

January

St Luke Union Church

Thank you!

To everyone who contributed to the College Care Packages! Our college students experienced delicious treats and lots of love thanks to the SLUC family. Pray for these students as they begin their next semester.

Jim and I would like to thank our St. Luke family and friends for the love, hugs, support, prayers, and cards during the loss of my sister, Cheryl Marver. This has been a very difficult time for me, and I am comforted in knowing that we have such a wonderful church family to help us through this. Your love and compassion is truly amazing.

Charlene Munro

Timber-lee Youth Winter Retreat: Please pray for our teens heading to the winter retreat at Timber-lee in Wisconsin January 5-7. Donations of snacks for the trip can be left in Fellowship Hall by Thursday, January 4.

Fun Facts about Epiphany:

- The Epiphany is celebrated on January 6.
Epiphany is a special part of Christmas and the story of Jesus' birth, as it marks when the three wise men followed a star to visit the son of God.
- It marks the day Jesus was revealed to the world.
The festival comes from the Greek word which means 'reveal'.



JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 Office Closed	02 Office Closed	03	04	05 Men's Breakfast 7a Youth Winter Retreat 	06
07 Communion Sun School 9:30a Worship 10:30am Youth Return	08 Boy Scouts 7p	09 Resource Team 2p	10 Worship Team 5p Church Chat 6p Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p	11 Crossroads Board 9a	12	13 DAR Chapter Mtg 10a
14 Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a	15 Adult Ed 12p Boy Scouts 7p	16 VMC Mtg 5:30p	17 Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p	18 Faith Brews 5p	19	20 Piano Recital 2p
21 RaiseRight Sun. Sun.School 9:30a Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a	22 Adult Ed 12p Boy Scouts 7p	23 Lamplighters 7p	24 Church Chat 6p Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p	25	26	27
28 Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a	29 Adult Ed 12p Boy Scouts 7p	30	31 Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p			

Happy Birthday! Matthew Staver 1/1; Ginny Kolze 1/3; Margaret Hawkins, Matthew Kubiak, Ruth Trower 1/4; Karlene Bledsoe, Larry Blum 1/5; Laurie Vial 1/6; Stacy Herren 1/7; Jennifer Delmont 1/9; Amie Keeton 1/12; Sherrie Belletete 1/13; Karen Walters, Susan Walter 1/14; Lydia Rambo 1/16; Tyler Herren 1/20; Judy Ferrier 1/21; Jim King, Mindy Klapp 1/25; Stephanie Dehner 1/28; Bonnie Redick 1/29

Happy Anniversary! Brad & Diann Kamp 1/18; Rodney & Margaret Hawkins 1/28

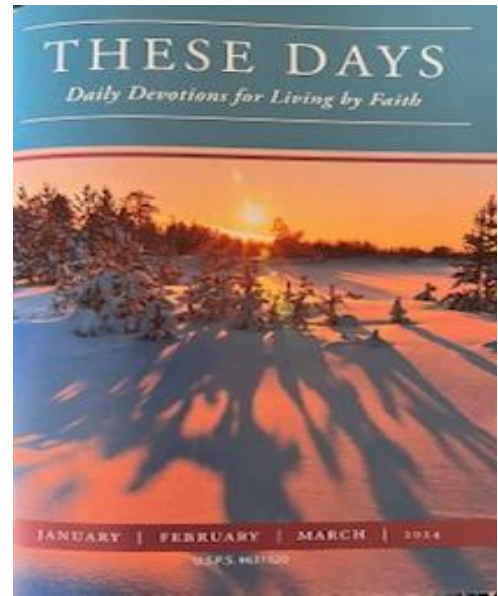
New Adult Bible Study

Monday's at 12:00 noon and beginning on January 15th Pastor Andy will be leading a new study on the Apocrypha. The Apocrypha is a series of books not canonized, (or excluded from the Protestant Bible) but offer important teachings and aspects of Christian faith. Come and learn about these writings and gain a better understanding of your faith. All are welcome, bring a friend, fellowship and learn.

St. Luke Union Church Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday January 21, 2023 following the 10:30 AM service.

There will be a potluck meal. The Hospitality Team will provide beef stew, chili, and Italian beef. Please bring a side dish to share. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.



These Days – Daily Devotional
For January/February/March is now available on the welcome table.



Enjoy these beautiful pictures from our Christmas Eve candle light service.

