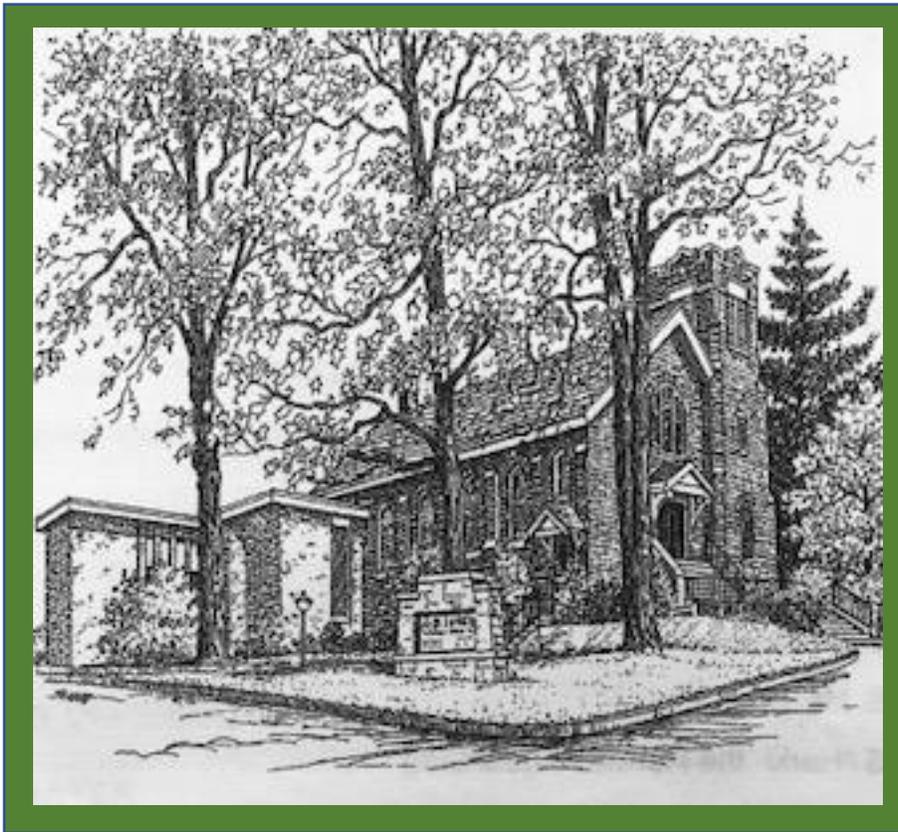


THE BEACON

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



February 2021

Website: www.stlukesuccimperial.org

Email: stlukesimperial@gmail.com

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

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

I want to start this letter by thanking you for your warm receptions during these last few Sundays, it has been a small whirlwind getting everything set and trying to settle in. I am looking forward to getting to know more of you in the future and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with you thus far.

In the coming weeks and months, I will be working on getting to know you all better. I would like to spend the time fine-tuning our worship experience at St. Luke's and working to assist in better sound and video for our online congregants. I will be asking more questions of all of you regarding worship and common church practices. You may get tired of saying, "well, we have always done it that way." I am not asking you to change rather, I am asking you to know what you do and take ownership of your church and service in a deeper way. This ownership will come with some changes but know that none of these changes are set in stone. All of you, as a church, will put them in place and if you want to change them then, by all means we can. If you have any thoughts or comments, please reach out by emailing me or give me a call.

Furthermore, I would like for you to know that there are other ways to connect with me throughout the week. If you are on Facebook, you are more than welcome to add me as a friend. With COVID, I do not plan to have set office hours since I cannot meet with anyone at this time, but I am thinking of setting some Zoom sessions in the next few weeks that will allow for discussion. Looking at my schedule, Thursdays are shaping up to be an office day from my day job as a Handyman. So, look for that announcement mid-February.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Joshua L.M. Pittman

Email: pastorjoshuapittman@gmail.com

Mobile: (314) 210-8363

A Message from The Church Office...

