

**Special points of interest:**

- Help Raise Funds Through Recycling!
- Attention: All Women of St. Luke Union Church
- "Baskets for Kris" - Benefit for Kris Sulzberger
- Thanks to Pack 33's Den 1

April 2010

## Benefit Planned for Kris Sulzberger

Kris Sulzberger has been battling Stage IV Breast Cancer that has metastasized to her liver and bones.

Recently her chemo stopped working and the cancer has progressed again.

Her family and friends have decided to hold a fundraising benefit for Kris and her husband David, to help offset the mounting medical expenses, relieve some of their worry, and to surround Kris with family, friends and community members to help lift her spirits.

Kris' husband David is a talented keyboard player. Along with being a music teacher at Illinois State University and a church music director, David also plays in a band called "Mister Sister."

The band has graciously agreed to be a part of this fundraising event, and hence, the event name of "Kris Rocks!" came about.



Plus . . . Kris *does* rock!

**Kris Rocks! Event**  
Saturday, April 24th  
Noon to 5 p.m.

**AIW Hall**  
2882 North Dineen St  
Decatur, IL

\$5.00 admission gets you food, entertainment and the chance to support Kris in person!

- Music
- Food
- Silent Auction
- Raffle
- Bake & Craft Sale

"Kris Rocks" t-shirts available at [www.KrisRocks.org](http://www.KrisRocks.org)

If you'd like to make a donation, you can make

checks payable to "Benefit of Kris Sulzberger" and mail to:

Staley Credit Union,  
3330 N Woodford,  
Decatur, IL 62526.

For other ways you can help, please visit [www.KrisRocks.org](http://www.KrisRocks.org)

See "Baskets for Kris" on page 6.



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## Help Raise Funds Through Recycling!

Help raise funds for our church through recycling!

Bringing in newspapers and aluminum cans is not the only way to be green!

Another way you can recycle and earn money for our church is to take items directly to Morris Tick, 501 East Stewart Street in Bloomington.

Just drop off your items and ask them to credit the St. Luke Union account.

It's that simple!



A partial list of what they accept:

- Old gas grills
- Aluminum lawn chairs
- Storm windows
- Small appliances (refrigerators and air conditioners must have the Freon drained)
- Pots and pans
- Copper
- Brass
- Christmas Lights

We appreciate the support of our church and the environment!

*Recycling Committee*

## Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on April 8th at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

We will study Chapter 2 of our study book about "Jeremiah - Demanding Love."

Pastor Andy will lead our study.

All ladies of the church and friends are invited to attend this class.

### Easter Breakfast

A continental-style Easter Breakfast will be served on Sunday, April 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We will be serving coffee, juice, fruit, donuts, muffins and coffee cake.

Please join us for Breakfast and Fellowship on this Blessed morning.

*Agape Committee*

## April Anniversaries

Paul & Dawn Brown  
Edward & Debora Gottschalk  
Jeremy & Amanda Rambo  
Frank & Amy Winters

April 7th  
April 9th  
April 17th  
April 17th



## April Birthdays

Sue Boerner - 1  
 Debbie Harrison - 1  
 Joel Keeton - 1  
 Emily Desmond - 2  
 Pierre Roussey - 2  
 Mary Jane Trower - 2  
 Kevin Schultz - 3  
 Allison Schultz - 4  
 Jeff Tarter - 4  
 Kari Clark - 6  
 Matthew Swanson - 6  
 Barry Moore - 7  
 Marian Harris - 9  
 Del Small - 12  
 Brian Trower - 12



Lillie Keeton - 14  
 Margaret Bork - 16  
 Caiden Dehner - 16  
 Jeffrey Erickson - 16  
 Jackie Belletete - 17  
 Emma DeBruine - 17  
 Eva Kempin - 17

Bob Hippensteele - 18  
 Cameron Luna - 18  
 Lisa DeBruine - 19  
 Dan Moret - 19  
 Jayme Sellberg - 20  
 Bryan Colee - 21  
 Norma Scott - 22  
 Nellie LaCroix - 23  
 Irene Beich - 24  
 Scott Luna - 24  
 Tyler Strong - 24  
 Lauren Desmond - 26  
 Allen Otto - 26  
 Kathy Otto - 28  
 Carol Parlette - 28

## Thank You

Thank you to all who have prayed for me and my family.

