

October

St Luke Union Church

Thank You!

Much belated, but a huge sincere thank you to all the congregation and friends that came to help celebrate my 90th birthday!!

The weather obviously got in on it also, which involved many of the church members to get involved with tree limbs, power outages and water issues.

Thank you all! It was a very lovely and memorable time. Again, thank you all!!

-Joyce Pomrenke



We celebrated the Reaffirmation of Baptism and Reception of New Members on Sunday, September 20th. See page 3 for more information about our new members.

Fall Group Sale & Bake Sale
Fri Oct 2 9 am - 5 pm
Sat Oct 3 9 am - Noon

Saturday, Oct 3rd - \$5.00 BAG SALE including most items

Gently used clean clothing, kitchen items, books, toys, jewelry, yarn, household items and much more!

Looking forward to seeing you!!!

St. Luke Union Church

2101 E. Washington St.

Bloomington, IL



The congregation enjoyed a tuba solo from guest musician, Robby Pratt on Sunday, September 20th.



OCTOBER 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

				01 2027 Budgets Due Spiritual Growth Team 5p	02 Men's Breakfast 7a Fall Group Sale 9am-5pm	03 Fall Group Sale 9am-Noon
04 World Communion Sunday Journaling class 9a Choir Prac.9:30a Worship 10:30a	05 Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	06	07 Handbells 6p Choir 7p	08 Crossroads Board 9a Music Shoppe Recital 6:30p	09	10 Music Shoppe Flute Workshop 8:30a
11 Sun. School 9:30a Choir Prac.9:30a Worship 10:30a	12 Columbus Day Church Office Closed Boy Scouts 7p	13 Resource Team 2p Finance Mtg 5p	14 Worship Team 5p Handbells 6p Choir 7p	15 SAR Dinner 3p Faith Brews 5p	16	17 Stand Down for Veterans 2026 Peoria, IL 9am-1pm
18 RaiseRight Choir Prac 9:30a Worship 10:30a	19 Adult Bible Study 12p Boy Scouts 7p	20 VMC Meeting 5:30p	21 Handbells 6p Choir 7p	22 Troop 19 Parent Committee Mtg 7p	23	24
25 Sun. School 9:30a Choir Prac 9:30a Worship 10:30a	26 Adult Bible Study 12p	27 Lamplighters 7p	28 Handbells 6p Choir 7p	29	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! Heather Paterson-Schmuldt & Peter Schmuldt 10/18; Chuck & Gwen Yurieci 10/26

Meet Our New Members!



Name: Jacqueline Hawkins

What makes your heart sing? Spending time with my family, my Grandchildren, taking care of people and being with other Christian people.

Bio: Born on May 4th in Lawton, OK. Daughter of Rod and Margaret Hawkins. Mother to Keith and grandmother to 4 grandchildren. Trained as a CNA and CMA.



Name: Laura Robison

What makes your heart sing? Spending time with loved ones, great music, watching birds and wildlife in their natural habitat.

Bio: I was raised in Central Illinois and studied accounting. I recently retired after 45 years of work, mainly in healthcare finance. My husband of 41 years passed away in January. We lived and worked for 14 years in Springfield, Missouri and moved to Bloomington in 2021.

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING TO BE COLLECTED SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4



“What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice,
to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God”.
Micah 6:8

The World Communion Special Offering is collected on World Communion Sunday. This is used to promote peacemaking activities through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, and peacemaking. These ministries are working to relieve the suffering of women in domestic violence, and joining with others to end gun violence & focusing on international migration issues. It also promotes global witness & ecumenical & interfaith relations.

In the past, 25% has been kept by our church for local peacemaking activities. Special envelopes are available in the pew racks a few weeks before & after October 4. You may also write “World Communion Offering” in the memo section of your check or use a blank envelope from the pew rack, indicating it is for this special offering. The offering is split between the denominations.

Remember, when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

The Mission Team thanks you for your contribution

Stand Down 2026 - Final Distribution

On September 16th Jim Ferrier and Jim Munro delivered the 2026 Stand Down For Veterans donations to Goodwill Industries in Peoria. These items will be part of the goods and services provided to homeless and under-housed veterans on October 17.

There are a lot of “thank yous” that go into this effort. A big Thank You goes out to Jim Ferrier who drove to Peoria, delivery could not happen without you and your van! Another big thank you to Charlene Munro, who cataloged all the items that came in, found space to store items and packed them up for delivery.

Finally, a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for Stand Down; and sent money to Goodwill to help provide items for the event. The staff at Goodwill Industries is well aware of the support St Luke Union has shown in the past. A full list of the donations follows.

If you still want to contribute to Stand Down, you can send 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. You may also add a note that you are from St Luke Union Church.

