

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
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Mariah Moseley, Church Program Coordinator
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Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch

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

The hymns today come from The Celebration Hymnal.

MAY 11, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SILENT MEDITATION: "This is a place of life: it does not function on past events but on what God is bringing to life now. This is a place of life, and here God has chosen to say 'Yes!' to living, 'Yes!' to being, 'Yes!' to resurrection, not once, not a few times, but forever. This is a place for life. This is home." --Liz Crumblish

GATHERING MUSIC
GREETING
PRELUDE

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

Arr. Mark Hayes

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 750 "Peace like a River"

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul;
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul;
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul;
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*From Rev. 7: 12*)

One: We praise Creation's God:

All: Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!

One: Let each single voice praise God:

All: Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!

One: Let all voices together praise God:

All: Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!

One: Let the great multitude of nations praise God:

All: Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!

One: With all Creation we praise God:

All: Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

O God, our Shepherd, forgive us for not following you when we hear your voice. Give us the assurance that even though we are called to walk through dark and difficult places, your Spirit is with us. Restore our souls so that we may follow you in paths of righteousness. 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

“Jesus Everything”

James Koerts

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:36-43

SERMON

“Follow Me!”

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 430 “There Shall Be Showers of Blessing” SHOWERS OF BLESSING

There shall be showers of blessing: This is the promise of love.
There shall be seasons refreshing, Sent from the Savior above.

Refrain: Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need.
Mercy-drops round us are falling, But for the showers we plead.

There shall be showers of blessing—Precious reviving again.
Over the hills and the valleys, Sound of abundance of rain. [Refrain]

There shall be showers of blessing; Send them upon us, O Lord.
Grant to us now a refreshing; Come and now honor Your Word. [Refrain]

There shall be showers of blessing: O that today they might fall,
Now as to God we're confessing, Now as on Jesus we call! [Refrain]

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS

“How Beautiful”

Twila Paris

***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)**

O God, take these gifts and multiply them for the hope, healing and wholeness of all of your beloved children. Know that we offer them as praise to you. Blessing and Honor; Glory and Power! Amen

Does the place you're called to labor Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it, And He'll not forget His own.

Refrain: Little is much when God is in it, Labor not for wealth or fame;
There's a crown, and you can win it, If you go in Jesus' name.

When the conflict here is ended And our race on earth is run,
He will say, if we are faithful, "Welcome home, My child, well done!" [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Spring"

Antonio Vivaldi

The Liturgist today is Ginger Ruoff.
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Sunday, June 8th, will be Pentecost Sunday. We will celebrate the descending of the Holy Spirit upon the early believers and the birth of the Christian church. On Pentecost Sunday, St. Luke's will have a reception of new members. Anyone who may not be a member but who participates in worship, either in person or virtually, or who is connected through Windows into St. Luke's, is invited to become a member of the congregation. New members will be received both in person and virtually. If you are interested in becoming a member, or if you have questions, please contact Pastor Paul.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship will meet on Monday, May 12, at Noon
Soup and dessert will be served. It is a time for men and their friends to gather for a time of fellowship.
If you have any questions, please contact Larry Franciskato.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

Please join us May 18th as we celebrate the last day of Sunday School and Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day! We will meet at McCoy Park at 9:30 am to share some donuts and laughter. Then the children's class will be able to spend some time enjoying the park. We ask that parents return to retrieve their children by 10:15 am. Donuts will be provided for those attending Sunday School at the church as well. During worship, we will have a special moment of celebration to acknowledge the wonderful Sunday School teachers that share God's light with us every week! We look forward to seeing you there and coming together to celebrate our church community!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone that would like to help trim bushes plan on gathering at St. Luke's on
Monday, May 19th, at 10:00 AM.
Be sure and bring work gloves. See Jeff Ray for more information.

UPCOMING GRADUATES

Please turn in the names of graduates, their schools, degrees, any honors that they received, & any future plans to the church office. We will include them in an upcoming bulletin and the Glimpse Into St. Luke's.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship forms are now available online (in the menu click on About Us. In the drop down menu click on Policy/Forms. Then, click on Scholarship Fund for Local Congregation Application Form). See the form for qualifications. If you have problems accessing this form, please contact the church office.

SHARING TABLE

Take time on Sundays, or anytime during normal office hours, to **SHOP** at the sharing table. You are invited to contribute something if you would like but most importantly, shop for and receive what is offered.

SAVE THE DATES

SACRED MUSIC SUNDAY

We are going to have a Sacred Music Sunday as worship on June 22nd. If you are interested in contributing instrumentally or vocally, please contact Matthew either after worship, by email at matt22bennett@gmail.com or by text at 913-271-5924

INDEPENDENCE PRIDE

Join St. Luke's UCC on June 28th for Independence Pride. There will be a parade, booths, food trucks and more. Additional information will be given as soon as we know the times and different events. You are welcome to participate in any or all of the activities

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

Annual Congregational Budget Meeting, June 29th, following worship.

This will be a hybrid meeting, in person and on zoom.

The budget and zoom information will be sent out the morning of the meeting.

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

Sundays 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.