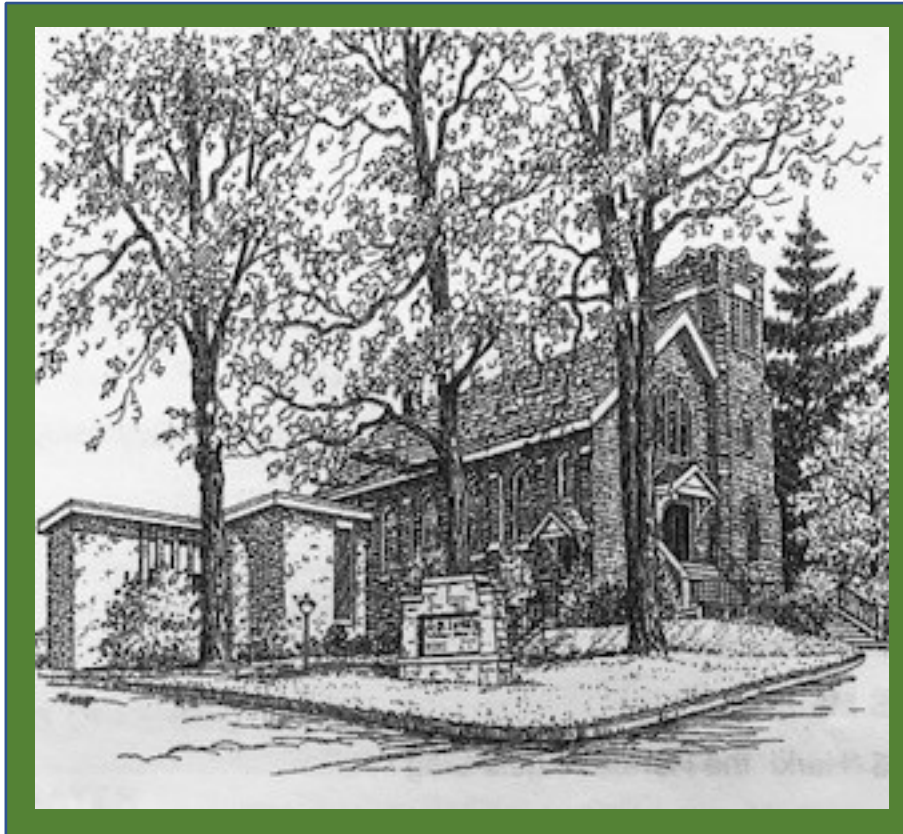


# THE BEACON

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



**APRIL 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**

April 3, 2025

Dear St. Luke's Church Family and Friends,

Spring may bring with it some wild and crazy weather, but it is also the season of new life! As you read through this month's church Beacon newsletter, do not miss the many opportunities to observe and celebrate the end of the Lenten season and the beginning of Eastertide. In particular, I hope everyone plans to worship with us throughout the month, especially on Palm Sunday (April 13), Good Friday (April 18), and Easter morning (April 20). I look forward to sharing the final sermons in my Lenten series, "The Journey to the Cross." On April 27, the Sunday after Easter, I begin my next sermon series, which runs through Pentecost – "Easter Surprise!" This sermon series from the Acts of the Apostles is a surprise (of course), but I'll be sharing more about it soon.

There's a buzz in the air surrounding opportunities for our families, too. On Saturday morning, April 12, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for goodies, crafts, an Easter egg hunt, and a chance to meet the Easter Bunny. In the weeks ahead, our Board of Christian Education is exploring an Easter movie event for our whole church family. Watch for more information on this soon!

Finally, as we have considered what it means to journey with Jesus to the cross, we will also soon experience the empty tomb once more. As Christians, we gather to worship on Sundays because Sunday is the day of resurrection; indeed, we are a resurrection people. When Simon Peter experienced the empty tomb, "he went away amazed at what had happened" (Luke 24:12). However, he had no idea what God would have in store for him in the days, weeks, and even years ahead. What new life do you need this year? What new life will we find together as a people? I'm excited about the future of our church and all God has in store for us. Make sure you are a part of it!

See you on Sunday!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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.		

March 18, 2025, Church Council Minutes

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

At 6:40 pm, Warren Stuckmeyer called the meeting to order. Don Dankel said the opening prayer.

### **REPORTS**

Pastor's Report: Pastor was not present, but Warren reported that Pastor wanted to point out upcoming dates in the church.

