St Luke UMC

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

February 1, 2025

BI-WEEKLY

THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

2025 Apportionments

$20,604

Financial Update

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

Total of $15,126 which included:

$	200	- Building Fund
$	82	- Apportionments
$	50	- Christ's Foundry UMC
$	520	- Women at the Well
$	45	- UMCOR Ukraine
$	18	- Heifer International
$	55	- Human Relations Day

Where to Find Us

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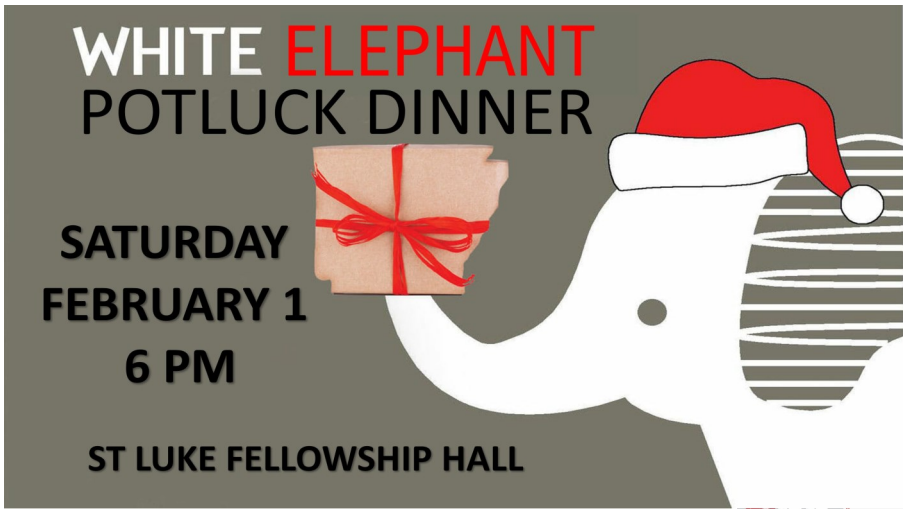
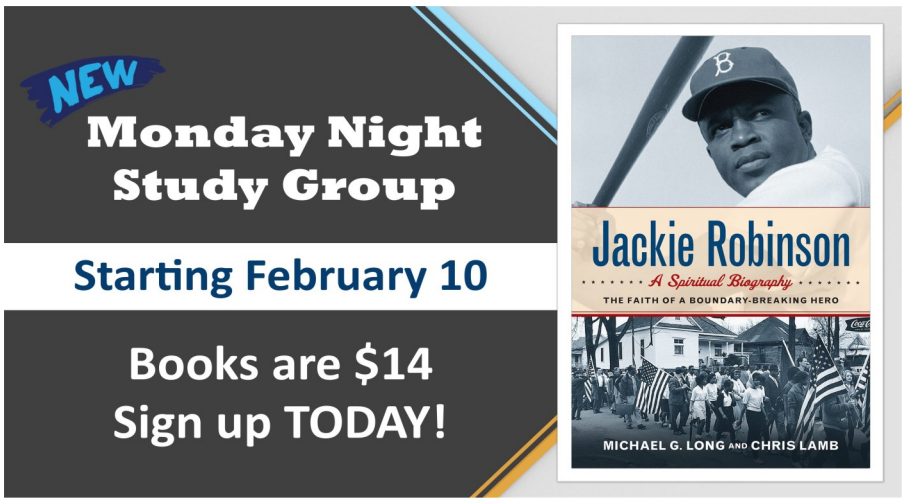


Potluck Dinner White Elephant Gift Exchange Event To Be Held Saturday evening, February 1st

A St. Luke potluck/white elephant gift/candlelight dinner will be held Saturday evening, February 1st at 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!



New Monday Night Book Study

We will be starting a new Monday night book study on February 10. 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 "Jackie Robinson: A Spiritual Biography: The Faith of a Boundary-Breaking Hero" by Michael G Long and Chris Lamb. Books are $14 and you can sign up at the servant's counter if you are interested in joining us.

My Story

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Psalm 95:1

Even though they had a tractor, my grandpa and uncle loved to do farm work with horses whenever possible. There were always horses at the farm when I was a kid. On one winter weekend visit, Grandpa hooked a sled to the back of Bess and Babe, his team of work horses. Then looking at us all bundled up from head to toe, he encouraged us to climb on… and so began a wild winter ride. The sled skipped along behind the horses, snow flying around us as we giggled with the joy of it all. Usually the horses, if not being used in the garden for farm work, were hitched to a wagon for us to ride in during the summer and fall months. So, this winter ride was a real treat for all of us… including Grandpa. Maybe it was even a treat for Bess and Babe.

The dictionary says Joy is a feeling of great pleasure and happiness. If we look, we can see signs of joy all around us, every day. We can see joy in the excitement of a baby placed in the middle of a pile of wrapping paper or in a child laughing as he or she wrestles with a frisky puppy. We might see joy in people making snow angels or skiing down a hillside with freedom. The ways we see, and experience joy are innumerable, we just need to open our eyes to the possibilities.

