

THE BEACON

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



September 2026

Website: www.stlukesucimperial.org

Email: stlukesimperial@gmail.com

Church Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

September 1, 2026

Dear St. Luke's Family and Friends,

Maybe it's being married to a teacher, but September always feels like a "second New Year" to me. Even though the calendar insists that January holds that honor, and even though we know the Church new year begins with Advent, September carries its own kind of fresh start. In the life of St. Luke's, we welcome the return of our Sunday School, our choir in worship, and our planning for all of our Autumn activities.

This past Sunday, we had the privilege to begin a new tradition we call "Blessing the Backpacks" – and it was a great Sunday (see the picture below!). We have a wonderful group of teachers, school administrators, and, of course, students here at St. Luke's. If you were not able to be with us to celebrate in worship and to experience Rally Day once more, make sure it's on your calendar for next year. Want to be a part of something else new at St. Luke's? In the weeks ahead, our Elders will be sharing an opportunity to place promotional door-hangers at the homes throughout the neighborhoods closest to the church. Let our Elders know if you want to help.

In worship during September I will continue sharing from Romans, Exodus, and Matthew. I hope you'll be with us for "Good Debt" (September 6), "Red Sea Moments" (September 13), "A New Kind of Community" (September 20), and "Changing the World" (September 27). In addition, I'm really excited for what our Church Council will be sharing at our all church meeting following worship on September 20th. Come hear about the new handicap accessible entrance proposal into the Fellowship Hall!

This past Sunday I shared Paul's words in Romans 12: "Let love be genuine... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." These verses remain my prayer for our church as we move into fall. They remind me our Christian faith is not just about programs or schedules—it's about the shape of our hearts. Let's seek Christ-shaped hearts together.

See you in worship!

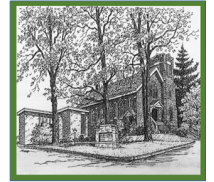
Grace and peace,



Pastor James



CHURCH COUCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Reverend Hill
VP - Dane Kraus
Co-Treasure - Dave Pippin & Don Dankel
B&G - Gary Dale Kraus
??? - Gary Hartmann

Financial Secretary - Jessica McLard
Secretary - Yvonne Davis
BOCE - Becky Hollerbach
Endowment - Don Dankel

Meeting called to order @ 6:43 pm by Dane Kraus
Prayer by Rev. Hill

Pastor's Report

No confirmation this
year, off 12/27/2026

Finacial Report

Jess is going to put a note in the Beacon
about renumbering and ordering
envelopes for next year. Tithley, online
giving with Planning Center. Yvonne
Davis made a motion to create an account
and move froward with using that system
for online giving and POS sales.

Treasurer's Report

- Grantors added incorrectly on Midwest Bank credit card. Add Dave Pippin as the administrator of the credit card account.

BOE Report

- Accepted as presented

BOCE Report

- Accepted as presented

Church Council Report

- Accepted as present.

B &G Report

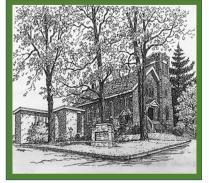
- Daniel Randolph will work on church doors that need repairs.

Cemetery Report

- Accepted as present.

Garry Kraus made a motion to accept all the reports as presented. Gary Hartmann seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

CHURCH COUCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Old Business

- Insurance claim – All work has been completed on the claim. With the updated roof and air conditioner units, our premiums will go down approximately \$840.00 a year.
- New handicap entrance – revie bids – Garry Kraus made a motion to bring the proposal from Interface Construction to a special congregational meeting. Seconded by Don Dankel. All were in favor, motion carried. Garry Kraus made a motion to hold a special congregational meeting on September 20, 2026. Jess McLard seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
- Plaques for the front doors – Yvonne will get them ordered.
- Bonfire – Set for November 7, 2026. More details to come.
- Rally Day – August 30, 2026. Council to do the cake walk. Each member will bring items for prizes.
- Directory information – still working on it.

New Business

- Confirmands gift to the church – They would like to use one of the classrooms that are not currently being used to be turned into a Youth Room. They will present a proposal for the room.
- Warren Stuckmeyer and David Pippin will need to be replaced as their terms have come to an end. Looking for volunteers.

Membership Changes

Deaths:

Betty Acre

Births:

Bentley Noah Kraus

Memberships:

None

Open/ Close Schedule

Sept. 20th:
Garry Kraus

Sept. 27th:
Don Dankel

Stewardship Update

July's Giving

Giving

\$18,040

Expenses

\$18,247.8

Year-to-Date Giving

Giving

\$127,997.49

Year-to-Date Giving

\$132,748.69

Motion was made by Garry Hartmann to adjourn our meeting at 8:04 pm Second by Jess McLard; all in favor.

