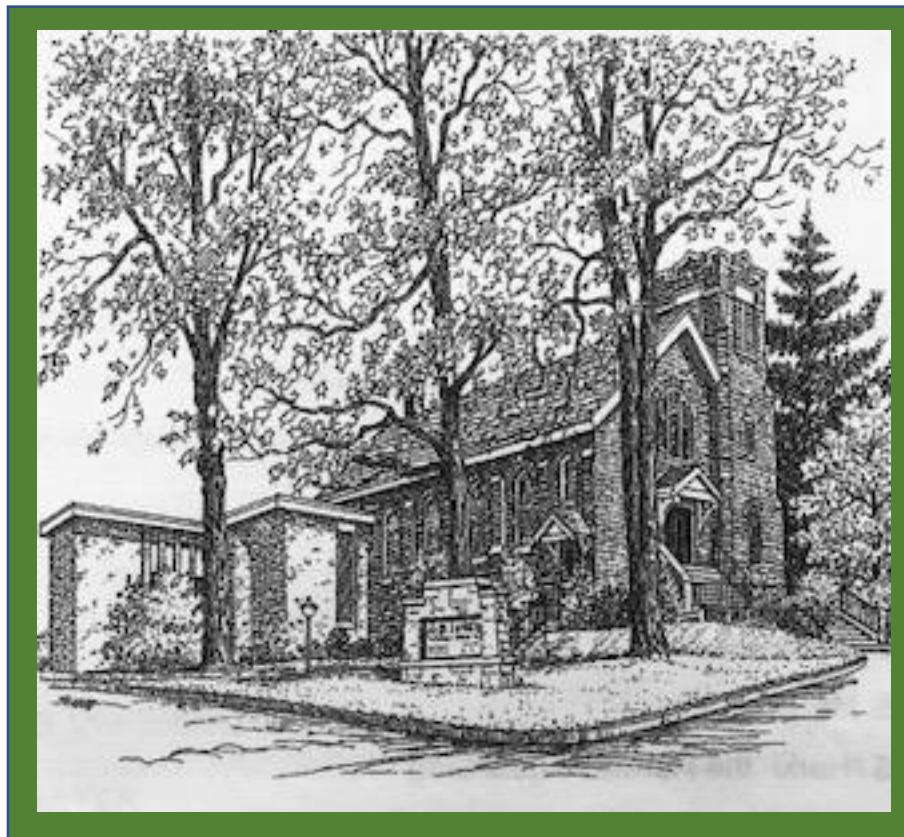


THE BEACON

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



APRIL 2021

Website: www.stlukesuccimperial.org
Email: stlukesimperial@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
OFFICE CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19

From the Desk of Pastor Joshua



Eastertide is here. Alleluia!

The Resurrection has come, and we have been redeemed by the Life, Blood, and Spirit of our Lord! With hope, I write this article, though there is a lot of turbulence. Covid is all around and yet vaccines are on their way. I received my vaccine and am looking to have my second shot middle of this month. Though I did have to drive four hours round trip to get it. So, in May, I will be able to preach in the Sanctuary and meet you all in person.

As we look towards the future, there are many opportunities and challenges that we will need to meet. Opening the church, getting children back in our church, reaching out to the community, basically getting back to church. As we move forward, I would just ask that we have patience and understanding. We all want things to move forward but the speed that they move may not move at a speed you personally desire. We are all working to keep the church as safe as possible for everyone. Know that we want to get back to normal and are doing everything we can do to make it possible to have more in-person worship and church activities.

