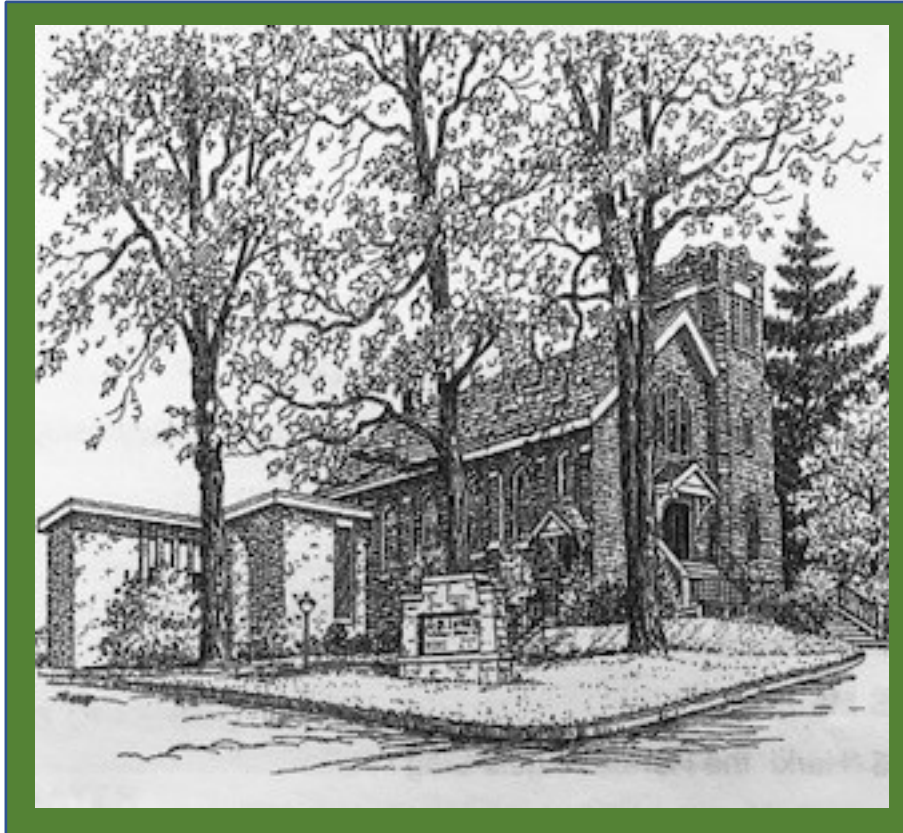


THE BEACON

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



February 2026

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

February 1, 2026

St. Luke's Family and Friends,

February always arrives with a quiet sort of courage. The holidays have faded, the new year's resolutions have either taken root or drifted away, and winter still holds us in its stubborn grip. These last couple of weeks, winter's grip has felt tighter. In such times, it takes courage to look with hope toward a coming Spring.

We also find ourselves in a time when the courage we need may not be so quiet. When we see so many in our country demonize "others" out of fear, courage can seem in short supply. When circumstances and wielded power in our world appear insurmountable, courage can start to fade. When our hearts break at the suffering of those God loves every bit as much as God loves us, courage sometimes slips away.

"In this world, you will face difficulty. But take courage, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Jesus spoke these words to his disciples, as he prepared them for his departure and the ensuing chaos. The first readers of John's gospel, in the late first century, faced their own time of immense social and political upheaval. In neither case did Jesus want his followers to give in to fear or despair, but instead to respond to their harsh reality courageously.

As followers of Jesus Christ, ours *is* a courageous hope. We do not give in to fear, we are not voiceless, and we can take heart. When we have the opportunities, we speak up for others, we give voice to those with none, and we trust our God. Jesus has never called his disciples to ignore our harsh realities, nor to resign ourselves to despair. As have been so many times before, these are times which call for courageous hope. And as sure as we know Spring follows Winter, we know a better day is coming.

Here at St. Luke's, this month will mark the beginning of the Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday service on February 18th at 7:00PM. I hope you will plan to join us. In addition, I look forward to sharing what I'm calling "Meditative Prayer and Worship" on Saturday, February 21st, at 5:00PM. I'll be sharing more on this opportunity in the next few weeks. Finally, on Thursday, February 26th, I will begin my next weekly Bible study, via Zoom, and look forward to sharing more about this soon, as well.

And I haven't even mentioned our Annual Sausage Dinner on Sunday, February 15th, at 11:00AM! Don't forget: we will worship at 10:00AM that Sunday.

