

Welcome New Members

Help us welcome the 9 new members who joined St. Luke Union in February.

They include:

Selma Feicke, 801 Gregory St., Apt. 208, Normal, IL, 61761. Phone: 268-4211

Selma was a previous member and recently moved back from Indiana where she lived for several years. She is DeDe Verplaetse's grandmother and is happy to renew old friendships.

Tom, Linda and Jayme Sellberg, 2709 Brunswick Ct., Bloomington, IL, 61704. Phone: 838-2684 or 830-2561

They have been active for a few years already, so we welcome them as members. Linda and Jayme have been singing in the choir.

Ken and Cindy Povilaitis-Delanois, 3410 Fountain Lake Dr, Bloomington, IL 61704.

We also baptized Christopher Povilaitis-Richardson. Phone: 664-7317

They moved to the area several months ago from Westville, IL.

James Munro, 904 Arcadia Dr., #1, Bloomington, IL, 61704. Phone: 663-6087. James moved from the Chicago area and has also been singing in the choir.

Missy (Melissa) Lunsmann and Steve Gonigam, 240 Parktrail Rd., Normal, IL, 61761. Phone: 815-482-6681.

They have been attending for several months and are being married here in June.

In faith we are praying for:

Laurie Vial
 Judy Norton
 Clarissa Thomas
 Kris Muschel
 Kaitlyn Weber's Family
 Mark Redick
 Craig Hammer
 Brenda Franks
 David Marquardt
 Mary Putnam
 Seanna Moyer
 Sharon Stanford
 Mary Jane Trower
 Marsha Hinthorn
 Tony Philippi
 Teri Hammer
 Bob Thomas
 Mary Desmond
 Evelyne Thomas
 Pierre Roussey
 Kevin Schaefer
 Tony Swanson
 Doris McFarland
 Ed Desmond Family
 Todd Franks
 Rev. Conrad & Marilyn Heisner
 Rev. M. Karen Licklyter-Klein
 Erwin Manzke & Family
 Gina Tarter
 Lynn Au & Family
 Ruth Dravis
 Ken Knapp

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, March 12th at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

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

Coffee will be served at 1:30 p.m.

Pastor Bob Ponders . . .

Baptism, a key aspect of what it means to be Christian, comes from the Greek-baptizo which can be interpreted many ways. For some the word means immersion and therefore the only true baptism comes by immersion and the intoning of the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

For others, the word needs to be interpreted more generally as ‘..performing ablutions..’ This technically means washing, nothing more and nothing less. This is why some Christian traditions use sprinkling or pouring to accomplish the sacrament of baptism.

One important aspect of baptism which has lost its impact in recent history is the naming of the individual as a part of the rite and ritual of baptism. Hence the question, "What is your Christian name?"

Here at St. Luke Union we have just celebrated the Rite of Christian Baptism three times and have some more coming up. Several others have come with questions about how to go about it, from young people through adults to pastors.

One of the critical points to the sacrament is its public nature. Baptism happens only in front of witnesses, generally the whole congregation, but in some cases with just a few witnesses. It is never a private event.

Another aspect which we sometimes forget is that each already baptized witness is asked to recall their own baptism and what it means for them. So, what does your baptism mean to you?

I write this looking squarely toward Transfiguration and Lent. Your challenge will be to remember your baptism through the time of penance. What does being a Christian really mean to me?

Annual Spring Brunch

All women are invited to attend our Annual Spring Brunch on March 28th, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.

Our program will be presented by Laurie Larsen. As some of you know, Laurie is the daughter of Chuck and Carol Parlette and has written several novels. Her presentation will include how she started her writing career and a little about each book. Laurie will have copies of her books available to purchase for anyone interested.

