

**Special points of interest:**

September 2007

- Sunday Morning Bible Study
- Home Bible Class
- Wednesday Lunch Bunch Returns
- Microcredit in Nicaragua - A Story of Hope

## Amazing Bible Race

Sunday Night After Church (SNAC) Youth Group starts with a family picnic at Pastor Beth's house on September 9. We won't have SNAC September 16 so that the Youth can attend the all Church Fall Rally with their parents. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have SNAC at our regular time

(4:30-6:30), to kick off the Amazing Bible Race. During the Amazing Bible Race the Youth Group will divide up



into teams and begin a scavenger hunt through the Bible. Teams will

work together to solve weekly challenges and encourage each other. In this program the youth will use the internet and Bible study to earn points for their team to win prizes and gain a deeper knowledge of the Bible. To learn more, go to: [www.amazingbible.com](http://www.amazingbible.com) and watch for more information at church.

## Garden Elementary Sunday School



Children's Sunday School begins September 9 at 8:45 a.m. In the Garden we will be using a new curriculum, "Come Join the Circle." "Come Join the Circle" draws on Christian traditions that recognize that God is at the center and has created us to be in community. For where two or more are

gathered, God is there in the midst, calling us to widen the circle and extend a hand of welcome to others. This resource seeks to nurture this God-given community and to empower learners of all ages to reach out in love and acceptance.

The first module will be "God Makes a World" - Creation.

September 9 - Creation, Day 1

September 16 - Creation, Day 2 & 3

September 23 -

Creation, Day 4 & 5

September 30 - Creation, Day 6

October 7 - Creation, Day by Day

October 14 - Music Sunday - Kids will be singing during Worship

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## Partners in Song

Partners in Song is . . . Church musicians singing hymns for patients at BroMenn Regional Medical Center once a month on Sunday mornings.

We invite you and your church members to participate in Partners in Song.

The training will focus on how to visit pastorally in the hospital, HIPAA (patient privacy) training, and will include details of the program.



*Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!*



All interested participants are required to attend training for this ministry on Thursday, September 27, 2007 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Conference Center  
BroMenn Regional  
Medical Center

**See Details Board for more information.**

## Money Matters

July 30, 2007



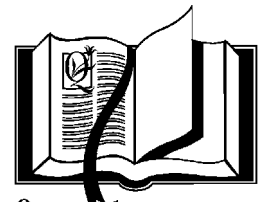
GENERAL FUND	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Receipts	\$139,477	\$134,350
Disbursements	\$114,375	\$126,811

Thank you for your contributions to the ministries of St. Luke Union Church.

## Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, September 13th, at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The study will be #9, "Perspectives on Providence, Joseph," in our study guide "In the Beginning." Hostess is

Mary Jane Trower. We will be collecting again for the "Sandwich Lady."



Our study continues...

## Church Women United

Church Women United will hold their Fall meeting on Monday, September 17th from 10 until 2 at the First Baptist Church, 2502 East College Ave., Bloomington.

The program will include



an "update" on Safe Harbor by Mr. Tom Fulop,

as well as a presentation by a representative from Clare House.

Please come, bring a sack lunch; dessert and drinks will be furnished by the ladies from First Baptist Church.

## You've Gotta Eat!

Calling all church members!

Thursday, September 13th at 5:00 p.m., we will be having our monthly "Theme" dinner.

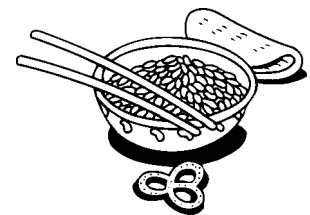
The theme for September will be a Mexican Dinner. Agape Committee will provide Taco Meat, Salsa, Tortilla and Taco Shells,

Tortilla Chips and toppings for Tacos.

If you would like to bring a dish to pass to go with the "Theme," please feel free to do so.

For those unable to bring a dish to pass, the dinner will cost \$4.00.

Everyone is invited!



## Thank You



Gib and I would like to thank everyone who furnished food and sent cards while we were both ill. It has certainly been appreciated.

We knew 40 years ago when we joined this was a caring church.

Thank you again.

Gib and Norma Knapp

We would like to thank all our friends at St. Luke Union for all the sympathy cards, calls, concerns and memorials we received at the death of our grandson, Corry. It means so much to be remembered at a time like this. Thanks everyone.

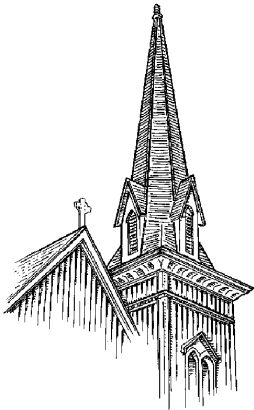
Ed and Margaret Bork

Thank you to everyone at St. Luke Union for the graduation gift and well wishes.