I will be working full time from home as a contractual technical writer for the GSI Group (grain bins) and taking digital photos.

This lead came from my billboard and web site from last August (I just had to be patient.).

I will continue as a part-time energy consultant to the 107 Presbytery and a part-time bookkeeper for Alexander Enterprises.

This ends 18 months to the day of unemployment.

Most of all, keep praying for all those who are unemployed or under-employed.

*Laurie Vial, Neal & Claire Benjamin*

## Money Matters As of February 28, 2010



GENERAL FUND	JAN-FEB BUDGET	JAN-FEB ACTUAL
Receipts	\$42,520	\$42,606
Disbursements	\$39,764	\$36,114

## Crop Hunger Walk



The initial planning meeting for the CROP Hunger Walk was very productive.

The next organizational meeting will be held on Monday, April 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Any member of the church willing to help with planning is welcome to attend.

Our next meeting will focus on food bank selection for donations raised by the walk and publicity options.

We are also looking for a church member with a good photographic eye to help.

Any questions? Contact Kerry Modendricker at (309) 825-1969.

## Thanks to Pack 33's Den 1

Special thanks to Pack 33's Den 1 (the den of Miles Keeton, son of Amie and Joel Keeton) for coming by St. Luke Union Church on March 6th to pick up all the trash that had accumulated over the winter.



The church grounds look great!

Q: Why did the Romans close down the Coliseum?

A: The lions were eating up all the prophets.

## Attention: All Women of St. Luke Union Church

### Women's Fellowship Women's Retreat

April 23rd to 25th, 2010  
Pilgrim Park UCC Camp  
Princeton, IL

“Enough or Too  
Much” (when is enough . .  
ENOUGH?)

Bible study and worship  
lead by Rev. Kathy Otto

and Rev. Norma Roberts

Also: free time, card  
making, shopping, walks  
and yes, taking a nap!

Lodging at the Conference  
Center, meals and all linens  
provided.

Leaving St. Luke Union  
Church Friday, April 23rd  
at 4:00 p.m. stopping for  
supper on the way to

camp.

Ending Sunday, April 25th  
with worship and  
communion service on the  
road by 11:00 a.m.

Sign-up sheet available  
Sunday, March 28th.

See or call Karlene Bledsoe  
at (309) 823-8868 for more  
information and/or partial  
weekend rates.

## *From the* **PASTOR**—

I preached a sermon a few weeks ago that was best described as “thick.”

I knew this going into this sermon’s preparation and its sharing on Sunday morning.

You all need to know that this message was a residual of some research I had done for a paper I was writing, but it also became apparent that it would be a good jumping off place for a sermon series following Easter.

This can be expected in the coming weeks.

In a little different format to my newsletter articles, here is the outline for the sermon series.

### **Why did God come into creation as Jesus Christ?**

We need to first understand the glorious gifts of mankind and the things we continually fall short on.

This is the greatness that God intended for all of us while we come to terms with our need for salvation.

#### **1. The glory and the tragedy of man**

We need to come to

terms with realizing that we will never obtain the glory God intended for us. The tragedy is in searching for it by ourselves.

#### **2. Redemptive purpose of God**

It is easy to look around the world and see that it can be a tragic place, but the reason for God’s redemptive purpose is that the Kingdom of God is not just an improved version of the one we already have.

#### **3. Incarnation**

The act of God becoming a man and then self-identifying with that human nature and the tangible flesh and blood of the Lord, thus forming a personal solidarity with humanity.

