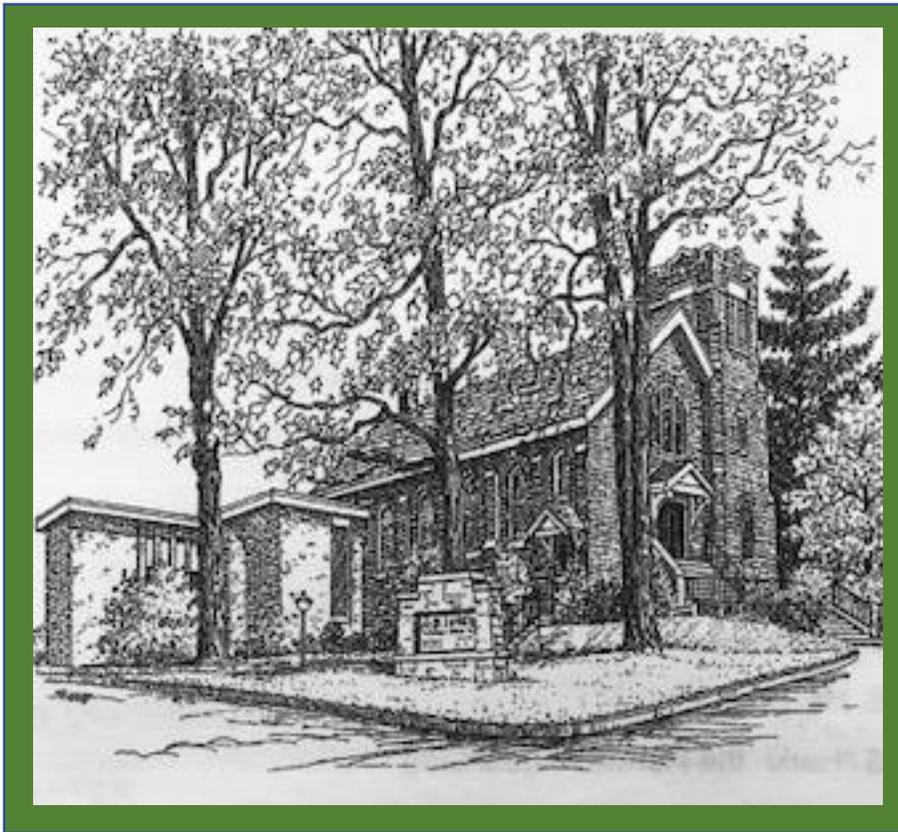


THE BEACON

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



MAY 2021

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

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

President's Message

Happy May Church families,

This has been a busy month for Church Council, to say the least! As some of you may know by now, Tricia informed us that she has accepted a full-time position outside of our church, her last working day will be Thursday, May 6th, 2021. Along with her resignation as our Church Secretary, Tricia has offered to help us with several tasks therefore will stay an employee of St. Luke's, working evening hours as needed until a new Church Secretary is hired.

I would like to thank Tricia for her hard work and dedication over the two years she has been with St. Luke's. She has been an amazing asset to our church, and we can't thank her enough for keeping us all together. Also, a huge thank you for working with us during this transition. As of May 7th, a Church Council member will be filtering through emails until a new Church Secretary is hired.

As far as updates, I have many for May....

Pastor – Please welcome Pastor Pittman in the Sanctuary Sunday, May 2nd!!!

Worship Service Reservations - Please continue to make reservations for Sunday service at this time. This allows us to make sure we are properly prepared for attendance each week. You can make reservations by visiting the church's website and clicking the link to the Signup Genius website.

Worship Entrance / Restroom Use – Effective, May 1st, we will be opening the main doors to enter the Sanctuary through the Narthex. We also will be adding an additional usher to take attendance and collect waivers, as necessary. This decision was made to try and keep the piano area less crowded. 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, Mask Mandate & Sanitizer – Please continue to social distance. I know most are fully vaccinated at this point, but we are still trying to stay safe and make everyone feel comfortable. We ask that you respect the mask mandate, always wearing them. Sanitizer remains available for your use upon entry and exit of the Sanctuary.

