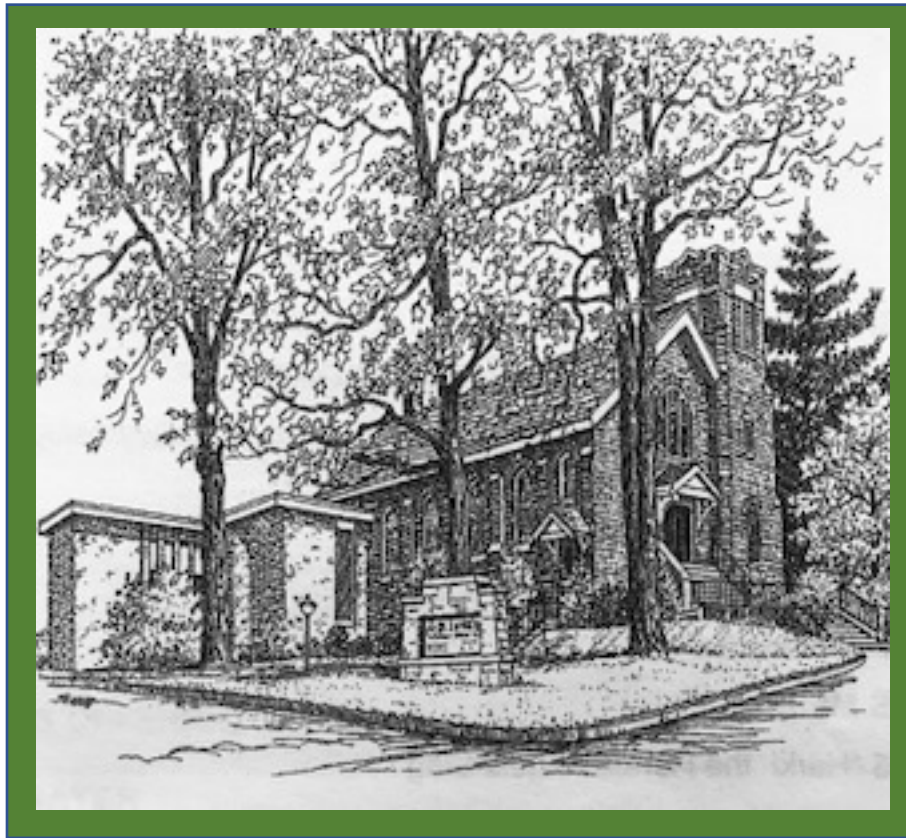


THE BEACON

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



DECEMBER 2023

Website: www.stlukesuccimperial.org

Email: stlukesimperial@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

St. Luke's Friends and Family,

The long-awaited season of Advent – itself a longing for the coming of Christmas – has finally arrived. This is truly one of the very special times of the year in the life of the church. I hope you are planning to join us each Sunday of Advent, beginning this coming Sunday, December 3rd, for our 9:00am worship. We will sing the songs and light the lights of the season, and this week we will share the bread and the cup of Holy Communion as well. For the first two weeks of Advent, I will be sharing from both the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament and the gospel of Mark in the New Testament as we seek the Hope and Peace only Advent brings.

Advent (from the Latin *adventus*) means arrival or coming. It refers, of course, to the coming of the Christ as a child. This focus on preparation for the arrival of the Christ child may be even more important today than in the fourth century, when it originated. Advent reminds us Christmas is about more than candy canes, Santa Claus, reindeer, snow men, and wreaths of holly. In fact, many churches in times past observed Advent as a time of penitence in preparation for the joyous celebration of the birth.

In recent years the emphasis has changed to one of anticipation. It calls to mind the years of waiting for the Messiah on the part of the Hebrew people. During this time of celebration, we prepare ourselves both mentally and spiritually for the Christ child, Messiah, and Savior to come into our world anew. This season serves to call us back to the real meaning of the season. Advent not only becomes a time of preparation for the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world, but also a time for the rebirth of the Spirit in our lives.

We bring Advent to a close on Christmas Eve, which this year falls on a Sunday. I hope your family plans to join us for Advent worship at 9:00am December 24, and again at 11:00PM as we celebrate Christmas Eve together. Christmas Eve is among my favorite worship services of the year – and our family's first here at St. Luke's!

May you have a Hopeful Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Hill".

Rev. James Hill
Pastor James
(203) 889-6440
jameshilljr@icloud.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

President Warren Stuckmeyer	Vice President Dave Pippin	Secretary Yvonne Davis	Treasurer Dave Pippin Don Dankel
Fin. Secretary Linda Schrepel	BOE Rep. Gary Hartmann	BOCE Rep. Kathy Porter	Bldg. & Grounds Garry Kraus
Burgess Cemetery/Endowment Don Dankel		Pastor Rev. James Hill Jr.	

