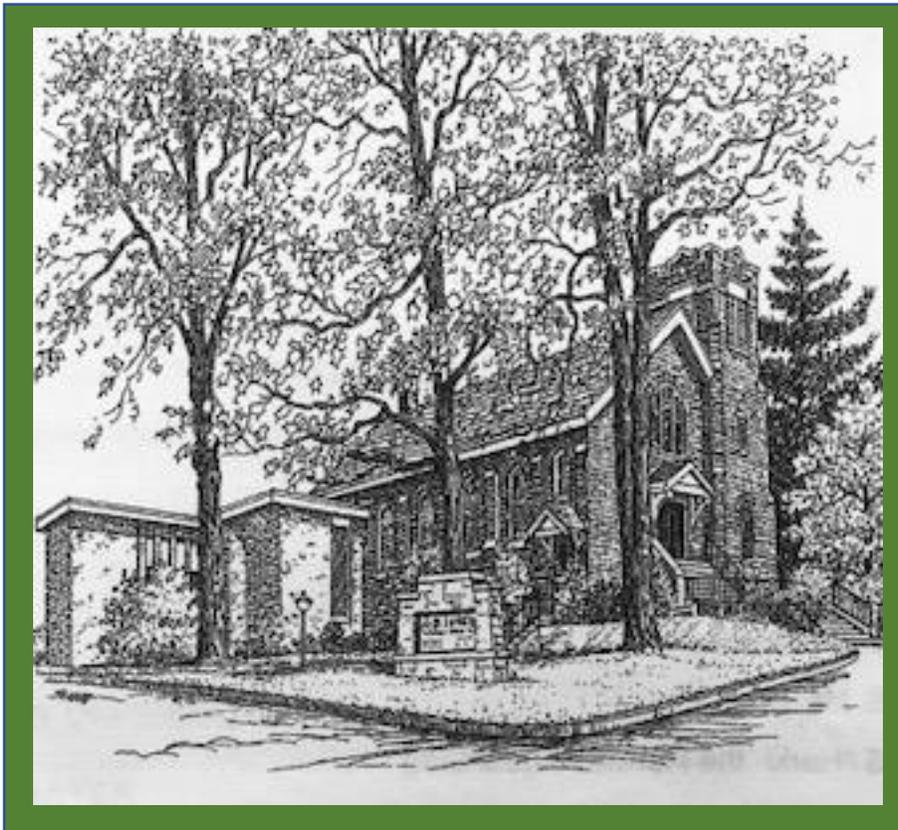


THE BEACON

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



DECEMBER 2021

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

**The Church Office is currently being managed remotely.
Assistance is available via email/phone**

President's Message

The Season to celebrate Christ's birth is right around the corner. It is a special time for family and friends. I hope that everyone celebrates this time of year with KINDNESS. I am afraid the with the stress brought on with the Covid Pandemic, our nation has forgotten how important kindness to everyone is. There are many ways to show kindness. Putting money in a red kettle, giving a gift to a needy child or family, or donating food to a local food bank are just a few wonderful ways on showing kindness. The kindness I hope everyone puts first in their thoughts this season is speaking kindly to others. Remember what a kind word can do for your mood and only speak positively this holiday season. Wishing you and your families a joyous Christmas.

Barbara Allen

Church Council President



St. Luke's is seeking volunteers to serve on the various Church Committees for the upcoming 2022 year (and more!). If you are interested in learning more about how you may be able to help, contact the Church Office or the Committee Chairs.

Attention all children of St. Luke's!!!

Our Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 19, 2021, at 6:45 p.m. Practice for the Christmas program is underway!! Please join us every Sunday at 10:00am for practice in the fellowship hall. All children are welcome and strongly encouraged to participate. The program will include speaking parts done by the confirmation class and numerous songs sung by the children of St. Luke's. We need singing voices so please join us every Sunday at 10:00am to learn some fun, upbeat Christmas songs. There will be a special practice on Saturday, December 18 at 9:00am-12:00 noon.