Seating – The available pews in the Sanctuary have been revised to allow more seating. We will now have every other pew on both sides open (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) with the ability to add folding chairs behind pew 10 on both sides when needed. You will notice some modifications will be made to the seating plans to accommodate bigger family groups for special occasions **only**, at this point.

Communion Sunday/Offering – These areas will remain the same. If it is a Communion Sunday, we will continue with "BYO" (bring your own) communion elements. The offering plate will be at the entrance to receive your offering.

Cushions/Books / Singing – Effective May 1st, you will notice pew cushions, hymnals and bibles have returned to the Sanctuary. Regarding singing...Yes, you may sing again!!!! You might find a few more Choir Members in the loft area, also.

Church Groups / Events – Sunday School reopened on April 11th, 2021 after Service with approved guidelines. The Church Quilters have been approved to return. They will be able to finish the quilt they started two years ago! Vacation Bible School and Rally Day/All Church Picnic plans are in the works!

Thank you to everyone for all of your patience and dedication to St. Luke's,

Becky Hollerbach, Church Council President

Church Council

Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2021

The Church Council met on Tuesday, April 20th for their regularly scheduled meeting. Minutes from the March 16th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Amendment to Re-Open Plan: All current guidelines were reviewed along with requests and suggestions to open up more and allow the return of items to worship services. Motions were made to amend current guidelines. (See *President's Message*)

Building and Grounds Committee: The upstairs classrooms and hallway have been freshly painted. The Parsonage deck was washed and stained. All HVAC outside units have been cleaned. Currently looking at quotes for installation of security cameras. An ice maker has been installed at the parsonage. Harold and Peggy Burton (renters) have requested use of the parking lot on May 14th for a birthday party.

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. A request has been received for a graveside memorial service in June. Warren, Garry and Pastor will be in contact with the family and finalize arrangements.

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

Membership: One death reported, Herb Conway (4/1/21). Church records have been updated in the office.

Church Events: Sunday School reopened on Sunday 4/11/21 after service. Requests to move forward with planning VBS (July 5-9, 2021) and Rally Day/All Church Picnic in August were approved.

Resignation: Tricia Heckstetter submitted her resignation on Monday, April 19th. Her last day working in the Church Office will be Thursday, May 6th, 2021. Tricia has agreed to work evenings and assist with duties as needed until a new Secretary is hired. Church Council will be working to fill this position.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

as of March 2021

ACTUAL

INCOME	\$ 33,277
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 45,031</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS) \$	(11,754)

Board of Elders

Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2021

The Board of Elders held their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Minutes from the March 9th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Worship: In-person worship continues to go well. The congregation will now stand for certain portions of the service. The bulletins will indicate where standing is taking place.

Ushers: Things are going smoothly with in-person worship services and with only one usher per service.

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

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

Visitor Care: St. Luke's had six (6) visitors this past month.

Confirmation Class: Confirmation has been set for Sunday, May 16th. The class is working on their Statements of Faith. Robes have been ordered. The 2021 class is: Kaylin Hollerbach, Olivia Raebel and Elizabeth Skaggs.

Funerals/Memorial Services: Doris Nations on March 15th and Herb Conway on April 6th. Both services were at Kutis Funeral Home and both interments were at Shepherd Hills Cemetery.

Weddings: May 21, 2022 Justin Stuckmeyer and Courtney Merli

Member Care: Member Care strategies discussed and the need for documentation of St. Luke's worship order. Elders are to bring to the May 11th meeting ideas for such a document. We need to document things like when in the service we light candles, ring the bell, normally stand, about how many hymns, when do we have communion, how is it served, how do we collect offering and how do we exit after the service. Also include what should be included in the bulletins. What other traditions/activities do we have like chicken dinner, sausage dinner, apple butter making, and organizations within the church? Pastor Pittman said this documentation would be great aid to our future new Pastor and would have been a good thing for him to have. Also, in past meetings Pastor said that Member Care should be Elder's priority. It was discussed about sending handwritten notes for birthdays and anniversaries. Other ideas are phone calls, informal gatherings, picnics, movie nights, etc. How can we get more members to participate?