Closing Prayer: Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Church Council Meeting on September 15, 2026



Board of Elders Highlights

**St. Lukes United Church of Christ
of Christ Board of Elders
Meeting Minutes Aug.**

6:30 pm on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026

REPORTS

Worship: Going Well

Baptisms: Going Good, a new schedule will be out soon.

Communion: Going Fine, Chrissy & Judy stated there is plenty of wine, juice and bread.

Visitor Care: 2 Visitor cards to be sent out this month.

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

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting Called to order by Julie Hartmann at 6:38 pm.

Prayer

- Pastor James Hill, Jr.

Communion Schedule

- Jan.-Feb.-Mar.-Apl. Kay Moss & Tim Hollerbach
- May-Jun.-Jul.-Aug. Judy Duro & Chrissy Kraus
- Sept.-Oct.-Nov.-Dec. Julie Hartmann & Vicki Randolph

MINUTES motion to except June 9, 2026 minutes made by Tim Hollerbach, seconded by Judy Duro

Memberships

- Confirmation Class: There will be no confirmation class this year. Only 1 student and he has chosen to wait until next year to be with a group.
- Baptisms: None scheduled for August at this time
- Weddings: None Scheduled for the near future, possibly April 2027. James is planning to review and make recommendations to update wedding policies (last updated in 2019).
- Funerals: Christina Russell July 11, 2026 nonmember of an inactive member with a luncheon following the service. Ronald Gillman July 18, 2026 memorial with a luncheon in fellowship hall following the service. Betty Acre August 8, 2026 visitation, service and luncheon in fellowship hall to follow burial.

New Members:

- None in June or July



Board of Elders Highlights



New Business

- All Church Picnic (8/30/26) Same amount of food as last year approx. 85 people
- Funeral Procedure, Volunteers, and Ordering (flower stands, guest books, easels for memorial services due to rising costs of funeral services.) Revised procedures with a detailed list for team members to follow. Julie H. is typing and revising the list to submit to the church council. Guest book, table and floor easels, and collapsible plant stands are usually provided by the funeral homes, if no funeral home is involved then we need to look into providing them.

Other Items

- Work Day on August 29th at 1:30 pm to clean and set up for the All Church Picnic on Sunday August 30.

Old Business

- Brendan's backpack announcement to be added to the bulletin (8/2 through 8/30).
- Door Hangers: Price on printing, 1000 2- sided and colored from MinuteMan Printing in Creve Coeur is \$214.31 with information about the church, worship style, times, strengths of the church with a QR code directing them to our website and/or YouTube channel. Tim Hollerbach to make up a QR code for it. We would like to have them printed by 9/1/26 if possible. Vicki Randolph and Chrissy Kraus (with the help of Chrissy's Sunday School Class) have offered to go door to door in subdivisions near the church to disperse the door hangers. Anyone else who would like to help are more than welcome.

At 7:45 pm a motion was made to adjourn by Judy Duro and seconded by Kay Moss then closed with The Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Vicki Randolph

Next Meeting: September 8, 2026



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

Date August 11th, 2026

Place 6610 St. Luke's Church Rd.

Attendees:

Opening Prayer - 6:35 PM

Shelby Stilwil - President (2nd yr & term)
Greg McLard - Secretary (2nd yr & term)
Srah Saputo - Sunday School Superintendent & VBS (2nd yr, 3rd term)
Joslysn DeVeydt - Missions Director (1st yr, 1st term)
Becky Hollerbach - Church Council Liason
Pastor James Hill

• Reports

- Sunday School - No Sunday School until 9/13/26 "Goodies w/Grands".
- Church Council - No report
- Confirmation - No Confirmation this year. Henry Perry will wait 1 yr. That will result in 4 Confirmands for 2027-2028 school year.
- Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000
- Missions –
 - a. 1st quarter = School Lunches - will be sent to Antonia Elementary.
 - b. 2nd quarter - helping hands and horses. Joslyn will get contact from Connie.

**Minutes - Shelby
motion to approve
minutes. Becky 2nd -
motion to passed.**

Open Close Church Schedule:

September 13, 2026 – Shelby Stilwill

October 11, 2026 - Greg McLard

November 8, 2026 - Joslyn DeVeydt

Board of Christain Education

Old Business

VBS July 6-10th – 'Rainforest Falls' Theme (Sold by Group - has piano sheet music).

Theme was great!

66 kids

36 Volunteers

\$272.66 Offering collected.

Great feedback from visitors (kids).