May the blessings of the Christmas season continue throughout the new year!



More Epiphany Fun Facts:

- **In some countries, Epiphany is as important as Christmas Day.**
In Spain and some Latin American countries, people day the day off work on January 6 and hold parades and fireworks displays in the streets.
- **Some believe it is the wise men, not Santa, who bring gifts for children.**
The night before Epiphany, children leave out drinks for the three wise men and fill their shoes with straw for the kings' horses to eat. The next day they will find cookies, sweets or gifts in place of the drinks they left out.

For I know the thoughts that I hold toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

- This passage is a call to; Be Hopeful!

Each year we Americans celebrate the new year on December 31st as we count down till midnight. At some point in the morning we awake and watch parades and football. It's a holiday that is typically a celebration with the friends and family members we most enjoy spending time. New Year's celebrations are less formed by tradition and more through entertainment, or metaphorically speaking: New Years is in Las Vegas, while Christmas is at Grandma's.

The Jewish celebration of the New Year is known as the Rosh Hashanah. It is both a time of rejoicing and of serious introspection, a time to celebrate the completion of another year, while also taking stock of one's life. The two days of Rosh Hashanah usher in [Ten Days of Repentance](#), also known as the "Days of Awe." These 10 days end with the fast day of [Yom Kippur](#), or the Day of Atonement. A ram's horn or a shofar makes a trumpet-like sound, and is intended as a wake-up call to prepare for the holiday.

My point is that if we look to the New Year's celebration as simply an opportunity to stay up late, play games and party, then perhaps we are missing an opportunity to reflect on the awe of God's blessing.

Each year Sandi will ask me if I have a New Year's resolution. Some years those resolutions are better than others. Sandi enjoys me committing to eating healthier or getting to the gym more often. I try to make these resolutions practical, achievable and even fun. My 2023 resolution was to play more golf, but knee surgery kept that from being successful. This year I'm thinking about resolving to fish more, but looking back at my past resolutions I've noticed that mine do not often reflect in the awe of God's blessing. Therefore, I'd like you to join me in resolving to take notice and give thanks in 2024 to the awe of God's blessing, because according to Jeremiah it will lead to a, "future filled with hope."

This New Years as the clock strikes midnight, as you each hug and embrace the ones you love, take a minute to pray together, while acknowledging the awe of God laid before you.

Happy New Year, may God's peace befall all of creation.

Pastor Andy

CONTACT US!

Rev. Dr. Andrew Gifford, Pastor

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Website:

www.stlukeunion.org

Facebook

Like our Facebook page for updates on church news, events & Reginald's whereabouts! Sunday Worship will go Facebook LIVE at 10:30am!

www.facebook.com/stlukeunionchurch

YouTube

Search: [St Luke Union Church](#)

Church Office Hours:

Monday: 9a – 3p

Tuesday: 9a – 3p

Wednesday: 9a – 3p

Thursday: 9a – 3p

Friday & Saturday: Closed

Worship

Online + In-Person

Sunday 10:30am!



St Luke Union Church

2101 E Washington St Bloomington, IL 61701

(Corner of Regency Drive and Washington St – open 24 hrs/7 days a week)

TerraCycle Programs & Other Collections

Collection is in the garage behind the church where collection containers are labeled;
if you do not see a container, please DO NOT leave it.

ARM & HAMMER® and OxiClean®: ARM & HAMMER and OxiClean plastic pouches. (Must be these brands only)

Bausch + Lomb ONE Contact Lens Recycling: All brands of contact lenses, plus foil and blister packaging.

GoGo SqueeZ Baby Food Pouches Recycling: All baby and toddler food plastic pouches and caps (such as Go-Go Squeeze, Ella's, Earth's Best, etc.). **Please - Leave caps on to reduce smell and mold.**

Brita® Recycling Program: Brita pitchers, individual filtration bottles, filters, foil filter packaging, and faucet filtration systems. (Must be this brand only.)

Burt's Bee Recycling: Burt's Bee products packaging. (Must be this brand only.)

Cigarette Waste Recycling Program: NO DROP OFF - PLEASE CONTACT AMIE (joelamiekeeton@gmail.com or 309.242.8871) FOR MORE INSTRUCTIONS. Program accepts cold extinguished cigarettes, cigarette filters, loose tobacco pouches, outer plastic packaging, inner foil packaging, rolling paper and ash.

