

October

St Luke Union Church



Congratulation!

On Saturday, September 20, Susan Rhea Trower and Dennis Michael Rasmus were married in a beautiful ceremony at St Luke Union Church with Rev. Dr. Andrew Gifford officiating. Family and friends were in attendance to witness the nuptials. A reception followed. Congratulations to the newly married couple!



Members gathered to represent our community at the Million Meal Pack at Grossinger Motor Arena on September 20th. Over 1,003,000 meals were packed!



Women from St Luke Union Church enjoyed a wonderful Women's Fall Retreat at Pilgrim Park the weekend of September 12-14. The theme of the weekend was "Share Your Story." It was an opportunity for spiritual enrichment, education and fellowship.



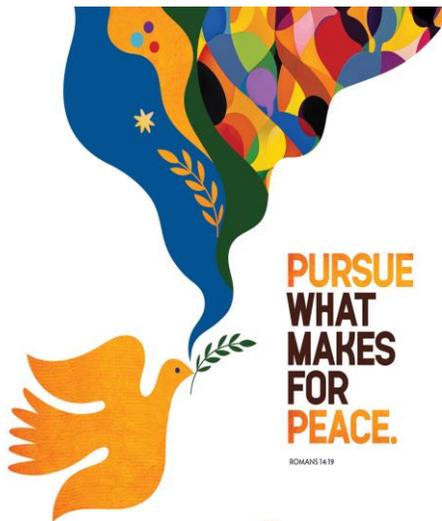
OCTOBER 2025

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			01 Spiritual Growth Team 5p Church Chat 6p Choir Practice 7p	02	03 Men's Breakfast 7a	04
05 Communion Choir Prac 9:30a Worship 10:30a	06 Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	07	08 Worship Team 5p Choir Practice 7p	09 Crossroads 9a DAR Lunch 11:30a	10	11
12 Youth Grp 9:15a Sun School 9:30a Choir Prac.9:30a Worship 10:30a	13	14 Finance Mtg 5p	15 Church Chat 6p Choir Practice 7p	16 Faith Brews 5p	17 Fall Group Sale 9a-5p	18 Fall Group Sale 9a-Noon Stand Down 9a-1p
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center;"> Set-up for Fall Group Sale → </div>						
19 RaiseRight Choir Prac.9:30a Worship 10:30a	20 Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	21 VMC Mtg 5:30p	22 Choir Practice 7p	23	24	25
26 Sun School 9:30a Choir Prac.9:30a Worship 10:30a	27 Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	28 Lamplighters 7p	29 Choir Practice 7p	30	31	

Happy Birthday! Katie Verplaetse 10/2; Kira Stevens 10/7; Pastor Andy Gifford, Diana McLean, Sally Parry 10/11; Dede Verplaetse 10/16; Charlene Munro, Jacob Rambo 10/17; Marsha Hinthorn, Savana Southwick 10/22; Skylar Wright 10/23; Seth Gifford 10/25, Linda Weirman 10/29

Happy Anniversary! John & Annie Otto 10/22; Chuck & Gwen Yurieci 10/26



The Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

On World Communion Sunday, October 5, we will be collecting the Peacemaking offering. The offering is equally divided between the denominations; 25% of the offering is used by our church for peacemaking support, usually determined by the Mission Team. In the past, peacemaking support has been used for racial justice, interfaith relations, suicide prevention & other similar causes.

Special envelopes are included for those who receive New Directions by mail, & special envelopes are placed in the pew racks around the time of the offering. We ask that you prayerfully consider what you are able to contribute for this special offering.

With thanks, the Mission Team

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.

2025 Operation Stand Down

You crushed it! Below is a list of all the things Saint Luke Union Church delivered to Goodwill for the 2025 STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS. Your generosity never ceases to amaze me. Case in point: Goodwill asked us if we could donate 750 pairs of men's socks. When I saw that number I thought "that's all the socks in the world." We donated over 750 pairs within four months. But you kept donating. The final totals: **1005** pairs of men's socks, **180** pairs of women's socks, **63** pairs of Men's **Diabetic** Socks, and 95 pairs of Women's **Diabetic** Socks. And that isn't all; you donated toothpaste (87 full-size tubes) and 97 toothbrushes; 178 bars of soap; 58 packages of women's hygiene products and underwear, hats, glove, and a plethora of items. A full list is attached.

We have been storing lots of this stuff all winter - remember, we collect all year 'round - and it looks like we will get the basement back. Jim Ferrier and I delivered all this to Goodwill Peoria on September 17. THANK YOU ALL! I am truly grateful and humbled by you all.

