

# September

*St Luke Union Church*

## Kickoff Sunday is set for Sunday, September 8, 2024!

A potluck meal will follow the worship service. Bring a dish to share.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will begin again on Kickoff Sunday, **September 8th at 9:30 am** with fun and games.

We will meet again on September 15th and then every other Sunday after that.

Children in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend, so bring your children, grandchildren, and neighbor kids. Let's fill the classroom!

### MONDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The St Luke Union Church Monday Bible Study will begin on Monday, **September 9th at 12:00 pm**. This fall we will continue to examine some of the trans-testimonial books not included in the Bible. These books are helpful in giving a better understanding of our faith, its origin and perhaps their heretical nature. All are welcome, come join the fun and active discussions. No textbooks are needed, and references will be provided in handouts or online.

### CHURCH CHAT

Church Chat is a study opportunity that will be held this fall on the First and Third Wednesday of the month, at 6:00pm. Pastor Andy will be leading this discussion and study. Thoughts for study topics are: Confirmation for Adults or Living Ones Faith in the 21st Century. More will be determined during the first meeting on **Wednesday, September 18th**.

**Trivia Questions:** 1) Who was identified as a founding father of the Presbyterian Church?

2) When was the United Church of Christ formed?



# SEPTEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>01</b> Communion Worship 10:30a	<b>02</b> Office Closed Boy Scouts 7p	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b> Midwest Mission Distrib. Center Mission Trip Choir Practice 7p	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b> Men's Breakfast 7a	<b>07</b>
<b>08</b> Kick-Off Sunday Sunday Sch 9:30a Choir Practice 9:30a Worship 10:30a	<b>09</b> Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	<b>10</b> Resource Team 2p Finance Mtg 5p	<b>11</b> Worship Team 5p Choir Practice 7p	<b>12</b> Crossroads Board 9a DAR Meeting 3:30p	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> DAR Chapter Potluck 1p Blum Vow Renewal 5p
<b>15</b> RaiseRight Sunday Sunday Sch 9:30a Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a	<b>16</b> Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	<b>17</b> VMC Mtg 5:30p	<b>18</b> Church Chat 6p Choir Practice 7p	<b>19</b> Faith Brews 5p PEO Mtg 5:30p	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Choir Prac 9:30a Worship 10:30a	<b>23</b> Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	<b>24</b> Lamplighters 7p	<b>25</b> Choir Practice 7p	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Sunday Sch 9:30a Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a	<b>30</b> Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p					

**Happy Birthday!** Rebecca Hepner 9/5; Karin Hunt 9/7; Betty Potts 9/8; David Ferrier 9/9; David Colee 9/10; Denny Redick & Lucas Trower 9/12; Jim Ferrier 9/13; Alex Herren 9/19; Priscilla Harper 9/20; Sydney Allison & Andrew Claucherty 9/27; Jack Murphy 9/28; Sandra Colee 9/29

**Happy Anniversary!** Mick & Caroline Fleming 9/8; Laurie Vial & Mike Ball 9/13; Larry & Becky Blum 9/14; Kevin & Rebecca Schaefer 9/24; Mike & Dede Verplaetse 9/26; James & Louise Moore 9/27; Joel & Amie Keeton 9/28

## ~Women's Fellowship Fall Rally~

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm



6:00 pm – Gather for dessert and fellowship.

6:30 pm – Business Meeting, will vote on new officers.

7:00 pm – Speakers from Home Sweet Home Mission to discuss programs and services they provide.

**Home Sweet Home Wish List:** Ice Packs (for injuries), Ibuprofen/Tylenol, Allergy Meds, Toilet Paper, Snack Size Chips/Salty Snacks, Bottled Water, Zip Lock Snack Size Bags, Deodorant.

If you have questions, please contact: Marsha (309)310-5483 or Lori (309)531-7244

## 2024 FALL GROUP SALE & BAKE SALE

Friday, October 18th – 9am – 5pm & Saturday, October 19th – 9am – Noon

**Ready, Set, Go!!!** It is time to look through your Fall/Winter clothing, kitchen items, children's toys, books, linens, jewelry, knick knacks and decide what gently used items you would like to pass on to someone else. There are so many in our community, now more than ever, who need affordable items. St. Luke Union Church group sale allows us to help the community by providing these items. The remaining items will be donated to local organizations.

**We will begin set up after worship on Sunday, October 13th**

### Bring your items:

Monday, October 14th & Tuesday, October 15th – 8:30 am to 7 pm

Wednesday, October 16th – 9 am to NOON (please no items after noon)

**Called to Serve** – WE NEED YOUR HELP – Consider sharing your talents for a few hours, a day, or a few days. We also have “sit down” jobs. When you come to volunteer and are not sure where to start please see Karlene Bledsoe, Charlene Munro, or any of the ladies on the lower level, we will be happy to direct you where help is needed.

### Workers are needed

- Sunday to help set up tables and bring in items from the garage.
- Monday – Thursday during the day and evening to help unpack, arrange and price items.
- Friday and Saturday to check-out, bag, help our customers and help keep everything organized.
- Saturday at noon to help pack up and load the Goodwill truck.

**Sign up sheets** for workers will be available Sunday, September 29th in Fellowship Hall.

**Lastly, DON'T FORGET THE BAKE SALE!!!** – Baked goods accepted during set up hours. Last call - Baked goods need to be at the church no later than 8:00 am on Friday and Saturday mornings to give the ladies time to package them. The bake sale is always a highlight of our sale!

**Working together** is a really great way to become better acquainted with other church members while providing items at a reasonable price for our community. We have a lot of fun and keep each other going!! We look forward to serving with you!

Blessings, Co-Coordinator, Karlene Bledsoe and Charlene Munro.

## FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY IS ALWAYS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

### Our next Salvation Army food drive is on September 1

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



### Volunteer Along With Our Youth Group Million Meal Pack

**Saturday, September 7, 2024  
CEFCU Arena on ISU Campus**

Kick off for the youth group will be a volunteer opportunity in the community, but, we would love to have the elders of the church join us. State Farm, Midwest Food Bank and ISU are hosting an event to pack 1million meals on Sat, September 7. The youth group has signed up to volunteer from 10:30am-12pm.

The sign up is

<https://statefarm12.regfox.com/million-meal-pack>

If you would like more information, you can ask Nicole Southwick or Doug Ferrier

## Stand Down for Veterans 2024 – LAST CALL

As we enter September, we see the seasons change, kids go back to school – and Stand Down donations get sent to Peoria.

**Goodwill would like donations by September 11 - so the LAST DATE WE WILL COLLECT FOR STAND DOWN IS SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 (kick-off Sunday).**

So, if you have donations, bring them in sooner rather than later. As a reminder, we are looking for:  
Winter gloves (men's and women's) size XL or larger  
Socks and diabetic socks  
Pillows—full size,  
Men's and women's toiletries.

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

Thank you all for your support.



## October 6 is Peacemaking Offering Sunday

On Sunday, October 6, we will be collecting the Peacemaking offering. The motto this year is “Sowing Seeds of Peace.” 25% of the offering will stay locally so the Mission Team can choose how it is used for peacemaking. The balance is divided between both denominations.

The offering is used for a wide range of programs, some of which include helping to stop human trafficking & exploitation of children. It also includes fighting racism, sharing in the prevention of & acting on the results of climate change, fighting injustice and helping native American churches, to name just a few aspects of peacekeeping. This might also include making purchases not covered by what used to be called “food stamps”.

Special envelopes will be placed in the pews in late September so you can contribute if you won't be in church on October 6. Envelopes will also be mailed to those who get New Directions via mail. October 6 is also World Communion Sunday, when people around the world take part in communion on the same day.

Please prayerfully consider how much you can contribute to this important offering.

Thank you for your participation.

### Answered Prayers Wreath



Did you know that we have an Answered Prayers Wreath?

It is located on the west wall as you enter the Sanctuary. So every time God has answered your prayer, place a silk flower in the wreath giving God thanks and praise.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Several members of our congregation have either knitted or crocheted prayer shawls. Before COVID, we took them to the cancer center. We have kept the ministry for members of our congregation during sickness or difficult times. The shawls are located on a rack by the nursery door.

The Worship Ministry Team would like to open the Prayer Shawl Ministry to include friends and/or family members of the congregation that are in need of prayers.

Each prayer shawl has a card attached that says this shawl is made with love and prayers. So please continue to make the prayer shawls. When completed please put them in the office with a note “for Karlene.” I will attach the prayer cards and display the shawls.

Thank You

**\*\*\*Reminder!\*\*\***

**Committee and Team budgets are due October 1<sup>st</sup>  
to Brian Trower and Pastor Andy.**

**Trivia Answer:** 1) John Knox is identified as a founding father of the Presbyterian Church. He was a Scottish minister and theologian who played a crucial role in the Reformation movement in Scotland. Knox's teachings and writings were influential in shaping the principles and structure of the Presbyterian Church, which emphasizes the governance of the church by elders. His efforts laid the foundation for the establishment of the Presbyterian Church as a distinct Protestant denomination.

2) January 23, 1959

**Isaiah 55:8** *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

In my days of selling steel there was a story that went around about a customer visit to our largest steel mill operation. The company I worked for was a large multinational conglomerate and the visit was from the president of the largest US customer. While on tour the US president made it a point to tell our Swedish president his perceived operational shortfalls of the company. The Swedish president was gracious and patient during the tour but when they finally sat down to discuss material needs and pricing he made the point to say, "All our customers are important, but no customer is significant." Wow! when I first heard the story my initial thought was how could our president insult such an important customer? Then as I began to unpack the statement, a realization was made. The company I worked for was a global company with dozens of customers of equal or great material needs around the world. What he was saying was, "We like doing business with you, but if we didn't do business with you, we would still be a formidable company in the industry."

I would say this statement is true for each individual and Christian church today. We are each important and loved by God. God has a plan and a mission for us. We are called to fulfill God's call upon our lives, but if we fail in the plan God has for us, we will break God's heart. We will not hinder the larger work of the kingdom. The heavens are higher than the earth. God calls each of us to be a part of building the kingdom, but if we fail to do our part, it doesn't mean that God will allow His plan to fail.

On this year's winter retreat the speaker told a story about how he felt called to share the good news of the Gospel to a friend in school. He didn't respond to God's call right away and a tragic accident took his friend's life. He talked about how guiltily he felt for not sharing the love of Christ and speculated that this friend was dead and not saved because of him.

We are important yet we are not significant to God's greater plan. God has things for us to do but God will not allow the discontinuing of building of the kingdom because of our failures. This is not a justification for ignoring what and who God wants us to do and be, this is rather an invitation to be a part of the heavenly glory.

**1 Chronicles 29:11**

*Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.*

Blessings  
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

### Phone:

309-663-7437

### 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](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.)

---

#### **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)