I wanted to say "Hello" and let all of you know that I am continuing to manage the Church Office at this time remotely from my home. I wanted to let everyone know that if you are trying to reach the Church Office via 636-948-3545, this number is and has been forwarded to my personal cell phone since last March therefore I receive all calls directly. However, if it happens to be either 1) before or after church office hours OR 2) I am unavailable at that given moment...**PLEASE leave a voicemail** for me. It is important to leave me a voicemail so I can properly attend to everyone's requests and needs as they arise. You are always welcome to email me at stlukesimperial@gmail.com also and I will reply at my earliest convenience, as well. Thank you.

- Tricia Heckstetter, Church Secretary



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to attend in-person, a reservation signup will be available online or you can call the Church Office. There will be a Zoom link setup for those wishing to join from home, as well.

Church Council

Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2021

The Church Council met on Tuesday, January 19th for their regularly scheduled meeting. Minutes from previous meeting found in good order.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Greg reviewed the job descriptions for Officer and committee positions. The Election of 2021 Church Council members was approved to include Becky Hollerbach, President; Gary Hartmann, Vice-President and BOE Representative; Angela Otto, Secretary; Linda Schrepel, Financial Secretary; Dave Pippin, Treasurer, and Interim Cemetery & Endowment; Dwight Kraus, Building and Grounds; and Kathy Porter, BOCE Representative.

FINANCIAL: The December 2020 Treasurer's report was reviewed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Pastoral transition information and progress reported. Rev. Joshua Pittman led worship on Sunday, January 17th. The Congregational Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 17th also and minutes were reviewed. Greg McLard will be in contact with Tricia to conduct her annual performance review and Becky Hollerbach will join them.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Pittman plans to meet at church last Thursday of January with Greg McLard, Becky Hollerbach to sign the Call Letter and look at the space to get hybrid hearing digitally.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: The replacement of the Sanctuary doors was approved at the Annual Meeting, so we are moving forward with that project. The Sanctuary Lighting design was also approved at the Annual Meeting, as well as additional lighting to replace existing track lights. Dwight will move forward in contacting Carson for this project.

OLD BUSINESS: Reviewed how worship services are going every Sunday. The Zoom meeting/hybrid in-person worship services are going well. There continues to be some sound issues for those not in the Sanctuary and additional work on the sound system is requested. Rev. Pittman will review and offer suggestions. Looking for volunteers to have discussion with representatives from Committee on Ministry concerning our congregational needs from our next Minister. A Zoom meeting will be scheduled with Greg, Dwight, Kathy, Linda, Becky and Tricia.

NEW BUSINESS: Receipt of a Building Usage request for a Stuckmeyer wedding in May 2022 was placed on the calendar. Board of Christian Education would like to do something for Valentine's Day for the kids, possibly a mailing.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 16th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

as of December 2020

ACTUAL

INCOME	\$ 223,345
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 192,751</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS) \$	30,594

*Income includes \$18,650 from the PPP loan/grant.

Board of Christian Education

Meeting Minutes from January 5, 2021

The Board of Christian Education met on Tuesday, January 5th for their regularly scheduled meeting. Minutes from previous meeting found in good order.

Sunday School: Curriculum remains on hold.

Church Council: The 2021 budget was finalized and approved.

Confirmation: Confirmation class continues to go well. At this time, worship attendance will be on an honor system. If a student is unable to attend in-person or via Zoom, they will be expected to watch a YouTube video, website Worship Service, etc. from either our Church or another that has been approved by their parents. We will briefly touch base the first few minutes of class regarding the previous week at class. Make-up classes will be either rescheduled with 100% in agreement or handled by review/notes/homework. Sherry will discuss with Greg and Pastor Pittman regarding future classes. The Confirmation class is required to attend the Annual Meeting on January 17th as an alternative to class, as it will be scheduled during their normal scheduled class time.

Voyagers/Youth Group: Remains on hold.

Open/Close Schedule: The open/close schedule was reviewed and assigned through March.

BOCE Work Night: Remains on hold.

Missions: There was some discussion regarding spare change jars to be placed on the piano each quarter and if/how much to draw from our budget. Discussion tabled until February.

