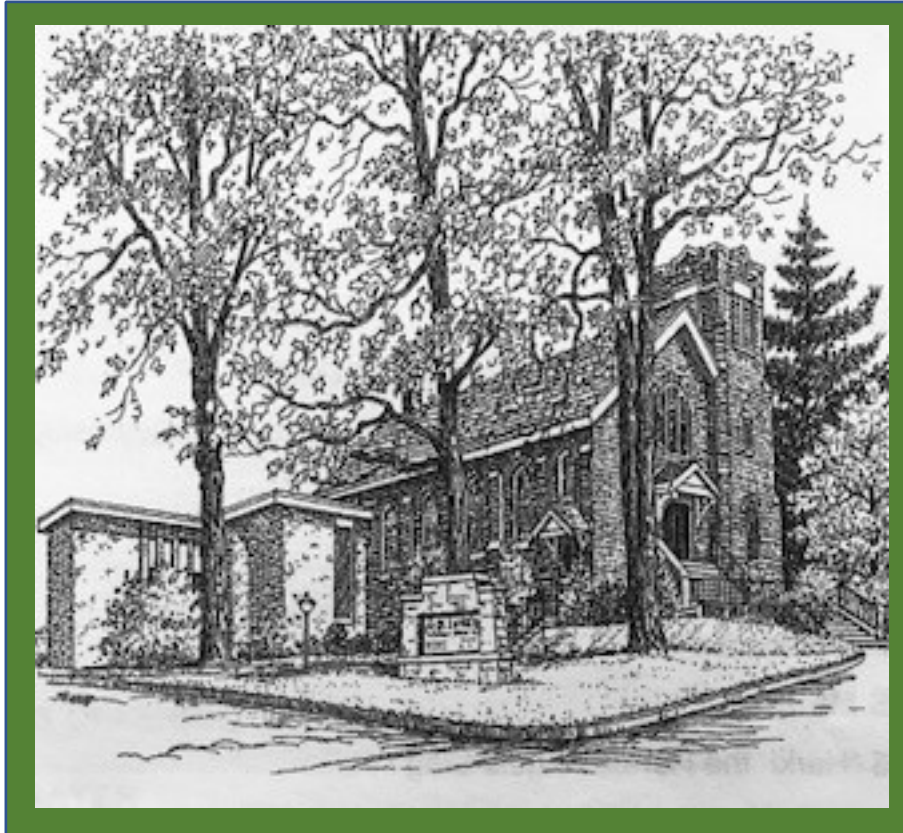


# THE BEACON

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



**May 2025**

**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**

May 2, 2025

St. Luke's Church Friends and Family,

If April showers bring May flowers, does May bring relief from the rain? I think that's how the phrase goes, anyway. As we look for a break in the Spring storm season, we recognize May will be a very busy and important time in the life of our church. I hope you and your family will be a part of it all.

In worship, I will be following the lectionary texts through the Acts of the Apostles in a sermon series I'm calling "Easter Surprise." We began last Sunday, April 27; here's what's coming in the weeks ahead:

May 4	Acts 9:1-19	Easter Surprise, Wk 2: Unwanted Friends?
May 11	Acts 9:36-43	Easter Surprise, Wk 3: An Impossible Situation
May 18	Acts 11:1-18	Easter Surprise, Wk 4: What's on the Menu?
May 25	Acts 16:9-15	Easter Surprise, Wk 5: A Whole New Direction
June 1	Acts 16:16-34	Easter Surprise, Wk 6: Best Prison Break Ever
June 8	Acts 2:1-21	Easter Surprise, Wk 7: We Never See It Coming

We also we be sharing special moments and emphases during these coming Sundays. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, join us for first-Sunday-of-the-month Communion. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, we observe Mother's Day – you know mom will want you in worship! May 18<sup>th</sup> is Sunday School promotion and Teacher Recognition Sunday. May 25<sup>th</sup> is Confirmation Sunday for our two confirmands, Henry Schneider and Isaiah Hill, and their families.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we will recognize this year's graduates. Do you know of a graduate from high school, college, graduate, or trade school this year? Please share the name and details with our church office. Finally, June 8<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday. Look at all the opportunities our worship calendar affords from now until early June!

