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“The Present Word” New Bible Study



The St. Luke Union Adult Sunday School Class starting Sunday, December 27th, will be using a new Bible Study entitled “The Present Word.”

The theme for this quarter will be how Christ is the fulfillment of old testament prophecy, with emphasis on the gospel of Matthew.

The class will be lead by Wil Stevenson and begins at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 27th.

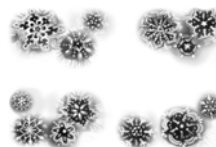
Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 17th.

Immediately after the meeting we will have our annual potluck.

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

Agape Committee will provide coffee, iced tea and lemonade.



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CONFIRMATION RETREAT AT PILGRIM PARK

November 13 and 14, 2009

Money Matters

As of November 30, 2009

GENERAL FUND	JAN/NOV ACTUAL	JAN/NOV BUDGET
Receipts	\$212,320	\$205,065
Disbursements	\$212,251	\$220,078

5-YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your continued support of the 5-Year Capital Campaign. Even though the campaign officially ended on June 30th, due to your additional support, the balance “owed” the Capital Improvements Fund now stands at \$9,233.36. Checks marked “Capital Campaign” are applied to this fund.

The year-end financial report will be included in the 2009 Annual Report distributed prior to the Annual Meeting.



January Birthdays

Matthew Staver - 1
 Margaret Hawkins - 4
 Matthew Kubiak - 4
 Ruth Trower - 4
 Karlene Bledsoe - 5
 Larry Blum - 5
 Laurie Vial - 6
 Stacy Herren - 7
 Ida Kempin - 7
 Pamela McClure - 7
 Jennifer Clagherty - 9
 Louis LaCroix - 11
 Jan Paterson - 11
 Paula Fisher - 12
 Amie Keeton - 12
 Mary Schildt - 12



Stephanie Smith-Strickland - 16
 Carol Cunningham - 18
 Paul Nelson - 19
 Gary Wester - 19
 Tyler Herren - 20
 Kim Johnson - 20
 Kara Monteggia - 20
 Judy Ferrier - 21
 David Clagherty - 22
 Dottie Metcalf - 24
 Jim King - 25
 Leanna Peters - 25
 Robert Smith-Strickland - 25
 Mindy Weirman - 25
 Stephanie Dehner - 28
 Bonnie Redick - 29

Sherrie Belletete - 13
 Marjorie Gordish - 13
 Karen Walters - 14
 Phillip Hamner - 16
 Kaitlyn Radcliffe - 16

January Anniversaries

Brad & Diann Kamp - Jan 18
 Ron & Beatrice Smith-Strickland - Jan 24th
 Rod & Margaret Hawkins - Jan 28th
 Bill & Karen Walters - Jan 30th



Heather Paterson and Katie Verplaetse

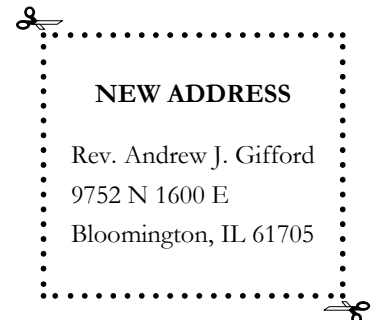
2010 Offering Envelopes



Offering envelopes for 2010 are on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Please be sure to pick up yours.

Notify Gwen Yurieci or the office if you can't find a box with your name on it.



From Our Pastor . . .

It is not my custom to become distracted with the interruptions that occur while leading worship. I am one that can be given a musical or liturgical modification two minutes before worship begins.

I also feel that I can make modifications to a service if an unplanned event takes place during worship.

I enjoy the fidgeting child, the crying baby, or the escaping toddler.

To me this proclaims the fact that we have individuals that are alive and comfortable enough in church that the Holy Spirit rings forth in their being.

Well, while preaching Sunday the 13th about John the Baptist I became very distracted.

It wasn't because of a child speaking out or because a late comer entered during a quiet prayer; it was because as I looked down at my sermon notes a spider was making his way across the page.

At first I said to myself, "Just ignore the little arachnid," but I just kept tracking his progress down to where my sermon had reached in my notes.



I was lost, disjointed, and broken in concentration.

If you were there you saw my loss of poise as I eventually removed the critter and then tried to get back on track.

This is the beginning of the year 2010. There are always distractions that grab our attention and consume our energy and efforts.

We may have made resolutions or promises to ourselves to change some common behavior or habit, and know this is no different from some of the things we are planning here at St. Luke Union.

It will be the primary goal of our church council in the first quarter of this year to construct, approve and then communicate what is our church's mission.

This process will give us, as a church and as ministry teams, a basis for which we

will evaluate and promote our activities and operation.

It's a common tendency that churches become distracted with the latest programmatic fad which ultimately turns them inwardly to solely care for themselves while moving them away from God's work.

God is calling St. Luke Union Church to great things we now need to be lead in our discernment by the Holy Spirit.

Every ministry team and special project eventually will be evaluated based on the mission of St. Luke Union Church and how they support and promote that mission.

The goals and purpose of our ministry teams will then be to fulfill that mission.

I look forward to helping us move into the direction that will exploit our gifts and promote the Word of God to Bloomington-Normal.

Peace and blessings throughout 2010.

Peace,
Pastor Andy

I will be retiring from Illinois State University as of December 31st, 2009.

For the last 29 years I have had the best job working in the office at Thomas Metcalf School.

Karlene Bledsoe



Recycling at St. Luke Union



Kirk Cruze has been in charge of our recycling program until his recent hospital stay.

Kirk will no longer be able to serve in this capacity.

We are in search of new volunteers to organize our recycling program.

Instruction, training and support come with this task.

Please see Pastor Andy if you are interested in helping to continue this worthy mission.

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will not meet in January or February 2010.

The next meeting will be March 11, 2010.





Logan Moret, Seth Gifford, and Jacob Blankenship



Did you guess the answer to last month's trivia question?

In the Book of Mark who was the only person to call Jesus the "Son of God?"

Mark 15:39 says, Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The winner was James Munro.

January Trivia Question:

What are the names of the Wise Men that came from the East to honor the birth of Jesus?

First Place 4 Health New Study Session

First Place 4 Health is the most complete Christ-centered healthy living program available, and it has helped thousands of members create balance in the four core areas of their lives: emotional, spiritual, mental and physical.

All-new and easy to use, each First Place 4 Health Bible study contains 12 weeks of daily study to help members put Christ in first place.

Our new study entitled *Celebrate Success*, will begin with an introduction on January 21st at 5:15 p.m.



I would like to thank the congregation for the overwhelming outpouring of love and sympathy in the form of prayers, thoughts and cards, since my Mother died over the Thanksgiving holiday.

It is an incredible feeling to know that there are so many people who care and support us at a time like this.

Union family.

Thank you all and God bless,

Matthew Kubiak

Truly, we are blessed to be a part of the St. Luke

Kirk Cruze and his family wish to thank the St. Luke Union Congregation for all the prayers, cards, and visits during his recent hospital stay and his on-going recovery at home.

Kirk Cruze & Family

Thank You

From the Staff . . .

A big “thank you” from the staff at St. Luke Union Church for the generous Christmas gifts.

We all feel very fortunate to be a part of St. Luke Union Church.

St. Luke Union Church

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January