

# *New Directions* **June** St Luke Union Church

## THANK YOU

To My Church Family,

Thank you so much for the good bye and celebration of new adventures. While the good bye has been hard, new adventures are coming fast. I've been going to 4-year-old soccer and 10-year-old soccer and baseball. Even took care of my 9-month-old and 4-year-old great nephews in order for their mom to get a few things done. My sister had a Welcome to the Neighborhood Open House so that I could meet my new neighbors. I joined a Recreation Center to get back to water aerobics; joined a Mentor Group and a Book Club and transferred my PEO membership to Chapter Iowa Original A.

Even with all this going on, I miss all of you and our church activities. St. Luke Union will always be special to me for all the love and support you provided to me over the years.

Terry Small  
1503 E. Ashford Circle  
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641


## Youth Mission Trip 2025

We will have six youth group members and two adults heading to Westfield, Indiana June 15-21, 2025 to participate in Group Mission Trips Workcamp. Please pray for their safety while traveling and for spiritual growth during their week away from home.

Prayer Partners Needed: Please sign up to pray for and send mail to one of our youth or leaders on the mission trip. Sign up and mailing labels are available in Fellowship Hall.



# JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>01</b> Communion Choir Prac.10:00a Worship 10:30a	<b>02</b> Boy Scouts 7p	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b> Spiritual Growth Team 5p	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b> Men's Breakfast 7a	<b>07</b> Eagle Scout Court of Honor 2p
<b>08</b> Worship Service at Funk's Grove 10:30a Potluck Lunch	<b>09</b> Boy Scouts 7p	<b>10</b> Resource Team 2p Finance Mtg 5p	<b>11</b> Spiritual Growth Team 5p	<b>12</b> Crossroads Board 9a	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> DAR Lunch 11a
<b>15</b> RaiseRight Choir Prac.10:00a Worship 10:30a	<b>16</b> Boy Scouts 7p	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Faith Brews 5p @ Lil Beaver Brewery	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Women's Fellowship Tea 9a
Youth Mission Trip to Westfield, IN June 15-21 						
<b>22</b> Youth Sunday Confirmation Choir Prac.10:00a Worship 10:30a	<b>23</b> Boy Scouts 7p	<b>24</b> Lamplighters 7p	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Choir Prac.10:00a Worship 10:30a	<b>30</b> Boy Scouts 7p					

**Happy Birthday!** Sara Kellum, Renee Stolte 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; Charlie & Beth Louck 6/10; 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



**Funks Grove Worship Service  
Sunday, June 8, 2025 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.*

**Women's Fellowship Tea**

**Saturday, June 21, 2025 • 9:00 AM**

Ladies, you're invited to a special morning of music,  
conversation, and fellowship! Join us for the  
Women's Fellowship Tea – a wonderful opportunity  
to connect, relax, and be inspired.

**Sign-up available in the Fellowship Hall.**

We look forward to seeing you there!



**Congratulations 2025 Graduates!**

Alex Herren, son of Marc and Stacy Herren,  
graduated from Normal Community High  
School on Saturday, May 24, 2025. Alex  
plans to attend the University of Missouri  
this fall. Congrats Alex!

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Jackson Fleming, son of Mick and Caroline  
Fleming and grandson of Deb and Jay  
Harrison graduated from University High  
School in Normal on May 18th. He will be  
attending Augustana College in Rock  
Island, IL this fall. We're so proud of  
Jackson's academic achievements.  
Deb & Jay



**Community Service Project**

Miles Keeton, David and Daniel Ferrier  
recently built a set of stairs for a member  
of the Bloomington-Normal community who  
was in need. The homeowner was touched  
and very grateful for this act of kindness.



### Spring Group Sale



Fun on the main level...

Thank you to everyone who set up, tore down, donated, cleaned, baked and served the community at the Spring Group Sale. The sale brought in over \$6,465.



Customers were lined up around the building waiting for the doors to open Friday morning.



They had some fun downstairs, too!



**Join Us for a CornBelters Game and Fellowship!**  
We will once again have tickets for a CornBelters game this summer courtesy of LS Mechanical.  
The game is Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>.  
More information and sign-up coming soon.

### Fun Fact:

The first day of summer, known as the **summer solstice**, is the **longest day of the year** in terms of daylight! In the Northern Hemisphere, it usually falls on **June 20th or 21st**. On this day, the Earth's tilt causes the North Pole to be at its maximum tilt toward the sun, meaning the sun takes its **longest and highest path across the sky**.

Bonus fun twist: In some cultures—like in Scandinavia—people celebrate the summer solstice with bonfires, dancing, and feasts, especially during **Midsummer**, which often includes quirky traditions like jumping over fires or decorating with flowers!

### Save the Date!

The Spiritual Growth Team will host a Worship on the Labyrinth event the evening of Wednesday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.  
There will be worship, music, food and fellowship.  
More details soon!



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

### Our next Salvation Army food drive is on June 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

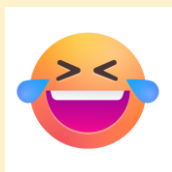
### **Just for Laughs – “Show and Tell”**

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a “show and tell” assignment of bringing something to represent their religion.

The first child got in front of the class and said, “My name is Benjamin, and I am Jewish, and this is the Star of David.”

The second child got in front of her class and said, “My name is Mary, I am Catholic, and this is the Crucifix.”

The third child got up in front of his class and said, “My name is Tommy and I go to St Luke Union Church and this is a pie.”



## UPDATE \* STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS WISH LIST YOU DID IT!!!

St Luke Union collected **796** pairs of Men's socks and **114** pairs of Women's Socks as of April 20 (Easter Sunday)! Goodwill of Central Illinois had set a goal of 750 pairs of men's and 75 pairs of women's and YOU CRUSHED IT!

