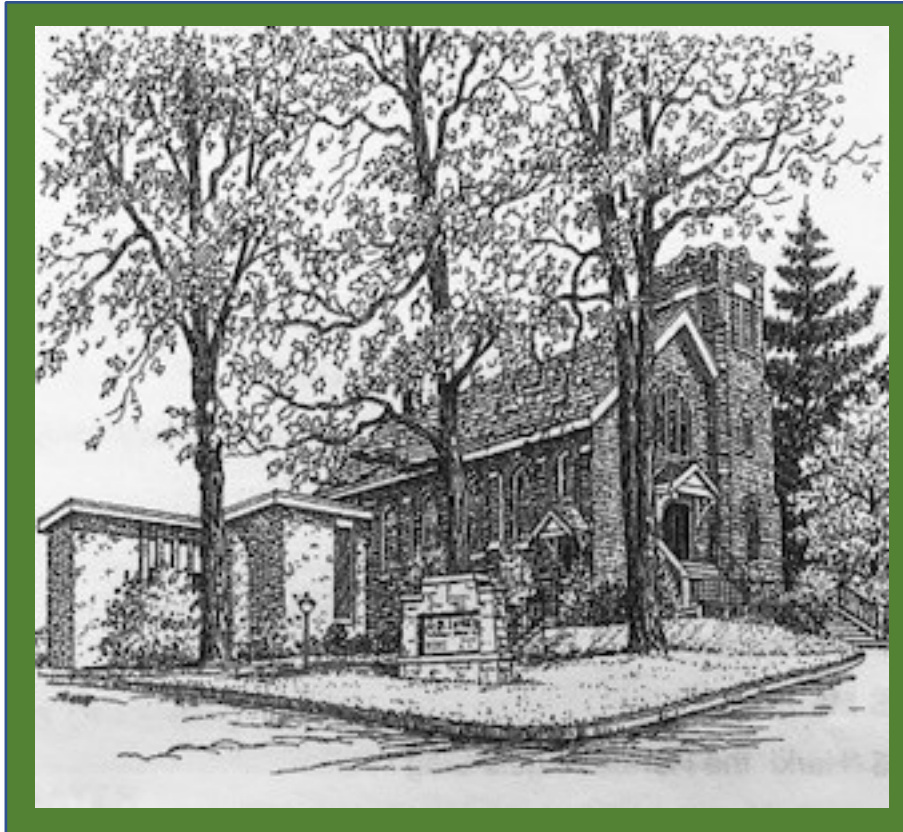


THE BEACON

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



May 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

May 1, 2026

Dear St. Luke's Friends and Family,

May always seems fun to me. The school year nears an end, giving way to Summer vacation – a very big deal in the Hill household, and in many of yours as well. This month will also be a busy (and fun!) season in here at St. Luke's as well. You'll notice a very full calendar, but I want to take a moment to highlight some the special Sundays on the way.

- Sunday, May 3: This Sunday, May 3rd, we will gather for worship and celebrate communion at the table together.
- Sunday, May 10: We will honor our mothers during worship and celebrate baptism with the Reiff family as we baptize Samuel Robert Reiff.
- Sunday, May 17: Join us as we honor our Sunday School teaching staff and celebrate with our Sunday School attendees who will be promoting this year.
- Sunday, May 24: Pentecost Sunday – the birthday of the Church!
- Sunday, May 31: On the last day of the month, we will honor the work and dedication of our Confirmands, Lauren Belt and Jillian Davis. Make sure you are here for what is always a very special time of worship at St. Luke's.

This month is also a very busy one of our Women's Circle; details on the May 4th Sanctuary workday and May 15th daytrip to Farmington are available in this newsletter! As always, I remain impressed by our Church Council and Buildings & Grounds volunteers who are also at work behind the scenes this time of year, making sure our facility is prepared for the coming season. Thanks to their hard work – and good insurance coverage – we have new air conditioners at almost no cost the church. In a month or two, we will all be even more grateful for this dedication.

Finally, I hope you plan to join us following worship on May 17th as our Church Council has called an all-church meeting to present a special opportunity. For many years, we have considered how to both make our first floor, fellowship hall access handicap accessible. We have a proposal to the church to not only accomplish this, but to also greatly improve the parking lot entrance to the church – and entrance which has, for generations now, become a main entrance to the church. Come hear all about it!

