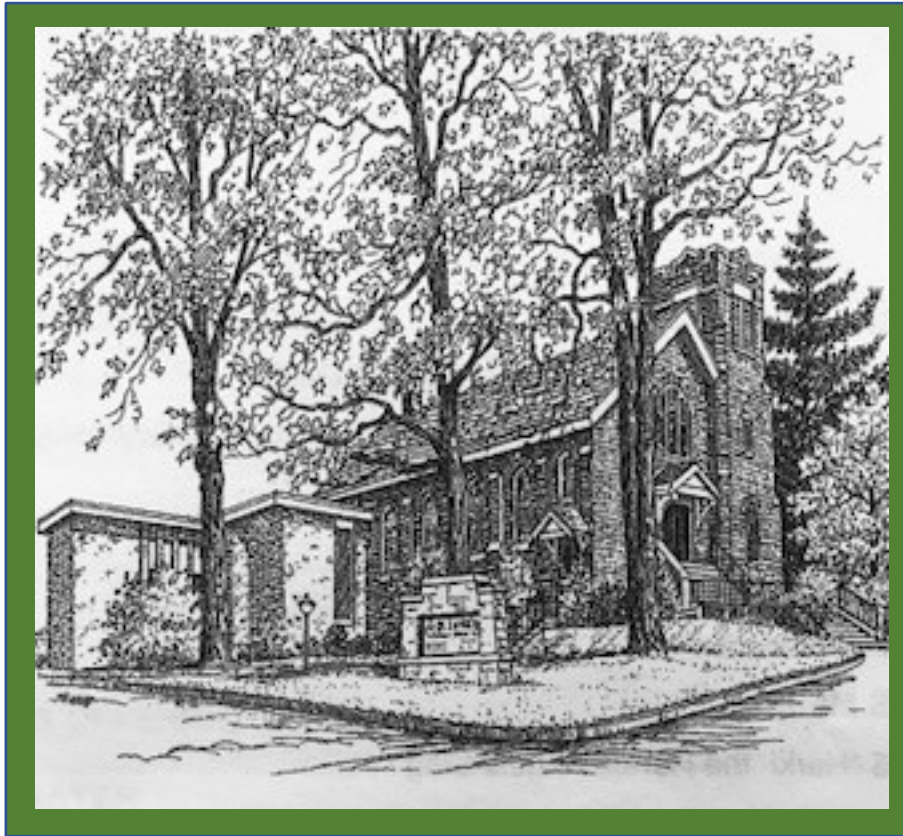


THE BEACON

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
6610 ST. LUKE'S CHURCH ROAD IMPERIAL MO 63052
(636) 948-3545



MAY 2024

Website: www.stlukesuccimperial.org

Email: stlukesimperial@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

May 1, 2024

St. Luke's Family and Friends,

One of the best parts of being a pastor is the opportunity we clergy get to see our people at their absolute best. We get to be around when those who are sick start to feel better and more like themselves. I get to be a part of family celebrations, like baptisms, confirmations, graduations, and weddings. These are precious times and I've treasured every one of them over the years. We are on the midst of celebration season and I hope your family will be a part of our celebration with our confirmands later this month. However, these are not the only times I'm around families.

Some of the hardest times make forever impressions, as well. Over many years as a pastor, I've sat with families who lost children in car accidents, a family who lost a son-in-law in a plane crash, and a young wife and mother who lost both her husband and only child in an accident. I've sat with many families receiving or wrestling with difficult diagnoses. We read about tragic accidents and devastating illness, and we hear about them on the news. Our hearts still break, but it is special when we know those involved, when we know those in the car, or at the scene, or who are given the hard news. When we are a part of the family or community experiencing these losses, it hits differently. Our hearts hurt in deeper, more personal ways when it is those we know and love.

Recently, our community was touched by this type of loss and it was shocking. However, it was not the first time, and it will not be the last. We all know it shouldn't take something as shocking as an accident seemingly out of nowhere to remind us of how fragile life is – but it often does. We too quickly forget this fragility, and the privilege we have to live, and breathe, and simply be in this world. Each day is a gift from God for which we can give thanks, a day to hold our children, parents, friends and loved ones a little closer. We must recognize the moments we have are precious and not promised, but instead gifts for which we should be immensely grateful.

During this season of celebration, as we consider the accomplishments of confirmands and graduates, the forming of families in sharing wedding vows and those welcoming new life, I hope your family has many reasons to give thanks. I also would challenge all of us to be thankful for our lives and the lives close to us each morning and each evening. Nothing is more precious than the time we are given together and no other treasure on earth lasts into eternity.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James", written in a cursive style.

Pastor James

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

President

Warren Stuckmeyer

Vice President

Jess McLard

Secretary

Yvonne Davis

Co-Treasurer

Dave Pippin

Don Dankel

Fin. Secretary

Linda Schrepel

BOE Rep.

Gary Hartmann

BOCE Rep.

Kathy Porter

Bldg. & Grounds

Garry Kraus

Burgess Cemetery/Endowment

Jess McLard / Don Dankel

Pastor

Rev. James Hill Jr.

