St Luke UMC

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

May 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 April:

Total of $13,850 which included:

$ 280 - Building Fund
$ 104 - Apportionments
$ 452 - Easter Offering
$ 360 - UMCOR Sunday
$ 41 - Heifer International
$ 45 - UMCOR Ukraine
$ 10 - Florence Mefor—Missionary

Where to Find Us

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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 Christan 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.

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 if interested in helping.

My Story

I woke up on a Saturday morning and my list of tasks was set for the day…until I decided it was time to wash my bedroom curtains. Taking down the curtains, led to washing my windows, which led to cleaning the leaves out of my sunken patio. (okay, that last one is a never ending task, but it still needed to be done once again.) Eventually I returned to my original list and soon I was resting before tackling the last cleaning item on my list for the day.

I think practicing our faith can evolve in a similar way to spring cleaning. We see one need, and as we are attempting to meet that need… a new need presents itself. The staff at Midwest Mission often tell us stories of conversations they have with a recipient of kits supplied by Midwest Mission. Through those conversations, they often learn of other, possibly even more pressing, needs that can and should be addressed. Usually, the stories continue to show us how the Volunteers, Donations and Midwest Mission staff meet and exceed those needs, much quicker than expected. Faith is definitely in the works.

So also faith, if it does not have works, is dead being by itself. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works. " Show me your faith without works and I will show you faith by my works. You believe that God is one; well and good. Even the demons believe that—and tremble with fear. But would you like evidence, you empty fellow that faith without works is useless? James 2:17-20

Does your faith need a little spring cleaning? Look around you, what needs do you see? Are you able to meet those needs?

Corinne Kleppe

Thank You From Mission Coalition

Mission Coalition would like to give a big thank you to everyone that helped to make our bake sale a huge success! Thank you to those that donated pies and for everyone that came out and bought a delicious baked good. We raised over $800 and will be giving the money to the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Thank you again St Luke from Mission Coalition. We are truly grateful for your generosity.

Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, May 22 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.

Native American Ministries Sunday
Sunday, May 4

The people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus. Your gifts allow us to collaborate with existing native ministries, create programs and support seminary scholarships for United Methodist Native Americans.

Confirmation Sunday

Please join us for Confirmation Sunday on May 11. As we celebrate this important step in their faith journey, Caleb Leonard and Rachel Pageler will become professing members of St Luke and The United Methodist Church!

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.

Mission Highlight
Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice

The Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice (Iowa MMJ) is a statewide membership – based advocacy and immigration legal service organization, driven and led by immigrant and refugee voices and united with allies. With a unique dual – program model, Iowa MMJ is well-equipped to fill unmet needs, build on existing relationships, lead/initiate important conversations and win concrete victories for all communities in Iowa.

Iowa MMJ has dual programs: Legal services based on the belief that migration is a fundamental human right and that everyone deserves to live in safety and with dignity, and an Advocacy program. If you would like to learn more about Iowa MMJ, check out their website: iowammj.org

(excerpts from the Iowa MMJ website)

If you feel moved to support this worthy mission, you can place your donation in the offering plate with "Iowa MMJ" in the memo line, or note your donation through the Tithely Giving App.

NOW Missions

United Women in Faith

May 21 - 1:15 pm
At St Luke UMC

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (NKJV)

Philippians 4:13

Program: How Do You Define Faith?
By: Kathy Trotter

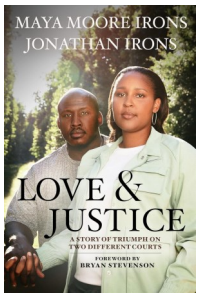
Hostess: Marianne Spaur

May 11 - Mother's 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.

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

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.

GOLDEN CROSS OFFERING

St Luke Can & Bottle Redemption Ministry

The deposits in the redemption container in the northwest corner of the parking lot are continuing to help fund our apportionments. As of January through April, 2025 proceeds from the collections have netted $139.85. Thank you for your continued contribution to this cause.

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!

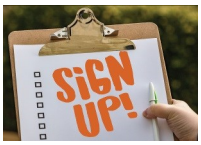
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	**2**	**3** 8:30 am Spring Clean Up Day at St Luke
4 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** **Native American Ministries Sunday**	**5** 5:30 pm In Person Book Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom Study**	**6**	**7** **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**8**	**9**	**10** 9 am - 4 pm Piecemakers Quilt Guild Sew Day FH Rsrvd
11 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** **Confirmation Sunday** 	**12** 5:30 pm In Person Book Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom Study**	**13** 	**14** 6:30 pm Praise Team **7 pm** **Page Turners** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**15** FH Rsrvd Dance Banquet	**16**	**17**
18 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** **Golden Cross Sunday** 	**19** 5:30 pm In Person Book Study **6:30 pm** **Zoom Study** FH Rsrvd 3-6 pm	**20** **6 pm** **Ad Council Meeting**	**21** 1:15 pm UWF Meeting Sam's Place **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**22** 7 pm Piecemakers Quilt Guild FH Rsrvd	**23**	**24**
25 **9:30 am Worship** **Sunday School to Follow** **Graduation Sunday** 	**26** **Office Closed**	**27**	**28** **6:30 pm** **Praise Team** 7:15 pm Choir Practice	**29** 9 am - 2 pm Days for Girls @ First Presbyterian	**30** Last Day of School - Newton Community Schools 	**31**

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
May 4	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Jenni Patty
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Karin Mills
Camera	Joel Mills
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Karen Clark
May 11	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	David Spiker
Greeters	Carolyn Cook
Reader	Leslie Maach
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Stephen Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Pat Patty
May 18	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Amy Ryan
Greeters	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)	
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	

May 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!

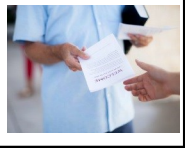
Bobby Jo Valentine Concert

On Sunday, May 4th, First Lutheran Church in Newton will be hosting a concert of folk and pop style music featuring artist Bobby Jo Valentine. The concert will begin at 2 pm at the church located at 309 E. 3rd St. N. Newton.

Bobby Jo has a warm, inviting and personable style. You can preview his music by visiting his website at bobbyjovalentine.com/music. There will be a freewill offering and refreshments following the concert. The offering will go to the Salvation Army Food Pantry.

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 May Birthdays

May 2 - Gloria Simpson
May 8 - Eric Leonard
May 18 - Sarah Schlager
May 19 - Joel Mills
May 20 - Vieng Thongvanh
Dune Carter
May 21 - Terry Swihart
May 22 - Chuck Springer
May 25 - Dick Stiles

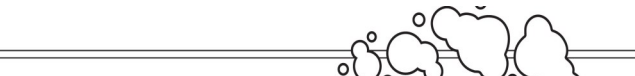
If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the office.

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.

May Salvation Army Food Pantry Request
Personal care items
Soap, shampoo, tooth care

Monday, May 26th



A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.

WORD BANK
bread, household, women, laugh, children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue

She is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ with strength and dignity;
she can _ _ _ _ _ _ at the days to come.

She _ _ _ _ _ _ _ with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her _ _ _ _ _ _.

She watches over the affairs of her _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
and does not eat the _ _ _ _ _ of idleness.

Her _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ arise and call her blessed;
her _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ also, and he praises her:

"Many _ _ _ _ _ do noble things,
but you surpass them all." *Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV*

Charm is _ceptive, and be_ _ty is fl_eting; but a woma_ w_o f_ _rs the Lo_d is to be prais_d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV

Answers: clothed, laugh, speaks, tongue, household, bread, children, husband, women; Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30, NIV