Our call to courage includes being faithful in the large and small things. A word of encouragement. A meal shared. A prayer whispered for someone who crosses your mind. A moment of gratitude at the beginning of a day. Love expressed when the voices around us speak hate. These may not be grand gestures, yet they shape us into a people who recognize God's presence and faithfulness. May our church continue to be a place where compassion takes root and community is strengthened.

See you in worship!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James", written in a cursive style.

Pastor James

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 20, 2026

In attendance: Warren Stuckmeyer, Dane Kraus, David Pippin, Don Dankel, Jess McLard, Becky Hollerbach, Garry Kraus, Gary Hartmann, Pastor James Hill.

At 6:37 pm, Warren Stuckmeyer called the meeting to order. Pastor Hill opened with a prayer.

Because this was the first meeting since the Annual Meeting, the Church Council needed to welcome our newest member, Becky Hollerbach, and thank Kathy Porter for her years serving on the Council. We also took this time to reorganize. A motion was made to keep current positions and have Becky take over as the BOCE Representative for the coming year by David Pippin. Don Dankel seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

Reports

Pastor's Report: Confirmation going well, they are ahead of schedule and planning field trips. Ash Wednesday service will be on 2/18 at 7pm. The Ladies Lenten Luncheon will be 3/12 at 11 am at St. Martin UCC-Ditmer. Worship will be followed by lunch. Palm Sunday breakfast on 3/29.

Financial Secretary Report: Offering envelopes schedule for 2027 was discussed and the special giving envelopes will be more evenly distributed throughout the year.

Treasurer's Report: Swacker Fund remaining money was moved to Buildings & Grounds after the purchase of doors. David cleaned up CW by removing funds that were no longer active to avoid accidental reporting in the future.

Church Council Report: Accepted as provided. Board of Elders Report: Accepted as provided.

Board of Christian Education Report: Accepted as provided.

Building and Grounds Report: Trees are trimmed. HVAC units are next on list. Freezer in the kitchen needs maintenance, Garry Kraus will talk to Tammy about repairs.

Cemetery Report: Accepted as provided. Endowment Report: Accepted as provided.

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

OLD Business

- Roof & A/C Units: All roofs have been completed. There are still gutter guards that need to be installed (at no cost) when temperatures warm up. Insurance has approved a portion of the replacement costs for the A/C Units. Dane will get several bids on units and report back.

- Outside lighting: Waiting on Piro to set new pole.

- Library: Books and files are ready to move.

● Sidewalk/concrete: Concern was brought up about the concrete sidewalk being uneven and unsafe. This will be looked into/repared when the weather improves.

NEW Business

● Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 18 at 10:15 am, minutes will be distributed to members as soon as they are available (this month).

● Envelopes: The office is short on envelopes we use to mail (return address printed on envelope). Original order could not be found, Emma will reach out to Belinda at Supply Concepts for more information and pricing.

● Installment of Officers: Pastor James will install all members (new and continuing) of various boards of the church at the February 1st service.

● Dedication Service for doors: There is not a date set, but there will be a dedication of the new doors at an upcoming service.

Membership Changes

Deaths: 2 - Lorraine Magee and Ed Ziegelmeyer Births: 1 - Sonny Kraus

Membership: None

Open/Close schedule

February 15 (10 am): Jess McLard February 22: Don Dankel

Gary Hartmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Dane Kraus. All were in favor and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: February 17, 2026, at 6:30 pm

BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday January 13, 2026

Julie Hartmann, Chairperson
Chrissy Kraus, Visitor Care
Judy Duro, Ushers
Pastor James Hill

Kay Moss, Worship
Michelle Perry, Secretary
Tim Hollerbach, Member
Gary Hartmann, Council Rep.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2026

● January-February-March-April Kay Moss & Tim Hollerbach

● May-June-July-August Judy Duro & Chrissy Kraus

● September-October-November-December Julie Hartmann & Vickie Randolph

MINUTES (December 12, 2025) Reviewed, motion made by Tim to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Judy, motion carried.

REPORTS

Worship: Going well. Pastor mentioned that Gail Lents added a velcro piece to his robe to help with his stoles from slipping. He was very appreciative.

Ushers: Judy reports she has a new recruit, Danielle Randolph. The decision was made to not change the stoles to match the choir. Ushers agreed they did not want to make this change and will just continue with the two colors that are currently being used. Pastor stated there was no theological reason to make these changes.

Communion: No issues with communion. Visitor Care: None at this time.

MEMBERSHIP

Confirmation Class: Going very well and the students are ahead of last year with their studies. No Confirmation Sunday date set yet at this time, Pastor needs to check with the families.

Baptisms: None at this time. Weddings: None at this time.

Funerals: Pastor officiated at Lorraine Magee's funeral service that was held at the funeral home.