- Pastor Joshua



- **Tammy Glaus**...for your time and talent put forth to refresh the floral arrangements used on the altar in the Sanctuary.
- **Women's Guild**...for providing the beautiful lilies for this year's Easter Sunday service.
- **Kevin Stockwell**...for cleaning out the storm drain at the gravel parking lot and helping grade and fill potholes. And for cleaning up the cemetery with the assistance of **Adam Stockwell**.
- **Zach Schneider**...for fixing the gas leak at the Parsonage.
- **To those that ...** do so much behind the scenes without anyone even knowing.
- **We have so many people that give so generously of their time!**

Church Update

Guidelines for COVID-19 Amendments as of March 25, 2021

St. Luke's Church Council and Jess McLard, Board of Elders Chair held a meeting on Thursday, March 25th, 2021 to discuss amendments to the St. Luke's Safety Protocol Guidelines and how to safely implement amendments. It was determined that St. Luke's is a hybrid of Phase 3 through Phase 5 based upon the Missouri Mid-South Conference outline. In reviewing the Re-opening plan set forth on June 19, 2020, below are the areas that were discussed in detail along with amendments approved:

Worship Service Reservations - Reservations are still required at this time due to only having one usher each Sunday and making sure we are properly prepared for attendance, each week. These reservations can be made by calling, texting or emailing Tricia, our church secretary or by using the newly developed Signup Genius link that is sent out and available on the Church's website.

Worship Entrance / Restroom Use – We ask that everyone continue to use the handicapped access door to enter the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary doors will be unlocked solely for safety reasons, in case of an emergency. The Educational building restroom use only for Fellowship hall attendees is amended to allow use for Sunday school. The upstairs restroom remains open for Sanctuary attendees.

Social Distancing – The 6ft social distancing request and recommendation to stay and sit with only anyone in your family group has been revised. We realized that many family groups may or may not reside in the same home. The guideline has been revised to accommodate those attending that wish to have their family sit with others if all agree to be together.

Mask Mandate & Sanitizer – Our mask mandate remains the same. Masks must be worn at all times. Sanitizer remains available for your use upon entry and exit of the Sanctuary.

Seating – The pews in the Sanctuary were setup to every third pew open to ensure social distancing. The pew use has been amended to allow more seating. Looking from the altar (the side of the church closest to the driveway) RIGHT, the use of pews 1,3,5,7,9 with added folding chairs at the back wall when needed will be available. On the Parsonage/handicap entrance side of the Sanctuary (LEFT), the use of pews will remain the original setup use of 1, 4, 7, 10.

Communion Sunday – If it is a Communion Sunday, we will continue with "BYO" (bring your own) communion elements. We now have cups sitting on the piano that you may take for communion or you may still bring your own if you wish.

Offering – This remains the same. The offering plate will be at the entrance to receive your offering.

Use of Books / Singing – This remains the same, No Hymnals, bibles, friendship registry in place. In regard to singing, this was amended several months ago to allow CHOIR ONLY and will remain the same as it has been for several months now, NO congregational singing yet.

Service Length – The previous thirty (30) minute time limit on services has been amended to "not exceed one (1) hour, pending special services such as Easter, Confirmation, holidays".

Sunday School - This restriction to not hold Sunday School has been amended to allow the reopen of Sunday School on April 11th, 2021 after Service with guidelines as follow: reservations, assigned seats, attendance list, mask, social distancing, 30 min time limit, teachers clean after, private art box, limit them to the Fellowship Hall and Fellowship Hall restrooms. Confirmation class has moved to Chrissy's classroom.

Church Council

Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2021

The Church Council met on Tuesday, March 16th for their regularly scheduled meeting. Minutes from the February 16th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Executive Committee: Linda Schrepel has agreed to learn the Zoom setup for Worship services.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pittman announced he has received his first vaccination shot and should be in-person by Mother's Day.

Amendment to Re-Open Plan: Jess McLard joined, representing BOE and discussion over line items and how Elders felt regarding amending re-open plan. Motions were made to amend current guidelines.

Endowment Committee: Meeting to be held in May.

Building and Grounds Committee: Lighting has been ordered for the Sanctuary. Dwight will follow up with the electrician for install once the supplies arrive. Dwight has had two appointments with the Sanctuary door contractor but was "stood up" both times.