April 16, 2024, Church Council Minutes

In attendance – Warren Stuckmeyer, Jess McLard, David Pippin, Don Dankel, Linda Schrepel, Yvonne Davis, Gary Hartmann, and Reverend Hill.

At 6:35 pm Warren Stuckmeyer called the meeting to order. Pastor Hill said the opening prayer.

Reports

Church Council – accepted as presented.

Treasurers report – accepted as presented.

Financial Secretary report – accepted as presented.

Board of Christian Education – accepted as presented.

Board of Elders – requested that all board chairpersons send the open/close schedule to Pam so she can send out reminders on Friday's.

Building and Grounds – The thermostat batteries need to be changed.

Cemetery report – accepted as presented.

Endowment committee – Accepted as presented.

Pastor's report – accepted as presented.

Don Dankel made a motion to approve all reports as presented. Gary Hartmann seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

Old Business

Church will have a town Hall discussion following worship on April 28.

New Business

Building use – Yvonne Davis made a motion to approve building use for McLard family use on May 19, 2024. Linda Schrepel seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

Membership changes

Deaths – none

Births – not yet

Membership – no changes

Open/Close schedule

May 19 – Jess McLard

May 26 – Don Dankel

Yvonne Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Gary Hartmann. All were in favor and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March

General Giving	\$13,512.36
Expenses (Operational)	\$10,781.19
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$2,731.27

YTD 2024

General Giving	\$48,798.13
Expenses	\$61,713.86
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$(12,915.73)

Does not include Easter's deposits.

The Church Council is asking everyone to do their part to offset the above deficit. Thank you for your support. This is your Church.

BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS

Julie Hartmann, Chairperson
Judy Duro, Visitor Care
Brenda Day, Ushers
Pastor James Hill

Kay Moss, Worship
Michelle Perry, Secretary
Tim Hollerbach, Member
Gary Hartmann, Council Rep.

We had 121 people for the Good Friday service and 128 for the Easter service.

Ushers: Pastor James mentioned he is very happy with the diversity of people who are ushering.

Visitor Care: 67 visitors in march.

The Elder's would like to thank Greg McLard for organizing the men to play the parts for the Good Friday Tenebrae service along with everyone involved setting up along with taking down the stage following the service but especially the men that donated their time to put this service on for our congregation. We would also like to thank everyone who helped set up for the Easter service following the Good Friday service. We received many compliments on the production along with "Thank You's" " from people in the congregation.

Communion & Open/Close Schedule

May thru August: Michelle Perry & Julie Hartmann
September thru December: Kay Moss & Tim Hollerbach

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Angie Logan, Chairperson
Sarah Saputo, Sunday School Superintendent & VBS
Shelbey Stilwill
Emily Dulle

Greg McLard, Secretary
Kathy Porter, Church Council Liaison
Connie Stuckmeyer
Pastor James Hill

Palm Sunday – 11 Kids sang in Church.

Palm Sunday Breakfast – 100+ came to eat. Food / menu worked very well. Donated \$300+

Easter Egg Hunt & Palm Crosses – 20 children, 6 teens, 30 adults this year.

Filled 500 eggs for event. Easter Bunny – Jane Keith volunteered.

Upcoming Events: 05/05/24 Promotion Sunday / Teacher Appreciation

Open / Close Church Schedule

April 14th Angela

May 12th Greg

June 9th Shelbey

WOMEN'S CIRCLE HIGHLIGHTS

There were nine ladies and Pastor Hill who met on Thursday, April 4. The meeting was called to order by Gail Heckenberg at 12:20. *A devotion on the Lord's Prayer was given, and offering collected by Marlyn Palmer. *A floor plan was shared with the group and encouraged to mark areas that are being used for storage, supplies or events. Information should be returned to the Church Council. *Minutes were read and approved from the last two meetings which reflected the new officers for 2024. (Gail Heckenberg, President, Sherry Pippin, Vice-President, Brenda Dankel, Treasure, No Secretary) *Bank accounts will be consolidated and the official name for the group will be changed to Women's Circle (note: all checks will need to be made payable to Women's Circle from now on) *A motion was made and approved to give \$2,000 to the St. Luke's general fund from the sausage dinner. Thank you to all who helped make this possible. *It was decided that the Circle will not sell hanging baskets this year. *Palm Sunday Bake Sale was a success. Another big thank you to our church family for your support. *It was approved to send a check to Every Child's Hope for \$150 as our monthly mission program. *Window Shades will be installed on April 25th. Thank you to Tammy Glaus' family for removing and preparing the windows for the new shades. *Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 2nd at 11:30. * Closed with the Lord's Prayer. All and any women of the church are welcome to join us for fellowship, and see first hand how we can be of service to our church and others.

.QUILTS! QUILTS! QUILTS!

Anyone interested in quilts or quilting, come to church on Tuesdays anytime from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are ready and willing to help you! Come for an hour or two, bring your lunch and stay if you want. We welcome all!

