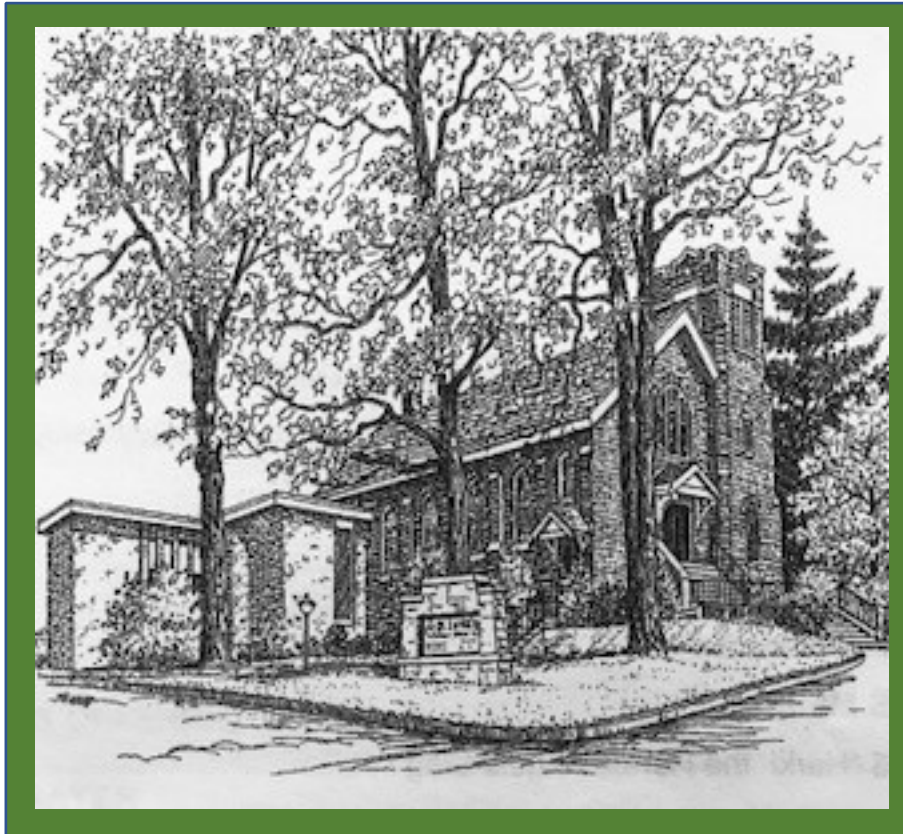


THE BEACON

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



APRIL 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

Dear St. Luke's Family & Friends,

As we leave March behind, we move headlong into April and Spring – the season of Resurrection! I hope you are planning to worship with us in the coming weeks as there is no better time of the year for worship than the Easter season. In addition to our normal worship on Sunday mornings, we have several other special opportunities which will be a part of our weekly time together.

First, on Sunday, April 14, we celebrate the sacrament of baptism once more. On Sunday, May 5, we will recognize our promoting Sunday School students and honor our dedicated teachers and volunteers during morning worship. Finally, on Sunday, May 19, we will celebrate with our Confirmands and their families as they reach the end of their journey to Confirmation. These will be Sundays no one will want to miss!

Also in April, I will begin my next mid-week Bible study. Our last study was during the day, so this one will be in the evening. However, I'll do my best to get us all home before dark! This study will last five weeks and will be on Thursdays at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. I'm calling this study "Peter: Courage, Failure, and Hope" and we will trace the journey of the Apostle Peter through the gospel narratives as we look to learn from his experience. Want to know more? Join us for the first week on Thursday, April 25th, at 6:00PM.

Finally, I want to say a very special thank you to all who made our worship experiences wonderful during Holy Week. From the children singing on Palm Sunday, to the dedicated crew leading our Good Friday Tenebrae service, to our choir leading all through Easter morning, to all the ushers, liturgists, and helpers, these were wonderful times for us to seek God's presence as we experienced once more what it was for our Savior to give his life, defeat sin and death, and show us a love which will not end.

I've enjoyed learning about some wonderful traditions here at St. Luke's during the recent weeks. Let's keep making some more together.

Grace and peace,



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.

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

At 6:40 pm Warren Stuckmeyer called the meeting to order. Pastor Hill said the opening prayer.

Reports

Church Council – accepted as presented.

Treasurers report – Yvonne Davis made a motion to move funds from savings to checking to cover extra expenses. Garry Kraus seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Linda Schrepel made a motion to move Stewardship and Adult Fellowship funds to the general funds as these groups are no longer active. Gary Hartmann seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

Financial Secretary report – accepted as presented.

Board of Christian Education – Accepted as presented.

Board of Elders – Don Dankel made a motion to Baptize Jamie, Henry and Carson Schneider. Seconded by Gary Hartmann. All were in favor, Motion carried.

Garry Kraus made a motion to permit the Board of Elders to donate the children's chairs that we have left over to a new church being established in Hillsboro. Don Dankel Seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

Building and Grounds – Gravel has been spread on the road. Dwight Kraus worked on the water fountain that was leaking and unclogged pipes as needed. We will be having someone come look at the Fellowship Hall roof since it has been a long time. We will be having the A/C units serviced for the year.