***Denotes Non-member, (Names in bold are newly added)**

Bruce Acre*, June Balajka, William Brewer*, Tony & Brenda Carter*, Henry Cords, Justin Dixon*, Londyn Dixon*, Luella Gammons*, Betty Gruenewald, Gail Heckenberg, Logan Heckstetter, Adam Hughes*, Doris Kettler, June Koenig*, Jim Kraus, Shirley Neun, Jim Ploesser*, Shawn Rodgers*, Jean Seymour, Jeff Stephenson*, Tammy Stewart*, **Tim Stockwell**, Loren Stuckmeyer, Donald Wendler*, Ron White, Lisa Young*

Our Military Personnel

Josh & Michelle Brewer*, Caleb Davidson*, Shawn Farson*, Christopher Kettler*, Joseph Koch*, Samuel Lowry, Eric Oliver*, Kai Reyes*, Alec Schrepel*, Kelsey L. Schwent, Eric Watkins

Church Council

President
Barb Allen

Vice President
Becky Hollerbach

Secretary
Angela Otto

Treasurer
Sandra Arnold

Fin. Secretary
Linda Schrepel

BOE Rep.
Gary Hartmann

BOCE Rep.
Kathy Porter

Building & Grounds
Dwight Kraus

Burgess Cemetery/Endowment
Warren Stuckmeyer

Interim Pastor
Rev, Joshua Pittman

Meeting Highlight: from November 2021

Pastor: Pastor was not in attendance due to illness. Pastor Josh will be on vacation December 25th through January 1st. There will be a Guest Pastor on Sunday, December 26th

Financial: Sandy Arnold reviewed the Treasurer's report and monthly financials. The accounts were reviewed. Sandy is organizing the "funds" setup in the accounting system. Discussion was had regarding adding an additional person to the Board to assist Sandy. Linda provided the Financial Secretary report and advised the 2022 giving envelopes have been ordered.

Search Committee: Jess McLard addressed Council with questions from the Committee. Jess spoke about Elders and getting a letter out for making inactive members "affiliates" and provided a list for review. Also, it was discussed that we need to make another Bylaw revision to make Inactive members "affiliates" and drop the word "member." There are approximately 60 people to receive a letter. Council approved the list and letter.

Building & Grounds: The fire suppression system will require a new nitrogen cartridge when inspected in January 2022. The cost has been added into the 2022 budget. Dwight arranged for the security guys to meet with a group and setup access to the camera system. Bob & Linda Schrepel have access to rewind recordings from the cameras and Tricia is setup as a user but cannot rewind. Dwight is talking with an Amish company to make wood doors for the church. Peggy called Dwight about some kids on bikes and skateboards playing on the front steps of the church but by the time Dwight got onsite, it was dark, and they were gone.

Endowment: Announcement of endowment funds being available has been included in the Beacon, Bulletin, and news to the church committees.

New Business: Employee Care and Review Board meeting with Tricia on Monday the 22nd and will meet with Pastor after that. The 2022 Budget report initial draft was discussed, and vote will be taken at the December meeting. Discussed the Worker's Compensation Insurance Renewal and it was reviewed and approved.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 16th at 2 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 16th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. (Schrepel Home)

Board of Elders

Chairperson
Jess McLard

Secretary
Bob Schrepel

Church Council Rep.
Gary Hartmann

Worship
Kay Moss

Visitor Care
Michelle Perry

Ushers
Brenda Day

Nursery
Julie Hartmann

Interim Pastor
Rev, Joshua Pittman

Highlight; from November 2021

The Board of Elders met on November 9th, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Minutes were reviewed and approved from the October meeting.

Worship: Things continue to go well. While Kay Moss is out of town, someone else will be updating the altar cloths and filling the candles.

Ushers: Things are going well. Because we are now passing the offering plate, starting with the December usher schedule, a third Usher will be added to each service.

Visitor Care: In September we had ten (10) visitors and in October we had two (2) visitors.

Confirmation Class: Things are going well with the new class of seven members who meet with Pastor Joshua on Sunday right after church. They have started doing the scripture reading each Sunday.

Baptism: Louis Walter Meyer (11/14/21) and Edith Dulle (12/05/21)

Weddings: April 9, 2022: Shelby Stuckmeyer and Kyle Stillwell
May 21, 2022, Justin Stuckmeyer and Courtney Merli

Funerals: At this time, it is preferred that all funeral services be held at a funeral home.

Thanksgiving: There will be no Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service this year.

2021 Christmas Schedule: The Church will be decorated for Christmas / Advent Season on Sunday, November 28th following service and pizza lunch will be provided. On Sunday, December 19th, Worship Service will be a Christmas Carol Hymn Sing. On Friday, December 24th, there will be a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. with communion. The format for the service will be lessons and carols where a Christmas themed scripture is read then a carol sung that applies to the scripture. There will be NO Christmas Day service on Saturday, December 25th. Pastor Josh will be out of town on Sunday, December 26th and a Guest Pastor will do the service. BOE to work with Church Secretary on the Christmas Fund Special Offering envelope procedure.

