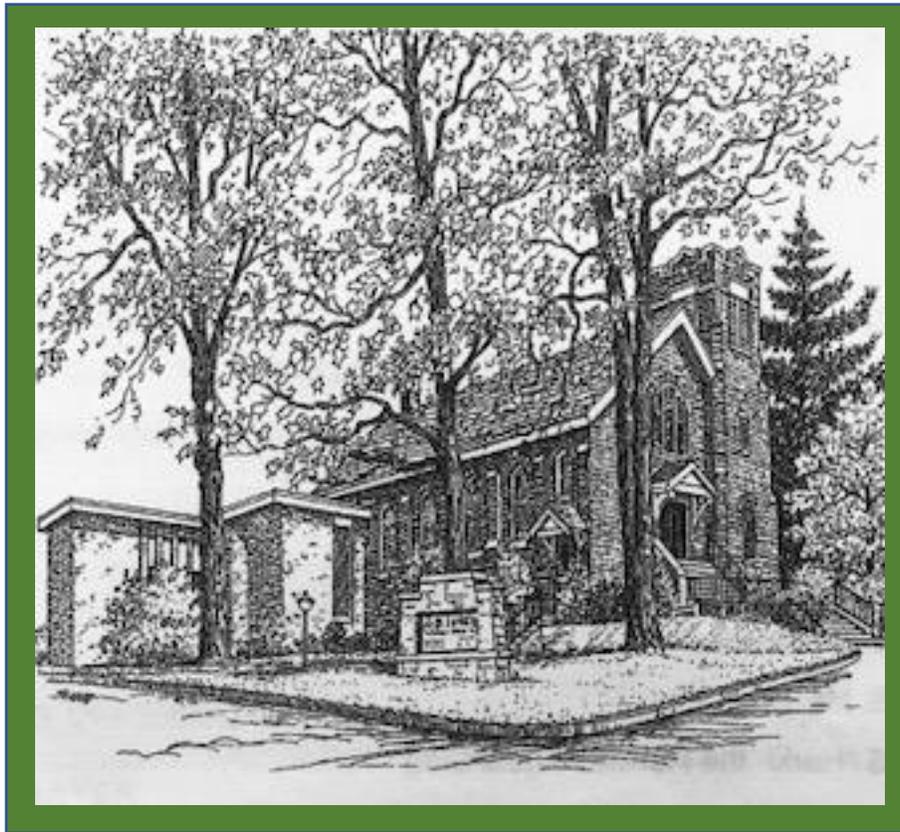


THE BEACON

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



January 2021

Website: www.stlukesuccimperial.org

Email: stlukesimperial@gmail.com

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

President's Message

January 5, 2021

To: The Congregation of St. Luke's United Church of Christ

From: Greg McLard – President of Church Council.

Re: Happy New Year 2021

I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season. I am sure many of your Christmas and New Year's plans were altered from years' past. That was definitely the case in my family. 2021 appears to have the potential to give us the 'light at the end of the tunnel' for this pandemic. Vaccines have begun being distributed with the hope it brings herd immunity to our country.

Our Church has a lot to look forward to and do this year. The biggest being the search for a new Pastor. We have an Interim Pastor starting on January 17th. Reverend Pittman will help lead our Church spiritually and with our Pastoral search. Before we begin this search, we will need to fully review what we want in our next Pastor and how we want our Church to evolve with this change. I hope you all take the time to think about discuss these details with others. We then need to start our search. We do have volunteers ready to serve on the Search Committee. I appreciate them volunteering and thank them in advance for their time.

The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday January 17th. You will be able to join the meeting via Zoom or attend in person. We will have limited seating and require reservations for this meeting just as we have for worship service. All safety protocols will also be in place for the in-person attendees - those attending via Zoom at home are welcome to join mask free. Having folks attend via Zoom will present some challenges. Especially when attempting to have a discussion. Please have patience and understand we will do the best we can.

This will be my last Beacon letter as President of our Church Council. I would like to thank all the members with whom I have served on the Council in these past 6 years. I have learned so much about our Church and was able to get to know you great people better by serving on Council with you. That was the most pleasant result of volunteering for Council – the people. To the Congregation – I appreciate the opportunity to serve on Council and act as the Church Council President.

Happy New Year.

