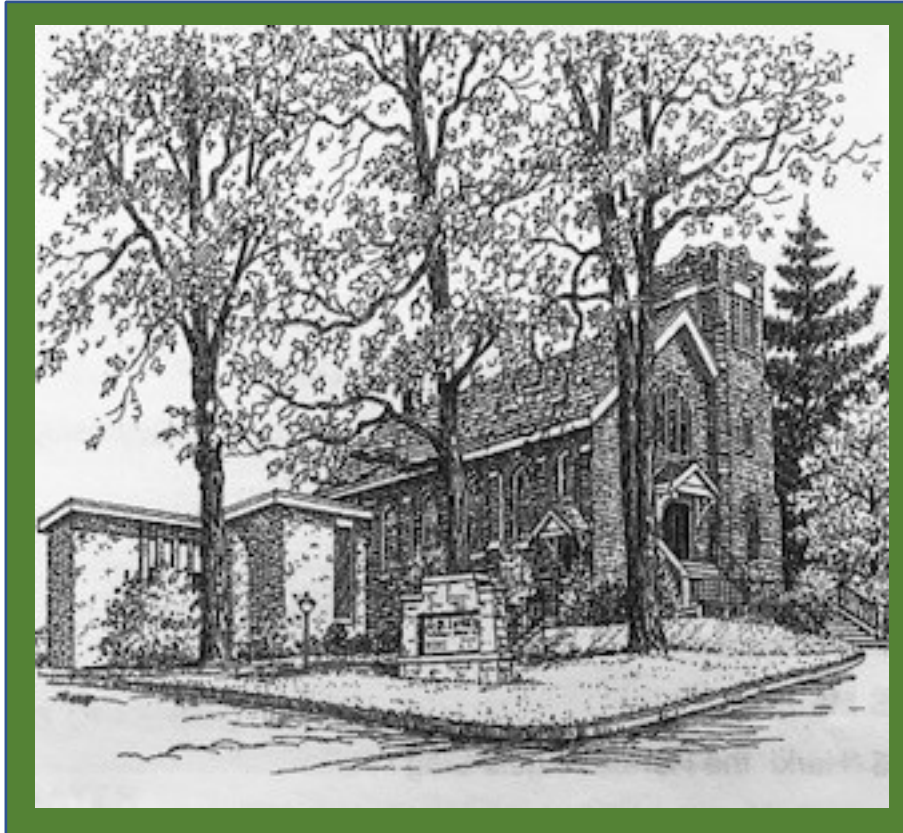


THE BEACON

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



January 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

January 2, 2026

St. Luke's Friends and Family

As we step into a new year, we do so with two simultaneous postures. First, we hold gratitude for the journey, both the blessings of 2025 and the struggles through which God has brought us. At the same time, we also have a steady, profound hope for the road ahead in 2026. The turning of the calendar is never magic, but it is an invitation: an invitation for us to remember who we are and whose we are: we are the Church, *Ecclesia*, the "called out" ones of God.

These two postures remind me one of the ways many in our culture identify the United Church of Christ is with the phrase, "God is still speaking." Our hopeful posture in 2026 recognizes the truth in this affirmation. God still speaks, still moves, still calls, and still guides; this is our hope as individuals, as a church, and as a people. This hope does not promise easy answers, but assures us God continues to move in our lives with compassion and possibility. Even when the circumstances in our lives and the world around us feel uncertain, God's Spirit is already moving.

In the weeks ahead, we will travel the road from Epiphany by looking at both how we came to this point and where we go from here, seeking guidance from our ancient ancestors in Hebrew scripture (in the prophets Jeremiah and Micah), from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, and from the Gospel writers themselves. I look forward to sharing with you in worship and in a new opportunity which begins this Tuesday. **On Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm, I will be on our church Zoom channel to share a time of devotion and prayer with any who are interested. This will be very brief – likely no more than 10 or 15 minutes – and will happen twice each month.** Our first time of prayer will be this Tuesday, January 6, at 8:00pm. To receive the Zoom link, simply email the church office or me (jameshilljr@icloud.com).

Finally, I hope each of you will plan to be with us Sunday, January 18th, following our morning worship, as we gather for our annual meeting. Few look forward to business meetings, but this time should be a hopeful time as we look at both challenges and opportunities ahead. After all, budgets are physical decisions which reflect our spiritual values. Let's make this a hopeful meeting as we chart our course, listening for the still speaking voice of God's Holy Spirit.

See you on Sunday!

Grace and peace,

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

Pastor James

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Dec 16, 2025

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

At 6:32 pm, Warren Stuckmeyer called the meeting to order. Pastor Hill opened with a prayer.

Reports

Pastor Report – confirmation class is going good. Pastor reviewed 2025 goals and 2026 goals.

Financial Secretary Report – We have had some year-end contributions

Treasurer's report – accepted as provided

Church Council – accepted as provided

Board of Elders – accepted as provided

Board of Christian Education – planning movie day Feb 1, 2026

Building and Grounds – roofs completed, Tree trim this week or next, Check flashing on chimney.

