St Luke UMC

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

April 1, 2025

BI-WEEKLY

THE Flame

CATCH THE FIRE!

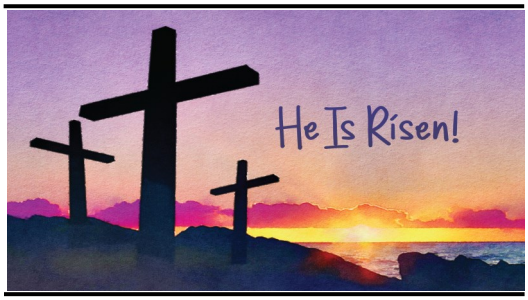
2025 Apportionments

$20,604

Financial Update

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

Total of $13,856 which included:
$ 220 - Building Fund
$ 1,147 - Apportionments
$ 22 - Florence Mefor - Missionary
$ 45 - UMCOR Ukraine
$ 50 - UMCOR Sunday
$ 65 - Heifer International



Where to Find Us

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Maundy Thursday Pancake Supper & Worship Service

Mark your calendars for our Maundy Thursday pancake supper and worship service 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.

My Story

I have always done my own taxes on paper. I don't own much, so while time consuming, it never seemed to be too difficult. That doesn't mean I didn't stress over them…because I did stress! Math has never been my thing. Last year however, the changes in the state tax forms really caused me stress and frustration.

This year, I was procrastinating because I did not look forward to the process of once again trying to figure out the new Iowa state tax forms. I was thinking about trying one of the online programs. And then, I thought to myself, "You can afford to pay someone else now. Why are you stressing? Let someone else have that role." So, I made an appointment with a tax professional…someone with the knowledge needed to prepare my tax forms easily. And guess what, the stress left me. With their guidance my taxes were ready to file in no time.

The Bible reminds us often to seek guidance: *You guide me with your counsel (Psalm 73:24a), Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. (Psalm 119:18). Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. (Psalms 119:105). Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? (Matthew 7: 7-11).* These are just a few of the reminders for us to seek guidance from God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. When we find ourselves stressing over decisions or projects that need to be completed, it's important to ask for help. Sometimes in life we NEED to ask for help, rather than attempting to go it all alone. Sometimes it's a person who has the knowledge that we seek. Other times we need to ask for help from God.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Corinne Kleppe

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 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.

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.

United Women in Faith

April 16 - 1:15 pm
At St Luke UMC

"Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. (NRSV)

Romans 14:13

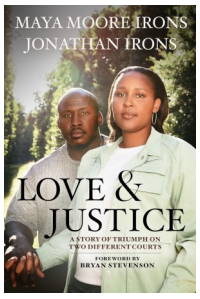
Program: Generational Influence: How Has Your Faith Changed Over the Years?
By: Kerri Deppe
Hostess: Joyce Stonehocker

April 20 - Easter
April 22 - Earth Day

Adult-2 Sunday School Class

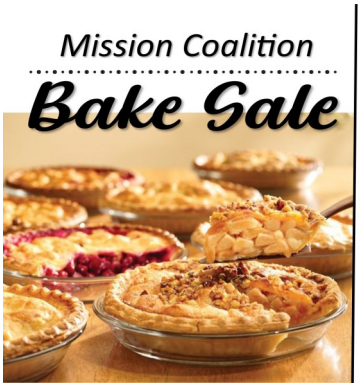
The Adult 2 Sunday School class is currently reading the book *Love and Justice* by Maya Moore Irons and Jonathan Irons.

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.



St Luke
United Methodist
Church
Fellowship Hall

SIGN UP AT THE SERVANT'S COUNTER TO DONATE PIES

Mission Coalition Bake Sale

Mission Coalition is having a bake sale in the St Luke Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 12 from 9 am - 12 pm. St Luke is responsible for bringing double crusted pies. Sign up at the servant's counter if you would like to donate a pie. Please bring any pies to St Luke on Saturday, April 20 between 7:30 and 8:30 am. Contact Joyce Stonehocker with any questions.

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, 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.

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. 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.

Mat Mondays

In Newton, Iowa, the **Looms of Love** program is making a delightful difference!

This heartwarming resourcefulness program involves the entire community. Coming together to create **sleeping mats** for those who find themselves homeless. Volunteers process plastic shopping bags into these durable mats, providing comfort and warmth to those in need. It's like a cozy hug wrapped in recycled love! And guess what?

You can join the mission coalition on Mondays from 1pm-3pm at the First Christian Church in Newton, where we work on creating these mats. Your contribution could make a significant impact!

Let's weave some kindness together!

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

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!

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.

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.

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.

Sympathies

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to Gary Howard and Diana May and family on the passing of Gary's father Larry Howard.