#### **4. Atonement**

The being made right with God, the being made clean and forgiven of our personal and corporate sin.

#### **5. The necessary response of faith and obedience**

When we can make a transition from what we learn in scripture to a transformed relationship with God, then the only thing left for us to do is respond with faith and obedience.

Once we can come to terms with God’s intention for humanity then we can see and understand the things that Christ achieved in his life, death and resurrection.

- He achieved the purpose for which he was created
- He dealt with the problem of sin
- He sympathizes with us as human beings

Knowing all of this is just the beginning to an understanding of the love of God, when we are able to boldly approach the throne of our gracious God, where we will receive mercy, grace and eternal life with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Peace of Christ,  
*Pastor Andy*

## “Baskets for Kris” - Benefit for Kris Sulzberger

### Support for Kris & David

Women’s Fellowship will be organizing “baskets” for the silent auction.

We are asking for items to be donated for the baskets or for a completed basket ready for the silent auction (non-perishable items only).

There will be boxes located in the fellowship hall by the fireplace for your

donations.

Some ideas for basket items or completed baskets are: gardening, carwash, “dinner” (spaghetti dinner or children’s lunch), chocolate, movie night, family game night, sports, spa, relaxing, bath items, tea or coffee, children’s baskets (books, blanket, etc.).

A work night will be announced after Easter to

assemble the baskets, wrap and prepare an inventory list and cost of each basket.

For more information, call Karlene Bledsoe at (309) 823-8868 or Margaret Hawkins at (309) 726-1637 or talk to us at church.

Thanks for your support!!!



## Pastor Andy’s Trivia Question

Did you guess the answer to last month’s trivia question and bonus question?

**What is the historical understanding of Lent?**

**Answer:**

It was a time of preparation for the early Christian.

Many became members of the church on Easter.

Lent marked the completion of three years of learning and spiritual growth and was when new members were baptized and given communion for the first time.

Bonus Question:

**What did Judas give Jesus that was later made famous in the movie, The Godfather?**

**Answer:**

The kiss of death!

This Month’s Trivia Question:

**According to the book of Acts, what sparks a riot in Ephesus?**

## Moderator's Notes

In the March New Directions, I indicated that the Vision & Ministry Council would be reviewing the church mission statement and writing a new vision statement.

If you were at church on March 14th, you heard Pastor Andy share responses he received from the youth and an adult group when asked how they would describe the church.

When asked what represents the church to you, members of the VMC expressed similar ideas about St. Luke Union Church.

It became clear to us that our current mission statement does not reflect how we see ourselves.

We will be revising the mission statement and sharing it with you in the coming months.

At it's March meeting, the VMC reinstated the pastor's emergency help fund, now known as the Good Samaritan Fund.

Initially, \$1500 was allocated to the Good Samaritan Fund from within the church budget.



VMC set the following guidelines for use of fund dollars.

- All requests will be at the discretion of the pastor with consent of the VMC Moderator.
- All monies will be expended by check through the church treasurer as directed. Checks will not be made out to the pastor.
- All requests will be kept confidential. Only the pastor and the treasurer will know the identity of the recipient.
- No external checking accounts will be used.

Sometimes the church receives some strange requests.

We hope you can help us solve the mystery of the missing bell.

The church received a letter from the U.S. Navy asking for a picture and

report on the condition of a U.S. Navy bell loaned to St. Luke United Church of Christ in 1962.

The bell is made of brass with a clapper and is 9 3/4 inches tall by 7 inches wide. It weighs 15 pounds. "USN" or "U.S." is inscribed on the bell.

I realize that the bell predates many of you; but, if you have any information about the bell, please contact the church office.

The ministry teams are busy performing the work of the church.

Thank you to each of you who serve on a ministry team.

There are still opportunities to become involved in ministry teams and in the life of the church.

Do not hesitate to express your interest to any member of the VMC or a ministry team chair.

Your help is always welcome and appreciated.

Blessings,

*Brent Paterson*  
Moderator

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