See everyone 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

St. Luke's United church of Christ Meeting minutes from April 21st, 2026

In Attendance: President - Warren Stuckmeyer, VP - Dane Kraus, Co-Treasure Dave Pippin and Don Dankel, Financial Secretary - Jessica Mclard, Secretary - Yvonne Davis was not present, B&G Garry Dale Kraus, Don Dankel – Endowment, BOE - Gary Hartmann, BOCE - Becky Hollerbach and Rev. James Hill

Meeting called to order @ 6:34 pm by Warren

Prayer by Rev. Hill

Pastor's Report-

- May is a busy month. We have a Baptism on Mother's day. Samuel Reiff.
- May 17th is Promotional Sunday and Teacher Appreciation Sunday.
- May 31st is Confirmation.
- We have a new secretary who started on Friday, and Pastor thinks that she will work out well.
- Pastor has a vacation from July 27th to August 6th, only one Sunday, and his father will fill in for him. VBS is from the 6th to the 10th of July.

Financial Report -

- Bank login will need to be reset. Dave Pippin will call the bank to address the issue.
- Investments were down \$1500.
- The Copy machine is on average about \$200 a month.
- There was a trash bill that came through from the sausage dinner, and that was paid out of General funds, but will be reimbursed \$200.
- 501.302 -7500 will be corrected after the insurance check comes in. \$6700 will go back, and the rest will come from B and G for the A/C.

BOE

- Discussed cleaning the Church before a funeral. Ellen normally comes on Sunday afternoons to clean, but her timing can be flexible through to Tuesday. We all need to ensure our Church is ready to go for a Monday morning Funeral or communicate with Ellen when funerals are upcoming, especially after a large service like Easter.

BOCE

- Reviewed the notes from last week's meeting, and Becky will check with them to see where the \$2196.32 will be allocated. Dave is awaiting Joslyn's call to disburse funds for the 1st quarter mission.

B & G

- Harold called, and there is a leak in the basement at a corner. We don't know the details yet.
- Still investigating.

Cemetery Report

- We need to email a Beacon to the Grass cutter to ensure they are not cutting the grass during events.

Endowment meets on May 4th.

Don Dankel made a motion to accept all reports as given, and Gary Hartmann second all in favor.

Old Business

- AC - HVAC for 10 new units, annual maintenance. Cost is \$1850. They will come out 2 service 2 times a year. We discussed the maintenance plan, but did not make a motion to proceed with this just yet, since they were just installed. For 2 older units - A motion was made by Dave Pippin to start the maintenance plan now so the units can be serviced. Jessica McLard, second. All in favor.
- Insurance. A check is on the way for \$21,649.00 for the replacement cost of the roof and AC.
- Carpeting, Sidewalks, and concrete are on hold for this month.
- Plaque for doors - Yvonne Davis was looking into this, but not in attendance today.

New Business

Membership changes

- Deaths: Joyce Kraus
- Births: 0
- Membership: 0

Discusses ADA entrance in depth, THD provided a preliminary set of drawings to send out to the Bid. Warren was able to contact one contractor to get an initial bid based on the drawings, and the Estimate was 85k without seeing the existing building. Our next step will be to have the contractor out to actually look at it, obtain a structural engineer, and possibly a civil engineer. A motion was made by Dave Pippin to ask the congregation for approval to move forward with this project. Garry Dale second, and all in favor. A letter will go out to the congregation to hold a special meeting to discuss this on May 17th, immediately after the 9 AM service. Discussed a secret ballot to cast votes. Also, collected questions that Becky will work on getting answers to. Pastor will start this special meeting, and we will ask Tim Hollerbach to help us answer a few questions that might come up. We discussed possible funding options for this project, but we will discuss with the congregation prior to moving forward.

The sign permit came in the mail. This is for the signs off church grounds.

Church Directory - Jessica McLard has taken over this project.

Backlog of Memorials in the book. Possibility to ask Danielle, our new secretary, to update this if time allows.

Open/close schedule

- May 17th Dane Kraus
- May 24th Garry Dale Kraus
- May 31st Gary Hartmann

Motion was made by Don Dankel to adjourn our meeting at 8:15 pm Second by Dane Kraus.
Closing Prayer.

BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday April 14th, 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 6:38 pm

PRAYER Pastor James Hill opened with a prayer

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 (March 10, 2026) Motion to approve minutes made by Tim Hollerboach and seconded by Kay Moss

REPORTS

Worship: Going Fine, colors will remain white until Pentecost Sunday Ushers: Going well, a new usher schedule will be going out soon Communion: We have larger cups to use for Tenebrae and smaller ones are needed to be ordered. Visitor Care: Not available at this time

MEMBERSHIP

Confirmation Class: going well, scheduled for May 31, 2026

Baptisms: Samuel Reiff, scheduled for May 10, 2026

Weddings: None at this time Funerals: Joyce Lucille Kraus; June 6, 2026

Visitation at St. Luke's UCC starting at 9:30 a.m. with the service at 11:00 a.m. officiated by Pastor James Hill. Lunch followed in the Fellowship hall. Family care by Vineyard Funeral Home.

