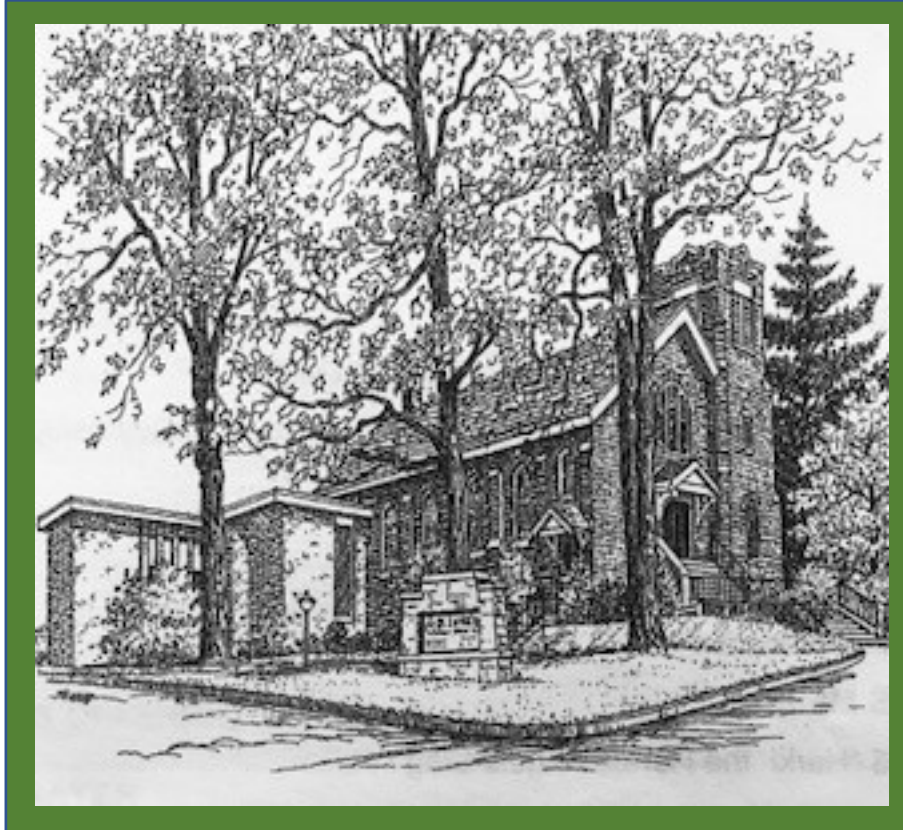


THE BEACON

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



July 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

July 1, 2026

St. Luke's Friends and Family,

We all know what we love best about July: picnics, parades, fireworks, and the joy of gathering with our church family and friends. As we approach Independence Day and a special birthday for our country this year, I'm reminded of the story of our nation: a story shaped by courage, hope, and the bold conviction that people should be free to live according to conscience. For churches like ours, this holiday offers a meaningful opportunity to remember two of the most precious gifts woven into the American experiment—the heritage of religious freedom and the wisdom of separating church and state.

These principles were not accidents of history. They were intentional safeguards, meant to ensure that faith could flourish without coercion and that people of every tradition—or none at all—could live together with dignity. As Christians, we cherish the freedom to worship openly, to speak our convictions, and to practice our faith in community. And we honor that these freedoms belong to everyone, not just to us. So, let's get ready to celebrate!

This year, our congregation has an extra reason to celebrate: our Rainforest Falls VBS is just around the corner! I can already hear the laughter, the singing, and the rustling of construction paper "leaves" as our kids explore the wonders of God's creation. There's something beautifully fitting about hosting a rainforest-themed VBS in the middle of a hot, muggy Missouri summer. We may not have tropical birds or cascading waterfalls outside our windows, but we do know what it means to be rooted in creation, to be surprised by beauty, and to discover God's presence in unexpected places.

Rainforests are places of abundance; they remind us that God's world is intricate and interconnected, full of mystery. Our VBS theme invites children (and adults, too!) to wonder again. Throughout the week, our kids will learn that God's love is like a canopy—wide, sheltering, and full of life. They'll hear stories of courage, compassion, and community, discovering that even in the jungles of life, God walks with us, guiding us toward hope. I am so grateful for all of our VBS teachers, leaders, and volunteers who will make this year's VBS one to remember.

