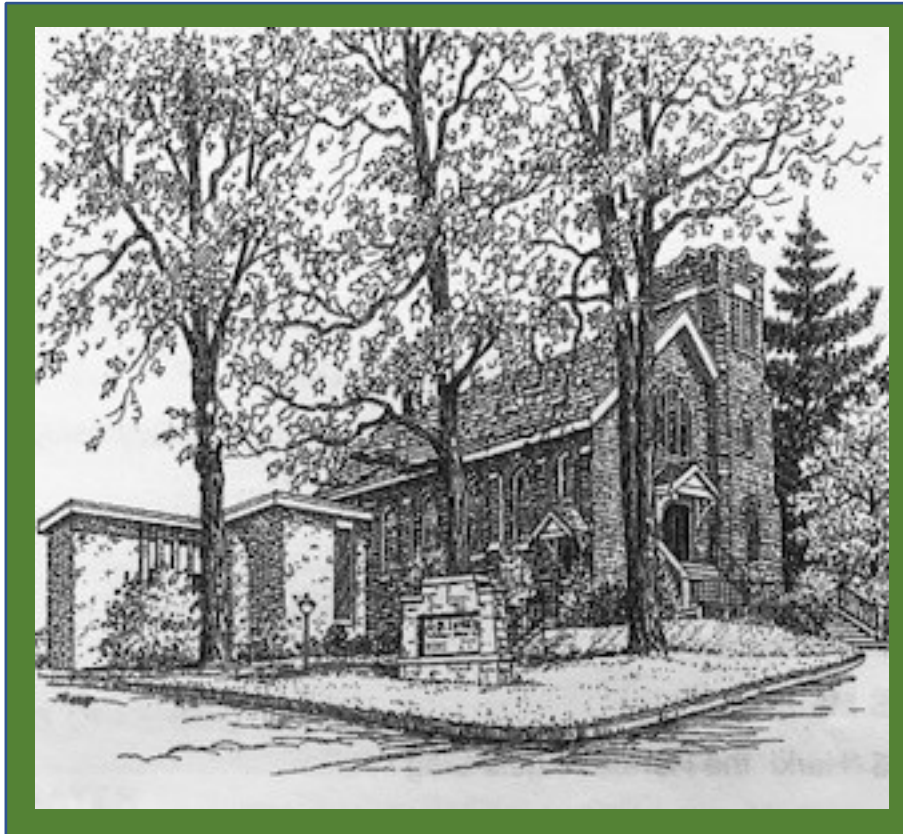


THE BEACON

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



NOVEMBER 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

December 2, 2024

St. Luke's Friends and Family,

Happy New Year! Yesterday morning we began a new church liturgical year as Advent begin again. As I've been worship planning for Christmas and the seasons ahead, I'm really excited for where we are going in this coming year.

However, this is a new season in the life of our church, as well. I cannot overstate how grateful I am to everyone in our church family who took part in making my formal installation as pastor special. Members of our Council and board leadership stepped up to lead worship in roles which I know stretched beyond comfort zones. Our Council took the lead in preparing the meal, but I know they pulled in many other volunteers, too. Our Elders worked behind the scenes in helping our worship flow perfectly and made sure all of our guests felt welcomed. The music our choir shared perfectly captured the time of worship together. The white stole gifted to me is beautiful. I'd mention everyone by name, but it would be impossible not to miss someone. My family remains incredibly grateful for everything.

I also hope you are excited about the immediate opportunities in the life of our church this month. Our Board of Christian Education will host our Breakfast with Santa this coming Saturday – look for more information in this very newsletter! Each Sunday during Advent we will explore the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in some of our favorite worship traditions of the year. Our Sunday School staff and children are working hard on this year's children's Christmas program. I hope you and your family plan to attend on December 22nd for this year's performance. We still have a chance to participate in our gift drive for foster children. And one of my favorite worship services each year remains Christmas Eve, so I hope you are planning to make our 11pm service a part of your family's celebration of the season. Don't miss any of it!

I am truly excited about the future of our church and I hope you are as well. Let's not miss the movement of the Spirit in these special Advent and Christmas seasons.

See you Sunday!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James", with a stylized, flowing script.

Pastor James

Rev. James Hill

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.

November 19, 2024

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

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

Pastors report:

- Bible study will begin again in January.
- Pastor is out of town on December 29 – Guest Pastor to cover Worship service
- The new secretary is working out very well.

Board of Elders:

- David Pipin made a motion to have 2 people moved from the inactive to the active members. Yvonne Davis seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.
- There will be a Christmas Eve service at 11:00 pm with no Christmas morning service.

Building and Grounds:

- The work day was a success.
- The sign at the entrance needs an eye sensor put in.

Cemetery Report:

- It was brought to our attention that there is one site that is sinking. This will be getting fixed.

Yvonne Davis made a motion to approve all reports as presented. Linda Schrepel seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

OLD Business

- Reverend Hill installation – Approximately 75 reservations made. Volunteers needed to serve and clean up.
- Snow Blower – there has been interest shown by a church member to purchase.
- Battery operated blower – This has been purchased and an outlet is needed in the closet.