New Member: None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Hanging of the Greens went well, had a good number of folks to help and it went quickly. Need to schedule next year to remove the decorations for the weekend after Epiphany. The boxes of decorations are stored in the closet of Jess McLard's classroom. May need to stack the boxes temporarily in the Nursery room if she starts her class to not disrupt her class time.

2. Christmas Schedule: Pastor noted the several people mentioned that they are wanting to go back to using real candles for the Christmas Eve service. The battery-operated candles were very dull this year and didn't seem to have the same effect as using real candles.

3. Special Advent Envelopes

4. New Board Nominee: Vicki Randolph has agreed to join the Elders. Judy Duro will be nominated to serve her second term.

5. Winter Food Drive 2/22/26-4/26/26

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sausage Dinner 2/15 (one service 10:00). Gary Hartmann to take a request back to the Church Council for approval regarding changing the service time to 10 am on the day of the sausage dinner.

2. Ash Wednesday Service 2/18/26. There will not be communion served this year. Service will be at 7pm.

3. Lenten Mission Project. The past two years have been Annie's Hope. Elder members have agreed to just keep this as our Lenten mission project for every year going forward.

4. Annual Meeting to be held following church service on 1/18/2026.

OTHER ITEMS:

1. Pastor reports he has two initiatives for this year going forward.

First, being on two Tuesdays a month, first and third respectfully, to hold a prayer meeting at 8 pm. If a congregation member is interested in this prayer session, they are to reach out to the church secretary or leave a message on the church office phone. A link to this session will be sent to them to join this session. The session will only last 10- 15 minutes.

Second, offer Saturday evening early contemplative worship service with prayer and scripture readings along with silent moments of reflection. More will be shared as we get closer to scheduled dates. This will be a time for spiritual growth and prayer.

2. At some point following the Totenfest memorial service, send a letter to families asking if they would like to bring a special ornament for the Christmas tree in remembrance of their loved one that has passed away.

3. Discussion regarding Elders sending church members that are asked for prayers and placed on the prayer list, a card for well wishes. This is something Minerva Ainsley used to do and not able to do at this time.

4. Gary Hartmann brought a message from the Church Council to thank us for our years of service for the church and all we do. He also thanked Michelle Perry for her 6 years of service as her term ends in January 2026.

5. Tim Hollerback mentioned this is Tennebre year as we usually do this service every other year on Good Friday, which is April 3rd this year. Greg McLard usually organizes this event and Pastor stated he would reach out to him.

6. Pastor Hill asked the Elder's members to remind him next year on Christmas Eve to stop him from singing with the choir. He felt he got too distracted and felt he messed up some of the details of the service. Those of us who watched from YouTube did not notice the mistakes he felt he made. It seemed to be a nice service.

Motion made by Judy Duro to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tim Hollerbach. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: February 10, 2026

January 6, 2026

Angela Logan - Chairperson

*Sarah Saputo - Sunday School Superintendent & VBS

*Shelbey Stillwill

*Emily Dulle

***present**

*Greg McLard - Secretary

Kathy Porter - Church Council Liaison

Connie Stuckmeyer

*Pastor James Hill

Opening Prayer - PRAYER at

Welcome - Angie welcomed us all.

Minutes - Connie motion to accept, Sarah 2nd. Motion passed.

Reports

1. Sunday School -
2. Church Council -
3. Confirmation -
4. Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000
5. Missions - 4th quarter = Food drive.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Open Close Church Schedule :

January 11, 2026 - Emily Duelle

February 8, 2026 - Sarah Saputo

March 8, 2026 – Greg McLard

New Business

1. Movie/Pizza Party - 2/1/26
 1. **Movie - 'Best Christmas Pageant Ever'**
 2. **Kids go to Service until Children's time, then downstairs to movie**
 3. **Food- Previous Year (prep for 12 to 15 kids)**
 - i. **Sarah- drinks + plates & napkins.**
 - ii. **Shelby - Frozen pizza - 2x cheese, 1x pepperoni, 1 sausage**
 - iii. **Greg- Popcorn (Karsh's)**
 - iv.
 4. **Movie**
 - i. **GM will set up projector and screen.**
 - ii. **GM will look to get the movie.**
2. Annual Report review + Next year's schedule.
 1. **Report updated. Greg will complete updates and send to Secretary.**
3. Green Eggs & Ham
 1. Ask Connie if she can donate some eggs.
 2. Ask Angie if she wants to cook the pancakes.
 3. Ask Chrissy for help with flyer.
4. **GM motion to adjourn. Sarah 2nd. Motion passed.**

