

New Directions **JUNE** St Luke Union Church

Spring Group Sale –Many Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who set up, tore down, donated, cleaned, baked, and served for the Spring Group Sale! Your time, energy and service are a blessing to St. Luke Union and to the community.

The total amount made at the Group Sale was: \$5,000 and counting.

Leftover items went to Goodwill, Birthright of Bloomington (infant clothes), St. Vincent De Paul Society (children's clothes), and Merry Maids (DVD's). Sally Parry donated the leftover books to Books to Benefit, P.E.O., and Little Free Library.

Youth Mission Trip 2024

We will have five youths and three adults heading to Las Animas, CO June 23-29, 2024 to participate in Group Mission Trips Workcamp. Please pray for their safety while traveling and for spiritual growth during their week away from home.

We will soon post a prayer partner sign-up sheet so you can mail notes of encouragement and packages to our group.

We will celebrate Youth Sunday on June 30th.

Pastor Andy Joke: A Baptist, a Presbyterian and a rabbit walk into a bar. The bartender looks at the rabbit and the rabbit quickly replies, "Hey, I'm only here due to autocorrect."

Trivia Question: Who is older in the United States, the Presbyterians or the Congregationalists?



JUNE 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

01

02

Communion
Choir Prac 9:30a
Worship 10:30am

03

Boy Scouts 7p

04

05

Boy Scouts
Popcorn Mtg
6:30p
Choir Practice 7p

06

07

Men's Breakfast 7a

08

Women's
Fellowship
Make-A-Pot 10a

Pastor Andy out of office for MC Training, June 3-7

09

Funks Grove
Worship Service
10:30a
Pack 33 Mtg
5:30p

10

Boy Scouts 7p

11

Resource Team
2p
Finance Mtg 5p

12

BBQ Party/
Kite Nite
Dinner 5p
Worship at
Labyrinth 6p

13

Crossroads Board
9a

14

15

Piano Recital 2p
CornBelters
Game 6:30p

16

RaiseRight Sun.
Worship 10:30a

17

Boy Scouts 7p

18

19

20

Faith Brews 5p

21

22

Pastor Andy out of office – MC @ Youth Mission Trip in Lincoln, IL

23

Worship 10:30a

24

Boy Scouts 7p

25

VMC Mtg 5:30p
Lamplighters 7p

26

27

28

29

Youth Mission Trip to Las Animas, CO June 23-29

30

Youth Sunday
Worship 10:30a

Happy Birthday! Mary Scott 6/6; Sara Kellum 6/8; Ben Gifford 6/12; Rebecca Schaefer 6/19; Rod Hawkins 6/23; John Boerner 6/27; Annie Otto 6/28; Aiden Luna 6/30

Happy Anniversary! Kevin & Amanda O'Rourke 6/7; Doug & Sanae Ferrier 6/8; Ryan & Megan Murray 6/9; Dan & Ann Austin 6/12; Jim & Charlene Munro 6/13; Scott & Sarah Luna 6/15; Bob & Marsha Hinthorn 6/18; Glenn & Sharon Stille 6/22; Marshall & Nancy Davis 6/23; Tom & Linda Sellberg 6/27; Ed & Tammy Desmond, Chuck & Carol Parlette 6/29

Congrats to our Graduate!

Lillie Keeton graduated from Bloomington High School on Sunday, May 26, 2004. While at BHS, Lillie participated in Lacrosse, Volleyball, Marching Band, Chess Club, and Speech Team. She was on the Homecoming Court and Prom Court.

In the fall, Lillie plans to attend Illinois Wesleyan University and will play on the Lacrosse team.



Women's Fellowship Make a Pot

Women's Fellowship Make a Pot will be June 8th at 10:00 am at the church. Niepagen's will be coming to show us how to make a porch pot. The cost is \$30 and you get the pot, soil, 3 premium annuals, and a 'spike' for height. We will be walked through how to make our pots look fantastic to take home.

Sign-up is in the Fellowship Hall. Cash or checks are accepted. Please make checks out to the church. IF you don't want to make your own pot – please come and have refreshments and socialize with us. Looking forward to seeing you there!!! Any questions see Dede Verplaetse or Lori Blankenship.

More Graduation News

Elizabeth Shepard, granddaughter of Joyce Pomrenke, daughter of Sue and Tracy Shepard graduated from ISU, with a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences.

Trivia Answer: The Presbyterian Church formed in the United States in the 1630's while the Congregational Church formed in the 1620's.



FUNKS GROVE WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024 10:30 AM

Our worship service will be at
Funks Grove Church,
7054 E 535 North Rd., McLean, IL 61754.
Potluck to follow.

Bring a side or main dish to share.
*There will be no worship service at St. Luke
Union Church that day.*



Join us for a CornBeltsers game and fellowship!

We will have tickets for two CornBeltsers games this summer courtesy of LS Mechanical.

The games are Saturday, June 15 at 6:30 pm and Friday, July 26 at 6:30 pm.
More information and sign-ups coming soon.





