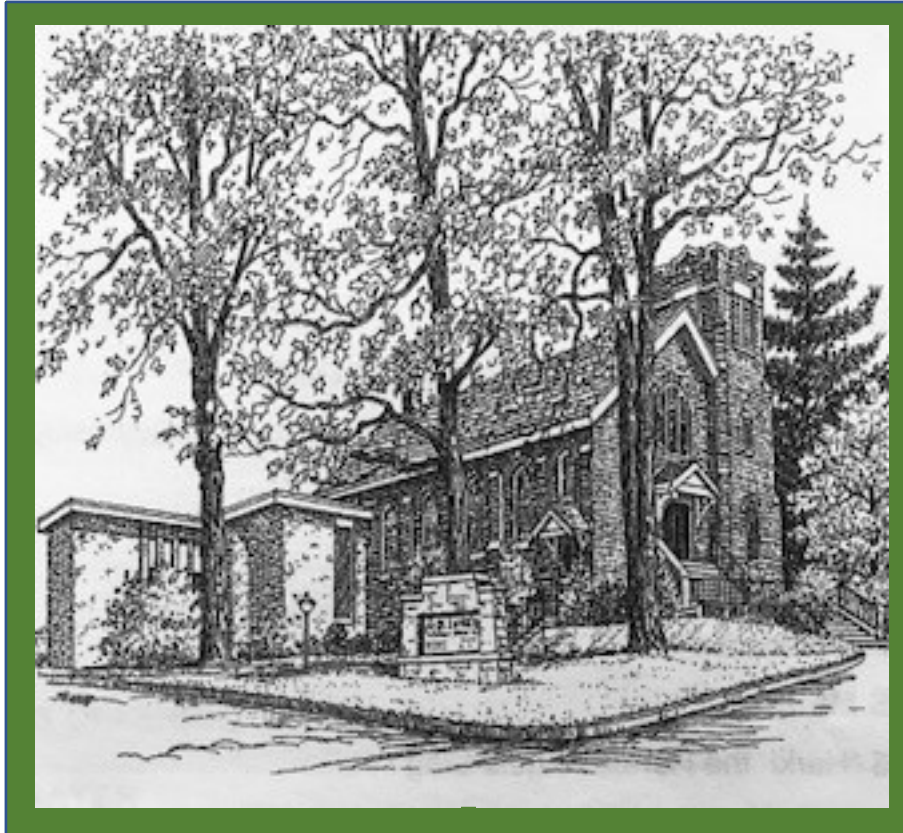


# THE BEACON

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



**March 2026**

**Website:** [www.stlukesuccimperial.org](http://www.stlukesuccimperial.org)

**Email:** [stlukesimperial@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesimperial@gmail.com)

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Monday, Wednesday and Friday**  
**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

March 2, 2026

St. Luke's Friends and Family,

March places us in the middle of Lent, a season that invites us to times of both personal introspection and outward care. When we allow it, God reshapes us. We have many opportunities to embrace spiritual practices in the weeks ahead leading to Easter; I hope you and your family embrace those which meet you where you are.

This past Sunday, I began my sermon series I'm calling "Giving Up," which is a play on the concept of giving up a practice as spiritual discipline during the Lenten season. Here's an outline of the sermon series:

Giving Up: Expectations	Genesis 12:1-4a	March 1
Giving Up: Superiority	John 4:5-42	March 8
Giving Up: Enemies	Luke 19:37-44	March 15
Giving Up: Our Lives	Ezekiel 37:1-14	March 22
Giving Up: Popularity	Matthew 21:1-11	March 29

The final Sunday in our Lenten season is Palm Sunday on March 29 and I hope you plan to join us for our traditional Palm Sunday brunch, sponsored by our Confirmands and families again this year. Our Board of Christian Education & Church Council provide great assistance as well and a sign-up sheet to bring items will be in the church sanctuary foyer in coming weeks. Holy week will include our next Meditative Prayer gathering on Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00PM, and our Good Friday Tennebrae service, including our live Last Supper reenactment, on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00PM. Watch for more information on each of these in next month's Beacon.