Building & Grounds Report: Parsonage roof has been repaired.

Cemetery Report: Will need to look at various trees throughout the cemetery for trimming.

Endowment Report: The wrong dollar amount was recorded last month, there is \$4,685.64 to be dispersed from 2019-2023.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Insurance renewal for the first quarter was paid out.
2. Glaus building usage of 3/29/25 is canceled, no longer needed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Council would like to move \$60,000 from General Fund checking/savings to UCF Cash Fund to earn more interest. Money can be accessed in 3-5 days, if needed. Dave Pippin made a motion to approve the move of funds. Dane Kraus seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.
2. Council needs to check into AED machine maintenance. Warren will follow up with Stephanie and Bob Schrepel on when this needs to be taken care of and what is ordered.
3. Priority/Maintenance list is being reviewed and will be published in a future Beacon.
4. Discussion about Easter lilies (and any future plant memorials) and accounting concerns. Will follow up with Women's Circle for future procedures.
5. Discussion about a potential meal before Ash Wednesday service. Various groups could sponsor/prepare each year on a rotating basis. This will be discussed closer to the next Lenten season.

### **Membership changes**

Deaths: none

Births: none

Membership: none

### **Open/Close schedule**

April 20 – Don Dankel

April 27 – Gary Hartmann

Don Dankel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Dane Kraus. All were in favor and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting April 15, 2025 at 6:30 pm

**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**

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.

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm

### **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 (February 11, 2025):** Correction made on a typo under New Business, item #2. Motion made by Motion made by Judy Duro to approve, seconded by Kay Moss and the minutes were approved by the Board of Elders.

### **REPORTS:**

- Worship: Kay Moss reports things are going well, they changed the paraments to Purple during Lenten season along with Banner changes. Reviewed the upcoming changes with Pastor Hill to be made during the Lenten season. A black stole will be hung on the cross on Good Friday.
- Ushers: Going great. Needed a few ushers for Good Friday and Easter. 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.
- Communion: Plenty of supplies in stock for the busy Lenten season.
- Visitor Care: None.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

- Confirmation Class: Going well, went on two outings.
- Baptisms: Ellen Leslie Stilwill, March 23, 2025. Kyle and Shelbey Stilwill will be meeting with Pastor Hill this week.
- Weddings: Still just the one scheduled for Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> with rehearsal May 29.
- Funerals: None at this time.
- New Member: No new members at this time

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Reorganizing the Board
2. Ash Wednesday: Pastor asked how we felt the service went, we all agreed we liked it along with the ashes for the forehead or top of hand. Need to remember to add a Liturgist for Ash Wednesday services next year to the Elder's Calendar.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. One great Hour of Sharing envelopes (add to Bulletin) need to run for two Sundays, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Envelopes are on office desk.
2. Lenten Envelopes (add to Bulletin April 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>). Elder's March mission offering to Annie's Hope. Need to add a snippet to the Bulletin regarding Annie's Hope.
3. Palm Sunday Service (April 13<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am. Two Liturgists, Judy and Michelle have volunteered. The Women's Circle will also have a Bake/Bakeless sale that day.
4. Good Friday (April 18<sup>th</sup>) 7:00pm. We will need 3 liturgists. Judy, Michelle, and Mike have volunteered. Will also have communion.
5. Easter (April 20<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am. Communion to be served.
6. Promotion Sunday will be May 18<sup>th</sup>.
7. Confirmation Service: Scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day Weekend (this worked best for the two families).
8. If you have requested to be a Liturgist, please take a moment to sign up on the Liturgist list located on the table in the Narthex.

## **OTHER ITEMS:**

1. June 1<sup>st</sup>, honor all the 2025 graduates, ask families to contact the church office if they have someone graduating this Spring.
2. Pastor reports he calls Minerva Ainsley on Tuesday each week to give her a prayer list update, she will then send out cards.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Angela Logan - Chairperson

\*Sarah Saputo - Sunday School Supt. & VBS

\*Shelbey Stillwill

\*Emily Dulle

\*present

\*Greg McLard - Secretary

Kathy Porter - Church Council Liaison

\*Connie Stuckmeyer

\*Pastor James Hill

March 4, 2025

Opening Prayer - Pastor James @6:36 pm.

