

# February

*St Luke Union Church*



**Welcome  
William Brian Cheung!**

William was born January 25, 2024. He weighed 7 lb 15 oz.

His parents are Olivia and Quinn Cheung. His proud grandparents are Brian and Darlene Trower.



Trivia: What does the word "Lent" translate?

**Leap Year Fun Fact:**

Julius Caesar introduced the first leap year around 46 B.C., but his Julian calendar had only one rule: Any year evenly divisible by four would be a leap year. That created too many leap years, but the math wasn't tweaked until Pope Gregory XIII introduced his Gregorian calendar more than 1,500 years later.

Caesar's concept wasn't bad, but his math was a little off; the extra day every four years was too much of a correction. As a result, there's a leap year every year that is divisible by four, but to qualify, century years (those that end in 00) must also be divisible by 400. So, the year 2000 was a leap year, but the years 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not.



# FEBRUARY 2024

SUN                  MON                  TUE                  WED                  THU                  FRI                  SAT

				<b>01</b>	<b>02</b> Men's Breakfast 7a	<b>03</b>
<b>04</b> Communion Sun School 9:30a Choir Prac 9:30a Worship 10:30am Youth 5-7	<b>05</b> Boy Scouts 7p	<b>06</b> Mission Team 5:30p	<b>07</b> Spiritual Growth & Srvc Ops Mtg 5p Worship Team 5p Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b> Intergenerational Event – Mardi Gras 5:30p	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a	<b>12</b> Adult Ed 12p  Boy Scouts 7p	<b>13</b> Resource Team 2p	<b>14</b> Ash Wednesday Service 6p  Choir Practice 7p	<b>15</b> Faith Brews 5p @ Lil Beaver Brewery	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> RaiseRight Sun. Confirm. 9:15a Sun.School 9:30a Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a Youth 12-2	<b>19</b> Adult Ed 12p  Boy Scouts 7p	<b>20</b>  VMC Mtg 5:30p	<b>21</b>  Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Scout Sunday Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a	<b>26</b> Adult Ed 12p  Boy Scouts 7p	<b>27</b> Lamplighters 7p	<b>28</b> Church Chat 6p Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p	<b>29</b>		

**Happy Birthday!** Meredith Stevens 2/4; Susan Trower 2/6; Charles McLean 2/9; Michael Verplaetse 2/10; John Otto 2/16; Seth Baker 2/18; Olivia Hamilton 2/19; Michael Kolze 2/21; Shauna Allison 2/23; Daniel Austin, Carol AuYeung, Miles Keeton, Marcia Nagy 2/24; Carson Schaefer 2/28



Join us for a  
Mardi Gras-  
themed dinner  
Friday, February 9  
5:30-8:00 pm

Intergenerational Event: The Spiritual Growth Team is sponsoring a Mardi Gras themed dinner at church on Friday, February 9 from 5:30-8:00 pm. We will serve the main dish and ask everyone to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will have dinner, games, and a reflection time to help us prepare for Lent.

**Church Chat**

**What is it?** Church Chat is a bible based study that is intended to be led and participated by those of us who are not bible scholars. There is a bible workbook that is intended to help us on our journey to bring the bible to life for those of us who want to learn more about the bible and have some fun and fellowship in the process. Norm Lopez will moderate the class and looks forward to learning with you as you go through this time together.

**When is it?** Church Chat meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 pm at the church.

Trivia Answer: Spring

**Stand Down – Thank You**

St Luke Union Church received a thank you letter from Johanna Wagner, Assistant Director of Program Services at Goodwill. In the letter she writes:

“Please accept this letter as a personal thank you for your help and support of our Veterans in Central Illinois. We continue to see an increase in Veterans needing services and attending Stand Down to receive much needed winter items.

Your donation of personal hygiene items, undergarments and gloves means so much because Stand Down means so much to these Veterans. It is a day of hope and a day our veterans will remember for a lifetime.”


Thank you to all our members who donated items and/or donated your time for Goodwill’s Stand Down 2023. Your kindness means so much to so many.

The Mitten Tree was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who donated items.

We collected:

32	Hat & Glove sets
51	Gloves and Mittens
56	Children’s Socks
12	Children’s Underwear

The items will be donated to Heartland Head Start.



**Book Drive**

Troop 19 members are organizing a book drive to collect books for children in need. They are looking for gently used or new elementary reading level books. We will collect books through Monday, February 5. Please bring your donations to the church office.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Spring Group Sale May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>.  
Set-up for group sale begins  
Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> after church.



### **Jeremiah 17:8**

*“He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”*

Over Christmas break I read a book given to me by my brother Chuck called, *Island of the Lost*, by Joan Druett. It is a true story that is told through the writings of the castaways from two ship wrecks occurring in the Auckland Islands in the mid 1800's. This was a time known as the great age of sail, where sailors and captains set upon the sea in search of their fortunes. It was a time of celestial navigation, and uncharted waters were vessels succumbed to the desires of the wind and waves of vast oceans. The Auckland Islands are actually an archipelago located in the Southern Pacific Ocean some 280 nautical miles south of New Zealand.

The two wrecked ships, the schooner Grafton and the bark Invercauld floundered the same year at different points within the Auckland Islands, a location some 20 mile apart. Each crew was faced with the same hardships, that of seeking shelter and securing an adequate food source until a passing ship could rescue them. Many of their resources were plucked from the wrecks they had sailed upon, but the use of these resources and the success within this trial was very different. The Grafton sailed with five men and all survived, the Invercauld sailed with nineteen men and only 3 survived. The difference of these two crews was that the Grafton's men worked together, embraced each other's strengths while not relying on one's weakness. They worked together to solve problems and treated one another with respect. In the case of the Invercauld, their crew lived lives of personal preservation, hoarding resources and failing to work together.

The Auckland Islands are not a hospitable place, located at 50 degrees south latitude. Today there still are no permanent residents beyond the birds and seals who arrive each year as a nesting and breeding location. So what then became the reason for one crew's success and the others failure? Faith is the answer. The captain of the Grafton was a man of faith and one of the items they retrieved from the Grafton was a Bible. Each night they would read from its pages, they prayed before meals and did their best to live by the truth of scripture. Faith was in God and that God was with them, encouraged them in their survival's success. The captain of the Invercauld was not a man of faith and attempted to maintain the hierarchy of power common among sailing vessels of the time. He felt privileged and due specific provisions before any of his men. He demanded respect but offered little in return. He worked for his personal survival at the expense of his crew. He served only himself.

I enjoyed the book, likely because it revolved around sailing and the life of a sailor, but it also shows how in the most difficult trials of our lives our faith can always be relied upon. That God walks with us, encouraging and giving strength. That the lessons scripture gives us not only form our Christian ethic but draw us to serve one another. As Jeremiah wrote, *“In times of drought, let's not be anxious but instead let us bear fruit.”*

Peace  
Pastor Andy

## **CONTACT US!**

**Rev. Dr. Andrew Gifford, Pastor**

agifford@stlukeunion.org

**Susan Walter, Office Manager**

swalter@stlukeunion.org

### **Website:**

[www.stlukeunion.org](http://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](http://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.**

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**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](mailto: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.

**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.)

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#### **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](mailto:joelamiekeeton@gmail.com), Janet Guaderrama [jquader@gmail.com](mailto:jquader@gmail.com),  
Melanie Ziomek [mziomek@my.heartland.edu](mailto:mziomek@my.heartland.edu) Marcia Nagy [trek2ak@frontiernet.net](mailto:trek2ak@frontiernet.net)