Old Business: The Christmas bad distribution was disappointing. There were only three families that visited the drive-through setup on December 20, 2020. The food collected from the Food Drive was distributed by Sherry Pippin along with some monetary donations. Rescue Mission and Brenden's Back Pack will each get half of the food collected. The monetary collections will also be split in half but the money for Rescue Mission will be used to purchase food items to donate and the other half will be given to Brenden's Back Pack as a monetary donation.

New Business:

Sunday School Classrooms: The Sunday School classrooms will be painted. Anyone willing to volunteer their time, is welcome.

Valentine's Day: If anyone has any ideas how to reach out to the kids on Valentine's Day (falls on a Sunday), please bring them to the next meeting or communicate with us via text/email. The committee will be crunched for time to prepare after the February meeting. This could be something simple like a postcard sent out...a slideshow posted on our website or even hand out a small treat.

Calendar of Events 2021: To be determined...

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

The Board of Elders

Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2021

The Board of Elders met on Tuesday, January 12th for their regularly scheduled meeting, some joining via Zoom.

Minutes from previous meeting found in good order.

Worship: Nothing special to report currently, everything is good. Committee may need to purchase new Advent candles.

Ushers: Because of limited attendance and things going smoothly with the in-person worship services, it was decided that at this time there can be only one usher scheduled for Worship Service. Because of COVID, some members that had been volunteering to usher have elected not to attend in-person worship until the COVID situation improves. This added difficulty getting enough volunteers for each service.

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

Communion: For the foreseeable future, Reverend Pittman will be doing all services virtual. When Communion is scheduled, only the wine chalice and cup will be placed on the altar as symbols. All attending in-person service are still encouraged to bring their own elements.

Confirmation Class: Since Pastor Vicki has been gone, Chris Kraus is now meeting with the 2021 Confirmation Class; Kaylin Hollerbach, Olivia Raebel and Elizabeth Skaggs.

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

Old Business: Don Dankel is still looking for someone to volunteer for Elders when his term ends in January 2021. Pastor Kathy Porter has been volunteering to be our Pastor until the interim is in place. It was reported that the Christmas Eve service starting at 7 p.m. was a good time to start. Don Dankel reported that Jess McLard has volunteered to serve a second term on Elders, starting in January 2021.

Ash Wednesday: There will be a Worship Service at 7 p.m. on Ash Wednesday (February 17th) and a sign-up link will be setup.

2021 Lenten Mission: The BOE 2021 Lenten Mission will be PonyBird.

Other Items: Rev. Pittman shared some thoughts: He is going to work to develop meaningful services for us; a review audit of some of our prior services will help him know more about our church and what kind of service we are used to; after he has received his COVID vaccinations, he will go back to in-person services or when the CDC guidelines state it is safe; and the Elders will have to be more involved with member care, especially for members that are home-bound. Rev. Pittman is only part-time and has asked for help from the Elders.

Board Member Election: Elections and appointment of Committee Chairs and members will take place at the February meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Evening Circle

Executive Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2021

The Executive members of Evening Circle met on January 26th, 2021. This included Carolyn Kraus, President; Sherry Pippin, Vice President; Brenda Dankel, Treasurer; and Gail Heckenberg, Secretary.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Evening Circle's last monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. The Executive Committee decided to meet to discuss when we could possibly resume monthly meetings.

EVENING CIRCLE WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY!!!!

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 23rd in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Recurrence: Meetings will be held on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month.

COVID-19 Safety Protocol: It will be required to stay socially distanced and wear masks at the meetings.

Meeting Dues: There will be \$4.00 dues collected from members.

Topics: A vote will be taken at the February meeting to elect 2021 Officers and we will be discussing ideas for our church, as well as outreach programs.

All ladies of the Church are invited and welcomed to join us.
We look forward to seeing everyone again, Be Safe & Stay Well!

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.



St. Luke's is seeking volunteers to serve on the various Church Committees for the upcoming 2021 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 where you would like to help.



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

As winter weather situations develop, please check KSDK's Stormwatch (Channel 5), KTVI Fox2 (Channel 2) or KMOV (Channel 4) for cancellation notices here at St. Luke's UCC.

You can also check the church website for notice.



Celebrating in February . . .