Our worship this month will focus on our walk with God, as well. Come celebrate and worship with us as we explore the wisdom of the apostle, Paul, the prophet, Isaiah, and finally, King Solomon. Going to be on vacation? Join us online on our church YouTube channel!

See you in worship!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James", with a stylized, flowing script.

Pastor James

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

St. Luke's United church of Christ Meeting minutes from June 16th, 2026

President - Warren Stuckmeyer
VP - Dane Kraus
Co-Treasure Dave Pippin & Don Dankel
B&G Garry Dale Kraus
Don Dankel - Endowment

BOE – Gary Hartmann
Financial Secretary - Jessica Mclard (not present)
Secretary - Yvonne Davis (not present)
BOCE - Becky Hollerbach
Rev. James Hill

Meeting called to order @ 6:33 pm by Warren

Prayer by Rev. Hill

Pastor's Report- Pastor James is focusing on Fall. Bible study planning, and meditative prayer series. Progress has been made in the Archive room. Any donations should go through the office first. They are working on digitizing some things as well. Danielle is working out well.

Financial Report - No report - Jess is out.

Treasurer's report

- Setting up an ADA fund for any donations for the new entrance. Any anonymous donation can be taken to anyone on the council to be added to this fund.
- A Motion was made by Garry Dale to make Dave Pippin the administrator for all credit cards. Gary Hartmann. Second, all in favor.
- Dave Pippin will cancel cards for previous secretaries and add a card for Danielle.
- Day-com is now an automatic withdrawal

BOE

- This Sunday is graduate recognition. Lewis memorial is scheduled for the June 28th. Elders are looking at the Directory. Vicky and Chrissy are talking about door hangers to hit the nearby subdivisions for marketing.

BOCE

- Dave asked about Missions - Joselyn is getting in touch with him. Becky will reach out. We will start working with Kids on Acolyting in the fall. We still need volunteers for VBS storytellers, specifically, and donations for food. Rally day- Council will do all indoor games. Card games, Cake walk, saran wrap ball, Jenga, and Dominos are ones in the past. We will have a goodie bag that will get stamped at each station.

B & G

- On the 23rd, the water heater will be installed. For summer funerals, we need to turn down the A/C the night prior. Warren will call Hardline contracting to tell them not to park on church grounds.

Cemetery Report

- Melba Overman was buried last month. She was a Wedde family member. Dane trimmed trees.
- Endowment had a meeting and another one in July. Nothing to report.

- Gary Hartmann made a motion to accept all reports as given, and Don Dankel seconded. All in favor.

Old Business

- Looking into Grants it is due middle of July for ADA entrance.
- We spoke about hall rental for a fundraiser. Andy O'Hara gave a quote to Tim Hollerbach for \$400 for a trivia night MC this includes trivia questions or a mouse race. We are looking at dates to hold an event. Possibly at the Elks in Arnold. Becky and Joslyn will look at that cost.
- Matt and Jessica Hall Borrowed and returned tables and chairs.
- Carpeting, Sidewalks, and concrete are on hold for this month.
- Plaque for doors - Yvonne Davis was looking into this, but was not in attendance today.

New Business

- Gary Hartmann would like to spearhead an all church Bonfire/ hayride that Council will sponsor. Kay Moss said we could use the field, Dwight will provide the tractor. Chili, Hotdogs, and chips we will provide. This event will be November 7th.

Membership changes

Deaths 2 Burnell Raebel and Lewis Johnson

Births 0

Membership 2 Lauren Belt and Jillian Davis

Open/close schedule

July 19th Garry Dale

July 26th Don Dankel

Motion was made by Garry Dale to adjourn our meeting at 8:00 pm Second by Gary Hartmann

Closing Prayer.

Stewardship Update

May's Giving

Giving: \$12,583

Expenses: \$13,707

Year-to-Date Giving

Giving: \$91,491

Expenses: \$93,855

BOARD OF ELDERS HIGHLIGHTS

St. Luke's United Church of Christ Board of Elders Meeting Minutes June 09, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday June 09, 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 Meeting called to order by Julie Hartmann at 6:42 pm

PRAYER Pastor James Hill, Jr.

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 & Vicki Randolph |

MINUTES motion to except May 12, 2026 minutes made by Tim Hollerbach, Seconded by Judy Duro

REPORTS

Worship: Going Fine

Ushers: Going good, a new schedule will be coming soon

Communion: Going fine, bread and wine will be gotten by Crissy and Judy

Visitor Care: New list to be given to Crissy by Danielle, Not available at this time

MEMBERSHIP

Confirmation Class: Confirmation on May 24, 2026. Completed for 25-26.

