

- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
- November Birthdays and Anniversaries
- A Brief Update From Mission Ministries
- Great Rivers Presbytery Elder Training

## From the Pastor . . .

Why do we give to our church?

I was raised as a boy to understand that giving away of the gifts that I had been blessed with was just something everyone did.

I had a book that my father gave me to record all of my income and expenses.

When I received my allowance I was instructed to record the amount and then divide the funds into four categories, those included: school lunch, savings, sharing and spending.

It was practical, it made sense and was teaching me a life lesson about managing money, but it didn't help a child in understanding that he could only spend one quarter of his allowance.

Eventually I came to figure out the importance of balancing our resources and our need to share.



As we all pray and discern where God is calling each one of us I would like to share some thoughts and why we share in the ministry of St. Luke Union Church.

1. Stewardship is an attitude toward the world and our self. If we delight in the world created for us by God then we will look for ways to seek God in it.
2. When we give, we give out of responsibility, not out of abundance. This means we give as an integral part of our regular spending habits.

3. We give to our church to transform lives, not for the survival of the institution.

Jesus' message as proclaimed in the Gospels is good news and is good news that can't be kept hidden in a box or on a shelf.

As we look into 2010, St. Luke Union Church is poised to make it better known in the community, and reach out with God's message.

The only thing that we are limited by is our energy, resources and dreams.

Blessings,

*Pastor Andy Gifford*

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## Money Matters As of September 30, 2009

	JAN/SEPT ACTUAL	JAN/SEPT BUDGET
GENERAL FUND		
Receipts	\$175,494	\$167,435
Disbursements	\$167,880	\$176,972

### 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 the balance “owed” the Capital Improvements Fund continues to drop. It now stands at \$12, 411.36. Your additional donations marked “Capital Campaign” are used to repay this fund.

A complete financial report is available on the Details Board.

### Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 15

5:00 p.m.

\$6.00 per adult

\$3.00 per child

\$20.00 per family

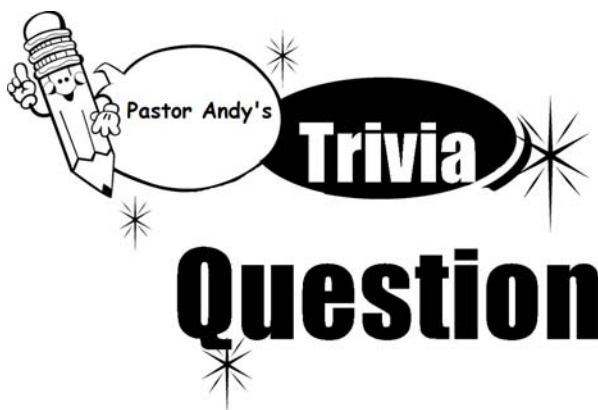
Or -

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

Recipes and sign-up sheets are available before and after church on November 1st and 8th.



Thanksgiving  
Dinner

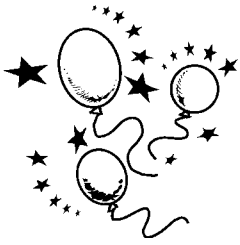


~ Jeremiah 37:11-15

In this passage Jeremiah is fleeing Jerusalem.

**What is the significance of the Benjamin Gate?**

## November Birthdays and Anniversaries



### Birthdays

Helen Chase - 1  
 Ed Bork - 2  
 Karen Wester - 3  
 Becky Blum - 5  
 Madeleine Luna - 5  
 Robert Scott - 5  
 Claire Benjamin - 7  
 Mildred Messamore - 7  
 Gwen Yurici - 9  
 Jack Harrison - 10  
 Kristy Hosack - 11  
 Mary Davis - 12  
 Craig Grant - 12  
 James Munro - 13  
 Owen Keeton - 16  
 Paige Shipley - 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  
 Rhonda Erickson - 24  
 Donald Mason - 26  
 Lori Blankenship - 28  
 Carlyne Engel - 28  
 Don Kearfott - 28  
 Brent Paterson - 29

### Anniversaries

Rev. Andrew & Sandra Gifford - 3  
 Rev. Robert & Dianne Sherman - 5  
 Robert & Jane Little - 9  
 Dick & Marcia Nagy - 12  
 Dick & Diane Swanson - 13  
 Robert & Mary Scott - 22  
 Mike & Lin Walton - 22  
 Ed & Margaret Bork - 26  
 Dr William & Helen Chase - 30

## Thank You

Thank you so much for all of the support throughout Ron's illness and since his death.

The prayers along with the meals, phone calls, and emails have meant so

much to us.