Church Council

Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2020

The Church Council met on Tuesday December 15th for their regularly scheduled meeting. Minutes from previous meeting found in good order.

FINANCIAL: The October Treasurer's report was reviewed, and November will be emailed later in the month for Council review. The Financial Secretary's report for November 2020 was reviewed. Total giving was \$10,500 for November and the Road cell tower was additional in November. The PP loan forgiveness platform is now available to customers with a PPP loan of equal to or less than \$150,000. Andrea Johnson and Greg McLard will ensure St. Luke's applies for forgiveness of the loan. All data is collected, and Greg is working on a login with Midwest Bank.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Pastoral transition information and progress reported. Rev. Joshua Pittman has been called to act as Interim Pastor. Accounting tasks are being overseen by Andrea Johnson and Sandy Arnold going forward. Additional help will be added, as needed. No outsourcing will be done at this time. They will bring in one (1) substitute to help them, when needed. Gary requested that one of them attend the Council meetings to answer questions. The request for Church Council members, all committee, volunteers, and Search Committee volunteers was published in "Letter from the President" in the December Beacon. Weekly updates are given during announcements at Sunday Service. Annual reviews and reports to be requested from committees in preparation of the Annual Meeting. A \$200 donation was made to gifts for families "adopted" at Antonia Elementary for Christmas.

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation classes on Sunday have been going well.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: Hudson Glass installed new glass to replace broken and caulked all metal framework by the Sunday School-stained glass window and Terry Kohler finished the touch up work for the window stops in the replaced glass areas. Terry also painted the east entry doors to the Church Sanctuary.

OLD BUSINESS: Reviewed how worship services are going every Sunday. The Zoom meeting/hybrid in-person worship services are going well. Services are being posted to YouTube were flagged for copyright infringement of music arrangements if shared to the public. Tricia solved the issue with OneLicense annual membership upgrade. The Annual cost of OneLicense membership that includes podcast/streaming is \$405/year and is good through July 12, 2021. All YouTube St. Luke's Service content, including music can be shared publicly with a disclaimer. Developed contingency plan for congregational meetings. The agenda, previous year's minutes, committee reviews, project briefings and details will all need to be emailed and posted to the website for congregation review. The door and lighting will need to be included in discussion and looking at ways to get people involved virtually by maybe having video show the work being requested. The annual meeting will be held the third Sunday of January at 2pm. A reservation and seating chart will need to be prepared for this meeting, as well as a zoom meeting link.

NEW BUSINESS: Several church members have volunteered to serve on the Search Committee at this time. Betty McLard and Holly Skaggs offered to serve as a profile reviewer; other volunteers include Jess McLard, Julie Hartmann, Becky Hollerbach, Lisa Stuckmeyer and Stephanie Winters. Angie and Steve Otto volunteered to serve on Church Council. Donation envelopes have arrived and will be distributed through a drive through, an email to the congregation will be sent with details. Christmas bonus for office staff; Tricia, Andrea and Ellen have been approved by Church Council. Women's Guild will be donating another \$2000 to the General Fund before the end of the year. Council is looking into the Bylaw of Coordinate with Pastor instead of Pastor a Direct Supervisor.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 19th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

as of November 2020

ACTUAL

INCOME	\$ 190,431
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 180,503</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ 9,928

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



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.

Annual Meeting



The 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting to review 2020 Year End as well as discuss upcoming 2021 has been scheduled for Sunday, January 17th, 2021.

Mark Your Calendars!

More details will be sent out in coming days via email how to make a reservation to attend in-person or join via Zoom.

Board of Christian Education

Meeting Minutes from December 1, 2020

Sunday School: Curriculum remains on hold. Sarah Saputo and Teresa Kraus offered to teach a 2-3-year-old class. There is some concern that splitting up classes would reduce class size too much. Sherry will address with Jess and Sarah further. We will discuss the possibility of rearranging class divisions based on the number or regular attendees when Sunday School resumes. We welcome Kayla Bailey as our new Sunday School Superintendent! Thank you Kayla for accepting the position. We will gather information regarding the 2021 calendar of events normally followed each year for Kayla's reference.

