

**Special points of interest:**

- Pastor Search/Nominating Committee
- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
- November Birthdays
- Pastor Bob's Contact Information

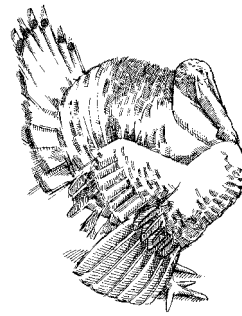
November 2008

**From the Pastor**

It was a Wednesday evening, Snoopy (from Peanuts) might write, "It was a cold and stormy night." As he was wont to do. It was neither stormy, nor particularly dark, but it was a busy night - after all it was the week of the Group Sale. And things were happening, Group Sale stuff was incoming, Wednesday dinner was in the kitchen, Bible Study (Adult and Family), Bell Choir, Choir Practice, and ESL were all on tap. And did I mention the Group Sale?

This is perhaps the best of church, so busy that

adjustments in where things would happen needed to be made, and



yet they all took place. The scriptures for October 26th include Jesus' conversation regarding the greatest commandment - and St. Luke Union was living into that periscope. We are loving our neighbor(s) by preparing

to welcome them with stuff (treasures and etc.) that will help many meet their needs less expensively than they might be able to if we were not here. Good News, indeed.

We are loving God by planning worship (Worship Team), by practicing our music for worship and by studying the Word which brings life into this world. Bible study is always fun for me, but this class is quite good at asking the probing questions - the wrath of God, being

Continued on page 5

**Our Famous Cookbooks**

Women's Fellowship is suggesting you consider adding our cookbooks to your shopping list for gift giving.

They are great for bridal showers and other occasions as well.

Get your cookbook from a member of the Women's Fellowship and enjoy! The price for each cookbook is \$7.00.

**Inside this issue:**

Money Matters	2
Home Bible Class	3
Church Women United	3
You've Gotta Eat!!!	4
Family Bible Study	5
Rada Cutlery Sales	6
Coming to Faith	7

## Money Matters As of September 30, 2008



GENERAL FUND	JAN/SEPT ACTUAL	JAN/SEPT BUDGET
Receipts	\$160,885	\$163,435
Disbursements	\$148,217	\$176,209
	JAN/SEPT ACTUAL	JAN/SEPT PLEDGE
5 YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN		
Receipts	\$ 19,632	\$ 26,834

Additional financial information is available on the Details Board.

## Thank You

Thank you so much for keeping my niece, her husband and her baby, Kaitlyn in your prayers. I know Chris and Kristina gained strength from knowing so many people were praying for them even though they don't personally know our church family.

Your prayers and asking how they were doing meant so much to Ed and me, also, as we have been able to give back to our

family what we were given during my health challenges just a few years ago. Thank you!

Love in Christ,  
*Tammy Desmond*

New Address:

David Sulzberger  
107 Prancer Dr  
Heyworth, IL 61745

work: 309-438-3149  
cell: 309-262-8472  
e-mail: bandkey@earthlink.net



My heartfelt "thanks" to all who had me in their prayers during my back problems and knee surgery.

Also thank you for food delivered when I returned

home and the many, many lovely cards and thoughts.

Sincerely,

*Marilyn Hammer*

Thank you to all the people that came to my 90th birthday celebration. The helpers were great, and to have my children together was wonderful.

Thank you,  
*Clara Greiner*

## November Birthdays

Helen Chase - 1  
 Ed Bork - 2  
 Becky Blum - 5  
 Madeleine Luna - 5  
 Robert Scott - 5  
 Claire Benjamin - 7  
 Mildred Messamore - 7  
 Gwen Yurieci - 9  
 Jack Harrison - 10  
 Kristy Hosack - 11  
 Mary Davis - 12  
 Craig Grant - 12  
 Owen Keeton - 16  
 Garrett Staver - 16  
 Laura Verplaetse - 16  
 Kyle King - 17



Andrea Brown - 18  
 Marc Herren - 18  
 Dick Harrison - 19  
 Eric Verplaetse - 19

Terry Small - 20  
 Lyle White - 20  
 George Benjamin - 21  
 Eleanor Kummer - 22  
 Lin Walton - 22  
 Lori Blankenship - 28  
 Carlynne Engel - 28  
 Don Kearfott - 28  
 Brent Paterson - 29

## Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, November 13th, at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The study will be from our study guide "Jubilee, Luke's Gospel for the Poor," Lesson #2, entitled *The Poor Hear Good News*.