Membership Task Force: Required administrative changes to Church Windows database is in the works. Task force is working with the Church Secretary to get these changes made. The task force has authorized a rough draft of a letter to be sent to members who are not participating in the life of the church. Elders reviewed the letter and recommended a few minor changes before it is sent to Church Council for approval. A list of inactive members will accompany the letter.

2022 Congregational Meeting: BOE has been tasked with providing a recommended budget. This is something new for Elders and will require some thought as to what it should contain.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 13th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Board of Christian Education

Chairperson
Connie Stuckmeyer

Secretary
Chris Kraus

Church Council Rep.
Kathy Porter

Elected Members
Angela Logan
Gail Heckenberg
Sherry Pippin
Sarah Saputo

SS Superintendent
Kayla Bailey

SS Asst Super.
Brenda Farson

VBS
Jess McLard

Highlight; from November 2021

The Board of Christian Education met on 11/02/2021 at 6:30 p.m. Minutes were reviewed and approved from the October meeting.

Sunday School: Practice and preparations for the Christmas program will begin 11/07/2021. Connie is writing the story/narration and adapting the music using versus of familiar Christmas music. A cookie reception will follow the 12/19/21 program, pending approval by the Church Council.

Confirmation: Confirmation is going well and the BOCE will continue to provide support for their needs.

Food Drive: The Sunday School 4th quarter mission continues with plans of reaching our goal of 500 items. Items collected are placed on a table in the Fellowship Hall and tracked on a goal poster. The kids will be rewarded with a movie/pizza/popcorn party upon reaching that goal. Donation boxes may also be found in the Narthex and the handicap entrance while monetary donations will be used to purchase food.

2022 Budget: The 2022 budget is due before the next Church Council meeting on 11/16/2021.

Trunk or Treat: Trunk or Treat was a huge success with over 70 children in attendance and 14 trunk hosts. Thank you to all who participated.

Bonfire/Hayride: A bonfire/hayride is scheduled for all to attend on 11/13/2021. Chili, hotdogs, treats and lots of fun will be provided. The road will be closed for through traffic from 5:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Santa's Breakfast: Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. There will be breakfast and crafts. Santa is scheduled to arrive at 9:45 a.m. Bring your camera to take pictures!

Calendar of Events: The calendar of events for 2022 will be planned and presented for approval at the January meeting.

Dec. 4: Santa's breakfast (Gary Cronin will be contacted)

Dec. 19: Christmas Program / Cookie Reception (makeup date Jan 9th)

2022 Events Pending Approval

Feb 5, 2022: Bingo Night

Mar.13, 2022: Green Eggs and Ham Pancake Breakfast

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 7th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Thank You

A BIG THANK YOU to all that contributed in any way, shape, or form to the St. Luke's Bonfire/Hayride event on Saturday, November 13, 2021!! It was a huge success! There were around 40 people (children and adults) in attendance, and we all had a great time. There was chili, hot dogs, s'mores, hot chocolate, and desserts enjoyed by everyone. The hayride wagon was always full, and everyone even enjoyed a good "scare" on the last trip!! The weather was perfect, and the fire was delightful! Thank you again for your donations and time spent for this event. We could not have done it without everyone. It was a great time!

Connie Stuckmeyer

BOCE Chairperson



Board of Christian Education Annual Food Drive (4th Quarter Sunday School Mission) Through January 2, 2022

The Board of Christian Education is sponsoring their Annual Food Drive. The box for collection will be inside the handicap entrance and in the Narthex. Items will go to Jefferson County Rescue Mission and Brenden's Backpack.

Congratulations



SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

OCTOBER

Jessa Davis
Jillian Davis
Jordyn Davis
Emma Hollerbach
Delaney Jacob
Evelyn Keith
Brenna McLard
Fletcher McLard
Judd McLard
Landen Miller
Logan Narup

NOVEMBER

Jillian Davis
Jordyn Davis
Fletcher McLard
Judd McLard
Clara Narup
Sawyer Narup
Maybree Saputo



We hope you had fun learning about God's word and blessings.

Women's Guild

Highlights from November 2021

A group of nine women met at 11:30 a.m. on November 3rd for a sack lunch and meeting to discuss the new way of having the Chicken Dinner.

Much discussion covered the highlights and the mistakes that we thought were made. It was generally agreed that it was successful and could be attempted again if necessary. A final account of profit was not available since there were several bags of chicken available for sale in the freezer. It was agreed that our advertising needed improvement.