Baptisms: None scheduled for June

Weddings: None scheduled for June

Funerals:

- Burnell Raebel June 11, 2026 visitation at 10 -11am funeral at 11am and luncheon in the fellowship hall to follow gravesite at Shepherd Hills Cemetery.
- Lewis Johnson June 28, 2026 memorial service at 11 am with a luncheon in the fellowship hall following the service.

New Members: 2 in May: Laren Belt and Jillian Davis

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1: Summer Food Drive Dates (8/2 -8/30/26)
- 2: Annie's Hope total \$530 with check to be issued
- 3 Graduate Sunday rescheduled to (6/21/26) with cake and coffee to follow service
- 4: Confirmation Sunday (5/31/26)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1: VBS Sunday (07/12/26) with 20 minutes scheduled during service
- 2: Chicken Dinner (10/25/26) 10 am

OTHER ITEMS:

1. Church banners and alter cloths list presented by Kay Moss
2. Church directory in progress and database needs to be updated Kay Moss to put in an easier to read format.
3. A suggestion was made to help introduce local families to our church by printing door hangers to be distributed to subdivisions in the community. Vicki Randolph and Crissy Kraus volunteered (with the help of her Sunday school class as a mission project) to hang them.

At 7:31 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: August 11, 2026

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**St. Luke's UCC
Board of Christian Education
Meeting MINUTES
June 3th 2026**

- *Shelbey Stilwill- President (2nd yr, 2nd term)
 - *Greg McLard - Secretary (2nd yr, 2nd term)
 - *Sarah Saputo - Sunday School Superintendent & VBS (2nd yr, 3rd term)
 - *Joslyn DeVeydt - Missions Director (1st year, 1st term)
 - *Becky Hollerbach - Church Council Liaison
- Pastor James Hill
- *Present at meeting**

Opening Prayer - Joslyn led us in prayer.

Welcome -

Minutes - Shelbey motion to accept. Joslyn 2nd - motion passed.

Reports

1. Sunday School -
 - 1.1. Bibles are here. Hand out around Rally Day.**

- 1.2. **Connie will work with kids for acolyting at Sunday School opening.**
- 1.3. **BOCE discussing the best ages to start acolyting. 3rd graders may not be available.**
- 1.4. **Begin working with the kids in August.**

2. Church Council –

- 2.1. No details for BOCE specifically.
- 2.2. Youth funds have money. BOCE tried to use for projects, but was chosen not to. BOCE assumes the \$2K is the Youth Fund.

3. Confirmation – Confirmed - No report.

Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000

Missions –

1st quarter = School Lunches - **was sent to Antonia Elementary. Waiting for a check.**

2nd quarter - helping hands and horses.

Open Close Church Schedule:

June 14 2026 - Greg McLard

July 12 2026 - Sarah Saputo

August 9, 2026 - Joslyn DeVeydt

September 13, 2026 - Shelby Stilwill

Old Business

Confirmation needs:

1. Glasses need to be engraved 1 month prior to Confirmation Day. Monogram + date of confirmation.
****Arch Engraving - in Fenton. St. Luke's has a profile. Order using St. Luke's name next time.**
2. Church Secretary will order robes and necklaces (robes will need to be steamed) on May 6th
Church Secretary / Pastor James getting robes.
Robes were steamed by Becky in early May.
3. Corsages (red) 1 week before Confirmation Day.
****Ordered From Schnucks**.** Order 3 days before at a minimum.
Make sure these are ordered as a 'Pin On' corsage.
4. 1x necklace came in broken
5. Robes were not 100% clean. We will look into another rental company next class.
6. Will need to reach out asking for any other kids of age for Confirmation. Only 1 student for certain.

Promotion Sunday Needs

1. Bible ordering from Christianbook.com (for promotion Sunday) - Ordered 5/5/26.
 - NRSB Gift Version in Burgandy. Order in 'Upper and Lowercase style'
 - Put the student's full name on Bible. First, Middle and Last names.
 - Jolene Perry, Owen Nuelle

2. AUGSBURG FORTRESS www.augsburgfortress.org - Bibles were ordered from this company with no issues. Christianbook.com no longer handles NRSB bibles in Burgandy.

