

# St Luke UMC

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

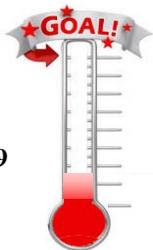
May 1, 2024



# THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

## 2024 Apportionments

**\$16,882**



\$269

## 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 \$16,958 which included:

- \$ 90 - Building Fund
- \$ 17 - Apportionments
- \$ 66 - Florence Mefor - Missionary
- \$ 100 - UMCOR Sunday
- \$ 67 - Native American Sunday
- \$ 20 - UMCOR Int'l Disaster
- \$ 83 - Heifer International



## Where to Find Us

**Pastor:** Rev. Chad Jennings  
chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com  
Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867

**Adm. Assistant:** Jennifer Etter  
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**Article Submission** by the 13th of month.  
**Website:** www.stlukenewton.com  
**Website Manager:** Stephen Pageler  
**YouTube:** St Luke United Methodist Church  
**Facebook:** St Luke Newton  
**Prayer:** prayer@stlukenewton.com

St Luke UMC  
Partnering with First UMC

# Vacation Bible School

June 24 - 28

9:00 am - 11:30 am



## Calling VBS Volunteers!

Warmer weather is just around the corner which means we need to start planning for VBS! Mark your calendar for June 24-28 during which St Luke along with partnering church First UMC will host kids to celebrate and learn about God. This year's theme is a really fun one - Camp Firelight... A Summer Camp Adventure with God!

If you are able to volunteer in any capacity please contact Ann Leonard at [annericleonard@gmail.com](mailto:annericleonard@gmail.com) or call/text her at 641-521-2463.

## Grocery Cart Mission Challenge

With May bringing with it graduation days... here is a challenge for you. To fill the grocery cart this month, think about the year you graduated from High School, and use that year to inspire your grocery cart donations. I guess you could donate foods that you loved as a high school senior, but here's an example of what I mean: If you graduated from High School in 1956... you could spend \$19.56 on your grocery donation. Or you could spend \$5.60 on your donation. Or you could be really generous, and spend \$56. You get the picture. So, the challenge is on... what can you buy that will match or get close to your graduation year? Let's have some fun and fill that grocery cart for the Salvation Army food pantry.



**FOOD  
pantry  
CHALLENGE**

Corinne Kleppe, NOW Missions



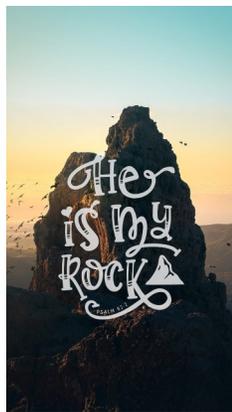
## My Story

### Rely On Christ the King

For many years, we watched the Jerry Lewis MDA telethon on TV. This telethon challenged people to find unique ways to raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Funds raised, they would then donate to be used to accelerate research, advance care and advocate for support for individuals with muscular dystrophy.

The year I joined the youth group at church, the group decided to hold a Rock-A-Thon to raise funds for MDA. No... we didn't hold a 24 hour rock and roll music festival. The "rock" in our Rock-a-thon, was a rocking chair. We committed to rocking to raise money. We rocked for hours, while playing cards, eating, chatting. We rocked around the clock, well...the others did anyway. I was a young 7<sup>th</sup> grader and my mom determined that 12 year olds did NOT stay up all night. I went home to sleep, while the other youth group members, rocked all night long. I had to rely on my mom to wake me the next morning so I could return to the church, where my rocking chair waited. The other youth needed to rely on one another and on God to keep them awake all night. Awake and rocking.

The word ROCK has many meanings: as a noun, it is a natural material, having a distinctive mineral composition. As a verb it is a motion. It can refer to a foundation, a genre of music, or as slang for money. We might tell someone "They Rock" because they are ready to help and get things accomplished. Here are just a few things the Bible says about the Rock.



*There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. (1 Samuel 2:2)*

*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. (Psalm 95:1)*

*The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. (Matthew 7:25)*

*They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:3-4)*

To me, the Bible is telling us to Rely On Christ the King. Rock on King Jesus!

Corinne Kleppe

## Grocery Sacks Needed

We are in need of plastic grocery sack donations. They will be used to make plarn (plastic yarn) to weave sleeping mats for the homeless. If you have any extra plastic grocery sacks you would like to donate please bring them to Joyce Stonehocker or put them in the donation box at the church.



## 2024 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.



## Peace with Justice Sunday - May 26

Moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God's image, the United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice.