Cemetery Committee: Warren has been talking with Garry Dale and Derek Ehlers. He is looking to setup a meeting with Becky/Tim and Treasurer so that more than one person knows what is going on with the cemetery.

Worship: Reviewed how worship services are going every Sunday. The Zoom meeting/hybrid in-person worship services are going well.

Sunday School: Sarah Saputo submitted letter to Church Council requesting that Sunday School be reopened, was discussed at an All-Board Meeting held at the beginning of March. Linda Schrepel motioned to approve resuming Sunday School on Sunday 4/11/21 after service. The motion was seconded by Gary Hartmann and majority was in favor. This re-open will follow protocols. (see BOCE minutes).

Resignation: Dave Pippin announced his resignation in effect immediately March 16, 2021 from Church Council as Treasurer. Church Council will be working to fill this position in the coming months.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

ACTUAL

as of February 2021

INCOME	\$ 22,951
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 28,008</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ (5,057)

Board of Elders

Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2021

The Board of Elders held their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Minutes from the February 21st meeting were reviewed and approved.

Worship: In-person worship is going well. Altar cloths were changed from violet to white for communion on Sunday, March 7th and then back to violet for Lent. The altar flowers have been updated to a more spring color theme. Pastor Pittman is trying to keep service to a max of 30 minutes so we can stay within COVID protocol and restrictions.

Ushers: Things are going smoothly with in-person worship services. Need to clarify with ushers that they are responsible for lighting the altar candles at the beginning of the service and extinguishing them at the end of the service.

Nursery care: At this time, no nursery care is being provided.

Communion: A resupply of the pre-filled communion elements has been ordered.

Confirmation Class: Confirmation has been set for Sunday, May 16th during the regular 9 a.m. service. The 2021 class is: Kaylin Hollerbach, Olivia Raebel and Elizabeth Skaggs.

Funerals/Memorial Services: At this time, it is preferred funerals be held at a funeral home.

Weddings: May 21, 2022 Justin Stuckmeyer and Courtney Merli

Old Business: The Elders started their food drive on March 7th. There is a drop off box in the room just inside the handicap entrance. Don Dankel plans to pick up and deliver the food to the food bank. The drive ends on Easter Sunday. Audio quality for members attending Sunday services virtually has improved thanks to Rev. Pittman.

2021 Lenten Mission: The BOE 2021 Lenten Mission will be PonyBird. Lenten envelopes will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for the three Sundays prior to Easter.

Easter Season: In coordination with Rev. Pittman, times have been set for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Member Care: Member Care strategies discussed, and Rev. Pittman said member care should be Elder's priority. Much discussion how to reach out and contact members who have not been attending church.

Bylaws: Elders would like to address what the Bylaws state about membership and present a recommendation at a later date. Membership roles need to be updated before a new Pastor is hired.

Other: The "flower room" just inside the handicap entrance has been cleaned up and refreshed.

Board of Christian Education

Meeting Minutes from March 2, 2021

The Board of Christian Education met on Tuesday, March 2nd for their regularly scheduled meeting. Minutes the December 1, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Sunday School: Connie continues recording the Children's Message, which are archived on our website, as well as being used during the Sunday Worship Service. Sarah presented at an All Board Meeting held March 1, 2021 and the plan to re-open in-person Sunday School will be reviewed and discussed at the next Church Council meeting. Pending approval, the target date for re-open is April 11th. A magnet will be handed out with information at the Easter trunk hunt and announcements will be made in worship services and notices will be posted on social media. The classrooms will be divided into three groups in Fellowship Hall, meeting for 30 minutes following Sunday service. The most recent safety protocols will be followed. Each child will have an assigned seat and an individual supply box. Teachers will be asked to wipe down areas with antibacterial wipes and usher children to "parent pick up".

