

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 Church and to the community. The sale brought in over \$5,370.



Shoppers were lined up around the building Friday morning starting before 7am.

It Is Official!

In March, a team of Pastor Andy, Doug Ferrier, Dan Staver and Sally Parry submitted a grant application to the Lilly Foundation. In August, St Luke Union Church was notified of a successful award of that grant. This grant will be used to support a clergy renewal sabbatical for Pastor Andy in the summer of 2026. Final details are being worked out for church operation while he is gone. We are thankful for this gift and opportunity. We look forward to how the church will grow spiritually while he is away.



Shoppers filled Fellowship Hall.

Fun Fact: The first Thanksgiving was not called Thanksgiving, the people who celebrated it in 1621 didn't call it that! They just called it a "harvest celebration." The name *Thanksgiving* came much later, in the 1800s.



NOVEMBER 2025

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

01

02

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

03

Adult Bible Study
12p
Boy Scouts 7p

04

Mission Team
5:30p

05

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

06

07

Men's Breakfast 7a

08

DAR Lunch Mtg
11:30a

09

Sun School 9:30a
Choir Prac.9:30a
Worship 10:30a

10

Adult Bible Study
12p
Boy Scouts 7p

11

SAR Lunch Mtg 9a
Resource Team 2p
Finance Mtg 5p

12

Worship Team 5p
Choir Practice 7p

13

Crossroads 9a

14

15

16

Pledge Sunday
RaiseRight
Choir Prac.9:30a
Worship 10:30a
Thanksgiving Potluck

17

Adult Bible Study
12p
Boy Scouts 7p

18

VMC Mtg 5:30p

19

Church Chat 6p
Choir Practice 7p

20

Faith Brews 5p

21

Recital 4:30p

22

23

Sun School 9:30a
Choir Prac.9:30a
Worship 10:30a
Decorate Sanctuary

24

Adult Bible Study
12p
Boy Scouts 7p

25

Lamplighters 7p

26

Choir Practice 7p

27

Thanksgiving Day
Office Closed

28

29

30

1st Sunday of Advent
Choir Prac 9:30a
Worship 10:30a

Happy Birthday! Ann Austin 11/3; Becky Blum, Madeleine Luna 11/5; Claire Benjamin 11/7; Gwen Yurieci 11/9; Jay Harrison 11/10; James Munro 11/13; Owen Keeton, Garrett Staver, Laura Verplaetse 11/16; Kyle King 11/17, Marc Herren 11/18; Dick Harrison, Eric Verplaetse 11/19; Terry Small 11/20; Silas Luna 11/21; Lin Walton 11/22; Chuck Maney 11/24; Lori Blankenship 11/28; Mike Ball 11/29
Happy Anniversary! Rev Dr Andy & Sandi Gifford 11/3; Richard & Marcia Nagy 11/12; Larry & Marilyn Maffett 11/23

Pledge Sunday

During worship on Sunday, November 16, there will be a special time to dedicate your 2026 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.

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.
Proverbs 22:9

Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck

Join us for Thanksgiving Dinner after worship on Sunday, November 16 at 12:00 pm.

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.

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

The faith communities of Bloomington/Normal will host a community worship service.

The service will be **November 23, 2025 at 3:00 pm at the YMCA.**

This year's theme: **Nurturing Gratitude.**
All are welcome!

Stand Down 2025

On Saturday, October 18, 2025, five members of the St Luke Union Church community volunteered at STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS. This was the 17th annual Stand Down event, and we have been participating for most of that time. This year the event was held at Goodwill Commons in Peoria.

The volunteers this year were John Boerner, Mike Kolze, Colton Mason-Barnes, Jim Munro and Susan Trower. Mike and Susan manned the Glove table, Jim assisted at the Hat-and-Scarf table and John and Colton helped with storing the veteran's bags if they had to go somewhere.

According to Johanna Wagner, Assistant Director of Program Services at Goodwill, 289 veterans were served at this year's event.

One of the requests we received from Stand Down was for 750 pairs of men's socks; this was to provide 3 pairs of socks to each veteran. The 289 veterans would have required 867 pairs; St Luke Union sent 1005 pairs of socks, and we also sent Women's socks and diabetic socks.

The retiring director of Goodwill, Don Johnson, expressed his gratitude to the St Luke community; we are known and appreciated.

Thank you for all your help and support!

James Munro



Give Thanks

Home Sweet Home Ministries is partnering with Midwest Food Bank and Thrivent Financial to collect 2,000 turkeys to distribute to families in need this Thanksgiving. We are collecting monetary donations to help with this campaign. If you are able to give, please submit your donation in the Sunday offering or in the church office by Sunday, November 9. Write "HSHM Give Thanks" in the memo line.

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY IS ALWAYS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Our next Salvation Army food drive is on November 2

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

Home Sweet Home Ministries Current Needs

With your support, Home Sweet Home provided hope and healing to families seeking a fresh start. We appreciate your help in collecting the following current need items:

Disposable razors
Hand Towels
New blankets
Disposable water cups
Ziploc snack size bags
Coffee
Shampoo/Conditioner
Body Wash
Paper Towels

Donations can be dropped off at the Bread For Life Co-op at 301 East Oakland Avenue in Bloomington anytime Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Be sure to check out hshministries.org and click on the "Ways to Give" tab for updated current needs.

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.



Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

As many of you know I have been helping a farmer on my Friday day off. There are many things that Joe asks me to do. There is regular equipment maintenance, running to town for parts, connecting and disconnecting farm implements, staging of equipment in fields, and the actual field work. This involves my favorite part of the job; driving the equipment, doing tilling, planting, and the eventual harvest. This year was the first year I planted in the spring and harvested the same fields in the fall.

A strongly unnerving task because I was able to evaluate my planting as it compared to an eventual crop yield. I can say some days I was happy, other days I was a little disappointed. The lesson I learned this year was that you can never take for granted everything is operating perfectly. Constant monitoring and equipment adjustments must be made. The level of work one does all the time reflects in a direct correlation to what final production numbers are achieved.

I think this is the sum of what Paul is trying to teach in his letter to the Galatians, by doing our best to not grow weary. Perhaps this is the modern day equivalent of not being "lazy of heart." Several weeks ago I preached a sermon titled, "The Default of Your Heart" and I spoke about where our heart or attitude goes in the different situations of life. An example would be, do we get angry and frustrated when the gas pump doesn't seem to be reading our card, or do we think happily about the opportunity to meet and greet someone new because we need to walk into the store? Are we looking for ways to help and serve or are we looking for opportunities to take advantage and place ourselves above another? The image of becoming weary doing good is a wonderful default.

On October 18th I was invited to preside over the marriage of Heather Paterson and Peter Schmultz. It was a great day that saw a God centered covenant formed. One of the points I made to them in my message was advice given by my son Seth. That advice was, in marriage couples should always try to outdo each other in kindness. If kindness becomes the default in a relationship, then conflict will be difficult to take root and as time goes on we will reap the good harvest of God's blessing.

Default in kindness and do not become weary in doing good. The result will be the reality of God's blessing and grace.

Be a Blessing
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