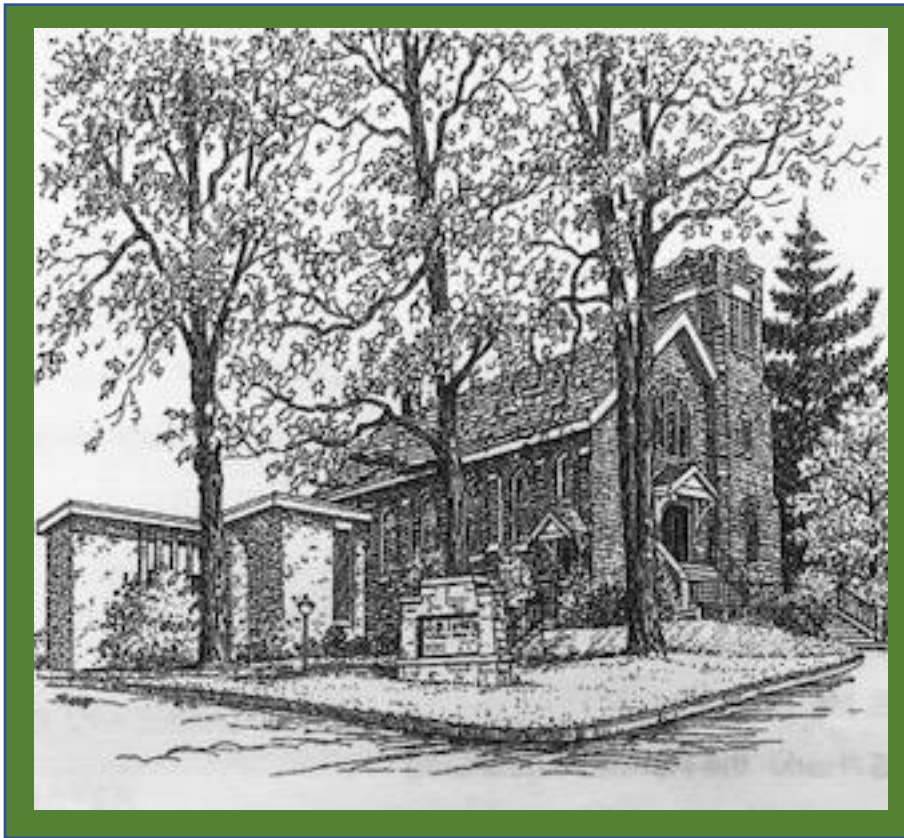


THE BEACON

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



March 2021

Website: www.stlukesuccimperial.org

Email: stlukesimperial@gmail.com

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

President's Message

Hello everyone,

I would like to start by expressing a "Thank you" to Greg McLard, our outgoing Church Council President. Greg's dedication and wisdom brought to St. Luke's while serving on our Church Council was remarkable. I would like to also say "Thank you" to all of our current and past board members for all of their hard work and volunteered time and "Welcome" to the new 2021 Committee and Board members. I know everyone does not always have the time to volunteer with busy lives but when we come together the love for St. Luke's shines. Thank you for making St. Luke's a great home to come and worship! I am excited to "Welcome" Pastor Joshua Pittman to our community. I am thankful for his spiritual guidance currently while our church faces transitioning and finding a new permanent Pastor.

In the days to come a versatile Search Committee is being established. If you wish to volunteer, this committee is something you can help St. Luke's with from the comfort of your home so please know we seek the wisdom and insight from all our church members; those attending Sunday Service as well as those still at home during these times. Together we will keep our church what it is, always has been and continue to grow. We will get through this next hurdle.

The phrase often said is, "God doesn't give us more than we can handle; God helps us handle what we are given". This past year has been a different way of coming together due to the COVID pandemic but as 2021 has begun and days are brighter to a better tomorrow, please be patient with us as we are evaluating how we can all come together again soon. Many of you have or are receiving your COVID vaccinations and that is a step in the right direction. We all want everyone to be together again in-person, we ALL are ready for this to be over and join fellowship soon where we will celebrate our return at St. Luke's. We have been receiving ideas on how to safely open church more and I am asking that you please send me an email if you have ideas or wish to express what you are comfortable with. Our goal is to work together as a congregation making everyone feel comfortable and welcome.

As I embark on my last year serving on our Church Council, as President, I look forward to learning more about our Church from all of you.