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

This year: Open your eyes to the joyful moments around you and to the joy of a relationship with the Holy Spirit… and joy, peace and hope will abound.

Corinne Kleppe

Sunday School Mission Offering
January & February 2025

The 2nd through 4th Sundays of February, 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 February, you can put "food insecurity projects" on the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate.

NOW Missions

Discover Hope Supper Club

St. Luke has committed to providing the evening meal for Discover Hope the first Tuesday of every other month. Our next meal will be on February 4. We will be having burritos from our meal packing event, corn, deviled eggs, chips and cookies. If you would like to sign-up to provide food, monetary donations or to help serve the meal there will be a sign-up sheet on the servant's counter. All donations need to be put in the church kitchen by Sunday, February 2. Any questions please contact Joyce Stonehocker or Jan Lewis.

Camp Season Is Coming Soon

It's time to start planning and signing up for camp at one of the beautiful Iowa United Methodist Camps. Catalogs are available at the church or you can go online to check out what's available at www.iaumc.org/camps. Get ready for your adventure of a lifetime.

Sunday February 9
Disability Awareness Offering

100% of this offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference. The purpose of the Disability Awareness offering is to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and to promote their full inclusion in the community. This offering provides funds for educational opportunities as well as providing grants to local churches in need of assistance in removing architectural and attitudinal barriers to accessibility.

Days For Girls

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

United Women in Faith

February
No Meeting

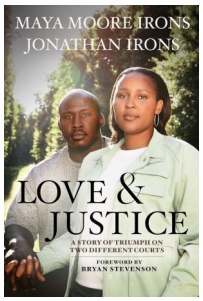
"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (NIV)

1 Peter 3:15

Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class will be starting a new book *Love and Justice* by Maya Moore Irons and Jonathan Irons on February 9.

A journey for justice turned into a love story when Maya Moore, one of the WNBA's brightest stars, married the man she helped free from prison, Jonathan Irons. Jonathan was only 16 when he was arrested for a crime he did not commit. Maya Moore's family met Jonathan through a prison ministry program in 1999 and over time developed a close bond with him. Maya met Jonathan in 2007, shortly before her freshman year at the University of Connecticut, where she became one of the most heralded women's basketball players in collegiate history. She visited him often throughout the years, as well as sending him letters and books as he fought for his freedom; ultimately, she became a strong voice for prosecutorial changes. She stunned the sports world when she announced in February 2019 that she would step away from her career in women's basketball, in part so she could help Jonathan in what they hoped would be his final appeal. In March 2020, his conviction was overturned by a state judge in Jefferson City, Mo. In this inspiring memoir, the couple will explore their unwavering faith, their deep connection, and how Maya stepped away from basketball to pursue justice both to prove Jonathan's innocence and inspire activism in others. Just like Maya and Jonathan asked themselves, readers will ask themselves one of the most important questions they can after reading this book: "Am I living out my purpose?"



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.

St Luke News

Congratulations to Karen Clark on the birth of her new granddaughter Juniper Florence Cole.

Calling VBS Volunteers!

We want you! To help us spread the word of God to local youth during Vacation Bible School which is June 23-27. This years theme is Road Trip! We need volunteers in the areas of: classroom teachers, crafts, snacks, recreation, music, drama and decorating. We are also in search of a Co-Leader for VBS this year. If you are able to help, please sign up at the servant's counter or contact the church office. Contact Peg Ehler with any questions.

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper

Mark your calendars for our Ash Wednesday pancake supper on Wednesday March 5 from 4:45 - 6:15 pm with an Ash Wednesday worship service to follow at 6:30 pm. Our menu will be pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverage. The sign up sheet for food and donations will be out in Mid February. If you have any questions, talk to the co-chairpersons Peg Kimberley and Amy Ryan.

Kindness Kickbacks

Random Acts of Kindness Day, observed each year on February 17, is a reminder of the power of altruism. Followers of Jesus express kindness selflessly, out of love for God and our neighbors. Yet in return, we reap emotional — and even physical — benefits.

Researchers have identified a "helper's high" that can ease anxiety and depression. Spontaneous or planned acts of "pro-social spending" have been shown to reduce blood pressure, improve heart health, reduce pain and even extend longevity.

