

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.
Independence, Missouri 64050
Church Phone: 816-461-0302
www.stlukesuccindep.org

Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
Pastor's Phone: 816-379-5726
stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org
Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist
Nanette Moore, Administrative Assistant

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.

DECEMBER 22, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SILENT MEDITATION: "When the song of the angels is still... The work of Christmas begins...
To make music in the heart."--Howard Thurman

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Arr. Ruth E. Mackie

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 228 "He Is Born"

IL EST NE

Refrain:

He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.

Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last! (Refrain)

O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure gracious gift to humankind! (Refrain)

Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace. (Refrain)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us worship our Triune God.

All: Our God is Lover, Beloved, and Love itself.

One: God's love overflows...

**All: Filling heaven and earth with rejoicing. Giving songs to the Angels.
Setting us in community with one another.**

One: Love reminds us we are never alone.

All: Love reminds us that God is with us and that our spirits are one in Christ.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Great and Loving God, your love has waited for our response, no matter how long we have been inattentive to your call. Your message of hope and peace is not one that we can ignore any longer. Forgive us and open our spirits to the transforming power of your love. Restore our souls, comfort our sorrows, let your love shape us into the loving community you call us to be. Amen

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

**BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

Arr. Frank Mantooth

The Liturgist today is Paula McKinney.
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
THE PAGEANT IS GOING ON THE ROAD

The children are taking the Pageant on the road! They will be performing for the residents at Maywood Terrace on Monday, December 23rd, at 10:15. The children would love to invite anyone in the congregation to join them. In addition to performing, the children will also go bearing gifts of warm blankets. They are collecting money for enough blankets for approximately forty residents. Blankets can be purchased for about \$10 each. This is a beautiful opportunity to teach the kids how our congregation works together to share joy and kindness with others. You can donate in person or on the website using the "Give Now" button or on the Vanco App. Please use the Misc tab if donating online.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Tuesday, December 24th, at 7:00 PM in person or virtual. Invite a friend to this very special Christmas Eve Worship Service.



HOLIDAY OFFICE, LIVESTREAM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Monday, December 23rd, 9:45 AM—Livestream in Windows and Regular Office Hours

Tuesday, December 24th, 7:00 PM - Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service.

NO livestream and Office is Closed

Wednesday, December 25th thru Saturday, December 28th—NO livestreams and Office Closed

(Please contact Pastor Paul on his cell in an emergency)

Sunday, December 29th, 9:30 AM—New Year's Breakfast (NO Sunday School)

10:45 AM—Worship

Monday, December 30th—9:45 AM—Livestream and Regular Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 31st & January 1st—NO livestreams and Office Closed

Thursday, January 2nd—Resume regular schedule

NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP AND BREAKFAST

Let's celebrate the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 with breakfast, fellowship and worship with your church family on December 29th. Breakfast at 9:30 followed by worship at 10:45 AM.

WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

If in person worship is canceled due to winter weather conditions, the announcement will be put on the website, in the Facebook group Windows Into St. Luke's, and on Channel 9. When looking on Channel 9, look for St. Luke's UCC, Independence. There are other churches with the same name. The service will be livestreamed on Facebook no matter what the weather is.

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.