Jim Munro

2025 SLUC Operation Stand Down Donations

Clothing / Accessories:

1005 pr Men's Socks
63 pr Men's Diabetic Socks
195 pr Men's Boxers / Briefs
23 Men's T-Shirts
107 pr Men's Winter Gloves
5 Men's Hats
2 sets Men's Thermal Underwear
1 pr Men's Jeans
180 pr Women's Socks
95 pr Women's Diabetic Socks
174 pr Women's Briefs
45 Bras / Sports Bras
3 pr Women's Gloves
36 Women's Hats
1 Woman's Winter Headband
5 Women's Scarves
1 Woman's T-Shirt
1 Woman's Sweater
1 pr Women's Jeans
2 pr Women's Pants
1 pr Women's Winter Boots

Full-size Personal Hygiene Items:

97 Toothbrushes
82 Toothpaste
10 Trial-Size Toothpaste
6 Oral Care Kits
13 Dental Floss
4 pk Flossers
178 bars Soap
4 Shower Gel
25 Deodorant
549 Disposable Razors
18 Dermasil Lotion
40 Foot Powder
58 pkg Feminine Hygiene / Liners
6 pkg Incontinence Products
276 pr Hand Warmers
105 pr Toe Warmers
17 pr Insole Warmers
45 pr Bigfoot Warmers
18 Body Warmers
74 Pillows

Note: Stand Down is seeking volunteers to serve on Saturday, October 18. The event runs from 8:15 am to 1:00 pm, and all volunteers are expected to serve for the entire duration. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, reach out to Jim Munro.



Saturday OCT. 18, 2025
9AM - 1PM

A letter of thanks: We received the following thank you letter from Johanna Wagner of Goodwill.

Dear Supporter;

Please accept this letter as a personal thank you for your help and support of our Veterans in Central Illinois. We continue to see an increase in Veterans needing services and attending Stand Down to Receive much needed winter items.

Goodwill's Stand Down 2025 for Veterans continues to represent hope...hope for a better tomorrow. Throughout the years, hundreds of homeless and at-risk Veterans have gathered to enjoy the support of their community.

While these necessities are crucial to our Veterans, the support they feel from being provided items they need to get them through the winter is the true gift from this event. We all know that everyone struggles at some point. For some of these individuals the struggle has left them homeless or at-risk...but NOT hopeless. Goodwill's Stand Down for homeless and At-Risk Veterans means more than a warm coat and some new shoes. It means showing these men and women that someone still cares. That someone appreciates their service and that their community is behind them.

Your donation of men's socks, women's socks and pillows means so much because Stand Down means so much to these Veterans. It is a day of hope and a day our veterans will remember for a lifetime.

Again, we wish to extend our sincerest thank you for your donation and support of our Veterans.

Respectfully,

Johanna Wagner
Assistant Director of Program Services



Fun Facts about the Reformation

The anniversary of the 1517 Protestant Reformation is October 31, here are some fun facts...

The word 'Protestantism' originates from German princes issuing a 'protest' against the Holy Roman Emperor.

The Catholic Church responded to the Protestant Reformation with their own 'Counter Reformation, when Ignatius of Loyola became the founder of the Society of Jesus

Notes from the Pastor:

As a follow-up to my sermon on prayer, here is yet another acronym for organizing our prayers.

P.R.A.Y.

P: Pause to be still

R: Rejoice with a Psalm and Reflect on Scripture

A: Ask God to help us and others

Y: Yield to God's will in our lives.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA DANCE MARATHON

Savana Southwick is participating in a Dance Marathon to raise funds for the Iowa Children's Miracle Network Hospital to help provide life-saving care to kids in need. Together we can change kids' lives and change the future - but she needs your help!

Here's how it works:

Miracle Network Dance Marathon is a student-led movement supporting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. All year long, we raise funds for kids at our local children's hospital. I'm joining other students, faculty, and community members who are dedicated to supporting kids and families in need by asking for donations from friends like YOU!

Donations stay local to help kids in our community. Your donation is tax-deductible and will make miracles happen for families who desperately need them.

If you'd like to donate, click the link [here](#). Or contact Susan in the church office, and she will email the link to you.



"Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." 2 Corinthians 4:16

I'm not sure any of you may realize, but on October 11th I will reach the age of 60! If that is hard for any of you to believe, think about how I'm coming to the reality. Some may claim at the age of 60, one still remains in middle age. I don't think that way and do the math a bit different. If we break a human life cycle into quarters: the first 20 years being quarter one, ages 20-40 being the second quarter, followed by 40-60 being the third quarter and 60-till our passing, then I am entering into the final quarter of the gift of life. Sticking with the sports metaphor, I do not think I'm three touchdowns down and will be needing a heroic effort to win the game. In Paul's words from his second letter to the Corinthians aging is enviable but it is through Jesus our Savior that we are given new life. Or even as the body weakens, the spirit can grow stronger.

As our bodies grow older, as we are not able to physically work as hard for long periods of time, how then are we to be renewed day by day? We could eat healthier, we could exercise, even go to bed earlier. That is the prescription I often hear, but there is more to a renewed life in God. Here are some of the things we can do to help in this journey.

- Place faith in Jesus Christ, receive Him as Savior and Lord and let the Holy Spirit enters your life for salvation.
- Read and meditate on God's word in scripture.
- Pray often.
- Cultivate the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- Desire more of God: Growing in the Spirit is about the hunger for and desiring of God.
- Fellowship with other Believers: the Spirit often works through community when we grow together we are stronger.
- Obey the Spirit when it speaks to you, there the Spirit will lead you, often quietly and powerfully.

It all sounds simple, but we each know that growing in relationship with God does take work. We also know it is what we are called to do. As spoken by my mother-in-law, "Getting old is not for sissies." No person of faith is a sissy yet as we grow older we can be assured of being renewed day by day in the loving arms of God.

Peace and Grace
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

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