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.



We have exciting news about the recently completed Church Food Drive! The new total of items after ALL donations was = 555, plus a monetary donation for the Food Pantry vehicle and administration costs!!!!

We are so incredibly grateful to Kay Moss for organizing the food drive and to Don and Brenda Dankel for their consistent help and support and of course, to the members of St. Luke's for their commitment to our community. So many families and individuals have been helped by your generosity!

-The Board of Elders

Board of Christian Education

Meeting Minutes from April 6, 2021

The Board of Christian Education met on Tuesday, April 6th for their regularly scheduled meeting. Minutes from the March 2, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Sunday School: Connie continues recording the Children's Message which are being played during Sunday's worship service. Recordings of the service can be found on the St. Luke's website. In person Sunday School will resume on April 11, 2021. The recorded message will continue to be played during service with children attending class from 10:00-10:30 a.m. The three upstairs Sunday School classrooms have been repainted. The hallway will be painted this week.

Confirmation: Confirmands are working on finalizing their Statement of Faith, robes have been ordered by Tricia, Chrissy is working on ordering corsages, engraved leather bibles and U.C.C necklaces. Connie is working on ordering wine glasses. Confirmation Sunday is May 16th.

Voyagers / Youth Group: Remains on hold.

Old Business: Confirmands and BOCE with help from John & Pat Sieving made 100 palm crosses to be used as necklaces for church and handed out at the Easter Trunk or Treat. Extra palms were placed in vases on the Altar for Palm Sunday service. The Easter Trunk or Treat was held on March 28th following church. There were 12 hosting trunks with approximately 30 children in attendance. The Easter Bunny came for pictures and magnets announcing the return of Sunday School were handed out.

Missions: Designated mission for each quarter: PonyBird, Crisis Nursery, Brenden's Backpack and Camp Mo-Val. First Quarter for Pony Bird collected \$165.79. Connie will work with Tricia to send Pony Bird a card with the check. Second Quarter Mission is Crisis Nursery. Flyers will be placed on the piano in the Sanctuary with a donation jar for those interested in knowing more and donating. Flyers will be available in Fellowship Hall for Sunday School kids to take to their parents. Fishbowls will be placed on the table in each classroom to collect donations.

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. Vacation Bible School will be held July 5-9, 2021, Rally Day tentatively August 29, 2021, Fall Festival (Hayride, Trunk or Treat & Bonfire) tentatively October 16, 2021 and Santa's Breakfast December 4, 2021 with Christmas Program possibly December 19, 2021.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.



The BOCE and Sunday School would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their tremendous support of our first quarter mission. We were able to send \$165.00 to Pony Bird because of your generous donations. THANK YOU!

Evening Circle

Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2021

The Evening Circle group held their meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There were twelve (12) ladies present. The Spring hanging basket fundraiser was a great success. Baskets will be delivered to St. Luke's on Tuesday, May 4th. At the May meeting, the ladies will be making and donating themed baskets for the Safe Place to be raffled/auctioned/sold at their virtual Mardi Gras fundraising event on June 16th. Other fundraising and outreach projects were also discussed. 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, May 25th, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.



"We are so blessed at St. Luke's for having members who are so giving of their time and talents. They are a great example of how our Church members step up to support the Church when needed."

- *Dwight Kraus, Building & Grounds*

- **Cliff Rebsamen...**for helping vacuum out the inside of all AC units and washing of the grills...all 10 of them.
- **Terry Kohler...**for painting three upstairs classrooms & hallway, for power washing and staining the parsonage deck. Paint and stain were paid for by anonymous donations.
- **Gail Heckenberg and Connie Stuckmeyer...**for picking out the paint colors for classrooms and hallway.
- **Kevin & Adam Stockwell...**for continuous work and TLC to the Burgess Cemetery.
- **Tammy Glaus...**for being readily available to unlock the doors as needed to allow workers in the building.
- **Zach Schneider...**for making sure the AC units are ready for summer and replacing the filters in the ductwork systems.
- **Anonymous Donor...**for powerwashing the cross and the brick on the east side of the education building which was soiled with bird droppings.
- **Anonymous Donor...**for purchasing an ice maker hook up kit and installing it in the refrigerator at the Parsonage.
- **To all those that...**tend to the flower gardens around the church grounds.
- **To All those that ...** do so much behind the scenes without anyone even knowing to keep our property in good repair.



