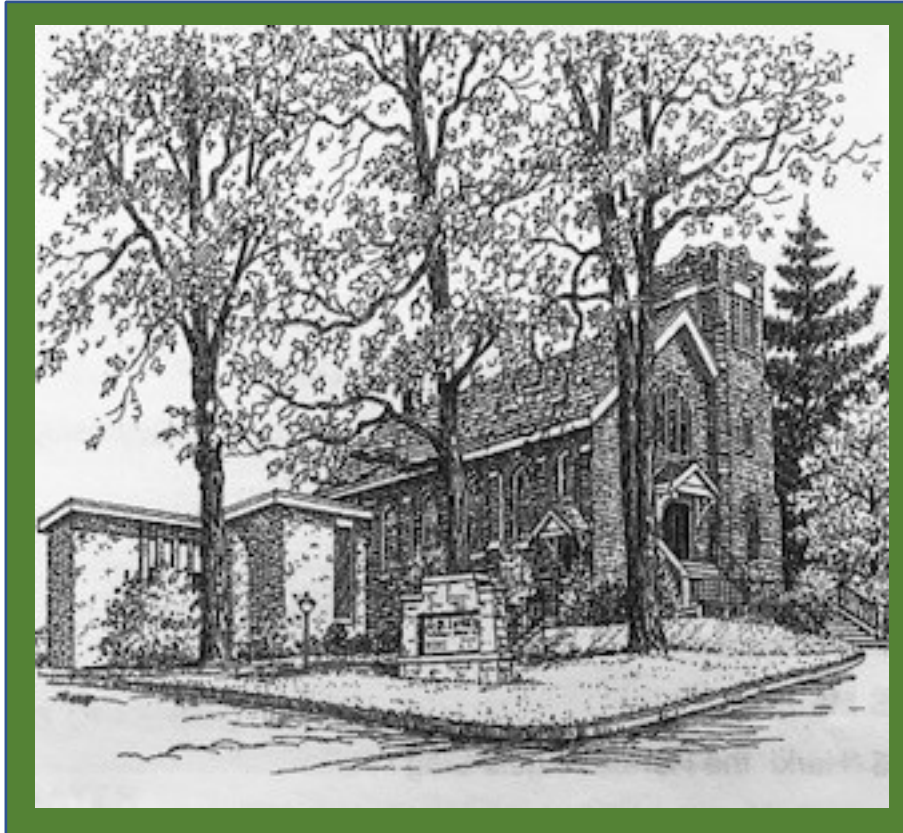


THE BEACON

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



April 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

April 1, 2026

Dear St. Luke's Family & Friends,

April arrives proclaiming Easter morning—a season when the church dares to say out loud that life defeats death, hope conquers despair, and God's love keeps breaking into the world in ways we never quite expect. Easter changed everything, and it still does today.

We've walked through Lent together. We've listened and examined our lives, our communities, our families, and our church, considering what God might be calling us to "give up" in preparation for the celebration of Resurrection again. We will move from Holy Week to Easter this coming Sunday, and then we step into a season the church calls Eastertide—fifty days of practicing resurrection. Not just celebrating it once but embracing it each day moving forward.

We practice resurrection in many ways. One of the things I love about the resurrection appearances of Jesus is how ordinary they are. Jesus appears not with trumpets and fanfare but in gardens, on dusty roads, at simple meals. Resurrection doesn't begin with grand gestures—it begins with recognition, with kindness, with shared bread. Even with simply sharing breakfast on the seashore!

Maybe that's our invitation this April: to look for resurrection in the small places. We can check in on our neighbor who is struggling, laugh with those who celebrate, forgive those who have broken our heart, and pray to our God who continually makes all things new. These are not small things. These are life. Life which conquers death.