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Church Council Minutes 11/21/2023

In attendance: Warren Stuckmeyer, Don Dankel, David Pippin, Garry Kraus, Linda Schrepel, Gary Hartmann, Kathy Porter, and Reverend Hill.

Meeting called to order at 6:40 by Warren Stuckmeyer.
Reverend Hill said the opening prayer.

Sandy Arnold is up for re-election on the Church Council. She has decided not to re-up for the next 3 years. The Church Council is looking for a candidate or volunteer to take her position.

Reports:

David Pippin has got the old credit card cancelled.

Board of Elders requested removing Kathleen Beining and move to affiliate members Demi Elrod and Taylor Olsen.

Gary Hartman made a motion to accept all reports as given, seconded by Linda Schrepel. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Trash and Treasure sale made \$1,500.00.

Cameras – December 3 we will hopefully have blue tooth music for the sanctuary.

Tithley.com worked good for the chicken dinner.

New Business:

Snow removal to remain the same.

Pastor Hill will be reimbursed for advent stole.

Membership

Death – Norvill Kraus

Birth – none

Members – none

Open/close

December 17 – David Pippin

December 24 – Linda Schrepel

December 24 11:00 pm – Garry Kraus

December 31 – Don Dankel

Gary Hartmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kathy Porter. All were in favor. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October

General Giving	\$12,706.50
Expenses (Operational)	\$15,588.19
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$(2,881.69)

YTD 2023

General Giving	\$118,179
Expenses (Moving)	\$15,069
Expenses (Operational)	\$157,281
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$(54,171)

The Church Council is asking everyone to do their part to offset the above deficit. Thank you for your support. This is your Church.

BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS

Chairperson Julie Hartmann	Secretary Judy Duro	Church Council Rep. Gary Hartmann	Worship Kay Moss	Mentor Jess McLard
Visitor Care Michelle Perry	Ushers Brenda Day	Nursery Julie Hartmann	Pastor Rev, James Hill Jr.	

Christmas Eve morning service is at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve candlelight service is at 11:00 p.m. and will include communion.

Christmas decorations will be taken down January 14th following church service.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Chairperson Angie Logan	Secretary Greg McLard	Church Council Rep. Kathy Porter	Elected Members Connie Stuckmeyer Shelbey Stilwill Chrissy Kraus
Superintendent Sarah Saputo	VBS Sarah Saputo	Rev. James Hill	

No meeting in November.

ENDOWMENT

Endowment has funds available. Any duly elected or appointed Board, Council or Church Committee (not individuals) are eligible to apply. Applications are available upon request from the Church Office.

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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Jilliam Davis
Jordyn Davis
Mariella Saputo
Evelyn Keith

Fletcher McLard
Jessa Davis
Roni Belt
Wyl Belt

Lauren Belt
Maybree Saputo
Morgan Belt

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.....

Ian Dunlap*
Megan Nuelle
Bob Johnson*
Dave Sheffer*
Paul Seitz
Trevor Dulle*
Jeff Timeus*
Family of Ed Grimm
Family of Margaret "Micki" Quinn
Glenda Dickemann O'Tool
Family of Norvill Kraus

Robert Perry*
Kay Carter
Lee Nations
Dianna Johnson*
Betty Acre
Wayne Kramer Jr.*
Mandy Hopen*
Family of Carol Cameron
Family of Michael Farson

Loren Stuckmeyer
Landon Lambert
Sharlene Schlereth
Kyle McPhedren*
Family of Della Kramme
Harold Burton*
Alan Bess*
Mike Burcham*
James Gray Jr.*

Our Military Personnel

Shawn Farson*
Alec Schrepel*
Isaak Hartung*

Christopher Kettler*
Kelsey L. Schwent*
Susan Bablowitz*

Samuel Lowry
Eric Watkins*

DECEMBER

2nd Santa's Breakfast
6th Bible Study 11:00
13th Bible Study 11:00
17th Christmas Program / Cookie Reception
18th Blood Drive
20th Bible Study 11:00

