

November

St Luke Union Church

Fall Group Sale – Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who set up, tore down, donated, cleaned, baked, and served for the Fall 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: \$6,500 and counting.

Proceeds will go to St. Vincent De Paul Society, Westside Revitalization Project, Books to Benefit, Goodwill and the Humane Society.

Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck

Join us for Thanksgiving Dinner after worship on Sunday, November 17.

Turkey, ham, stuffing, gravy, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.



Pledge Sunday

During worship on Sunday, November 17, there will be a special time to dedicate your 2025 pledge to the Lord. Join us in worship this special Sunday as we look forward to what God has in store for St Luke Union Church.

Jeremiah 29:11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Pastor Andy Joke: I have ears but cannot hear, and I have flakes but no hair. What am I?



NOVEMBER 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

Men's Breakfast
7a

03

04

05

06

07

08

09

Communion
Choir Practice
9:30a
Worship 10:30a

Adult Bible Study
12p
Boy Scouts 7p

Gen. Election
Day
Mission Team
5:30p

Spiritual Growth
Team 5p
Church Chat 6p
Choir Practice 7p

SAR Meeting 9a
Piano Recital –
Music Shoppe 7p

DAR Meeting
10a

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

Sunday Sch 9:30a
Choir Prac. 9:30a
Worship 10:30a

Adult Bible Study
12p
Boy Scouts 7p

Resource Team
2p
Finance Team 5p

Worship Team 5p
Choir Practice 7p

Crossroads 9a

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

RaiseRight
Choir Prac 9:30a
Worship 10:30a
Thanksgiving
Potluck 12p

Adult Bible Study
12p
Boy Scouts 7p

VMC Meeting
5:30p

Church Chat 6p
Choir Practice 7p

Faith Brews 5p

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

Sunday Sch 9:30a
Choir Prac. 9:30a
Worship 10:30a

Adult Bible Study
12p
Boy Scouts 7p

Lamplighters 7p

Choir Practice 7p

Thanksgiving
Day

**DECORATE
SANCTUARY**

Happy Birthday! Ann Austin 11/3; Becky Blum, Madeleine Luna 11/5; Bruce LaDue 11/6; Claire Benjamin 11/7; Gwen Yuriec 11/9; Jay Harrison 11/10; James Munro 11/13; Owen Keeton, Garrett Staver, Laura Verplaetse 11/16; Kyle King 11/17, Marc Herren, Pauline Jere 11/18; Dick Harrison, Eric Verplaetse 11/19; Terry Small 11/20; Silas Luna 11/21; Lin Walton 11/22; Lori Blankenship, Don Kearfott 11/28; Mike Ball 11/29

Happy Anniversary! Rev Dr Andy & Sandi Gifford 11/3; Richard & Marcia Nagy 11/12; John & Suzanne Waha 11/22; Larry & Marilyn Maffett 11/23

STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS 2024

Goodwill of Central Illinois hosted the 16th annual Stand Down for Veterans on October 19. At this time, Johanna Wagner (Assistant Director of Program Services) reports that 275 veterans were served. WMBD Peoria reports that 100 volunteers were at the event.

The number of veterans is not decreasing. Ms. Wagner has asked me to “thank everyone from your congregation for us, we appreciate everyone’s support.”

On behalf of Ms. Wagner, the Missions Team, and myself: THANK YOU. Your generosity is appreciated. You done good!

What did St Luke actually provide? Among other items, we donated 71 pairs of men’s winter gloves, 67 pairs of men’s socks, 48 men’s boxer briefs and 23 T-shirts; 71 women’s briefs, 16 bras, and 148 pairs of hand warmers. As a reminder, Goodwill had a goal to provide every veteran three sets of underwear. We also donated 208 bars of soap, 320 disposable razors, 39 pillows, and 40 packages of feminine hygiene products. A complete list is attached.

Missions Team also donated \$500 to Stand Down, and I am aware that individuals also sent money. THANK YOU! While I won’t start reminding you until April or so, we know that there will be a 17th Stand Down. Goodwill always needs winter gloves and hats, toiletry items, and men’s and women’s underwear (larger sizes in general). The donation bin is always open.

THANKS AGAIN, EVERYONE

Jim Munro

2024 SLUC Operation Stand Down Donations

Clothing / Accessories:

1 pr work gloves
71 pr men’s winter gloves
67 pr men’s socks
8 pr men’s Diabetic socks
48 pr men’s boxers/briefs
23 men’s t-shirts
1 men’s winter coat
3 men’s fleece jackets

29 women’s hats
5 pr women’s gloves
71 pr women’s briefs
16 bras/sports bras
1 pr women’s pants

3 pr reading glasses

39 pillows

148 pr hand warmers

Full-size Personal Hygiene Items:

31 toothbrushes
23 toothpaste
4 pk flossers
208 bars soap
5 soap dishes
3 shampoo
15 Dermasil lotion
20 deodorant
15 body/foot powder
320 disposable razors
40 pkg feminine hygiene
10 pkg incontinence products
4 pkg facial cleansing cloths

Trial-size personal hygiene items:

6 toothpaste
47 bars soap
17 shower gel
24 shampoo
20 conditioner
6 body lotion
2 shaving cream
2 hand sanitizer
7 shower caps
4 make-up removers
3 sewing kits

Memory Bricks for the Labyrinth

If you wish to order a memory brick to be placed around the labyrinth next spring, please submit a check and completed form in the offering or to the church office by 12/15/2024.

3 lines, 16 letters per line. Spaces count as a letter.