I appreciate the interest you show in everything that goes on in my life and I'm happy to know I have such support while starting such a big step.

Stephanie Smith

## Message from the Moderator



Ruth is on vacation, so you're stuck with me this month. Beth came back from the Presbyterian Youth Triennium all "fired up." Apparently, our young people got a lot out of the event, too. They especially appreciated forming new relationships and friendships with other Presbyterians from all around the country. All indications are that it was a deeply religious experience, not just fun and games and trendy music. They even enjoyed the frequent worship services, which followed the general format of our traditional services, but with many youthful "twists." It's heart-warming to hear from our own youth that they are more spiritual than some of us perhaps give them credit for.

Almost made this old "wall-flower" wish I had been there!

Donations are coming in for the new carpet; watch for the "yard-by-yard" display coming soon to a fellowship hall near you . . .

### Council Actions:

- Approved an open-to-the-public benefit to help raise money to buy a new wheelchair for Kevin Schaefer.
- Reviewed and discussed proposed changes to the constitution. A final draft will be prepared for Council to review and make final decisions before presenting it to the congregation early next year.

- Decided to create a task force to begin work on an Operational Manual for the church and its staff.
- Approved a letter to the congregation regarding actions of the Presbytery of Great Rivers against former pastor Mark Hamner.
- Upcoming Events:
  - September 7, 2007 Presbytery of Great Rivers
  - September 9, 2007 Worship Chorale rehearsals begin at 9:15 a.m.

In Christ's love,

*Rod Hawkins*

## Address Changes

Mindy Feicke  
4637 West Altgeld St.  
Chicago, IL 60639  
Phone (773) 278-9202



Carol A. Auyeung  
605 McGregor  
Bloomington, IL 61701

## September Birthdays

Karen Collier - 1	Zachary Scott Bork - 14	Jake Stille - 30
Alex Moore - 2	Eleanor Larrick - 17	
Laura Colee - 5	Priscilla Harper - 20	
Rebecca Hepner - 5		
Karin Hunt - 7		
Todd Stille - 7		
Betty Potts - 8		
David Ferrier - 9		
David Colee - 10		
Dale Hinthorn - 10		
Frances Anderson - 11	Julianne Schultz - 21	
Amanda Hinthorn - 11	Andrew Hall - 24	
Denny Redick - 12	Betsy Larson - 25	
Lucas Trower - 12	Jim Scott - 26	
James Ferrier - 13	Andrew Claucherty - 27	
Kim Schultz - 13	Ron Strickland - 30	



## September Anniversaries

John & Gigi Simmons	Sept 1	Matt & Traci Wright	Sept 13
Ron & Lori Blankenship	Sept 1	Kevin & Rebecca Schaefer	Sept 24
Don & Linda Kearfott	Sept 3	Michael & Dede Verplaetse	Sept 26
Matthew & Christine Kubiak	Sept 9	Joel & Amie Keeton	Sept 28
Ron & Norma Scott	Sept 12	Robert & Joyce Pomrenke	Sept 29



## Women's Fellowship Fall Rally

September 25th 6:00 p.m.

Salad Supper, Election of Officers and please join us for a presentation of old and favorite hymns. Bring a friend and enjoy the evening.

## Sunday Morning Bible Study



### Interpreting the Bible

- Am I interpreting the Bible correctly?
- Why do Christians disagree on biblical interpretation?
- Can the Bible help us interpret?

These are just some of the questions addressed in this seven-week study. Life is about interpreting. It is a part of what we do every minute of every day. We filter experiences through our lenses and come to an understanding of the circumstances of our lives. When we study the Bible,

we do the same thing. We interpret what we read, depending on what we've learned and heard.

This study consists of two parts. The first study, "Biblical Interpretation 101," is a three-week unit dealing with a general overview of biblical interpretation, a historical review of how the Bible has been interpreted by leaders of the church through the centuries, and a final session discussing why we all interpret the Bible differently. The second study, "Great

Themes of the Bible," picks four major themes of the Bible and traces them through well-known biblical stories.

Pastor Beth will be leading this Bible Study. All who are looking for an interesting solid Basic Bible Study are encouraged to attend.

Study materials for each week will be available during the week on the church office counter.

**Sept 9th to Oct 21st**  
**9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Conference Room**

## Sunday Morning Faith Builder - Parenting 101

Parenting 101 helps parents outline a plan for parenting based on their family's priorities and values.

This video-based series offers sessions on finding your "North Star," writing

a family mission statement together, balancing time and commitments, and keeping the family strong.

