

Special points of interest:

- Stewardship Update
- Moderator's Notes
- Peacemaking - Neighbors in Need
- Reginal's Corner

October 2010

Fall Group & Bake Sale

We hope that you have been cleaning and saving your treasures for the Fall Group Sale that is quickly approaching.

The sale itself is October 15th and 16th.

Set up for the sale begins after church on Sunday, October 10th.

We need lots of help to bring in tables from the



back garage and bring up equipment from downstairs.

Items can be brought Monday October 11th through **noon** on **Wednesday the 13th.**

Sorting and pricing of items will also begin on Monday.

All hands are needed to make the Fall Group sale a success!

Also don't forget about yummy items for the bake sale!

Karlene Bledsoe and Sarah Franks,
Co-Chairs

**Fall Confirmation Retreat**

October 22nd through October 24th, the Middle School Confirmation Class will be heading on a retreat to Pilgrim Park.

The weekend will include an examination

into worship, a low ropes course and plenty of fun in the woods.

If you are a "Middle Schooler," please make plans to attend.

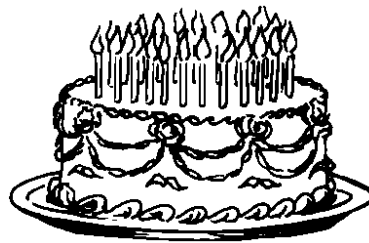
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Happy Birthday/Anniversary!

BIRTHDAYS

Katie Verplaetse - 2
 Alberta Compton - 3
 David Sulzberger - 9
 Andrew Gifford - 11
 Diana McLean - 11
 Marcia Dean - 14
 Monica Moore - 14
 Dede Verplaetse - 16
 Charlene Beringer - 17
 John Waters - 17
 Chris Bateman - 21
 Clara Greiner - 21
 Neal Benjamin - 22
 Marsha Hinthorn - 22



Skylar Wright - 23
 Seth Gifford - 25
 Bill Walters - 25
 Megan Hosack - 26
 Diane Swanson - 26
 Ciarra Poulard - 28
 Hannah Dean - 29
 Peggy Johnson - 29
 Linda Weirman - 29
 Lillian Paulsen - 30

ANNIVERSARIES

Dick & Doris Rice - 4
 Jim & Kendra Monteggia - 17
 Tyson & Alberta Compton - 26
 Dan & Deborah Moret - 26
 Chuck & Gwen Yurieci - 26

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all the get-well cards, wishes, prayers and prayer shawl during my recent illness.

I hope to be able to return

to church soon.

Kirk Cruze



SAVE THE DATE!

April 8, 9, 10, 2011
 Women's Retreat
 Pilgrim Park
 Princeton, IL

More later!

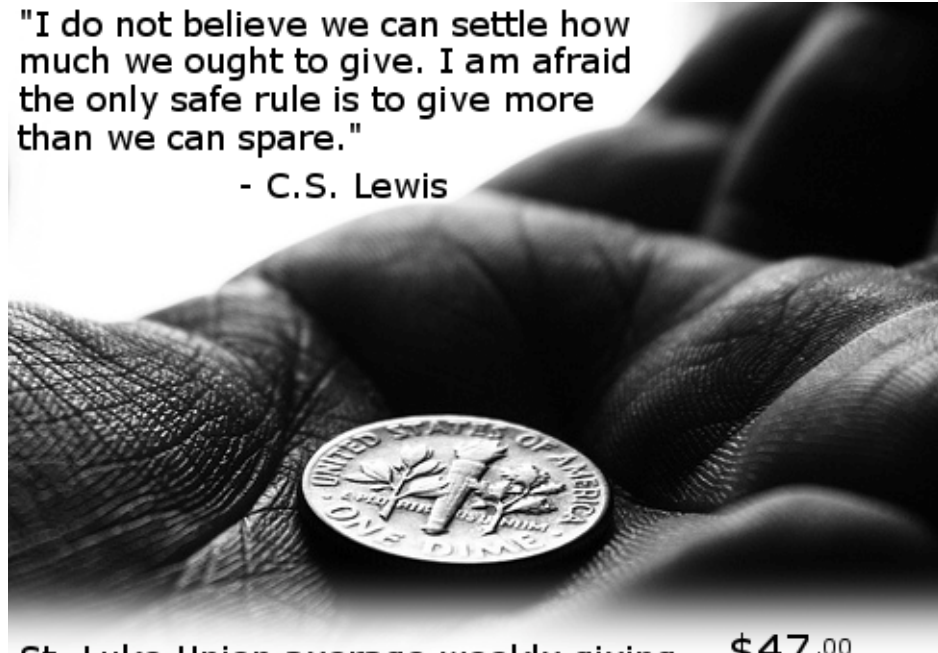
Money Matters As of August 31, 2010

GENERAL FUND	JAN-AUG BUDGET	JAN-AUG ACTUAL
Receipts	\$164,870	\$156,345
Disbursements	\$167,578	\$157,074

Giving is less than planned and expenses are less than budget. Are you current with your pledge? A more complete report is available on the Details Board in the Fellowship Hall.

