

Special points of interest:

November 2010

- One Mission - One Spirit
- "Milestones" Celebration
- Moderator Notes
- Church Women United's Last Gathering

Huge Group/Bake Sale Huge Success!

Go Team St Luke Union Church!

Wow what a week!

If you were at church the week of October 11th to 16th you know what I am talking about - the Group & Bake Sale.

As of Saturday, October 16th, we had cleared \$4,124.50; making this sale one of the largest in our history.

\$2,000 of the money goes to the church while the rest goes to mission opportunities.

Here is how the money is being divided:

- \$500 - *Stand Down* - this program is put on by our Presbytery and is helping Veterans
- \$500 - *Salvation Army Day Center* - they are in need of several large appliances
- \$500 - *Women's Fellowship Triennium Fund* - Many of the



Labre Indian Mission in Ashland, MT by a couple from Mclean County.

Any linens that weren't quite up to our standards for selling are being used as bedding at the *Humane Society*.

We would like to thank everyone because without each and every one of you this group sale wouldn't have been possible.

The group sale is more than a committee or task force and so much more than a few people.

It is a team effort of the whole church and as you can see from above, as a church, we are doing Christ's work through our Group & Bake Sale.

Christmas items came from the Christmas in July sale that was put on by the women for this purpose.

- \$500 - New 8 ft tables While this isn't necessarily mission, it is a need for the church - nice, "lightweight" 8 ft tables.

The items from the group sale also went on to help others.

Habitat for Humanity's Restore shop took the extra Christmas items.

The Bloomington Mission Mart took clothing, shoes and miscellaneous items.

Children and young adult clothing and shoes will be taken to the *St.*

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One Mission - One Spirit

Autumn has officially arrived!

You can see it in the red and gold in the trees, football on Sunday afternoons, and increased talk about stewardship at St. Luke Union Church!

Stewardship is so much more than monetary giving, because it's also our time and talents that make a big difference in God's plan for us.

We also know the importance of our pledges

in fulfilling our mission at St. Luke Union Church.

Our 2011 Stewardship Theme is "One Mission - One Spirit".

On Sunday November 7th we are planning a worship service that will engage you in thought, stewardship, and reflection on ways to fulfill our 2011, "wishes" or dreams.

Following worship that day we will be distributing our 2011 Offering Pledge Cards.

Our dedication "Pledge" Sunday is Sunday, November 21st.

Let's continue to build upon the momentum we have made in 2010 and strive toward our mission of being an active and caring community proclaiming the Word of God in all we do.

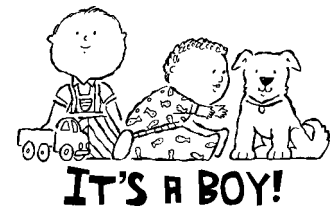
In Christ,
Stewardship Committee

Congratulations!

Jeremy and Amanda Rambo welcomed their baby boy, Jacob Matthew, into the world October 17, 2010.

Jacob weighed 7 lbs, 5 oz and was 20 1/2" long.

The proud parents and Jacob are all doing well!



Money Matters As of September 30, 2010

GENERAL FUND	JAN-SEPT BUDGET	JAN-SEPT ACTUAL
Receipts	\$185,225	\$172,469
Disbursements	\$188,064	\$175,127

Giving continues to be less than planned and expenses less than budget. Are you current with your pledge?

A more complete report is available on the Details Board in Fellowship Hall.

“Milestones” Celebration

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all those who helped make our "Milestones Celebration" so much fun.

A special thanks to the Ferriers, the Littles, Pat Parmenter, and the

Hinthorns for seeing that we had enough food without too much work.

Thank you all for having Milestones to celebrate and for staying for lunch.

Again, Bud and I were reminded that one of the

great gifts we experience among you is your kindness and your hospitality.

Gratefully,
Norma Roberts

Any changes?

Has your email address changed from Verizon to Frontier?

Or, - if you have any other changes (phone, or address), please let the office know.

You can email Jessie at mail@stlukeunion.org, call 663-7437 or just leave a note!

Thanks!



Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet Thursday, November 11th at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

We will study Chapter 9 entitled “Unsinkable Faith” from Jeremiah 38 in our study guide “Jeremiah Demanding Love.”

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

Thank You

Thank you to each and everyone for your prayers, prayer cards, phone calls and cards while I was in the hospital and recovering at home.

I am so grateful to have

the St. Luke family in my life.

Thank you again.

