# St Luke UMC

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

January 1, 2025

BI-WEEKLY

# THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!


**2024 Apportionments**

**$16,882**

## Financial Update

Thank you for your prayerful and generous giving to St Luke. These are the numbers for our 2024 giving as of Dec. 30, 2024.

| | |
|---|---|
| $16,882 | Apportionments |
| $696 | RP District Askings |
| $650 | UMCOR Sunday |
| $74 | World Communion Day |
| $30 | Human Relations Sunday |
| $155 | Peace with Justice |
| $67.50 | Native Am. Awareness Day |
| $61 | Disabilities Awareness Day |
| $10 | Christian Education Sunday |
| $43 | Golden Cross Sunday |
| $95 | Rural Life Sunday |
| $560 | Iowa Disaster Relief Fund |
| $10 | Women at the Well |
| $372 | Heifer Intl—Living Gifts |
| $173 | Emmanuel Mefor, Nigeria |
| $787.25 | Florence Mefor, Nigeria |
| $132 | Old Mutare Hospital-Zimbabwe |
| $35 | St Andrew Potato Proj-VA |
| $513 | UMCOR Disaster Resp-Intrnl |
| $1,142.5 | UMCOR Disaster Resp-USA |

Thank You!

## Where to Find Us

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**YouTube:** St Luke United Methodist Church
**Facebook:** St Luke Newton
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### January WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE Event

We hope you can join us on January 26 for our upcoming WORSHIP-IN-SERVICE Food Insecurity Event. This is an opportunity to share God's love through acts of service as an act of worship.

On the morning of January 26, our worship will be packing meals for Jasper County Hunger Relief and turning some of those meals into burritos that will be given to the food insecure in Newton throughout the winter. This is an opportunity for us to really dig into something that affects our community and to do something about it. For your part, Give for the ingredients of the meal packets we will pack (we need to raise $1800 for the ingredients), Pack the ingredients during worship on January 26 or Cook the burritos for the community, and Pray that God will lead us to the next ministry in our community to address the issue of food and housing insecurity.

Thank you for all you do, and for your participating in this exciting ministry opportunity at St Luke UMC.

**Many Thanks for the Love Offering You have given to the staff of St Luke!**
**From Pastor Mark, Jennifer & Jenny**

## My Story

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace." (song lyric)

One January, I spent few days visiting a friend in balmy Arizona. It was a nice… albeit short... trip. It was time to head back home again. As the plane approached Iowa, however, we learned it was snowing. When we landed in Cedar Rapids, it didn't really seem too horrible, so I chose to head for home. That was NOT a good decision. The drive across the state on I80 was scary. The snow increased the further West I drove. I couldn't see the normal landmarks. I couldn't really tell how far I had gone or how much farther I had to go to reach Grinnell. The stress built in my shoulders, my hands and my eyes. My sigh of relief when I finally saw the exit sign I needed, was audible. Just 3 more miles to go to reach my garage where I could finally relax my grip and close my eyes.

Much like that snowstorm, it is easy for the world around us to cloud our vision. We start to focus on all the wrong people and things. We become stressed over the way we look, the demands on our time, the work left undone, what we said or didn't say or what was said to us. The chaos around us can block out the truth we need to hear and see. We search for signs, for help, and for direction. Sometimes we find ourselves running in circles and going nowhere. It is in times like this, that we need to remember to relax our grip and turn our eyes to the one who can guide us to what we really need.

*Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. Isaiah 45:22*

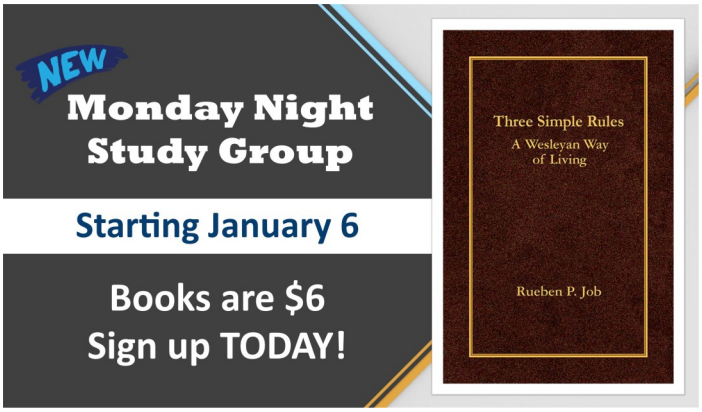
Relax, close your eyes and turn to Jesus for your direction.

Corinne Kleppe

## Sunday School Mission Offering
## January & February 2025

The 2nd through 4th Sundays of January and February 2025, the Sunday School mission offering will be designated to our ongoing Food Insecurity/ Burrito events. If you would like to donate to this project and you are not able to join us for Sunday School in January, you can put "food insecurity projects" on the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate.

NOW Missions




## New Monday Night Book Study

We will be starting a new Monday night book study on January 6. There will be an in-person study at 5:30 pm in Sam's Place and an online study via zoom at 6:30 pm. We will be reading the book "Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living" by Rueben P. Job. Books are $6 and you can sign up at the servant's counter if you are interested in joining us.

## Sunday, January 5
## Guest Speaker
## Rev. Paul Witmer
## Women at the Well

Did you know the church is in prison? Women at the Well is a sister congregation, a United Methodist congregation within the walls of the Women's Correctional Institution in Mitchellville, Iowa. Pastor Paul Witmer, the lead pastor at Women at the Well, will be with us on Sunday, January 5, to share with us about the many years of weekly worship, supportive community, faith nurture groups, and aftercare we have offered to the women there. Maybe you'll find your own place in prison—in ministry with these women, our sisters in Christ.

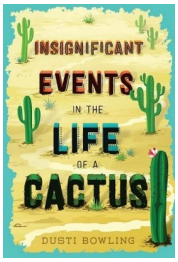
Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Pastor Paul Witmer has served as a pastor for more than 30 years. He has extensive experience teaching contemplative practices, leading retreats, and working with folks in twelve-step recovery. A trained Spiritual Director, Paul also works with many in developing deep listening skills and growing on the spiritual journey. As an artist and musician, Paul is especially drawn to the arts as creative expression and experience of the Divine.

Paul first came to Women at the Well in 2016 as the Minister of Congregational Care; joined full-time ministry in 2018, and as of July 2021 has been appointed as the lead pastor for Women at the Well, a prison congregation of the United Methodist Church at the Iowa women's prison in Mitchellville, Iowa. Paul is a graduate of Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX) and Eden Seminary (St. Louis, MO). He resides with his wife in Urbandale, and between them they have five grown children and four grandchildren.

## 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.

## Thank You

We want to thank St Luke for everything you have done for Discover Hope and Salvation Army this year. Both places always welcome us with open arms every time we have come and have been so grateful. Without all your time and help these projects couldn't succeed. We will be continuing both of these projects again in 2025. May our heavenly father be with all of you at St Luke United Methodist Church.

Jan Lewis & Joyce Stonehocker

## Diaper Sewing Days

Our next Diaper Sewing Days are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday January 7 & 8 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring your sewing machine, light colored thread, basic sewing tools, and your own sack lunch. No sewing skills required! We also have jobs such as fabric cutting, pinning, and pressing, or just come for the fellowship. These diapers will go to Midwest Missions on our next trip. If you have any questions please contact Karen Clark.

## Human Relations Day
## January 19th

"*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God*?" - Micah 6:8b

Human Relations Day is an opportunity for United Methodists to share in seeking justice for our neighbors. On this day, congregations are given the unique opportunity to join with individuals, groups, businesses, community organizations and residents to heal the wounds of social inequality. The special offering supports neighborhood ministries, community advocacy and work with at-risk youth.

Human Relations Day encourages us to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to stay on the side of those whom others choose to forget.