New business

1. Graduate recognition – June 21st
 - Does BOCE need to do/order anything for this??? Not at this time.
2. VBS July 6-10th – Theme– Rainforest Falls.
 - Purchased from Group.
 - Volunteers - many have volunteered. Classes and specials are covered.
 - Need 2x story tellers - need Tuesday and Friday.
 - What is needed from BOCE?
 - Nothing from BOCE.
 - Curriculum is coming this week. Will come with sheet music.
 - Snack donations needed.
3. Sunday School Schedule for Summer
 - Volunteers Needed?
 - YES
 - 7 total Sundays. Need a volunteer for June 21st and July 5th.
 - Sarah has a schedule of volunteers scheduled.
 - Connie offered to work on acolyting on June 21 and July 5 - or either/or.
 - Ideas for Class Topics???
 - Sarah has a list of class topics. Volunteers can suggest a topic, but don't want to have any 'overlapping' topics.
4. Rally Day
 - Old/New game idea?
 - BOCE will think through new ideas.
 - BOCE has 2 less members. We need to ask for help and think of efficiency.
 - Suggested inside games:
 - Jenga
 - Dominoes
 - Cake walk
 - Saran wrap ball of prizes.
 - Prizes needed?
 - Joslyn will get attendance prizes.
 - Sarah will ask the Fire Dept to stop by and show off the truck.
 - We need to provide bags for the kids' prizes. Becky will get bags. Stamps are suggested per game.

Upcoming Events:

VBS July 6-10th:

Rally Day

Next meeting August 4th

Meeting adjourned - 7:53 pm.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE UPDATES

June's meeting was rather informal since we had met for an outing to Crispy Edges, but on June 4th, there were 11 ladies in attendance along with 2 additional guests. We were lucky to be able to sit outside but unfortunately it made it difficult to hear so we just briefly went over the financial report presented by Brenda Dankel. Our June Mission is Annie's Hope and \$150 was sent out by Brenda along with half of the camp fee to Camp MoVal for any child in the church that would like to attend and will be paid once families send in their requests. We will approve the May minutes at the August Meeting. There will be no meeting in July, but we will resume in August when we meet at Denise Kraus's home for a meeting/swim party at 10:00 am. Denise will provide the meat, and we all will bring a side or a dessert. A sign-up request will be sent prior to the meeting. Have a great July!

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*	Sharlene Schlereth	Alan Bess*
Mike Burcham*	Kathy Porter	David and Pam Belleville
Bob Schrepel	Kay Olsen	Doris Stephenson*
Minerva Ainsley	Jody Stockwell*	Sharon Kaplan*
Ollie Stuckmeyer	Juliet Gilmore*	Betty Acre
Jane Kraus*	Michele Day*	Peggy & Harold Burton
Ron Gillman	Family of Lewis Johnson	Jim Forsythe*
Family of Burnell Raebel	Brenda Farson	

Our Military Personnel

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

Congrats Graduates!!!

Brenna McLard, daughter of Greg and Jess McLard, granddaughter of Betty McLard, Dane and Sandy Kraus, is a 2026 Seckman High School graduate. She will attend St. Louis University in the Fall to Study Finance.



Landen Miller is Graduated from Herculaneum High School on May 18th. He played Varsity Baseball all four years, Basketball for 2 years. was in Leadership all 4 years and Student Council for 4 years as well. Landen will be working in the family business at KGL Roofing.

Elizabeth Madison Skaggs graduated from East Central College with an Associates of Arts degree. She will be attending Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) this fall pursuing a degree in Marine Biology. She is the daughter of Randall and Holly Skaggs, granddaughter of Kevin and Earleen Stockwell, and great-granddaughter of Marlyn Palmer.

5K RUN FOR ALS

Don Dankel will be running in the ALS 5K Run in Kimmswick on July 25th for Team Stuck on Shine. Follow the link below to donate or join the team! Cash donations may be given directly to Don, and he will pass them on.

https://secure2.convio.net/alsa/site/TR/Endurance/SaintLouis?pg=personal&px=7378944&fr_id=17588

July

July 3rd – Office closed (observance of Independence Day)

July 6th – July 10th VBS!

July 11th – Memorial Service for Christina Russell, 12:00pm

July 12th – VBS Sunday

July 17th – Visitation for Ron Gillman, 5:00pm

Memorial Service for Ron Gillman, 7:00pm

July 28th – Church Council meeting (note change)



Please Note: Board of Christian Education & Board of Elders will not meet in the month of July.