Confirmation: Chrissy Kraus continues to teach the confirmation class following Pastor Vicki's syllabus until an interim minister is selected. Class was attended via zoom on 11/22/2020, no class was held 11/29/20. Will continue to try and meet in person in fellowship hall/or zoom meeting going forward. There were a few questions regarding worship attendance that will need to be addressed.

Voyagers/Youth Group: Remains on hold.

Open/Close Schedule: The open/close schedule was reviewed and assigned through February. The church needs to be opened by 8:15 a.m. and open instructions are posted near the handicap entrance for reference. The handicap entrance opens with the same key used for Fellowship Hall. Both doors are to be wedged open entering the sanctuary (weather permitting). Turn off the auto open/close until worship begins. Turn on all sanctuary lights including the choir and balcony. Reverse this order for closing the church.

Old Business: A work night is TBD. The Christmas program was cancelled. Missions will be discussed at the January meeting.

New Business:

Christmas Bags: There were 50 bags assembled after the meeting and stored in containers on stage. Gail and Sherry will date the ornaments and add to the bags. The assembled bags will be presented to the enrolled Sunday School list (plus a few others) in a "drive-through" at 10am on Sunday, December 20, 2020. Chrissy and Connie will send out a flyer.

BOCE 2021 Officers/Members: Sarah Saputo has agreed to join the BOCE. She will join in February 2021.

Food Drive: Food drive started November 8th and runs until January 3, 2021. There will be a container by the handicap entrance and in the garage. Items collected will be divided and given to Brenden's Backpack and JC Mission.

End of Year: End of year reports are due this month.

BOCE Terms starting February 2021: Sherry and Gail beginning third term; Chrissy beginning second term and Connie, Angie and Sarah beginning first term.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 5th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

The Board of Elders

Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2020

Worship: All is well. Every week the candles need to be checked for oil.

Ushers: More usher volunteers are needed. Because COVID is getting worse in Jefferson County, member that had been volunteering to usher have elected not to attend in person worship until the COVID situation improves.

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

Communion: Communion will be offered on Christmas Eve. To help with the few times when someone has forgotten to bring their own, pre-filled communion elements are now available and some members are using them.

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: There was no Thanksgiving Eve service held. Elders are still seeking a replacement for Don Dankel when he goes off the Board in January 2021.

New Business: Rev. Kathy Porter has volunteered to be our Pastor until an interim is in place. Kathy will do a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. and those wishing to attend should notify Tricia by close of business on December 21st. Because of prior commitments, Pastor Porter will not be able to conduct a Christmas Day service this year.

Board Member Election Info: Don Dankel will be completing his second term in January. Kay Moss will complete Dale Winters second term which ends January 2022. Bob Schrepel will be completing his second term in January and Brenda Day and Michelle Perry will be completing their first term in January 2020.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 12th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

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.