## **REPORTS**

- 1) Sunday School - Movie found by Sarah. How?
  - a. Sarah to call Theater. Would like to get tickets in advance.
  - b. Flyer would be sent out to understand interest.
  - c. May 4<sup>th</sup> - initial date chosen.
  - d. Organize tickets purchase.
  - e. VBS - Sarah to look for Theme and curriculum.

- 2) Church Council - NA - Kathy absent.
- 3) Confirmation
  - a. 1st excursion Sunday - Cathedral. 2nd outing this Friday - Shabath Service.
  - b. Palm Sunday breakfast.
  - c. May 25 - Proposed confirmation date. June 8th is 2nd choice.
- 4) Budget BOCE \$2,500 VBS \$1,000
- 5) Missions -
  - a. 1st Quarter: School Lunches.
  - b. 2nd Quarter: Helping Hands and Horses.
  - c. 3rd Quarter: Brendan's Backpack
  - d. 4th Quarter: Food drive

Offering for 4th quarter = \$138.46 - split between Brendan's Backpack and food pantry.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1) Open Close Church Schedule :
  - March 9, 2025 - Shelby Stillwill
  - April 13, 2025 - Sarah Saputo
  - May 11, 2025 - Greg McLard
- 2) Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast
  - Attendance = 70 people.
  - Food amount ok?
  - \*Needed more Ham!
  - \*Should have more boiled eggs - those went fast.
  - \*Made \$220. Will use money left over after reimbursements for Easter Egg Candy

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Crosses
- 2) Palm Sunday / Confirmand Breakfast
- 3) Confirmation - May 25th.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

-Easter egg hunt and Palm Sunday breakfast

Meeting adjourned - 7:54 pm

Lords Prayer

Next Meeting 3/7/2025 6:30pm

#### **Annual Event planning and Dates**

- 4/12/25 - Palm Cross Making and Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/13/25 - Palm Sunday Breakfast
- 5/18/25 - Promotion Sunday / Teacher Appreciation
- 5/25/25 - Confirmation Sunday
- 6/1/25 - Graduate Recognition (Not BOCE event)
- 7/7/25 - 7/11/25 - VBS
- 7/13/25 - Kids sing in Church - VBS
- 8/24/25 - Rally Day
- 9/7/25 - Goodies with Grands (Grandparents Day)
- 12/6/25 - Santa's Breakfast
- 12/21/25 - Christmas Program / Cookie reception

## **WOMEN'S CIRCLE UPDATES**

There were fourteen (14) ladies in attendance and Pastor Hill who met on March 6, 2025. Michelle Perry opened the meeting at 12:15. Gail Lents did an opening prayer, announcements, joys and concern were shared. Kathy Porter did a devotion on 'Lenten Choices'. The minutes and treasure report from February was read and approved. Business was conducted as follows: \* The Easter Lily and Memorial Donation form was reviewed and approved. Orders and memorials will be received through March 30. \* Palm Sunday bake & bakeless sale will be on April 13, before and after church. \* A mission check for \$150 will be sent to Jefferson Regional Hospice for the March Mission. \* There were fourteen (14) ladies plus Pastor Hill who attended the Lenten

Luncheon hosted by St. Martin in High Ridge on Thursday, March 13. \* The Women's Circle will be selling hanging flower baskets on Mother's Day Sunday, May 11. No orders will be taken, they will be sold from the garage area on a first come first serve bases. More information will follow the April meeting and posted in the church bulletin. \* A field trip to Arthur, IL was planned for Wednesday, May 21st with more information in the church bulletin very soon. \* It was approved to give Ellen Cagle a gift of \$100 for extra cleaning of the fellowship hall and hallways after the sausage dinner. \* Pastor Hill will be checking into a new banner for the sanctuary. \* The ladies of the Women's Circle will be deep cleaning the sanctuary on our next meeting date (April 3) beginning at 9:30. Anyone in the congregation is welcome to join in helping. There will be refreshments after with a brief meeting. \* Meeting adjourned at 1:30 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next Women's Circle meeting will be on April 3, at 9:30 am. We welcome any and all women of St Luke's church to join us in fellowship and the missions of our church and community.