Cemetery – accepted as provided

Endowment – accepted as provided

Yvonne Davis made a motion to approve all reports as presented. Don Dankel. All were in favor, motion carried.

OLD Business

- Roofs – Completed
- Tree Limbs – Waiting to hear back from them
- Outside lighting – concrete poured, pole is here with fixtures attached. Waiting for Piro

Signs to lift pole.

- Doors – Completed
- Library – furniture moved and working on moving the files.
- Budget – Garry Kraus made a motion to approve the budget for 2026, Jess McLard

seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed and will be taken to the Annual meeting January 18, 2026

- Candidate for Church Council – we need one person

NEW Business

- Kay Moss brought in John Whitehead from Jefferson County 911 to let St. Luke's know that she has sold her property to 911 and they will be paving the road and eventually moving the headquarters to the property.
- Agenda for Annual Meeting. Please let Warren or Emma know if you have an item to add to the agenda for January 18, 2026
- Insurance – Garry Kraus made a motion to have the deductible for the building insurance change to \$5000 deductible. Dane Kraus seconded. All were in favor, motion carried to change the deductible on insurance.

Membership Changes

Deaths – Doc Ed Magee

Births – none

Membership – none

Open/Close schedule

January 18 – Garry Kraus

January 25 – Don Dankel

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

Next meeting: January 20, 2026, at 6:30 pm

BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday December 12, 2025

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.

CALL TO ORDER: Julie called the meeting to order at 6:45p.m.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2025

- January-February-March-April Michelle Perry & Julie Hartmann
- May-June-July-August Kay Moss & Tim Hollerbach
- September-October-November-December Judy Duro & Chrissy Kraus

MINUTES (November 11, 2025): Judy made a motion to accept the November meeting minutes. Seconded by Chrissy with all in favor.

REPORTS

Worship: Going great. The altar vestments will remain blue during advent even for Communion Sunday.

Ushers: Going well. Judy has recruited another usher and has talked to others.

Communion: There is enough supplies for Christmas Eve Service. Judy will check after Christmas Eve for the next group in January.

Visitor Care: Chrissy will look at the friendship registers for the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Confirmation Class: nothing new to report

Baptisms: none at this time

Weddings: none at this time

Funerals: Ed Magee died November 28th

New Member: none at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Hanging of the Greens: Went really well. Outside was not done due to how cold it was. Thank you to everyone who helped make the church ready for Christmas.
2. Christmas Schedule
3. Special Advent Envelopes
4. New Board Nominee

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set Winter Food Drive Dates: February 22nd-April 26th
2. Annual Meeting 1/18/2025
3. Board Nominee-Michelle Perry(Replacement), Judy Duro(Term 2): Michelle had mentioned Vicki Randolph about coming to elders. Judy has agreed to continue with her second term.

OTHER ITEMS:

Kay brought changing the usher stole colors to match the Choir.

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

NEXT MEETING: January 13, 2026

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

December 2, 2025

*Angela Logan - Chairperson

*Greg McLard - Secretary

*Sarah Saputo - Sunday School Superintendent & VBS

Kathy Porter - Church Council Liaison

Shelbey Stillwill

*Connie Stuckmeyer

*Emily Dulle

*Pastor James Hill

***present**

Opening Prayer - **PRAYER at 6:40pm**

Welcome - **Angie welcomed us all.**

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

Reports

1. Sunday School -
 - a. **Going well**
 - b. **Working on Christmas Program music**
 - c. **Curriculum ordered for fall and winter**
2. Church Council -
 - a. **Working on Budget - have any requests for changes by December meeting.**
3. Confirmation -
 - a. **Only meeting once during December due to schedules**
 - b. **Class is 2 weeks ahead versus last year's class.**
 - c. **The students are doing very well.**
4. Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000
5. Missions - 4th quarter = Food drive
 - a. **487 items already sent to Sister Christine's Food Bank (St. Joseph's Church)**
 - b. **150 items donated by Ken Eckert,**
 - c. **Food drive met quota. Movie reward party set for 2/1/2026.**
 - d. **It was discussed to add 'Bring a canned good' onto flyer for Breakfast w/Santa. Try to get it published for this year, but add to next year.**

OLD BUSINESS

1. Open Close Church Schedule :
Dec 14, 2025 – Connie Stuckmeyer
January 11, 2026 - Emily Duelle
February 8, 2026 - Sarah Saputo

NEW BUSINESS

1. Santa's Breakfast prep. **12/6/25**
 1. Santa- Ray Cronin confirmed. **BOCE will get 2x jars of apple butter , a \$25 Gift card for Cracker Barrel and a \$15 gift card to Dairy Queen.**
 2. Food- Previous Year
 - a. Sarah- **drinks - reimbursement needed.**
 - b. Connie- **fruit**
 - c. Angie- **candy canes and fruit snacks**
 - d. Greg- **2 dozen donuts + 2 dozen donut holes**
 - e. Emily- **Small bags of donuts (3 chocolate, 2 powdered)**

- f. Shelby - **make cookies**
- g. Group - **pigs in a blanket will be made at Church (120). Angie will purchase ingredients.**

3. Craft Stations

- a. Angie – **Reindeer food - items here**
- b. Sarah- **ornaments to make - items here**
- c. Barb Allen – **thumb print craft - Barb confirmed to be here**
- d. Shelby – **cookie decorations - items here**
- e. Christmas Book - **Sarah will have book and read to the kids before Santa arrives.**
- f. Table Decorations/ Santa area - **Connie will get this week.**

BOCE arrives at 8; Crafts from 9- 9:50; Story at 9:50; Santa 10-10:30.