For maximum impact, experts recommend getting creative with random acts of kindness and mixing them up. But no matter how you spread kindness, you're bound to experience blessings in return!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6 pm White Elephant Potluck Dinner FH Rsvd
2 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow**	**3** 	**4** **5:30 pm** **Discover Hope Meal @ DH**	**5** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**6** 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	**7**	**8** **9 am - 4 pm** **Piecemakers Sew Day** **FH Rsrvd**
9 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** **Disabilities Awareness Sunday**	**10** 5:30 pm In Person Book Study **6:30 pm** **ZoomStudy**	**11**	**12** **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**13** 	**14** 	**15**
16 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow**	**17** 5:30 pm In Person Book Study **6:30 pm** **ZoomStudy**	**18**	**19** **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**20** **7pm** **Piecemakers Meeting**	**21**	**22**
23 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow**	**24** 5:30 pm In Person Study **6:30 pm** **ZoomStudy** 6:30-9 pm JCRCC	**25** 7 pm Mission Coalition	**26** **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**27** 9 am - 2 pm Days for Girls @ First Presbyterian	**28**	

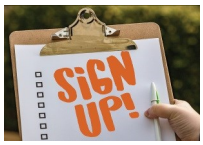
Midwest Mission Trip

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
February 2	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Amy Ryan
Greeters	Marianne Spaur
Reader	Jenni Patty
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Karin Mills
Camera	Joel Mills
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Lori Leix
February 9	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Peg Kimberley
Greeters	Carolyn Cook
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Amy Murphy
February 16	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	David Spiker
Greeters	Kaldenbergs
Reader	Pat Patty
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Kaldenbergs
February 23	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	Ann Leonard
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	

February Worship Assistants

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



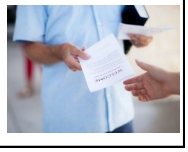
last year in getting more volunteer positions filled. We have had a wonderful response of volunteers so far for 2025 and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. There are still positions open so if you would like to volunteer or see what positions are available you can email the 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!

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 February Birthdays

February 1	Lauren Figland
	Loki
February 2	Pat Patty
February 3	Mark Johnson
	Nancy Ryan
February 4	Hiap Thongvanh,
	Ann Leonard,
	Conner Marston
February 6	Lisa Pageler
	Nehemiah Johnson
February 14	Tom Lloyd
February 20	Russ Leix
February 22	Karen Dorrell,
	Emma Carter
February 24	Tori Boleyn
February 26	Jan Lewis

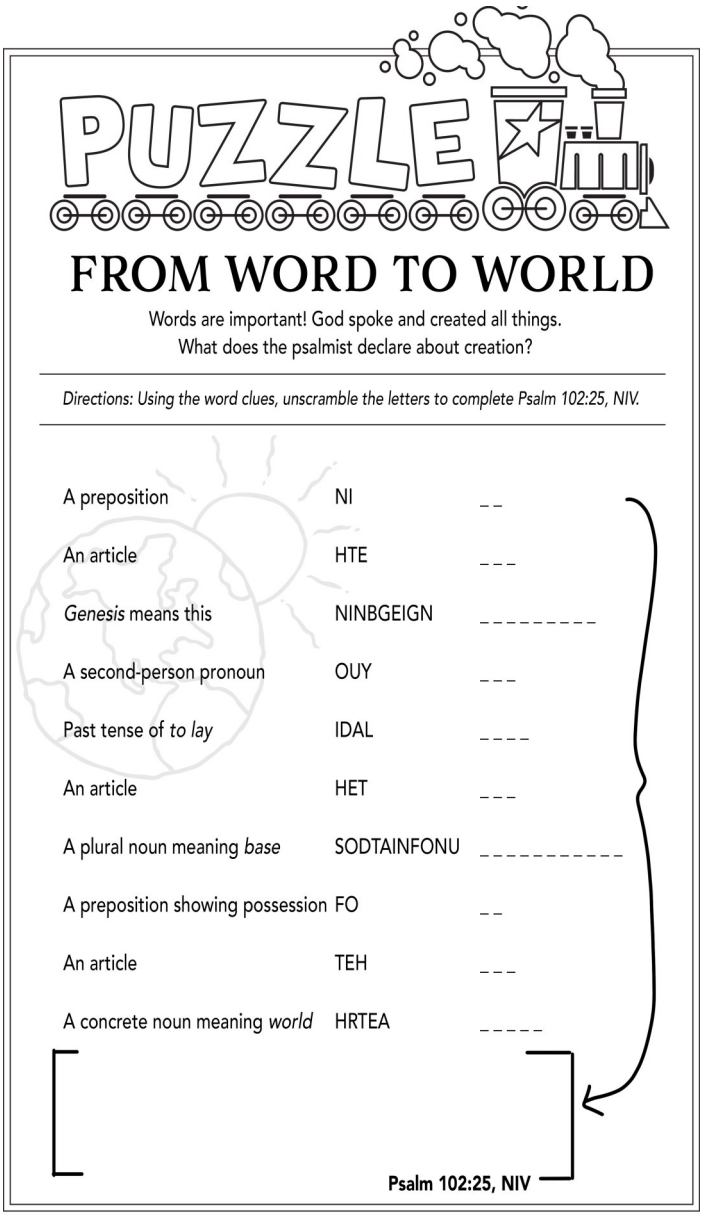
If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the office.

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.

February Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Muffin, Bread,
Pancake Mixes
and Syrup



Answer: In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth. (Psalm 102:25, NIV)