GIVING STATEMENT

Just a friendly reminder. All donations to St. Luke's must be received in our office before Wednesday, December 27, 2023. This ensures it will be posted to your giving statement and deposited in 2023. Thank you!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped decorate the Church. It looks beautiful!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Matthew Riordan	12/1	Judd McLard	12/17
Stephen Anthonies	12/5	Barbara Lambert	12/18
Kregg Kraus	12/5	Wayne Raebel	12/19
Katelyn Schimsa	12/6	Fletcher McLard	12/20
Mary Hollerbach	12/8	Isaiah Hill	12/22
William Michel	12/8	Stacey Miller	12/22
Bernice Roffler	12/11	Christopher Cano	12/23
Shelbey Stilwill	12/11	Jessica McLard	12/23
Jessa Davis	12/11	Courtney Anthonies	12/24
Garry Dale Kraus Jr.	12/12	Johnny McKenzie	12/25
Glenda Haefner	12/12	Suzanne Magee	12/28
Susan Gillman	12/13	Burnell Raebel	12/29
Louis Meyer	12/14	Ashley Carpenter	12/29
Joan Thurman	12/14	Zachary Nuelle	12/29
Warren Stuckmeyer	12/14	Judy Dehner	12/30
Paislee Carver	12/14	Lewis Johnson	12/30
Jordyn Davis	12/15	Brenda Day	12/31

GIVING ONLINE

Did you know that you can now make contributions to the church online, via electronic check or with your debit or credit card? Simply go to the church website at www.stlukesuccimperial.org, click on the link for online giving, and follow the instructions. Questions? Contact our church office today!

“SINGING THE LORD’S SONG” Pastor’s Bible Study

Bible study continues this Wednesday, November 22nd at 11:00AM. This study is called "Sing the Lord's Song" and we examine the role of music within scripture, in both the Old & New Testaments. This is a 6-week study and wraps up on Wednesday, December 20th. We will explore songs of hope & promise, victory & triumph, pain & anger, and glory & adoration. Want more information? Contact Pastor James today!

RECYCLE FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

Don't throw away your old or broken holiday lights – donate them instead! Thanks to Didion Orf Recycling, your old lights can be turned into a monetary donation to RMHC. You can recycle holiday lights, extension cords, PC towers, network gear, cell phones, laptops, power adapters, chargers, or office phones. For more information visit rmhcstl.com/recycle.

TOY / GIFT DRIVE

St. Luke's is once again conducting a toy/gift drive this Christmas season. We will be working with one of our local schools but not the Jefferson County Toy Drive because they are not doing it. The gift drive begins on November 19th and ends on December 10th. Instructions will be in the cards. We appreciate everyone's generosity and look forward to another successful toy drive this year. If you have any questions, contact Brenda or Don Dankel at 636-942-3630; 314.330.0337 (Brenda's cell); or 314.705.2729 (Don's cell).

Sunday School Food Drive!

October through the end of December!

Here are some weekly ideas:

October 15- BRING ANYTHING CANNED! (beans, tuna, fruit, vegetables)

October 22- SQUEAKY CLEAN (paper towels, wipes, vinegar, baking soda, laundry detergent, lysol, sponges, dish soap, comet)

October 29- CHICKEN DINNER NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

November 5- RISE AND SHINE (breakfast items: pancake mix, syrup, jelly, pop tarts, honey, muffin mix, cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars)

November 12- PASTA WEEK (noodles, mac and cheese, sauce)

November 19- BOXED IN (snacks, mixes, instant foods)

November 26- BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE (soups, hot cocoa, crackers)

December 3- CANNED FRUITS AND VEGGIE WEEK

December 10- SCRUB A DUB DUB (toilet paper, tissues, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soaps)

December 17- PEANUT BUTTER (that's it) *Christmas Program this evening*

December 24- MERRY CHRISTMAS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

December 31- BABY'S HERE (diapers, baby wipes, baby food, cereal, formula)

If we reach our goal of 500 items, there will be a movie and pizza reward!



Join us at St. Luke's
DECEMBER 2nd
Begins at 9:00AM!

9:00-9:50AM: Snacks & Activities

9:50AM: Story

10:00-10:30AM: Santa!



Breakfast with
SANTA



**CRAFTS, FOOD, STORY TIME
& A VISIT FROM SANTA**

PLEASE BRING A FRIEND AND A CAMERA!

St. Luke's U.C.C. • 6610 St. Luke's Church Rd. • Imperial, MO 63052

BLOOD DRIVE

BLOODCENTER.ORG

St. Luke's United Church of Christ

Monday, December 18 2:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Fellowship Hall 6610 St. Luke's Church Road

Masks optional. Appointments required.

To schedule an appointment, **scan QR code**,
call Sherry Pippin at 636.948.3545,
or online at [www.bloodcenter.org/group; grp #10397](http://www.bloodcenter.org/group;grp#10397)



Give and get your choice
of a gift card or a donation
to area food banks.

Learn more at bloodcenter.org/hunger.



 **ImpactLife**