St Luke UMC

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

July 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 June:

Total of $16,377 which included:

$ 565 - Building Fund
$ 261 - Apportionments
$ 90 - Peace with Justice Sunday
$ 49 - Doug Williams—Missionary
$ 10 - Iowa MMJ

Where to Find Us

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Outdoor Worship and Potluck

Weather permitting on Sunday, July 20th there will be an outdoor worship service. We will set up in the shade outdoors. Please bring lawn chairs if you have them.

The worship service will be followed by a potluck dinner in fellowship hall. We will be eating at approximately 11 am. Bring a dish to share. Table service and drinks will be provided.

If you would like to bring outside games to play after the meal please do. We hope you can join us for this fun time of worship and fellowship!

Heifer International

Heifer International is one of my favorite Helping Hand organizations. Many of us help each week by feeding quarters into the Heifer donation tube when you enter church. I was moved by an article in the recent Heifer Newsletter. It tells the success story of Sandhaya Kumari from India. Sandhaya's dream was to become a doctor, however her family of five lived in a three-room hut and funds were not available for her education. At age ten Sandhaya was pressured to marry. Sandhaya was able to complete 11th & 12th grade. As time moved on Sandhaya has two children and a husband with medical issues. When her son was ill there were no funds to pay for medical care.

There is good news Sandhaya joined a self-help group, she learned about nutrition, business skills, and how to care for goats. This is where our gifts provided a helping hand to this family. Sandhaya received a goat. She now has a goat rearing business to support her family.

Small donations overtime adds up. Please stop each week and drop your spare change or larger gifts into the Heifer Tube. You may also write checks and on the memo line indicate Heifer Project, Russ will see it get to the right place.

Michael Kaldenberg

My Story

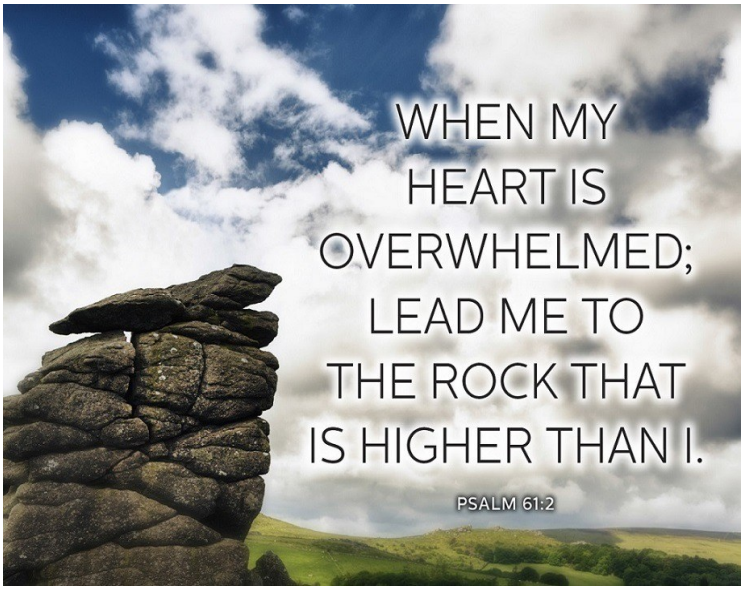
The thunderstorm arrived while our cat, Tina, was out with her kittens. She was always good at teaching her kittens to hunt and that day was a teaching day. But as the storm thundered through our neighborhood, my sisters and I were worried about our furry family members.

Once the storm passed, we looked out the window and saw Tina and all her kittens emerging from under a boat in our neighbor's side yard. She not only taught her little ones to hunt, that day she taught them to seek shelter from the storm. We too need to learn to seek shelter in the storms of life… seek shelter in Jesus!

God, listen to me shout, bend an ear to my prayer. When I'm far from anywhere, down to my last gasp, I call out, "Guide me up High Rock Mountain!" You've always given me breathing room, a place to get away from it all, a lifetime pass to your safehouse, an open invitation as your guest. You've always taken me seriously, God, made me welcome among those who know and love you. Psalm 61:1-5.

God is our refuge, our safe place. God doesn't always stop the storms but he can comfort us in the midst of the storms of life.

