

# THE BEACON

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



**NOVEMBER 2023**

**Website:** [www.stlukesuccimperial.org](http://www.stlukesuccimperial.org)

**Email:** [stlukesimperial@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesimperial@gmail.com)

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

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

St. Luke's Friends & Family,

It seems in our larger culture, once we move past Halloween and similar Autumn festivals, our focus turns toward the Christmas celebration and the wonderful, special traditions which the end of our year brings. This can also be true in the life of the church and I confess the Advent and Christmas seasons are among my favorite, too. However, we do not want to move too quickly over the month, cheating the season out of its appropriate place and cheating ourselves out of what we may need to hear from God in this final month of the liturgical year.

One new opportunity will be my first weekly bible study, which will begin on Wednesday, November 15 at 11:00am. This study is called "Sing the Lord's Song" and we will examine the role of music within scripture, in both the Old & New Testaments. This will be a 6-week study and will wrap up on Wednesday, December 20. We will explore songs of hope & promise, victory & triumph, pain & anger, and glory & adoration. Want more information? Stop by my office, give me a call, or drop me note!

This month is also the season where we set aside time to give thanks – thanks for what God is doing in the life of the church, in our families, and in our community. In my personal life, it is a time when I give thanks for every life which is a part of our church. Already, you may be discovering some of the favorite authors – those I like to quote in sermons. One of my favorite is Fredrick Buechner, the great Presbyterian theologian and pastor, and I love the way he puts it: *"The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you."* I'm still learning names – and I apologize for my mistakes! – but I give thanks to God for each of you. St. Luke's would be incomplete without you. This month, as we gather for worship, let us give thanks together.

See you on Sunday!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

Rev. James Hill  
Pastor James  
(203) 889-6440  
jameshilljr@icloud.com

## CHURCH COUNCIL

**President**

Warren Stuckmeyer

**Vice President**

Dave Pippin

**Secretary**

Yvonne Davis

**Treasurer**

Dave Pippin

Don Dankel

**Fin. Secretary**

Linda Schrepel

**BOE Rep.**

Gary Hartmann

**BOCE Rep.**

Kathy Porter

**Bldg. & Grounds**

Garry Kraus

**Burgess Cemetery/Endowment**

Don Dankel

**Pastor**

Rev. James Hill Jr.

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

October 17, 2023 Attendants: Warren Stuckmeyer, Don Dankel, David Pippin, Reverend Hill, Gary Hartmann, Yvonne Davis, Garry Kraus, Kathy Porter, and Linda Schrepel. At 6:35 pm. Warren Stuckmeyer called the meeting to order with a prayer from Reverend Hill.

REPORTS Church Council Report was accepted as given. Treasurers report was accepted as given. Financial Secretary report was accepted as given. Board of Christian Education reports was accepted as given. Board of Elders report was accepted as given. Building and grounds report – Cut tree that fell. Both the parsonage and the church have been sprayed. Put out some spider trays. Cemetery had nothing to report. Endowment had nothing to report. Pastors report was accepted as given. Reverend Hill has purchased a new traveling communion set. He found the old one and put it back for historical purposes. Working on some outings for the Confirmation class. The family trip to Isreal has been put off for at least a year. Don Dankel made a motion to accept all reports as given, Gary Hartmann seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

### Old Business

\*David Pippin will cancel the old credit card that was in Sherry Compton name. We have to use letterhead stationery to cancel the card.

\*Trash and Treasure will end Wednesday 10/18. We did pretty good so far.

\*Cameras for Sanctuary – Reverend Hill had purchased the new camera for the Sanctuary. Waiting to get the network cable installed.

\*Tithely.com – Reverend Hill has received the cube, so we will be able to accept credit cards on the final day of the Trash and Treasure sale and at the Chicken Dinner. This will be able to be used for online giving also. We will put in the beacon, bulletin and website that we are now taking credit cards.

### New Business

\*The Christmas Eve service will be at 11:00 p.m.

\*Yvonne Davis made a motion to approve up to \$200 for a replacement organist for the First Sunday in November when Andrea will be gone. Seconded by Don Dankel. All were in favor. Motion carried. Garry Kraus will open and close the church that day.

\*Gary Hartmann made a motion to approve the building use for the Kramme family on November 23. Yvonne Davis seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed. Garry Kraus will open and close the building that day.

