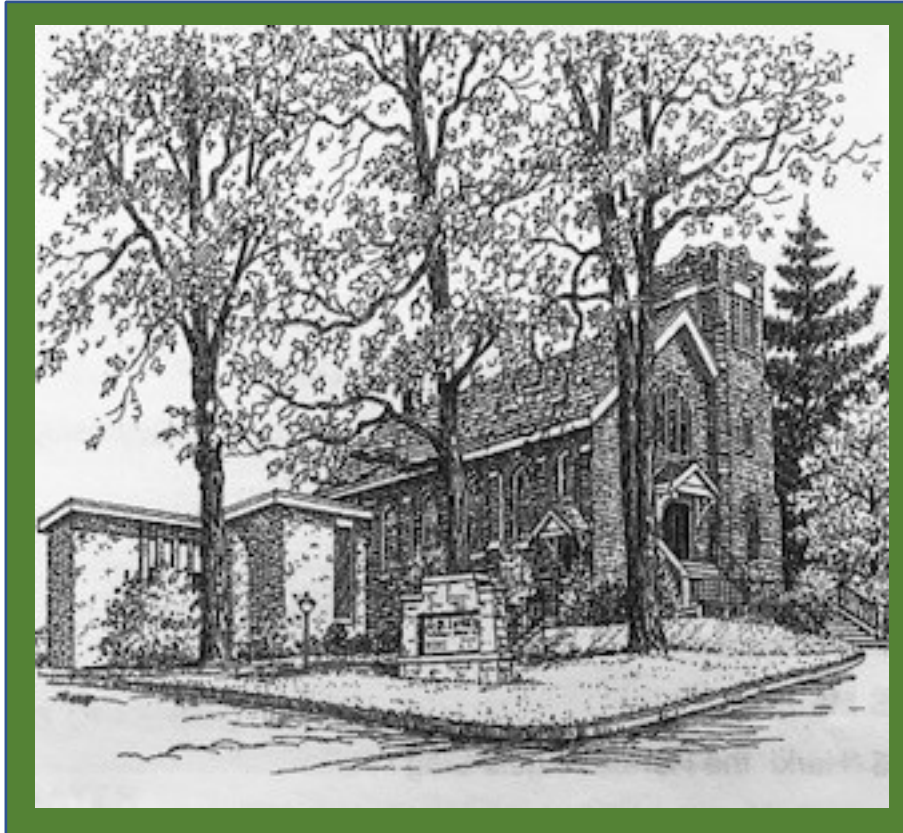


THE BEACON

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



October 2025

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

October 3, 2025

Dear St. Luke's Family and Friends,

Here at St. Luke's, October arrives with a rustle of leaves, a whisper of change in the weather – and the smell of apple butter. As the days turn shorter, this harvest month invites us into a time of transition, of preparation for the coming season of holidays and celebrations. It's a time to reflect on what we've planted and nurtured throughout the year. What fruits of faith have ripened in our lives? What relationships have deepened? What prayers have been answered in ways we didn't expect? Jesus often spoke in agricultural metaphors—seeds, soil, vines, harvests. These images remind us that spiritual growth is rarely instant. It's slow, patient, and often hidden. As we move through this season, I invite you to consider: What is God harvesting in us right now?

Grief has become an important fruit of our harvest in recent days. Our faith community has experienced more than our share of loss in these past months, with both our church family and family of our families experiencing these losses. As we move forward, remember that a thoughtful card or caring presence may mean more than having the right words. We can and should be there for each other. I am grateful for our coming Totenfest recognition and remembrance. On Sunday, November 2, we will honor and remember all of those who have died in the past year. If you know of someone we should include in our recognition, please contact the church office this month. I hope you and your family plan to be with us on November 2nd.

Before we get to Totenfest, we cannot forget our Chicken Dinner – one of the highlights of the season for all Glaize Creek valley, Barnhart, Antonia, Imperial, and beyond. You'll find more information about this year's dinner in this newsletter; pass the information on to family and friends as this is a time no one will want to miss. Need a flyer to post or distribute? Contact our church office today!