Last year had 72 participants

2. Christmas Program **12/21/25** Bag filling **12/20/25**

- 1. Ordering 36 ornaments - **Ordered.**
- 2. Making 24 bags for kids - **24 bags to be ordered.**
- 3. Theme - **Connie working on it.**
- 4. Flyer - **Connie will ask Chrissy to create flyer.**
- 5. Cast - **Confirmation class will narrate.**

Bag items

Amazon was cheapest for Hershey Bars - **BOCE to purchase from Amazon.**

Gum - **BOCE to purchase from Amazon.**

Oranges

Ornaments- **Dankels purchased the ornaments**

Bags- Shein **Sarah or Angie will purchase**

Peanuts- - **BOCE to purchase from Amazon.**

Candy Cane- - **BOCE to purchase from Amazon.**

Cookie reception - **BOCE to ask for cookie donations.**

- **Drinks - Milk and coffee.**

Motion to adjourn by Greg. Sarah 2nd. Motion passed

Meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

2 new volunteers needed to serve on BOCE. Angie and Connie have completed 3x 2 year terms.

Upcoming Events:

12/06/25 - Santa's Breakfast

12/21/25 - Christmas Program / Cookie reception

Lords Prayer

Next Meeting 1/6/2026 6:30pm

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!

November Expenses

These expenses do not include payment for doors or roof.

	YTD
Giving	\$157,610
Expenses	-\$184,543
	= \$ -26,933

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* | Eddie Lowry | Joyce Kraus |
| Ollie Stuckmeyer | Jana Kramme | Kay Olsen |
| Minerva Ainsley | Juliet Gilmore* | Betty Acre |
| Jane Kraus* | Family of Bob Johnson | Family of Jean Seymour |
| Michele Day* | Ken Eckert | Ed Ziegelmeier |
| Family of Ed Magee | Jody Stockwell* | Debbie Dankel & Family* |

Our Military Personnel

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE





Maybree &
Mariella Saputo



Morgan, Wyl, &
Roni Belt



Jordyn Davis

Fletcher McLard



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Amy McLard	1/2	Judith Duro	1/16
Kelsey Nash	1/4	Ida Haefner	1/17
Stephanie Winters	1/5	Emily Magee	1/18
Alexandria Meier	1/5	Aidan Elrod	1/20
Lorna Meyer	1/7	Joseph Stuckmeyer	1/23
Gavin Kundert	1/7	Eddie Lowry Jr	1/24
Tyler Morris	1/8	Olivia Raebel	1/26
Peggy Schneider	1/10	Ryan Perry	1/29
Benjamin Lowry	1/13	Zach Schneider	1/30
Patricia Sieving	1/13	Teresa Kraus	1/31
Sarah Schmisa	1/14		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY

- 6th Board of Christian Ed, 6:30pm
- 8th Women's Circle, 11:30am
- 13th Board of Elders, 6:30pm
- 18th Annual Meeting, 10:15am
- 20th Church Council, 6:30pm

February

- 5th Women's Circle, 11:30am
- 10th Board of Christian Ed, 6:30pm
- 17th Board of Elders, 6:30pm
- 24th Church Council, 6:30pm

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY: Are you interested in helping at church but don't have a lot of time to commit? We are looking for people that would like to be counters. We currently have a 2-person team count weekly for 1 month at a time and are on a rotating schedule throughout the year. If you are interested in helping or would like to learn more about the responsibilities, please see Jess McLard on Sunday or call at 314-609-8935. Thank you!

A note from the Fin. Secretary: If you are planning to include St. Luke's in your end-of-year contributions, please make sure they are turned in to the church office by Monday, December 29, so there is ample time to process and deposit. Thank you in advance for your gift and continued support of the church. Offering envelopes for **2026** are in the Narthex. Please make sure you pick those up after worship. If you don't see your envelopes, please see Jess McLard.

A NOTE FROM COUNCIL : If you are interested in being part of the Church Council, an opening is coming available. Please contact a member of council for more information.

2025 Gift Drive

St. Luke's completed another successful gift drive on December 14. We served six families in one of our local schools and contributed to the Jefferson County Foster Parents Foundation as well. The families we provided for at the school included nineteen children aged three to seventeen. In addition to gifts for the children, each family also received gas cards. Our contributions to the Foster Foundation included toys, craft items, puzzles, and a variety of clothes including hats, gloves, hoodies, and coats totaling 104 items.. All gifts were delivered on December 15. The generosity and kindness of this congregation is a pleasure to behold. We are proud to be members of such a caring church family. God bless and Merry Christmas.

Brenda and Don