Upcoming Events:

- 2/1/26 - Movie/Pizza party
- 3/1/26 - Green Eggs and Ham

Lords Prayer

Next Meeting 2/3/2026 6:30pm

Next event:

2/1/26 - Movie/Pizza Party

Women’s Circle January Meeting

There were ten ladies that met for the January 2026 meeting. After President Michelle Perry opened the meeting a short devotion was given by Sherry Pippin about “Life lessons and wisdom”. An offering was collected (\$45) and a prayer given. A time of Caring and Sharing was shared. Minutes and Treasures reports were read and approved. Election of Officers: Michelle Perry, President; Sherry Pippin, Vice President; Brenda Dandel, Treasure; and Gail Heckenberg, Secretary (same as 2025). The missions and calendar for 2026 was presented for approval by current Women’s Circle members. It was approved to send \$150 to Crisis Nursery for the January mission project. Sausage dinner was discussed for Sunday, February 15th at a price increase of \$1.00. Meals will be \$16.00. Information on the sausage dinner will be in the upcoming church bulletins and Beacon. Piglets will be for sale for \$25.00 to help defray the cost of the dinner. Work day will Saturday, February 14. Raw rope sausage will be available for sale at \$6.00 per lb. Emma will be asked to send an invitational letters to area church and the sausage dinner information will be placed in the What’s Doing section on the Leader newspaper. The women’s circle will pay for poinsettias that were used for decoration. Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 5th at 11:30. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend the meetings and be a part of the fellowship as well as the service we do for St. Luke’s and our community.

QUILTS! QUILTS! QUILTS!

Come anytime from 9:00am to 2:30pm to learn to quilt or help with craft projects. There is material to measure and cut as well as embroidery floss and crochet thread to use. We would love to have you for an hour or all day!

2025 Final Expenses

	YTD
Giving	\$214,789.13**
Expenses	\$201,105.72
	= \$13,683.41

** this includes a large donation

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

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

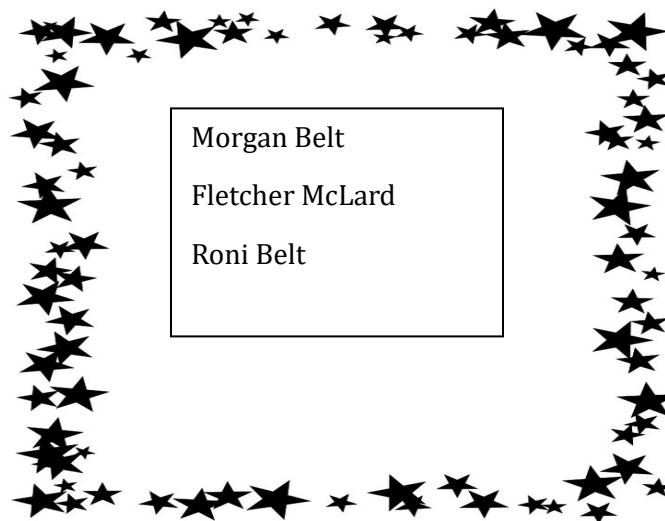
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|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Robert Perry* | Sharlene Schlereth | Alan Bess* |
| Mike Burcham* | Kathy Porter | Burnell Raebel |

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
Minerva Ainsley	Juliet Gilmore*	Betty Acre
Jane Kraus*	Michele Day*	Family of Ed Ziegelmeyer
Jody Stockwell*	Family of Ed & Loraine Magee	

Our Military Personnel

Christopher Kettler*	Samuel Lowry	Eric Watkins*	Isaak Hartung*
Susan Bablowitz*	Brian Randolph	Jacob Wolters*	

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE



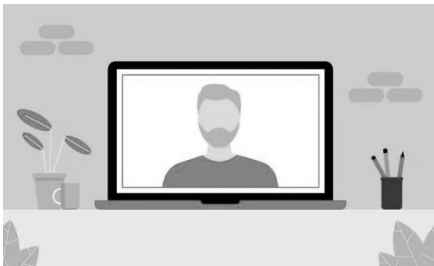
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Earleen Stockwell	2/1	Lillian Perry	2/13
Beth Ryals	2/3	Danielle Randolph	2/15
Michelle Poelking	2/4	Keith Morris	2/15
Harper Hillman	2/6	Sarah Saputo	2/16
Debbie Seitz	2/8	Connor Raebel	2/16
Rebecca Thomas	2/8	Samantha Weatherholt	2/18
Sandra Arnold	2/9	Marlyn Palmer	2/19
Yvonne Davis	2/9	Sawyer Narup	2/19
Joseph Rose	2/10	Jacob DeVeydt	2/21
Kathryn Reiff	2/10	Louis Meyer	2/21
Michael Perry	2/11	Jason Poelking	2/21
Paul Schneider	2/12	Pamela Belleville	2/27
Shane Perry	2/12	Deborah Fluegge	2/27
Carl McCullough	2/13	David Stark III	2/27