I don't know about you, but I'm ready for October and something new. Let's plan to

gather in worship each Sunday as we give thanks. See you then!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Pastor James

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

In attendance – Warren Stuckmeyer, David Pippin, Jess McLard, Yvonne Davis, Don Dankel, Garry Kraus.

At 6:40 Warren Stuckmeyer called the meeting to order. Don Dankel said the opening prayer.

Reports

No Pastors report,

Treasurers Report,

BOCE report,

Elders Report,

Endowment report

Building and Grounds – Jess McLard made Garry aware that the banister is loose in the fellowship hall stairway.

Yvonne Davis made a motion to approve all reports as presented. Don Dankel seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

OLD Business

- The Marelly AEDs have had the pediatric pads replaced by Emma.
- Copier – Reverend Hill is looking into a new copier. He was not in attendance, so this is tabled until next month.
- Roof – The insurance company has sent information on coverage for the storm damage. Bids were discussed and RGS is the company we are going to use to replace the roofs. A special congregational meeting will be held October 5, 2025, right after the service to discuss the storm damage claim.
- Tree Limbs – Yvonne Davis made a motion to accept the tree/limb removal quote not to exceed \$3500.00. Seconded by Garry Kraus. All were in favor, motion carried.
- Outside lighting – the pole is painted and ready, the anchor bolts and fixture have been purchased. When Lou Meyer gets the hole dug, and the concrete base poured, the light will be put up.
- Doors – the Hardware is in, and the doors are completed, we are just waiting on the glass.
- Trash and Treasure sale – the proceeds will go into the general fund.

New Business

- Insurance deductible change – The insurance company informed us that we will have to go from a \$2,500 deductible to a \$5,000 deductible for the coverage that we have. David Pippin made a motion to change the deductible immediately as long as it does not interfere with the current storm claims. Seconded by Garry Kraus. All were in favor, motion passed.
- Work Day – October 18, 2025.
- Sewer Bill increase – It was brought to our attention that the sewer bill will increase January 1, 2025.
- Fryer set up – October 17, 2025, Garry Kraus and Don Dankel will set the fryers up for the chicken dinner. The fryers will be lit to make sure they are working properly. They are in need of at least one other person to learn how to start the fryers for future use.

Membership changes

Deaths – Arnita McClannahan

Births – none

Membership – none

Open/Close schedule

October 19 – Don Dankel

October 26 – David Pippin

Yvonne Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Jess McLard. All were in favor and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting October 21, 2025, at 6:30 pm

BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS

6:30 p.m.

September, 17 2025

Julie Hartmann, Chairperson Kay Moss, Worship

Chrissy Kraus, Visitor Care Michelle Perry, Secretary

Judy Duro, Ushers Tim Hollerbach, Member

Pastor James Hill Gary Hartmann, Council Rep

CALL TO ORDER : Julie Hartmann called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm.

PRAYER: Opened meeting with prayer, by Pastor James

COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2025

● January-February-March-April Michelle Perry & Julie Hartmann

● May-June-July-August Kay Moss & Tim Hollerbach

● September-October-November-December Judy Duro & Chrissy Kraus

MINUTES (August 12, 2025): Correction made under Old Minutes: Chicken dinner date, October 26, 2025. With correction amended, motion made to accept minutes by Judy Duro, seconded by Michelle Perry. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Worship: Going well. The pastor explained how the hymns were chosen each week per scripture.

Ushers: Going well, we did have two requests to take several people off the usher rotation list.. Judy has adjusted the upcoming usher schedule.

Communion: Supplies are good. No issues. Visitor Care: Nothing to report at this time.

MEMBERSHIP

Confirmation Class: The pastor had a meeting with the parents of the two confirmands this past Sunday. Jillian Davis and Lauren Belt.

Baptisms: There are two baptisms scheduled on September 28th for Penelope JoAnn Godi, 1 year old and Zoey Nicole Godi, age 3 years old. Parents are Andrew and Nicole Godi.

