St Luke UMC
501 E 19th Street N
Newton, IA 50208
641-792-5736
March 15, 2025

BI-WEEKLY
THE Flame
CATCH THE FIRE!

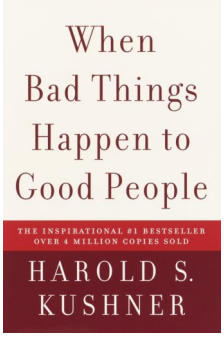
2025 Easter Offering

The NOW Missions team has chosen two separate missions for our 2025 Easter Offering.

The first recipient is the UMCOR National Disaster Recovery fund – specifically designated to wildfire recoveries. In January strong Santa Ana winds in the Los Angeles area caused multiple wildfires to spread rapidly. Thousands of homes and businesses as well as multiple local United Methodist Churches were destroyed. UMCOR is working in the area to undergird the relief efforts with the essential supplies/ food and support needed. Then in early March, wildfires erupted in the Carolina's, fueled by unusually dry conditions and gusty winds. We can be assured that UMCOR will respond to the recovery efforts on the East coast as well.

Our second recipient will be funding for the meals program at the Old Mutare Hospital Waiting Mothers Shelter, a maternity waiting home for pregnant women who have difficulty accessing health care. This shelter helps to reduce maternal mortality by improving access to skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care. When Emmanuel and Florence Mefor visited us last summer they noted that feeding 30-40 women, 3 meals a day for one month, comes at a cost of $1000. ½ of our Easter offering will be designated to this specific project at Old Mutare Hospital Family and Child Health Unit in Zimbabwe.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW Missions



New Monday Night Book Study

We will be starting a new Monday night book study on March 24. 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 "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" by Harold S. Kushner. Books are $9. You can sign up at the servant's counter if you are interested in joining us.

UMCOR Sunday Offering
Sunday, March 30

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR's work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.

UMCOR SUNDAY

Gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering cover the costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. UMCOR has no source of revenue for administration except from UMCOR Sunday.

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

Pancake Supper Rescheduled for Maundy Thursday—April 17

Our Ash Wednesday pancake supper had to be cancelled due to the blizzard. It has been rescheduled for Maundy Thursday, April 17th. We will be serving from 5 to 6:15 pm with a short worship service to follow. Please sign up at the servant's counter to volunteer for this rescheduled date.

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.

The Lenten Desert

During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, "O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past."

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. "This is what Lent is meant to be," writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. "Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other."

Discover Hope Supper Club

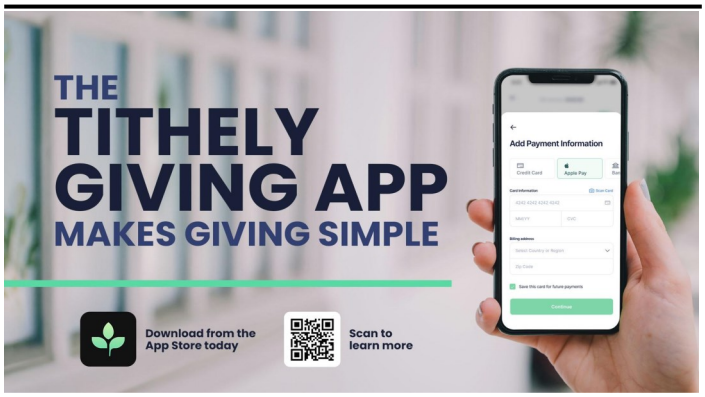
St. Luke has committed to providing the evening meal for Discover Hope the first Tuesday of every other month. Our next meal will be on April 1. We will be having Frito pie, corn, carrot and celery sticks with dip and ice cream bars for dessert. If you would like to sign-up to provide food, monetary 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, March 30. Any questions please contact Joyce Stonehocker or Peg Ehler.

Sunday School Mission offering March – May 2025

The 2nd through 5th Sundays in March, April and May 2025 our Sunday School Mission offering will be designated for the continued ministry of Florence Mefor. Florence serves as a nurse at Old Mutare Hospital in Zimbabwe. Florence's work with women includes the Waiting Mother's shelter as a Midwife and Nurse. She also participates in Well Checks for new mothers and their children, bringing vaccines and nursing care to their neighborhoods.

As always, if you would like to support Florence in her Missionary work, but you do not attend Sunday School, you can add "Florence Mefor" to the memoline of your check and place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

NOW Missions



The Tithely Giving App

The St. Luke Finance committee has established a method of giving your offering using the Tithe.ly app and your cell phone or computer. If you would like help getting started, please contact Brad Patty (641-840-0225).

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.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
March 16	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	Joyce Stonehocker
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark
Coffee Time	
March 23	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	David Spiker
Greeters (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
March 30	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty
Coffee Time	
April 6	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	

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!

Mission Coalition is Collecting Hy-Vee Receipts for Jasper County Hunger Relief

Do you save your Newton Hy-Vee receipts? We hope so because Newton Hy-Vee wants to continue giving back to the community this time through Jasper County Hunger Relief.

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 church office.

Continue collecting those Hy-Vee receipts as they need to make it to $40,000 to reach their goal!

Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Mark Johnson
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Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 563-249-3287
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Church Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 am -12 pm
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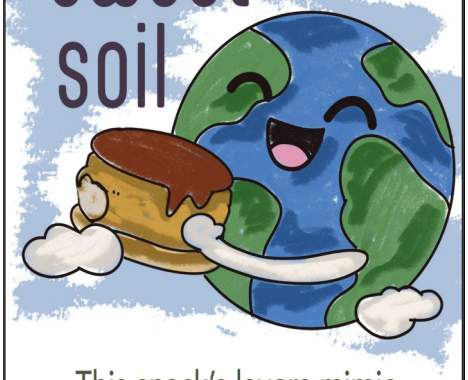
Article Submission by the 13th of month.
Website: www.stlukenewton.com
Website Manager: Stephen Pageler
Facebook: St Luke Newton
Prayer: prayer@stlukenewton.com

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.

sweet soil



This snack's layers mimic properties of our planet's crust.

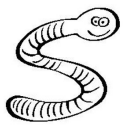
What you need:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup nut butter (divided)
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Silicone mini baking cups

What you do:

1. Combine the oats and ⅓ cup of the nut butter. Mix until oats stick together.
2. Place 2 teaspoons of oat mixture in each baking cup. Press with a spoon. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. Spread remaining nut butter atop the cups. Freeze for 10 more minutes.
4. Microwave the chocolate chips 30 seconds. Stir and keep heating for 30-second intervals until melted.
5. Spread melted chocolate atop the cups. Freeze until chocolate is firm.
6. Remove from the molds and enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.

Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6 _ _ _

Psalm 78:45 _ _ _ _ _

Matthew 23:24 _ _ _ _

Judges 14:8b _ _ _ _

Acts 12:23 _ _ _ _ _

Leviticus 11:22 _ _ _ _ _ _

Leviticus 11:22 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Deuteronomy 7:20 _ _ _ _ _ _

Exodus 16:20 _ _ _ _ _ _ _

1 Samuel 24:14 _ _ _ _

Isaiah 50:9 _ _ _ _ _

Isaiah 59:5 _ _ _ _ _ _

Leviticus 11:22 _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Leviticus 11:22 _ _ _ _ _ _ _

M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S

Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket