

September

St Luke Union Church

Kickoff Sunday September 7, 2025

A potluck meal will follow the worship service, and there will be games! Bring a dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Fun Facts:

- School buses have been around since 1915, but the official color of bright yellow wasn't adopted until 1939.
- Across the country, there are approximately 480,000 registered school buses, taking 26 million children to and from school every day.
- By eliminating the need for each parent to get their own kid to school, school buses help keep an estimated 17.3 million cars off the road every year, saving 2.3 billion gallons of fuel.

SUNDAY School AND Youth Group NEWS

The St. Luke Youth Group will begin meeting again before church on September 28th. They will start things off right with breakfast at 9:00 am with good food and good fellowship! Their next meeting will be October 12th at 9:15 am and will include even more fellowship and fun!!

Kick off Sunday for Sunday School is September 7th! They will meet from 9:30 to 10:15 am downstairs in the Sunday school room, and they will meet again on the 14th and every other Sunday after that. Sunday school kids are invited to join the youth group for breakfast and fellowship on September 28th at 9:00 am before regular Sunday school class at 9:30 am. Sounds like a great time!



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 Labor Day Church Office Closed Boy Scouts 7p	02	03 Spiritual Growth Team 5p Worship Team 6p Choir Practice 7p	04	05 Men's Breakfast 7a	06
07 Kick-Off Sunday Communion Sun School 9:30a Choir Prac 9:30a Worship 10:30a	08 Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	09 Resource Team 2p Finance Mtg 5p	10 Choir Practice 7p	11 DAR Lunch 11a	12	13 Eagle Court of Honor 1p Women's Fall Retreat 9/12-9/14 →
14 Sun School 9:30a Choir Prac.9:30a Worship 10:30a	15 Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	16 VMC Mtg 5:30p	17 Church Chat 6p Choir Practice 7p	18 Faith Brews 5p PEO Mtg 5:30p	19 Wedding Rehearsal	20 Wedding
21 RaiseRight Choir Prac.9:30a Worship 10:30a	22 Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	23	24 Choir Practice 7p	25 Crossroads 9a	26	27
28 Youth Group Breakfast 9a Sun School 9:30a Choir Prac.9:30a Worship 10:30a	29 Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	30 Women's Fellowship Fall Rally 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; Chuck & Martha Maney; Kevin & Rebecca Schaefer 9/24; Mike & Dede Verplaetse 9/26; Joel & Amie Keeton 9/28

Women's Fellowship Fall Rally Tuesday, September 30 @ 7:00pm

Plan to join the women of St Luke Union at our annual Fall Rally on Tuesday, September 30 at 7:00 at the church. Our guest speaker will be author Vicky Terinoni. She wrote the book *Where You Go I Will Go* after being the wife of a military Chaplain for 31 years. Refreshments will be provided by the board members.



2025 FALL GROUP SALE & BAKE SALE

Friday, October 17th – 9am to 5pm & Saturday, October 18th – 9am to 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 12th

Bring your items:

Monday, October 13th & Tuesday, October 14th – 8:30 am to 7 pm

Wednesday, October 15th – 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 28th 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-Coordinators, Karlene Bledsoe and Charlene Munro.

STAND DOWN 2025 DEADLINE APPROACHING!!



IT'S OFFICIAL! WE HAVE A DEADLINE!!
Goodwill would like our "in-kind" donations delivered by September 15. **So, the LAST DAY to drop items off at church is SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14.** This gives the Goodwill staff time to sort and package items for the October 18 distribution.

We are still collecting NEW, UNUSED (still in the packaging):

- **Diabetic Socks**- black or white; The target is 300 pairs.
- XL Gloves
- **Hand and Foot warmers**; The target is at least 250 of each.
- **Pillows**- Standard size; Goodwill has a target of 250.
- **Men's and Women's undergarments**
 - *Men's sizes L, XL and XXL/2XL
 - *Women's underwear sizes 7 to 11
 - *Sports bras sizes Large to 3XL
- Women's hygiene products
- Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, etc)

And of course, we'll still take men's and women's socks. The Stand Down donation bin is in the 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

Also, Stand Down is looking for a few good volunteers! They are looking for people to serve at Stand Down on October 18. The event runs from 8:15 AM to 1:00 PM and they would like all volunteers to serve for the entire event.

Qualifications:

All volunteers must be **at least 15 years old.**

All volunteers to stay for the **entire duration of the event: 8:15 AM to 1:00 PM.**

Volunteers between the ages of 15 and 17 will be required to sign a waiver upon arrival.

A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

As always, a big THANK YOU for all your help!

-James Munro

Saturday, September 20, 2025
Grossinger Motors Arena
101 S. Madison St. Bloomington

MILLION
MEAL
PACK



ONE DAY. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE MILLION MEALS.

2025 Million Meal Pack Event

On Sept. 20, State Farm® is partnering with U.S. Hunger to combat food insecurity. Thousands of volunteers will come together again to pack one million meals, which will be distributed in McLean County and throughout Illinois.

Event details

- **When:** Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, 8:30AM – 6:00PM
- **Where:** Grossinger Motor Arena, 101 South Madison Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

Click [here](#) to sign up.

Monday Adult Bible Study

The St. Luke Union Church Monday Adult Bible Study will begin on Monday, September 8th at 12:00 pm. We will study Acts. All are welcome. Come, join the fun and active discussions. No textbooks are needed, only your bible.

Church Chat

Church Chat is a study opportunity on the basics of faith that will be held this fall on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 pm. Pastor Andy will lead the discussion and study. **The first meeting is Wednesday, September 17.**



Agape Group sign up is now starting!

Some groups have met three times and are ready to form new groups. Sign up by Friday, September 5, and if there are enough, I will go ahead and set up new groups by September 7. But some of us are slow starters, so there will be additional time to join in. Groups will consist of 5-6 people, and will meet about three times (or more) just to share a meal and build closer relationships within our congregation. There's no agenda, study, or recorded attendance required; just choose a compatible date for your group and take it from there. Sign the sheet in Fellowship Hall or call the church office. For more details; contact Marsha Hinthorn, 309-310-5483.

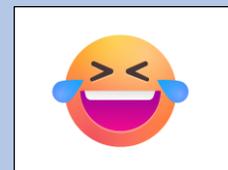
Mission Ministry News

We received a thank-you from Tazwood Community Services. Unlike many thank-you notes, this explanation for use of funds from our Easter donation was very specific. The money received helped a young single mother that was in a situation where she was controlled by her step-father. He used her name to start utility services in her name and she did not even live in the house. When Tazwood was speaking with her on the telephone, the mother and step-father were screaming in the background. Our funds were used to help cancel the services at that address and to cover the remaining balance on her utility bill to bring her back to zero for a fresh start.

Tazwood Community Services serves Livingston, McLean, Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties.

Just for Laughs...

A farmer was working on his tractor when an ICE agent showed up at his house. The ICE agent asked if he could inspect his barns in search of aliens, to which the farmer agreed but instructed the agent he had better, "Stay out of that field." With this, the agent got mad, pulled out his badge and said, "I'm a federal agent, I can go wherever I want." So he headed off into the forbidden field. A few moments later the farmer heard a scream and saw the agent running for his life with an angry bull right behind him. When it didn't look as though the agent was going to make it to the fence the farmer yelled, "Show him your badge!"



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

When I first came to St Luke Union Church back in 2009, I sat down with the Vision and Ministry Council (VMC) to review and make changes to the church's mission statement. It was important at that time to establish a common mission. That mission statement could then be used as a method of evaluation and consideration for the proclamation, service and belief of St Luke Union Church. Thus giving members and visitors an understanding of how we belong. Over the years that mission statement has helped keep St Luke Union Church from drifting away from Christ's central call.

Recently I was asked if I had ever considered constructing a personal "Mission Statement for Life". A statement that I could reflect upon and would hold me accountable in my life's journey of faith and practice. A statement that would help build my life in the trust of God's guidance and direction. A statement that would set the standard even when I don't have all the answers or am questioning a major decision. A statement that would reflect the default of my heart while directing me in relationship building with God.

I have not completed the task of constructing a Mission Statement for Life, but as I have begun, I've determined it is more difficult than the construction of one for the church. There is personal reflection on the truth of who I am and the desire of who God calls me to become. The statement is not static, it is ever changing and evolving, but writing a mission statement for life is a powerful way to align your purpose with God's will.

Here are a few of my first attempts:

"Love God wholeheartedly, love others sacrificially, and serve faithfully in all I do, walking humbly and trusting His plan for my life."

"Live a life that reflects Christ in character and action, bringing light to the world by pursuing grace, mercy, and truth."

"To live each day as a servant of Christ; loving deeply, working diligently, and making disciples as I go."

Personal Mission Statements for Life will be a challenging endeavor, but I look forward to the challenge and how it can guide me and draw me closer to the spiritual maturity I seek. I challenge each of you to make an attempt at constructing your own mission statement for life and see how it draws you closer to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessings
Pastor Andy

CONTACT US!

Rev. Dr. Andrew Gifford, Pastor

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Susan Walter, Office Manager

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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

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