

New Directions **April** St Luke Union Church

Schedule for Easter 2026

March 29 Palm Sunday Service 10:30 am
Mar 30- Apr 3 Morning Prayer 7:00 am
April 2 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm
April 5 Easter Sunday!!!
Breakfast 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:30 am

Easter Sunday Breakfast!

Sunday, April 5, 2026
9:00 am to 10:15 am

Join us for an Easter Sunday Breakfast Potluck. Please sign up to bring Breakfast Casserole, Breakfast Breads, Fruit or Juice. We also need help with clean up. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Women's Fellowship Spring Tea April 18, 2026 9:30 am

Our program will include a presentation from Oasis Community Outreach.
There is a sign up in Fellowship Hall.

If attending, please consider bringing a donation for Oasis.
Things needed: peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, laundry detergent.



APRIL 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

Morning Prayer 7a

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

02

Morning Prayer 7a

Maundy Thursday Service 7p

03

Morning Prayer 7a

Men's Breakfast 8a

04

Gifford Shower 9a

05

Easter
Breakfast 9a
Choir Prac. 9:30a
Worship 10:30a

06

Office Closed
Boy Scouts 7p

07

08

Worship Team 5p
Handbells 6p
Choir Practice 7p

09

Crossroads 9a

10

11

DAR Lunch Mtg. 11a

12

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

13

Adult Bible Study 12p
Boy Scouts 7p

14

Resource Team 2p
Finance Mtg 5p

15

Church Chat 5p
Handbells 6p
Choir Practice 7p

16

Faith Brews 5p

17

Music Shoppe Recital 4:30p

18

WF Spring Tea 9:30a

Music Shoppe Recital 2:30 p

19

RaiseRight
Choir Prac 9:30a
Worship 10:30a
Crossroads
Volunteer Lunch 11a

20

Adult Bible Study 12p
Boy Scouts 7p

21

VMC Meeting 5:30p

22

Handbells 6p
Choir Practice 7p

23

24

25

26

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

27

28

29

30

Group Sale Set-Up 

Happy Birthday! Sue Boerner, Debbie Harrison, Joel Keeton 4/1; Emily Desmond, Pierre Roussey 4/2; Brian Trower 4/12; Lillie Keeton 4/14; Caiden Dehner 4/16; Emma DeBruine 4/17; Cameron Luna 4/18; Lisa DeBruine, Dan Moret 4/19; Bryan Colee 4/21; Scott Luna 4/24; Elijah Rambo 4/25; Lauren Desmond 4/26; Sylvia Kruger 4/27 Carol Parlette 4/28; Ellie Dehner 4/29; Rhett Stolte 4/30

Happy Anniversary! Mike & Ginny Kolze 4/16

2026 SPRING GROUP SALE & BAKE SALE

Friday, May 1st – 9am – 5pm & Saturday, May 2nd – 9am – Noon

Ready, Set, Go!!! It is time to look through your Spring/Summer 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, April 26th

Bring your items:

Monday, April 27th & Tuesday, April 28th – 8:30 am to 7 pm

Wednesday, April 29th – 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, April 12th 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-Coordinator, Karlene Bledsoe and Charlene Munro.

Attention! Community Service Opportunity:

Are you looking for a great opportunity to meet people in our community?

Also, to have fellowship and fun with church volunteers, to be creative, and guess “What is this?”

Well, we have a great opportunity for you!

You could be a coordinator, or find a buddy, and be co-coordinators of the future group sales.

Charlene Munro and Karlene Bledsoe are hanging up their group sale co-coordinator aprons after the fall group sale in October.

We will provide an outline of duties and responsibilities.

Questions? Talk with or contact Charlene or Karlene

Think about it, Pray about it. Yes, you can!!



LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

FREE CHOIR CONCERT

Since 1985, Habitat for Humanity of McLean County has partnered with local families to build affordable housing. A freewill offering will be taken with all proceeds supporting the mission of Habitat and 41 years of building homes, community, and hope.

Wesley United Methodist Church
502 E Front St, Bloomington

**Sunday
April 12th
3:00 - 4:30 pm**



**Habitat for Humanity
Love Thy Neighbor Concert
Sunday, April 12, 2026 @ 3:00 pm**

Seven St. Luke singers will participate in this community chorus. CJ Wahmann and Rebecca Schaefer—sopranos; Debbie Lopez, Marsha Hinthorn and Judy Ferrier—altos; Doug Ferrier—tenor; and James Munro—bass.

*The Choir will sing 10 songs...two of them will include a children's chorus.

*The Sound of Illinois Men's Barbershop Chorus will sing a couple songs to open the concert.

*This will be a FREE Concert...but a "free-will offering" will be taken with the entire proceeds going to help build the 2026 Habitat for Humanity House in Bloomington. The Recipient of the house has been chosen, and she will speak at the concert. She and her girls have already spent many hours helping to build their house with their "sweat equity".

