

Special points of interest:

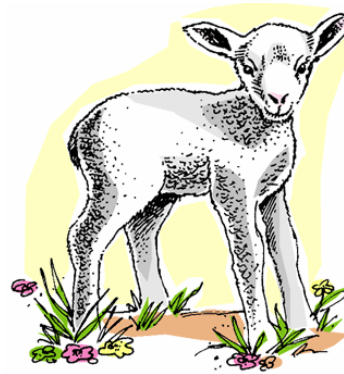
- Spring Group & Bake Sale
- Church Women United - World Day of Prayer Service
- Schnuck's eScript Community Card Program & Registration Instructions
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering March 28th

March 2010

From the **PASTOR**

Yeah March! In like a lion out like a lamb. It's when pitchers and catchers report to spring training, and if we get a warm day or two a tulip might just sneak a peek out of the dirt. NASCAR gets rolling, ice melts off the ponds and it time to do that real good job washing your car. Do you know what this all means? It's spring! A new beginning, a fresh start and people come out and re-engage one another. You may even have a chance to re-acquaint yourself with your neighbors who for the last three months have only waved at you while making a fast break for the house in an effort to get warm.

There are countless numbers of people who live close by, work with or are a part of a club you belong to. My question is how well do you know them? What are their successes and are they facing any trouble or crisis? You see, it's easy to hide our lives behind car windshields and front doors, or cubicle walls but when someone knocks on our door, sends a letter, calls, texts, e-mails or just offers a cup of coffee,



how do we respond? It is with these responses that we can come to know the people who live and work nearby. Those are also the times when God presents opportunities to live into your Christian vocation. What this means is that when people extend themselves in the love of Christ others will see this spirit in your hearts, and then give you a window to be Christ.

Luke 10: 5-6 Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'

And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person;

St. Luke Union is a church that has found a deep love of Christ and does an incredible job at caring for one another in times of need and celebrating together in times of joy.

The love we have to share cannot be exclusive. Just like when a mother and father bring their second child home from the hospital for the first time, they need to explain to the first child that they will not love them less but have so much love in their hearts that it needs to be shared with another. Just as God's love for God's people is only limited by not being shared with more. Our mission in this sharing of God's love is to do the introduction.

Who do you plan to introduce to St. Luke Union Church and God's love this spring?

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Andy

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March Birthdays & Anniversaries

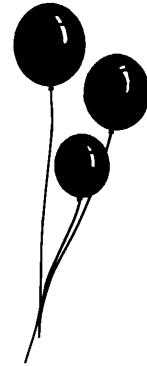
BIRTHDAYS -

Hannah Brown - 2
 Sandra Gifford - 2
 Lelah White - 3
 Brandon Boerner - 4
 Zachary Staver - 4
 Vi Fenstermaker - 6
 Kathy Johnson - 7
 Braden Nuttall - 8
 Robert Kelley - 9
 Kerry Modendricker - 12
 Betty Nelson - 13

Patricia Parmenter - 17
 Nina Fuhlenbrock - 18
 Marilyn Hammer - 18
 Matthew Walters - 18
 Carla Staver - 20
 Royal Foster - 21
 Logan Moret - 21
 Ruth Pittmon - 21
 David Stille - 22
 Dorothy Wells - 22
 William Chase - 26

ANNIVERSARIES -

Donald & Lucille Mason - 12



Family Game & Pizza Night

... Twister ... Uno ...
 Bingo ... Scattergories ...
 Pictionary ...



Come and join us for our
 Family Game & Pizza
 Night!

Sunday March 14th
 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Please bring your favorite
 game to share.

Pizza will be ordered and
 delivered for our meal.

Agape will provide drinks.

Please join us for a night of
 fun, fellowship and pizza!

Home Bible Class

Home Bible Class will
 meet March 11th at 1:30
 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Andy will lead our
 study of Jeremiah.

We will be collecting \$2.00
 each for our annual dues in

addition to our regular
 donation to Donna
 Thomas' projects.

