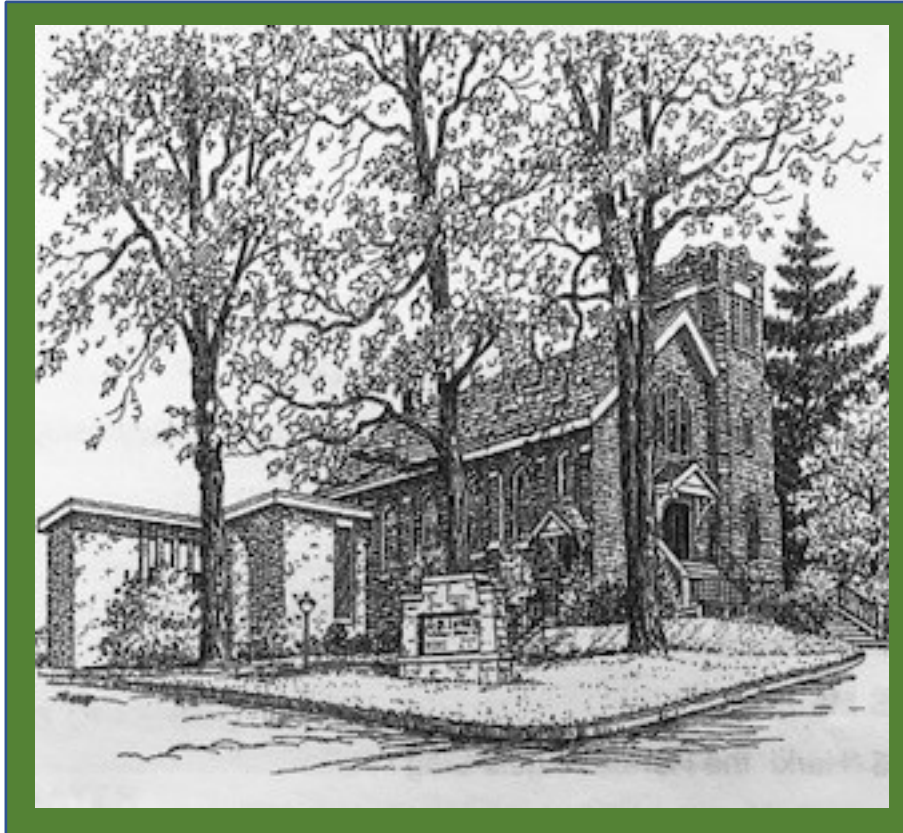


THE BEACON

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



December 2025

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

December 1, 2025

Dear St. Luke's Family & Friends,

As we enter December, the season of Advent invites us to pause, to breathe, and to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. The days grow shorter, the nights longer, and yet we are reminded of the words from the Gospel of John which I shared this past Sunday in my sermon: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

This year, perhaps more than most, we feel the weight of uncertainty in our world. Yet Advent is not about ignoring the shadows—it is about daring to hope in the midst of them. The candles we light each week—Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—are not just symbols; they are practices. They remind us that God's presence is not distant, but near, breaking into our ordinary lives with extraordinary grace.

Advent also teaches us waiting is not wasted time. Like Mary, who carried the promise of new life, we are called to trust that God is at work even when we cannot yet see the outcome. This is what I meant in the beginning of my Advent sermon series yesterday, "Advent Therapy." Here's where we are going in the weeks ahead:

Nov 30 Matthew 24:36-44 Our Abandonment Issues: Advent Therapy, Part 1

Dec 7 Matthew 3:1-12 Our Confidence Issues: Advent Therapy, Part 2

Dec 14 Matthew 11:2-11 Our Expectation Issues: Advent Therapy, Part 3

Dec 21 Matthew 1:18-25 Our Imposter Issues: Advent Therapy, Part 4

Dec 24 Luke 2:1-14 Our Fear Issues: Advent Therapy, Part 5

On Sunday, December 27, the first Sunday of Christmas, we will worship together and sing all of our favorite Christmas carols in a traditional hymn sing. You won't want to miss it!