New Business

- **Rally Day (8/30/25)**

- Will hand out Bibles to incoming 4th graders.
- Elders – Kitchen- confirmed

1. Provide meat and drinks.

2. Congregation to be asked to bring sides.

- Council - Indoor games confirmed - past games included:

3. Cake walk. Council will only have Cake Walk.

4. Saran wrap ball. No

5. Board games No

6. Ping Pong into a cup? No

7. Jenga - big version - Shelby will bring.

8. Joslyn will bring another 'big' game for inside

BOCE: New Business Continued:



- **BOCE - Outdoor games - 2024 games:**
 - Duck pond - Shelby - will get prizes
 - Bounce house - Joslyn will purchase from Overstock (BOCE will buy).
 - Sucker Pull - Connie - will bring suckers.
 - Balloon darts - Sarah - will get prizes.
 - Face paint and tattoo's - Ask Chrissy - if no, Becky will ask friend.
 - Corn hole - Joslyn will bring for yard game
 - Soda ring toss - Greg - GM will purchase Soda/drinks
 - Bags for prizes - Becky will get these.
- **Prizes**
 - Prizes are acquired.
 - Snow cones or popsicles. Sarah ask her Paul Schneider/family about snow cones. If no, we have popsicles.
 - Door prizes
 - children. Sarah says we have plenty for the kids.
 - Need 2 for adults - 1x women and 1x for men. - Joslyn
- **Announcements in Church for Rally Day.**
 - Email blast by Secretary - Shelby
 - Announce in Church - bring a side, bring a friend - Joslyn will announce.
- **New ideas for activities:**
 - Bubble machine - Yes, if Joslyn can borrow from Antonia Elementary.
 - Fire Dept. / Ambulance - Sarah did ask Fire Dept. and invited. Sarah will invite Ambulance.
- **Goodies with Grands (9/07/25)**
 - Foods – Drinks - Sarah, 3 dozen Donuts - Greg, Fruit Tray - Joslyn, Pastries/ Muffins - Shelby & Donut Holes - Greg
 - Decorations - Joslyn and Sarah
 - Flyer
 - Shelby will ask Chrissy for flyer. Also will ask Secretary to email blast and put in Beacon.
 - Arrive at 8
 - Last year: About 80 people attended. Plan for the same this year.
 - Teachers will be asked to have a craft in 1 common room with kids/Grandparents. Can also have a tour of their room(s).
- **Sunday School Age Discussion**
 - Class room size
 - BOCE is fine with adjusting ages to have littles at 2 to 3 for this year. Follow the suggestions from the Teachers.
 - Postcards for incoming kids - Send postcards to all kids who visited VBS. Sarah can send list to Becky. Becky will get postcards and write a note to invite.





Women's Circle Updates

On Thursday, August 6, 2026, there were thirteen ladies who met at Denise Kraus' house for a pool luncheon meeting. Due to torrential rains no swimming was done but we had a good meeting which included a lot of business. Thank you Denise for hosting and all who brought covered dishes, the food was great.



June & July missions that received \$150 each were Disability Resource Assoc. & Ronald McDonald House. Also paid half of the camp fee for any St. Luke's Sunday School child who attended summer camp at MoVal.

- Information for recycling plastic caps and lids to go towards park benches. Tabled until more information is collected. .
- Quilt information from the quilters: raffle (donations) tickets will be sold between October & February for a quilt that was donated and the quilters finished.
- Festival of Sharing Personal Hygiene Kits will be collected from the end of August through the beginning of October. Information will be available soon.
- Funeral Luncheon Application was reviewed and revised.
- Chicken Dinner Plans are being made for Sunday, October 25, 2026, with a preparation day on Saturday, October 24th. Cleaning the kitchen will be done before the dinner.
- The new freezer is still on back order.
- New charge card squares are needed for charging dinners and items at the bazaar table, etc.

We invite any and all ladies of the church to join in the meeting and be a part of the projects and fellowship of the St. Luke's Women's Circle.

Next meeting: September 3, 2026 at 11:30

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!



ST. LUKE'S UCC

EVENT SCHEDULE



**SEPT.
20th**

Our church council has called a special all-church meeting for September 20th to act on a proposal for a remodeled, handicap accessible entrance from the church parking lot on the first level.

The meeting will be immediately following worship, at approximately 10:00am.

