saints Sunday** **Daylight Saving Time Ends** Fall Back	4 **2:30 pm** **Rm 5 Rsvd TR** 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group	5 Election Day FH Rsrvd All Day	6 **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	7 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	8	9 **9 am - 4 pm** **Piecemakers Sew Day** **FH Rsrvd** 11 am - 4 pm Santuary Rsrvd QOV Presentation 2 pm
10 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow**	11 **2:30 pm** **Rm 5 Rsvd TR** 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group	12	13 6:30 pm Praise Team **7 pm** **Page Turners** **FH Rsrvd** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	14	15	16
17 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow**	18 **2:30 pm** **Rm 5 Rsvd TR** 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group	19 7 pm Mission Coalition	20 1:15 pm UWF Meeting **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	21 9 am - 2pm Days for Girls @ First Presbyterian Church **7pm** **Piecemakers Meeting**	22	23
24 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** **United Methodist Student Day—Offering** **Decorate the Church for Christmas After Worship**	25 **2:30 pm** **Rm 5 Rsvd TR** 6:30 pm Monday Night Zoom Study Group	26	27 **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	28 Happy Thanksgiving	29	30

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
November 3	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Peg Kimberley
Greeters	Pam Andrews
Reader	Jeff Carter
Acolyte	Frances Mills
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Karin Mills
Camera	Joel Mills
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Barb Swihart
November 10	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	David Spiker
Greeters	Lori Leix
Reader	Russ Leix
Acolyte	Teagan McIntyre
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Lori Leix
November 17	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters	Barb Swihart
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg
November 24	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	Dennis & Pam Smith
Greeters (2)	Joel & Karin Mills
Reader	Dennis Smith
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Karen Clark

November Worship Assistants

We have had a wonderful response of volunteers for 2024 and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. Most positions are filled now through December 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, 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:



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We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help on Sunday mornings. Thank you St Luke Family!

Be Prepared … To Wait

My husband always keeps a book handy. When he picks up our kids or heads to an appointment, a current title is tucked securely under his arm. He expects to wait — and is prepared to do so. What could have been a frustrating delay turns into extra time to delve further into the story.

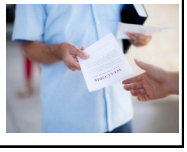
I, on the other hand, get caught off-guard if a doctor runs late or a meeting runs long. As the minutes tick by, my down time gets wasted — unless I quietly reflect on God's goodness, return an email, take a short walk or chat with the person next to me.

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord," says Psalm 27:14 (NIV). That's an important reminder as Advent nears. Scripture advises us to use our waiting time wisely, preparing for God and drawing closer to him. What will you do while you wait for Jesus?

—Janna Firestone

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.

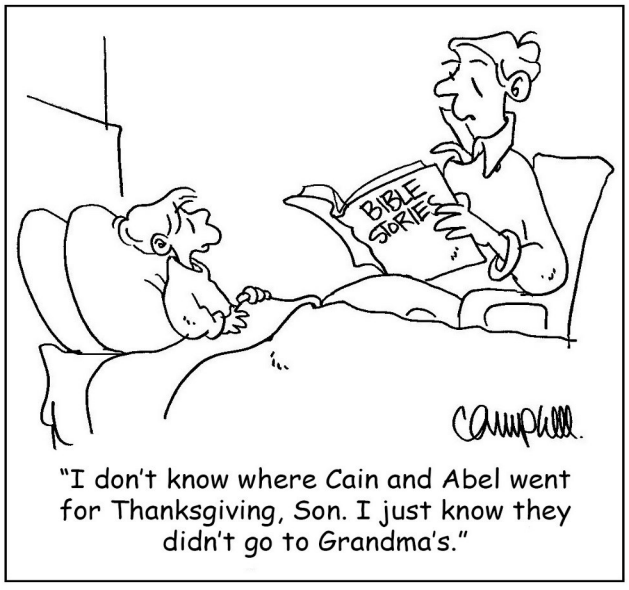


A Special Blessing for those with November Birthdays

November 2 - Linda Prather
November 3 - Michelle O'Brien
November 10 - Abby Wood
November 11 - Vern Schnoebelen
November 17 - Natalie McConkey
November 19 - Maria Vasquez
November 21 - Becca Zeien
November 23 - Rachel Cole
November 24 - Lori Eisbrenner
November 30 - Karin Mills
Joe Squire

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

November Salvation Army Food Pantry Request
Peanut Butter & Jelly



"I don't know where Cain and Abel went for Thanksgiving, Son. I just know they didn't go to Grandma's."

GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 5, 2024

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!

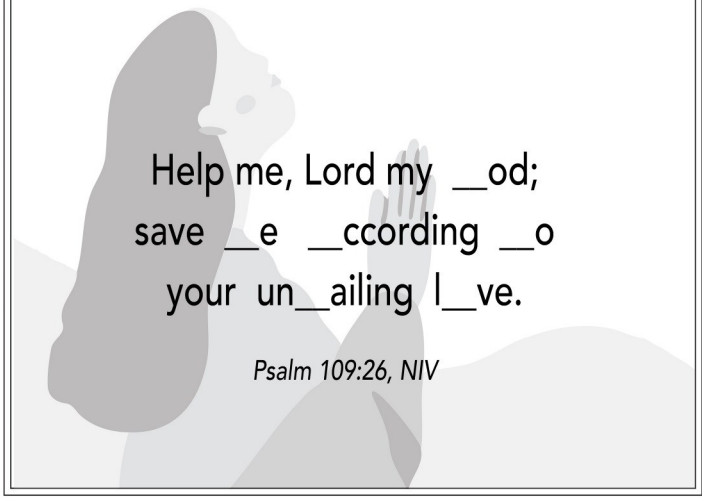
Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 3

BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

Psalm 145:8	SGAICURO	☐_ _ _ _ _ _ _
Job 36:5	HGIYMT	☐_ _ _ _ _
Psalm 90:2	LTAVREENISG	_ _ _ _ _ ☐_ _ _ _ _
2 Peter 3:9	INETTPA	_ _ _ _ _ _ ☐
1 Thessalonians 5:24	FUFHIATL	☐_ _ _ _ _ _ _
Isaiah 40:25	OYHL	_ ☐ _ _



Help me, Lord my __od;
save __e __ccording __o
your un__ailing l__ve.

Psalm 109:26, NIV

Answers: gracious, mighty, everlasting, patient, faithful, holy; Help me, Lord my God; save me according to your unfailing love. Psalm 109:26, NIV