At Christmas, we celebrate the astonishing truth that God's love took on flesh and dwelt among us, light breaking into our darkness. As we journey through Advent into Christmas, may we be bearers of God's light for one another. Let us carry hope to the weary, peace to the distressed, joy to the broken-hearted, and love to all.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James".

Pastor James

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Nov 18, 2025

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

At 6:34 pm, Warren Stuckmeyer called the meeting to order. Pastor Hill opened with a prayer.

Reports

Pastor's Report: Confirmation going well. Fall Bible Study has wrapped up and the next will happen by Zoom sometime in January or February. Pastor has joined the Committee on Ministry Support and is finishing the remainder of a 1 year term vacancy. He meets on the 1st Thursday of the month over Zoom (typically).

Financial Secretary Report: Offering envelopes are scheduled to arrive tomorrow and will be ready for pick up this Sunday. End of year giving deadline will be December 29, announcement to be put in the weekly Bulletin and Beacon.

Building and Grounds Report: New doors are installed. Concrete poured and a ditch dug for new light in the parking lot. The small light in front of church still isn't working, Dane to look into it.

Endowment Report: Discussed member terms and replacements. \$4,575 left to disperse.

Gary Hartmann made a motion to approve all reports as amended and/or presented. Garry Kraus seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

OLD Business

- Copier: Installed and working great. Has some features that will be useful for scanning.
- Roof: Work on Parsonage and garage roof to begin next week, weather permitting. An inspection was done on the A/C units and a report was sent to the insurance company. We are waiting for a decision to know what the next steps will be for the units.
- Tree limbs: We are still waiting for the contractor to start the work, Dane will call for an update if they don't show up this week.
- Outside lighting: still in process (see B&G Report)
- Doors: Installed and look great. Will get a plaque made to recognize memorials.
- Library: 'Moving Day' is set for December 12 at 10 am, to move large items (shelves, cabinets) into the room. 2-4 helpers would be ideal.

NEW Business

- Preliminary Budget: We went through each line item and will review and approve in Dec.
- Kathy's Term: Looking for someone to fill this position

● Don, Garry K., and Gary H. are finishing up their 1st 3-year terms, they all agreed to complete a 2nd 3-year term and will be put on the ballot for Council at the annual meeting.

● Annual Meeting: Will take place on Sunday, January 18 at 10:15 am. Gary Kraus made a motion to approve this time. Dane Kraus seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

● Doors funding: Discussion was held about what fund should be used to pay for the doors. Dane Kraus made a motion to utilize the Door Fund and Swacker Fund to pay for the door and hardware. The remainder of the Swacker Fund will be put into the General Fund and that fund line item will be closed. The hardware expense, that was already paid, will be put back into the Building and Grounds Fund. Gary Hartmann seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

● Building usage: Michelle Perry requested to use the fellowship hall and kitchen on the afternoon of Saturday, February 21, 2026. Garry Kraus made a motion to approve the building usage. Gary Hartmann seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

Membership Changes

Deaths: None Births: None Membership: None

Open/Close schedule

December 21: Jess McLard & Gary Hartmann December 28: Don Dankel

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

Next meeting: December 16, 2025, at 6:30 pm

BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS

6:30 p.m.

November 11, 2025

Julie Hartmann, Chairperson	Kay Moss, Worship
Chrissy Kraus, Visitor Care	Michelle Perry, Secretary
Judy Duro, Ushers	Tim Hollerbach, Member
Pastor James Hill	Gary Hartmann, Council Rep

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

PRAYER: Opened meeting with prayer, by Pastor James

COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2025

● September-October-November-December Judy Duro & Chrissy Kraus

MINUTES (October 14, 2025): Correction made on the October minutes under Visitor Care, Chrissy reports she is still working on sending out cards to recent visitors. With these corrections, Tim Hollerbach made a motion to accept the minutes, second by Judy with all in favor.