NEW Business

- 2025 Budget – This will be ready for the annual meeting
- Office computer – Yvonne Davis made a motion to give Reverend Hill an \$800 allowance to purchase a new CPU for the church office. The one we currently have is not big enough and keeps crashing. Reverend Hill will keep an eye out on Black Friday sales. Kathy Porter seconded. All were in favor, motion passed
- The church Council will apply to the Endowment fund for the funds to purchase said computer.

Membership changes

Deaths – Don Baum

Births – None

Membership – Five new members.

- Graham and Rhonda Dobbs
- Dave and Wendy Schiller
- Dawne Sobocinski.

Open/Close schedule

December 15 Gary Hartmann

December 22 Yvonne Davis

December 29 Don Dankel

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

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6:30 pm

TREASURER'S REPORT **October**

General Giving	\$10,494.00
Expenses (Operational)	\$14,043.98
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$3,549.98)

YTD 2024

General Giving	\$149,915.10
Expenses	\$160,976.05
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$11,060.95)

We are very grateful for the continued support of all who give to the ministry of our church. It is only through the faithful stewardship of our people that we are able to be the church God has called us to be in this community.

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.

November 12, 2024

MEMBERSHIP

- Confirmation Classes
 - Classes resume Sunday, Nov. 17. All classes are scheduled through the end of the year, including three field trips planned with Kirkwood UCC.
- Baptisms
 - None.
- Weddings
 - None.
- Funerals
 - Donald Baum of Texas, services held Friday Nov. 15. Pastor James to share specifics through all church email.
- New Members
 - Dave and Wendy Schiller, Dawne Sobocinski, and Graham and Rhonda Dobbs

OLD Business

- Thanksgiving Service 11/24/24
- December Worship Service: Blue for Advent season and Christmas Banner
- Pastor James' Installation
- Totenfest 11/3/24

NEW Business

- New Member Sunday details
- Hanging of the Greens November 24, Nativity set up.
- Christmas Even service scheduled at 11pm
- Taking down of Hanging of the Greens January 12, 2025
- Caroling interest for Shut-ins
- Possible Liturgist Schedule
- Christmas envelopes will be placed in Bulletins Dec 15th and 22nd . Pastor James to explain during Sunday Worship

Open/Close schedule for November & December: Kay Moss & Tim Hollerbach

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:30 pm

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

November 1, 2024

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Started food drive. Few classes in the past few weeks.

CHURCH COUNCIL

- Organization of Pastor James' Installation
- Hanging of the Greens Nov. 24th
- New secretary hire – Stephanie Morlan

CONFIRMATION

- Three joint excursions planned with Kirkwood UCC.

MISSIONS:

- Food Drive this quarter.

Upcoming Events:

12/1/24 – Pastor James' Installation

12/7/24 - Santa's Breakfast

12/22/24 - Christmas Program / Acts of Kindness Experiment / Cookie reception

Open/Close schedule:

Dec 8, 2024 – Shelbey Stilwill

Jan. 12, 2025 – Sarah Saputo

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm

WOMEN'S CIRCLE HIGHLIGHTS

November 7, 2024

There were nine women who gathered on November 7. Business was conducted as follows:

- Opening prayer and welcome by Gail Heckenberg.
- Devotion by Betty McLard.
- Treasure report was approved.
- Minutes were read and approved.
- It was agreed to give a \$150 donation to Compass (Comtrea) as the mission for November.
- It was approved to donate \$3,000 to the St. Luke's general fund. Chicken dinner results were discussed (254 carry-outs, 246 dine-in, total 500 meals) We sold out by 3:10 pm

- Landscaping was completed by Chris Shrepel.
- Thank you cards are being sent to the Stuckmeyer's for donating cabbage for slaw and Linda Mueller for donating a lot of craft items to the bazaar table.
- In leu of booking a blood drive at the church, it is asked that on December 2 anyone who wishes to donate blood go to the Impact Life facility in Arnold and tell them it is under St. Luke's name for giving.
- it was approved to pay for the cake for Pastor Hill's installation/reception.
- Discussion & planning for taking cookies to the shut-ins sometime in December.
- Brenda & Don Dankel will be posting Toy Drive information (unwrapped) and Children in Need gift cards (wrapped) in the fellowship hall very soon.
- Reminder of the Christmas in November on Wednesday, November 20 at Pasta House in Arnold, 6:00. RSVP to Brenda Dankel.
- *As always, any and all women of St. Luke's are invited to attend our meetings on the first Thursday of each month. Come and fellowship with us and see how you can be a part of supporting our church, community and mission work.

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!

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

On behalf of the Women's Circle - THANK YOU! The **CHICKEN DINNER** was a big success and it is because of all those who helped on both Saturday and Sunday; and in many cases before that during the planning stages. Your time, donations, and support does not go unnoticed. It takes a village and because of this village, the Women's Circle is able to donate \$3,000 to the St. Luke's general fund.

With Deepest Gratitude,
The Women's Circle

Another **THANK YOU** to all of the ladies who attended and contributed to a "Christmas in November". We had 24 ladies in attendance, collected \$540.00 in gift cards for A Safe Place, and collected 152 food items for the food pantry. Several people will benefit from our good time!