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Earleen Stockwell | 11 Michael Perry | 19 Tricia Heckstetter |
| 2 Dalton Konopka | 12 Shane Perry | Sawyer Narup |
| 4 Michelle Poelking | Paul Schneider | Marlyn Palmer |
| 8 Sharon Bruemmer | 13 George Carter | 20 Doris Kettler |
| Kimberly Griffin | Carl McCullough | 21 Louis Meyer |
| Lee Nations | Lillian Perry | Jason Poelking |
| Debbie Seitz | 15 Keith Morris | 22 Kevin Kraus |
| Rebecca Thomas | 16 Connor Raebel | 27 Pamela Belleville |
| 9 Sandra Arnold | Sarah Saputo | Deborah Fluegge |
| Yvonne Davis | 17 Joyce Wilson | David Stark III |
| 10 Kathryn Reiff | 18 Samantha Weatherholt | 28 David Belleville |
| Joseph Rose | | |



Congratulations Katelynn Schimsa... for being named to the President's List in recognition for her academic achievement during the Fall 2020 semester at Culver-Stockton College.

DIRECTORY UPDATES



Don Calhoon

New email address: donaldcalhoon0803@att.net

Carl & Vera McCullough

Add home phone number: (636) 942-3034

Add Vera cell phone: (314) 477-9017

Alexandria Meier

New address: 1432 Water Lily Drive, Unit 5, Chula Vista CA 91913

New/Add email: alex.meier1595@gmail.com

Thank you

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the wonderful group of carolers who came to our home on December 23, 2020. They were a highlight of our Christmas season. The live songs and familiar faces were so very welcome. This was the very best gift they gave this Christmas. Thank you to all of them!

May God Bless Them,
- Cecil & Betty McLard

THANK YOU!

Kevin & Adam Stockwell
for taking time to rake leaves
and clean up the Church
grounds.

THANK YOU!

...to everyone who participated in the BOCE Food Drive! We collected 500 food items and a cash donation that went to the Rescue Mission and Brenden's BackPack.

Your support and donations were greatly appreciated by both.

- Sherry Pippin, BOCE

THANK YOU!

Thank you all so very much for the numerous cards, phone calls, and constant prayers during Rob's recent battle with COVID-19. We truly appreciate everyone's concern and positive words of encouragement. The power of prayer has truly proven itself and continues to see us through this. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts!

-Rob & Connie Stuckmeyer and Family

THANK YOU!

Kevin White
for snow removal from the
Church grounds.

THANK YOU!

Thank you is just not enough; we are so blessed to have you all as our community supporters. We can offer our families a high-quality program because of you. The gift card we received was helpful at Christmas but also throughout the year to help women move forward and start new violent free lives.

- A Safe Place



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

Bruce Acre*, June Balajka, Melva Bradley, William Brewer*, Kay Carter, Jess Cathcart, Herb Conway, Londyn Dixon*, Larry Eccardt*, Juliet Gilmore, Betty Gruenewald, Kelly Harrison*, Robert Kempf, June Koenig*, Lauren Kramer*, Mary Sue Kraus, Richard Kraus*, Lorraine Magee, Debbie Mentz*, Ruth Mueller, Doris Nations, Shirley Neun, Dave Olsen*, Dave Pippin, 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* (Son/daughter-in-law of William & Deborah Brewer),
Caleb Davidson* (Conways' Nephew), Matthew Dixon* (Krammes' Grandson),
Shawn Farson* (Nephew of Tim & Brenda Farson),
Christopher Kettler* (Kettlers' Grandson), Joseph Koch* (Son of Peggy Koch),
Samuel Lowry (Husband of Chelsea Lowry), Eric Oliver* (Becks' Grandson),
Kai Reyes* (Conways' Nephew),
Edward Van Dee Scharff IV* (Boogie), (Cousin of Aline Rogers)
Kelsey L. Schwent (Niece of Kevin and Earleen Stockwell)
Eric Watkins* (Great-nephew of Rev. Kathy Porter)



Please be sure to notify the Church Office by emailing stlukesimperial@gmail.com or calling 636-948-3545 to provide the name of someone you would like included in prayer requests.

Also, as we try to keep the list current, please notify the church if someone you have asked to be added no longer needs to be on the list.