Finally, I want to say a special word of thanks to two groups in the life of our church. On Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, our Women's Circle led a group of volunteers in cleaning and refurbishing our sanctuary pews and worship space. On Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Garry & Denise Kraus, Connie Stuckmeyer, and our Confirmation families (the Schneiders and the Hills) led many other contributors in preparing a wonderful breakfast on Palm Sunday morning. Thank you so much to all who continue to work so hard to make our fellowship and service such a wonderful success.

See you on Sunday!



Pastor James

**CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

President Warren Stuckmeyer	Vice President Dane Kraus	Secretary Yvonne Davis	Co-Treasurers David Pippin/Don Dankel
Financial Secretary Jess McLard	BOE Rep. Gary Hartmann	BOCE Rep. Kathy Porter	Building/Grounds Garry Kraus
Endowment Don Dankel	Pastor Rev. James Hill Jr.		

In attendance – Warren Stuckmeyer, Don Dankel, Yvonne Davis, Garry Kraus, Jess McLard, Dane Kraus, Gary Hartmann and Reverend Hill.

At 6:30 Warren Stuckmeyer called the meeting to order. Reverend Hill said the opening prayer.

## **REPORTS**

### **Building & Grounds:**

The toilet in the women's basement bathroom was fixed.

Garry has found a new person to do the mowing for the church.

The light in front of the parsonage is not working.

Cemetery report – Trees have been trimmed around the cemetery after the storms

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

## **OLD Business**

- The council proposed by-law change meeting is set for June 8, 2025. The date will be in the May Beacon and announced in church.

## **New Business**

- Gary Hartmann made a motion to approve the building use request from Connie Stuckmeyer for June 7, 2025. David Pippin Seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.
- Dane Kraus made a motion to approve building use request for Lauren Watts wedding and rehearsal May 29 & 30, 2025. Gary Hartmann seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.
- There has been a request for the annual minutes. Stephanie can send them via email.
- Warren Stuckmeyer will call the insurance company to check and see if we had hail damage on the buildings.

## **Membership changes**

Deaths – none

Births – none

Membership – none

## **Open/Close schedule**

May 18 – Garry Kraus

May 25 – Jess McLard

Don Dankel 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.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

#### **April**

General Giving	\$23,480.70
Expenses (Operational)	\$20,729.51
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$2,751.19

#### **YTD 2025**

General Giving	\$46,860.85
Expenses	\$56,909.49
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$10,048.64)

**We are very grateful for the continued support of all who give to the ministry of our church. It is only through the faithful stewardship of our people that we are able to be the church God has called us to be in this community.**

### **BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday April 8, 2025**

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER :** Julie called the meeting to order at 6:39pm

**PRAYER:** Paster Hill opened the meeting with a prayer

### **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:** Corrected the date on the March minutes, motion made to approve the minutes by Judy Duro and seconded by Kay Moss. Minutes approved.

### **REPORTS:**

- Worship: Going fine, the paraments were changed to red for Palm Sunday.

- Ushers: Going great. Good Friday will be Brenda and Don Dankel, Michelle Perry and Chrissy Kraus. Easter Sunday will be Tim and Becky Hollerbach, Dwight Kraus, and Michelle Perry. Request made to ask Stephanie to send out a reminder to the upcoming week ushers, each week. Also request to send the Liturgist the scripture readings by Wednesday to give them time to read.
- Communion: Will need rolls and bread for the busy Lenten season.
- Visitor Care: Chrissy reports she noticed some new faces, but they didn't leave any information for contact.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