"I do not believe we can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare."

- C.S. Lewis



St. Luke Union average weekly giving... \$47.00

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, October 7th in the Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m.

We will study Chapter 8 entitled "The Field of Hope," from Jeremiah 32, in our study guide *Jeremiah*

Demanding Love.

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

Please note change of date!!

Addresses for College Students Needed

Once again, the Youth Group will be sending out holiday cards to the college students.

Please send the addresses to Sarah Franks at: sarah.franks@mcleancountyil.gov or drop them off in the church office.

Pastor Andy's Trivia Question

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

Answer:

Psalm 119

September Question:

Which is the longest Psalm in the Bible?



October Question:

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

Moderator's Notes

Thank you for your support of the new St. Luke Union Church mission statement. At it's September meeting the Vision & Ministry Council formally approved the mission statement. We will use the mission statement to guide us in setting future direction for the church.

As I indicated last month, the Vision & Ministry Council asked ministry teams to prepare a tentative budget for 2012 and include "wish list" items. The Vision & Ministry Council received the budget requests and "wish list" items at it's September meeting. We were pleased to see that the ministry teams submitted reasonable requests for 2012 and envisioned how they could improve their ministries with "wish list" items. The Stewardship Ministry Team is preparing information for the congregation on the "wish list" items and will be asking for your financial support to accomplish these items. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised at how much can be accomplished with minimal increases in financial contributions from the congregation. More to come from Dan Staver and the Stewardship Ministry Team. I want to



October

say thank you to Terry Small, Church Treasurer. Terry does a fantastic job in handling church finances. She prepares detailed monthly financial statements for the Vision & Ministry Council which permits us to monitor giving and expenses. She never hesitates to give us a nudge when we need to be careful of spending or fall behind in our commitments. St. Luke Union Church is very fortunate to have Terry in this role.

The Personnel Ministry Team has completed work on a new job description for the pastor. Thank you to the members of the team for all of their work on this important project. The Vision & Ministry Team will be reviewing the job description at its October meeting.

The week prior to Vision & Ministry Council meetings, Pastor Andy, Karlene Bledsoe (Vision & Ministry Council Recorder) and I get together to plan the agenda for the Vision & Ministry Council meeting. As you might expect, conversation strays from the agenda, but usually is focused on the church. This month the conversation strayed to the topic of where our members come from. I am not talking about Bloomington versus Normal or other locales; but what is our faith heritage. We truly are a congregation of folks with different faith heritages. The Vision & Ministry Council reflects these differences. I see this blending of faiths as a strength. Regardless of our faith journeys, we come together to worship God in our special way as the congregation of St. Luke Union Church.

Fall is upon us and the leaves will be turning brilliant colors. I hope you will take time to enjoy the change in the seasons.

Blessings,

Brent Patterson

Peacemaking - Neighbors in Need

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.” ~ Matthew 5:9

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” ~ Micah 6:8

On Sunday, October 3rd, we will be collecting a combined offering for both Neighbors in Need (UCC) and Peacemaking (Presbyterian USA). Both of these relate to the issues of justice and peace, so we collect them at the same time. Please remember this when deciding the amount of your donation. Twenty-



five percent will be used for local peace and justice issues. The remainder will be equally divided between the denominations regardless of whether you use the Neighbors in Need or Peacemaking envelope for your donation. An envelope is included in this newsletter. Extra envelopes will be provided in the pew racks.

The offerings are used both nationally and internally to bear witness to God's justice and peace. These offerings coincide with World Communion Sunday, a time when people around the world join to celebrate their union in Christ. Let us continue to pray for peace and support the efforts to bring peace and justice to this broken world.

To find out more about the Neighbors in Need offering, go to <http://www.ucc.org/nin/> for the UCC and go to <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking> for the PC (USA) peacemaking information.

Reginal's Corner

It's so great to be here at St. Luke Union Church and helping Pastor Andy with children's sermons each Sunday.

As you all know, I love to pray so I wanted to share a prayer that I say before I eat.

You should try it too with your family and friends.

