

Memorial Day 2026

Remembering the scars of our troubled past, and taking action

David I Gustafson, Ph.D., St. Louis, MO
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Dear #STL Friends –

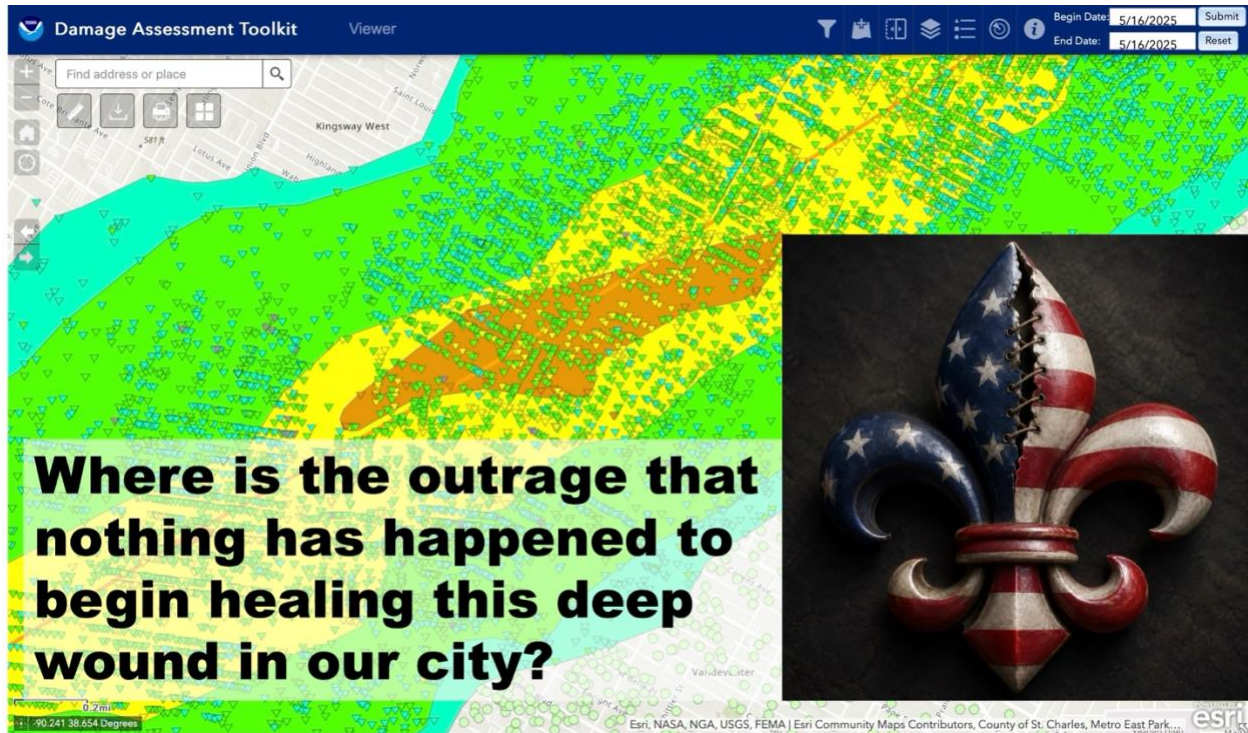
Good morning from Creve Coeur (French for broken heart)! On this Memorial Day 2026, as we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation, I am thankful for the countless brave Americans who gave their lives to protect our freedom. But my heart is also broken over the ugly scars that remain unhealed here in St. Louis. The ‘fleur-de-lis’ is a reminder that St. Louis was founded in French territory in 1764, 12 years before America declared its independence, and only became part of the US 39 years later, upon the consummation of the Louisiana Purchase by Jefferson. Anyhow, on this day of both solemn remembrance of the past and celebration of the start of summer, I have three timely items to share with you today. I promise to be brief!

First, I want to encourage those of you who will be in St. Louis on June 13 to consider registering for the 10th Annual [Race for Reconciliation](#), a continuing ministry of the [St. Louis Reconciliation Network](#), which the Lord called me to form nearly 14 years ago. The work has continued through the years under the very skillful leadership of Brandon Wilkes, and he has now recruited Herman Armstrong of [Restore St. Louis](#) to help manage the race, as it has become a major undertaking. I praise the Lord for this growth and sincerely invite you to join us, as we run along the historic Delmar Divide in the name of Unity. And please invite all your friends to join us!

Secondly, on June 6, I will be relaunching a [One Family Church Life Group](#), “A Walk in the Park.” We’ll gather at 8:30 am each Saturday at Shaw Park’s Chapman Plaza, pray together, and then go for a walk (bringing our dogs, which are optional). Yours could meet my new puppy, JoJo. You need not formally register or be a member of One Family to join us, although the formal registration page will open on their website on May 31. This is a summer session Life Group and will end on August 1. The runners among us will leave our dogs at home on June 13 to participate in the Race for Reconciliation on Delmar, but we’ll meet at Shaw Park on all other Saturdays.

Lastly, I’m asking for urgent prayer over a new initiative that the LORD has placed on my heart, “[A New Lou](#).” Its purpose is to pursue a complete revitalization and transformation of STL North City based around the concept of introducing Urban Ag in those areas that currently sit in various states of abandonment. This same concept has worked well in Detroit and other cities around the world. Now, more than a year after the devastating [May 2025 tornado](#), the complete and utter neglect continues – with much of the tornado damage completely untouched. The lack of any regional outrage over the travesty of this continuing systemic disregard for North City is burning in my heart and motivating me to act. I personally hosted an initial workshop on the Urban Ag idea at [Delmar DivINe](#) in November 2025 and have now secured USDA-NIFA funding to host a larger event on July 28-29. Please join me in daily prayer that this will be impactful and become the catalyst for St. Louis to finally repent and treat with compassion the many tens of thousands of our neighbors who continue to suffer the unjust consequences of sinful inaction on the part of

those of us who have been richly blessed and could do far more – and should! And if you feel called to join this new initiative, please reach out.



In closing, many thanks to each of you in St. Louis for everything you are doing to play some part in the healing that is so desperately needed. And please do take a moment today to prayerfully thank those who selflessly gave their lives to preserve and protect this Great Experiment in Democracy – despite its many flaws, it remains the best attempt on Earth.

Thank you! - Dave