

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.

JANUARY 5, 2025

EPIPHANY

SILENT MEDITATION: 'At this time of the rolling year,' the spectre said, 'I suffer most. Why did I walk through crowds of fellow-beings with my eyes turned down, and never raise them to that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode! Were there no poor homes to which its light would have conducted *me!*'"
--Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol"

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

Arr. Luke Gambill

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 254 "We Three Kings"

KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, join the search for all God will reveal.

All: We are the church, committed to an encounter with the mystery of God.

One: The glory of God has risen upon us.

All: God has sent light to dispel our fears.

One: The radiance of truth surrounds us.

All: Boldly and confidently, we approach our God.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of Mystery, we often seek you without being open to finding you. We seek you with our own ideas of who you are. We seek you believing we know where we will find you. Forgive us and humble us. Open our eyes and hearts to finding your presence with us as you intend to be revealed. Help us change the direction of our lives so we may live as your children and reflect your love in the world. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Affirmation and Renewal of Faith (Unison)

Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything Christ might be preeminent. For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Christ all things are reconciled to God, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the cross of Christ.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Sacrament

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for guiding our way to this table. Here you have opened our eyes anew to your presence and to your gift to us through Jesus Christ. You have renewed our strength and courage as we continue the journey of discovering more of your holy nature. Lead us forth in your divine will for our lives as your servants. Let us become the incarnation of your presence wherever we go. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 237 "Sing We Now of Christmas"

FRENCH CAROL

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Refrain: Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest." (Refrain)

In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,
seated by the manger, watching the holy child. (Refrain)

From the eastern country came the kings afar,
bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star. (Refrain)

Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;
there was never a stable so like paradise. (Refrain)

BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World!" with "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Arr. Gary Rhodes

The Liturgist today is Linda Sehart.
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING

January 26th, immediately following worship. This will be a hybrid meeting, both in person and on zoom. You will be able to join the zoom meeting as soon as worship ends and the meeting will begin when technology is in place. A link to the zoom meeting will be sent out the week before the meeting

BYLAW CHANGE

At the annual meeting the congregation will be asked to vote on amending the bylaws to strike out “Director of Christian Education” and replace it with “Church Program Coordinator”. This change is requested because the title of this position has been changed. See the picture below as an example of the change. If adopted, the change will be made throughout the bylaws.

- B. The Council shall engage in and evaluate long range planning for the life and mission of the congregation.
- C. All acts and deliberations of the Council are subject to the congregation unless explicitly delegated to the Council in these By-Laws.
- D. The Council shall have charge of the employment of the Administrative Assistant, ~~Director of Christian Education~~ Church Program Coordinator, Music Staff, Custodian, and such other workers as may be deemed necessary.

PASTOR PAUL’S 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We will celebrate Pastor Paul’s 10 years of Ministry at St. Luke’s on February 16th, during and after worship. A lot of fun surprises are being planned. You won’t want to miss it.



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.