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

BI-WEEKLY
THE Flame
CATCH THE FIRE!

Celebrating Our St Luke Graduates

Kleo O'Brien

Kleo O'Brien is the daughter of Mike & Michelle O'Brien. She is graduating from Northwest Missouri State University with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Criminology/Criminal Justice. She will be staying in Maryville, MO hoping to find a job working with children.

Graduation Grocery Cart Challenge

May is Graduation time… from high school… from college… from grad school, and at St Luke, it's time to fill our grocery cart once again. This month, think about your graduation year and use those numbers to determine how much you will spend for the grocery cart. Example: If you graduated in 2025, you could spend a) dollars and cents: $20.25 b) by the year: $25 c) add double numbers: $45 or d) add individual numbers: $9.

Celebrate the anniversary of your graduation from High School by donating to the food pantry this month.

NOW Missions

You're Going Places!

Commencement marks the beginning of a new stage of life, with graduates heading off to discover opportunities and face challenges. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — a Dr. Seuss book that's now a popular graduation gift — whimsically explores life's ups and downs, twists and turns.

Young adults will face excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness. They'll feel a sense of purpose as well as confusion and even fear. "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on," writes Dr. Seuss.

In the storybook, the life-traveler's sheer determination propels him beyond difficulties. But God's children don't need to journey alone. Our heavenly Father walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NRSV): "Be strong and courageous … for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

VBS Registration is Now Open!

Summer is just around the corner which means it's almost time for St Luke VBS! Mark your calendar for June 23 - 27 from 9:00 am - 11:30 am. This year's theme is a really fun one - Road Trip… On the Go with God!

Registration is now open. Check our St Luke Newton Facebook page for details or you can use the following link to register online.

https://forms.gle/TzDu9uouC9mP3BGKA

We hope you can join us for a fun-filled week of VBS! Spread the word and invite your family, friends or anyone you know with kids ages 3 years old through 6th grade completed.

Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, May 29 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.

Golden Cross Sunday Offering Sunday, May 18th

Golden Cross Offerings are used to celebrate health and welfare ministries and the roll in spiritual well-being within the annual conference. 100% of the offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference to fund grants to local churches and community groups.

2025 Summer Camp Registration Is Now Open!

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. Register today for an adventure of a lifetime!

Sunday School Mission Offering May 2025

The 2nd through 5th Sundays in May 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 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 June 3. We will be having turkey tetrazzini, cabbage pecan slaw with cranberries and apples, garlic French bread with brownies 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, June 1. Any questions please contact Joyce Stonehocker or Peg Ehler.

God in Church or Nature? Yes.

Church isn't designed to be an alternative to the real world. Worship is a time and space apart from the world in order for us to find our way out into the world. Worship isn't a man-made place distinct from the beauty of the natural world; at its best, church is a place where we realize God's glory in the world we find ourselves in. Do I find God in a church? or out in nature? Yes. In church I hope to sharpen my senses so I can discover the house of God everywhere.

—James C. Howell, *Everywhere Is Jerusalem*

St Luke Produce Table

Bring produce or take produce in exchange for a free-will donation in the Red Bucket for St Andrew Produce Project.

Spring Clean Up Day at St Luke

Saturday May 3rd a group of St Luke members came together to get some work done at church. A small group worked inside the church building, cleaning windows. The remainder of the group worked outside. Some were more prepared for the wet grass… and wore their wellies… the others of us had wet shoes and socks to deal with. We picked up sticks, pulled weeds, planted flowers, swept sidewalks, used a chain saw, moved a compost pile and tidied up the back corner of our lot. We also laughed, chatted and generally enjoyed one another's company. While we didn't get photos of everyone, here are a few photos from that day. Thank you to everyone who was able to come out that morning and give us a hand. Thank you to Joel Mills and Mike Kaldenberg for organizing and to Ann Leonard for the mulch and for the use of your trailer.

Mission Coalition is Collecting Hy-Vee Receipts for the Pregnancy Center

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 the Pregnancy Center of Central Iowa.

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!

Vacation Bible School Registration Form

3 Years through 6th Grade completed
Monday-Friday, June 23 - 27, 2025
9:00—11:30 am

St Luke United Methodist Church

(Partnering with First Christian Church & First UMC)
501 E. 19th St. N., Newton, IA 50208
(641) 792-5736 - worship@stlukenewton.com

No registration fee, but **donations** for curriculum & supplies are gratefully accepted.

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Birthday: _____/_____/_____ Sex: _____ Last Grade Completed: _____

Allergies/Other needed information: (Or will attend Kindergarten in Fall 2025_____)

_____

_____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip:_____

E-mail: _____

Primary phone: (_____)_____ Secondary phone: (_____)_____

Home church: _____ City: _____

Emergency Contact Name #1: _____Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Name #2: _____Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

☐ I do NOT want my child's photo, individually of in a group, posted on the church Facebook page or any other online sites.

Parents & others are invited to watch the opening skit at 9:00-9:10 am each morning in sanctuary.