Confirmation: Confirmands are being invited to make palm crosses on Saturday, March 27th. Confirmation Sunday is planned for May 16th, 2021 and will be held during Sunday Service. Items needed for Confirmation includes white robe rental, red corsages, engraved leather bibles, engraved chalice/communion cups and U.C.C necklaces. We will ask Tricia for previous year's contact information or old invoices to order the above items.

Voyagers / Youth Group: Remains on hold.

Missions: Designated mission for each quarter: PonyBird, Crisis Nursery, Brenden's Backpack and Camp Mo-Val. Chrissy will provide a donation jar for PonyBird collections to be placed on the piano at the entry. This will be updated to reflect the respective mission as it changes. Sarah has contacted someone regarding sponsoring a local family in need.

Canned Food Drive: 400 canned food items were collected or bought with donations. \$200 went to Brenden's Backpack plus additional food items. Note: Aldi's and Amazon Wish List are both places this mission uses for purchasing items. Remaining food items went to Jefferson County Rescue Mission.

Sunday School Classrooms: Terry Kohler agreed to paint the three upstairs Sunday School classrooms. Dwight will meet with Gail to over the details and look at paint swatches. Board members interested in the color choices will meet at 11 a.m. on 03/27/21 at the church.

Calendar of Events 2021: Committee is looking into the upcoming months and possibility of a family VBS event, an all-church picnic, trunk or treat, hayride/bonfire, Santa breakfast and Christmas program.

Evening Circle

Meeting Minutes from March 23, 2021

The Evening Circle group held their meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There were thirteen (13) ladies present. Meeting dues were collected from two members. The group discussed and approved to move forward selling spring hanging baskets as a fundraiser since it is limited on what can be done due to COVID-19. Discussed other fundraising and outreach projects. We invite all ladies of the Church to join us in fellowship and being a part of the discipleship work of the church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Earleen Stockwell, Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 27th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Women's Guild

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Women's Guild is hosting a "New Beginning Luncheon" on May 7th, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the Blue Owl Restaurant in Kimmwick.

Everyone is welcome!

Please RSVP to Marilyn Palmer or the Church Office by May 3rd.

WANTED

If you are currently in possession of a key to St. Luke's, please contact Tricia in the Church office via email or phone to let her know. The office key log has not been updated in too long so for 2021, we are seeking out key holders!

If you no longer need a key currently, we are requesting that you please consider turning in your key to the Church Office. We currently have new Board Members and Committee members that require keys to attend meetings, open/close church, and complete other tasks.

Thank you.



Celebrating a Birthday

1 Sandy Kraus	13 Richard Gastreich	22 Timothy Farson
Henry Schneider	Bill Magee, III	Timothy McKinley
2 Sharon Kraus	Lydia Roorda	Gracen Miller
3 Parizzitta Skaggs	15 Emma Hollerbach	23 Kay Carter
5 Elora Hoehn	17 Jennifer Wallace	Sara Perry
Eddie Lowry, III	18 Daniel Daly	24 Timothy Hollerbach
6 Michael Jordan	Scott Geary	25 Patti Bone
8 Zoe Warren	19 Jared Kraus	Macie Roorda
10 Robert Daly	Susan McKinley	26 Joe Wilson
Greg McLard	20 Arnedia McClenahan	27 Mary Sue Kraus
	21 Melanie Raebel	29 Elizabeth Skaggs
		Toby Rebsamen

"The message below was distributed in Aug of 2020 ... recently, the Church received a bequest from Reverend Marge Swacker's estate, and it has been committed to "future projects" for the Church. I thought it appropriate that this message be published in our Beacon newsletter as a tribute to Marge and her "thoughts and prayers" for all of us."

"Hi! I want to share with all our St. Luke's friends that Reverend Marjorie Swacker has passed away, sometime last night (August 8th.) For the last month or so, she had been in a health care center, where she had preliminarily been diagnosed with dementia. I had spoken with her approximately two weeks ago and she was very confused, and it was one of the few times where she did not end her conversation with "Tell everyone at St. Luke's I said hello, and they are in my thoughts and prayers."