\*Warren Stuckmeyer and Linda Schrepel will make some calls to see about a contract for snow and ice removal.

\* It was brought up to the Council that people don't understand the Endowment Fund. We may look into having someone come and have an estate planning seminar that explains the Endowment Fund.

**Membership Changes**

Death – Carol Cameron and Margaret “Micki” Quinn.

Births - 0

Membership – Walter Miller

**Open/Close Schedule**

November 19 – Don Dankel

November 26 – Gary Hartmann

Yvonne Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Porter seconded. Motion carried and closing prayer was said. Next meeting of the Church Council November 21, 2023 6:30pm.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**September**

General Giving	\$10,384
Expenses (Search Com)	\$ 0
Expenses (Operational)	\$17,512
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$(7,128)

**YTD 2023**

General Giving	\$105,473
Expenses (Search Com)	\$15,069
Expenses (Operational)	\$141,693
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$(51,289)

**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**

<b>Chairperson</b> Julie Hartmann	<b>Secretary</b> Judy Duro	<b>Church Council Rep.</b> Gary Hartmann	<b>Worship</b> Kay Moss	<b>Mentor</b> Jess McLard
<b>Visitor Care</b> Michelle Perry	<b>Ushers</b> Brenda Day	<b>Nursery</b> Julie Hartmann	<b>Pastor</b> Rev, James Hill Jr.	

**Totenfest 11/5/2023. Letters will be sent out to the deceased member’s family that lost loved ones from November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023 This will be open for anyone who has lost a loved one during this time. A statement about the loved one can be sent to the church secretary and will be added to the slide show.**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 11:00pm this year. Brenda Day is looking for volunteers to usher at that service.**

**Time change for service on the chicken dinner Sunday will be 10:00 am.**

Hymn sing- December 31 to be a Christmas Carol Hymn sing.

Hanging of the Greens will be November 26, 2023 This is an All Church Activity and will begin directly following church service. Everyone is Welcomed!

The Elders

and Pastor will encourage people to fill out the purple prayer request, this helps the office secretary to add this information to a spreadsheet

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 14, 2023

### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS**

**Chairperson**  
Angie Logan

**Secretary**  
Greg McLard

**Church Council Rep.**  
Kathy Porter

**Elected Members**  
Connie Stuckmeyer  
Shelbey Stilwill  
Chrissy Kraus

**Superintendent**  
Sarah Saputo

**VBS**  
Sarah Saputo

Rev. James Hill

Sunday School: Low attendance in past month.

Confirmation: Going well. 5 students - Carson Snider added

Open Close Church Schedule :

October 8, 2023 Chrissy (or Dwight)  
November 12, 2023 Sarah  
December 10, 2023 Shelbey

Playground Equipment

Construction/part discussion. BOCE prefers the following:

2 slides, Monkey bars - preferred but optional (price dependent). 2 swings - required. 1 glider - required.

Circular net swing (under play house) - preferred.

Funding details to begin once BOCE receives approval to replace swingset.

Thoughts were to seek funds possibly in this order:

1st - Youth Fund

2nd - Swacker Fund

3rd - Endowment

4th - Fundraising

Upcoming Events:

10/29/2023 Chicken Dinner - soda sales

12/2/2023 Santa's Breakfast

12/17/2023 Christmas Program Cookie Reception

Next meeting: 10/3/2023 6:30pm

### **ENDOWMENT**

Endowment has funds available. Any duly elected or appointed Board, Council or Church Committee (not individuals) are eligible to apply. Applications are available upon request from the Church Office.

## **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!

## **WOMEN'S CIRCLE**

St. Luke's Women's Circle

October 5th , 2023 Meeting

Discussions on:

--Continued planning, updates, and discussion for the October 29th , 2023 Chicken Dinner. It will be a dine-in and carry-out dinner. Price increased to \$15/dinner. Contact Tammy Glaus with questions.

--October mission will be Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity

--Festival of Sharing donations we excellent. We exceeded last year's total of donation kits. Our delivery date of 71 kits is October 7th .

--Blood drive with Impact Life is scheduled for December 18th , 2023, 2:30-6:30pm, St. Luke's Fellowship Hall. Contact Sherry Pippin with questions.