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Keith
Maybree Saputo
Jessa Davis

Fletcher McLard
Mariella Saputo

Jordyn Davis
Jolene Perry

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS..... (*DENOTES NON-MEMBER, NAMES IN BOLD ARE NEWLY ADDED)

Robert Perry*
Megan Nuelle
Lee Nations
Kyle McPhedren*
Jeff Timeus*
Mike Burcham*
Sandy Fischer*
Bob Heitert*
Glenda Dickemann O'Tool
Kathy Porter
Cecil & Betty McLard
Keith Morris
Charles Schultz*

Loren Stuckmeyer
Landon Lambert
Sharlene Schlereth
Paul Seitz
Mandy Hopen*
James Gray Jr.*
Jim Forsyth
Nichole Godi*
Harvey Hegemann*
Jamie Gray*
Jane Kraus*
Cindy (Held) Donaldson
Family of Steve Otto

Ken Eckert
Bob Johnson*
Dave Sheffer*
Wayne Kramer Jr.*
Alan Bess*
Kathryn Morris*
Lauren Watkins
Jean Seymour
Dwight Kraus
Lana Cornish*
Michael Saputo Sr.*
Mike Seymour

Our Military Personnel

Shawn Farson*
Alec Schrepel*
Isaak Hartung*

Christopher Kettler*
Kelsey L. Schwent*
Susan Bablowitz*

Samuel Lowry
Eric Watkins*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mark Sproull	5/1	Matthew Pippin	5/14
Peyton Cusumano	5/1	Amanda Davis	5/14
Sherry Pippin	5/2	William Glaus III	5/14
Liam Pippin	5/2	Adam Riordan	5/17
Tara Cusumano	5/3	Alison Arnold	5/18
Michael Cusumano	5/3	Tyler Mize	5/18
Malachi Lowry	5/4	Taylor Reiff	5/21
Derek Ehlers	5/6	Maybree Saputo	5/24
David Pippin	5/7	Tammy Glaus	5/25
Dustin Hoehn	5/8	Shawn Lambert	5/25
Melissa Price	5/8	Holly Skaggs	5/25
David Fluegge	5/8	Carter Rose	5/25
Gail Jacquin	5/9	Kevin Stockwell	5/26
Wayne Timeus	5/9	Curtis Crawford Jr.	5/26
Barbara McCarthy	5/9	Kody Kraus	5/27
Verlon Thurman	5/10	Shirley Neun	5/28
Jake Narup	5/10	Brenda Farson	5/28
Alexa Stacy	5/12	Ronald Ehlers	5/29
Stacie Perry	5/13	Abigail Bailey	5/29
Nathan Davis	5/13	Carson Schneider	5/29
Brenna McLard	5/13	Shane Weatherholt	5/31

A NOTE FROM CECIL & BETTY MCLARD

St. Luke's Church Family,

Both Cecil and I are so grateful for such a loving church family. We do appreciate all the well wishes, prayers, cards, visits, rides and offers of help. It warms the heart to think of all of you and your willingness to help. It isn't until you are on the receiving end of all those prayers and well wishes that you really appreciated how much of a "family" St. Luke's really is. May God bless all of you. We hope to see more of you in the coming days. Just know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Words cannot express all of our thankfulness especially for Pastor Hill and each and every one of you. May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,
Cecil & Betty

THANK YOU!!!

To Tammy Glaus and family for removing and preparing the windows for new shades.

To Cliff Rebsamen for painting and replacing the no slip strips on the steps leading into the Fellowship Hall. Keeping everyone safe while at St. Luke's is important!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congrats to Hannah Duro for graduating from Missouri Baptist with a BS in nursing.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Do you know of a member of our church or extended community who is graduating this year? Please contact our church office this week. We are planning to recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 2nd, during our morning worship.

ASSISTANCE

If anyone needs help getting to church, please call the church office at 636-948-3545. Assistance is available.

MAY

2 nd	Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm (week 2 of 5) Postponed
5 th	Promotion Sunday
9 th	Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm (week 2 of 5)
12 th	Mother's Day
16 th	Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm (week 3 of 5)
19 th	Confirmation
23 rd	Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm (week 4 of 5)
27 th	Memorial Day
30 th	Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm (week 5 of 5)

JULY

8 th -12 th	Bible School
14 th	Kids Sing In Church - VBS

AUGUST

25 th	Rally Day
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SEPTEMBER

8 th	Goodies With Grands
14 th	Second Annual Fish Fry

OCTOBER

27th Chicken Dinner

DECEMBER

7th Santa's Breakfast / Caroling

22nd Christmas Program / Cookie Reception



God calls us into community. God desires for us a big, inclusive, expansive, welcoming community. One where "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome." Our General Minister & President Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson calls this a "big tent" community. God wants our congregations and our whole Christian movement to be a "big tent" where all can be genuinely welcomed.

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and initiatives that help us live into the United Church of Christ's "big tent" vision. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and renewal initiatives in existing congregations. Your conference and the national ministries work together to use these funds for projects that matter now and for the future of our movement.

Through this offering, we further our commitment to being a multi-racial/multi-cultural church that is accessible to all.

Please join with people across the UCC in promoting the Strengthen the Church Offering on May 19, 2024. You can find materials to promote this year's Strengthen the Church Offering in your congregation at UCC Resources.