Those totals do not include diabetic socks, but we have collected those as well. Additionally, we have collected 20 pillows so far.

So, what's next? We are still collecting:

**Diabetic Socks-** black or white;

Goodwill would like to provide three pairs per veteran, so the target is **300** pair.

**XL Gloves-**at least 10-15 pair

**Hand and Foot warmers-** Goodwill tries to put at least one of each with the socks so they would like to get at least 250 of each.

**Pillows-** Standard size. Goodwill has a target of 250.

Stand Down can always use female undergarments. Usually 25 females or so show up during the event. And of course, we'll still take men's and women's socks.

The Stand Down donation bin is in the upstairs Fellowship Hall, near the staircase.

If you would prefer to donate money instead of items you can send checks to:

Goodwill Industries

Attn: Johanna Wagner

2319 E War Memorial

Peoria IL 61614

Write **Stand Down 2025** in the Memo line

THANK YOU for all your help! YOU GUYS ROCK!!

- James Munro

James 4:7,8 "Submit yourself to God. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

A woman stood at the edge of a lake. She had come often to this place as a child, chasing dragonflies and throwing stones into the water with a wild and innocent joy. Now, in her thirties, life had worn her thin, bruised by disappointments, burned by love that never stayed, and burdened by a silent ache she couldn't name. She had tried many things to overcome this ache; therapy, meditation, even new hobbies that acted as distractions disguised as happiness. Something was still missing, so she eventually just prayed.

"God, if You love me like you say You do... I surrender. I'm tired of trying to carry this alone." There was no booming voice from the sky, no flash of light, just the wind, brushing gently across her face, and the stillness that followed. She found a stillness that didn't feel empty, and something shifted in her chest. The wall she had built to protect herself began to crumble. Tears came, from the quiet realization that she was not alone, and had never been.

God's love, she realized, wasn't demanding or loud. It was patient, steady and perfect. It had been there all along, waiting for her to surrender. Her prayer continued, "I am Yours. Teach me how to live in and surrender to your love."

Simply put, the definition of Grace is; unmerited favor. Now one would think that such a gift from God would be unequivocally for us good news, yet in reality it is not. Martin Luther even wrote about this conundrum in, *Bondage of the Will*, saying, "When God works in us, the will, being changed and sweetly breathed on by the Spirit of God, desires and acts not from compulsion but responsively" In other words for many of us when we receive a gift we desire some sort of reciprocal retribution. We have an inborn tendency to want to run our own lives and pay our own way that the unconditional love of God in his gift of grace is both unbelievable and terrifying. Grace can be a contradiction to the human psychology of works-righteousness and self-certification. This deep seated human resistance to God's grace can also point to our fear of love, because while some people fear any love, most people fear and resist unconditional love or perfect love. I think the primary reason for such resistance is because love demands surrender. God's love is a perfect love and asks only that we open our hearts and receive the thing we long for. Where we stumble is when we believe we need to earn the love we seek.

Surrender to God's perfect love.

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!





# TerraCycle with St. Luke Union Church

TerraCycle collection is in the garage in the back of the parking lot  
2101 E Washington St, Bloomington, IL 61701  
Collection containers are labeled - please sort all items.  
Open 24 hours

## ITEMS ACCEPTED

- **ARM & HAMMER™ and OxiClean™:** Plastic Pouches
- **Contact Lens Brigade:** Accepts all brands of contact lenses, plus foil and blister packaging.
- **Baby Food Pouch Brigade:** Accepts all baby and toddler food plastic pouches and caps (such as Go-Go Squeeze, Ella's, Earth's Best, etc.). Please leave the cap on to reduce smell and leaking.
- **Brita® or PUR Brigade®:** Accepts all brands of pitchers, individual filtration bottles, filters, foil filter packaging, and faucet filtration systems.
- **Burt's Bee Brigade:** Accepts any Burt's Bee products packaging (must be this brand only).
- **Cigarette Waste: NO DROP OFF– PLEASE EMAIL AMIE, joelamikeeton@gmail.com FOR MORE INSTRUCTIONS.** Accepts cold extinguished cigarettes, cigarette filters, loose tobacco pouches, outer plastic packaging, inner foil packaging, rolling paper and ash.
- **Colgate® Oral Care Free Recycling Program: Accepts all brands** toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes, floss containers, mouthwash bottles and caps.
- **Drink Pouch:** Recycle all brands of drink pouches.
- **Entenmann's Little Bites Pouches Program:** Accepts only Entenmann's brand Little Bites plastic pouches and clear Entenmann's Minis packaging.
- **eos Brigade:** Packaging from eos brand only.
- **Febreze Air Care Program:** Accepts all brands of air freshener cartridges and plus, packaging and flexible film packaging, and trigger heads (plastic bottles/cans go in regular curbside recycling).
- **Garnier® Program:** Accepts all Garnier brand packaging.
- **GOLDTOE Sock Program:** Accepts all brands of LAUNDERED socks for recycling.
- **Kroger® Brands Program:** Recycle flexible plastic packaging from Kroger® brands through this program.
- **Gillette Razor Brigade:** All brands of blades, razors, and plastic packaging.
- **Garnier Skin & Hair Care Brigade:** Garnier® skin care and hair care packaging.
- **Swiffer® Recycling Program:** Recycle Swiffer refills (must be Swiffer)
- **Takis® Snacks Recycling Program:** Recycle Takis Snack packaging (must be Takis)
- **Tom's of Maine Recycling Program:** Recycle all Tom's of Maine packaging (must be Tom's of Maine)

## Additional items collected (not TerraCycle):

- **Lion's Club collection:** Cell phones; home computer printer cartridges (no business-size cartridges); eyeglasses; hearing aids; keys.
- Christmas/Holiday light strands
- Aluminum