

Home Bible Class Celebrates . . .



We had a party, 80 years of ministry and still going strong . . .

St. Luke Union Home Bible Study Class



Pastor Bob Ponders . . .

Dianne and I were both busy this weekend, in different places and in between those places a friend was being baptized. Her family was so happy and yet, her two sisters were sad—they wanted Jani’s pastor, Bob, to officiate. In fact, one of them cried when she spoke with me about it last Friday. She so hoped I could be the one.

The church is like that, we have so much to do sometimes and not nearly enough time. And sometimes it is more important that someone else be the “doer” of some of these really important things.

As we move through the Easter season and approach Pentecost, it is time for us to do a Spiritual Gifts Inventory. Oh, we could get one from the Internet, we could pay for one of the many available in print, we could pay a consultant, or we could just reflect on the gifts and see what develops.

Spiritual Gifts are funny things, sometimes they are very hard to identify. We have become so used to having them and using them, we forget they are a gift from God. Somewhat of a surprise for some, the things we are already doing are Spiritual Gifts. Wow.

Now we must find ways to use them, to use the words so familiar to the reformed tradition, ‘... for the greater glory of God...’ You mean if I teach it will be for the God I worship, and if I don’t teach?

How can I make the mission and ministry of the congregation known as St. Luke Union better? By using a gift you have, or developing a gift you believe you have or need.

Can you lead a small group, a Bible study, a mission trip (for adults), volunteer to serve in the wider church, lead a financial planning seminar, sing in the choir, testify about God’s work in your life? Just what can you do?

As Paul makes clear in his letters, anything we do, in fact everything we do is an act or prayerful worship—if we believe. I used *Beyond Words* by Frederick Buechner as a way to start our discussion about what confirmation means. As Buechner notes in another of his writings, “The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn’t have been complete without you.” Use your gifts to make the party complete. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Bob

Pentecost Feast

We will be celebrating Pentecost on Sunday May 31st with a “Feast”. In addition to donuts, coffee and juice, we will also be serving cake during Fellowship Hour.

Please join us for cake and Fellowship and don’t forget to wear red!!

Agape Committee

Money Matters

As of March 31, 2009

GENERAL FUND	JAN/MAR ACTUAL	JAN/MAR BUDGET
Receipts	\$55,683	\$56,945
Disbursements	\$47,495	\$54,715

5 YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	JAN/MAR ACTUAL	JAN/MAR PLEDGE
Receipts	\$ 5,300	\$ 7,160

A complete financial report is available on the Details Board.

Blanket Sunday - Church Women United

Sunday, May 3, 2009 is designated as "Blanket Sunday" sponsored by Church Women United for Church World Service.

You will find special envelopes in the pew racks and we hope you will support this project. Please make checks payable to St. Luke Union Church and indicate "Blanket" in the memo line on your check. Each blanket costs \$5.00 and the need is great. You can make a life-saving difference for someone who has nothing. Thank you for helping.

Group and Bake Sale

Thanks to all of you. We made \$2,854.15 from our group and bake sale. In addition to providing the community with reasonably priced merchandise, we gave items to the Boys and Girls Club, Children's Foundation, Home Sweet Home Mission Mart, and Recycling Furniture for Families. And we supported our environmental mission by recycling cardboard and wire hangers.

Thank you for baked goods. We had the most items ever. Thank you for merchandise donations. Where does it all come from? Thank you for working before, during, and after the sale. Thank you for buying merchandise. Will we see it again next time?

Charlene Beringer and Terry Small
Group Sale Coordinators

Charlene and Terry have had a wonderful run as group sale coordinators but they have resigned! We know, they've said that before but this time they say they mean it. So –

Needed: Group Sale Coordinators
No experience required
Step-by-step written instructions available

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet Thursday, May 14th in Fellowship Hall. The study will be Lesson #4 entitled "Captives Are Released" Luke 8:22-39, in our study guide *Jubilee, Luke's Gospel for the Poor*. Coffee will be served at 1:30 p.m.

May Friendship Day - Church Women United

May Friendship Day sponsored by Church Women United will be celebrated on Friday, May 1st at 9:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, 2502 East College Ave., Bloomington.

The program "Building on Our Stories" is being planned by women from Holy Trinity Catholic Church and St. Luke Union Church. Our special guest speaker will be Mrs. Caribel Washington for a long time member of Church Women United who will share her story.

Tickets are \$2.00; please see Karin Hunt or Dottie Metcalf for reservations. This will be a continental breakfast.