Although you may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Sunday, June 16**  
**Pastor Chad's Last Sunday & A Celebration of Ministry**  
**Lasagna Potluck**

## Don't Be Root-Bound

As a new gardener, Jan Riggenbach used to treat bedding plants with extreme care, setting them into soil without disturbing the roots. Eventually she learned that rough — even ruthless — treatment is better in the long run.



"If the plant has been growing in its pot so long that the roots are circling the bottom, I jab my finger into the bottom of the soil and pull down to untangle the roots," Riggenbach wrote in her gardening column. "If the whole pot is filled with circling roots, I have to be merciless. I don't worry if I break some of the roots. That's better than allowing the roots to continue to circle when the plants are growing in the garden."

In the same way, it's easy to grow complacent and inward-focused in our walk with God. But bunched-up roots can't reach out for sustenance. So for maximum faith growth, dare to let God shake you up from time to time!



United  
Women  
in Faith

## United Women in Faith

May 15 - 1:15 pm  
At St Luke UMC

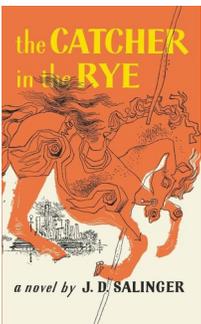
*“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!” (NIV)*  
Psalm 133:1

Program: Relation to Self  
By: Barb Kaldenberg  
Hostess: Barb Kaldenberg

May 12 - Mother’s Day  
May 28 - June 2 - North Central Jurisdiction Meeting,  
Indianapolis, IN  
2026 UWF Assembly—May 15-17, 2026  
Indianapolis, IN

### The Banned Book Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class has decided to read “banned” books. We are currently reading *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger. The book is about the life of a seventeen-year-old boy called Holden Caulfield. His story begins at Pencey Prep, a school he’s been kicked out of for flunking almost all of his subjects. After having a fight with his roommate, Stradler, he leaves Pencey Prep a few days early and decides not to go straight home. Along his way he meets former teachers, old friends, his younger sister and many others.



We invite you to join us. We meet at 10:30 am (following worship) in Room 5, the 3rd room on the left, in the education wing.

### 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.



### Golden Cross Sunday Offering Sunday, May 5th

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.



### 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 would also like to thank Bill & Peg Ehler and Mike & Barb Kaldenberg for helping with the setup. We raised \$1,500 and will be giving the money to the Jasper County Open Arms Foundation. 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 23 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](http://www.daysforgirls.org).



### Sunday School Offering March through June 2024

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays during the months of March, April, May and June, the Sunday School offering will be designated as support for Missionary Florence Mefor. Florence serves as a mid-wife and nurse with the Mutambara Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe. Her work focuses on expecting and postpartum mothers and children under 5 years old. Florence has delivered hundreds of babies and prays that God will continue to give her the strength to continue to do God’s work with the mothers. (excerpt from The Mission Family – Iowa Missionaries newsletter). If you would like to support Florence and you can also give by placing your gift in the offering plate on Sunday morning and noting Florence Mefor on the memo line of your check.



As always, the first Sunday of the month, Sunday school offering go toward administrative costs and for Sunday School materials.

### 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](http://www.iaumc.org/camps). Get ready for your adventure of a lifetime.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>2</b> 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             General Conference April 23 - May 3           </div>			
<b>5</b> <b>9:30 am Worship w/ Communion</b>  <b>Sunday School to Follow</b>  <b>Golden Cross Sunday</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom	<b>7</b> Ad Council/ SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team  <b>7 pm Page Turners FH Rsrvd</b>  7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow</b>  	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom  	<b>14</b> 6pm - 8 pm Narthex & Sanctuary Rsrvd	<b>15</b> <b>1:15 pm UWF Meeting Sam's Place</b>  6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>16</b> 7 pm Quilt Guild Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow</b>  <b>Graduation Sunday</b>  	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>23</b> 9 am - 2pm Days for Girls @ First Presbyterian Church  FH Rsrvd Dance Banquet	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>9:30 am Worship Sunday School to Follow</b>  <b>Peace with Justice Sunday Offering</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>MEMORIAL +DAY+</b> 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom  6:30-9 pm FH Rsrvd	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Last Day of School - Newton Community Schools  	

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	
May 5	9:30 AM
Ushers	Russ & Lori Leix
Greeters	Russ & Lori Leix
Reader	Russ Leix
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Pat Patty
May 12	9:30 AM
Ushers	David Spiker
Greeters	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Jeff Carter
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Megan DeJong
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Peg Kimberley
May 19	9:30 AM
Ushers	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters	Joyce Stonehocker
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Wendy Jennings
May 26	9:30 AM
Ushers (2)	Mike & Kleo O'Brien
Greeters (2)	
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Barb Kaldenberg