Celebrating a Birthday



5/1	Peyton Cusumano Mark Sproull	5/12	Alexa Stacy	5/20	Cody Harris Hermetta Stuckmeyer
5/2	Robert Hicks Liam Pippin Sherry Pippin	5/13	Nathan Davis Brenna McLard Stacie Perry	5/21	Taylor Reiff
5/3	Suzanne Abuzeide Michael Cusumano Tara Cusumano	5/14	Amanda Davis William Glaus, III Matthew Pippin	5/24	Maybree Saputo
5/4	Malachi Lowry	5/15	William Wright	5/25	Tammy Glaus Shawn Lambert Carter Rose Holly Skaggs
5/6	Derek Ehlers	5/16	Casey Charleville Sheila Milam Dwight Randolph	5/26	Kevin Stockwell
5/7	David Pippin	5/17	Nina Lionberger Fredith Ramirez Adam Riordan	5/27	Kody Kraus
5/8	David Fluegge Dustin Hoehn Melissa Price	5/18	Alison Arnold Tyler Mize Sophie Roorda	5/28	Brenda Farson Shirley Neun
5/9	Gail Jacquin Barbara McCarthy Wayne Timeus			5/29	Abigail Bailey Ronald Ehlers Douglas Leeka Carson Schneider
5/10	Jake Narup Verlon Thurman			5/31	Shane Weatherholt



Bruce Acre*, June Balajka, Melva Bradley, William Brewer*, Londyn Dixon*, Larry Eccardt*, Juliet Gilmore, Betty Gruenewald, Kelly Harrison*, Robert Kempf, Madge Klable*, June Koenig*, Richard Kraus*, Jo Ann Mautner*, Debbie Mentz*, Shirley Neun, Jim Ploesser*, Joyce Ruhland, Jean Seymour, Patricia Sieving, Arlein Simpson, Loren Stuckmeyer, 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

Endowment Fund Information

The Endowment Committee would like to announce the availability of funds for disbursement to any duly elected or appointed Board, Council or Church committee (not individuals) who completes the application and meets the guidelines. If more than one committee submits an eligible request, the amount available will be shared equally. The deadline for application is July 31, 2021. Applications are available upon request from the office. Thank you.

- Don Scherer, Endowment Secretary

Strengthen the Church Offering

St. Luke's plans to participate in the scheduled Strengthen the Church offering on May 23, 2021. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to Strengthen the Church offering. The offering envelopes have been received so if you wish to contribute, please continue to mail giving to the Church Office and these will be handled appropriately.

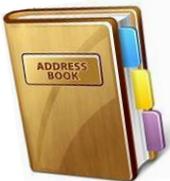


Clothing Donation Box

Spring is here!

. . . as you begin cleaning out closets and drawers and Spring cleaning during this "stay at home" time please remember the clothing recycle box next to the paper recycling bin on the gravel parking area by the cemetery. St. Luke's receives a monetary credit for your clothing donations.

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Directory Updates

Listed below are some updates to the Church Directory received recently...

Bernice Roffler
Vintage Assisted Living, Room 211
203 South Moody Road
Palatka, FL 32177

June Balajka
Delmar Garden Villas South, Room 99
13457 Tesson Ferry Road
St. Louis, MO 63128

MAY

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		Church Office Closed on Tuesday's			Church Office Closed on Friday's	
						1
2 Sunday Worship/ Communion 9:00 AM	3	4 8:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm BOCE Mtg	5	6	7	8
9 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM Mother's Day Mariella Saputo Baptism	10	11 8:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm BOE Mtg	12	13	14	15
16 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM Confirmation	17 Beacon Articles DUE	18 8:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	19	20	21	22
23 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM Strengthen the <u>Church</u>	24	25 8:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Evening Circle	26	27	28	29
30	31 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED					