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

Easter Lilies Welcome

If you would like to share an Easter lily to decorate the altar for Easter in honor or memory of someone, please contact the church office with your name and theirs by April 14. If you order the lilies to be delivered, have the florist call ahead before delivering to be sure someone is available at the church to receive them. You can also bring your lily on Sunday morning, just let the office know so we can be sure and honor your loved one.

Maundy Thursday Pancake Supper

Mark your calendars for our Maundy Thursday pancake supper on Thursday April 17th. We will be serving from 4:45 - 6:15 pm. Our menu will be pancakes, sausages, fruit and beverages. A sign-up sheet for workers 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.

Good Friday Worship Service

Join us Friday, April 18 at 6:30 pm for a Good Friday Worship Service. We will gather for a solemn time of reflection on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. This meaningful service invites us to pause, remember and prepare our hearts for the hope and joy of Easter. All are welcome to join us in this sacred time of worship.

Calling VBS Volunteers!

Warmer weather is just around the corner which means we need to start planning for VBS! Mark your calendar for June 23-27 during which St Luke along with partnering churches First Christian Church and First UMC will host kids to celebrate and learn about God. This year's theme is a really fun one - Road Trip—On the Go with God! If you would like to volunteer in any capacity please contact Peg Ehler.

Days For Girls

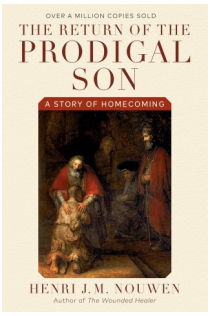
The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, April 24 from 9 am - 2 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans. If you would like more information about Days for Girls you can visit their website at www.daysforgirls.org.

2025 Graduates

We are gathering names for any graduate (high school or college) of our St Luke family. Please call or email the office and give us the name of your graduate ASAP, to be sure they are included. We would also like to include a photo of the graduate if at all possible. Thank you.

New Monday Night Book Study

We will be starting a new Monday night book study on April 28. 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 "The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Books are $10. You can sign up at the servant's counter if you are interested in joining us.



Sunday School Mission offering April – May 2025

The 2nd through 5th Sundays in 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

Discover Hope Meal Thank You

We would like to thank everyone that donated to our April meal for Discover Hope, as well as everyone that helped to prepare and serve the meal. We served Frito pie, carrot and celery sticks with dip and ice cream bars for dessert. We greatly appreciate the generosity and willingness of our St Luke family to serve others.

Joyce Stonehocker & Peg Ehler

Jasper County Hunger Relief

The next packaging event for Jasper County Hunger Relief will take place on Saturday, April 26 at Holy Trinity 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 April 20.

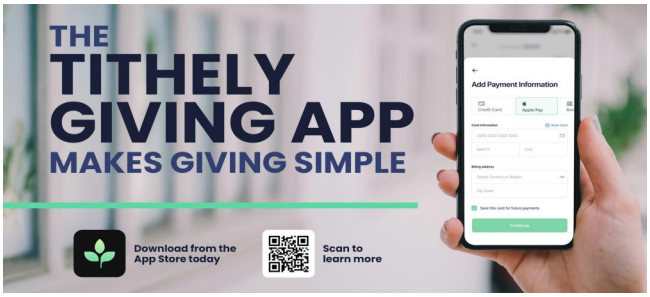
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
April 20	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters (2)	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	
April 27	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	David Spiker
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Pat Patty
May 4	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters (2)	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Jenni Patty
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Karen Clark
May 11	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	David Spiker
Greeters (2)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Stephen Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
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!



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).

Where to Find Us

Pastor: Rev. Mark Johnson
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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.

Spring Clean Up Day at St Luke May 3 | 8:30 am

St Luke will be having a spring clean up day on May 3 starting at 8:30 am. We need volunteers to help rake, mulch, pick up sticks and anything else needed to make the church yard look nice. Sign up at the servant's counter.

Volunteers Needed For Summer Weekly Plant Watering

We are looking for weekly volunteers to come out and water the plants around the church grounds this summer. If you are interested please sign up at the servant's counter as soon as possible so we can get the summer schedules made. Contact Lori Leix with any questions.

Mowers Wanted

Do you like to mow? St. Luke has an opportunity for you to help keep our lawn looking good. St Luke even has 2 riding mowers available to use. Sign up at the servant's counter if you are interested in mowing this summer so we can start working on the summer schedule. If you have questions, please contact Joel Mills.

Puzzle!

First, write the word that fits each definition. Then transfer those letters to the correct numbered lines below, completing John 20:17 (NIV). Finally, unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

1. Water that falls from the sky __ __ __ __ (1 2 3 4)
2. Birds lay these in a nest __ __ __ __ (5 6 7 8)
3. A newly hatched hen __ __ __ __ __ (9 10 11 12 13)
4. These bloom in spring __ __ __ __ __ __ __ (14 15 16 17 18 19 20)
5. A caterpillar transformed __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ (21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29)
6. Dirt mixed with water __ __ __ (30 31 32)

J__ __ __ __ __ (5 8 31 20) (8) __ __ __ __... "I__ (2 30)

__ __ __ __ __ __ (2 20 12 25 4 32) (11) __ __ (4 6) __ __ (24 16) __ __ (30 29)

F__ __ __ __ __ __ (2 23 10 18 26) (26) __ __ __ (2 4 32) __ __ __ __ (29 16 22 1)

F__ __ __ __ __ __, (2 24 10 25 19) (25) __ __ (23 16) __ __ (30 29) G__ __ (16 32)

__ __ __ (2 4 32) (4) __ __ __ __ (29 16 31 1) G__ __ __." (16 32)

John 20:17, NIV

Jesus has __ __ __ __ __!

Answers: rain, eggs, chick, flowers, butterfly, mud; Jesus said … "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." (John 20:17, NIV) Jesus has risen!