

May

St Luke Union Church

Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
Philippians 4:6

~~Dear~~
Dear St. Luke
family thank
you for supporting
me and buying Girl
Scout cookies
again this year

Love
Macey

stlukeunion.org | facebook.com/stlukeunionchurch | 309-663-7437

Lamplighters Annual Dinner Out

Lamplighters is having our annual dinner out on Tuesday, May 26th.

We are going to The Barrel House at 5:30pm. It is next to The DoubleTree, off of South Veterans Parkway. All ladies of the church are welcome to join in food, fellowship, and fun! Please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or the Office.

Contact Susan Trower if you have any questions.
309-825-3489



Funks Grove Worship Service
Sunday, June 14, 2026 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.*



MAY 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

Men's Breakfast 7a
Group Sale 9am – 5pm

02

Group Sale 9am - Noon

03

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

04

Adult Bible Study 12p
Boy Scouts 7p

05

Mission Team 5:30p

06

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

07

DAR Luncheon 11a

08

09

10

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

11

Adult Bible Study 12p
Boy Scouts 7p

12

Resource Team 2p
Member Care Team Mtg 4p
Finance Mtg 5p

13

Worship Team 5p
Handbells 6p
Choir Practice 7p

14

Crossroads 9a

15

16

17

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

18

Adult Bible Study 12p
Boy Scouts 7p

19

VMC Meeting 5:30p

20

Church Chat 5p
Handbells 6p
Choir Practice 7p

21

Faith Brews 5p @Joe's Station House

22

23

Music Shoppe Recital 1p

24

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

25

Memorial Day
Office Closed

26

Lamplighters 7p

27

Handbells 6p
Choir Practice 7p

28

29

30

31

Choir Prac 9:30
Worship 10:30a

Happy Birthday! Andy Kubiak 5/5; Nancy Davis 5/7; Linda Sellberg 5/8; Colton Mason-Barnes 5/9; Wyatt Klapp, Heather Paterson-Schmuldt 5/10; Doug Ferrier, Aiden Wright 5/11; Sandy Allen, Tom Sellberg 5/15; Amanda Garard 5/23; Sanae Ferrier, Sarah Tunall 5/24; Martha Maney 5/25; Lynn Warner 5/26; Talia Claucherty, Penny Kellogg 5/31

Happy Anniversary! Brian & Darlene Trower 5/22; John & Sue Boerner 5/26; Ben & Tarynn Gifford 5/27.

The Worship Ministry Team is grateful to all who helped make the sanctuary so beautiful and to those who made contributions to Recycling Furniture for Families

EASTER LILIES

Given by

Lisa, Anna & Emma DeBruine
Jerry Turley
Debra Harrison
Becky & Larry Blum
Karin Hunt
Ed Gottschalk and
Jon, Susan & David Herman
Scott Luna Family
Glenn & Sharon Stille
Norm & Debbie Lopez

In memory of

Jeff DeBruine
Mary K. Bohlander
Rosemary Menzel
The Potts Family – Bob, Earlene, Barb, Jan and Pam
My Husband Ray
Paul, Martha & Steven Gottschalk
Rev. Delbert & Ieda Herman
Sue Hall, Butch Lyon
Walter & Clara Stille
Virgil & Shirley Hulse and Eric Lopez

Given by

Joyce Pomrenke

In celebration of

All Blessings

Given by

Denny & Bonnie Redick

In honor of

Our Loving and Supporting Friends and Family

RECYCLING FURNITURE FOR FAMILIES

Given by

The Trower Children
Lin Walton
Kevin & Rebecca Schaefer
Ginny & Mike Kolze
Pierre T. Roussey
James & Charlene Munro

In Memory of

Vernon & Mary Jane Trower
Mike Walton
Our Fathers, Roger Ewert & Gary Upton
My Mother Delcie Kight
Robert & Marjorie Roussey
Albert & Sharon Beringer; Richard & Lorna Munro;
Evelyne Thomas

Given by

Joyce Pomrenke
Norm & Debbie Lopez
John & Sue Boerner
Pastor Andy & Sandra Gifford