Corinne Kleppe



Days For Girls

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

Sunday School Mission Offering
Doug Williams
July and August 2025

The Rev Douglas Williams is a missionary with the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. Doug serves as a pastor and Volunteer in Mission promoter of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina, based in Buenos Aires. Doug coordinates lay-pastor teams in the northern districts of Tucuman, Salta, Jujuy and Santiago de Estero, and assists with hosting UMVIM teams, mostly from the United States. You can read more about Doug and his ministry at http://umcmission.org/missionary-bio/Williams-douglas.

Our Summer Sunday School mission offerings (weeks 2 – 5) will be designated to Doug Williams. As always, you are welcome to add your support by designating your gift to "Doug Williams- missionary" .

1st Sunday – Sunday school offerings continue to be used in support of our Sunday school administrative costs.

Corinne Kleppe – NOW Missions

Holy Ground

For me, there's nothing quite like taking off my sandals in the summer and walking through the grass. But when our sons were infants, neither shared that love of going barefoot. When we'd attempt to lower them to play outside, they'd raise their legs, trying not to touch the tickly, prickly, green ground.

"Do not come any closer," the Lord warned Moses through the burning bush. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5, NIV). In God's presence, Moses faced a turning point: either resist God's instructions or obey, leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Maybe taking off my sandals this summer can remind me that I'm standing in God's presence. I may not hear a booming voice, and I might just be standing at the kitchen sink doing chores. Or I might be at a barbecue, with the opportunity to truly listen to my neighbors. God's presence permeates life's big moments as well as the mundane.

How can you "take off your sandals" and enter what God has for you?

—Janna Firestone

United Women in Faith

July
No Meeting

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God is Christ has forgiven you." (NRSV)
Ephesians 4:32

July 12: Summer Mission U - Ames, IA

Adult-2 Sunday School Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class is currently taking a break for the summer and will start again with a new book on the Sunday after Labor Day. We invite you to join us when we start back up again in the fall. 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.

Summer Special Music

As the Choir and Praise Team take a break for the summer, we are asking you to sign up to share some music with St Luke during the summer months. We may not have special music every Sunday, but hopefully we will have it at least a few Sundays this summer. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the servant's counter through the end of August. We hope you will share your talents with us sometime this summer.

Tips For Gardeners

"Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year," said evangelist Billy Graham. "It brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul." Without summer, our gardens would disappoint, and without love, our hearts wouldn't bloom.

The warmth of summer and love aren't the only ingredients required for abundant physical and spiritual crops, however. Discernment and persistence ensure fruitful yields in both areas. "Unless we know the difference between flowers and weeds, we are not fit to take care of a garden," advised Clyde Francis Lytle. "It is not enough to have truth planted in our minds. We must learn and labor to keep the ground clear of thorns and briars, follies and perversities, which have a wicked propensity to choke the word of life."

UWF Collecting Socks & Underwear

St. Luke United Women in Faith will be collecting underwear and socks for Jasper County school children during June and July.

Our plan is to deliver these needed articles of clothing to the Salvation Army early in August for their school clothes and supplies give away.

There will be a wicker container in the gathering space for the summer months. Please drop in your donations and it will be delivered.

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!

Annual Conference 2025

The St Luke choir (and friends) performed at the memorial service at Annual Conference on Saturday, June 14.

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.

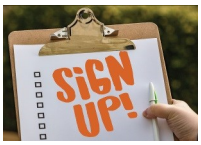
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	**2**	**3**	**4** 	**5**
6 **9:30 am Worship** 	**7**	**8** 6:30 - 8 pm TTT RH Rsrvd	**9** 7 pm Page Turners	**10** 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	**11**	**12** 9 am - 4 pm Piecemakers Quilt Guild Sew Day FH Rsrvd
13 **9:30 am Worship** 	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17** 7 pm Piecemakers Quilt Guild FH Rsrvd	**18**	**19** 12 - 3 pm FH Rsrvd Bill Ponder 90th B-day
20 **9:30 am Outdoor Worship with Potluck Lunch to follow in Fellowship Hall** **10:30 am Ad Council Meeting**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24** 9 am - 2 pm Days for Girls @ First Presbyterian	**25**	**26**
27 **9:30 am Worship**	**28** 6:30 - 9 pm FH Rsrvd JCRCC	**29**	**30**	**31**		