I hope you like it! Here it is:



*Be present at our table, Lord,
Be here and everywhere adored.*

*Thy creatures bless and grant that we
May feast in paradise with Thee. Amen.*

Reginal



CROP Hunger Walk Sunday October 3rd (Communities Responding to Overcoming Hunger)



St. Luke Union Church is hosting the 2010 CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, October 3rd, 2010 at Tipton Park, Bloomington.

Registration is at 1:30 p.m. Ceremony and Walk is at 2:00 p.m.

Together we walk to take a stand against hunger in our world.

Sponsored through Church World Service, we will raise awareness and funds for international relief, education, development, local food pantries and other hunger-fighting initiatives.

25% of the money raised will stay in McLean County, split between Western Avenue Food

Pantry and the Center for Hope Food Pantry.

We are looking for walkers, volunteers to help, monetary and food snack donations.

Please join us and bring your friends!

Hope to see you there!!!

Rada Cutlery Sales

It's time to think Christmas!

The Rada catalog and order blanks will be on the counter in the office.

There are a lot of items for Christmas, boxed gift items, candles in lots of fragrances, items for Red Hatters, gifts in a jar (soup

mixes, bread and muffin quick mixes).

And of course, there are lots of different cutlery items.

There are all kinds of knives, knife sharpeners, vegetable peelers, spoons, ice cream scoops, etc.

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

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

Order deadline is November 15th.

St. Luke Union's Famous Cookbooks

We have a few St. Luke Union cookbooks left.

They make a great gift for bridal showers and weddings.

They are \$8.00 each.

Stop by the office and pick one up.



Ken Delanois and Cindy Povilaitis-Delanois are the proud parents of a new baby boy, born August 17, 2010, 6 lbs, 15 oz, 20" long.

Dominick Joe Povilaitis-Delanois has two brothers, Christopher Povilaitis, age 11 and John Delanois, age 20.

* * * * *

Aiden Maddux Luna was born on June 30th, 2010 to Sarah and Scott Luna of Illiopolis, IL. He weighed 8 lbs, 5 oz and was 21 inches long. Aiden has a sister Madeleine, and a brother, Cameron. Bob and Marsha Hinthorn are the proud grandparents!

From Our Pastor . . .



When children are little there always seems to be a toy or an object that holds an extreme value to them. This toy could be a stuffed animal or even an impassioned blanket, but it's usually something that they often carry around with them. Although parents typically find this attachment of their children to an object of comfort cute, there is always the fear of the emotional challenge when the object is lost or they have grown too old. This is a part of life for children and as they pass through these stages in life hopefully they mature.

I have been thinking a lot about the proposed burning of the Koran by the Florida pastor and the proposed building of an Islamic community center at ground zero. As a result, I have come to realize some fundamental differences between Christianity and Islam. These realizations do not have to do with the freedom and personal choice we have in this country to build Islamic community centers or to burn Korans but rather reactions to either action. Either action falls within the freedoms we hold dear in this country but we can all agree that neither action is wise. The real issues would arise after either of these actions was carried out and

what would be the Christian or Islamic response. If Korans were to be burned, we know that this would not be tolerated and as a result, extremists would seek opportunities to hurt and kill the persons responsible. On the other hand, if a group of Muslims set out to burn and destroy Bibles, we would be hurt but there would not be a call for the death of the perpetrators. Devoute Christians would even offer these people forgiveness. This key difference makes apparent why Christianity and Islam are so different.

Christians find truth, hope, and peace in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments. The words contained in our scripture are the words of God. It is the words that are sacred and the message for life with Christ that they bring. It's not the physical book that we hold as sacred, it's the Word of God that is contained on its pages. If someone feels that the burning of a few copies of our scripture will damage our church, they will be mistaken. Christians may feel badly but the result will be prayers of forgiveness and grace.

Muslims hold the Koran as a sacred book that must be honored and kept in a special place, only the

worthy are even allowed to touch it. It is read by persons who have been given enlightenment and then they are obligated to tell others what it means. The problem with this approach is that only Muslim leaders are allowed to interpret the Koran, telling followers what it means. Questions are not allowed so dogma can be instilled; as a result the Koran then becomes an object to be worshipped.

Christian faith and the good news of the Gospel insist that every person of faith reads and attempts to live as the Bible instructs. Our faith welcomes questions because we know that understanding builds a personal relationship with Christ. We hide nothing and welcome the mystery of our creator. The Word of God is the truth and our sacred gift, not the bound book that contains the words themselves. Go forth, read and share the Word of God because it has withstood any assault over the last 6000 years and will continue for millenniums to come.

Amen!

Pastor Andy Gifford

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.

October 2010