

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
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Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

Nanette Moore, Administrative Assistant/Director of Christian Education
Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch

*If comfortable doing so, you are invited to stand.

The hymns today come from The Methodist Hymnal.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SILENT MEDITATION: "Light-seeds are planted in the souls of God's people, Joy-seeds are planted in good heart-soil." --Psalm 97:11 (The Message)

GATHERING MUSIC GREETING

PRELUDE

"Light of Christ"

Marty Haugen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 547 "O Church of God, United"**

ELLACOMBE

O Church of God, united to serve one common Lord, proclaim to all one message,
with hearts in glad accord. Christ ever goes before us; We follow day by day
with strong and eager footsteps along the upward way.

From every land and nation the ordered ranks appear; to serve one valiant leader
they come from far and near. They chant their one confession, they praise one living Lord,
and place their sure dependence upon his saving word.

Though creeds and tongues may differ, they speak, O Christ, of thee; and in thy loving spirit,
we shall one people be. Lord, may our faithful service and singleness of aim
proclaim to all the power of thy redeeming name.

May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one, close bound, by love united
in thee, God's blessed Son: to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright,
that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Happy are those who seek to follow God's path.

All: We take delight in meditating on God's guiding word.

One: Happy are those who are planted together in community with one another.

All: We take delight in the sustaining waters of faith.

One: Happy are those who serve God with joy.

All: We take delight in the garden of God's blessings.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

Loving God, when we seek to stand in our own strength, forgive our pride. When we seek
satisfaction apart from you, guide us back to your path. When we plant ourselves outside your
care, restore us to the garden of your mercy and grace. Forgive our sin and renew our spirits.
Let us bear the fruit of joy in our worship and in our lives. Amen

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

MOMENTS WITH MINNIE

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Have Felt the Touch of God" Lloyd Larson

SCRIPTURE Psalm 1

SERMON "A Tree Is Not a Forest"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 402 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN**

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "Amazing Grace"

American Melody

***CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP — DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

Nurturing and Sustaining God, you have provided us with the blessings of life. May the offerings we bring be blessed by your Spirit and may they bear the fruit of your presence to those who are touched through our lives and by the ministry of this congregation. Amen

Refrain:

'Tis the old ship of Zion, 'tis the old ship of Zion,
'tis the old ship of Zion, get on board, get on board.

1 It has landed many a thousand, it has landed many a thousand,
it has landed many a thousand, get on board, get on board. (Refrain)

3 It was good for my dear mother, (Refrain)

4 It was good for my dear father, (Refrain)

5 It will take us all to heaven, (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"I Will Sing a Sunday Song"

Pepper Choplin

The Liturgist today is Jodie Puhr..
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM BURNING AND FISHING DERBY

Palm Burning and Fishing Derby—TODAY, at James A Reed Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit
(If you need directions, please see Mel or Linda Sehrt)

The fishing Derby begins at 4:00 PM. This is for ages up to 16 years old ONLY.

If you are over 16 and are helping a child fish, you must have a license.

5:30 PM is a picnic supper and fellowship. Bring your own picnic meal and your own drinks.

6:00 PM Palm Burning Service.

This is a very spiritual service with music and a devotion.

After the service the palms are burned. These ashes are then prepared and used for the Ash Wednesday Service on March 5th. All are welcome and you are encouraged to bring friends and family.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

The Neighbors in Need Offering will be taken on October 6th.

In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is "**Mental Health Justice For All!**" This year's focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

SAVE THE DATES

There are many things coming up that you want to add to your calendars.

More details will be put in the bulletin and Glimpse closer to time.

October 13th—Pastor Appreciation Day

October 27th—Halloween Party

November 3rd—Totenfest

November 10th—Frances Heman's 95th Birthday Celebration (in the afternoon)

November 17th—Advent Movie

CHECK IN, SHARE AND COMMENT



If you are worshipping in person, please “Check-in” on Facebook, then, share the service, comment on it and like it. You are encouraged to have your device out during the service. If the music inspires you, tell Matthew and Margie by commenting about how wonderful it was or say thank you. If the sermon speaks to you, comment with how it touched you. If there is a great story during Children’s Moment or a kid makes you laugh, comment and tell what it was. If someone makes a comment, reply to them. We encourage you to connect with those online as well as in person. If you are worshipping online, share and comment on the service. Comment on the things listed above, reply to and/or like other people’s comments. It is so important to stay connected & these are simple ways to do that.

INSTAGRAM

Use this QR code to follow St. Luke’s UCC on Instagram!



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

10:45 AM Online & In person Worship followed by in person fellowship
Monday—Friday, 9:45 AM Live with Pastor Paul in Windows Facebook Group
Monday & Wednesday, 6:30 PM NA Meeting

For more information about any of these, please email the church office at stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org

GIVING OPTIONS



If you wish to make a donation to St. Luke’s, there are several options available:

1. Check mailed to church office at 727 N. Main, Independence, MO 64050
2. Internet donation – you may now donate from a secure site by clicking on the Give Now button on the website.
3. Electronic funds transfer – your offering can be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.

To sign up, click [here](#). After completing the form, contact the church office stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org for instructions.

4. Vanco Mobile App - download the free app on Google Play or the App Store. Enter St Lukes (without punctuation) as the church name Select St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Independence. From there you can create an account and use the app for donations.
5. Text the word GIVE to 816-312-5053 and you will be directed to a secure site for giving.

CONNECT

If you are visiting today we would love to connect with you.
Text CONNECT to 816-312-5053 or use the QR code to the right.



PHOTO/VIDEO POLICY

May it be understood that any pictures/videos taken during any church event may be used for promotion. Church events, including but not limited to, worship services may be broadcast live on Facebook.

If you are not in agreement with this notify the church office.