

# 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 Methodist Hymnal.**

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**MAY 18, 2025**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**SILENT MEDITATION:** *"Something there is that doesn't love a wall. . ." – Robert Frost*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### GREETING

### PRELUDE

"Near to the Heart of God"

Arr. Martha Mier

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 89 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather as one.

**All: From different places, with different dreams and ideas, different values and tastes.**

One: Yet, we are one family –

**All: Children of God, every one.**

One: We join our hearts in worship, we join our voices in praise.

**All: And we join our lives as the Body of Christ.**

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

**Lord God, we have found a home in You. We have found a family in You. We have found a place to belong; to know and be known, to love and be loved. But we have forgotten our connectedness and have divided ourselves. Remind us, and all who would exclude, oppress and condemn others, that we are all made in Your image. We are all one body. For the sake of Jesus, who loved us, who commanded us to love one another, and whose love conquered the grave, forgive us and teach us to be one again. 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

## TEACHER RECOGNITION *(Unison Prayer)*

**We thank you, God, for these teachers; for their creativity and patience in the learning process. Our teachers have helped us all learn about you and to know you. Bless our teachers, we pray. Infuse them, and all of us, with an eagerness to dwell in you and your Word; to seek and find you in nature, in quiet reading, in conversations and in other experiences where your presence awaits us. And may your Spirit draw us back in the fall for new journeys in learning together. Amen**

## 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

## “Down to the River to Pray”

Arr. Mark Hayes

## SCRIPTURE

## Acts 11:1-18

# SERMON

## “Something There Is That Doesn’t Love a Wall”

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 548 “In Christ There Is No East or West”

McKEE

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north;  
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.

In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free; both male and female heirs are made, and all are kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

## CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

## THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS “Behold the Lamb”

Dottie Rambo

**\*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)**

**Loving and Gracious God, may the gifts we bring be blessed by your Holy Spirit. May these gifts, our lives and our shared ministry make Your loving words heard, Your loving presence seen, and Your loving invitation extended to all of Your children. Amen**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 560 "Help Us Accept Each Other"**

**ACCEPTANCE**

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and Bring us to believe: we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some, to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

**BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

**"A Little Song of Praise"**

**Todd Kendall**

The Liturgist today is Dan O'Neill.  
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns today.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**SLIC BREAKFAST**

**(St. Luke's Inclusive Coalition)**

Please join us at 9:30 am Sunday, June 8th as we take a walk through the St Luke's journey of becoming an Open and Affirming congregation. We will reminisce on the path we have taken to this point and engage in conversation around how we can continue to be allies during this time of social tension. A light, continental style, breakfast along with coffee and juice will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

**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.

**BUDGET MEETING**

The Budget Committee (Deacons) will meet on May 22nd at 6:00 PM, on zoom.

**CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY**

May 31st, beginning at 10:00 AM. We will be focusing on the sanctuary  
and kitchen and most cleaning will not be too strenuous.

**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 included 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 [matt22benett@gmail.com](mailto:matt22benett@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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

