

St Luke UMC

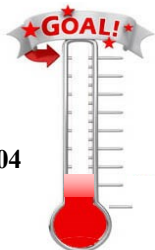
501 E 19th Street N
Newton, IA 50208
641-792-5736

March 1, 2025

THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

2025 Apportionments

\$20,604



\$1604

Financial Update



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

Total of \$34,442 which included:

- \$ 300 - Building Fund
- \$ 96 - Apportionments
- \$ 110 - Disabilities Awareness Sunday
- \$ 10 - Florence Mefor - Missionary
- \$ 48 - Heifer Project
- \$ 45 - 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
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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

ASH WEDNESDAY Pancake Supper

March 5
4:45 - 6:15 pm
Fellowship Hall

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
TO FOLLOW AT 6:30 PM**

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper & Worship Service

Mark your calendars for our Ash Wednesday pancake supper and worship service on Wednesday March 5th.

We will be serving from 4:45 - 6:15 pm. Our menu will be pancakes, sausages, fruit and beverages. The Ash Wednesday worship service will follow at 6:30 pm.

A sign-up sheet for workers and food contributions is on the servant's counter.

There will be a free will offering for the pancake meal. The money will be used to buy flannel for our ongoing diaper ministry.

If you have any questions, talk to the co-chairpersons Peg Kimberley and Amy Ryan.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

MARCH 5 | 6:30 PM



My Story

Recently a high school friend of mine passed away. In high school he had an infectious smile that he shared with us often. He was a lot of fun to be around. The last several years of his life, however, he struggled with addiction, and it caused his family to step back from him, in an effort, to avoid further pain and destruction.

Reading the eulogy written by his eldest son, while painful, was also healing. His son touched on the struggles of the past several years, but ultimately chose to highlight the love for and from his father. His son spoke of the things his father had taught them and the love he had shared with them prior to his addiction. In his son's words, I could see the young man I knew long ago.

It is often much easier to focus on the negative. We see what is wrong with our world and we become laser focused on that negativity. In times like those it is very important for us to look for the positive. To remember the good and to search for the good around us. It is important to believe in the good and to seek the joy, while releasing the pain.

The one who seeks good finds delight; the student of evil becomes evil. (Proverbs 11:27 The Message)

No matter what the topic, be it family or friend relationships, education, politics, or anywhere you find yourself. The next time you find yourself focused only on the negative... stop and pray for God to show you the positive side of the issue. It's good to address the struggles as my friend's son did in his eulogy, but don't dwell there. Find your way to the positives, start with one and focus on that and soon you will see others. God Bless!

Corinne Kleppe



Anyone can find
the *dirt*
in someone.
Be the one
who finds
the *gold*.

Proverbs 11:27

Days For Girls

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



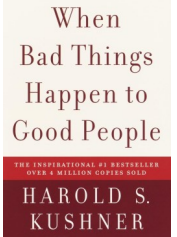
Sympathies

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to the family and friends of Mary Kathryn "Katie" Jones.



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.



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

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.



**SET YOUR CLOCKS
FORWARD ONE HOUR**
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 9



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

March 19 - 1:15 pm
At St Luke UMC

“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” (KJV)

Psalm 46:10

Program: How Have Scriptures & Songs Informed Your Faith?

By: Barb Kaldenberg

Hostess: Barb Kaldenberg

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

March 7 - World Day of Prayer

March 8 - International Bell Ringing for Women’s Rights

March 23 - 156th Anniversary of UWF

Happy Birthday UWF!

Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class is currently reading the book *Love and Justice* by Maya Moore Irons and Jonathan Irons.

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.



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 year’s 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.

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.

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.

UMCOR
SUNDAY


Sunday, March 2



guest
speaker

Rev. Alexis Johnson

Oakwood United Methodist Church

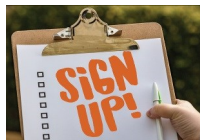
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Guest Pastor Rev. Alexis Johnson 	3 5:30 pm In Person Book Study 6:30 pm Zoom Study	4	5  4:45 - 6:15 pm Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper 6:30 pm Worship Service	6 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	7	8 9 am - 4 pm Piecemakers Quilt Guild Sew Day FH Rsrvd 2 pm Quilts of Valor Presentation Sanctuary Rsrvd
9 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow Daylight Savings Time Begins 	10 5:30 pm In Person Book Study 6:30 pm Zoom Study	11	12 6:30 pm Praise Team 7 pm Page Turners 7:15 pm Choir Practice	13 	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	17 	18	19 1:15 pm UWF Meeting Sam's Place 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	20 7pm Piecemakers Quilt Guild Meeting 	21	22
23 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow	24 5:30 pm In Person Study 6:30 pm Zoom Study 6:30-9 pm JCRC	25 6pm Ad Council Meeting	26 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Choir Practice	27 9 am - 2 pm Days for Girls @ First Presbyterian	28	29
30 9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow UMCOR Sunday	31 5:30 pm In Person Study 6:30 pm Zoom Study	7 pm Mission Coalition				