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

Change of Address

Keith and Nakita Jean-Baptiste
 8428A North Lewis Ave
 Fort Drum, NY 13603

Spring Group & Bake Sale

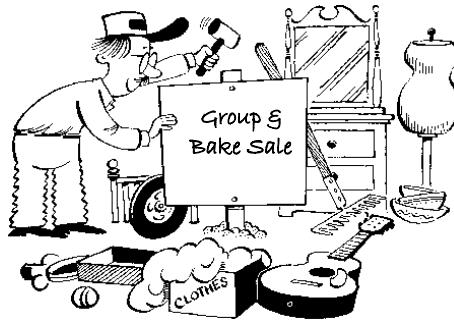
No matter what that pesky ground hog said, spring is almost here.

Thus so is the Spring Group and Bake Sale!

Time to start (and finish) spring cleaning!

Go through the closets and get things that no longer fit (too big of course), knick knacks you no longer want to dust, and all of those things that got upgraded over Christmas.

Bring them all to our sale and make someone else



happy.

Mark the week of April 11th to 17th on your calendar.

Many hands are needed for set-up April 11th to 15th, and we need your smiling face for the sale on April 16th and 17th and don't

forget the clean-up on Saturday after the sale.

Watch the church bulletin and bulletin board for more information!

*Yvonne Harrison,
Sarah Franks*

Group Sale Co-Chairs

Money Matters As of January 31, 2010



	JANUARY BUDGET	JANUARY ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND		
Receipts	\$22,160	\$22,515
Disbursements	\$19,738	\$19,926

Church Women United - World Day of Prayer Service

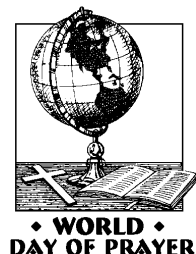
World Day of Prayer Service sponsored by Church Women United is Friday, March 5th at 9:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Normal.

A continental breakfast will

be served and is \$2.00.

See Dottie Metcalf for tickets.

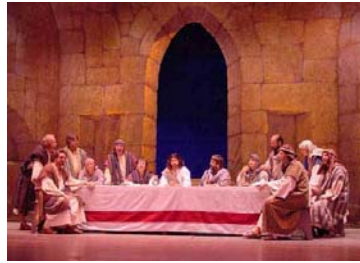
All women of this church are invited.



American Passion Play

St. Luke Union Church is getting a group together to attend the American Passion Play Sunday, March 21st at 2:00 p.m. at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts (aka: The Bloomington Consistory/Scottish Rite Temple).

The Bloomington Passion Play is the nation's oldest



The Last Supper

continuously operating Passion Play.

This year is its 87th consecutive season.

If you would like to be a part of the St. Luke

Union Church Group attending March 21st, sign up on sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are \$20 each and the Passion Play is not recommended for children under 7 years of age.

For further information or questions, contact Pat Parmenter at 661-8842.

Schnucks eScrip Community Card Program

Members of St. Luke Union Church can now pick up an eScrip Community Card at Schnucks.

The card can be registered and up to 3% of your annual purchases can benefit mission projects supported by our church.

This year, funds raised will help support the Crop Walk budget.

If you already have a card, please register St. Luke Union as one of your beneficiary organizations.

The ID number for St. Luke Union is 500019303.

Just go to www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp to register your card, today!

Contact Pat Parmenter or Ruth Trower with questions.

Schnucks eScrip Registration Instructions

Schnuck eScrip Contributions are available to customers who shop in our Bloomington and Normal stores.

Please follow these activation instructions if you would like to receive benefits for this program.

Customers who currently use a [Schnucks Customer Card](#) for Fuel Rewards may also register that card to earn eScrip Contributions by calling 1-800-931-6258.

Call this same number to activate your new card.



Easter Egg Hunt

Easter morning we will have a St. Luke Union Church Easter Egg Hunt.

Make plans to bring every child you know.

In order to make our hunt a great success we are in

need of plastic eggs and the wrapped candy and toys to go inside the eggs.

If you are willing to make a donation to this years Easter Egg Hunt, please drop off your gifts in the church office.



Crop Hunger Walk

The first meeting for the CROP Hunger Walk Organizational Committee is March 15th at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

We need volunteers to help organize, call area churches, and help with publicity.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, come on March 15th or call Kerry Modendricker at 825-1969.

**Pastor Andy's
Contact Info:**

Rev. Andrew J. Gifford
9752 N 1600 E
Bloomington, IL 61705
Cell: 580-491-8220
agifford@stlukeunion.org

Pastor Andy's Trivia Question

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

What is the significance of having ashes placed on your forehead on Ash Wednesday?

Ashes are a sign of repentance and humility.