## Potluck Dinner
## White Elephant
## Gift Exchange Event
## To Be Held
## Saturday evening,
## February 1st

A St. Luke potluck/white elephant gift/candlelight dinner will be held Saturday evening, February 1st, 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Adults of ALL ages are invited to attend! Please bring food items for potluck supper and one wrapped white elephant gift **per participating person**. Cheer us up with your presence!

## 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.

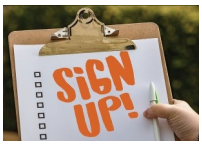
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **1**<br> <br>Office Closed | **2**<br>9 am - 3 pm<br>Quilts of Valor<br>FH Rsrvd | **3** | **4** |
| **5**<br> <br>**9:30 am Worship**<br>**Sunday School to Follow**<br><br>**Guest Speaker**<br>**Rev. Paul Witmer**<br>**Women at the Well** | **6**<br>**2:30 pm**<br>**Rm 5 Rsvd**<br>**TR**<br>5:30 pm<br>In Person<br>Study<br>**6:30 pm**<br>**Zoom**<br>**Study** | **7**<br>9 am - 3 pm<br>Diaper<br>Sewing<br>FH Rsrvd | **8**<br>9 am - 3 pm<br>Diaper<br>Sewing<br>FH Rsrvd<br>6:30 pm<br>Praise Team<br>7:15 pm<br>Choir Practice | **9** | **10** | **11**<br>**9 am - 4 pm**<br>**Piecemakers**<br>**Sew Day**<br>**FH Rsrvd** |
| **12**<br><br>**9:30 am Worship**<br>**Sunday School to Follow** | **13**<br> <br>**2:30 pm**<br>**Rm 5 Rsvd**<br>**TR**<br>5:30 pm<br>In Person<br>Study<br>**6:30 pm**<br>**ZoomStudy** | **14** | **15**<br>**6:30 pm**<br>**Praise Team**<br>7:15 pm<br>Choir Practice | **16**<br>**7 pm**<br>**Ad Council**<br>**Meeting**<br><br>**7pm**<br>**Piecemakers**<br>**Meeting** | **17** | **18** |
| **19**<br><br>**9:30 am Worship**<br>**Sunday School to Follow** | **20**<br>**2:30 pm**<br>**Rm 5 Rsvd**<br>**TR**<br>5:30 pm<br>In Person<br>Study<br>**6:30 pm**<br>**Zoom**<br>**Study** | **21** | **22**<br>**6:30 pm**<br>**Praise Team**<br>7:15 pm<br>Choir Practice | **23**<br>9 am - 2 pm<br>Days for Girls<br>@ First<br>Presbyterian | **24** | **25**<br>8 am - 12 pm<br>Making<br>Burrito Filling<br>Kitchen/FH<br>Rsrvd |
| **26**<br>**9:30 am Worship**<br>**Sunday School to Follow**<br><br>**Worship-In-Service**<br>**Food Packaging Event** | **27**<br>**2:30 pm**<br>**Rm 5 Rsvd**<br>**TR**<br>5:30 pm<br>In Person<br>Study<br>**6:30 pm**<br>**Zoom**<br>**Study** | **28** | **29**<br>**6:30 pm**<br>**Praise Team**<br>7:15 pm<br>Choir Practice | **30** | **31** | |