Cemetery report – accepted as presented.

Endowment committee – Accepted as presented.

Pastor's report – Reverend Hill has signed up to take the UCC History course online. Garry Kraus made a motion to cover the cost of the class and books. Jess McLard seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

We have changed streaming services from Zoom to You Tube. There is a big improvement.

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

Old Business

Swing Set –Dane and Garry Kraus will look into getting mulch.

Technology Team – They have a few members but would like to have more.

Building Usage. Garry Kraus made a motion to let Midwest Music Therapy services continue their services on Mondays for a few more weeks. Don Dankel seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

All Board Meeting – the church schedule did not change. The church will have a town Hall discussion following worship on April 28.

New Business

Road Signs – we need to fill out permits to have the road signs at the cemetery and down in Antonia. We will get those filled out.

Membership changes

Deaths – none

Births – not yet

Membership – no changes

Open/Close schedule

April 21 Garry Kraus

April 28 – Gary Hartmann

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.

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 will be switching from ZOOM to YouTube. Pastor will make an announcement in church. He will contact the regular ZOOM users to communicate this change and give instructions on how to connect to YouTube. Information will be posted in our weekly bulletins and in the Beacon.

Good Friday service will be a Tenebrae service on March 29th at 7 PM.

The black stole for Good Friday, used to drape over the cross, was replaced by a new stole created by Gail Lents. The BOE would like to thank Gail for making this new stole.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

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

Greg McLard, Secretary
Kathy Porter, Church Council Liaison
Connie Stuckmeyer

The puppet show went well. Everyone loved it.

Kids will sing in church on Palm Sunday 3/23/24.

Confirmands had 2 trips last month. Cathedral Basilica and a Shabbat's service. All confirmands attended both.

Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast had approximately 80 in attendance.

The cans were taken to recycling and earned \$14.50.

Ordered a new Easter Bunny costume from Amazon. The cost was \$83.50. Confirmands will be the bunny.

No Sunday School on the following dates: Palm Sunday (March 24th) Easter (March 31st) Promotion Sunday (May 5th) Memorial Day Weekend (May 26th) all Sunday's in August.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE HIGHLIGHTS

Lenten Luncheon was a success!

St. Luke's Women's Circle hosted a Lenten Luncheon for four Jefferson County Churches which included St. Martin's, High Ridge, St. Martin, Dittmer, Hope UCC, DeSoto and St. Luke's. It was the first time this Lenten gathering took place in four years due to Covid shut down. The luncheon was a big success with 50 people attending.

Rev. Hill did an inspirational devotion as well as a communion service. A big thank you to Connie Stuckmeyer for sharing her talent by playing the piano. A free will offering was collected in the amount of \$227 which will be divided and donated to Every Child's Hope and Jefferson County Hospice.

I want to thank all the ladies of Women's Circle and others for providing & taking care of the food, decorations, serving, set up/clean up, and ushering - it takes a village and St. Luke's has a great one.

We are blessed,
Gail Heckenberg, President

The Women's Circle would like to give a big shout out and a big thank you to our St. Luke's family for the support you give us in our different projects we sponsor. Your help with working the sausage dinner and chicken dinner, buying bake sale items, flower baskets, giving to the Festival of Sharing, or whatever we do, it is so appreciated. We could not do it without you, and because of you it is a big success. And because it is a big success we are able to give back to the church, to do community outreach programs, and to do projects within our own church.

So with deep appreciation and gratitude, thank you.

St. Luke's Women's Circle

Women's Circle - Special Meeting - February 27, 2024

The Women's Circle had a special meeting on February 27th to plan and take care of usual business since the Lenten luncheon would fall on the regular meeting date of March 7th. Business was as follows:

- Review of Sausage Dinner: 540 meals (plus 20 for Safe Place & Fire Dept.). Financial discussion will be done at the April meeting after all accounting is finalized.
- Window Shades were approved to purchase for the fellowship hall, upstairs classrooms, and handicap entrance window in the amount of \$5,585.
- Palm Sunday Bake and Bakeless Sale will be before (if available) and after church on March 24th.
- It was approved to purchase Easter Lilies for the sanctuary windows and altar areas in celebration of Easter morning.
 - It was approved to send \$150 to Every Child's Hope for the March mission.
 - The slate of 2024 officers were: Gail Heckenberg, President; Sherry Pippin, Vice-President; and Brenda Dankel, Treasure. There is still a need for a secretary.
 - It was approved to officially change the name of the women's group to be "Women's Circle" and change all banking to realize this change.
 - Plans for the Lenten Luncheon was finalized.
 - Next meeting will be Thursday, April 4, 2024, 11:30

As always, all women of the church are invited to be a part of the Women's Circle to share in fellowship, engage in work projects, and be a part of community outreach. Respectfully submitted,
Gail Heckenberg