Genesis 18:27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.

Esther 4:3 There was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Job 30:19 He has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes.

MARCH TRIVIA QUESTION:

What is the historical understanding of Lent?

BONUS QUESTION:

What did Judas give Jesus that was later made famous by the Godfather?

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering March 28th

In his final moments with his disciples, the Good Shepherd asks Peter, "Do you love me?" "Yes," Peter replies. Then, "Feed my lambs," Jesus tells him. "Tend my sheep." Three times, Jesus passionately repeats his instruction, pressing his followers: If you love me, take care of the people I love. (John 21:15-19)

The members of the family of God including those in parts of the world we may never visit, are God's flock, the sheep of God's pasture (Ezekiel 34:31). Yet, God's flock is often forcefully scattered as people are chased from their homes and livelihoods by brutal expressions of war, or as communities are blasted by natural disasters, or as societies and countries are ground down by unrelenting hunger, disease, and poverty.

On Palm Sunday, March 28, you'll have an opportunity to offer your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, to offer disaster relief and refugee aid, meeting basic needs in Christ's name throughout the world. We'll have the opportunity to decide how to participate in an offering that helps strengthen people to improve their



own lives and communities.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing:

- Disaster victims quickly receive shelter, food, water, and medical supplies
- Local communities develop secure sources of food and clean water
- Minds and bodies grow stronger with new schools and medical clinics
- Refugees receive housing and long-term help to construct new lives
- Women and communities are empowered through micro-credit loans and community development opportunities.

In challenging times, we often wonder how much we can afford to sacrifice to help feed Jesus' beloved sheep, when our needs remain pressing. Perhaps only through prayer can we decide how to respond to Jesus' call to feed His Sheep. Remember the feeding of

the 5,000: when Jesus asked the disciples to feed the hungry crowd, the disciples despaired (Mark 6:34-44). The five loaves and two fish seemed insignificant compared to the massive need. Yet when each gave sacrificially from what they had, through God's blessing, their gifts turned into a miracle of compassion for all.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts meet compelling needs, while also bringing the blessing of compassion into our own lives. The current economic situation is challenging for many of us.

For many others, it has pushed beyond challenging to be life-threatening.

Please consider increasing your gift this year.

Heed Jesus' call to feed his sheep with a generous, even sacrificial, gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Sharing your resources, you'll change lives — including your own.

Special offering envelopes are included in this issue and will be available in the pew racks.

Moderator Notes

I am honored to have been chosen to serve as moderator of the Vision & Ministry Team for 2010.

I am pleased to be working with Pastor Andy and a wonderful group of church members who are dedicated to serving St. Luke Union Church and improving the life of the church.

It is an exciting time to be a member of St. Luke Union Church.

There is a renewed feeling of excitement in church services on Sunday mornings, at various church events throughout the week, at Youth Group, and even at Vision & Ministry Council meetings.

I hear church members talking about the future of the church instead of the past.

In the coming months, the Vision & Ministry Team will be reviewing the current church vision and mission statements and will engage in a planning process.

I know that some of you are thinking, "Oh no, not another discernment process."

We have "discerned" enough as a church.

The Vision & Ministry Council will draw upon the information gathered in recent discernment processes and the detailed information prepared by the pastoral



nominating committee to gain an historical perspective.

However, we do not want our past to necessarily dictate our future.

We hope you will join us in dreaming about what could be.

The Vision & Ministry Council is visioning where the church should be in five years.

We will be establishing three year and one year goals to move us toward where we want to be in five years.

The Vision & Ministry Team will engage the mission teams in helping us visualize the future of the church and will seek feedback from the teams on various issues being considered by the Vision &

Ministry Team.

We are making a commitment to be systemic in our thinking and approach to resolving issues.

We want to consider all the impacts in making decisions on behalf of the church.

We welcome your thoughts on what you want St. Luke Union church to look like in 2015.

Feel free to share your thoughts with me or one of the other members of Vision & Ministry Council.

Blessings,

Brent Paterson

2010 Vision & Ministry Council Members:

Karlene Bledsoe
John Boerner
Tammy Desmond
Priscilla Harper
Pastor Andrew J. Gifford
Bob Hinthorn
Jane Little
James Munro
Brent Paterson
Dan Staver
Bill Teubel
Mike Walton

St. Luke Union Church

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