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

Robert Perry*
Lee Nations
Jeff Timeus*
Sandy Fischer*
Bob Heitert*
Keith Morris
Al Jay Kraus*
David Belleville
Family of Dale Ehlers

Loren Stuckmeyer
Sharlene Schlereth
Alan Bess*
Jim Forsyth*
Glenda Dickemann O'Tool
Cindy (Held) Donaldson
Carolyn Kraus
Rhonda Dobbs
Family of Ruth Winberry

Bob Johnson*
Kyle McPhedren*
Mike Burcham*
Lauren Watkins*
Kathy Porter
Paul Schneider
Brenda Farson
Family of Donald Baum
Mark and Shirley Piersley

Our Military Personnel

Christopher Kettler*
Eric Watkins*

Samuel Lowry
Isaak Hartung*

Alec Schrepel*
Susan Bablowitz*

Kelsey L. Schwent*
Brian Randolph*

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Matthew Riordan	12/1	Jordyn Davis	12/15
Ronald White	12/5	Judd McLard	12/17
Stephen Anthonies	12/5	Barbara Lambert	12/18
Kregg Kraus	12/5	Wayne Raebel	12/19
Katelynn Schimsa	12/6	Fletcher McLard	12/20
Mary Hollerbach	12/8	Stacey Miller	12/22
William Michel	12/8	Christopher Cano	12/23
Carol Cameron	12/10	Jessica McLard	12/23
Bernice Roffler	12/11	Courtney Anthonies	12/24
Shelbey Stuckmeyer	12/11	Johnny McKenzie	12/25
Jessa Davis	12/11	Suzanne Magee	12/28
Garry Dale Kraus Jr.	12/12	Burnell Raebel	12/29
Glenda Haefner	12/12	Ashley Carpenter	12/29
Susan Gillman	12/13	Zachary Nuelle	12/29
Joan Thurman	12/14	Judy Dehner	12/30
Warren Stuckmeyer	12/14	Lewis Johnson	12/30
Paislee Carver	12/14	Brenda Day	12/31

TOY DRIVE

St. Luke's is once again conducting a toy/gift drive this Christmas season. We will be working with one of our local schools. The gift drive begins on November 24th and ends on December 15th. Gift suggestions will be given in the cards that will be posted in Fellowship Hall. We appreciate everyone's generosity and look forward to another successful toy drive this year. If you have any questions, contact Brenda or Don Dankel at 636-942-3630; 314.330.0337 (Brenda's cell); or 314.705.2729 (Don's cell).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

DECEMBER

1 st	Pastor James Installation 3:00pm
3 rd	BOCE Meeting 6:30pm
7 th	Santa's Breakfast / Caroling
10 th	BOE Meeting 6:30pm
17 th	COUNCIL Meeting 6:30
22 nd	Christmas Program / Cookie Reception
24 th	Christmas Eve – Worship at 11:00pm
25 th	Christmas Day
29 th	Guest Minister
31 st	New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2025

2 nd	Women's Circle, 11:30am
7 th	BOCE Meeting, 6:30pm
14 th	BOE Meeting, 6:30pm
21 st	COUNCIL Meeting, 6:30pm

Sunday School Food Drive!

October through the end of December!

Here are some weekly ideas:

October 13- BRING ANYTHING CANNED! (beans, tuna, fruit, vegetables)

October 20- SQUEAKY CLEAN (paper towels, wipes, vinegar, baking soda, laundry detergent, lysol, sponges, dish soap, comet)

October 27- CHICKEN DINNER NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

November 3- RISE AND SHINE (breakfast items: pancake mix, syrup, jelly, pop tarts, honey, muffin mix, cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars)

November 10- PASTA WEEK (noodles, mac and cheese, sauce)

November 17- BOXED IN (snacks, mixes, instant foods)

November 24- BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE (soups, hot cocoa, crackers)

December 1- CANNED FRUITS AND VEGGIE WEEK

December 8- SCRUB A DUB DUB (toilet paper, tissues, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soaps)

December 15- PEANUT BUTTER (that's it) *Christmas Program this evening*

December 22- Bring ANYTHING canned!

December 29- 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!



IMPACTLIFE BLOOD DRIVE

December 1st – 31st

1726 Missouri State Rd.

Arnold, MO 63010

800-747-5401

Hours

Tuesday & Thursday: 9 am - 5:30 pm

Friday: 7 am - 3 pm

Saturday: 7 am - 1 pm

Sunday: 7 - 11 am

Walk in or Schedule appointment

Credit to St. Luke's UCC



It is because of donors like YOU that ImpactLife blood center is continuously able to provide lifesaving blood products to patients in need.

Join us at St. Luke's
DECEMBER 7th
Begins at 9:00AM!

9:00-9:50AM: Snacks & Activities

9:50AM: Story

10:00-10:30AM: Santa!



Breakfast with
SANTA



**CRAFTS, FOOD, STORY TIME
& A VISIT FROM SANTA**

PLEASE BRING A FRIEND AND A CAMERA!

St. Luke's U.C.C. • 6610 St. Luke's Church Rd. • Imperial, MO 63052