- Confirmation class: Going okay, getting down to the final months. BOCE is helping the confirmation families with the breakfast prep for Palm Sunday, along with some of the ladies from the Women's circle. Confirmands will be helping as well. May 25th will be Confirmation Sunday for the confirmands, Isaiah Hill and Henry Schneider. Everything has been ordered.
- Baptisms: Justin and Courtney Stuckmeyer have requested to have their baby son, Kohen Stuckmeyer baptized on June 15th.
- Weddings: One scheduled May 30th with the rehearsal May 29th. Pastor will not be officiating this wedding. Brenda Day will be the wedding coordinator, and Tara Hill will be helping as well. Funerals: none at the time.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Confirmation Service: Everything has been ordered through BOCE.
2. One Great Hour of Sharing (March 30th)
3. Lenten envelopes (March 30, April 6, and 13th) Annie's Hope
4. Palm Sunday Service (April 13)
5. Easter (April 20th)
6. Elder's Food Drive continues until April 27th.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Finalize Palm Sunday: Palm branches are in the kitchen fridge, crosses will be made during the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12th. John and Pat Sieving will be teaching us how to make the crosses.
2. Finalize Good Friday: Communion to be served, liturgists will be Judy Duro, Michelle and Mike Perry. Kay and Tim will set up the paraments to black and hang the stole on the cross.
3. Finalize Easter: Communion to be served, paraments to be changed to white.

### **OTHER ITEMS:**

- Pastor reports he calls Minerva Ainsley on Tuesdays each week to give her a prayer list update, she will then send out cards.
- May 4th the Sunday School students will have the opportunity to see the King of Kings, the animated version at the show, an adult will need to attend with the student. More information will be sent home with the children. There will not be Sunday school on that day only.
- May 21<sup>st</sup>, Women's Circle is sponsoring a trip to Amish Country in Arthur, Illinois. They have opened it up to the congregation with the maximum to attend 56.

- Kay Moss reports that the Burgess Cemetery committee has met.. The man who has been cutting the grass is no longer able to continue his service due to an illness and they will be changing to another service.
- Brenda Day has reported that it is hard to hear announcements from the pew along with those listening from home. Pastor stated he will try to remember to repeat information that is being announced but he will also urge folks to come up to the microphone. Pastor stated he would like to have a handheld microphone for announcements in the future.
- Pastor asked us to keep Eddie Lowry and Brunell Raebel in our prayers.
- Pastor shared that we had a good turnout for the Lenten Service and Luncheon that was hosted by St. Martin in High Ridge.
- Gary Hartmann reports the Church Council would like to return to having a Lenten dinner prior to the Ash Wednesday service. Add this to the calendar for 2026.

Motion made to adjourn by Judy Duro, seconded by Kay Moss. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: May 13, 2025

### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS**

6:30 pm

April 1, 2025

\*Angie Logan - Chairperson  
 \*Sarah Saputo - Sunday School Superintendent & VBS  
 \*Shelbey Stilwill  
 Emily Dulle  
 \*present

\*Greg McLard - Secretary  
 Kathy Porter - Church Council Liaison  
 \*Connie Stuckmeyer  
 \*Pastor James Hill

Opening Prayer – **James opened the meeting with prayer.**

Welcome – **Welcome, Minutes & Reports quickly reviewed to move to filling Easter Eggs.**

Minutes

Reports

1. Sunday School
2. Church Council
3. Confirmation
4. Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000
5. Missions (Sunday School offering and any additional donations)
  - a. Lunch balances - Antonia Elementary - 1st Quarter.
  - b. 2nd quarter - Helping Hands and Horses

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Open Close Church Schedule :
  - April 13, 2025 - Sarah Saputo
  - May 11, 2025 – Greg McLard
  - June 8, 2025 – Pushed to next meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. April 12, 2025 Easter egg hunt and Palm Crosses (20 children, 6 teens, 30 adults last year).
2. Palm Sunday/Confirmed Breakfast April 13, 2025.
3. Confirmation – May 25<sup>th</sup>
4. Promotion Sunday & Teacher's Appreciation May 18 2025 – further discussion May meeting.
5. VBS
6. Movie with Sunday School-sponsored by Church – BOCE to pay for kids.