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

Wyl Belt
Maybree Saputo

Fletcher McLard
Mariella Saputo

Lauren Belt
Roni Belt

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

(*DENOTES NON-MEMBER, NAMES IN BOLD ARE NEWLY ADDED

Robert Perry*
Megan Nuelle
Lee Nations
Dianna Johnson*
Wayne Kramer Jr.*
Alan Bess*
Kathryn Morris*
Lauren Watkins
Glenda Dickemann O'Tool
Dwight Kraus
Cecil & Betty McLard
Lana Cornish*

Loren Stuckmeyer
Landon Lambert
Sharlene Schlereth
Kyle McPhedren*
Jeff Timeus*
Mike Burcham*
Sandy Fischer*
Bob Heitert*
Harvey Hegemann*
Kathy Porter
Jamie Gray*

Ken Eckert
Bob Johnson*
Dave Sheffer*
Paul Seitz
Mandy Hopen*
James Gray Jr.*
Jim Forsyth
Nichole Godi*
Jean Seymour
Jane Kraus*
Michael Saputo Sr.*

Our Military Personnel

Shawn Farson*
Alec Schrepel*
Isaak Hartung*

Christopher Kettler*
Kelsey L. Schwent*
Susan Bablowitz*

Samuel Lowry
Eric Watkins*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sandy Kraus	4/1	Susan McKinley	4/19
Henry Schneider	4/1	Arnedo McClenahan	4/20
Sharon Kraus	4/2	Annie Neislein	4/20
Parizzitta Skaggs	4/3	Melanie Raebel	4/21
Eddie Lowry III	4/5	Jacob Bogowith	4/21
Erin Magee	4/5	Timothy Farson	4/22
Elora Hoehn	4/5	Timothy McKinley	4/22
Michael Jordan	4/6	Gracen Miller	4/22
Gregory McLard	4/10	Kay Carter	4/23
Zach Neislein	4/11	Timothy Hollerbach	4/24
Bill Magee III	4/13	Patty Bone	4/25
Emma Hollerbach	4/15	Elizabeth Skaggs	4/28
Scott Geary	4/18	Toby Rebsamen	4/29

THANK YOU!!!

To everyone that participated in the Tenebrae Service on Good Friday. It was a wonderful portrayal and could not have been done without everyone's help.

LEADER PUBLICATIONS ATHLETE OF THE WEEK!

Elizabeth Kundert, a senior forward, is a four year varsity starter with 31 career goals and leads the Seckman Jaguars into the 2024 season starting March 28th at Farmington. Last year she earned first-team all conference honors (Suburban Conference Red pool) with 14 goals and 14 assists for 44 points and also was an honorable mention for Class 4 all-state. Elizabeth also is a four-time all state runner in Cass 4 cross country and splits time in the spring with the track and field team, where she was all-state (seventh) in 2022 in the 4x800-meter relay.

CONGRATULATIONS

Matthew Perry and Brandy Schmittler were joined in marriage on Saturday, March 16th. Matthew is the son of Michael and Michelle Perry and the grandson of Kay Olsen.

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

Could you or someone you know benefit from a transportation assist on Sunday morning? Would you be able to help provide transportation? Several members of our church family have shared their willingness to help by providing a ride to and from church on Sunday morning. If you or someone you know would find this helpful, please contact our church office or reach out to Pastor James. In addition, if you would like to be added to our lives of drivers providing assistance, let us know!

Special Offering

Sponsored by the Board of Elders

Annie's Hope provides comprehensive support services to children, teens, and their families who are grieving the death of someone significant, serving families in the greater St. Louis region. Annie's Hope does not charge a fee for families to participate in their programs.



Programs include:

1. Family Support Groups (8-week support groups)
2. Camp Courage and Camp Courage – Teens (4-night/5-day, overnight)
3. Teen Retreats (weekend, overnight)
4. Family Social Events (opportunities for fun and friendship among Annie's Hope families – movie night, miniature golf, bowling, bingo, etc.)
5. School Support and Education (school-based, six weekly sessions, small group of students; crisis intervention; school staff training)
6. Hope & Healing Gathering (an evening event for any grieving family)
7. Horizons (anticipatory grief support)
8. Speakers Institute
9. Community Resource Library
10. Grief Referral Service

A gift to Annie's Hope may be made through our church using the special envelopes included in your worship bulletin. For more information, talk to one of our Elders or contact the church office.

APRIL

14th Baptism of Henry & Carson Schneider
25th Pastor's Bible Study 6pm (week 1 of 5)

MAY

2nd Pastor's Bible Study 6pm (week 2 of 5)
5th Promotion Sunday
9th Pastor's Bible Study 6pm (week 3 of 5)
16th Pastor's Bible Study 6pm (week 4 of 5)
19th Confirmation
23rd Pastor's Bible Study 6pm (week 5 of 5)

JULY

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

AUGUST

25th Rally Day

SEPTEMBER

8th Goodies With Grands
14th Second Annual Fish Fry

OCTOBER

27th Chicken Dinner

DECEMBER

7th Santa's Breakfast / Caroling
22nd Christmas Program / Cookie Reception