

Special points of interest:

September 2011

- Wedding Anniversary Open House for the Kearfott's
- Women of Presbytery of Great Rivers Fall Gathering
- Women's Fellowship Fall Rally
- 2011 McLean County CROP Hunger Walk

Mission in Motion - Operation Stand Down

St. Luke Union Church has been contacted by Central Illinois Goodwill regarding **Operation Stand Down for Homeless Veterans.**

Jim Lynch, the director, requested a matching donation of the \$1000 that we donated last year.

Mission Ministry met in August and agreed to donate the funds again from the recycling fund which benefits our *Necessities* mission.

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet Thursday, September 11th at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Our teacher, Pastor Andy, asked that we read *Matthew 11-12* for our lesson.



This year we would like to go one step further.

Last year 100 veterans were served.

They are hoping to increase the number by 25% by expanding to other communities.

They hope to provide transportation for these veterans who live in other communities.

They also plan to

increase the services provided.

Volunteers are being recruited to help with the October 15, 2011 activity to be held at O'Brien Field in Peoria.

James Munro will head up a team of volunteers to serve at the benefit.

Please contact Jim if you will serve the veteran's who have served our country.

Watch the Sunday announcements for more information.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

All ladies and friends are invited to this Bible study.



Inside this issue:

St. Labre Indian Mission	2
Money Matters	2
Memorial Monies	3
Music Ministry	4
From the Pastor . . .	6
Peacemaking/Neighbors in Need	7
Benefit Planned	7

Wedding Anniversary Open House for the Kearfott's

Don and Linda Kearfott would like to invite you to their 50th Wedding Anniversary Open House on September 4, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Luke Union

Church.

No presents please!



St. Labre Indian Mission



From the past 3-4 group sales we have donated clothing, shoes, linens and toys to the St. Labre Indian Mission in Ashland, MT by way of a couple from McLean County.

The following are excerpts from a letter we received from them.

“Just to let you know that through ‘God Connections’ we at St Labre Mission donors have a mission drive for the clothing room.

Actually the drive is done and packing out is Saturday, September 3.

Your April donations will be on the truck as we got a

truck back in April before Easter.

Just by word of mouth the donations have filled out the basement section designated for the collections.

We have close to 200 boxes of clothes – a lot of children’s clothes and about 700 pairs of children’s shoes.

And so we hope to help the Northern Cheyenne and Crow people out for the winter.

“We had furniture donated too.

The 24’ Ryder truck will be divided – half furniture –

half everything else.

Thank you for letting us have so many clothes, etc from your rummage sale.

Everyone appreciates the donations that will be distributed by the clothing room and mission.”


Eileen Grotbo

Just a “feel good” letter to get you in the spirit for our October Group Sale coming up.

I am sure the ladies for the St. Labre Indian Mission will be back!

Money Matters As of July 31, 2011

GENERAL FUND	JAN/JUL BUDGET	JAN/JUL ACTUAL
Receipts	\$138,810	\$147,341
Disbursements	\$142,962	\$138,942



Address Change

Lauren Desmond
Centennial Hall, Rm 403
1000 South Franklin
Kirksville, MO 63501

Memorial Monies



Over the years many of our members through passing and their families have blessed St. Luke Union Church with memorial monies in their name.

Some of the memorials are designated to be spent for a specified use.

Some of the memorial monies are undesignated and can be used as the church deems.

The Worship Ministry Team would like to share some of the items that undesignated memorial monies were used for:

- Advent Liquid Candle set including brass holder and Christ Candle
- Brass candle holder for the new Christ Candle. We now use the new Christ Candle in worship each Sunday.
- Phase I – Sanctuary Sound System Upgrade

Women of Presbytery of Great Rivers Fall Gathering

September 17, 2011
9:00 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church,
Macomb, IL

See notice on bulletin board for schedule and luncheon reservations.

\$8.00 for lunch.

Sign list and take reservation form.

A special offering for the children of Malawi: Project Peanut Butter



Pastor Andy's Trivia Question

Did you guess the answer to the August trivia question?

What is the common saying that was generated from Matthew 16:1-4?