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*	Bob Johnson*	Lee Nations	Sharlene Schlereth
Alan Bess*	Mike Burcham*	Kathy Porter	Brenda Farson
Burnell Raebel	David and Pam Belleville	Bob and Linda Schrepel	Mark Pursley*
Vicki Kramme Carpenter	Doris Stephenson*	Don Scherer	Joan Flesh*
Al Kraus*	Family of Clark Nolen*	Family of Don Gruenewald*	

## **Our Military Personnel**

Christopher Kettler*	Samuel Lowry	Alec Schrepel*	Eric Watkins*
Isaak Hartung*	Susan Bablowitz*	Brian Randolph*	

**PLEASE NOTE:** We will be updating relaunching our prayer list beginning Sunday, March 9. If you would like to add or keep a person on our prayer list, please contact our church office by email or phone at [stlukesimperial@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesimperial@gmail.com) or (636) 948-3545. Thanks!

# SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Mariella Saputo

Jolene Perry

Maybree Saputo

Fletcher McLard

Jordyn Davis



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Sandy Kraus	4/1	Scott Geary	4/18
Henry Schneider	4/1	Susan McKinley	4/19
Sharon Kraus	4/2	Arneda McClenahan	4/20
Callie Glaus	4/3	Annie Neislein	4/20
Parizzitta Skaggs	4/3	Melanie Raebel	4/21
Eddie Lowry III	4/5	Jacob Bogowith	4/21
Erin Magee	4/5	Timothy Farson	4/22
Elora Hoehn	4/5	Timothy McKinley	4/22
Michael Jordan	4/6	Gracen Miller	4/22
Gregory McLard	4/10	Kay Carter	4/23
Zach Neislein	4/11	Timothy Hollerbach	4/24
Wendy Schiller	4/12	Patty Bone	4/25
Bill Magee III	4/13	Henry Kraus	4/26
Emma Hollerbach	4/15	Elizabeth Skaggs	4/28
		Toby Rebsamen	4/29

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU!** A very special “thank you” to our Women’s Circle and all those who worked so hard on Thursday, April 3, on the refurbishing of our sanctuary space, including cleaning and repairing the pews.

### PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

Pastor James’ weekly Bible study continues on Wednesdays, extending through April 16 (allowing for the April 2<sup>nd</sup> cancelation due to inclement weather). Please join us at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall. We are exploring 2 Samuel and King David in a study Pastor James is calling “Kings & Kingdoms.” No reservations are needed – plan to join us each week!



## **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.

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**

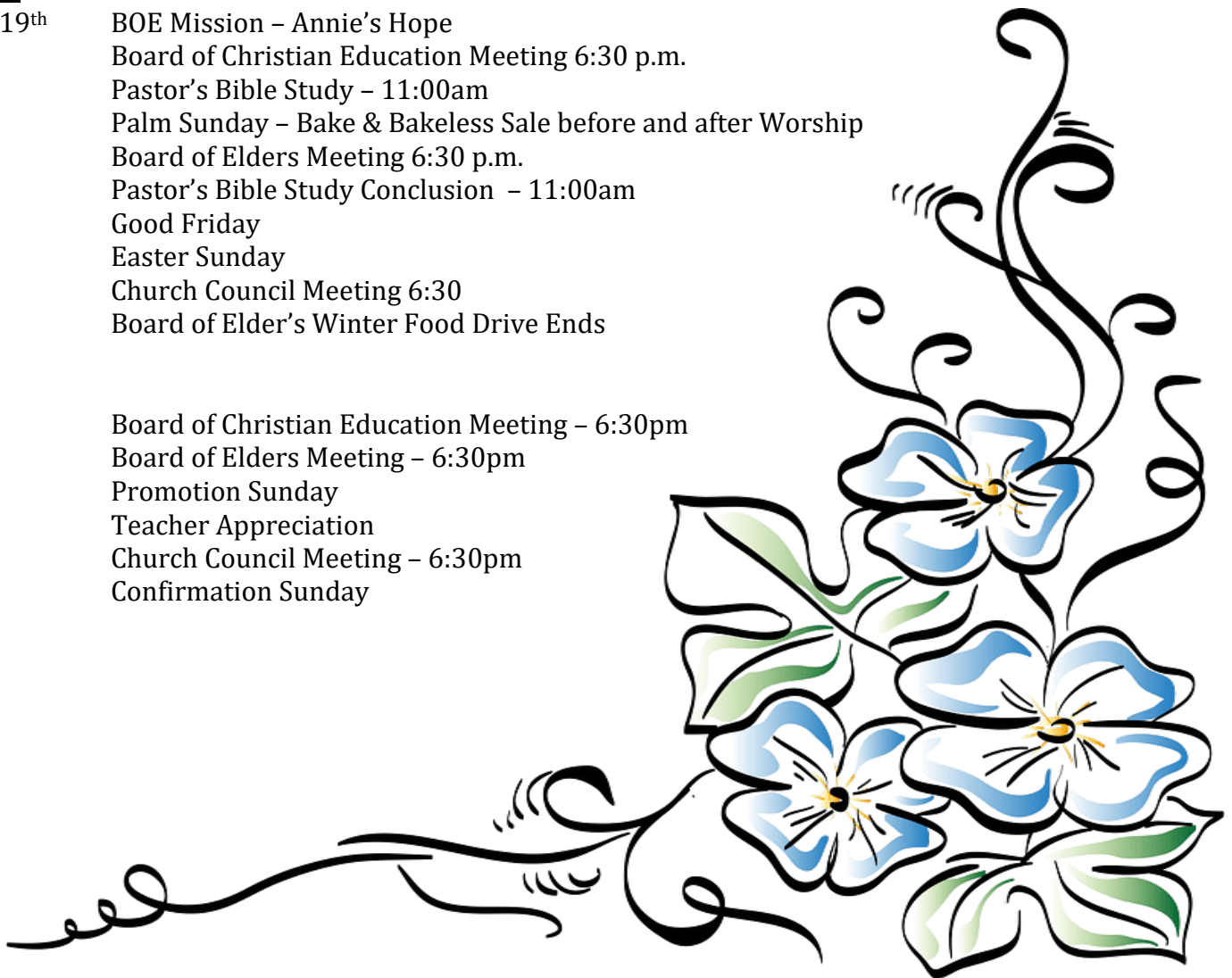
Replace Hanging Pendant lights in stairwells  
Windows recalked  
Repaint window frames & clean coverings  
Paint porches  
Oil Pews  
Bookshelves in library  
Parking Lot lights (warmer weather)  
Boards replaced on Parsonage deck