A video based series for parents of Pre-School, Elementary, Jr. High and High Schoolers.

**Sept 9th to Sept 30th**  
**9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hall -  
Fireplace Area**



## Roll Out the Red Carpet - Hospitality Training

We had very successful training classes for ushers, greeters, welcome desk assistants and liturgists.

If you were unable to attend, don't worry, we will do it again later this fall. We have added some new

procedures, so if you missed the training, just look for the helpful job descriptions.

Liturgist books are available in the church office.

Usher directions are located on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Greeter and welcome desk assistant job descriptions are in the welcome desk - main drawer.

## Wednesday - Mid Week Study- Begins September 12!

Living the Questions is a 12-week (small) group study (DVD and web-based) exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies.

Living the Questions will help seekers and “church alumni/ae” alike in discovering the significance of Christianity

in the 21st Century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today’s world.

Each session will include conversation, sermon clips, comedy/satire, lecture excerpts, and spiritual exercises for practical applications (including different forms of prayer

and meditation, movement, walking the labyrinth, etc).

Each week includes a shared meal, video, guided discussion, spiritual exercises and Bible study.

**Sept 12th to Dec 12th  
Dinner at 5:30  
Study 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

## Omega - Challenging Lifestyle

Challenging Lifestyle is a 19-week course based on the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. It contains some of the following talks: How to Have an Influence on Society; How to Handle Money; How to Deal with Criticism; How to Get Our Relationships Right; and How to Build a Secure

Future.

This course manual is adapted from the book, *Challenging Lifestyle* by Nicki Gumbel.

September topics include:

- How to Get Our Relationships Right
- How to Find Life

- How to Discern False Prophets
- How to Build a Secure Future

Continuing study until September 19th

**Dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Study begins at 6:30 p.m.**



## Wednesday Lunch Bunch Returns

Bring your lunch and join us for lunch and study.

We will begin on September 12th at noon with a study called **Discovering the Psalms: Passion, Promise and Praise**

This study shows forth the richness of the Psalms in terms of spirituality, personal growth and worship.

Our study will include:

- The Book of Psalms: An Introduction

- Prayers and Poetry
- Prayer Book for God's People
- Psalms of Sacred History
- Psalms of Trust
- Psalms of Lament
- Psalms of Praise

**All are welcome to join us!**

## Microcredit in Nicaragua - A Story of Hope

**In the last ten years, microcredit investment in the form of small loans has reached 81,000,000 of the worlds' poorest families -**

Recently, microcredit has been much in the news, following the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Mohammed Yunus last year. He pioneered the making of small loans to the very



poor, who with a few dollars to buy a cow or yarn or bamboo were able to create small businesses and lift themselves out of poverty.

Since his first loan of \$27 to a group of 42 villagers in Bangladesh in 1974, microcredit lending has grown by leaps and bounds. In the last ten years, microcredit investment in the form of small loans has reached 81,000,000 of the worlds' poorest families - a "hand up" rather than a "handout." 84% of the recipients are women,

entrepreneurs whose businesses enable them to feed, clothe and educate their children, and face the future with confidence.

On Saturday, September 15th, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the Normal Public Library, we are invited to a program on "Microcredit in Nicaragua - A Story of Hope."

Emilly Allred and Susan Frisbie, staff of the Wisconsin Coordinating Council on Nicaragua, will show a video and talk

about the success of microcredit lending in that country, the second poorest in our hemisphere.

In addition, information will be available about other microcredit programs around the world.

Our faith calls us to compassion for the poor; microcredit lending offers a practical, effective way to exercise that compassion.

Come on September 15 and learn more about this remarkable, hopeful movement.

### October Fundraiser



October 27th has been set as the date for a fundraiser to help Kevin Schaefer buy a much-needed new wheelchair.

missed the Organizational meeting, contact Laurie Vial at 242-8571 or email Laurie at [lbv@ctechinternet.com](mailto:lbv@ctechinternet.com)

If you would like to help with the fundraiser and/or

## *From the* **PASTOR**—



Hope is in our Midst

Hope is in our Midst... What a perfect conference title for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. I walked away from the triennium feeling that Hope was in our Midst for our denomination.

I also felt that feeling when I attended the Leadership Summit at Willow Creek Church in South Barrington, Illinois.

I joined 7,100 other church leaders and business people for a hope-inspired time.

I walked away believing that Christianity is still viable in the United States and around the world.

I also think that it is a perfect title for our fall - "Hope is in our Midst."

- I am most hopeful when I see more than 60 people attending our Healthy Congregation sessions.
- I am hopeful when I see a new church sign . . . A place where we can proclaim who and whom we are.

It is indeed amazing to find out some of our visitors did not know we were a church.