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

| WORSHIP ASSISTANTS | |
|---|---|
| **January 5** | **9:30 AM** |
| Ushers | Mike & Barb Kaldenberg |
| Greeters | |
| Reader | Jeff Carter |
| Acolyte | |
| Keyboard | Jan Lewis |
| Projection | Karin Mills |
| Camera | Joel Mills |
| Care Core | Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston |
| Coffee Time | Karen Clark |
| **January 12** | **9:30 AM** |
| Ushers | Dennis & Pam Smith |
| Greeters | Brad & Jenni Patty |
| Reader | Ann Leonard |
| Acolyte | |
| Keyboard | Bev Thomas |
| Projection | Caleb Leonard |
| Camera | Ben Leonard |
| Care Core | Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy |
| Coffee Time | Pat Patty |
| **January 19** | **9:30 AM** |
| Ushers | David Spiker |
| Greeters | Mike & Barb Kaldenberg |
| Reader | Barb Kaldenberg |
| Acolyte | |
| Keyboard | Bev Thomas |
| Projection | |
| Camera | |
| Care Core | Barb Kaldenberg |
| Coffee Time | Mike & Barb Kaldenberg |
| **January 26** | **9:30 AM** |
| Ushers (2) | Corinne Kleppe |
| Greeters (2) | |
| Reader | Dennis Smith |
| Acolyte | |
| Keyboard | Bev Thomas |
| Projection | Karin Mills |
| Camera | Joel Mills |
| Care Core | Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker |
| Coffee Time | |

## January Worship Assistants

For 2025 we are going to continue with our 3 months at a time sign-ups. This worked very well




last year in getting more volunteer positions filled. We have had a wonderful response of volunteers so far for 2025 and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. There are still positions open so 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:

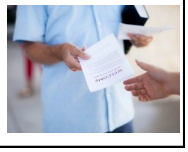
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing

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

**Thank You!** To all of the volunteers at St Luke UMC. Whether you teach a VBS or Sunday School class, donate food for a meal, make a casserole for someone recovering from surgery, donate your time for a project at the church, visit a member that needs a friend or send a greeting card, you are making a difference. Thank You!

## 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 January Birthdays

January 1 - Ethan Squire
January 2 - Lori Leix
January 4 - Zoe Smith
Jona Swersie
January 5 - Stefanie Squire
Bruce Maach
January 6 - Dennis Smith
January 8 - Nathan Jennings
January 14 - Gabe Swersie
January 19 - Pam Stiles
January 24 - Jeff Carter
Jeff McKibben
January 25 - Jeff Murphy
January 26 - Joyce Stonehocker
CJ Osborn
Gatlin Chambers
January 27 - Rachel Swersie

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

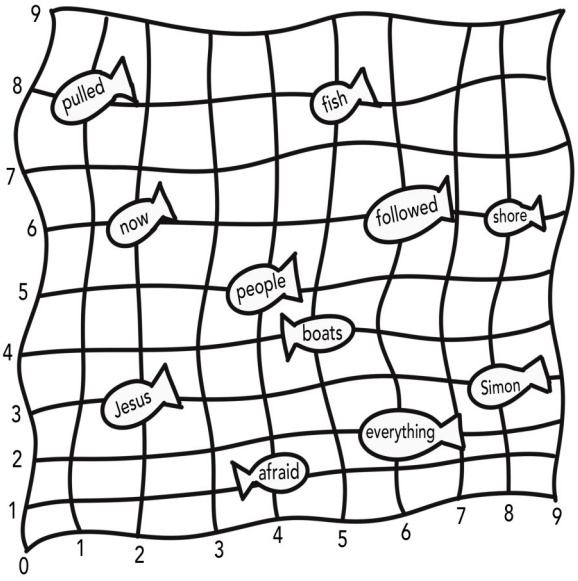
**January Salvation Army Food Pantry Request**

Detergent & Dish Soap

# FISHING DIRECTIONS

When fishermen obeyed Jesus and let down their nets, they caught so many fish that their boats began to sink! Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees. What happened next?

*Directions: Use the coordinate clues to locate the correct words and complete Luke 5:10-11 (NIV) below. The first number in each clue pair goes across, and the second number goes up.*




Then _Jesus_ said to _____ (2, 3), "Don't be _____ (8, 3); from _____ (4, 1) on you will _____ (2, 6) for _____ (5, 8). " (4, 5) So they _____ (1, 8) their _____ (5, 4) up on _____ (8, 6), left _____ (6, 2) and _____ (6, 6) him.

*Luke 5:10-11, NIV*

Answers: Jesus, Simon, afraid, now, fish, people, pulled, boats, shore, everything, followed