#### Upcoming Events:

5/18/25 - Promotion Sunday / Teacher Appreciation

5/25/25- Confirmation Sunday

Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting; May 6, 2025 at 6:30pm

### **WOMEN'S CIRCLE UPDATES**

#### Women's Circle April Meeting

Women's Circle April Meeting There were thirteen people (including 3 men) who met at 9:30 to clean the sanctuary. Most of the work was completed by 12:30. Thank you to all who helped with this project. There was a lunch with refreshments after in the fellowship hall. Michelle called a meeting to order at 12:30 with Gail Heckenberg doing an opening prayer. The devotion was done by Sherry Pippin on "Grace Upon Grace". Offering was taken, Sharing and Caring with a Thank You for \$150 from the Rescue Mission. Business was as follows: \*Minutes and Treasures reports were approved. \*Trip outing information to Arthur, IL on Wed., May 21, was given by Sherry Pippin. The extra bus seats will be opened to the congregation with information in the bulletin and Beacon. \*Every Child's Hope is the next mission of \$150. \*Lily orders and two palms for the lecterns were discussed & approved. \*It was approved to purchase a variety 100 hanging baskets to be sold on Sunday, May 4 for \$15 after church for a Mother's Day promotion. \*All ladies are asked to bring bake and bakeless good for the Palm Sunday bake sale. \*It was approved to have the Women's Circle donate \$4,000 to the general fund from the proceeds of the sausage dinner. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 1 at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. Any and all women of the church are invited to join us for our meetings on the first Thursday of each month. It's a great opportunity to get involved in the work we do for our church and our community as well as join in fellowship.

In Christ we serve,

Gail Heckenberg, Secretary

### **QUILTS! QUILTS! QUILTS!**

Anyone interested in quilts or quilting, come to church on Tuesdays anytime from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are ready and willing to help you! Come for an hour or two, bring your lunch and stay if you want. We welcome all!

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

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

Robert Perry\*  
Alan Bess\*  
Burnell Raebel  
Vicki Kramme Carpenter  
Al Kraus\*  
**Joyce Kraus**

Bob Johnson\*  
Mike Burcham\*  
David and Pam Belleville  
Doris Stephenson\*  
Sharon Kaplan\*  
**Jana Kramme**

Lee Nations  
Kathy Porter  
Mark Pursley\*  
Don Scherer  
Eddie Lowry  
Family of Clark Nolen\*

Sharlene Schlereth  
Brenda Farso  
Bob and Linda Schrepel  
Joan Flesh\*  
**Ollie Stuckmeyer**

### **Our Military Personnel**

Christopher Kettler\*  
Isaak Hartung\*

Samuel Lowry  
Susan Bablowitz\*

Alec Schrepel\*  
Brian Randolph\*

Eric Watkins\*

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE**





Mark Sproull	5/1	Amanda Davis	5/14
Peyton Cusumano	5/1	William Glaus III	5/14
Sherry Pippin	5/2	Adam Riordan	5/17
Liam Pippin	5/2	Alison Arnold	5/18
Tara Cusumano	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
Verlon Thurman	5/10	Kody Kraus	5/27
Jake Narup	5/10	Shirley Neun	5/28
Alexa Stacy	5/12	Brenda Farson	5/28
Stacie Perry	5/13	Ronald Ehlers	5/29
Nathan Davis	5/13	Abigail Bailey	5/29
Brenna McLard	5/13	Carson Schneider	5/29
Matthew Pippin	5/14	Shane Weatherholt	5/31

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CHURCH COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Church Council is proposing a By-law change to Article 4, #1 and #2 at a Congregation meeting in June. Details will be available following the April Council meeting.