Thanks again!
Jim Munro

2026 SLUC Operation Stand Down Donations

Clothing / Accessories:

840 pr Men's Socks
78 pr Men's Diabetic Socks
80 pr Men's Boxers / Briefs
18 Men's Hats
136 pr Women's Socks
58 pr Women's Diabetic Socks
136 pr Women's Briefs
40 Bras / Sports Bras
16 Women's Hats
6 Scarves
1 pr Women's Winter Boots
341 Washcloths

Personal Hygiene Items:

119 Toothbrushes
55 Toothpaste
3 Trial-Size Toothpaste
33 Dental Floss/Dental Picks, etc.
258 Disposable Razors
41 Deodorant
438 bars Soap
13 tubes Dermasil Lotion
12 containers Foot Powder
57 pkg Feminine Hygiene / Liners
18 pkg Incontinence Products
659 pr Hand Warmers
9 pr Toe Warmers
15 Body Warmers

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14

Dear St Luke Union Folks,

I'm grateful for these weeks we've gotten to spend together. Grateful to work with Susan Walter whose editing ability is excellent, with Jeff Hendricker, who brings such beautiful music to this church and chooses spot-on hymns, and to Juan Galvan who quietly cleans behind the scenes week by week. St Luke's teams have been advancing the ball in getting things done around here and I've been grateful to sit in and hear how you are moving the church forward. The shot clock was added to the game of basketball in the 1950's to eliminate stalling and speed up the game, and these fourteen weeks with you have been a liturgical shot clock, as we put rocks into the basket by the pulpit each week amidst a storm that took out every system in the church.

You were here and there and everywhere being the church, because it's not a building, it's You, here and out there in the world, being the hands and face of Christ in this world. You are the church where all three of my babies (all adults now) were baptized and the threshold of the sanctuary is where one of my kids took his first steps. You are my mother's church, and I'm grateful for how you've been a faith family for her. You've been a supportive church to me through all these years. Thank you for this time with you.

I've spoken with many of you about books, which ones you love, which you don't, and why. While I haven't listed any mysteries on here (I know, they're so good!), these are books I adore also and recommend below.

The Scripture I chose for our very first Spiritual Challenge was Jeremiah 6:16: *Thus says the LORD: Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls....*" I will think of you and keep you in my prayers as we traverse these ancient paths, where the good way lies, and work to walk in it. May God continue to bless you in your service to God, the world, each other, and this community,

Pastor Susan

Book Recommendations:

The Holy Bible: Do you have a good study Bible? Like changing the oil in your car, sometimes it's good to get a new Bible for a clean start, a new way to study, etc. I gave our neighbor Roger a study Bible and he said, "This has so much!" and I replied, "Exactly." There are also green Bibles, which highlight nature and the earth in the Bible, there are journaling Bibles, new translations, etc. If you find you aren't reading the Bible you have, invest in a new one for yourself and/or your loved ones.

***Word by Word: A Daily Spiritual Practice* By Marilyn Chandler McEntyre ISBN13:9780802873866**

***Forgiveness: Reclaiming Its Power in a Culture of Outrage and Fear* by Amy Orr-Ewing ISBN13:9781587436079**
Orr-Ewing, Christian theologian from Oxford University, offers examples of the power of forgiveness to change things in this present age.

***Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas* By Meister Eckhart, Thomas Merton, William H. Willimon, et al. ISBN13: 9780874869170** I keep this book out on our coffee table year-round as the readings are inspiring. For sure, it's my favorite Advent preparation.

***Waiting Isn't a Waste: The Surprising Comfort of Trusting God in the Uncertainties of Life* by Mark Vroegop ISBN13: 9781433590979** This book is a helpful reminder that all the myriad times we find ourselves waiting and wondering why we're waiting, and waiting for things to change, or even waiting in line, or waiting at a traffic light, these are part of the faith journey, part of "waiting on the Lord."

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Book Recommendations:

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr
ISBN13: 9780470907757 This book is a page-turner if you find yourself in the second half of life wondering what now spiritually? Rohr's book *Immortal Diamond, Breathing Under Water, and Everything Belongs* are books of his I'd recommend as well. He's a spiritual leader (Franciscan friar) who looks deeply at who we are as humans, who God is, and why we're here.

Grace in Dying: A Message of Hope, Comfort and Spiritual Transformation by Kathleen Dowd Singh ISBN13:9780062515650 This book is helpful in reframing how we view death, and how we can see it as a time of spiritual transformation.

Also watch for books by Rev. Courtney Ellis, Rev. April Fiet, and Rev. Ruth Everhart, all PCUSA clergy.

Secular books worth reading:

Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss By Margaret Renkl
ISBN13:9781571313782 This memoir is a stunning example of natural metaphors informing our lives. I wrote to Margaret Renkl after reading this book and told her how much her book meant to me. The essays are stunning. She said she never reads the dog essay when she does public readings, you'll see why.

The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma by Bessel van der Kolk This is a helpful book for looking at how the body stores trauma and ways we can heal from it. ISBN13:9780143127741

Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural by Ronald C. White ISBN-13 978-0743299626. This book gives us a glimpse of Abraham Lincoln the person in the midst of great stakes, writing this stunner of a speech.

God Stories by C. Michael Curtis. ISBN13:9780618387939. These are secular short stories with themes of faith, grace, belief, etc. These are great for discussion as many are left open-ended.

My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies by Resmaa Menakem ISBN13:9781942094470 This book, written by a therapist, examines American racism through the view of body-centered psychology and trauma. How do we carry our histories?

The Pen and the Bell: Mindful Writing in a Busy World by Brenda Miller and Holly J. Hughes. ISBN-13:978-1558966536 This book has writing prompts to jump start your spiritual journaling.

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!



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
 - **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)
 - **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.

Updated 6-2-2026