

Special points of interest:

- Annual Stewardship Potluck
- Peacemaking/Neighbors In Need
- Group Sale and Bake Sale
- Men's Breakfast

From Our Pastor . . .

I have now served as your pastor for two months and although I have learned quite a few of your names I continue to work on this task. So if I run into you while you are out and about and I have a blank look on my face, please help me out. In addition to merely name learning, I have come to get a better sense of what we are at St. Luke Union Church, what our gifts are and where God is calling us. On the other side, the congregation has also taken great steps in getting to know my family and me. You have begun to adapt to my style for worship leadership and I hope caught some of the spirit I try to pass out. I continue to look forward to getting to know you all and am always available for a cup of coffee, lunch, a walk or even a visit to my office.

Several weeks ago I attended my first Great Rivers Presbytery meeting; before the

year's end I will also be attending the Eastern Illinois Conference of the UCC. These meetings are a bit different than the Cimarron Presbytery in Oklahoma because the Presbytery in Oklahoma contained fourteen churches. Great Rivers has more than seventy.

The message given at this Presbytery was shared by Rev. Chip Hardwick of Second Presbyterian Church here in Bloomington and his message focused on how God is calling us to look outward from our churches into the world. He emphasized that if we only look inwardly into our churches that we are failing to proclaim the Word of God to the world. I agreed with the central message that Chip shared then quickly came to realize that my entire ministry since my arrival on August 1st has been inward. Now I do understand that it is important for me to

learn as much as I can about our gifts as a congregation. I also know that I need to become comfortable with our common practices but there will come a time when I will begin to ask us to look outward. We will need to look into the community we live in and see how St. Luke Union Church can best serve by matching our gifts and talents in an outward fashion, how we can attract people who are in search for truth and in need of God's love, and how we will fulfill our mission and vision.

I ask you to look for ways to share the gifts and the mission of St. Luke Union Church in an outward manner. To look for ways to attract new persons to the Word of God we proclaim and join them to the community of faith.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Andy Gifford

Money Matters As of August 31, 2009

	JAN/AUG ACTUAL	JAN/AUG BUDGET
GENERAL FUND		
Receipts	\$159,807	\$149,020
Disbursements	\$143,015	\$154,240

5-Year Capital Campaign

Thank you for continuing to designate money for the 5-year capital campaign even though the campaign officially ended on June 30. Because of your continuing support only \$13,200 remains to be paid back to the Capital Improvements Fund. Your additional donations marked "Capital Campaign" are used to repay this fund. A complete financial report is available on the Details Board.

Wanted: Bank Statement Reconciliation Volunteer

Do you have a background in accounting, business, or finance?

Were you a banker in your former life?

If so, the Vision and Ministry Council is looking for someone to spend a few minutes each month reconciling the church bank statements.

This position will assist the Vision & Ministry Council in meeting the auditor's recommendations.

Please contact Tammy Desmond if interested.

Home Bible Study



The Home Bible Class will meet Thursday, October 8th, at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The study will be Lesson #8 entitled "All Are Invited" in our study book entitled *Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor*.

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

Annual Stewardship Potluck

Please join us for our Annual Stewardship Potluck on Sunday, October 18th immediately following worship.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Agape Committee will provide coffee, iced tea and lemonade.



Peacemaking/Neighbors In Need

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.” ~ *Matthew 5:9*

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” ~ *Micah 6:8*

On Sunday, October 4th, we will be collecting a combined offering for both Neighbors In Need (UCC) and Peacemaking (Presbyterian USA).

Both of these relate to the issues of justice and peace, so we collect them at the same time.

Please remember this when deciding the amount of your donation.



Twenty-five percent will be used for local peace and justice issues.

The remainder will be equally divided between the denominations regardless of whether you use the Neighbors In Need or Peacemaking envelope for your donation.

An envelope is included in this newsletter.

Extra envelopes will be

provided in the pew racks.

The offerings are used both nationally and internationally to bear witness to God's justice and peace.

These offerings coincide with *World Communion Sunday*, a time when people around the world join to celebrate their union in Christ.

Let us continue to pray for peace and to support the efforts to bring peace and justice to this broken world.