September 1st

Board of Christian Education meeting, 6:30pm

September 3rd

Women's Circle Meeting 6:30pm

September 7th

Labor Day

September 8th

Board of Elders meeting, 6:30pm

September 13th

Goodies with Grands

Sunday School resumes

Choir in Worship resumes

September 15th

Church Council meeting, 6:30pm

September 20th

All-Church meeting following worship

Collecting in
September



Women's Circle Presents
FESTIVAL OF SHARING

OCT. 10TH

All Kits Are Due on Oct. 4th



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Goodies with GRANDS

HONORING OUR GRANDPARENTS

Sunday, September 13, 2026

St. Luke's United Church of Christ

Worship Service at 9am

Activities & Goodies from 10am to 11am

RSVP

*Please let us know how many in your
family are coming. Thank You!*

Call/text Sarah: 314-315-5335



The Women's Circle will once again be participating in the

FESTIVAL OF SHARING

We are asking for your help in providing Personal Hygiene Kits through the month of September. Please return the kits to church by Sunday, October 4. The kit will be delivered on Saturday, October 10, 2026

Donation bags with a list of items may be found in the Narthex and on the piano at the handicap entrance. Completed bags may be returned to the same locations. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.



**In Christ we serve.
The Women's Circle**

Festival of Sharing notes of information:

As a cooperative response to hunger, poverty and injustice in Missouri and beyond, our hope is to support projects and programs that help our

Our efforts include providing funding and resource goods, sharing information on agency efforts in communities and praying for our collective work. When people of faith come together and share, we can make a positive and powerful difference. This year we will be hosting seven regional events throughout September-October. These interfaith gatherings of resources connect the state of Missouri with a common goal: providing resources for our neighbors in need. Join us to experience the joy of sharing!

OVER 150 AGENCIES IN MISSOURI ARE APPROVED TO RECEIVE GOODS AND SERVICES THROUGH THE FESTIVAL OF SHARING.

Agencies we work with range from food pantries and clothes closets, to foster and adoption programs and anything in between! We look to partner with agencies who are ecumenical in who they serve and in how they are supported by their community.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING Personal Hygiene Pack

1 fluoride toothpaste, (6 oz. or more) 1

toothbrush in original, unopened 1

washcloth

1 hand towel

1 body wash (15-22 oz.)

1 deodorant

1 bottle skin lotion (sm. 10oz. or travel size)

1 bottle shampoo (12-16 oz.)

2 disposable razors

1 comb (large) or brush

Tighten lids and place all items in the large zip-lock bag provided.



Upcoming Out of Office:

- Danielle (church secretary) September 18th (in office on Sept. 15th) and September 21st (in office on Sept 22nd).



PERFECT ATTENDANCE

No Sunday School in August

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS...

**DENOTES NON-MEMBER, NAMES IN BOLD R NEWLY ADDED*

Sharlene Schlereth

Alan Bess*

Mike Burcham*

Kathy Porter

David & Pam Belleville

Bob Schrepel

Brenda Farson

Doris Stephenson*

Minerva Ainsley

Jody Stockwell*

Sharon Kaplan*

Ollie Stuckmeyer

Juliet Gilmore*

Jane Kraus*

Michele Day*

Family of Robert Perry*

Family of Ron Gillman

Marilee Sturmer

Family of Betty Acre

*Noelle Horner

Wendy Schiller

Michelle Perry

Our Military Personel

Christopher Kettler*

Susan Bablowitz*

Samuel Lowry

Brian Randolph

Eric Watkins*

Jacob Wolters*

Isaak Hartung*

Happy Birthday

Sherri Kempf-Hill	09/01	Kevin White	09/15
Gary Hartmann	09/02	Gerald Hollerbach	09/17
Jenny Jordan	09/02	Caleb Russell	09/17
Amy McGraw	09/02	Stephanie Anthonies	09/20
Patricia Timeus	09/02	Josie Dulle	09/20
Megan Gillman	09/03	Dean Stockwell	09/21
Angela Farson	09/04	Alexis Klable	09/22
Elmer Schaper	09/06	Joslyn DeVeydt	09/23
Jana Kramme	09/06	Cynthia Anthonies	09/23
Carla Bradley	09/07	Sadye Ducheck	09/25
Andrea Johnson	09/07	Blakeli Nuelle	09/25
Peyton Nash	09/07	Michael Davis	09/26
Debbie Stark	09/07	Martin Miller	09/26
Samantha Stuckmeyer	09/07	Gwynne Elrod	09/27
Tobey Stuckmeyer	09/08	Andrew Kohler	09/27
Barbara Allen	09/11	David Miller	09/27
Ashley Perez	09/11	Andrew Kraus	09/28
Laura Harris	09/12	William Magee	09/28
Gabe Schneider	09/13	Payton Seitz	09/29
Ava Carver	09/14	Tara Hill	09/30
Gail Lents	09/14	Chloe Jacob	09/30
Samuel Lowery	09/15	Eric Kundert	09/30
Jacob Stockmeyer	09/15	Kay Olsen	09/30