Eastertide also means we have much to do. In weeks ahead, I will share sermons from throughout the Bible, from the gospels of Luke & John, to the epistles Romans, 1 Corinthians, & 1 Peter, to the very beginning in Genesis. We will celebrate mothers, new life in baptism, our Sunday School teachers, and our Confirmands. When we finally arrive at Pentecost, we will have completed a busy season! These next couple of months, I invite you to pray for our church with Easter eyes—eyes that look for possibility, for renewal, for the surprising ways God might be nudging us forward. Pray for our ministries, our leaders, our children, our seniors, and our neighbors. Pray that we might be a people who embody the hope we proclaim.

Remember, Easter doesn't erase the world's pain. However, Easter insists that pain – and even death – is not the final word. God's love keeps rising—again and again—until every shadow is met with light.

For Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

With Easter hope,

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

Pastor James

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

March 17, 2026

In Attendance: Warren Stuckmeyer, Jess McLard, Gary Hartmann, Dane Kraus, Garry Kraus, Don Dankel, David Pippin, Reverend Hill, Yvonne Davis.

At 6:35, p.m. Warren Stuckemeyer called the meeting to order. Reverend Hill said the opening prayer.

REPORTS

- Pastors Report: Accepted as presented
- Church Council: Accepted as presented
- Treasurers Report: Yvonne David made a motion to move the remaining fund from the Mangelsdorf fund to the Building and Grounds fund. Seconded By Dane Kraus. All were in favor, Motion passed.
- Board of Elders Report: Accepted as presented
- Board of Christian Education: Accepted as presented
- Building & Grounds Report: The light HAS been installed. There is a leak in the storage room in the fellowship hall. The swell that kept water away from the building has worn off. We need to fix it.
- Cemetery Report: Accepted as presented.
- Endowment Report: Accepted as presented.

Garry Kraus made a motion to accept the reports as presented. Dave Pippin seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A/C units: Jess McLard made a motion to accept the quote from Bone Heating & Cooling. Garry Kraus seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.
- Carpeting: Tammy Glaus?
- Inside cleaning Day: Women's Circle will oil the pews after Easter.
- Sidewalks/Concrete: Springtime project

NEW BUSINESS

- Plaques for the new doors – looking for a place that makes similar style
- HELP – Health Equipment Lending Program. Garry Kraus made a motion to approve the use of the Building for Drop off and pickup of items for HELP. This is a Non-Profit organization and they will take all items away every time they come. Dane seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.
- Highway M signs – The Department of Transportation sent the forms to update the approval of the signs on Old Highway M.

Membership Changes

- Deaths: none
- Baptisms: none
- Membership: none

Open/Close

- April 19- Don Dankel
- April 26 0- David Pippin
-

At 7:50 Yvonne Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Dankel seconded the motion; all were in favor. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Church Council Meeting: April 21, 2026

BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday March 10, 2026

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

Kay Moss, Worship
Vicki Randolph, Secretary
Tim Hollerbach, Member
Gary Hartmann, Council Rep.

CALL TO ORDER Julie called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm

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 (February 10, 2026) Motion to approve minutes made by: Tim Hollerbach, and seconded by Judy Duro.

REPORTS

Worship: Going well (colors are purple)

Ushers: Going well 1-2 ushers needed for Easter Sunday Communion: Going well (Cups need to be ordered-Julie will take care of) Visitor Care: No report at this time

MEMBERSHIP

Confirmation Class: Two trips taken last month Baptisms: None at this time

Weddings: None at this time Funerals: None at this time

New Members: None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Reorganize the Board- completed 2/10/26
2. Ash Wednesday - went well
3. Review Calendar (Corrections were made by Julie)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Finalize details for Palm Sunday (3/29/26) Crosses to be made by confirmation class 3/28/26, Sunday School to sing at service, Breakfast and bakesale after service
2. Finalize Tenebrae Service (4/3/26) Tim- going well, same group as last performed, practice will be held 3/29/26 after Sunday service, trays to be located, person needed to turn off back lights.
3. Finalize Easter Service (4/5/26) Communion Sunday and 1-2 ushers needed

OTHER ITEMS:

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

NEXT MEETING: April 14, 2026

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Randolph

**St. Luke's UCC
Board of Christian Education Meeting MINUTES
March 3rd , 2026**

- *Shelbey Stilwill- President (2nd yr, 2nd term) *Greg McLard - Secretary (2nd yr, 2nd term)
*Sarah Saputo - Sunday School Superintendent & VBS (2nd yr, 3rd term)
*Joslyn DeVeydt – Missions Director (1st year, 1st term)
*Becky Hollerbach - Church Council Liaison
*Pastor James Hill
***present**

Opening Prayer

Welcome -

Minutes - Approved

Reports

1. Sunday School - **Great. Puppet show was cute. Pictures of Chrissy's whale and Green Eggs and Ham sent to Emma.**
2. Church Council - **Nothing to report**
3. Confirmation - **Field Trips this week. 7pm Friday for Shibatt, Noon on Sunday at Cathedral Basilica.**
4. Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000
5. Missions - 1st quarter = School Lunches

Old Business

1. Open Close Church Schedule:

March 8, 2026 – Greg McLard

April 12, 2026 - Joslyn DeVeydt with help from Sarah Saputo

May 10, 2026 - Shelbey Stilwill

1. Green Eggs & Ham
 1. **About 60 people attended**
 2. Connie Donated eggs.
 3. Menu items:
 - Pancakes - Joslyn (**1x 10lb Large bag + 1 small box of gluten free**)
 - Ham - Becky (**4x small sliced 1/4 hams - approx 12 lbs total**)
 - Extras (syrup, butter, etc.) - Greg (**1x butter syrup, 1 reg syrup, 1x sugar free syrup, butter packets, 2x sticks of butter**)
 - Eggs - Sarah 8 dozen (**7 dozen scrambled**)
 - Green Grapes - Shelbey (**2x boxes from Sams**)
 - Green apples - Shelbey (**2 bags of Apples**)
 - Drinks - Sarah (**1 gal white milk, 1 gal chocolate mile, ½ gal iced coffee, water, 1 gallon Juice, Apple juice**) *Need some packets of hot tea, Ice for drinks.
 - Paper Products - Shelbey (**80 Count plates, 80 Count napkins, 80 Count sets of utensils**)
 - **4 dozen hard boiled eggs died green - Joslyn (1 dozen left over)**
 - 2 griddles (**worked well for pancakes**)
 - **2x pans or extra griddle for scrambled eggs.**
 4. **Donations = \$215.**

New Business

1. Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Crosses 3/28/26
 - a. Palms ordered – **Emma ordered a couple of weeks ago (same amount as last year).**
 1. **Need to keep a close eye on delivery.**
 2. **Place in the refrigerator when they arrive.**
 - b. Trainers for the crosses – Seivings??? **Ask Confirmands to help. Ask additional helpers.**
 - c. Fill 500+ eggs for event with Candy and Trinkets – to do this meeting
 - d. Easter Bunny - **Ask Confirmands to do this.**
 - e. Craft
 1. Cookies - **Shelbey**
 2. Wooden ornaments - **Sarah**
 3. Coloring sheets - **Sarah**
 4. Shrinky dinks - **Joslyn**
 5. Thumb print magnets - **Barb Allen (GM texted)**
 - f. Food
 1. Fruit - **Joslyn**
 2. Small muffins - **Shelbey**
 3. Donuts/donut holes - **Greg**
 4. Drinks - **Sarah**
 5. Paper products – should have enough plates/silverware/cups from Green Eggs and Ham
 6. Table cloths - **Becky**
 - g. BOCE arrives at 8:30. Easter egg hunt starts at 9:30
 - h. Flyer was emailed.

2. Palm Sunday Breakfast 3/29/26
 - a. Attendance last year 100+
 - b. Food/Menu – **Denise and Gary in charge might need to reach out to see if if/where help is needed – signup sheet will be out Sunday 3/8/26.**
 1. **Council is ready to help where needed.**
 2. **Connie has the best list of menu. BOCE will request her help.**
 - c. **BOCE to be at church at 8:15 am**
 - d. **Women’s circle – Paper products.**
 - e. **Donations will go to the Confirmation class.**

*******Some things to consider before next meeting*******

Confirmation needs:

- **Glasses need to be engraved 1 month prior to Confirmation day.
Monogram + date of confirmation**
- **Church Secretary to order robes and necklaces (robes will need to be steamed)**
- **Corsages 1 week before Confirmation day.**

May 31st is the Confirmation date for 2026.