To find out more about the peace and justice ministries of both denominations, go to: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/> for the UCC or to: <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/> for the PC (USA) Peacemaking information.



New Members

If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Luke Union Church, we would love to welcome you.

Please contact Pastor Andy so he can meet with you and introduce you to the Mission & Vision of St. Luke Union Church.

You can email Pastor Andy at: agifford@stlukeunionorg

Logo Contest!

Calling all creative people!

St. Luke Union needs a logo.

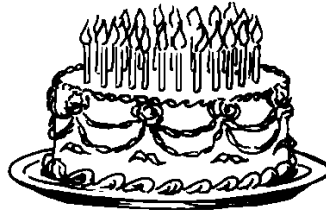
Put on your thinking caps and create a logo that represents what we are about.

If interested, please see the specifications sheet that will be available on the counter in the outer office.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays -

Katie Verplaetse - 2
 Alberta Compton - 3
 David Sulzberger - 9
 Andrew Gifford - 11
 Diana McLean - 11
 Marcia Dean - 14
 Monica Moore - 14
 Dede Verplaetse - 16
 Charlene Beringer - 17
 John Waters - 17
 Chris Bateman - 21
 Clara Greiner - 21



Neal Benjamin - 22
 Marsha Hinthorn - 22
 Seth Gifford - 25
 Bill Walters - 25
 Megan Hosack - 26
 Diane Swanson - 26
 Ciarra Poulard - 28

Hannah Dean - 29
 Peggy Johnson - 29
 Linda Weirman - 29
 Lillian Paulsen - 30
 Norma Knapp - 31

Anniversaries -

Dick & Doris Rice - 4
 Jim & Kendra Monteggia - 17
 Tyson & Alberta Compton - 26
 Dan & Deb Moret - 26
 Chuck & Gwen Yurieci - 26

Free Tickets to the Vienna Boys Choir!



We have a pair of tickets to give away to see the Vienna Boys Choir at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts on Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 p.m.!

We will have a drawing for the tickets on Sunday, October 18th at

the Stewardship Lunch.

If you are interested in attending this concert, you can sign up for these tickets in Fellowship Hall on Sundays from September 27th through October 18th.

Please only sign up one time and make sure you would be able to attend if you are the lucky winner.

This performance is appropriate for all ages to attend.

Please Remember to Clean Up . . .

We have many events at the church each week - meetings, lunches, dinners.

When you arrive for an event you like to see a neat and clean space.

In order for the next group

to have the same experience, you need to be sure and clean up after your event.

Please put the tables and chairs back like you found them, wipe off the tables, take out the trash.

You get the idea.

If we all help to clean up it won't be a big task for anyone.

Group Sale and Bake Sale

Friday, October 30th
9:00 to 5:00 and
Saturday, October 31st
9:00 to 12:00

Are you getting ready for the Group Sale?



- Friday and Saturday we will keep everything organized, and after the sale closes at noon we will box up and deliver all remaining items to local thrift shops.

You still have time to collect kitchen items, children's toys, linens, jewelry, furniture, knick-knacks and fall/winter clothing that you no longer need.

All items must be clean and in good condition.

You may bring these items to the church on Tuesday, October 27th or Wednesday, October 28th.

The tables will be marked so you will know where to place the items.

Please have all donations to the church by 5:00 p.m.

on Wednesday, October 28th.

Don't forget the Bake Sale.

Baked goods need to be at the church by 8:00 a.m. each day of the sale so they can be assembled into sale-size portions.

Volunteers are needed:

- Sunday evening we will be setting up tables and bringing things up from the basement.
- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we will arrange and price items.

Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board.

Sign up or just show up to help.

You will enjoy the fellowship and have a lot of fun.

Yvonne Harrison and
Sarah Franks,
Group Sale Coordinators



Thank You



Throughout the initial testing, diagnosis and surgery, we sincerely felt the prayers and love of our church family.

The fact that Kevin's surgery went unbelievably well only underscores how

prayers were answered over and above what we could have expected.

Thank you for your cards, emails and phone calls, but most of all thank you for opening your hearts and including us all in your

prayers.