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
July 6	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	
Greeters	
Reader	Bruce Maach
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Karin Mills
Camera	Joel Mills
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	
July 13	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Amy Ryan
Greeters	
Reader	Jenni Patty
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Karin Mills
Camera	Joel Mills
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Kathy Trotter
Coffee Time	Peg Kimberley
July 20	**9:30 AM**
Ushers	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters	
Reader	Leslie Maach
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	
Camera	
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	
July 27	**9:30 AM**
Ushers (2)	David Spiker
Greeters (2)	Peg Kimberley
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	

July Worship Assistants

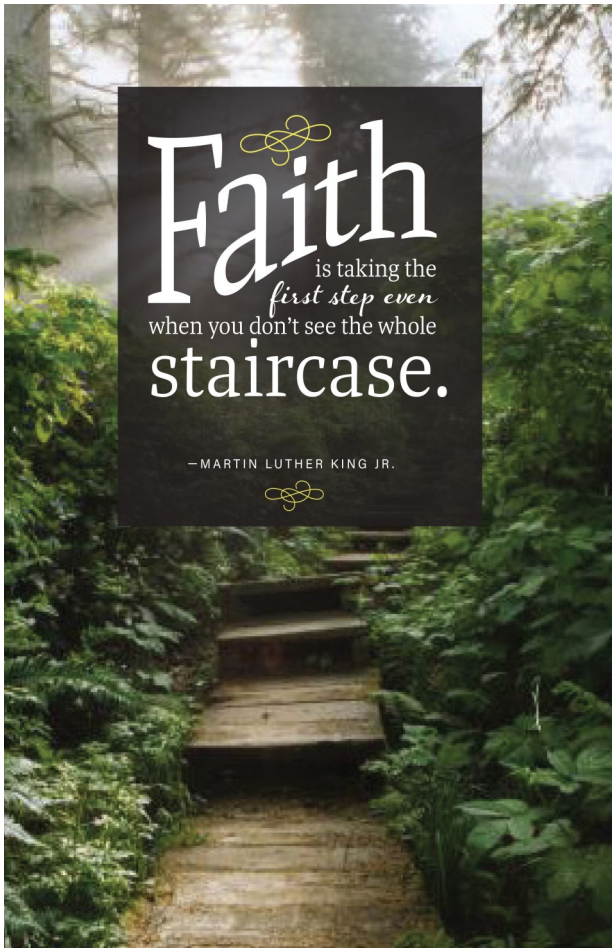
For 2025 we are going to continue with our 3 months at a time sign-ups. This worked very well



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:

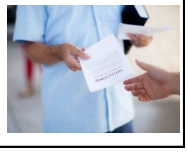
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUhXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing

We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help on Sunday mornings. Thank you St Luke Family!



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 July Birthdays

July 1 - Brenna Figland
July 4 - Maggie Johnson
July 6 - Mike O'Brien
July 12 - Brooke Chambers
July 14 - Eli Swersie
July 17 - Ralph Simpson
July 19 - Corinne Kleppe
July 21 - Bill Ponder
July 23 - Jim Lockwood
July 26 - Holli Simpson
July 29 - Doug McIntyre

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

July Salvation Army Food Pantry Request
Cereal and juice

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.

Complete Joy

Because Jesus came to do such serious work, we often imagine him straight-faced. Yet Jesus also enjoyed fun times, such as the wedding celebration at Cana. When the wine ran out, Jesus miraculously produced more.

Jesus also warmly welcomed children. Picture him lifting an infant into the air or tickling a giggling youngster while another child, grinning, climbs on his back.

Summer usually allows more time for fun and play. So use these months to teach the kids in your life — and to remind yourself — that Jesus came so our "joy may be complete" (John 15:11). Laughing, playing, having fun, relaxing and enjoying life are part of living and loving as faithful disciples.

TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.

This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. ___
A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. _____
Having deep understanding and sound judgment. ____
A person in charge of military troops. _____
A person in authority. _____
The season when daylight hours are longest. _____
A substance you eat for nutrition. ____
When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. _____

Go to the _____, you _____;
consider its ways and be _____!
It has no _____, no overseer or _____,
yet it stores its provisions in _____
and gathers its _____ at _____.

Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV

Answers: ant, sluggard, wise, commander, ruler, summer, food, harvest; Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.