Answer:

“Red sky in the morning, sailor take warning. Red sky at night, sailors delight.”

Dianne Swanson guessed the correct answer and won a dozen “farm fresh” eggs from Pastor Andy.

Congratulations Dianne!

September Trivia Question:

What was the name of the mountain that Moses first encountered God in the burning bush?

Bonus Question:

What was Moses' father-in-law's job?

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays -

Alex Moore - 2
Sandra Kelley - 3
Rebecca Hepner - 5
Karin Hunt - 7
Todd Stille - 7
Betty Potts - 8
David Ferrier - 9
David Colee - 10
John Delanois - 12
Denny Redick - 12
Lucas Trower - 12
James Ferrier - 13
Kim Schultz - 13
Eleanor Larrick - 17
Alex Herren - 19

Priscilla Harper - 20
Julianne Schultz - 21
Holly Campbell - 22
Sean Baker - 25
Betsy Larson - 25
Julia Henthorn - 25
Allen Otto - 26
Andrew Claugherly - 27
Sandra Colee - 29
Debra Grant - 29
Jake Stille - 30



Anniversaries -

Don & Linda Kearfott - 3
Mick & Caroline Fleming - 8
Matthew & Christine Kubiak - 9
Ron & Norma Scott - 12
Al & Shirley Otto - 13
Matt & Traci Wright - 13
Larry & Becky Blum - 14
Brian & Stacy Clark - 15
Larry & Teresa Radcliffe - 22
Kevin & Rebecca Schaefer - 24
Michael & Dede Verplaetse - 26
Jim & Louise Moore - 27
Joel & Amie Keeton - 28
Josh & Christina Reinhart - 30

Music Ministry

The end of Summer and approach of Fall means the church music group is starting a new season of music.

Choir will start rehearsals on Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00 and Joy Ringers (handbells) Wednesday September 14th at 6:00.

We are very blessed to have the strong music groups that we do, but the call always goes out that we do need new members.

If you have not sung with the choir, we invite you to come join us.

Don't feel you have to read music; there is plenty of repetition to learn the pieces.

I have very good music for six handbell players, but most of the music written is for many more players. Again, you don't have to read music, but counting rhythms is important which we all help with.

Whether it's choir, handbells, or other types of special music, please consider joining the music ministry of St. Luke Union in some way.

If you play an instrument, sing, or have any suggestions, always feel free to pull me aside or contact me or another member of the groups.

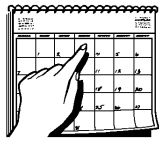
In Christ,

David Sulzberger



Join the Choir ...

Women's Fellowship Fall Rally



Did you know that ALL women are members of Women's Fellowship here at St Luke Union Church?

As such, all women are cordially invited to the Women's Fellowship Fall Rally; this will take place Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The program for the evening will be Senna Adjabeng with Neville

House, a domestic violence shelter serving Central Illinois.

She will discuss what services Neville House provides, a brief history of it and how we, as a church and women can help.

While there is no cost for this event, we ask that you consider bringing a donation for Neville House (please see flyer on the back of the calendar).

There will be refreshments, a short Women's Fellowship meeting to vote on officers, as well as some wonderful fellowship.

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, so that we can plan accordingly.

The Women's Fellowship Board hopes to see all of you there.

2011 McLean County CROP Hunger Walk

This year's McLean County CROP Hunger Walk is just around the corner. This year the CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) walk will be celebrating 20 years of raising money and awareness about Church World Service and issues of extreme poverty and hunger in our community and around the world. The walk will take place at the "Barn" shelter at Tipton Park on October 2nd with registration at 1:30 pm and walk time at 2 pm. This is the second year St. Luke Union has hosted the CROP Hunger Walk and last year we had about 30 people participating from St. Luke Union as walkers and volunteers coming



together and raising between \$2000 to \$2500.

The fundraising goal for the CROP Hunger Walk is \$10,000. Last year we raised about \$9,500 with about 100 people participating from 7 different churches and organizations. Twenty five percent of the money raised this year will go to Clare House and Safe Harbor food pantries. The rest of the funds raised will go to Church World Service for their ministries

around the world.