If you could turn back time to 2014-2016, you may remember Prasanna Godugu as a Sunday regular at St. Luke Union. He had come to the United States to work as an IBM software engineer contractor for a large insurance company here in town. While his wife and two young sons remained in India, Prasanna found a second home at our church, helping us with various church projects (including replacing all the aging electrical receptacles downstairs), painting trim, preparing delicious dishes for potlucks, and supporting our youth. You may remember he sat in the back and would remove his shoes when he entered the sanctuary...for it was Holy Ground.



Prasanna returned to Hyderabad India in 2016 to rejoin his family and start a software servicing company. That company has now grown to over 100 employees, and what's more his oldest son has graduated from high school. Time does pass quickly. Prasanna fondly remembers his time at St. Luke Union and recently reached out to wish us a most blessed Easter. He is now a spiritual leader at his church and talks about us frequently. He fondly remembers holding hands and singing the doxology at the end of our service. As he put it, "this was unique and one of the most beautiful things I had experienced in my life." We then sent this message to Prasanna and his congregation:

"To your congregation in Hyderabad, we (St. Luke Union) send you all the warmest Easter greetings. As the season of Pentecost approaches, may the love and peace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ and the joy of the Holy Spirit inspire you to encourage and bless one another. We pray that your faith will grow so that you may touch the lives of people you serve. God Bless You All!"

Thank you church family for your generosity and hospitality to Prasanna. Your love helped build a bridge between two congregations half a world apart.

Stand Down for Veterans 2024

Goodwill of Central Illinois is planning for the 2024 STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS. As in the past the Missions Team will be supporting this and asking for your support.

As always, we need XL winter gloves (men's and women's). Luckily, this was a mild year winter-wise and there have been some excellent sales already.

Johanna Wagner, Assistant Director of Program Services, is also looking for socks and diabetic socks this year. The goal is to provide three pairs of socks per client, and every year Stand Down has had about 200 clients.

For anyone who wants to donate but not shop, make checks payable to Goodwill Industries- with "STAND DOWN 2024" in the memo line. Send checks to:

Goodwill Industries
Attn: Johanna Wagner
2319 E War Memorial
Peoria Il. 61614

I expect to get a more detailed list soon, and when I do I will share it with you. Thank you all for your support

-Jim Munro

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY IS ALWAYS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Our next Salvation Army food drive is on June 2

In choosing what to donate to the Salvation Army Food Pantry, let's make sure we help stock their shelves with what they need – and avoid what they don't need!

What they need:

High priority: Canned Soup (pop-top preferred) and Macaroni and Cheese
Canned fruit - preferably packed in natural juice
Canned meat – chicken, ham, SPAM
Canned fish – tuna and salmon
Soups, Stews, Chili - either canned or packaged
Boxed dinners – Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper
Boxed cereals – preferably whole grain, low in sugar
Canned beans – pinto, pork 'n beans, etc.
Applesauce
Peanut Butter
Crackers
Granola Bars
Instant mashed potatoes
Pasta – spaghetti, as well as spaghetti sauce
Rice
Powdered milk

What they don't need:

Anything that has to be baked
Junk food
Anything that needs a can opener -- (pop-top cans are best)
Anything in glass containers or cellophane wrapping



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www.bnempower.com**



1 Timothy 6:6-7 "There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world that we can take nothing out of it."

During the past several months the church's Resource Team and Vision and Ministry Council have been looking at capital projects that need to take place within the St Luke Union Church plant. These projects include: re-piping 60-year water lines, replacing the flat roof, new energy efficient windows, major organ repair, solar energy, lower level floor repair and sound and visual upgrades to the sanctuary. Each of these projects constitutes a large amount of funds and resources. St Luke Union Church is a beautiful church situated in a wonderful location. We have worked hard to maintain its stature. The purpose of this month's newsletter article is not only to inform you of projects we will undertake but also to get you thinking about legacy giving. Legacy giving is the specific naming and designation of financial gifts from your estate. What I am asking is that you each think about the long term viability of St Luke Union Church ministry after you have received your eternal blessing.

Currently St Luke Union Church manages and utilizes the gifts of two past church members: Ivan Jenkins and Anita Foster. Their generosity lives on in how we construct budgets and promote the church's mission and ministry. After Ben and Seth graduated and moved out of state, Sandi and I met with a lawyer to reconstruct our estate plans. Legacy giving was a large part of that conversation.

I invite you to consider making St Luke Union Church a recipient of your personal legacy plan. If you have any question on how to go about this, please see me. There are also several others in church leadership that can help guide you through this process.

We all love St Luke Union Church and what it has done to proclaim the love of Christ and the gift of eternal salvation. Help make that legacy something that will continue for generations.

Peace and Thank You
Pastor Andy

CONTACT US!

Rev. Dr. Andrew Gifford, Pastor

agifford@stlukeunion.org

Susan Walter, Office Manager

swalter@stlukeunion.org

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](https://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.

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