This newsletter outlines the many other opportunities during the month of March, including my Lenten bible study on forgiveness on Thursdays via Zoom, the annual Ladies Lenten Luncheon, our Pastor's prayer Zoom, and our special Lenten offering supporting Annie's Hope, which provides services for children, teens, and families who are grieving loss in the greater St. Louis area. Want to know even more? Contact our church office this week!

Many of us begin Lent with good intentions—new practices, renewed focus, a desire for simplicity. By mid-March, those intentions can feel a bit worn. But Lent isn't a test of willpower. It's an invitation to return, again and again, to the God who calls us beloved. Even a single moment of prayer, stillness, worship, or service can open space for grace. Transformation rarely happens all at once; it grows slowly, like seeds pushing through cold soil. Lent asks us to trust that God is planting something new within us.

And we don't walk this journey alone. As we move through March, watch for the small signs of God's presence, in your life and in the lives of others around you. Holy Week will come soon enough. For now, may this season deepen our faith and draw us closer to the One who walks with us through every wilderness.

Grace and peace,



Pastor James

## **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

February 17, 2026

In Attendance: Warren Stuckmeyer, Jess McLard, Becky Hollerbach, Gary Hartmann, Dane Kraus, Garry Kraus, Reverend Hill, Yvonne Davis.

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

### **REPORTS**

- Pastors Report: Accepted as presented
- Church Council: The minutes were not available. They will be printed at the next meeting.
- Treasurers Report: Information was available and some questions will be taken to David Pippin for clarification.
- Board of Elders Report: Accepted as presented
- Board of Christian Education: Accepted as presented
- Building & Grounds Report: The light will be installed hopefully this week. Dane Krause will call the A/C company for up-to-date quotes for the units damaged last year. The new doors will be adjusted for proper closure.
- Cemetery Report: Accepted as presented.
- Endowment Report: Check was written for Building and Grounds for \$576.63.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- A/C units: Dane will call for up to date bids this week.
- Outside lighting: The pole will be installed hopefully this week.
- Carpeting: Tammy Glaus?
- Library: Progressing. Things are continuously being moved in. Cataloging continuing.
- Inside cleaning Day: Women's Guild oil the pews?
- Sidewalks/Concrete: Springtime project
- Roofs: Completed
- Sound System in Sanctuary: updated

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Building usage was requested by Chrissy Kraus on May 30, 2026. Garry Kraus made a motion to approve the date. Gary Hartmann seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.
- Pastor Hill purchased a Dual Receiver with 2 mics on the church credit card and a Mic Pack from personal funds, that works with the current analog system. It will also work with a digital system if we ever upgrade to one. Garry Kraus made a motion to pay for the receiver and Mics (\$527.00) and reimburse Reverend Hill for the Mic pack (\$125.00) from the Mangelsdorf Fund. Gary Hartmann seconded. All were in favor, motion carried

### **Membership Changes**

- Deaths: Judith Dehner
- Baptisms: Kensley Glaus 3/1/2026
- Membership: none

### **Open/Close**

- March 15 – Dane Kraus

- March 22 – Garry Kraus
- March 29 – Yvonne Davis

At 7:30 Jess McLard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary Hartmann seconded the motion; all were in favor. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

**Next Church Council Meeting: March 17, 2026**

**BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday February 10th, 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 (January 13, 2026) reviewed, motion made by Tim H. to accept the minutes as written and second by Kay M. motion carried.

REPORTS

Worship: Going well.

Ushers: Going well. Ushers needed for Sunday sausage dinner. Working on schedule for March and April: Good Friday April 3rd and Easter April 5th.

Communion: Going well. Good Friday-Tenebrae, Easter Sunday. No communion on Ash Wednesday.