Stand Down for Veterans 2026 UPDATE

We have been collecting items for the 2026 STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS, which is organized by Goodwill in Peoria. Goodwill sent a list of things they'd especially like help with. As of now we have collected:

- 271 pairs of **men's socks** (our goal is 867)
- 646 pairs of **hand warmers** (goal is 1500 hand and foot warmers)
- 45 **washcloths** (goal is at least 250)
- 67 pairs of **Female undergarments** and 30 **bras** (generally 25 women veterans attend)

In addition to these, we have collected

- 74 pairs of **men's underwear**
- 29 **feminine hygiene items**
- 55 **toothbrushes**
- 24 tubes of **toothpaste**
- 124 **men's razors**
- 120 **women's razors**

We are still collecting **NEW, UNUSED** products in the **ORIGINAL** packaging.

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

THANK YOU for any help you can provide!

- James Munro

Fun Fact: The smell of fresh-cut grass is actually a plant's distress signal, but to us it smells like life and renewal.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
2 Corinthians 5:17*

An old workbench sat in the corner of a garage, buried beneath years of dust, paint drips, and forgotten tools. It belonged to a man named Thomas, who used to build beautiful things upon it. But after loss crept into his life, the tools were set down, and the bench slowly became a resting place for what no longer mattered.

One spring morning, his daughter returned home. She stepped into the garage, brushed her hand across the worn wood, and said gently, “You used to make life upon this.” Thomas sighed. “That was a long time ago. It’s too far gone now.”

The next day, she opened the garage door wide and let the light pour in. Quietly, patiently, she began to clear the clutter. At first, Thomas only watched, but in time, he stepped forward and joined her. Together they began the slow work of scraping and sanding. Dust filled the air, and their muscles ached, but little by little, something beautiful emerged. Beneath the layers, the wood was still strong, and still whole.

Weeks later, the workbench stood restored. Not brand new, not untouched, but renewed and something in Thomas stirred. One evening, he picked up his old tools again and began to build. Not to reclaim what had been, but to embrace what could be.

That night, sitting quietly beside the restored bench, he whispered words he had once heard but never fully believed: “The old has gone... the new has come.” For the first time in a long time, he felt the truth of them settle deep within his soul.

Spring invites us into that same quiet miracle. All around us, creation awakens, the earth softens, buds begin to form, and life gently returns where there once was stillness. What was hidden beneath the cold begins to rise again. In these small, faithful rhythms, God reminds us of His promise: He is always making things new.

So it is with us. In Christ, we are not simply improved, we are made new. Not by our own striving, but by His grace. Sometimes that renewal feels like slow, careful work. Like layers being gently stripped away. Sometimes it begins simply by opening the door and letting His light in. As we look to see what we thought was worn out or beyond repair is still held in His hands. Still capable of beauty. Still being restored.

This season, may we be still enough to notice His work. May we be open enough to receive it, and may we trust that in Christ, the old truly has gone and the new has come. In Christ, we are made new. Amen.

Peace,
Pastor Andy

CONTACT US!

Rev. Dr. Andrew Gifford, Pastor

agifford@stlukeunion.org

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](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!



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.

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- **ARM & HAMMER™ and OxiClean™:** Recycle ARM & HAMMER and OxiClean brand only plastic pouches
 - **Contact Lens:** Accepts all brands of contact lenses, plus foil and blister packaging.
 - **Brita® or PUR:** Accepts Brita or PUR brand only pitchers, individual filtration bottles, filters, foil filter packaging, and faucet filtration systems.
 - **Burt's Bee:** Accepts Burt's Bee product packaging (must be this brand only).
 - **Cigarette Waste: NO DROP OFF– PLEASE EMAIL AMIE, joelamiekeeton@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: 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:** Accepts only Entenmann's brand Little Bites plastic pouches and clear Entenmann's Minis packaging.
 - **eos:** Packaging from eos brand only.
 - **Febreze Air Care:** 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).
 - **Gillette Razor: All brands** of blades, razors, and plastic packaging.
 - **GoGo squeeZ® Food Pouch: Accepts all brands** of 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.
 - **GOLDTOE Socks:** Accepts GOLDTOE brand socks. Please launder.
 - **Hasbro:** Recycle Hasbro brand toys and games.
 - **Kroger® Brands:** Recycle flexible plastic packaging from Kroger® brands through this program.
 - **Stanley Black & Decker Tools:** Recycle DEWALT®, CRAFTSMAN®, BLACK+DECKER®, STANLEY®, IRWIN®, LENOX®, MAC Tools®, PORTER-CABLE® and Bostitch® branded tools.
 - **Swiffer®:** Recycle Swiffer refills (must be Swiffer).
 - **Takis® Snacks Recycling Program:** Recycle Takis Snack packaging (must be Takis)
 - **Tide Free:** Recycle Tide, Gain, Downy, Bounce, NBD., and Dreft fabric care packaging.
 - **Tom's of Maine:** Recycle all Tom's of Maine packaging (must be Tom's of Maine)
 - **VTech® & LeapFrog®:** Recycle VTech and LeapFrog electronic learning devices and electronic toys.

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. Lion's Club volunteers manage this for charity.

***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