March 2009 Lectionary

Date	Hebrew	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
March 1	Genesis 9:8-17	25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
March 8	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38 or
March 15	Exodus 20:1-17	19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
March 22	Numbers 21:4-9	107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
March 29	Jeremiah 31:31-34	51:1-12 or 119:9-16	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33

Annual Spring Retreat for Women's Fellowship

The annual spring retreat for St. Luke Union Church's Women's Fellowship will be held at Pilgrim Park the weekend of April 24th to 26th. All women of the church are invited to attend.

This year we will be offering a Bible study from the book entitled, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver.

"The life of a woman today isn't really all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord's feet . . . but the daily demands of a busy world just won't leave you alone. Like Martha, you love Jesus and really want to serve him . . . and then Jesus invites you to choose the 'better part' a joyful like of intimacy with him that flows naturally into loving service."

Are you too busy to attend this retreat? Jesus is inviting you to spend 48 hours away from the demands of every day busyness. The retreat will include Bible Study discussion, relaxation in a beautiful setting and no high ropes for us! Also included will be foot and hand spa baths, lessons on scrapbooking and stamping, time for a nap, and an afternoon of browsing the downtown shops in Princeton, and great fellowship with other ladies from our church. Friends and sisters are invited to join you too.

Registration sheets and other retreat information can be found in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Ruth Trower and Karlene Bledsoe for further information.

Birthdays

Hannah Brown - 2
Lelah White - 3
Brandon Boerner - 4
Zachary Staver - 4
Vi Fenstermaker - 6
Kathy Johnson - 7
Ron Blankenship - 8
Braden Nuttall - 8
Robert Kelley - 9
Kerry Modendrick - 12
Betty Nelson - 13
Michael Erickson - 15
John Simmons - 16
Jeffrey Larsen - 17
Patricia Parmenter - 17
Nina Fuhlenbrock - 18
Ryan Hall - 18
Marilyn Hammer - 18
Matthew Walters - 18
Carla Staver - 20
Royal Foster - 21
Logan Moret - 21
Ruth Pittmon - 21
David Stille - 22
Dorothy Wells - 22
William Chase - 26
Audrey Hall - 30

Anniversaries

Donald & Lucille Mason
March 12

Game Night

Twister . . . Uno . . .
Bingo . . . Scattergories . . .
Pictionary . . .

Come and join us for our Game and Pizza Night

Sunday March 15th beginning
at 4:30pm

Please bring your favorite
game to share.

Pizza will be ordered and
delivered for our meal.
Agape will provide drinks.

Please join us for a night of
fun, fellowship and pizza!!

Pastor Search/Nominating Committee

The Committee continues to receive dossiers/profiles from prospective candidates for our called pastor. As of February 11th, we had received 113 dossiers/profiles. The committee continues to read over them, take notes and discuss the candidates. We have also sent requests to several prospective candidates for audio/visual materials so that we may hear/see them and discuss these as well.

We continue to listen to and watch the materials sent to us to aid in our decision-making process. We hope to begin telephone interviews in the near future.

Please keep the Pastor Search/Nominating Committee in your prayers as we continue in our search for a called pastor.

Charlene A. Beringer, Chairperson

Note:

Please do not add or delete any dates from wall calendar in outer office without contacting Jessie. Thank you.

St. Luke Union Church

2101 E. Washington St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: 309-663-7437
Email: mail@stlukeunion.org

Non Profit
US Postage Paid
Bloomington, Illinois
Permit No. 10

Return Service Requested



Group Sale and Bake Sale

Friday April 17th and Saturday April 18th

Have you started to gather items for the Group Sale? You still have time to clean out those closets so you will be ready for spring. 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 will take your gently-used spring/summer clothing, kitchen items, toys, linens, jewelry, furniture, knick-knacks, and most anything that you no longer need. All items must be clean and in good condition.

Terry Small and Charlene Beringer,
Group Sale Coordinators

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will start meeting again on Wednesday, March 4th at 12:00 p.m. Bible study will be led by Pastor Bob. Bring your sack lunch to Fellowship Hall and join us in fellowship and Bible study.