Weddings: None scheduled at this time.

Funerals: Arnedo McClenahan passed away on September 6th. The family requested a private service with Pastor Hill serving at the grave site. Obituary to be sent out to the congregation.

New Member: None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. All Church Picnic-85 people. 2024-120 people. Will keep the food amount that was purchased this year, the same for next year.
2. Turning off the computer after church seems to be resolved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Totenfest service will be on 11/2/2025. Letters will be sent out to the families who lost members of the congregation from November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025. Michelle will provide a list to Emma. Flowers will need to be purchased and arranged, one vase per family. Flower vases are in the carryout room, Julie to check with Brenda Day. We've ordered red carnations and baby's breath in the past years. Vases to be placed on the altar. We also allow families that have had a loved one pass to be included during the service, however, we don't provide a vase of flowers for that person.
2. Christmas Service Schedule: Hanging of the Greens, scheduled on November 30th, following service. Michelle will check with Brenda Day to see if she would be willing to help Michelle get the decorations out and ready. Christmas Eve service time will be 11:00 pm. There will be no Christmas Day service. We need to check the candles that are used for the Christmas Eve service, some need to be replaced. Candles are located in the bell tower. We will also need to purchase AAA batteries.

OTHER ITEMS:

1. Pastor Hill reports he was asked to lead the St. Louis UCC Association annual gathering to be held at Peace UCC in Clayton on October 4th from 9:00 am to noon. He has also been asked to complete a term on the board, for the 2026 year, for another pastor who is unable to continue on this board. There will be a

recommendation then a vote at this annual meeting as well. There will not be a Conference meeting in 2026.

2. Pastor Hill also reports the Church Council has requested a special meeting for the congregation on October 5th, following service. This will be to approve for a new roof for the church and the parsonage.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Judy Duro, seconded by Kay Moss. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: October 14, 2025

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

August 5, 2025

*Angie Logan - Chairperson	*Greg McLard - Secretary
Sarah Saputo - Sunday School Superintendent & VBS	Kathy Porter - Church Council Liaison
*Shelbey Stillwill	*Connie Stuckmeyer
*Emily Dulle	*Pastor James Hill
*present	

Opening Prayer - Pastor James 6:45pm.

Welcome – Angie welcomed everyone.

Minutes - Connie motion, Emily 2nd - minutes accepted.

Reports

1. Sunday School - Low attendance this summer.
2. Church Council - Quick meeting last month. Probably no fish fry this year. Other topics discussed.
3. Confirmation - Start w/Sunday school - Sept. 7th. 2 confirmands so far.
 - a. Thursday Sept 4th - James is starting a bible study. Go thru 2nd week of December. James is debating for it to be online or in-person.
4. Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000
5. Missions (Sunday School offering and any additional donations)
 - a. 2nd quarter - Helping Hands and Horses - Missions behind due to no responses from secretaries.

OLD BUSINESS

Open Close Church Schedule :

August 10, 2025 - Shelby Stillwill
September 14, 2025 - Connie Stuckmeyer
October 12, 2025 - Greg McLard