Hostesses for this month are Margie Marquardt and Ida Kempin.



## Church Women United

St. Luke Union Church will be the host for the World Community Day celebration sponsored by Church Women United.

The date is Friday, November 7th at 6:30 p.m.

This will be a covered dish supper.

Please bring a dish to share and your table service. Drinks will be furnished.

The program "God's Wisdom Sets Us Free" will be presented by the Women of Weyman AME and First Christian Church.

Special guest speaker will

be Mr. Ron Dozier.

Please join us.

## Pastor Search/Nominating Committee

We have received a multitude of dossiers from prospective candidates for our called pastor.

The committee is busy reading over them and taking notes.

We are being very thorough in going over the profiles and discussing each of them.

We know that this is just the very first, but a very important step in our search for a called pastor.

### You've Gotta Eat!!!

As the Agape Team will be saving our energy so that we can prepare the food for the Church Thanksgiving Dinner, there will be no You've Gotta Eat on Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup>.

We are very excited to be receiving dossiers and we are receiving more than we thought were possible.

We are meeting on a regular basis to review and discuss dossiers so that we may select candidates to take to the next step of telephone interviews.

We are working very diligently and request that everyone continue to be patient with us.

Please keep the Pastor Search/Nominating

Committee in your prayers as we continue in our search for a called pastor.

*Charlene A. Beringer,*  
Chairperson

### In faith, we are praying for:

Norma Knapp

Laurie Vial

Kaitlyn Weber

Judy Norton

Kevin and Leigh Anne Adkins

Janie Fraim

Vi Fenstermaker

Brooklyn Olsen



## Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



**Sunday, November 16**

5:00 p.m.

\$6.00 per adult/

\$3.00 per child

\$20.00 per family

OR

You may provide a dish in place of an adult ticket.

Recipes and sign-up sheets available before and after church on November 2nd and 9th.

## Family Bible Study



### Family Bible Study – Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Ever wonder how much pressure it takes to crush an egg with your hand (not much, it turns out)!

Would you like to see a group of blindfolded kids led across the room as they listen to one voice out of a shouting multitude?

Have you asked one of our kids how you can cross an “ocean” of “sin” (or cornstarch) with Jesus’ help?

In the weeks since we’ve started meeting, our Family Bible Study has tackled a variety of important topics, including God’s Protection, God’s Presence, Why Jesus Died for Us, How the Holy Spirit Directs Us, Obedience to God and Showing our Faith in Action.

Each week, we work through several activities and leave with a “Life Slogan” and Scripture verse to memorize.

It’s a lot of fun and a lot of learning ... and it’s a priceless foundation for our kids as they *enjoy* learning about their faith.

Each child needs an adult partner – we have dads and moms and grandparents there.

Bring your Bible and join us next Wednesday to be a part of this quality family time and intentional faithbuilding with our children!

## From the Pastor (continued)

marked as God’s own, good vs. evil. Practicing to preach Good News, indeed.

And we were loving ourselves, because a great meal was prepared and as much as was possible we ate together and practiced the art of good fellowship. The food, as always, was great, the conversation (even in the Worship meeting) was good and productive. God’s presence was available to anyone in need. Bringing “... Good tidings of great joy ...”

Taking care of our relationships with God and each other is what church is all about. And on that Wednesday night, as on many other occasions, St. Luke Union was very much being church -the in-breaking of God’s Reign into a broken world. May God continue to bless us with these opportunities and may we always be prepared to answer.

Prayerfully,  
*Pastor Bob*

### Pastor Bob’s Contact Information is:

**Home phone:**  
217-379-6136

**Cell phone:**  
217-377-3846

**e-mail:**  
[bobmdiv@gmail.com](mailto:bobmdiv@gmail.com)

**Address:**  
Robert Sherman  
5 Allison Drive  
Paxton, IL 60957

## Rada Cutlery Sales

It's time to think Christmas!

The Rada catalog and order blanks will be on the counter in the front office.

There are a lot of items for Christmas such as: boxed gift items, candles in lots of fragrances, items for Red Hatters, and gifts in a

jar (soup mixes, bread and muffin quick mixes).

Of course, there are lots of different cutlery items: all kinds of knives, knife sharpeners, vegetable peelers, spoons, ice cream scoops, etc.