In addition to raising money for the two food pantries and for CWS, this year we are holding a canned food drive specifically for the Lexington food pantry. Bring your canned, non perishable food items or toiletries to the McLean County CROP Hunger Walk on October 2nd. Once again, Doug Ferrier is our recruiter this year and he will have more information regarding how to sign up to walk.

Peace,

Kerry Modendrick

From the Pastor . . .



1 Corinthians 13: ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

This is the love passage that many couples wish to have read at their wedding ceremony. It is a passage that most of us have heard before, but this is a passage that also needs to be understood in respect to the mission of the church, especially the mission of St Luke Union Church.

Whenever we are drawn into a discussion about love and the Bible, there is a language issue with the word love in the English language versus the Greek language.

The Greek language doesn't use one word for love but actually describes love using three words, agápe, éros, philía. Each of these Greek words brings different meanings to the definition of love. Philia love is the way you would say "I love Italian Sausage," or "I love sailing" and is the simplest form of love. Eros then takes on the form of erotic love, or the love I feel or take from someone else. This is the type of love that finds itself early in

relationships but is also strictly centered on how others make you feel. It is a self serving form of love. Finally there is the perfect love that God has intended for each of us, a love of complete self sacrifice. That love is agape. The scripture passage presented above is a passage of agape love. Agape love is from Christ Jesus for all of humanity and from Christ Jesus for the church that he has established. It's also our example for how we are to come to love one another as individuals and as our church family. This level of love does not occur instantly but it is what we must strive for in all of our church activities. It has to be attempted in worship, in education classes and most especially in our ministry team meetings and events. Agape love is the work of our Christian unity, fellowship and outreach into our community. Agape love is what we pray for with patience, humility, and persistence.

1 Corinthians speaks directly to how we at St. Luke Union have and will come to love each other. It shows us how to encourage and fulfill each other's gifts and shortcomings in a complete love absent of selfishness.

Agape (love) creates and establishes a grounded

foundation for Christian unity with one another. It then shows that the results of this unity are a church community that loves and cares for one another, and finally it shows us that our Christian unity is held together through our personal expressions of love. Agape means unity in Christ's call for you to encourage each other in love, in spirit, in affection and compassion. To fulfill each other's joy while being of the same mind, same love, and same God-centered purpose. Doing nothing from selfishness of empty conceit but with a humility that regards the others as more important than you.

Our Church Mission Statement is:

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.

Let us show our community and everyone who comes to experience St. Luke Union Church an agape love that proclaims Christ's love for all.

Peace,

Pastor Andy Gifford

Peacemaking/Neighbors in Need

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15).



“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 2nd, we will be collecting a combined offering for both Neighbors In Need (UCC) & Peacemaking (Presbyterian USA).

Both of these relate to the issues of justice & 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.

Thank You

I wish to acknowledge and extend my deepest gratitude for the many prayers, thoughts, calls and support during my recent hospitalization and illness, and also for my family members Craig and Becky Dawson and Mark

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 internationally for a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects.

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 to 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 to <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/> for the PC(USA) peacemaking information.

BENEFIT PLANNED

St. Luke Union Church is in the preliminary stages of planning a benefit for David and Kris Sulzberger to help defray their out-of-pocket expenses for Kris' cancer treatments.

The benefit will at the church on **Saturday, November 5th from 4 to 8 p.m.**

It will feature a **Blues & Christian Music Concert** in the sanctuary, **Supper**, a **Raffle**, a **Silent Auction**, **Children's Games** in the lower level and more.

The planning committee is seeking suggestions for a catchy name for the event. Yvonne Harrison, Karlene Bledsoe, Sarah Franks and Laurie Vial



Hammer.

Extra thanks to Pastor Andy, dear Evelyn Thomas and the St. Luke Union prayer chain.

Jay Hammer

St. Luke Union Church

2101 E. Washington St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: 309-663-7437
Email: mail@stlukeunion.org

Non Profit
US Postage Paid
Bloomington, Illinois
Permit No. 10

Return Service Requested

*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.

September 2011