St. Luke's has transitioned into using more technology within our congregation, please know that we are doing this to try and stay connected with all of you. Again, please do not hesitate to email or call me if you need assistance with any of the new technology, in place. We love seeing all your faces on Zoom during Sunday service. Tricia has made it easy by placing a direct link on our church website. With one simple click, you are online to join us virtually!

I would last like to remind everyone to please volunteer where you can, there are many opportunities and areas of the church where you can help. Some examples are: checking in on other members, weekly offering counting, joining governing committees, joining or offering your assistance to the Search Committee, audio/visual and computer assistance (Zoom meetings and video production), assist with Building and Grounds projects, COVID Data.

As we enter 2021, I pray we can find hope, healing, and prosperity. Together we can find the strength to continue moving forward to overcome this pandemic. I pray that this year is filled with joy, peace, love, hope and togetherness. "For with God nothing shall be impossible" Luke 1:37

Much Love to all of you,
Becky Hollerbach (beckyhollerbach@gmail.com)

Church Council

Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2021

The Church Council met on Tuesday, February 16th for their regularly scheduled meeting.

Welcome New Members: Council welcomed Barb Allen and Warren Stuckmeyer. Barb Allen is the new VP and Warren will represent Burgess Cemetery. Planning a proper “installment” of all new committee officers, this has not happened yet since all committees had not met and completed new role elections.

Executive Committee: It has been approved by Council and BOE to begin ringing the bell during Sunday service. The bell ringer must be seated in the balcony for service. Evening Circle has been approved to resume their monthly meetings in Fellowship Hall, following safety protocols. Banking details have been changed over to new officers.

Church Office: Becky and Greg completed Tricia’s annual review on January 28th.

Parsonage / Renters: Harold and Peggy, Parsonage renters requested parking for a purchased camper on the back of the church lot and Council approved.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Pittman discussed sound system / webcam needs for Virtual Sunday services. Greg McLard purchased a few items to implement to get better sound without using multiple laptops. Pastor has received great feedback about services thus far.

Pastoral Search Committee: Search Committee continues to need more volunteers, looking for 7-9 people to serve, different age groups and both men and women.

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.

Worship: 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. Greg and Rev. Pittman will review and offer suggestions.

Church Access: Review who needs keys for the church and can we get them returned from others who no longer need access.

Building Usage Request: Dave Pippin inquired about a member using the Church garage for an online auction pickup location. These items are already sold and paid for, just looking for a mutual place for pickup. Dave stated the items would be setup on Friday and picked up Saturday. More information was requested, and this topic was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

Sunday School: Sarah Saputo submitted letter to Church Council requesting that Sunday School be reopened, this will be discussed at an upcoming All Board Meeting.

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

The Board of Elders

Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2021

The Board of Elders held their February 9th regularly scheduled meeting on Sunday, February 21st due to weather and scheduling issues. Some members joined via Zoom.

2021 Reorganization: Jess McLard, Chairperson; Bob Schrepel, Secretary; Kay Moss, Worship; Brenda Day, Ushers; Michelle Perry, Visitor Care; Julie Hartmann, Nursery; Gary Hartmann, Church Council Representative.

Worship: In-person worship is going good. At the upcoming "All Board" meeting, plans call for discussion regarding the existing in-person 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: 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. A resupply of the pre-filled communion elements has been ordered.

Confirmation Class: Chris Kraus has been meeting with the 2021 Confirmation Class and Rev. Pittman is attending virtually. 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.

Baptisms: None Scheduled

Weddings: May 21, 2022 Justin Stuckmeyer and Courtney Merli

Old Business: Rev. Pittman is working on solutions to address the poor audio quality for the members attending Sunday services virtually.

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

Easter Season: Planning to coordinate plans with Rev. Pittman for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Confirmation Sunday services.

Food Drive: Food drive will run the month of March. Donations will be given to local food pantries.

Other Items: All Elders were given a copy of the "Elder Responsibility" to review and update, as needed. Member Care strategies will be discussed at the March meeting. Jess will update the Elder's funeral usher volunteer list. Some members are requesting to stand during parts of Service, needs to be coordinated with Pastor Pittman. Brenda Day will also speak to Rev. Pittman regarding breaking bread and pouring of wine for communion services. Kay Moss is going to work to get the floral arrangements for services updated and improved.