God Bless,
Jane Little

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 Yurieci - 9
 Jack Harrison - 10
 Kristy Hosack - 11
 Mary Davis - 12
 Craig Grant - 12
 James Munro - 13
 Owen Keeton - 16
 Garrett Staver - 16



Laura Verplaetse - 16
 Kyle King - 17
 Andrea Brown - 18
 Marc Herren - 18
 Dick Harrison - 19
 Sherrie Taylor - 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
 Carlynn Engel - 28
 Don Kearfott - 28
 Brent Paterson - 29

Anniversaries

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



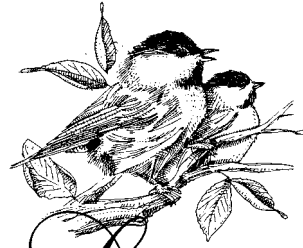
Thanksgiving Dinner

November 14th

From Our Pastor . . .

I have been reading a book that was edited by a good friend of mine from Oklahoma. The book is titled, *Divided Hearts: The Presbyterian Journey through Oklahoma History*. As you may tell from the title, it is a history book but is told specifically from the perspective of the how Presbyterians affected and played a role in the formation of the state of Oklahoma. The book begins with the Native American forced migration from their homes in the southeast to what was promised to be Indian Territory and how the early Presbyterian missionaries walked beside the Native American on the trail of tears. The book has been truly enlightening into the countless broken promises by the United States government, and into little known facts that included many Native Americans owning slaves. After making my way through this text I have made a discovery about Presbyterian and St Luke Union's approach to mission.

In the formation of the state of Oklahoma there were primarily two denominations that supplied missionaries to the territory. One was the Baptist Church and the



*Let everything
that has
breath praise
the LORD.*

Psalm 150:6

other was the Presbyterian Church, both effective in different areas of the territory but both with different approaches to ministries. These approaches saw the Baptists having their primary goal as conversion, and the Presbyterians having their primary goal as education. Both approaches can be seen to have been effective because today there is a large population that considers themselves Baptist and a large population that considers themselves Presbyterian, but what is the benefit or detriment of each? What can we learn from these approaches?

The Presbyterian approach to mission through education worked to build relationships with the Native American, and from the perspective of a culture that had lost trust in the white population this proved effective. They

found a method that allowed the native people to better understand the impeding culture and then function within its norms. They empowered them to provide for themselves and adapt to a new way of life.

Jesus is often found to use this approach in his ministry. Instead of giving the people food only to fill their bellies or healing from an ailment he gave them new life and opportunity to build up the kingdom. Jesus equips and empowers people to do more but not just for themselves but for others. We at St. Luke Union have begun to understand our mission, but we need to keep in mind that our mission is to be fulfilled in a manner that builds up for a sustained greater good. 2011 will be a great year for our church as we continue our work together in building up the kingdom of God. We have been given vision, dreams, and God's blessing, what role will you play?

Peace
Pastor Andy

Moderator's Notes

I can always tell when fall has arrived.

No, I am not talking about cooler days, falling leaves, or football games.

For St. Luke Union Church, fall means it is time for the Group & Bake Sale, which was bigger than ever.

There are too many church members who volunteered their time to assist with the sale to mention names.

But, special thanks go to Sarah Franks and Karlene Bledsoe for organizing this fall's very successful Group & Bake Sale.

A record turnout of youth and church members participated in the CROP Walk on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at Tipton Park.

In case you did not hear, our church received the Golden Flip Flop Award for having the most participants among church groups.

Thank you to all who participated on behalf of St. Luke Union Church.

Also, congratulations to Kerry Modendricker and Karlene Bledsoe for organizing this year's event for the community.



At it's October meeting, the Vision & Ministry Council reviewed a new job description for the church pastor.

You may recall that the Personnel Ministry Team was charged with developing a new job description that addresses our current structure and expectations of the pastor.

The Vision & Ministry Council approved the new job description with some minor changes.

Thank you to Becky Blum and the members of the Personnel Ministry Team for their diligent work.

The Vision & Ministry Council also considered a proposal to carpet the youth room and daycare room in the basement.

Memorial funds will be used to purchase and install the carpeting.

Since the proposal came from the Learning Ministry Team, the Vision &

Ministry Council tentatively approved the request pending support from the Resource Ministry Team.

In November, the Vision & Ministry Council will continue with elder training.

Tom Norwalk, Associate Conference Minister for the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, will be our guest.

He will help us in gaining greater understanding of United Church of Christ doctrine and organization.

Let us not forget that November is a time for Thanksgiving.

We can be thankful to live in a country where religious freedom is highly valued.

We can be thankful to be part of St. Luke Union Church, an active caring community proclaiming the word of God.

We can be thankful for the many talents and gifts among church members and the unselfish ways that members share their talents and gifts with us and the community.