Kevin, Rebecca and
Carson Schaefer, and
Jessie Cavitt

Mission Ministries

Mission Ministry has had a full schedule these past few months.

The Vision & Ministry Council has approved a new mission program for St. Luke Union Church.

Necessities is a new ministry that will provide new undergarments to the homeless in our community.

While we know that the basic need of food is always a concern, it was during the 2006 Presbyterian Women's Gathering in Louisville, KY that the attendees were made aware of the severe need of undergarments for the homeless.

While many of the details of the workings of *Necessities* remain under construction, we will be seeking guidance from Safe Harbor and Mid Central Community Action on the



best way to distribute items from the *Necessities* Ministry.

It is also our objective to expand the ministry to provide new undergarments to domestic violence shelters such as Neville House.

Initial funding for *Necessities* will come from the recycling fund.

We will also be seeking donations from department stores during their seasonal clearance sales.

If anyone is interested in

volunteering for this new mission, please contact Ruth Trower.

It is our goal to keep you informed with brief updates in the future.

The following agencies have been selected to receive funds from Mission Ministry during the first 3 quarters of 2009.

- Midwest Food Bank
- Faith in Action
- Central Illinois Organizing Project
- Safe Harbor
- Habitat for Humanity
- Recycling for Families
- Mid Central Community Action (specified for Neville House and Countering Domestic Violence)

In Service,

Ruth Trower,
Chair for Mission Ministry

Men's Breakfast



What: Men's Breakfast

When: Saturday, October 24th at 8:00 a.m.

Where: St. Luke Union Church

Dr. John Florell will speak on "How Men Handle Problems." This will be a 20-minute to 1/2 hour presentation. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet if you can be there so we will know how much food to prepare. Suggested donation is \$5. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Andy (cell - 580-491-8220) or Denny Redick (cell - 826-7234).

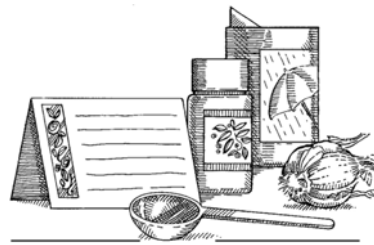
Taffy Apple Pizza

This dessert was served at Pastor Andy's Installation Reception - Recipe, Compliments of Jane Little

1 pkg Sugar Cookie Dough (refrigerated)
8 oz Cream Cheese (softened)
1/4 cup Peanut Butter
1/2 cup Brown Sugar (packed)
1/2 tsp Vanilla
2 Granny Smith Apples
1 Cup Lemon Juice or "Fruit Fresh"
Cinnamon
1/4 cup Caramel Ice Cream Topping
1/2 cup Peanuts (chopped)

Heat oven to 350 degrees.

Shape dough into a ball



and place in pizza pan; flatten slightly with palm of hand.

Roll dough out to circle about 1/4" less than pan, and 1/4" thick.

Bake for 16 to 18 minutes. Cool 10 minutes and carefully loosen cookie from sheet and cool completely.

Peel, core and slice apples

and dip in lemon juice to prevent from turning brown.

Combine cream cheese, brown sugar, peanut butter and vanilla and mix well.

Spread mixture evenly over top of cookie.

Arrange sliced apples evenly over cream cheese mixture; sprinkle with cinnamon.

Heat caramel topping slightly to soften in microware until warm and drizzle over apples.

Sprinkle peanuts on top.

Enjoy!

Wednesday Night Church Family Dinners

The start of Wednesday night Family Bible means the start of the Church Family Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for

those individuals who would like to prepare the meal for the evening.

If you have a specialty meal, we would love for you to share it with us.

For more information, please see a member of the Agape Committee (Charlene Beringer, Pat Parmenter, Evelyne Thomas, Lin Walton).

Lamplighters



Lamplighters Circle will meet October 27th at 7:00 p.m.

We are currently studying Joshua from *The Horizon's*

Bible Study.

Lesson 3 will be led by Carol Parlette

Devotions will be led by

Yvonne Harrison

Hostess this month will be Karin Hunt.

All are invited to attend.

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