We appreciate everything so much.

*Lori, Phillip & Jacob  
 Blankenship*



## Church Women United

Our Church is hosting the World Community Day Celebration sponsored by Church Women United on Friday, November 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring a dish to share and your table service;

drinks will be provided.

The program "Piecing Earth Together" will be planned by women from First United Methodist Church and First Baptist Church.

Please join us.

For more information, see Dottie Metcalf or Karin Hunt.



## A Brief Update From Mission Ministries

How many times have you given a talk to a group and on your way home you remember the “other” things you forgot to say?

Well, that happened to me after the Stewardship luncheon in October.

So, here are things I want to share:

1. Mission Ministry will be heading up the CROP Walk sponsorship for St. Luke Union Church for the next two years.

Kerry Modendricker has agreed to take the lead on this task. Watch for volunteer opportunities coming



your way next March. Organizational help is as important as doing the walk.

2. Any money received from the fall group sale that is raised above the budgeted amount of \$2,000 will be donated to Recycling for Families.
3. What has been formerly known as the “Mitten Tree”, will now be called the *Necessities Tree*.

In addition to mittens,

gloves and scarves, we will appreciate donations of undergarments under the tree this year during the Christmas season.

The Storybook Project is also an ongoing ministry for our church.

You may also place new children’s books under the *Necessities Tree*. Please no Christmas books, sticker books or books with CD’s or tapes inside.

Once again, thank you for your generous gifts to St. Luke Union Church which in turn allows us to serve others in our community.

*Ruth Trower*, Chair,  
Mission Ministry

## Thank You

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers and cards while my daughter, Karen was ill with cancer this summer.

Thank you for the phone

calls and cards after she passed away, September 16th.

Thank you again.

*Doris Koppersmith*

## Our Famous Cookbooks

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

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.

## Rada Cutlery Sales

It's time to think Christmas.

The Rada catalog and order blanks are 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, stoneware items, soup mixes, bread and muffin quick mixes, dips, and small cookbooks.

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

The boxed items are great for shower gifts.

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

Order deadline is November 30th.

Payment will be due upon delivery.

There is a charge for postage: 30 cents for each individual item and 50 cents for sets.

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

## Home Bible Class

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

The study will be Lesson #9, entitled "The Mighty Are Brought Down . . .

The Lord is Lifted up" in our study book *Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor.*

Coffee will be served.

All ladies are invited to attend.



## Great Rivers Presbytery Elder Training



**St. Luke Union Church,  
November 21, 2009  
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

If you would like to know more about the responsibilities of being a church Elder, plan to attend.

Reservations are due November 12th.

If you would like to help serve lunch, call Yvonne Harrison at 309-454-6774.

## Don't Forget These Important Dates Coming Up!



November 6th -  
World Community Day

November 13th & 14th -  
Confirmation Retreat at  
Pilgrim Park

November 14th -  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
Preparation

November 15th -  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
Logo Contest Deadline

November 21st -  
Presbytery Elder Training  
& Lunch

November 22nd -  
Prepare Sanctuary/Advent

December 14th -  
Women's Fellowship  
Christmas Dinner

December 20th -  
Christmas Music Concert

December 24th -  
Christmas Eve Worship  
Service 7:00 p.m. & 11:00  
p.m.

December 31st -  
Annual Reports Due

### Logo Contest

Don't forget to enter the  
Church Logo Contest.

Specification sheets are  
in the outer office and in  
Fellowship Hall.

Deadline is November  
15th.

## St. Luke Union Church Directory

Updated Church  
Directories (no pictures)  
are available on the  
counter in the outer office.

Please take one and let  
Jessie know if you have  
any additions (such as

e-mail addresses) or  
corrections.

You may call her at church  
(663-7437), e-mail her at  
[mail@stlukeunion.org](mailto:mail@stlukeunion.org) or  
write a note.

## Lamplighter's Circle

Lamplighter's Circle will  
meet on November 24th.

Please join us for study and  
fellowship.

The lesson will be #4 in  
the Horizon's Bible Study -  
"Joshua" led by Ruth

Trower.

Devotions will be led by  
Marsha Hinthorn, and this  
month's hostess will be Lin  
Walton.



## Thank You

We'd like to thank our St. Luke family and friends for all the cards, emails, and prayers the past several months.

Your continued support during this difficult time is

greatly appreciated.

Your thoughtfulness means so much to us.

*Lisa, Anna, & Emma  
DeBruine*

## New Directions Deadline

The deadline for the December New Directions will be Wednesday, November 18th.



*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

St. Luke Union Church

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Return Service Requested