August

August 2nd 100th Birthday Party for Rev. Carleton Norton,

St. John's UCC, Chesterfield



Summer Sunday School Schedule

Our one room summer Sunday school schedule continues. Children will attend worship at 9:00am, listen to children message, and then gather in the fellowship hall for class until 10:00am!

St. Lukes,

*We're so excited to welcome our grandchild into this world.
Thank you so much for allowing us to celebrate with a baby
shower in our church! It was Awesome!!*

Love,

Dwight & Chrissy Kraus



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Charlie Carpenter	7/1	Blake Schopp	7/16
Lorraine Magee	7/2	Ariyanna Schneider	7/17
Jason Kirk	7/2	Kaitlynn Kramme	7/17
Courtney Castlik	7/2	Robert Kirk	7/18
Lucinda Simino	7/2	Vincent Reiff	7/19
Erin Kraus	7/2	Justin Stuckmeyer	7/20
Darrell Kraus	7/3	Ryan Lynn Knight	7/20
Robert Stuckmeyer	7/3	Clara Narup	7/21
Tonya Linderer	7/3	Rachel Tennis	7/21
Anthony Jordan	7/5	Bob Johnson	7/22
Caizer Crawford	7/7	Kenneth Eckert	7/22
Diane Riordan	7/10	Pamela Arnold	7/22
Kensley Glaus	7/10	Karen AuBuchon	7/23
Kenneth Kirk	7/11	Kathy Magee	7/24
Heidi Olsen	7/11	Karen Geary	7/24
Sally Morris	7/11	Elizabeth Lynn Meyer	7/24
Barbara Redecker	7/13	Terry O'Hara	7/24
Courtney Stuckmeyer	7/13	Golda Dickemann	7/25
Brittany Carver	7/13	Jacob Ruhland	7/26
Jason Day	7/14	Randall Skaggs Jr.	7/29
Theodore Kohler	7/15	Emma Pippin	7/30
Ryan Kirk	7/15	Ralph Samples III	7/31
Pamela Klable	7/15	Chris Kraus	7/31
Delaney Jacob	7/15	Adam Stockwell	7/31
James Hill Jr.	7/16		



THIS SUMMER JOIN US AT



KIDS
AGES 2
THROUGH
6TH GRADE!

Explore the Nature of GOD
at St. Luke's U.C.C.
Vacation Bible School



JULY 6-10

Daily from 9am to 12 noon

KIDS WILL LEARN 5 FOUNDATIONAL
TRUTHS ABOUT GOD THROUGH
STORIES, SONGS, CRAFTS,
ACTIVITIES, GAMES, FOOD AND FUN!



Daily Bible Lessons:

- God is our Creator
- God knows Everything
- God is our Safe Place
- God is Love
- God is Forever

Lunch served at noon on
Friday 7/10/26. All are
welcome to attend!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP
ON JULY 12TH AT 9AM AS THE KIDS WILL
SING AND SHARE A STORY!

Food Donations for snack time are much
appreciated. Some needed items are: peanut butter,
cream cheese, little smokies, cheese cubes, pretzel
sticks, cheese balls, Gala apples, grapes, Ranch
dressing, vegetables, cookies, etc. THANK YOU!

**ST. LUKE'S U.C.C.
VBS REGISTRATION FORM**

July 6-10th 2026

Please Pre-Register by 6/29/26

NAME _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PRIMARY PHONE _____

LAST SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED _____

AGE _____ CHILDREN MUST BE POTTY-TRAINED
OR ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

SPECIAL NEEDS/ALLERGIES/MEDICAL INFORMATION:

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

PHONE _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

PHONE _____

*Safety protocols will be encouraged. By allowing your
child to participate in St. Luke's Vacation Bible School
you are agreeing to not hold St. Luke's responsible for
any injury or illness.*

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

PRINT NAME _____

DATE _____

For questions please call
St. Luke's U.C.C.
VBS Coordinator
at 314-315-5335

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





CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF FAITH, FAMILY, AND FAIRWAYS

You are invited to a
100th Birthday celebration
for The Rev. Carleton Norton.



Sunday, August 2nd, 2026
from 2:00 - 5:00 PM

We will sing "Happy Birthday" at 3:30 PM.

LOCATION:
St. John's UCC
15370 Olive Blvd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017

HONORARIUMS to St. John's UCC