Christmas gifts for the Pastor and Secretary were decided upon and tins of cookies will be purchased for the shut-ins instead of homemade because of COVID. A donation of \$2000 was made to the General Fund.

Please join us for our Christmas meeting on December 2nd at 11:30 a.m. Mary from the Safe House will be invited to this meeting along with Evening Circle. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to be shared.

We will have a combined meeting with the Evening Circle on January 6, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. to discuss a merger of our two groups.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 @ 11:30 a.m.

Evening Circle

Highlights from November 2021

November was a busy month with two fellowship events.

At the beginning of the month, twelve ladies went to Branson to see "Jesus" at the Sight & Sound Theatre. The weather was perfect, scenery was beautiful, and the show was spectacular. We got to do some shopping and ate at Lambert's on the way home. Fun was had by all, and many memories were made.

Our "Christmas in November" was held at Pasta House in Arnold on November 17th with twenty ladies from our church attending. Gift cards totaling \$530 were donated by the attendees and will be given to Lydia's House, Mary's House of Hope, and A Safe Place. There were several canned goods donated as well. For dessert we had carrot cake (in memory of Glenda Craig and using her recipe). The cakes were made by Linda Schrepel and Betty McLard and were delicious. We played a fun game called Who Gets What. Diane Riordan was our game winner and received a beautiful gift basket. A door prize was won by Marlyn Palmer. Thank you to Brenda Dankel and Sandy Winters for coordinating the dinner and festive evening.

We invite all ladies from St. Luke's to join us in fellowship and being a part of the discipleship work of our church.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Committee would like to announce the fund availability for disbursement to any duly elected/appointed Board, Council or Church Committee (not individuals) who complete the application and meet the guidelines.

The deadline for application is January 31, 2022. Submitted applications will be reviewed at the February 7, 2022, Endowment Meeting. Applications are available upon request from the Church Office.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Kundert



Elizabeth returned to and participated in the Missouri State Cross Country competition this year in Columbia, Missouri on November 5th, 2021. She competed in the Class 5 race and placed 36th out of 164 runners. Elizabeth beat her personal record finishing in 19 minutes, 19 seconds for the 5K (3.1 miles) race.

Elizabeth is a Sophomore at Seckman High School.

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

"We would like to thank all of our St. Luke's friends for all of the prayers, get well cards, phone calls, concerns and food brought in during Rose's surgery and rehab. We are both doing better. Thanks to all"

Burnell & Rose Raebel



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

St. Luke's will be spreading Christmas Cheer on Saturday, December 18th. The Church Office emailed out a Signup Genius for those wishing to participate, attend and carpool. Everyone can meet at the Church Parking lot at 3:30 p.m. that day. Please sign up by Monday, December 6th if you wish to participate.



ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL TOY DRIVE 2021
Through December 12th

St. Luke's is participating in a local Toy Drive this year and we are asking for your help. This year, we are working with one of our local schools, as well as the Jefferson County Toy Distribution Campaign conducted by the Heart of Apostle Fellowship Church.

- Please have your gifts to St. Luke's Church by December 12th.
- Please place **unwrapped** gifts in the church on Sunday mornings
- Call Don/Brenda Dankel with any questions: 636-942-3630

Toys for younger ones and suggestions for older kids are listed below. Please buy various sizes including adult sizes (S, M, L, etc.).

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Sweatshirts | Purses | Lotions |
| Hooded sweatshirts | Wallets | Body sprays |
| Screen printed t-shirts | Jewelry | Axe Cologne for guys |
| Leggings | Scarves/Hats/Gloves | Bubble bath |
| Puzzles | Xbox games | |
| Toys | PlayStation games | |
| Craft kits | iTunes gift cards | |
| Model kits (cars, planes) | Gift cards are great for the older kids. | |

GIFT CARD COLLECTION
ENDS ...December 12th

The St. Luke's Evening Circle Gift Card Drive ends next weekend. Gift cards will be gifted to "A Safe Place," "Mary's House of Hope" or "Lydia's House." If you would like to contribute, buy a gift card in any amount to any place of your choice. We will accept cash or checks (made payable to Brenda Dankel) and gift cards will be purchased with the collected monies. You can place your purchased gift cards in the Christmas mailbox in the Narthex. This mailbox will be emptied every Sunday. Please place your name in the Christmas mailbox using the paper next to it and you will be entered into a drawing to win a gift basket for donating a gift card.



- Brenda Dankel (Evening Circle)



Mark Your Calendars!!!