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
March 2	9:30 AM
Ushers	Ann Leonard
Greeters	Amy Ryan
Reader	Corinne Kleppe
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	
March 9	9:30 AM
Ushers	Mike & Michelle O'Brien
Greeters	Margaret Gullett
Reader	Russ Leix
Acolyte	
Keyboard	
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Michelle O'Brien
March 16	9:30 AM
Ushers	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	
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)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	

March 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!

March 30	9:30 AM
Ushers	
Greeters	Carolyn Cook
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty
Coffee Time	



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 March Birthdays

- March 3 Roy Patty
Rhondi Machin
- March 4 Abby Jennings
Shirley Guillaume
- March 6 Ethan Pageler
Rosemary Hartschen
- March 7 Brad Patty
- March 8 Aniston Chambers
- March 9 Kathy Trotter
- March 13 Megan DeJong
- March 14 Rusty Deppe
- March 16 Jenni Patty
Camryn Lemons
- March 18 Daryl Pals
- March 20 Shelley Vasquez
Nathan McConkey
Jeff Eisbrener
- March 24 Peg Ehler
Chad Jennings
- March 25 John Onstot
Ethan McConkey
- March 27 Hannah Marston
- March 29 Alan Andrews



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



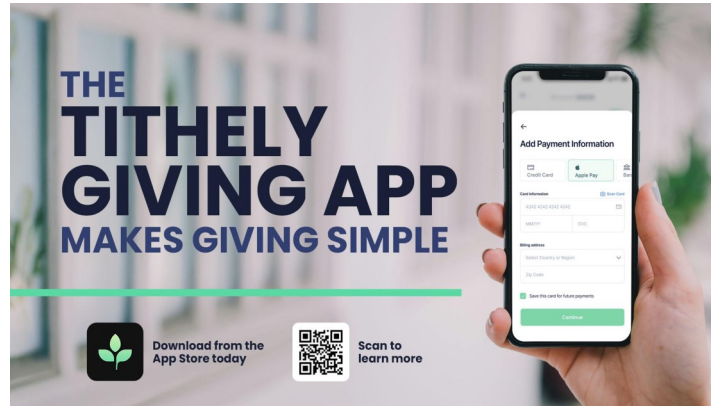
March Salvation Army Food Pantry Request
Macaroni and Cheese,
Tuna and Hamburger Helper



"Really? No additives, preservatives, or artificial flavoring?"

The Tithely Giving App

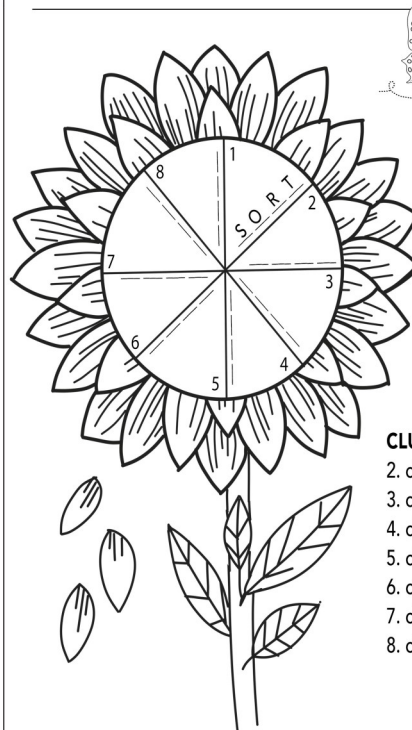
The St. Luke Finance committee has established a method of giving your offering using the Tithely app and your cell phone or computer. If you would like help getting started, please contact Brad Patty (641-840-0225).



THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We _____
because [God] first
_____ d us.
1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this
(see 1 John 4:16).

Answers: fort, fold, gold, gown, down, dove, love, We love because [God] first loved us. 1 John 4:19, NIV