Price per engraved brick is \$50
Make checks payable to SLUC with Brick in memo

All orders must be submitted by December 15, 2024

SAMPLE:

Line 1: In Memory of (12 letters)

Line 2: Mary Jane Trower (16 letters)

Line 3: 1933-2010 (9 letters)

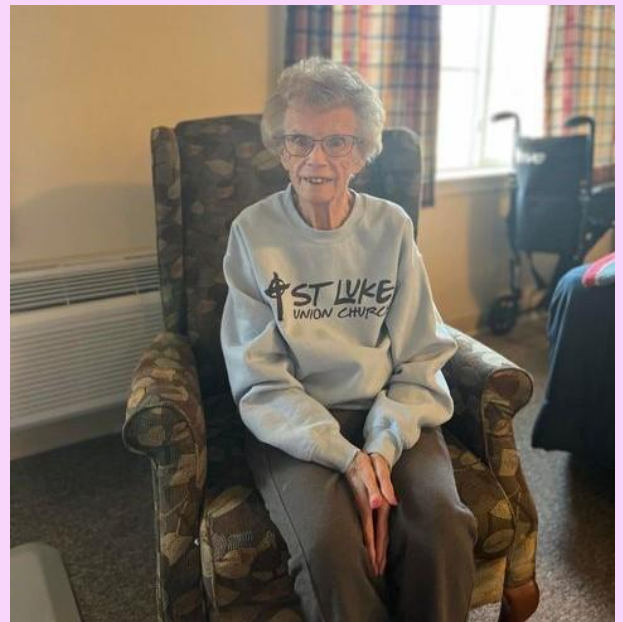
Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

Your Name: _____

Phone # _____



Chris Bateman on her 92nd Birthday
October 21, 2024

Interesting Fact: Ninety Wampanoag Native Americans and 50 Plymouth colonialists (Pilgrims) celebrated the **first-ever autumn harvest celebration in 1621**. While this celebration lasted three days, only five women were present.

Pastor Andy Joke Answer: Corn



Confirmation Retreat at Pilgrim Park Oct 13-14

Our 24-hour retreat at camp included conversations on the sacraments, camp fires, hikes, and talking to owls.



Save the date!
3rd Annual ~ Interfaith
Thanksgiving Service

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 24, 2024 at 4:00 pm. The service will be held at the Bloomington YMCA. All are welcome!

Brighten A Family 2024

We will participate in the Brightpoint program to provide Christmas for families in need this year. We do not have all the information yet. Please be on the lookout for more details soon.
 (BRIGHTPOINT formerly Children's Home and Aid Agency/Adopt-A-Family)

3rd Quarter Finances
January through September 2024

<u>Actual Giving</u>	<u>Budget</u>
\$235,599	\$207,892
<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Budget</u>
\$230,345	\$230,244

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY IS ALWAYS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Our next Salvation Army food drive is on November 3

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!

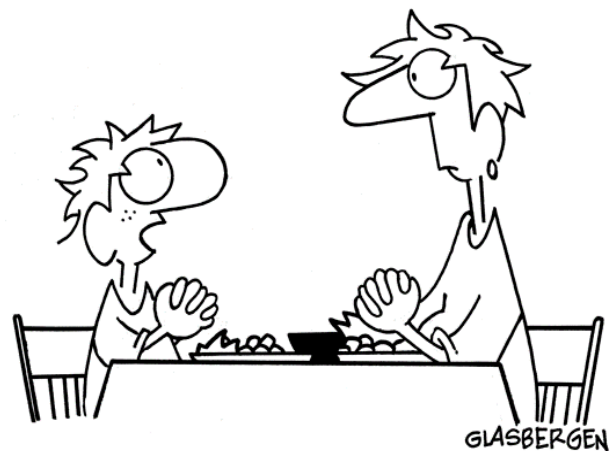
What they need:

- 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

Kartoon Korner



"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables, why did He make them taste like vegetables?"

November Newsletter 2024

Romans 15:1 *We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor.*

During the COVID pandemic of 2020 many of the practices we had all become accustomed to changed. Some of these changes were for the better, such as washing your hands and caring for yourself. Others brought about the practice of distancing one's self from another and perhaps a weariness about the health of those we are closest to. What changed was we no longer openly passed the peace or held hands and sang at the end of worship. It was a way we could potentially help protect one another from transmitting strange viruses. It was a way we could avoid suspicions while still participating in the life of the church. It was a way we could show our care and love.

When I first came to St Luke Union some 15 years ago, I took a provocative look at the congregation's practice of holding hands and singing the doxology at the end of worship. I quickly became aware that this practice was a defining and visible practice of how we love and care for one another. The practice actually brought me back to a time in my childhood when the Elmhurst Presbyterian Church sang Shalom at the end of worship. Over the years I have had people come to me and share how much they enjoyed the passing of the peace and the holding hands during the doxology. Over the years I have also had people come to me and explain their dislike of an active passing of the peace and the doxology practice. On Sunday the 20th, I seemingly gave permission to reclaim the traditions. Several people thanked me after the service, but some did not. The point of all this is to remind us that we are called to love and care for one another, and the congregation of St Luke Union Church does a very good job at that commission. We also need to understand that we each share and receive that love and care in different ways. Some love hugs, but for others, hugs are difficult and uncomfortable. Some love to shake and hold hands, but others would rather just wave and smile. The key to love and care is to trust and respect each other.

As we return to passing the peace and singing the doxology in physical contact with one another, don't be offended if someone would rather not. Let's seek to please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor for the kingdom of God. Love and care is a defining characteristic of this body of Christ. Let's share that gift with God's world.

Peace and Grace of Christ be with 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

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 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