Brent Paterson
Moderator

Church Women United's Last Gathering

Church Women United's celebration of World Community Day is Friday, November 5th, at this church.

It will be a covered dish dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by a celebration, "Building the Beloved Community."

All women of the church are invited to this last gathering of Church Women United in our community.

Our Famous Cookbooks

We still have a few cookbooks left.

They make great gifts for bridal showers and weddings.

They are \$6 each.

Stop by the office and pick one up.

NCHS Homecoming Queen

Normal Community High School has named Julie Schultz the homecoming queen for 2010.

Julie is the daughter of Kevin and Kim Schultz of Bloomington.

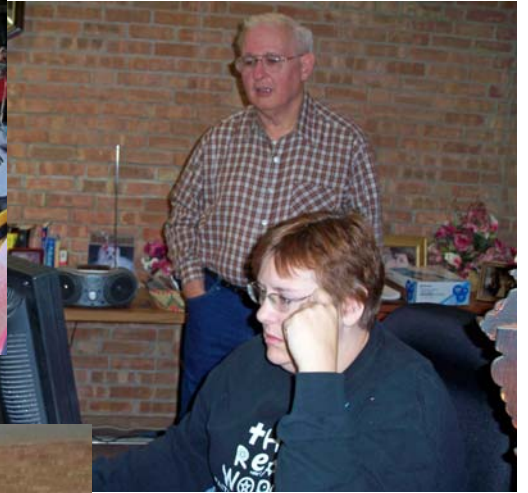


Rada Cutlery Orders Due November 15th

The deadline for placing orders for Rada Cutlery is November 15th.

If you have any questions, see Vi Fenstermaker.

If you would like to place an order, the catalog and order blanks are on the outer office ledge.



Mike & Sarah



Fellowship Hall



Dottie, Lin, Vi,
Jane and Norma



Christmas Room



Bake Sale



CROP Hunger Walk Success!

Congratulations on a job well done!

Because of your enthusiasm and commitment the 2010 CROP for Hunger Walk was a huge success!



help people improve their lives, be more self-sufficient and to help them recover from poverty.

The money will also be used for development projects and help for disaster planning and disasters.

To date, we have collected a total of \$9,235.00.

That is almost triple the amount earned last year!

We had a total of 102 walkers and 8 participating churches and organizations.

Again, more than last year!

The Golden Shoe Award went to Wesley United Methodist Church.

They collected the most

money, a total of \$3,561.00.

St. Luke Union Church had the most walkers (35) and earned the Golden Flip Flop Award!

As stated, 25% of the money raised will be divided between the Center for Hope Food Pantry and the Western Avenue Food Pantry.

75% of the money raised was sent to Church World Services to provide educational programs to

So, again, thank you!

St. Luke Union Church will be hosting the 2011 CROP Walk for Hunger and we will be counting on you to help!

Go Team!!!!

Yours in Christ,

*2010 CROP Hunger Walk Committee,
St. Luke Union Church*

Pictorial Directory

We are organizing a new pictorial directory.

At press time, it looks like early December.

Watch the bulletin and listen to Sunday announcements.

More details in December New Directions.



Pastor Andy's Trivia Question

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

October Question:

What was the year and date that Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany marking the beginning of the Protestant Reformation?

Answer:

October 31, 1517

November Question:

Which industrialized country has the largest percentage of persons who attend weekly religious services?

Note:

This is not restricted to Christianity.

Where does the United States fall on this list?

Estates, Wills, Advance Directives & Funeral Planning Meeting



The Stewardship Committee was pleased to see the interest in the Estates, Wills, Advance Directives & Funeral Planning informational meeting, held September.

Topics reviewed included, but not limited to:

- What is estate planning
- Why have a Will or Trust & Benefits
- Tax Implications
- Benefits of Advance Funeral Planning
- Power of Attorney
- Healthcare Power of Attorney
- Gifting
- Illinois Advance Directives & Health Care Surrogate Act

We had an excellent turnout, but we have also been informed that others

wished to attend, but could not due to scheduling conflicts.

We have therefore prepared a few sets of the material that was distributed during the meeting.

Copies will be available in the church office.

The Stewardship Committee is planning to continue future informational meetings on these topics in the future.

If you would like to see a meeting on a specific topic, please contact a member of the Committee.

Elder Training

Council will meet at 5:00 p.m. on November 9th for Dinner and Elder Training followed by the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

St. Luke Union Church

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*St. Luke Union Church
Mission Statement*

We are an active, caring community proclaiming the Word of God. We seek to know God's will as individuals and as a church, to be transformed by the Holy Spirit, to practice Christian discipleship, and to demonstrate Christ's unconditional grace and love for all.

November 2010