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

Board of Christian Education

Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2021

The Board of Christian Education met on Tuesday, February 2nd for their regularly scheduled meeting. Minutes from previous meeting found in good order.

2021 Reorganization: Connie Stuckmeyer, Chairperson; Chrissy Kraus, Secretary; Kathy Porter, Church Council Rep.; Kayla Bailey, Superintendent Sunday School; Brenda Farson, Assistant Superintendent Sunday School.

Sunday School: Connie began recording YouTube videos for the Children's Message again. Rev. Pittman suggested keeping the video between 5-8 minutes so that they can be used in worship service for the Children's Sermon. These will continue to be sent out and posted on the website and Facebook page by Tricia also. The children's heart artwork was used to decorate the Sanctuary and as a slideshow on Valentine's Day.

Church Council: As of January 31, 2021, we are ringing the Church bell during service again.

Confirmation: Rev. Pittman suggested that Confirmation Sunday be during worship service with the congregation in attendance. Chris will confirm a schedule with the students and families regarding expectations and events. Engraved bibles will be ordered for Confirmands this year. Will return to giving the engraved bibles to students going into 3rd grade and eliminate the Action Bible that we were giving the 1st graders.

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. Local families in need may be added as a special Sunday School Mission when/if needed.

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.

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.

Sunday School Classrooms: Sherry will contact Terry Kohler to see if he is interested / willing to paint the three upstairs classrooms. Adding Choir and Quilting rooms will be considered.

Calendar of Events 2021: To be determined...

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

Evening Circle

Minutes from February 23, 2021

Evening Circle held their first meeting since last February on Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There were eleven ladies present.

Election of Officers: Gail Heckenberg, President; Sherry Pippin, Vice President; Brenda Dankel, Treasurer; and Earleen Stockwell, Secretary.

Meeting Dues: Dues were collected from with one member being a dual member of the Women's Guild.

Fundraiser: 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 mission project ideas.

We invite all ladies of the Church to join us in fellowship and be a part of the discipleship work of the church. We look forward to seeing everyone again, Be Safe & Stay Well!

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

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.



Abigail Bailey...for being named to the Dean's List in recognition for her academic achievement during the Fall 2020 semester at Missouri State University, West Plains.



The Board of Elder's Winter Food Drive is scheduled to begin Sunday, March 7th, 2021. Donations will be collected through Sunday, March 28th. There will be a box for donations in the handicap entrance vestibule. Monetary donations will be accepted. Please contact a member of the Board of Elders to arrange. All donations will be given to local food pantries.



Celebrating a Birthday

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4 Ray Dickhaner
Jeanette Wilson | 21 Jill Scherer |
| 5 Brayden Burcham
Marsha Daly
Kory Ferbet
Meaghan Frank
Kurt Olsen | 22 Jason Stockwell |
| 7 Bryon Jones | 23 Jaidyn Russell |
| 8 Daniel Perry | 25 Ed Ziegelmeyer |
| 10 Gale Cross | 26 Betty Acre
Kaylin Hollerbach
Aline Rogers
Taryen Tuttle |
| 11 Stephanie Rose | 27 Ashley Restivo |
| 13 Tessa Rebsamen
Cody Charleville | 28 Andrew Riordan |
| 15 Jeffrey Moss | 29 Vivian Vishino |
| 16 Della Kramme | 30 Kayla Bailey
Shirley Illert
Judy Nesbit
Jeffrey Roorda
Timothy Stockwell |
| 18 Stephanie Narup | |
| 19 Dawn Amsden | |
| 20 Jolene Perry | |





Cliff Rebsamen...for replacing the batteries in all the Church thermostats and installing a screen over the vent by the AC units which was allowing leaves into the electrical room.

Kevin & Adam Stockwell...for cleaning up the leaves around the Church building, there were a lot of them!

Kevin White...for clearing and salting the Church parking lot.

To those that helped...with shoveling the sidewalks

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!

- Dwight Kraus
Building & Grounds.



***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*, Richard Kraus*, Lorraine Magee, Debbie Mentz*, Doris Nations, Shirley Neun, Dave Olsen*, Kay Olsen, Michelle Perry, Jim Ploesser*, Joyce Ruhland, Jean Seymour, Patricia Sieving, Arlein Simpson, Robert Stuckmeyer, Catherine Talbot*, Mike Talbot*, Barb (Achter) Turner*, 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.