--St. Luke's Trash to Treasure sale will be Oct. 14th & 18th in the Fellowship Hall. Donations should be placed on the stage in the Fellowship Hall by October 7th .

Questions should be directed to Linda Schrepel or Earleen Stockwell.

--Christmas in November is scheduled for November 16th , 6:00pm, at Trattoria Giuseppe. Bring a \$15 gift card of your choice and a canned good for donation. Each attendee will order from the menu and pay for their own meal. RSVP to Brenda Dankel by November 8th .

Next Women's Circle meeting will be December 7th , at 11:30 am at St. Luke's Fellowship Hall. (There will be NO regular meeting in November.) All ladies at St. Luke's Church are invited to attend.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

Jilliam Davis  
Jordyn Davis

Fletcher McLard  
Jessa Davis

Lauren Belt

## **PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.....**

Tina White\*  
Megan Nuelle  
Bob Johnson\*  
Dave Sheffer\*  
Paul Seitz  
Norville Kraus  
Harold Burton\*  
Glenda Dickemann O'Tool  
Alan Bess\*  
Family of Carol Cameron  
Family of Michael Farson

Robert Perry\*  
Kay Carter  
Lee Nations  
Dianna Johnson\*  
Betty Acre  
Trevor Dulle\*  
Jeff Timeus\*  
Mandy Hopen\*  
Family of Ed Grimm  
Family of Margaret "Micki" Quinn

Loren Stuckmeyer  
Landon Lambert  
Sharlene Schlereth  
Kyle McPhedren\*  
Family of Della Kramme  
Wayne Kramer Jr.\*  
Paul Seitz

### **Our Military Personnel**

Shawn Farson\*  
Alec Schrepel\*  
Isaak Hartung\*

Christopher Kettler\*  
Kelsey L. Schwent\*  
Susan Bablowitz\*

Samuel Lowry  
Eric Watkins\*

## **THANK YOU FROM THE RAEBEL FAMILY**

St. Luke's and Friends, thank you for your prayers, cards, visits & thoughts during Rose's illness. All the support meant so much to each of us! Thanks to everyone for your cards, prayers, phone calls and donations to the Church and just being there in general upon her passing. A huge thanks to the Women's Guild for preparing a wonderful funeral luncheon. All your hard work preparing, serving & cleaning up meant the world to each of us. A very special thank you to Pastor James. Your love, visits & support helping us get through this means so much. Thanks for coming to visit Rose in the hospital even before you were officially the Pastor, also all the times you came by the house when we needed you the most. May God bless each and everyone of you.

## **FROM THE KRAMME FAMILY**

It is with love that the family of Della Kramme is announcing her passing.

Della Marie Kramme (nee Koechig), 99; passed away on October 23, 2023. She was preceded in death by her late husband of 70 years, Vernon W. Kramme. She is survived by four children: Lora Jean (Ken) Eckert, Vicki Sue (Steve) Carpenter, David Arthur (Dorothea) Kramme and Jana Marie Kramme; six grandchildren: Matthew and Justin Dixon, Rachell Dieckhaus and Courtney, Kaitlyn and Rachel Kramme; five great-grandchildren; sister Meta Siemers and many other nieces and nephews, godchildren, family members and friends.

She was an educator and shared her knowledge with too many students to count over her 39 years of teaching.

She devoted herself to her family and friends. She loved sewing and cooking for her family. But most of all she loved her flower garden and those who shared her hobby.

She was a member of St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Imperial for over 60 years. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Luke's United Church of Christ.

Visitation and Memorial Service to be scheduled, but will be at St. Luke's United Church of Christ 6610 Saint Lukes Church Road, Imperial, MO 63052 with a luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall at St. Lukes United Church of Christ.

A private internment at Shepherd Hills Cemetery to take place at a later date.

## **CHICKEN DINNER**

A BIG Thank You to everyone who helped make the Annual Chicken Dinner a huge success. This Church is truly blessed to have such hardworking members. The first dine-in Chicken Dinner since Covid, and we served 528 dinners. Wow! Thanks Everyone!!!

## **PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

Please welcome Walter Miller to St. Luke's. Walter's parents were long time members and Walter was baptized at St. Luke's. He plans on moving back to this area this fall.