Pastor Marge was our first assigned Interim Pastor and I sat on the Board when she was interviewed for the position. She and I often reminisced about Garry Kraus (SR.) asking her what it was like to be a woman "in ministry". Her answer was close to "... well, I've never been a man in ministry, so I think it's fine!" She was our first woman in the pulpit at St. Luke's.

She and I had remained friends over the many years, as most of you know, having traveled to Europe and on big cruise ships together. Her home was in Oceanside, CA, and Carl & Carolyn Kraus and Gary & I had visited her there, a few years ago. (My sister & her family reside nearby in Mission Viejo, CA.)

Marge was an only child, so in some ways, she may have been lonely near the end. But she always cared about her St. Luke's family and valued her time here. Just thought I could share."

Respectfully, Kay Moss



Bruce Acre*, June Balajka, Melva Bradley, William Brewer*, Londyn Dixon*, Larry Eccardt*, Juliet Gilmore, Betty Gruenewald, Kelly Harrison*, Robert Kempf, Madge Kable*, June Koenig*, Richard Kraus*, Jo Ann Mautner*, Debbie Mentz*, Shirley Neun, Jim Ploesser*, Joyce Ruhland, Jean Seymour, Patricia Sieving, Arlein Simpson, Robert Stuckmeyer, Catherine Talbot*, Mike Talbot*, Donald Wendler*, Ron White, Lisa Young*

Our Military Personnel

Josh & Michelle Brewer*, Caleb Davidson*, Matthew Dixon*, Shawn Farson*, Christopher Kettler*, Joseph Koch*, Samuel Lowry, Eric Oliver*, Kai Reyes*, Edward Van Dee Scharff IV*, Kelsey L. Schwent, Eric Watkins

From Lee Nations and Family

St. Lukes Church,
Thank you for everyone's support
and prayers for Doris and family during
her long struggle with health issues. It
was reassuring to know so many
people were there for us.
Thank you so much for the love
and kindness showered upon us. It
was special and it made a difference.
Thank you for being there for us!
The Doris Nations Family

Hanging Basket Order Form

St. Luke's UCC Evening Circle



\$15 each

Payable to St. Luke's UCC Evening Circle
Payment is due at the time of order

Deadline for orders is Sunday, April 18

Sold by: _____ CUSTOMER NAME	Ivy Geranium (list color) Red or Pink	New Guinea Impatiens (list color) Pink, Red, Orange, Purple	Calibrachoa (MillionBells) Purple, Pink, Yellow (list color)		Double wave petunia Mixed	Geranium Combo (list color) Purple, Red	Non-stop begonia (list color) Red, Yellow	Total amount paid
Grand Totals:								

*If a color or plant is not available one will be substituted

You may place an order by filling out the form on the piano at church or you may call an Evening Circle member. If you choose to mail an order to the church please make sure you mark the envelope Evening Circle and include your payment.

You may Call: Gail Heckenberg 314-630-2248
Earleen Stockwell 314-496-7405

Sherry Pippin 314-805-6051
Brenda Dankel 314-330-0337

Orders will be here for Mother's Day

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

- April 17, 2021 Feed My People is hosting a Virtual Trivia Night: "Famous Friends". Zoom will begin at 6:30 p.m. with trivia beginning at 7:00 p.m. Money will go to neighbors in need. There will be over 60 questions of brain teasers sure to stretch your memory. For more details visit FMP website at www.Feed-My-People.org/events.
- May 1, 2021 Every Child's Hope is hosting a "Game Night Live: Trivia Night Edition" The login and instructions will begin at 6:30 p.m. with questions beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be raffles, prizes, auctions and more! See ECH website for more information and how to register. www.everychildshope.org/events
- Sept. 20, 2021 Every Child's Hope is hosting their 21st Annual Golf Classic at Old Hickory Golf Club in St. Peter's Missouri. Save the Date! See ECH website for more information and how to register. www.everychildshope.org/events