REPORTS

Worship: Going well. Vestments are green at this time

Ushers: Going well. Judy reports that she has asked Emma to print in the weekly bulletin the upcoming usher schedule to help with reminders

Communion: All supplies are filled. Pastor reports that he typically gives communion for home bound congregation members as he is requested however, he does have one member that he visits once a month.

Visitor Care: There were additional visitors during the Totenfest Sunday, Chrissy will review the sign in sheets and send cards to those that leave an address.

MEMBERSHIP

Confirmation Class: Pastor Hill reports confirmation class is on track and doing good. They have recently been educated on the role of an Usher by Brenda Day and those duties of an Usher. They were also shown ringing the bell at the start of each service and when the bell gets rung during a funeral service by Dwight Kraus.

Baptisms: There are none scheduled at this time. Weddings: None scheduled at this time.

Funerals: None scheduled at this time. New Member: Non at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Candidate Ideas: Still looking for someone to come on the Elders Board in January, 2026. A few names were mentioned.
2. Totenfest reportedly went well. Julie reports she ordered the vases online and will order another box of them to use next year along with the vases we had left this year.
3. New Board Nominee: Discussed as mentioned above.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hanging of the Greens: Boxes will be taken out of the closet the Sunday prior to Hanging of the Greens (November 23rd). We will need to get the Advent Candle Stand for the November 30th Sunday service, which will be the first Sunday of Advent.
2. Christmas Schedule: December 24th at 11 pm. We need to put new AAA batteries in the candles for the service, which can be done during the December meeting. The pastor reminded us that the vestments will be Blue during Advent with White for Christmas, remaining White through January 11th.

3. Special Advent Envelopes: Pastor Hill reminded us we will need to add Advent envelopes to the Bulletins. He will speak to Emma regarding the envelopes.

OTHER ITEMS:

1. Pastor Hill reports he will not be taking the last week off this year following Christmas.
2. Pastor Hill also reports the Committee of Ministry will have weekly Zoom meetings that last about 3 hours.
3. Question raised regarding where we are with the Directory. Kay Moss has been working on this with Pastor and Emma. Pastor reports that it is getting worked on and close to being complete, however, the issue seems to be that Church Window is a difficult program and not very user friendly. He hopes it will be completed by the first of the year and the secretary will be able to enter data as needed.

Motion made by Michelle Perry to adjourn, second by Judy Duro. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: December 9, 2025

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

November 4, 2025

Angela Logan - Chairperson
Superintendent & VBS
Shelbey Stillwill
Emily Dulle
***present**

Greg McLard - Secretary *Sarah Saputo - Sunday School
Kathy Porter - Church Council Liaison
Connie Stuckmeyer
Pastor James Hill

Opening Prayer - PRAYER at 6:38pm

Welcome - Angie welcomed us all.

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

Reports

1. Sunday School -
2. Church Council -
3. Confirmation -
4. Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000
5. Missions - 4th quarter = Food drive.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Open Close Church Schedule :

Nov 9, 2025 - Sarah Saputo

Dec 14, 2025 - Connie Stuckmeyer

New Business

1. Santa's Breakfast prep. **12/6/25**

1. Santa- confirmed?
2. Food- Previous Year
 - i.Sarah- drinks
 - ii.Connie- fruit
 - iii.Angie- candy canes and fruit snacks
 - iv.Kathy- donut holes
 - v.Greg- 2 dozen donuts
 - vi.Emily- Small bags of donuts (2 chocolate, 2 powdered, 1 coconut)
 - vii.Shelby- pigs in a blanket (100)
3. Craft Stations
 - i.Angie – Reindeer food
 - ii.Sarah- ornaments to make
 - iii.Barb Allen – thumb print craft
 - iv.Shelbey – cookie decorations
 - v.Christmas Book -?
 - vi.Table Decorations/ Santa area

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 48 ornaments
2. Making 32 bags for kids
3. Theme
4. Flyer
5. Cast

Bag items

Amazon was cheapest for Hershey Bars
 Gum – Dollar tree
 Oranges
 Ornaments- Dankels
 Bags- Shein?
 Peanuts- Amazon
 Candy Cane- Dollar Tree