### **NOVEMBER**

4<sup>th</sup> Jason Stuckmeyer Wedding  
26<sup>th</sup> Hanging of the Greens

### **DECEMBER**

2<sup>nd</sup> Santa's Breakfast  
17<sup>th</sup> Christmas Program / Cookie Reception

## **THANK YOU!!!**

The BOE wants to extend our thanks on behalf of Brenden's Friday Backpacks. We collected approximately 780 items that they used to prepare bags for Jefferson County students in need. Thank you for being so generous.

To Cliff Rebsamen for removing, replacing, and re-grouting the tiles in the Parsonage kitchen floor and entryway that had broken loose over the recent months.

To Dwight Kraus for servicing the tankless water heater and cleaning and installing new guts in the men's toilet.

To Kraus Dairy Farm for providing a tractor and brush hog to mow the brush along the gravel road.

To Garry & Denise Kraus for cutting up and removing a tree that blew down in a storm and was blocking the bridge to our Church.

We are so fortunate at St. Luke's to have folks like Cliff to take on this type of challenge and do such a great job!

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Carrie Weatherholt	11/3	Katie Medina	11/15
Ethan Miller	11/3	Angela Rebsamen	11/16
Lacie Shaye Perry	11/3	Denise Kraus	11/16
Wesley Allen	11/4	Llewlyn Perry	11/17
Lisa Stuckmeyer	11/5	Jody Stockwell	11/18
Daryl Steffen	11/5	Rebecca Hollerbach	11/18
Minerva Ainsley	11/6	Gracelyn Rose	11/18
Haley Stuckmeyer	11/7	Jane Rebsamen	11/19
Abraham Kraus	11/7	Dorothy Schlittler	11/19
Rachel Pippin	11/8	Donald Scherer	11/20
Ronald Gillman	11/9	Terry Kohler	11/21
Kinsey Miller	11/9	Evelyn Stuckmeyer	11/22
Emily Dulle	11/11	Thomas Duro Jr.	11/24
Joyce Kraus	11/12	Patty Wirth	11/25
Linda Schrepel	11/12	Brian Haefner	11/28
Belinda Miller	11/14	Robert Schrepel	11/29
Dane Kraus	11/15	Gary Mueller	11/30
Mark Sumner	11/15	Kathy Porter	11/30



**WOMEN'S CIRCLE  
"CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER"  
YOU'RE INVITED!!!**



**PLACE:** Trattoria Giuseppe, 5442 Old Missouri 21, Imperial, MO

**DATE:** Wednesday, **November 15, 2023**

**TIME:** Arrive at 6:00 p.m.

**COST:** We will be ordering off the menu and you will just pay your own bill.

**RSVP:** Brenda Dankel before **November 8th** at 314-330-0337 or [dbdankel@charter.net](mailto:dbdankel@charter.net)

**Below are some of the projects we will be working on if you wish to participate:**

- 1. Please bring a \$15.00 gift card from a store of your choice (Target, Walmart, etc, to be placed in a Christmas card (provided that night).**
- 2. And/or please bring a canned good to be added to the Food Drive.**
- 3. All women are invited...not just Women's Circle Members.**

**Sunday School Food Drive!**

October through the end of December!

Here are some weekly ideas:

**October 15-** BRING ANYTHING CANNED! (beans, tuna, fruit, vegetables)

**October 22-** SQUEAKY CLEAN (paper towels, wipes, vinegar, baking soda, laundry detergent, lysol, sponges, dish soap, comet)

**October 29-** CHICKEN DINNER NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

**November 5-** RISE AND SHINE (breakfast items: pancake mix, syrup, jelly, pop tarts, honey, muffin mix, cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars)

**November 12-** PASTA WEEK (noodles, mac and cheese, sauce)

**November 19-** BOXED IN (snacks, mixes, instant foods)

**November 26-** BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE (soups, hot cocoa, crackers)

**December 3-** CANNED FRUITS AND VEGGIE WEEK

**December 10-** SCRUB A DUB DUB (toilet paper, tissues, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soaps)

**December 17-** PEANUT BUTTER (that's it) \*Christmas Program this evening\*

**December 24-** MERRY CHRISTMAS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

**December 31-** BABY'S HERE (diapers, baby wipes, baby food, cereal, formula)

\*If we reach our goal of 500 items, there will be a movie and pizza reward!\*