1. VBS: Theme = ROAD TRIP!!
 - a. Notable details
 - b. Attendance - 60 kids registered.

- c. Volunteers - 40 volunteers
- d. Donations -
 - i. \$232.32 offering
 - ii. \$70 cash donation used for snacks.
 - iii. \$200 check - no use specified. Will be put into BOCE fund. Decide soon where to use.
 - iv. Mission is Brendan's backpack - ½ of offering will do to this mission.
 - v. Many snacks donated. \$200 in receipts spent by Chrissy + some others. No reimbursement requested.
- e. Budget
 - i. Curriculum - Curriculum purchased by Church - to be spend from VBS fund/budget.
 - ii. Spent
 - 1. Snack: \$200 in receipts - no reimbursement requested.
 - 2. Crafts: \$149.14 in receipts - reimbursement is requested.
 - 3. Recreation: \$80 in receipts - no reimbursement requested.
 - 4. Science: \$25 in receipts - no reimbursement requested.
 - 5. Decorations and BBQ: \$348.00 - reimbursement requested for items purchased from Sams & Walmart - (\$177.05)
 - iii. Reimbursement
 - 1. \$0 requested for snacks
 - 2. \$149.14 reimbursement requested.
 - 3. \$177.05 - Decorations/BBQ reimbursement requested.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Rally Day (8/24/25)
 - o Elders – **Kitchen- confirmed**
 - i. **Provide meet and drinks.**
 - o Council - **Indoor games confirmed** - past games included:
 - i. Cake walk.
 - ii. Saran wrap ball.
 - iii. Board games
 - iv. Ping Pong into a cup?
 - v. Jenga - big version
 - o BOCE - Outdoor games - **2024 games:**
 - i. Duck pond - Shelbey - will get prizes
 - ii. Bounce house - Angie will bring
 - iii. Sucker Pull - Connie - will bring suckers.
 - iv. Balloon darts - Sarah - will get prizes.
 - v. Goliath - Chrissy? Is it even available?
 - vi. Face paint and tattoo's - Chrissy?
 - vii. Corn hole - Connie 'Connie's Corn Hole!!' - will get prizes
 - viii. Soda ring toss - Greg - GM will purchase Soda/drinks
 - ix. Basketball shooting game - Emily - will get prizes
 - x. Bags for prizes - plastic and paper to decorate.

- Prizes?
 - i. Check the office
 - ii. Purchase each
 - iii. Snow cones or popsicles. **Emily will ask her Dad/family about snow cones.**
- Door prizes
 - i. the children. Sarah says we have plenty for the kids.
 - ii. Need 2 for adults - 1x women and 1x for men. **Connie will get.**
 - 1. **1x Raffle basket - fall theme. Connie will put together.**
- send Postcards?
 - i. **To late this year.**
 - ii. **Teachers to contact kid's families.**
- announcements in Church for Rally Day.

i. Chrissy to create flyer in bulletin this Sunday.

ii. Announce in Church this Sunday

iii. Ask Emma to do email blast - include flyer.

- New ideas for activities:
 - i. Bigger bounce house?
 - ii. Bubble machine - **Angie will get for this year.**
 - iii. Special guests - Fred Bird, Bluey - **Not enough time this year.**
 - iv. Fire Dept. / Ambulance - **Ask Sarah to check.**
 - v. Pie to the face booth/fundraiser - **Not in 2025.**
 - vi. **Year long voting for 'eat a goldfish' or 'pie in the face', etc. for 2026.**

2) Goodies with Grands (9/07/25)

- Foods - Angie-Drinks
 - Greg- **3 dozen Donuts**
 - Emily - **Fruit Tray**
 - Sarah- Decorations
 - Shelbey- **Pastries/ Muffins**
 - Angie - **Donut Holes**
 - flyer?
 - Arrive at 8
- Last year: **About 80 people attended. Plan for the same this year.**
- **Teachers will be asked to have 1 craft in classroom with kids/Grandparents.**

Plan event with Teachers. Prepare craft or activity

Upcoming Events:

8/24- Rally Day

9/7- Goodies with Grands

****Discuss Year long voting for 'eat a goldfish' or 'pie in the face', etc. ****

Lords Prayer

Next Meeting 9/2/2025 @6:30pm (This meeting was cancelled)

WOMEN'S CIRCLE UPDATES

September 4th, 2025

After a brief lunch, Michelle Perry opened the meeting at 11:45. There were thirteen present. Pastor Hill opened in prayer and joys and concerns were shared. Three cards were signed for our members who can not attend our meetings anymore.