Upcoming Events:

12/06/25 - Santa's Breakfast
 12/21/25 - Christmas Program / Cookie reception

Lords Prayer

Next Meeting 12/2/2025 6:30pm

The Women's Circle meeting was held at Southview Assisted Living in honor of Minerva Ainsley's 95th birthday. There were fifteen present to celebrate her big day. A big thank you goes out to Karen Ainsley for the invitation and Mary Ainsley for hosting lunch and the surprise party. *A short meeting was held to include a devotion; *minutes & treasure reports; *chicken dinner updates (520 meals); *it was agreed to present Ellen Cagle with \$150 bonus for extra cleaning she did in preparation for the chicken dinner; *mission project of \$150 to Compass; *thank yous and recognition to all who donated crafts and baked items to the bazaar table; Christmas in November on Wednesday, November 19 will be at Weber's; *cards for adopt a child and lists for the toy drive are being posted very soon; *poinsettias and memorials will be done again this year (information coming soon), and *shut-ins will be recognized with a small gift for Christmas.

On Wednesday, November 19 the Women's Circle had their annual Christmas in November gathering. There were 25 women (and 8 men at their own table) who met at Weber's in Arnold. Great fellowship with good food and games was enjoyed by all. The Circle collected \$550 in gift cards to go to charity and 152 canned goods were collected for the Sunday School's current food drive mission. Thank you to all for making this such a rewarding charitable event.

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!

October Expenses

Monthly		YTD
\$15,400	Giving	\$141,744.57
-\$20,847.90	Expenses	-\$170,943.48
=\$ -5,447.90		= \$ -29,168.91

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	Ken Eckert
Family of Jean Seymour	Michele Day*	Ed Ziegelmeier
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!

Matthew Riordan	12/1	Barbara Lambert	12/18
Dawne Sobocinski	12/5	Wayne Raebel	12/19
Stephen Anthonies	12/5	Fletcher McLard	12/20
Kregg Kraus	12/5	Isaiah Hill	12/22
Katelyn Schimsa	12/6	Stacey Miller	12/22
Mary Hollerbach	12/8	Christopher Cano	12/23
William Michel	12/8	Jessica McLard	12/23
Bernice Roffler	12/11	Courtney Anthonies	12/24
Shelbey Stilwill	12/11	Cathie Livengood	12/25
Jessa Davis	12/11	Johnny McKenzie	12/25
Garry Dale Kraus Jr.	12/12	Suzanne Magee	12/28
Glenda Haefner	12/12	Burnell Raebel	12/29
Susan Gillman	12/13	Ashley Carpenter	12/29
Louis Meyer	12/14	Zachary Nuelle	12/29
Warren Stuckmeyer	12/14	Judy Dehner	12/30
Paislee Carver	12/14	Lewis Johnson	12/30
Jordyn Davis	12/15	Brenda Day	12/31
Judd McLard	12/17		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER

- 2nd Board of Christian Ed, 6:30pm
- 6th Breakfast with Santa, 9:00am
- 9th Board of Elders, 6:30pm
- 16th Church Council, 6:30pm
- 21st Children's Christmas Program
- 24th Christmas Eve candlelight worship, 11:00pm

Sunday School Food Drive!

October through the end of December

Here are some weekly ideas:

Oct 19th: Squeaky Clean (paper towels, wipes, vinegar, detergents, Lysol, sponges)

Oct 26th: Chicken dinner NO Sunday school

Nov 2nd: Rise and Shine (breakfast items)

Nov 9th: Pasta week (noodles, sauce, mac and cheese)

Nov 16th: Boxed In (snacks, mixes, instant foods)

Nov 23rd: Baby it's cold outside (soups, hot cocoa, crackers)

Nov 30th: Canned veggies and fruits

Dec 7th: Scrub a Dub Dub (toilet paper, tissues, toothpaste, soaps,)

Dec 14th: Peanut Butter

Dec 21st: Bring anything Canned (Christmas Program this Evening)

Dec 28th: Baby's Here (diapers, baby wipes, baby food, cereal, formula)

if we reach our goal of 500 items, there will be a movie and pizza reward!