Mission Offering
Received daily for Mission Projects.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.
-Proverbs 22:6-

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
May 18	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	Amy Ryan
Greeters (2)	Bruce & Leslie Maach
Reader	Dennis Smith
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Karin Mills
Camera	Joel Mills
Care Core	Jenni Patty
Coffee Time	
May 25	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	Peg Kimberley
Greeters (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	
June 1	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	
Greeters (2)	
Reader	Corinne Kleppe
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pagler
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Karen Clark
June 8	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	David Spiker
Greeters (2)	Barb Swihart
Reader	Bruce Maach
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Karin Mills
Camera	Joel Mills
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Barb Swihart

Worship Assistants

For 2025 we are continuing 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!

Online Worship

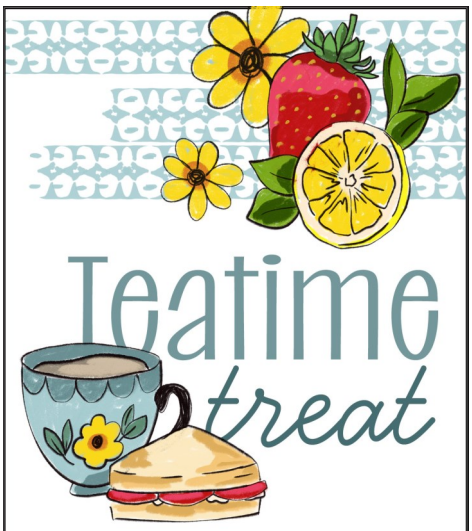
If your schedule keeps you from attending worship, join our live-streamed worship services or watch past services by visiting our St Luke United Methodist Church Facebook page and YouTube channel. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office and we will be happy to help you.

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 am -12 pm
worship@stlukenewton.com.
Phone: 641-792-5736
Newsletter Editor: Corinne Kleppe
corinne.kleppe@grinnellmutual.com
Phone: 641-831-2639
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

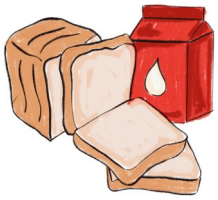
Please find a sub or trade if you cannot do it as scheduled. Then contact the church office so we can print correct names.



Make these sweet sandwiches for a Mother's Day tea party.

What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!

Puzzle!

Unscramble the names of these biblical mothers. Look up the verse if you need help. Then use the letters on the numbered blanks to complete the message below.

VEE (Genesis 3:20) _ _ _ (6 11)

NNAHAH (1 Samuel 1:20) _ _ _ _ _ _ (14)

RBAHEOD (Judges 5:7) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (18 3)

KREEHAB (Genesis 27:5) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (16 5)

EHLA (Genesis 30:14) _ _ _ _ (1)

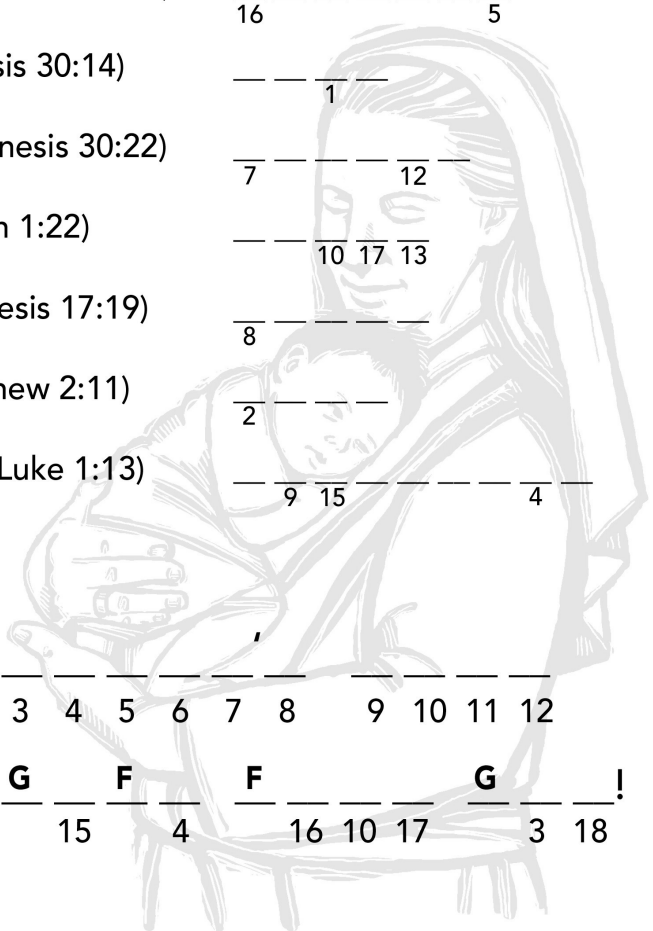
CLEHRA (Genesis 30:22) _ _ _ _ _ _ (7 12)

MOIAN (Ruth 1:22) _ _ _ _ _ (10 17 13)

RAAHS (Genesis 17:19) _ _ _ _ _ (8)

AMYR (Matthew 2:11) _ _ _ _ (2)

ZEBLEHATI (Luke 1:13) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (9 15 4)



_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

_	_	_	**G**	_	_	**F**	_	_	**F**	_	_	_	_	**G**	_	_	_	!		
13	8	14		15		4		16	10	17			3	18						

Answers: Eve, Hannah, Deborah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Naomi, Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth; A mother's love is a gift from God!