Visitor Care: No report due to illness

MEMBERSHIP

Confirmation Class: Going well. Helping with sausage dinner, and Palm Sunday, 3 field trips planned, Confirmation Sunday- May 31, 2026.

Baptisms: March 1st. 2026, Kensley Glaus Weddings: None

Funerals: Judith Dehner- Vineyards Funeral Home to arrive between 8:30 - 9:00 am Service at 10:00 am February 14, 2026, no luncheon afterwards.

New Member: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sausage Dinner 2/15 (one service 10:00)
2. Ash Wednesday Service 2/18/26
3. Lenten Mission Project. Past two years have been Annie's Hope
4. Annual Meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Reorganize the Board - Vicki Randolph, secretary, all other board members remained the same
2. Ash Wednesday 2/18/26 7:00 pm service with no communion
3. Review Calendar- Additions to be made May 17th Promotion Sunday, May 24 Pentecost wear (Red), May 31st Confirmation Sunday. June 7th Graduate Sunday, correction to chicken dinner date to 10/28/26. Totenfest 11/1/26 Board of Elders will order flowers, Julie Hartmann to finish her 2nd and final 3 year term. Tim Hollerbach to finish 1st 3 year term.

OTHER ITEMS:

Pastor Hill will take a vacation in late June/July (25th) Strengthen the church envelopes order in April

NEXT MEETING: March 10, 2026

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Randolph

**St. Luke's UCC  
Board of Christian Education Meeting MINUTES  
February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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

Quitters:

Angela Logan

\*Connie Stuckmeyer

Emily Dulle

**\*present**

Opening Prayer - **James led us in prayer at 6:43 pm.**

Welcome -

Minutes - **Sarah made a motion to approve. Shelby 2nd. Motion approved.**

Reports

1. Sunday School - **Going ok. Chrissy had a whale - kids loved it. Puppet show 2/9/26.**
2. Church Council - **Palm Sunday breakfast (March 29th) - Council will help. BOCE will see that there is a sign up sheet for food.**
3. Confirmation - **Scheduling 2x field trips. Friday night Chibats. Mass at Cathedral. Palm Sunday breakfast.**
4. Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000
5. Missions - 1st quarter = School Lunches - **call around at end of year to see who has most need.**
  - a. **Connie passed along details for missions to Joslyn.**

**Choose/Elect new officers**

**Shelby Stillwill will serve as Chairperson.**

**Greg McLard will serve as Secretary**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Open Close Church Schedule :

**February 8, 2026 - Sarah Saputo**

**March 8, 2026 – Greg McLard**

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

2. Movie/Pizza Party - 2/1/26 - **15 kids (3 visitors plus 12 usual kids) + 5 adults**
  - a. Any Issues or things to change?
  - b. Movie - 'Best Christmas Pageant Ever' - did the kids like it? **Big kids definitely enjoyed. Little ones seemed to enjoy.**
  - c. Food- Previous Year (prep for 12 to 15 kids) - Any changes?
    - i. Sarah- drinks + plates & napkins. **Need some more Capri Suns.**
    - ii. Shelby - Frozen pizza - **2x cheese, 1x pepperoni - good amount of pizza.**
    - iii. Greg- Popcorn (Karsh's) - **1 bag was good.**
    - iv. **Cookies were also put out with pizza.**
3. Annual Report review + Next year's schedule.
  - a. Report updated.

## **Schedule:**

### **Annual Event planning and Dates (tentative as of January 2026 meeting)**

2/1/26 - Reward party

2/15/26 - Sausage Dinner

3/1/26 - Green Eggs and Ham pancake breakfast

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

3/29/26 - Palm Sunday Breakfast

5/17/26 - Promotion Sunday / Teacher Appreciation.