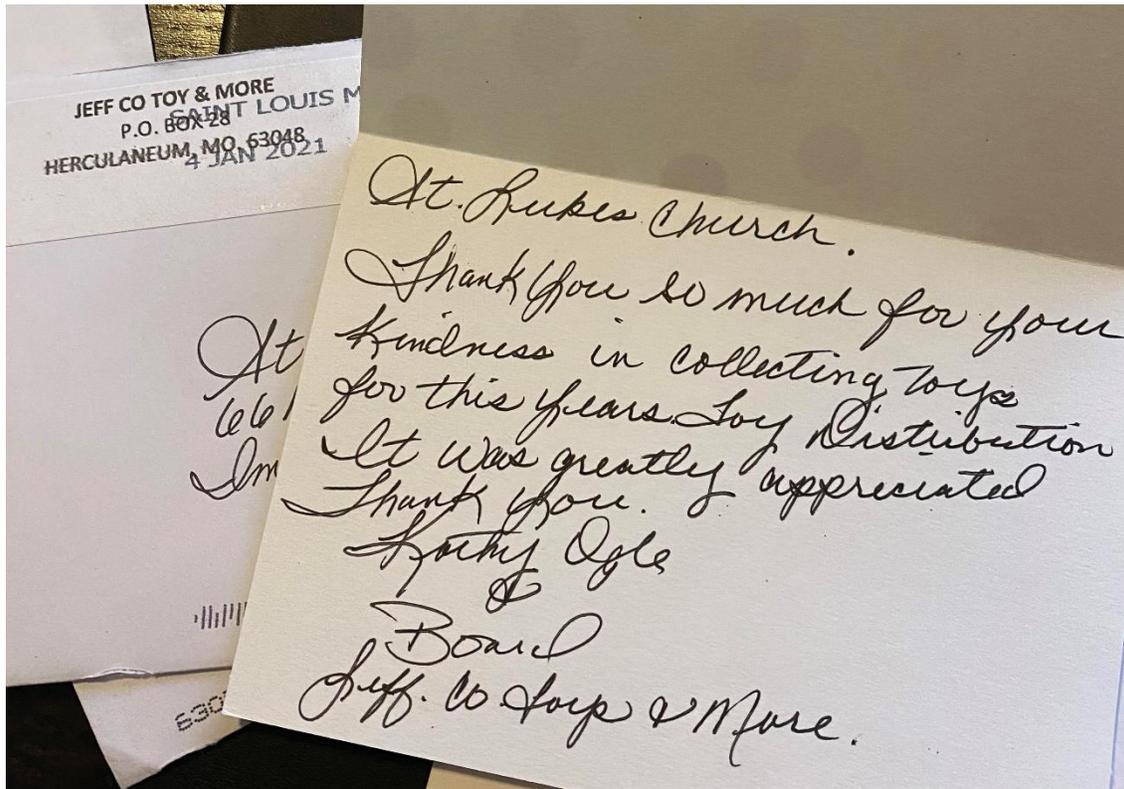


ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL TOY DRIVE 2020

We wish to thank everyone who participated in the 2020 Toy Drive. We collected 77 toys, 6 blankets/throws, 9 games, 8 DVD's, \$75.00 in gift cards, and 43 clothing items which were donated to the Jefferson County Toy Distribution.

We are always touched by the generosity of the Congregation but especially this year when our collection was "unusual". For those families that have been touched by your warmth and compassion this Christmas, we say "thank you". Merry Christmas and God bless you.

- Don and Brenda Dankel





CELEBRATING IN JANUARY ...

01/01 Betty Gruenwald	01/14 Sarah Schimsa
01/02 Amy McLard	01/15 Thomas Hendrickson
01/03 Benjamin Lowry	01/16 Judith Duro
01/04 Anthony Abuzeide Kelsey Nash	01/17 Ida Haefner
01/05 Alexandria Sheridan Stephanie Winters	01/18 Emily Magee
01/07 Zach Jacob Gavin Kundert Lorna Meyer	01/20 Aidan Elrod
01/08 Tyler Morris	01/23 Joseph Stuckmeyer
01/10 Peggy Schneider Jean Seymour	01/24 Eddie Lowry, Jr.
01/13 Herbert Conway Cecil McLard Pat Sieving	01/25 Kyle Mize
	01/26 Olivia Raebel
	01/30 Zach Schneider
	01/31 Teresa Kraus

Thank you  *you*

"A big "Thank You" to Terry Kohler for prepping and painting all of the metal window frames in both Fellowship Hall entrances and the metal window frames by the Sunday School stained glass window. Thank you also for painting all three Fellowship entrance doors, painting the Sanctuary wheelchair entry door, and the east entry doors to the Sanctuary. The paint was bought and paid for by an anonymous donor. How fortunate we are to have someone like Terry in our Congregation. Thank you"

- Dwight Kraus



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

Bruce Acre*, June Balajka, Candace Bond*, William Brewer*, **Kay Carter**, Jess Cathcart, Londyn Dixon*, Larry Eccardt*, Juliet Gilmore, Betty Gruenewald, Kelly Harrison*, Robert Kempf, June Koenig*, Mary Sue Kraus, Lorraine Magee, Debbie Mentz*, Ruth Mueller, Doris Nations, Shirley Neun, Dave Olsen*, Trish Petit*, Dave Pippin, Jim Ploesser*, Joyce Ruhland, Patricia Sieving, Arlein Simpson, **Robert Stuckmeyer**, Catherine Talbot*, Mike Talbot*, Donald Wendler*, Ron White, Lisa Young*

Our Military Personnel

Josh & Michelle Brewer* (Son and daughter-in-law of William and Deborah Brewer)

Caleb Davidson* (Conways' Nephew)

Matthew Dixon* (Krammes' Grandson)

Shawn Farson* (Nephew of Tim and 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