COLORING PAGE

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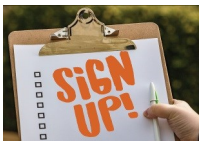
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30 pm Discover Hope Meal @ DH	**2** **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**3** 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	**4**	**5** 9 am - 4 pm Piecemakers Quilt Guild Sew Day FH Rsrvd
6 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow**	**7** 5:30 pm In Person Book Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom Study**	**8**	**9** 6:30 pm Praise Team **7 pm** **Page Turners** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**10**	**11**	**12** 9 am - 12 pm Bake Sale @ St Luke
13 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** **Palm Sunday** 	**14** 5:30 pm In Person Book Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom Study**	**15**	**16** 1:15 pm UWF Meeting Sam's Place **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**17** 4:45 - 6:15 pm Maundy Thursday Pancake Supper	**18** 6:30 pm Good Friday Service	**19**
20 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** **Easter Sunday** 11:30 am - 4 pm FH/Kitchen Rsrvd-Kaldenbergs	**21** 5:30 pm In Person Book Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom Study**	**22** **7 pm** **Mission Coalition**	**23** **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**24** 9 am - 2 pm Days for Girls @ First Presbyterian	**25**	**26**
27 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow**	**28** 5:30 pm In Person Book Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom Study** 6:30-9 pm JCRCC	**29**	**30** **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice			

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
April 6	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Amy Murphy
Greeters	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Pat Patty
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Amy Murphy
April 13	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Amy Ryan
Greeters	Barb Swihart
Reader	Corinne Kleppe
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Barb Swihart
April 20	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters	Carolyn Cook & Allen Barr
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

April 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!

ST LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Newton, Iowa

Worship Schedule for
Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 13
9:30 AM WORSHIP

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 17
4:45 - 6:15 PM PANCAKE SUPPER

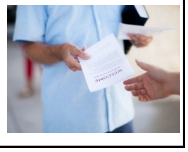
GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 18
6:30 PM SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 20
9:30 AM WORSHIP

happy
EASTER

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 April Birthdays

April 1 - Ava Smith
April 6 - Mary Nelson
April 8 - Kleo O'Brien
April 10 - Jacob Murphy
April 11 - Karen Clark
Kelly Murphy
Payton Figland
April 17 Natalie McConkey
April 20 - Mary Onstot
Mo Lockwood
April 21 - Dale Dorrell
Jennifer Etter

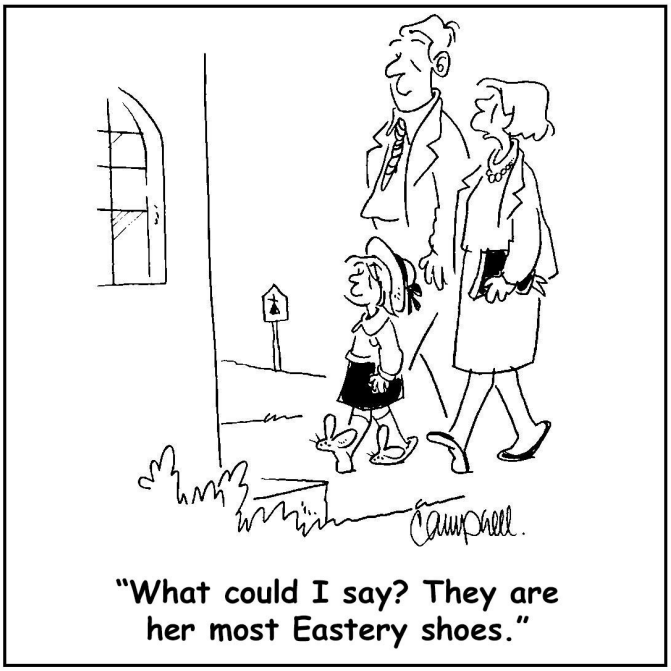
If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the office.

Newsletter

If you know someone that would like to receive the monthly Newsletter via email, please send their name and email address to the church office to be placed on the email list, at: Worship@StLukeNewton.com.

April Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

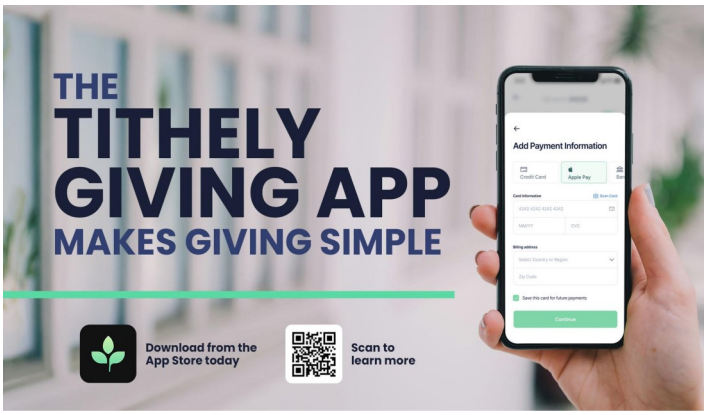
Instant Potatoes
Powdered Milk



"What could I say? They are her most Eastery shoes."

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).



Answer: new birth