- I am hopeful when I walk into a church office area that is inviting and roomy.
  - I am hopeful when I see samples of carpeting and a push to replace our 40+ year old Fellowship Hall carpeting and tile and 25+ year old Sanctuary carpeting.
  - I am hopeful when I see people making an effort to roll out "the red carpet" to our visitors.
  - I feel hopeful when I see people willing to share their gifts of hospitality through ushering, greeting and staffing our welcome desk.
  - I am hopeful when our council asks the hard questions; what will it take to grow this church and really struggles with this.
  - I am hopeful when I see all the new opportunities for spiritual growth within our congregation.
- Sunday morning Bible Study and Christian Parenting Classes
  - Mid week study opportunities
  - A Garden Sunday school using a new curriculum
  - An exciting new Youth Study that involves small groups and Bibles.
  - I am hopeful when I see a Mission Study Taskforce begin to meet and work on "Who we are" and "What we might want to become."
  - I am hopeful and delighted to proclaim "Hope is in our Midst!"

Blessings,

*Pastor Beth*

## Living the Questions

Living the Questions will help you discover the significance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

Living the Questions is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give

participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can discuss the revolutionary re-visioning of Christianity already emerging in the world

### Weekly Themes

- An Invitation to Journey
- Thinking Theologically
- Creativity and Stories
- of Creation
- Restoring Relationships
- Evil and a God of Love: The Place of Suffering
- A Kingdom Without Walls: Ruth & Jonah
- Social Justice and The Prophets
- Intimacy with God
- Lives of Jesus
- Compassion: the Heart of Jesus' Ministry



- A Passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle
- Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christianity

Each week is an individual study; you don't have to commit to all 12 weeks if you don't want too - so join us as we ask:

What does faith look like in the 21st Century?

**Join us on Wednesday evenings -**

**Sept 12th to Dec 12th  
Dinner at 5:30 pm.  
Study begins at 6:30 p.m.**

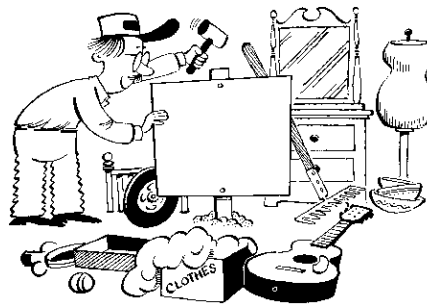
## Group Sale and Bake Sale

**Save these dates!**

St. Luke Union Church  
Group Sale and Bake Sale  
Friday, October 19 and  
Saturday, October 20

Have you started to gather items for the Group Sale?

You need to get those closets cleaned out so you'll be ready for fall.



Put all of the stuff that you no longer need into a box and save it for the Group Sale. Someone would love to buy it.

We'll take your gently used fall and winter clothing, kitchen items, children's toys, linens, jewelry, furniture, knick-knacks, and most anything else you don't need.

Start a box today!

Terry Small and  
Charlene Beringer,  
Group Sale Coordinators



When: Sunday, September 16, 2007, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Where: At Church . . . Rain or Shine!

### **WANTED -**

Cowboys, and cowgirls (of all ages) from St. Luke Union, or the Bloomington/Normal and surrounding territories. Friends and family are most welcome! We'll have the chuck wagon stocked with food, S'mores on the BBQ, a cake walk and games for everyone. Come help us kickoff our fall ministries and celebrate the church family with an afternoon of plain old Western fun!

Optional items for this event:

We'll be collecting goods for Clare House, so consider bringing cans of baked beans (or other non-perishable canned food) to drop in the barrel.

We'll be collecting aluminum and paper for recycling, so pull your horses 'round back and drop the goods off in the oversized Conestoga Wagon.

Western Outfits (hats, bandanas, boots . . .)

Hope to see ya'll there!

### **Orientation/Covenant Keepers Class Schedule**



#### **Covenant Keepers Classes**

Classes for Covenant Keepers (formerly called Orientation) for those interested in learning more about or joining St. Luke Union Church are set to

start September 23. There will be 3 classes, held on September 23, 30, and October 7.

The classes will begin at 12 noon following the worship service and end about 2 p.m. Each session will start with a free lunch and conversation followed by informational sessions.

Prospective members will meet with Council on October 9 and will be presented to the congre-

gation October 14. Letters will be sent to people who have visited several times and/or have expressed an interest in joining.

If you wish to participate in the classes or have questions, please contact the church office at 663-7437, or Karen Walters at 452-6955 or email [kwaltrn@aol.com](mailto:kwaltrn@aol.com) or Pastor Beth at the church office or email [beth@stlukeunion.org](mailto:beth@stlukeunion.org)

St. Luke Union Church

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