### **Original By-laws**

#### Article 4: Congregational Meetings

1. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held at the church property on the third Sunday of January of each year at the hour of 2:00 P.M.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Council or upon the written request of four percent (4%) of the voting members. The Council shall issue a call for such a meeting within two weeks after the request had been received. This meeting shall be held within thirty days after a written notice to each member in good standing is given of time, place and purpose of special congregational meetings.

### **Proposed changes to By-laws**

#### Article 4: Congregational Meetings

1. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held at the church property on the third Sunday of January of each year, after the church service at a time set by the Church Council 30 days in advance.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Council or upon the written request of four percent (4%) of the voting members. The Council shall issue a call for such a meeting within two weeks after the request

had been received. This meeting shall be held within thirty days after notification, electronic or written notice, to each member in good standing is given of time, place and purpose of special congregational meetings.

- Church Council is addressing the following projects and encourages the congregation to continue reporting any church maintenance concerns to a council member or the office.

### **Long Term Plans**

New Doors  
Sound system in Sanctuary  
Carpeting in Sanctuary  
All concrete sidewalks reworked  
Handicap system-Fellowship Hall  
New Roof Sanctuary (2-3 years)  
Furnaces were replaced in 1996  
Air conditioner units replaced as needed  
Plaster in Church  
Parsonage Roof

### **Maintenance**

Replace Hanging Pendant lights in stairwells  
Windows recalked  
Repaint window frames & clean coverings  
Paint porches  
Oil Pews  
Bookshelves in library  
Parking Lot lights (warmer weather)  
Boards replaced on Parsonage deck

### **MAY**

4<sup>th</sup> Hanging Plant sale by the Women's Circle  
"King of Kings" movie event, sponsored by our Sunday School and Board of Education  
6<sup>th</sup> Board of Christian Education Meeting – 6:30pm  
13<sup>th</sup> Board of Elders Meeting – 6:30pm  
18<sup>th</sup> Promotion Sunday  
Teacher Appreciation  
20<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting – 6:30pm  
25<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Sunday

### **JUNE**

1<sup>st</sup> Graduate Recognition in worship  
3<sup>rd</sup> Board of Christian Education – 6:30pm  
8<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday  
Special called congregational meeting following worship  
10<sup>th</sup> Board of Elders Meeting – 6:30pm  
17<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting – 6:30pm

### **St. Luke's BOCE is inviting YOU to a MOVIE!**

When: Sunday, May 4, 11AM

When: Arnold Marcus Theatre

Tickets are \$12. All Sunday School age children attend free of charge. Contact the church office for registration forms and more information.



<https://missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval>



## 2025 Summer Camps

6/22 – 6/27/25 All Ages Camp #1 (grades 3-9)

6/22 – 6/27/25 High School Camp (grades 9-12)

6/29 – 7/3/25 Family Camp (all ages)

7/6 – 7/11/25 All Ages Camp #2 (grades 3-9)

7/13 – 7/18/25 All Ages Camp #3 (grades 3-9)

7/20 – 7/22/25 S.T.E.A.M. – Summer Camp (grades 3-9)

7/20 – 7/21/25 'And Me' – Summer Camp (all ages, adult guardian 21+)

8/3 – 8/8/25 Adventures in Community (ages 18+)



### **St. Luke's Bus Trip Arthur, IL**

*Sponsored by the Women's Circle*

Join us for a delightful journey to

### **The Heart of Amish Country**

Date: Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

Departure: 8:00 am from Church

Return: 8:00 pm to Church

Cost: \$35 + tip for meal

Sign up today to reserve your spot!

Contact: Sherry Pippin (314-805-6051)

or

leave a message with the church office.  
(636-948-3545)



# Hanging Basket Sale

Sold before and after the church service

**Sunday, May 4**  
*Mother's Day Special*

**Shop early:** The early bird gets the flower on  
**Friday, May 2 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm**



?

**No orders necessary. The sale will take place from the church garage area on a first come first serve bases.**

**Four to five varieties to choose from. Pick up that perfect Mother's Day gift.**

# \$15

Sold by the Women's Circle