Prayer Chain

We are praying for these people by name:

Lynn Au Family	Teresa Modendricker
Jim Bicknell	Seanna Moyer
Ron Blankenship	Kris Muschel
Becca Burt	Marcia Nagy
Dan Fritcher	Judy Norton
Mary Desmond	Ryan Palesh
Jane Edwards	Mark Redick
Chris Hammer	Leo Rennhack
Joyce Hastings	Pierre Roussey
John & Suzie	Norma Scott
Earl Kreinhop	Luke Slusarksi
Duncan & Jack Leichtenberg Family & Friends	Walt Sohrt Family
Bob Little	Sharon Stanford
Melissa Little	Bob Thomas
David Marquardt	Evelyne Thomas
Doris McFarland	Steve Tiller
Charlie Miller	Mary Jane Trower
Kerry Modendricker	Laurie Vial

May 2009 Lectionary

Date	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
May 3	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	I John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
May 10	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	I John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
May 17	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	I John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 21	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
May 24	Acts 1:15-17,21-26	Psalm 1	I John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
May 31	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 114:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Spring Fling Mother/Daughter Banquet - Women's Fellowship Monday, May 11, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.

Meal will be catered by Times Past Inn -
 Adults \$8.00
 Children (ages 3 to 10) \$5.00
 Toddler (ages 2 and younger) Free

Program:

Carol Hiebert from Master Gardener's will give a talk on container flowers and plantings. The little girls will be included also. A surprise visit from the St. Luke Union Church Men's Choral Group will be presenting a number that will enhance our listening pleasure. Don't miss this evening of good food and fun.

Thank You

The Redick family would like to thank our church family for all the support through prayer, cards, e-mails and telephone calls we received after our son, Mark, was diagnosed with lymphoma in February. Mark just received his fourth chemo treatment and on April 30 will have a scan to see how the chemo is doing at shrinking the mass in his lung. We are praying now that his treatments are working.

Thank you all so very, very much.

*Bonnie and Denny Redick
 Mark, Marilyn and Luke Redick
 Jeff, Jodi, Jack, Jensen and Joshua Redick*

Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Graduates

Birthdays

Ramona Spears - May 1
 Barbara Stille - May 1
 Joy Hippensteele - May 2
 Adam Moret - May 2
 Jacque Hawkins - May 4
 Megan Paterson - May 4
 Michelle Nuttall - May 5
 Matt Wright - May 5
 Jay Hammer - May 6
 Pat Rosenbaum - May 8
 Doug Ferrier - May 11
 Heather Paterson - May 11
 David Trower - May 12
 Josh Koopman - May 14
 Sandy Allen - May 15
 Jacque Bazzell - May 15
 Allan Lamb - May 18
 Susan Baller-Shepard - May 21
 Kendra Monteggia - May 23
 Sanae Ferrier - May 24
 Harvey Wells - May 24
 Leslie Simmons - May 26
 Twyla Tabor - May 26
 Lynn Warner - May 26
 Emma Stille - May 28
 Mildred Tjaden - May 28
 Talia Claucherty - May 31
 Penny Kellogg - May 31
 Gary Weirman - May 31

Anniversaries

Gary & Linda Weirman - May 3
 Kevin & Tennile McBride - May 6
 Sam & Ruth Pittmon - May 13
 David & Jennifer Claucherty - May 20
 Brent & Jan Paterson - May 25
 John & Sue Boerner - May 26

Graduates

Melissa Wheatley
 Lucas Trower
 Megan Paterson
 Austin Swanson
 Carla Staver
 Andrew Kubiak

New Member

We welcome Holly Campbell as a new member. Holly works in Radiology at BroMenn. Holly is married and has a son. Holly's address is: #1 Andy Court, Bloomington, IL 61701.

Shepherding Ministry

“We hear and remember each other because God first hears and remembers us.”

The purpose of the Shepherding Ministry program is to help us be in touch with each other more closely in the spirit of Christian love. It's difficult to pray for each member and friend of St. Luke Union Church on a regular basis. We can, however, lift up the “sheep in our flock” in prayer.

The Shepherds are the connection between the flocks and the Agape Team. They will contact the members of their flock at least once a month and encourage their “sheep” to contact the “shepherd” when they need a friend to listen or pray with them - with a CONFIDENTIAL ear. The contact may be at Church, a note, a phone call, a home visit or meeting for a meal. Remember, we also want to share the joys in your life. If requested to do so, the shepherd will also send a prayer request to the prayer chain and the Agape Team.

Our lives will be enriched as we get to know each other on a deeper level. The “sheep” and the “shepherds” can truly be the eyes, ears and hearts that seek to connect each of us into the large flock of St. Luke Union Church. The mission of the church to do God's work will be stronger and more focused because of our closer bond with each other.

Our current shepherds have been extremely active and we give thanks to God for their faithfulness. Most of them are caring for 10 or more families. This is a heavy load. We would like to have the flocks at no more than 6 families. I would ask that you prayerfully consider being a part of this very important ministry. We meet on the second Sunday of the month for a brief gathering. Training will be provided.

Please contact Evelyne Thomas (663-1559) for further information.

As Peter instructed: “I appeal to you to be shepherds of the flock that God gave you and to take care of it willingly, as God wants you to, and not unwillingly. Do you work, not for mere pay, but from a real desire to serve.” - II Peter 5:2

Pastor Search/Nominating Committee

The Committee continues to receive dossiers/profiles from prospective candidates for our called pastor. As of April 14th, we had received 158 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 are conducting telephone interviews at this time as well.

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

Charlene A. Beringer,
Chairperson

St. Luke Union Church

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