### **APRIL**

6 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	BOE Mission – Annie's Hope
8 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor's Bible Study – 11:00am
13 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday – Bake & Bakeless Sale before and after Worship
15 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.
16 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor's Bible Study Conclusion – 11:00am
18 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday
20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Church Council Meeting 6:30
27 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Elder's Winter Food Drive Ends

### **MAY**

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





Sponsored by the Women's Circle

**Sunday, April 13th, 2025**

Items will be sold before and after worship

(as available) in the

**Fellowship Hall**

Bakeless items will also be available for sale.

There will be a lot of Easter gift ideas available.



**Special Offering**

**Sponsored by the Board of Elders**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**

Annie's Hope provides comprehensive support services to children, teens, and their families who are grieving the death of someone significant, serving families in the greater St. Louis region. Annie's Hope does not charge a fee for families to participate in their programs.

A gift to Annie's Hope may be made through our church using the special envelopes included in your worship bulletin. For more information, talk to one of our Elders or contact the church office.

# Easter egg hunt



PLEASE JOIN US AT ST. LUKE'S U.C.C. • 6610 ST. LUKE'S CHURCH RD. • IMPERIAL, MO 63052



## WHEN

**SATURDAY, April 12<sup>th</sup>: activities begin at 9:30AM**  
**Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15AM**



## WHAT

- Refreshments
- Craft Stations
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Visit from the Easter Bunny!!

HOPPY EASTER!



## STUFF TO BRING

**Please bring your  
Easter basket or a bag  
to collect eggs.**

**Please bring your  
camera for pictures  
with the Easter Bunny**

**Please bring your  
Friends!**



## WHERE

**St. Luke's Fellowship Hall  
& Outside (weather permitting)**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

*Palm  
Sunday*



*Hosanna  
to the  
King!*

BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 13th

Hosted by the Confirmation Class & Their Families

*Worship Service at 9am*

*Breakfast at 10am in the Fellowship Hall*



Breakfast Casseroles  
Biscuits & Gravy  
Pastries and More





*"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."*

MOTHER TERESA

# WINTER Food Drive

2/23  
through  
4/27

THE BOARD OF ELDERS IS ASKING  
FOR YOUR HELP IN DONATING  
UN-EXPIRED, NON-PERISHABLE  
FOOD ITEMS FOR OUR WINTER FOOD  
DRIVE. PLEASE FIND THE BOXES IN  
THE SANCTUARY ENTRANCES  
& THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.  
THANK YOU!