In celebration of

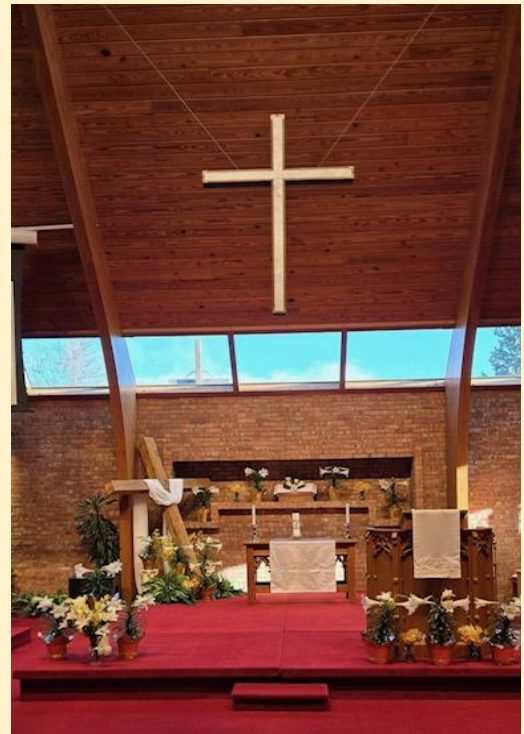
Gift of Family
Easter
Our Family
Our Future Granddaughter

Given by

Chuck & Martha Maney
John & Sue Boerner

In honor of

Our Shared Humanity
Our Parents



Stand Down for Veterans 2026 UPDATE

We are still collecting items for the 2026 STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS, organized by Goodwill in Peoria. As of now we have collected:

- 279 pairs of **men's socks** (our goal is 867)
- 36 pairs of **men's diabetic socks**
- 38 pairs of **ladies diabetic socks**
- 664 pairs of **hand warmers** (goal is 1500 hand and foot warmers)
- 94 **washcloths** (goal is at least 250)

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. It will move during the Group Sale.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A MONETARY DONATION, please send your checks to:

Goodwill Industries
Care of Tim O'Malley
2319 E War Memorial
Peoria, IL 61614

Make checks payable to "Goodwill Foundation" and put "Stand Down 2026" in the memo line. As always, I suggest adding a note that you are from St Luke Union Church; Goodwill knows who we are and appreciates our work!

THANK YOU for any help you can provide!
- James Munro

Fun Fact: May was named after Maia, the Roman goddess of growth and springtime. She was associated with warmth, fertility, and flourishing life.

Funny Facts:

Lawnmowers mysteriously reappear in May, and every dad in America feels a deep spiritual calling to discuss grass.

Birds in May begin singing at 4:30 a.m. because apparently they have no respect for weekends.

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY IS ALWAYS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Our next Salvation Army food drive is on May 3

In choosing what to donate to the Salvation Army Food Pantry, let's ensure 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

Rotary pork chop lunch is coming!

The date is Thursday, June 11th.

See Brian Trower for pork chop lunch tickets (text to 309.531.1076).

Located on the downtown square in Bloomington, eat at a picnic table or get walk-up, drive-up, or carry-out too! For \$10 you receive a pork chop sandwich, chips, a cookie and a drink. The proceeds go to the Bloomington Rotary Foundation which funds dozens of local charities.

*Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
John 20:29*

When our boys were younger, our family took several memorable trips, to the Grand Canyon, to Taos, New Mexico for skiing in the southern Rockies, and even across the eastern United States to visit family, with a special stop at Niagara Falls.

Before each trip, Ben and Seth asked question after question about what to expect. As good parents, we encouraged them to do a little research, look up some facts, find a few pictures, and learn something about where we were going. It was a good exercise, but there was always a common response from anyone who had never been there before:

"I never thought it would be this deep."

"I didn't expect the mountains to be this tall."

"How can there be that much water going over the falls?"

If you have never stood at the edge of the Grand Canyon, looked up at the Rockies, or felt the power of Niagara Falls, no book or photograph can fully prepare you. Some things simply must be experienced to be understood.

In a few months, I will begin the clergy renewal time you all have so graciously blessed me with. I do not yet have the words to fully describe what this will mean for St. Luke Union Church. I do not know how well I will manage not keeping close tabs on the welfare of the congregation I love so deeply. Together, we will simply have to wait and see. We will need to keep our eyes wide open for opportunities to serve, to look for ways to be patient and care for one another, and to rely on the Church Council (VMC), the committees, and the many teams that faithfully carry out the important ministries of this church. This season will help us reflect on who we are as a church and what God is calling us to become. As members of St. Luke Union Church, we are standing at the rim of the canyon, looking up from the base of the mountain, and hearing the thunder of the falls. We are being invited to witness the wonder of God's love in new ways. How can we excite others toward the saving grace of Jesus Christ? How can we help bring people to a place where the Holy Spirit can embrace them? We do this by being examples of God's love, by witnessing to the people we work with and live beside, and by teaching others about the things we ourselves have been blessed to see. As your pastor, I will take these same careful steps toward new experiences and new discoveries. My prayer for each of us is that we grow closer, to one another and to God and that when we come together again, we will more clearly see the blessings God has placed before us. Let us continue to pray for the faith to believe in what we have not yet seen.

Blessings,
Pastor Andy Gifford

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](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.

-
- **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