- 5 10 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Confirmation Class
10 a.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 7 6:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education Meeting
- 12 9 a.m. Worship Service
10 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Confirmation Class
10 a.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 13 **DATE CHANGE:** 6:30 p.m. Board of Elders Meeting
- 16 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting (Schrepel Home)
- 18 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal
3:30 p.m. Meet at Church Parking Lot
- 19 9 a.m. Worship Service (Christmas Carol Hymn Sing)
6:45 p.m. Christmas Program / Cookie Reception
- 24 7:00 p.m. Worship Service (w/Communion)
- 25-31 Pastor Pittman on vacation
- 26 9 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Pastor)
10 a.m. Sunday School



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 12/01 Matthew Riordan
Tammy Stockwell | 12/12 Glenda Haefner
Garry Dale Kraus, Jr. | 12/24 Courtney Anthonies |
| 12/05 Stephen Anthonies
Kregg Kraus
Ronald White
Brian Wilson | 12/13 Susan Gillman | 12/25 Robert Kraus
Johnny McKenzie |
| 12/06 Katelynn Schimsa | 12/14 Paislee Carver
Warren Stuckmeyer
Joan Thurman | 12/28 Suzanne Magee |
| 12/07 Marjorie Balajka | 12/15 Jordyn Davis | 12/29 Ashley Carpenter
Zachary Nuelle
Burnell Raebel |
| 12/08 Mary Hollerbach
William Michel | 12/17 Judd McLard | 12/30 Judy Dehner
Lewis Johnson
Lyle Kraus |
| 12/09 Vicki Randolph | 12/18 Barbara Lambert | 12/31 Brenda Day |
| 12/10 Carol Cameron | 12/19 Wayne Raebel | |
| 12/11 Jessa Davis
Bernice Roffler
Shelbey Stuckmeyer | 12/20 Fletcher McLard | |
| | 12/21 Susan Kraus | |
| | 12/22 Stacey Miller | |
| | 12/23 Christopher Cano
Jessica McLard
Lloyd Reissing | |



DIRECTORY UPDATES

There have been quite a few changes once again during 2021. If you have recently moved, changed a phone number, added, or updated your email address, please contact the Church Office via email and provide the updates @ stlukesimperial@gmail.com. Included below are those that the Church Office has been informed of:

- Elaine Alexander:** 3360 NE Wilshire Dr. Apt. 209, Lees Summit, MO 64064; 816-600-5203
- Alison Arnold:** 3566 Phyllis Rd, Festus, MO 63028
- Rebecca Arnold:** 5288 Sir Bors Drive, Apt. 3, St. Louis, MO 63129;
beccaarnold1837@gmail.com
- Marjorie "June" Balajka:** Garden Villas S., 13457 Tesson Ferry Rd, Room 99, St. Louis, MO 63128
314-722-3151
- Melva Bradley:** Limerick Manor, 11310 Dolan Way, Creve Coeur, MO 63146
House Mom is Kim: 314-320-8021
- Don Calhoon:** Donald.calhoon0803@att.net
- Ashley Carpenter:** add daughter Caroline; 21141 Hwy D, Hermitage, MO 65668
- Jackie Craig:** stlgirlnga@gmail.com
- Gale Cross:** gale.cross10@gmail.com
- Ida Haefner:** 241 Avon Lane, Branson, MO 65616
- Julie Hartmann:** phone update 636 area code not 314; JHartmann10@yahoo.com
- Jana Kramme:** Krammejm@aol.com
- Tonya Leeka:** update last name to Linderer
- Carl/Vera McCullough:** home phone 636-942-3034 and Vera Cell 314-477-9017
- Katie & Jimmy Medina:** 1551 Edmund Drive, Barnhart, MO 63012
- Alexandria Meier:** Add Kevin*; 1432 WaterLily Dr. Unit 5, Chula Vista CA 91913
Alex.meier1595@gmail.com
- Janet Mize:** Kntmize@cox.net
- Jake/Stephanie Narup:** 1006 Graystone Park, Barnhart MO 63012
- Shirley Neun:** Crystal Oaks Asst. Living, 1500 Calvary Church Road, Room 218
Festus MO 63028
- Bernice Roffler:** Vintage Asst. Living, Room 211, 203 S. Moody Rd, Palatka, FL 32177
- Joseph Stuckmeyer:** joestuck28@gmail.com
- Justin Stuckmeyer:** stuckjustin@gmail.com
- Warren Stuckmeyer:** cell: 314-223-8099
- Mark & Sarah Sumner:** devilstower@gmail.com