All of the profit is given to our Women's Fellowship.

Order deadline is November 30th.

Payment will be due upon delivery.

Call Vi Fenstermaker at 829-2003 with any questions or for more information.

## November Anniversaries

Robert and Dianne Sherman - Nov 5

Robert and Jane Little - Nov 9

Dick and Marcia Nagy - Nov 12

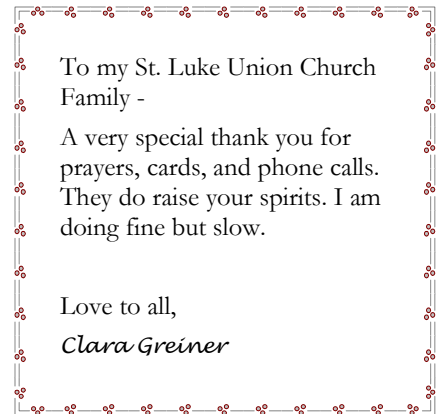
Richard and Margie Swanson - Nov 13

Robert and Mary Scott - Nov 22

Michael and Lin Walton - Nov 22

Ed and Margaret Bork - Nov 26

William and Helen Chase - Nov 30



## Fall Group and Bake Sale

Thanks to all of you for another record-breaking sale. We made \$4,144.30. In addition to providing the community with reasonable priced merchandise, we gave items to:

Community Cancer Center—canning jars to use to make Hope Jars

Goodwill—two vans full

Lincoln Correctional Center for Women—items for inmates

Home Sweet Home Mission Mart—three pick-up trucks full

McLean County Humane Society—tattered linens for bedding

Neville House—clothing for women

Recycling Furniture for Families—linens and lamps

We supported our environmental mission by recycling cardboard and wire hangers.

Thank you for donating baked good and merchandise. Thank you for putting your items on the tables. Thank you for working before, during, and after the sale. Thank you for buying merchandise.

*Charlene Beringer and Terry Small*  
Group Sale Coordinators

## Coming to Faith



In her book, *Traveling Mercies*, Annie Lamont says that her coming to faith was not so much a leap as it was a series of staggers, for of like finding lily-pad-resting places. “From the boisterous home of the Catholics, the soft armchair of the Christian Science Mom, adoption by ardent Jews, I can see how flimsy and indirect a path they made. Yet each step brought me closer to the verdant pad of faith on which I somehow stay afloat today.”

What is the church but a bunch of folks from all walks of life, throwing in their lot together, seeking to follow the example of a Servant Leader named Jesus. We each received a variety of gifts and skills from God. Some are just beginning on the path. Others have walked a long way. Some started out as Presbyterians, Methodists, Catholics or with no church background. For some biblical stories and church ways remain a bit mysterious. Some are more comfortable with traditional forms of worship and music while others appreciate a contemporary beat. How is it that such a diverse and varied group of folks can co-exist within the same Body of Believers?

Jesus and His followers faced the same question. He gathered folks who would not naturally have found common ground: a Zealot seeking the overthrow of the Roman Empire, a tax collector who collaborated with Rome, people who made a living using their hands, a physician from an educated class and women not accepted in polite company. Somehow this gaggle of folks forged relationships founded on their love of Jesus and the call He issued for their lives. Clarence Jordan calls Jesus’ venture a “demonstration plot,” as He showed people in everyday life what God’s Realm on earth might look like.

Annie Lamont, again describing her church says, “They follow a brighter light than the glimmer of their own candle; they are part of something beautiful. Something from Jewish Theological Seminary says, “A human life is like a single letter of the alphabet. It can be meaningless or it can be part of a greater meaning.” Our funky little church is filled with people who are working for peace and freedom, who are out there on the streets and inside praying, they are at home writing letters and they are at the shelters with giant platters of food.”

Nature tells us that diversity is necessary for survival. Single-variety crops are much more prone to disease and insect infestation than those including a variety of species. Societies are no different. It is a great challenge to learn to respect and co-exist with those whom we perceive to be different from us. It takes skill in listening. It takes patience. It takes sacrifice. It takes commitment to the ways of Jesus rather than demanding our own way. Crossing boundaries and finding common ground is what Jesus challenges us to do. The Holy Spirit WILL lead us.

How far are YOU willing to travel? Will YOU accept the challenge to go forth in His name?

*Evelyne Thomas*

St. Luke Union Church

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