5/31/26- Confirmation Sunday

7/6/26 thru 7/10/26: VBS  
7/12/26 - Kids sing in Church - VBS  
8/30/26 - Rally Day  
9/13/26 - Goodies with Grands (Grandparents Day)  
10/18/26 - Chicken Dinner  
12/5/26 - Santa's Breakfast  
12/20/26 - Christmas Program / Cookie reception

## **New Business**

1. Sausage Dinner - NA
  
2. 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. Menu items:
    - Pancakes - Joslyn**
    - Ham - Becky**
    - Extras (syrup, butter, etc.) - Greg**
    - Eggs - Sarah (8 dozen - we believe we used only 7 dozen)**
    - Green Grapes - Shelbey**
    - Green apples - Shelbey**
    - Drinks - Sarah**
    - Paper Products - Shelbey**
    - 3 dozen hard boiled eggs died green - Joslyn**
    - \*\*Everyone bring a griddle.**

### **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)**
- \*Corsashes 1 week before Confirmation day.**
- May 31st is the Confirmation date for 2026.**

**Bible ordering from [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com) (for promotion Sunday).**  
**Put the student's full name on Bible.**

**Greg - Motion to adjourn. Joslyn 2nd. Motion carries.**

### **Upcoming Events:**

2/14/26 - Sausage Dinner  
3/1/26 - Green Eggs and Ham

**Lords Prayer Next Meeting 3/3/2026 6:30pm**

## Women's Circle February Meeting

There were fourteen ladies that met for the February 2026 meeting. Michelle Perry opened the meeting with a short devotion, offering and a prayer. Caring and Sharing of our church family and friends was shared. Minutes and treasure reports were reviewed and approved. The kitchen freezer is not working and needs to be replaced. It was approved for the Women's Circle to shop and pay for a replacement. Sausage dinner plans were reviewed and finalized. The Lenten Luncheon will be on Thursday, March 12, 11:00 AM hosted by St. Martin's in Dittmer. All ladies of the church who are wishing to attend needs to RSVP by February 28th. (Let Michelle Perry or call Emma Moran at the church office). Easter lilly sales will be discussed at the March meeting. A fundraiser was discussed with proceeds to go towards a larger project for the church (possibly handicap accessibility). The February mission project is \$150 to be donated to JC Rescue Mission. Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 5th at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. All ladies at St. Luke's are invited to attend.

### BIG, BIG THANKS

The Women's Circle would like to thank all of you who helped make the Sausage Dinner a huge success. Your time and donations of desserts, bake sale items, crafts, furniture, piglets, etc., does not go unnoticed and is so appreciated. There were 550 meals served and 200 pounds of additional sausage sold. It's so nice to see friends, family, and community come together for this annual event. Above all, thank you for the hours of time that you put in on Saturday and Sunday (and the weeks before). We are so proud of our church and the things we accomplish together.

In Christ we are one,

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

### Our Military Personnel

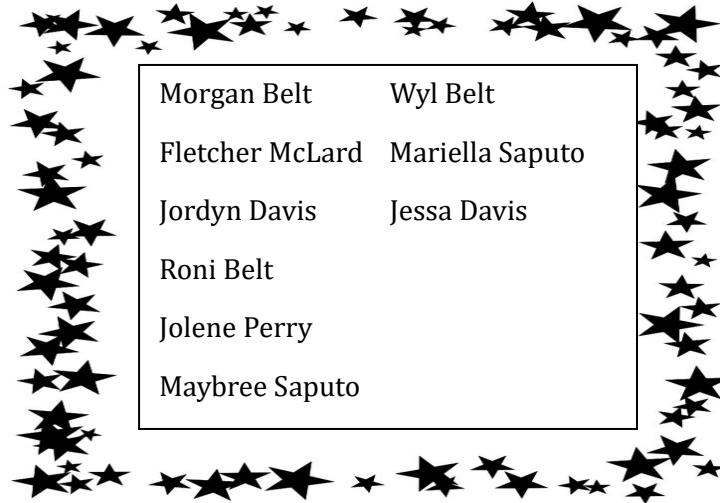
Christopher Kettler\*  
Susan Bablowitz\*