## May Worship Assistants

For 2024 we are going to continue with passing sign up sheets around for 3 months at a time. This worked very well last year in getting more volunteer positions filled. We have had a wonderful

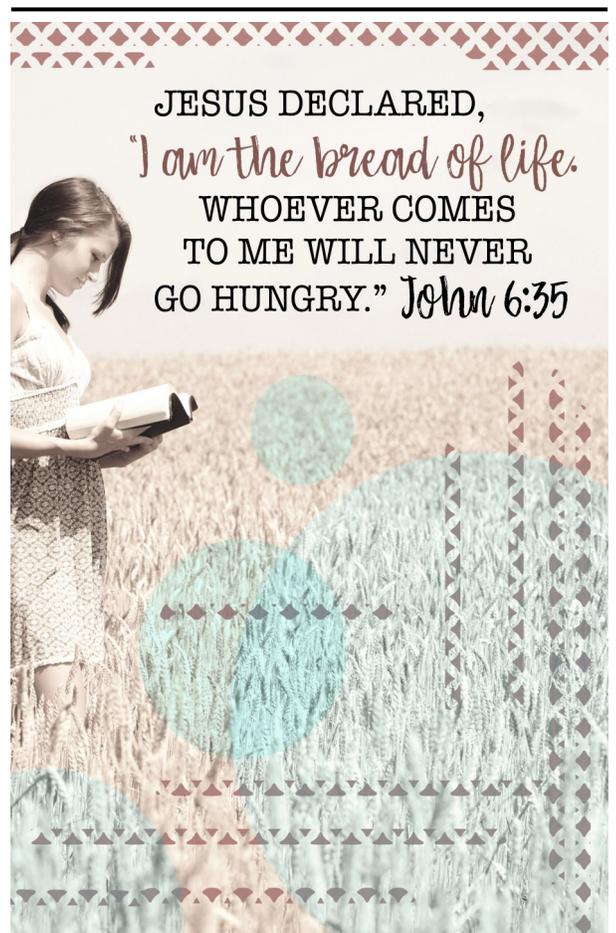


response of volunteers for our first 3 months of 2024 and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. Most positions are filled now through

June but there are still some spots open. If you would like to volunteer or see what positions are available you can email the church office at: [worship@stlukenewton.com](mailto: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 May Birthdays

- May 2 - Gloria Simpson
- May 8 - Eric Leonard
- 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.

# MEMORIAL DAY



Monday, May 27th

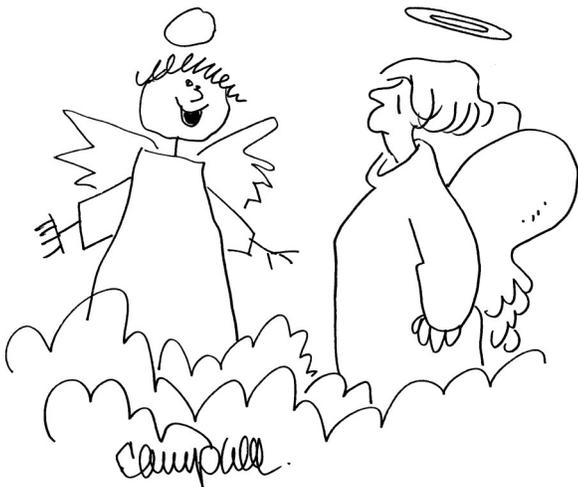


**May Salvation Army Food Pantry Request**  
Personal care items  
Soap, shampoo, tooth care

### 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](mailto:Worship@StLukeNewton.com).



"I was a first-grade teacher. What did you do?"



## UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment. How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

*Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong. Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.*

- flower, stem, bee, leaf
- pink, red, yellow, blue
- mother, sister, brother, aunt
- purple, dress, skirt, blouse
- necklace, ring, bracelet, braid
- diamond, emerald, heart, ruby
- orange, cherry, potato, kiwi
- my, our, she, your
- faith, family, love, hope
- sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature
- cookie, cake, pie, sandwich
- silver, white, gold, bronze

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a g \_\_\_\_\_ and qu \_\_\_\_\_ p \_\_\_\_\_, which is of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

Answers: bee, pink, purple, necklace, diamond, orange, my, faith, sunny, cookie, silver