New Member: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Finalize details for Palm Sunday (3/29/26). Plenty of crosses were made for everyone. Red is the preferred color per Pastor James to be used on Palm Sunday.

2. Finalize Tenebrae Service (4/3/26) Great Presentation, Pastor James videoed, Tim Hollerbach said that it was discussed among the group to have every even year.
3. Finalize Easter Service (4/5/26) attendance count was 116.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Promotion Sunday (5/17/26) Sunday School (Pastor would like to have confirmation class help with the youth sermon that morning, if they are willing.)
2. Pentecost Sunday (5/24/26) color is Red
3. Confirmation Sunday (5/31/26)

OTHER ITEMS:

- New Secretary(Danielle) starts on Friday 4/17/26, Emma will come in to train.
- VBS is scheduled for July 6 through July 10, 2026. Funeral Banner was discussed and was suggested to us the UCC Banner in the future.
- Pastor's Vacation plans are complete. Dates will be July 27 through August 6, 2026. His replacement on Sunday August 2nd will be his father, Rev. Dr. James (Jim) Hill Sr..
- Motion was made to adjourn by Kay Moss and Seconded by Judy Duro then closed with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: May 12, 2026

**St. Luke's UCC
Board of Christian Education Meeting MINUTES
April 14th, 2026**

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

Opening Prayer - **Joslyn led us in prayer.**

Welcome -

Minutes -**Sarah 1st, Becky 2nd - minutes approved.**

Reports

1. Sunday School - fine. Low attendance last week. Need new alter candles.
*Amanda has wish list for class.
2. Church Council - Jess suggested new place for engraving to Becky. In new business.
3. Confirmation -
4. Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000
5. Missions - 1st quarter = School Lunches
Joslyn - check with secretary for food service with Fox C6 for highest need in district. Send info to Dave Pippin to help with transferring money.

2nd quarter - helping hands and horses.

1. Open Close Church schedule

May 10, 2026 – Shelbey Stilwill

June 14, 2026 – Greg McLard

July 12, 2026 – Sarah Saputo

OLD BUSINESS

1. Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Crosses 3/28/26 – 28-30 Kids, 65 People Total

- a) Palms ordered – same amount as last year
- b) Trainers for the crosses – Servings not about to assist due to age. Ask again next year - just in case.**
- c) Fill 500+ eggs for event with Candy and Trinkets
- d) Easter Bunny -
- e) Craft
 - 1. Cookies - Shelbey
 - 2. Wooden Magnets - Sarah
 - 3. Coloring sheets - Sarah
 - 4. Shrinky dinks - Joslyn
 - 5. Thumb print magnets – Barb Allen
- 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 Clothes - Becky
- g) BOCE arrives at 8:30. Easter egg hunt starts at 9:30

Food and drink ok.

Sarah had issues with splitting kids up more evenly. Need to count kids and split them up before releasing to find eggs.

- 2. Palm Sunday Breakfast 3/29/26
 - a. Attendance last year 100+ 70 approximately this year.
 - b. Food/Menu – Denise and Gary in charge might need to reach out to see if/where help is needed – signup sheet??? Ask Garry and Denise to help, but don't assume.
 - c. BOCE to be at church at 8:15 am
 - d. Women's circle – Paper products

New business

Confirmation needs:

- Glasses need to be engraved 1 month prior to Confirmation day.
 - Monogram + date of confirmation
 - Joslyn will take care of this.

- Church Secretary to order robes and necklaces (robes will need to be steamed)
 - Becky will order necklaces
 - Church Secretary getting robes.
- Corsages (red) 1 week before Confirmation day.
 - Joslyn will order.

May 31st is the Confirmation date for 2026.

Bible ordering from Christianbook.com (for promotion Sunday). - Joslyn will order
Put the student's full name on Bible.

Jolene Perry
Owen Nuelle

Need new alter candles for Sunday School Opening.

***Joslyn will look at ChristianBooks.com for useable type of candle. Discuss with Pastor James.**

Becky asked about Acolytes. Can we see if kids are available to learn to do this?

Upcoming Events:

- Promotion Sunday (+ Teacher appreciation) - May 17th
- Confirmation Sunday - May 31st
- Amanda's class - top 3 or 4 items on her wish list. BOCE will get highest need items.
- Danielle Franken starting Friday as Secretary.

GM motion to adjourn. Sarah 2nd. Motion carried.