Marlyn Palmer did a devotion and an offering was collected. Minutes and Treasure reports were approved. Chicken dinner will be on Sunday, October 26 with preparation day on Saturday, October 25th at 8:00. Plans for 550 meals was discussed. There will be a list of kitchen jobs posted on the refrigerator to be completed before the dinner. If a job is done please mark it off the list as completed. Festival of sharing personal hygiene kits are being collected (63 so far) and will be delivered on Saturday, October 13th. The mission project for September is \$150 being sent to Pony Bird. Christmas in November is being planned. A \$15 gift card of choice and canned good(s) will be collected that night for charity. The next meeting is on Thursday, October 2 at 11:30 am. We invite any and all ladies at St. Luke's to join us in fellowship and be a part of our church and community projects.

A BIG Thank You from the Women's Circle

We, the Women's Circle, would like to thank the St. Luke's church family for participating in the collection of personal hygiene kits. It ran from August 10 through September 7. In that one short month there were seventy-five (75) kits collected. It was more than we could have imagined and are so grateful to this caring and giving congregation. St. Luke's, you came through again and it is so appreciated, not only by us but by those in need who will be receiving the kits.

With sincere thanks, The Women's Circle

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!

August Expenses

Monthly		YTD
\$13,095	Giving	\$112,617.07
-\$14,620.58	Expenses	-\$135,260.52
=\$ -1,525.58		=\$ -22,643.45

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

(*DENOTES NON-MEMBER, NAMES IN BOLD ARE NEWLY ADDED)

Robert Perry*	Bob Johnson*	Sharlene Schlereth
Alan Bess*	Mike Burcham*	Kathy Porter
Burnell Raebel	David and Pam Belleville	Bob Schrepel
Mark Pursley*	Vicki Kramme Carpenter	Doris Stephenson*
Al Kraus*	Sharon Kaplan*	Eddie Lowry
Joyce Kraus	Ollie Stuckmeyer	Jana Kramme
Kay Olsen	Garry Kraus	Family of Richard Livengood
Minerva Ainsley	Juliet Gilmore*	Betty Acre

Family of Ruthie Mueller
 Family of Bob Johnson
Our Military Personnel
 Christopher Kettler*
 Susan Bablowitz*

Jane Kraus*
Family of Jean Seymour
 Samuel Lowry
 Brian Randolph

Steve Hammers*
 Family of Arnedo McClenahan
 Eric Watkins*
 Isaak Hartung*

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Wyl Belt
 Fletcher McLard
 Roni Belt
 Morgan Belt



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Alexander Schimsa	10/1	Olivia Kraus	10/14
Jason Stuckmeyer	10/2	Julia Hartmann	10/15
Austen Ferbet	10/2	Owen Nuelle	10/15
Ellee Russell	10/2	Walter Miller	10/16
Sharlene Schlereth	10/4	Loren Stuckmeyer	10/17
Bryan Day	10/4	Jordan McKinley	10/18
Sherry Mueller	10/5	Gregory Rose	10/18
Sandy Winters	10/6	Lleyton Pery	10/19
Kay Moss	10/7	Brenda Dankel	10/20
Elizabeth Russell	10/8	Glee Naes	10/21
Sarah Sumner	10/9	Marilee Sturmer	10/21
Ralph Hoffarth	10/9	Glenda O'Tool-Potts	10/21
Michael Allen	10/10	Kimberly Kirk	10/21
Michel Hartmann	10/10	Crystal Burcham	10/22
Nancy Roorda	10/11	Paige Seitz	10/23
Chelsea Lowry	10/11	Ruth Mueller	10/24
Janice Lowry	10/12	Dale Winters	10/26
Mariella Saputo	10/12	Angie Kraus	10/27
Donna Wirth	10/13	Thomas Duro	10/27

Jill Charleville	10/28	Demi Elrod	10/30
Emma Haefner	10/28	Kane Neislein	10/30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER

- 2nd Women's Circle 11:30am
- 3rd Peeling apples for Apple Butter Festival, 6:00pm
- 4th Baking apples for Apple Butter Festival, 6:00am
St. Louis Association Fall Gathering at Samuel UCC in Clayton
- 5th Special Congregational meeting
- 7th Board of Christian Ed meeting, 6:30pm
- 14th Board of Elders meeting, 6:30pm
- 18th All Church work day, 8:00am
- 21st Church Council meeting, 6:30pm
- 26th Chicken Dinner – *Worship at 10:00 am*

November

- 2nd Totenfest
- 4th Board of Christian Education meeting, 6:30pm
- 6th Women's Circle, 11:30am
- 11th Board of Christian Education meeting, 6:30pm
- 14th Board of Elders meeting, 6:30pm
- 18th Church Council meeting, 6:30pm
- 23rd Thanksgiving Service

Pastor's Fall Bible Study

Matthew's Message: A Journey Through the First Gospel



Pastor James' new Bible study will run throughout the Fall on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm and will meet in-person in Fellowship Hall. For those who need it, we will also have a way to attend online via Zoom. Please contact the church office or Pastor James by email to be added to the Zoom attendance list.

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY

St. Luke's All Church Work Day will be on Saturday, October 18th starting at 8:00am. We will need volunteers and suggestions for tasks to be completed. Please see Dave Pippin and Dane Kraus for more details.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Church Council has called a congregational meeting for immediately following worship on Sunday, October 5th, for the purpose of considering a recommendation for a new roof on both the parsonage and the church building.



ST. LUKE'S
APPLEBUTTER
COOKING

JOIN IN ON THE TRADITION

Join us for a delightful evening
and early morning of cooking apple butter!
A delicious favorite of the season.

This festive event brings together the church for time filled
with apples, stories, laughs, and the vibrant colors of fall.

PEELING & SNIBBLING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
6:00 PM- ABOUT 10:00 PM

COOKING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
6:00 A.- ABOUT 1:00 PM

TASTY TREATS

SAMPLE A VARIETY OF APPLE-INSPIRED DISHES,
FROM PIES TO CIDER DONUTS.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

**OCT
3&4**

6610 ST. LUKES CHURCH RD.
ANTONIA, MO 63052

ITEMS STILL NEEDED:

PINT JARS, PINT JAR RINGS AND LIDS (ABOUT 144)
FOOD FOR FRIDAY EVENING- SANDWICHES, CHIPS, DRINKS
FOOD FOR SATURDAY- DONUTS, HOT DOGS, CHILI, DRINKS, ETC.

PINT SIZE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
PROCEEDS WILL GO TO GENERAL FUND

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT DARRELL KRAUS : 314-225-7423





**BUY A CHICKEN
FILL THE COOP**



for

ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER

Sponsored by the Women's Circle

You can help with the cost of the chickens with our "buy a chicken" program. You will get one opportunity to win a free chicken dinner with every chicken you purchase.

Make a \$10.00 donation to

St. Luke's Women's Circle

Send it by mail or drop your check or cash in the collection plate. **We will let you know if you win**, make sure you mark it for **"chickens"**.

Include your name and phone number.

Thank you for your support!

Drawing deadline Friday Oct 24th.

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025
11 AM – 3PM (or until sold out)
Following Worship @ 10:00**

**COST: \$15 SAME PRICE
AS LAST YEAR!!**

**Cash OR Card
Dine In & Carry Out**

**Dinner to include:
½ Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Slaw
Green Beans
Beets
Applesauce
Dessert**

**Drink: Tea, Coffee, Water
St Luke's UCC**

**6610 St Luke's Church Rd, Imperial, Missouri 63052
636-948-3545**

BUY A CHICKEN

For

ST.LUKE'S ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER

Sponsored by the Women's Circle



I would like _____ chickens @ \$10.00 ea. \$_____

Name: _____

Place this form and and your donation in offering plate or
turn in to office on or before Oct 24th.

BUY A CHICKEN

For

ST.LUKE'S ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER

Sponsored by the Women's Circle



I would like _____ chickens @ \$10.00 ea. \$_____

Name: _____

Place this form and your donation in offering plate or
turn in to office on or before Oct. 24th.