Samuel Lowry  
Brian Randolph

Eric Watkins\*  
Jacob Wolters\*

Isaak Hartung\*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

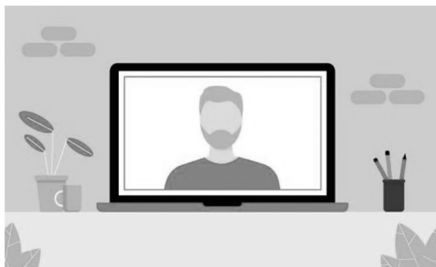
Dave Schiller	3/2	Jaidyn Russell	3/23
Jeanette Wilson	3/4	Joseph Bogowith	3/24
Kurt Olsen	3/5	Connor Cathcart	3/25
Brayden Burcham	3/5	James Cathcart	3/25
Gale Dickemann Cross	3/10	Betty Acre	3/26
Stephanie Rose	3/11	Aline Rodgers	3/26
Tessa Rebsamen	3/13	Kaylin Hollerbach	3/26
Larissa Dolan	3/17	Ashley Restivo	3/27
Stephanie Narup	3/18	Jackson Faulkner	3/28
Dawn Amsden	3/19	Andrew Riordan	3/28
Jolene Perry	3/20	Kayla Bailey	3/30
Jill Scherer	3/21		

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### March

Mar 1<sup>st</sup>      Green Eggs & Ham Breakfast  
Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>      Board of Christian Education, 6:30pm  
                Pastor's Prayer Zoom, 8:00pm

- Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Women's Circle, 11:30am  
Pastor's Lenten Bible Study: Forgiveness (*via Zoom*), 6:30pm
- Mar 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Elders, 6:30pm
- Mar 12<sup>th</sup> Lenten Luncheon, 11:00am  
Pastor's Lenten Bible Study: Forgiveness (*via Zoom*), 6:30pm
- Mar 17<sup>th</sup> Church Council, 6:30pm  
Pastor's Prayer Zoom, 8:00pm
- Mar 19<sup>th</sup> Pastor's Lenten Bible Study: Forgiveness (*via Zoom*), 6:30pm
- Mar 28<sup>th</sup> Easter Egg Hunt, Palm Cross Making
- Mar 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Breakfast



**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, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 8:00pm.*** For more information, see Pastor James.

**Forgiveness: Pastor's Lenten Bible Study begins February 26**

Pastor James will being a four-week Lenten Bible study on the theme of forgiveness on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. We will meet via Zoom at 6:30pm each Thursday for four weeks. Those interested in attending should email or text either the church office or Pastor James directly.



**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 through our church using the special envelopes included in your worship bulletin. For more information, talk to one of our Elders or contact the church office.



# Easter egg hunt



PLEASE JOIN US AT ST. LUKE'S U.C.C. • 6610 ST. LUKE'S CHURCH RD. • IMPERIAL, MO 63052



## WHEN

**SATURDAY, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Activities begin at 9:30AM • Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15AM



## WHAT

- Refreshments
- Craft Stations
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Visit from the Easter Bunny!!

HOPPY EASTER!



## STUFF TO BRING

Please bring your  
Easter basket or a bag  
to collect eggs.

Please bring your  
camera for pictures  
with the Easter Bunny

## WHERE

St. Luke's Fellowship Hall  
& Outside (weather permitting)

*Please bring your Friends!*



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

# *Palm Sunday*



*Hosanna  
to the  
King!*

# BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 29th

Hosted by the Confirmation Class & Their Families

*Worship Service at 9am*

*Breakfast at 10am in the Fellowship Hall*



Breakfast Casseroles  
Biscuits & Gravy  
Pastries and More





# SNEAK PEEK!

## 2026

# SUMMER

June	6/21 - 6/26/26 High School Camp (Completed 8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> 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+)

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