

Special points of interest:

- Red Cross Disaster Action Team
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Pastor Andy's Trivia
- Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck

January 2012

From Our Pastor . . .

Looking back at 2011, we at St Luke Union Church have done some incredible things fulfilling our church's mission statement. Things include raising over \$5,000 dollars for the church's greater mission through 2 group sales and our recycling collection. We sent 12 youth and 4 adult leaders to Barnesville, MN for a week long mission trip doing home repair, and I can only imagine the hours spent in prayer for those on and off our prayer chain. There are several of our members we lost in 2011 and they are greatly missed but God has also blessed us with a wonderful group of new members that are both energized and engaged in the mission of St. Luke Union. I am now well into the third year of ministry here in Bloomington/Normal and remain vigilant to hear how God continues to call us to build up the kingdom. I wonder how God's grace and love will be



revealed to our members and those in our community.

I know we will be sending our youth on a mission trip to Summerville, TN, we will host 2 group sales, continue our Wednesday night ministry programs, and pray for those in need when asked, but I just wonder what else God has in store for us. I'm guessing that we may be looking for a Director of Christian Education after Mary Alice leaves us in May. I think we will try to complete phase two of our sanctuary upgrade, and I hope many more people come through the doors and find our congregation to be the light of Christ into the world.

As your pastor, God continues to direct me with a lot of ideas to build our ministry, but I have also come to realize that God speaks just as loudly to each of you with epiphanies of mission. In 2012, I ask you to be attentive to what God is saying to you and how those ideas can be used to grow the ministry of St. Luke Union Church. Share your understandings and participate in what is needed for God's kingdom. Your pastor and council are always ready to empower and support the missional projects that God is equipping and calling you to accomplish.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

We constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Andy Gifford

Birthdays & Anniversaries



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
 Sherrie Belletete - 13
 Stevie Allison - 14
 Karen Walters - 14
 Phillip Hamner - 16
 Kaitlyn Radcliffe - 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

Mindy Klapp - 25
 Stephanie Dehner - 28
 Bonnie Redick - 29

Anniversaries -

Brad & Diann Kamp - 18th
 Rod & Margaret Hawkins - 28th
 Bill & Karen Walters - 30th

A Huge Thank You

Thanks so much for all the get-well cards, the prayers, visits, phone calls and the prayer shawl that Carol Parlette delivered. It's so pretty and warm!

Also, I really enjoyed the

Christmas cookies that Ida brought me from the Home Bible Class. They didn't last long!

Would appreciate your continued prayers as I still have to try to get back on

my feet.

Also, thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia from Women's Fellowship.

Vi Fenstermaker

Money Matters As of November 30, 2011

GENERAL FUND	JAN/NOV BUDGET	JAN/NOV ACTUAL
Receipts	\$213,915	\$222,013
Disbursements	\$221,197	\$219,873

See the **Details** bulletin board in the back of Fellowship Hall

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet Thursday, January 12th at 1:30 p.m. Our teacher, Pastor Andy, asked that we read *Matthew 19-21* for our lesson. All ladies and friends are invited to this Bible Study.

Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck

January 22nd, 2012

Immediately following the worship service. Bring your own table service and a dish to share. Drinks will be provided.

Red Cross Disaster Action Team



I am collecting gently used collars, leashes and harness for all sizes of dogs and cats as well as food and water dishes.

As many of you know, I am a member of the American Red Cross Disaster Action Team.

I primarily respond to local disasters, such as house fires.

During my time volunteering with this, I have noticed that many times people are just lucky to get themselves

and their pets out of the house (often times by grabbing the collar of the animal).

Red Cross helps to provide clothing and other necessities for the human members of the family but often times the pets are left out.

I discussed this problem with the full time staff member who takes care of disasters and have gotten the okay to collect pet supplies for disasters. If you have any of these items you can donate,

please contact me and I will make sure they get to the people and pets that need them.

Thank you,
Sarah Franks

News from James Darnell

James Darnell was ordained Sunday, November 13th, 2011 in Washington, DC. He will be serving as pastor of St. John United Church of Christ in St. Clair, Missouri. We wish him God's blessings on his ministry.

Pastor Andy's Trivia

Did you guess the answers to all of Pastor Andy's December Trivia Questions?

Q: What baby was born to a relative of Mary's, about six months before the birth of Jesus?

A: Baby born to Elizabeth was John the Baptist.

Q: What Old Testament prophet predicted the miraculous virgin birth of Christ?

A: Isaiah

Q: Which two of the four Gospels make no mention of the birth of

Christ?

A: *Mark & John*

Q: What is the meaning of the name "Jesus?"

A: "God with us"

Q: When the wise men arrived in the Holy Land, where did they go first?

A: The wise men went to Jerusalem first to ask about the child.

Evelyne Thomas had all five correct answers this month.

Congrats, Evelyne!

January Trivia Question:

In what book of the Bible do we read the words, "For the love of money is the root of all evil?"

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Olivia Trower, who graduates from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor's degree in Community Health on December 17th. Olivia volunteered extensively with Southern Illinois Healthcare as a case worker in their "Strong Survivors Exercise and Nutrition Program for Cancer Survivors and Caregivers." She hopes to work as a wellness counselor in a corporate or healthcare setting.

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.

January 2012