Bible ordering from Christianbook.com (for promotion Sunday).

Put the student's full name on Bible.

Upcoming Events:

3/28/26 - Palm Cross Making and Easter Egg Hunt

3/29/26 - Palm Sunday Breakfast

Greg motion to adjourn, Joslyn 2nd. Meeting over.

Women’s Circle March Meeting

There were fourteen ladies present for the March meeting. Michelle Perry called the meeting to order and Sherry Pippin did a devotion on Proverbs 27:9, an offering was collected and prayer was given. Caring and sharing was shared on church and families. The minutes and treasure’s reports were approved. A review of the Sausage dinner was discussed with ideas and changes possible for the next dinner(s). It was approved to give \$4,000 from the dinner to be donated to the St. Luke’s church general fund.

Lillies will be sold again this year. Order forms and more information will appear in the church bulletin. There will be a Palm Sunday Bake & Bakeless Sale before and after the church service. Spring hanging flower baskets will be sold again this year. A variety of flowers will be available on a first come first serve basis from the church garage on Sunday, May 3, (they will be available before Mother’s Day). The price is to be determined. A new freezer has been purchased for the kitchen. Thirteen RSVPs were received for the Lenten Luncheon hosted by St. Martin’s, Dittmer. The March mission is

\$150 to Jefferson Regional Hospice program. We will meet on Thursday, March 12 to car pool from the church at 10:00. The next meeting was changed to Monday, April 6, 10:00 AM to clean the sanctuary. Bring a lunch for after with dessert provided. Anyone wishing to help is more than welcomed (men or women).

Update: 1) Due to the funeral and luncheon for Joyce Kraus on Monday, April 6, the Women's Circle will meet on their regular meeting day and time on Thursday, April 2 at 11:30. 2) There were eleven ladies and Pastor Hill attending the Lenten Luncheon on Thursday, March 12.

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 crotchet thread to use. We would love to have you for an hour or all day!

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

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

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*	Ollie Stuckmeyer	Kay Olsen
Minerva Ainsley	Juliet Gilmore*	Betty Acre
Jane Kraus*	Michele Day*	Jody Stockwell*
Paul & Peggy Schneider	Family of Judith Dehner	Family of Joyce Kraus

Our Military Personnel

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sandy Kraus	4/1	Callie Glaus	4/3
Henry Schneider	4/1	Parizzitta Skaggs	4/3
Sharon Kraus	4/2	Eddie Lowry III	4/5

Erin Magee	4/5	Jacob Bogowith	4/21
Elora Hoehn	4/5	Timothy Farson	4/22
Michael Jordan	4/6	Timothy McKinley	4/22
Greg McLard	4/10	Gracen Miller	4/22
Zach Neislein	4/11	Kay Carter	4/23
Wendy Schiller	4/12	Timothy Hollerbach	4/24
Bill Magee III	4/13	Patti Bone	4/25
Emma Hollerbach	4/15	Henry Kraus	4/26
Scott Geary	4/18	Elizabeth Skaggs	4/28
Susan McKinley	4/19	Toby Rebsamen	4/29
Annie Neislein	4/20		
Melanie Raebel	4/21		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April

Apr 2 nd	Meditative Prayer, 6:00pm (Maundy Thursday)
Apr 3 rd	Good Friday Tenebrae Service – The Last Supper, 7:00pm
Apr 5 th	Easter Sunday Worship, 9:00am
Apr 7 th	Board of Christian Ed, 6:30pm
Apr 14 th	Board of Elders, 6:30pm
Apr 21 st	Church Council, 6:30pm

MAY

5 th	Board of Christian Education, 6:30pm
7 th	Women's Circle, 11:30am
12 th	Board of Elders, 6:30pm
19 th	Church Council, 6:30pm
31 st	Confirmation



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+)