Toy Drive!

St. Luke's is once again conducting a toy/gift drive this Christmas season. We will be working with one of our local schools. The gift drive begins on November 23rd and ends on December 14th. Gift suggestions will be given in the cards that will be posted in Fellowship Hall. We appreciate everyone's generosity and look forward to another successful toy drive this year. If you have any questions, contact Brenda or Don Dankel at 636-942-3630; 314.330.0337 (Brenda's cell); or 314.705.2729 (Don's cell).

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!

POINSETTIAS FOR ADVENT: Women's Circle will once again be sponsoring our poinsettia sale in memory/honor of a loved one. The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary until Christmas Eve, then you can take your plant home to enjoy. If you do not want a poinsettia but still want to give a memorial for your loved one, we will have a separate form to fill out. Watch for more information next week.

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.

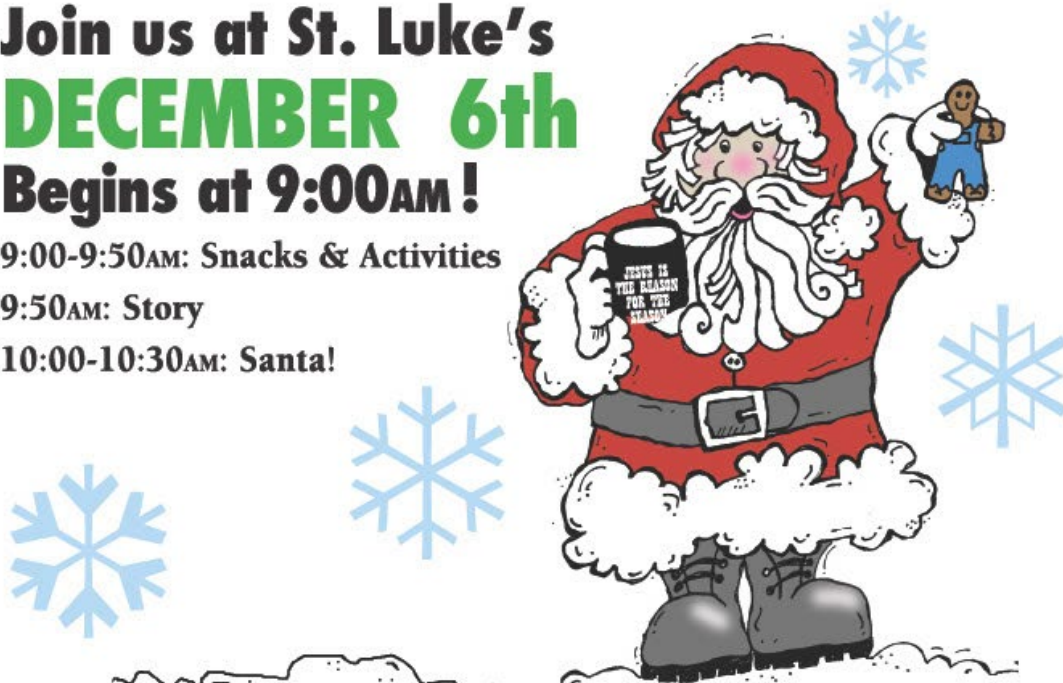
A NOTE FROM OFFICE SECRETARY: Please have all **End Of The Year Reports** emailed to Emma Barton by December 31st 2025.

Join us at St. Luke's
DECEMBER 6th
Begins at 9:00AM!

9:00-9:50AM: Snacks & Activities

9:50AM: Story

10:00-10:30AM: Santa!



Breakfast with
SANTA



**CRAFTS, FOOD, STORY TIME
& A VISIT FROM SANTA**

PLEASE BRING A FRIEND AND A CAMERA!

St. Luke's U.C.C. • 6610 St. Luke's Church Rd. • Imperial, MO 63052