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February

- 1st Pizza & Movie Party in Sunday School
- 3rd Board of Christian Education, 6:30pm
Pastor's Prayer Zoom, 8:00pm
- 10th Board of Elders, 6:30pm
- 15th Transfiguration Sunday (worship at 10:00am - *note change*)
Annual Sausage Dinner, 11:00am – 3:00pm
- 17th Church Council, 6:30pm
Pastor's Prayer Zoom, 8:00pm
- 18th Ash Wednesday worship, 7:00pm
- 22nd First Sunday of Lent

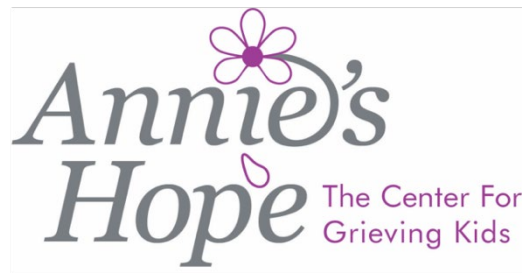


Pastor's Prayer Zoom Each first and third Tuesday of the month, Pastor James will be hosting a brief devotional thought and time of prayer at 8:00pm via Zoom. To receive the Zoom link, simply email the church office or Pastor James, or send James a text. Participants may join via computer, tablet, or smartphone. ***Our next Pastor' Prayer Zoom will be Tuesday, February 3rd, at 8:00pm.*** For more information, see Pastor James.

Special Offering Sponsored by the Board of Elders

Annie's Hope provides comprehensive support services to children, teens, and their families who are grieving the death of someone significant, serving families in the greater St. Louis region. Annie's Hope does not charge a fee for families to participate in their programs.

A gift to Annie's Hope may be made church using the special envelopes included in bulletin. For more information, talk to one of contact the church office.



participate in
through our
your worship
our Elders or

Annual Meeting Update: 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes are finished and available by requesting a copy from the church office.

Sunday School Attendance: Due to the snow, there is not an updated list of January's perfect attendance. It will be included in next month's beacon.



SNEAK PEEK!

2026

SUMMER

June	6/21 - 6/26/26 High School Camp (Completed 8 th - 12 th grade) 6/29 - 7/3/25 Family Camp (all ages)
July	7/5 - 7/10/26 All Ages Camp #1 (grades 3-9) 7/12 - 7/17/26 All Ages Camp #2 (grades 3-9) 7/19 - 7/23/26 Adventures in Community (ages 18+)

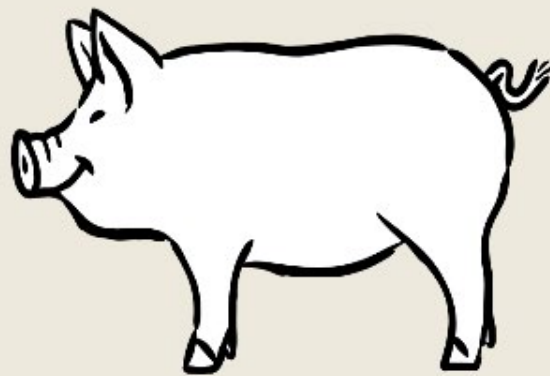
Buy a Piglet

For St. Luke's Annual Sausage Dinner
February 15th, 2026 @ 11:00 am
Sponsored by the Women's Circle

**You can help with the cost of the pork sausage with the
"Buy a Pig" program
Make a \$25 Donation to St. Luke's Women's Circle**

Send it by mail or drop your check in the collection plate.
Cash? Make sure to mark it for Piglets and include your name.

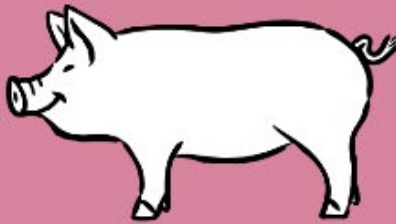
Thank you for your support!



Sausage Dinner

St. Luke's United Church of Christ

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



Dine in or Carry Out
Sunday February 15th, 2026
11:00 am - 3:00 pm or until we sell out
cost: \$16

Dinner to include: 3 pieces of sausage links, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, applesauce, & dessert. No substitutions or changes.

Church office: 636-948-3545
Morning Worship at 10:00 am