Women's Circle Meeting

Women's Circle April 2026 Meeting On Thursday, April 2 there were 12 present for the regular monthly meeting. Michell Perry called the meeting to order at 12:00. Gail Heckenberg did a devotion on "Overwhelming Life". There was \$49 collected in offerings and prayer given. Several shared prayers, concerns and praises. Minutes and treasure's reports were read and approved. Business meeting consisted of: *Lily & Palms purchased for the sanctuary, * One hundred Spring flower baskets were

approved to order for the Mother's Day pre-Sale, * The Mission project was approved for \$150 to Every Child Hope, * The new freezer is on back order, * Pastor Hill will see about finding a Transfiguration banner (or kit) to be purchased, * The condition of the stage curtains were discussed with agreement to leave them as they are with instructions that anyone wishing to use them please ask for help in doing so, * The Women's Circle ladies will clean the sanctuary on Monday, May 4 at 9:30 AM. Anyone in the church is welcome to help in this project. There will be a short meeting after in the fellowship hall, * There will be no regular meeting on Thursday, May 7, * A group outing is being planned for Friday, May 15 to Farmington. Those wishing to attend will meet at 9:00 AM on the church parking lot to car pool. The next Women's Circle regular meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4, at 6:30 pm. Any and all ladies of the church are invited to join in the meeting and be a part of the projects and fellowship of the St. Luke's Women's Circle.

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*
	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*	

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Morgan Belt	Wyl Belt
Fletcher McLard	Jordyn Davis
Roni Belt	Jolene Perry

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mark Sproull	5/1		
Peyton Cusumano	5/1	William Glaus III	5/14
Sherr Pippin	5/2	Adam Riordan	5/17
Liam Pippin	5/2	Alison Arnold	5/18
Tara Csumano	5/3	Tyler Mize	5/18
Michael Cusumano	5/3	Taylor Reiff	5/21
Malachi Lowry	5/4	Graham Dobbs	5/24
Derek Ehlers	5/6	Daniel Randolph	5/24
David Pippin	5/7	Maybree Saputo	5/24
Dustin Hoehn	5/8	Tammy Glaus	5/25
Melissa Price	5/8	Shawn Lambert	5/25
David Fluegge	5/8	Holly Skaggs	5/25
Gail Jacquin	5/9	Carter Rose	5/25
Wayne Timeus	5/9	Kevin Stockwell	5/26
Barbara McCarthy	5/9	Curtis Crawford Jr.	5/26
Jake Narup	5/10	Kody Kraus	5/27
Alexa Stacy	5/12	Shirley Neun	5/28
Stacie Perry	5/13	Brenda Farson	5/28
Nathan Davis	5/13	Ronald Ehlers	5/29
Brenna McLard	5/13	Abigail Bailey	5/29
Matthew Pippin	5/14	Carson Schneider	5/29
Amanda Davis	5/14	Shane Weatherholt	5/31

Upcoming Calendar

May
 May 3rd

Women’s Circle Flower Sale, following worship
 Calling All Graduate Recognition Sign-up

May 4th Women's Circle Sanctuary cleaning, 10:00am
 May 5th Board of Christian Education, 6:30pm
 May 10th Mothers' Day
 Baptism in worship, 10:00am
 May 12th Board of Elders, 6:30pm
 May 15th Women's Circle Farmington Daytrip, 9:00am
 May 17th Sunday School Promotion & Teacher Appreciation
 Special Congregation Meeting
 May 19th Church Council, 6:30pm
 May 24th Pentecost Sunday
 Last Day "Calling All Graduates" Recognition Sign-ups
 May 31st Confirmation Sunday
 Trinity Sunday

June

June 7th Graduate Recognition

July

July 6-10 Vacation Bible School (VBS)
 July 12th VBS Children share during worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling All Graduates!

Do you know of anyone in our church or extended community who is graduating this year? Please contact the church office or leave a note in the offering late by May 24th. We are planning to recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 7th, during our morning Worship.

UPCOMING WOMEN'S CIRCLE EVENTS

- **Flower Sale** on Friday, May 1st at 11am, and Sunday, May 3rd at 11am
- **Sanctuary Clean-up Day**, Monday, May 4th, at 10:00am. Please note: this will be in place of the normal May meeting.
- **Daytrip to Farmington for Lunch and Shopping**, leaving at 9am from parking lot. All are welcome to join! Please contact Michelle Perry, Women's Circle president, at (314) 324-3047 if you are planning to attend.
-

From the Family of Joyce Kraus:

We would like to thank all our family and friends at St. Luke's for the overwhelming love, support and prayers during the time of our mothers' passing. Thank you also for the numerous cards, phone calls and memorials given in our mother's names. And thank you for all the help and contributions to the wonderful luncheon after her memorial service. We truly appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity. Our family is truly blessed to have such a great church family! God bless you all.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

2026

SUMMER

June	6/21 - 6/26/26 High School Camp (Completed 8 th - 12 th grade) 6/28 - 7/2/26 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+)