Colgate/Tom's of Maine Dental and Deodorant Recycling: All brands toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes, floss containers, mouthwash bottles and caps, plastic deodorant containers and caps; also, clear plastic cover from toothbrush/dental floss packaging (remove cardboard backing and put in city recycling first). **Please note: no aerosol cans which go into regular city recycling.**

Honest Kids Drink Pouch Recycling Program: Flat, flexible aluminum/plastic drink pouches and their straws. Any brand accepted. Must be completely empty.

Entenmann's Little Bites Pouches Recycling Program: Entenmann's brand Little Bites plastic pouches and clear Entenmann's Minis packaging. (Must be this brand only.)

eos: eos lip, lotion and shave packaging. (Must be this brand only.)

Febreze® Air Care Recycling Program: All brands of air freshener plastic cartridges, plugs, packaging and flexible plastic film packaging, trigger heads and Mr. Clean Deep Cleaning Mist bottles and trigger heads. **(Aerosol spray cans go into city recycling).**

Garnier® Personal Care & Beauty: Emptied Plastic Garnier personal care or beauty product containers, tubes and lids. (Must be this brand only.)

Gerber®: Gerber baby food packaging and small and large hook Gerber Baby clothing hangers. (Must be this brand only.)

Gillette® Razor Recycling Program: All brands of razor blades; plastic and metal razors; flexible plastic bags and rigid plastic razor packaging. Clean and dry before donating.

GOLDTOE® Socks: All brands of used, clean socks.

Kroger - Our Brands Recycling Program: Kroger flexible plastic packaging. (Must be this brand only.)

Late July® Snacks Recycling Program: Late July® brand plastic snack packaging and chip bags. (Must be this brand.)

PopSockets® & Cell Phone Cases: Grips, mounts, wallets, and similar phone accessories, this program is brand-specific, which means you can only collect PopSockets products. However, you can collect **phone cases from ANY brand** for recycling.

Rubbermaid® Food Storage Recycling Program: All brands of durable type food storage plastic and glass containers and lids. (No fast food containers please!)

Solo® Cup Recycling Program: ONLY #6 rigid plastic CUPS –rinse, and let dry before donating. No lids or straws collected by us (but Subaru does - see above), No other # 6 items please! No take-out containers, No clamshell plastic containers. See our bin for list of which local take-out restaurants do not use # 6 cups and omit those please (Subaru takes all types of cups, lids, straws).

Swiffer® Recycling Program: Swiffer refills: Sweeper, Duster and WetJet pads. (Must be this brand only).

Takis® Snacks: Takis Snacks, Takis Rolled Tortilla Chips, Takis STIX, Takis POP!, Takis Waves, Takis Kettlez, and Takis Crisps flexible plastic bags and containers. (Must be this brand only).

Tide Free Recycling Program: Fabric care products and packaging from brands Tide, Gain, Downy, NBD & Dreft, including plastic components (dispensing cup, bag, nozzle clip) and plastic packaging wrap, flexible plastic bags, rigid plastic tubs and lids and Tide To GO pen. (Must be these brands only).

Toys & Games: VTech and LeapFrog electronic learning devices and electronic toys program and Hasbro Toys and Games: For the full list of accepted items, [view the VTech & LeapFrog FAQ](#) and [Hasbro](#) list of accepted items. (Must be these brands only.)

Additional Recycling Collections at the St Luke:

Aluminum Can Recycling: Please put cans in the Large labeled wooden box in the front and center of the garage. Please consider recycling your ALUMINUM cans with us instead of just putting them in city recycling. We recycle locally to get money for charity.

Holiday-Type Light Strands & Cords/Wire/Cable Recycling: Twinkle light bulbs ok to leave on; larger light bulbs should be removed and can be recycled at the lighting section of our local Menards, Lowes or Home Depot. Please remove any other plastic or metal decor before donating light strands.

Lion's Club box: Cell phones; small printer cartridges (**from home use only**); eyeglasses; hearing aids; keys. (ok to drop small items at Common Ground). Lion's Club volunteers manage this for charity. (ok to drop small amounts at Common Ground).

***Please - ONLY leave the items listed above.**

TerraCycle Volunteers:

Amie Keeton joelamiekeeton@gmail.com, Janet Guaderrama jquader@gmail.com,
Melanie Ziomek mziomek@my.heartland.edu Marcia Nagy trek2ak@frontiernet.net