

# 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  
Pastor's Phone: 816-379-5726  
pastor@stlukesuccindep.org  
Mariah Moseley, Church Program Coordinator  
Nanette Moore, Administrative Assistant  
stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org

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 25, 2025**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**SILENT MEDITATION:** "Sometimes there is nothing else that the church must do than to pray with the people, to assure them that God is not aloof but present in their situation, in their pain...this is subversive piety, which always leads to the resistance of evil, not because of hatred, but because of the protesting presence of the loving God."  
-- Allan A. Boesak

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

### **GREETING**

### **PRELUDE**

"All Are Welcome"

Marty Haugen

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 451 "Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me,  
Lord; thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys,  
O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart,  
whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The power of the LORD gives me strength.

**All: The love of the LORD gives me hope.**

One: Despite sorrows and sadness, anxieties and fears,

**All: We bless the name of the LORD.**

One: From the rising of the sun until its going down,

**All: Let the name of the LORD be praised!**

## **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

God of Hope and Healing, you give strength to the feeble and lift up the fallen. But we have neglected to do our part. Forgive us for focusing only on our needs to the neglect of others. Let us find the courage and the compassion to stand with the fallen rather than with those in power. Let us speak for the forgotten and to those who need to hear the message of your sustaining presence. 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**

**"Day by Day"**

**Arr. Mark Hayes**

### **SCRIPTURE**

**John 5:1-9**

### **SERMON**

**"Within Sight, But Not Within Reach"**

### **\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 428 "For the Healing of the Nations"**

**CWM RHONDDA**

**For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all my come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase, fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span, may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, Creator God, have written your great name on human kind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find.**

### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

#### **CALL TO STEWARDSHIP**

#### **THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS**

**"Be Still and Know"**

**Traditional**

#### **\*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)**

**God of Strength and Hope, our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice in the opportunity  
to share. We bring our gifts and offer ourselves to your service and making your  
presence known. Accept these gifts, that they may continue the work of Christ, in our  
congregation, our community and beyond. Blessed be the name of the Lord! Amen**

### **\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 730 "O Day of God, Draw Nigh"**

**ST. MICHAEL**

**O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power;  
come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,  
the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,  
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife thy sovereign word of peace,  
that war may haunt the earth no more, and desolation cease.**

**O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth;  
let there be light again, and set thy judgments on the earth. .**

**BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

"Great is the Lord" Michael W Smith and Deborah D. Smith

The Liturgist today is Marita Ray.  
Thank you to John Kritos for accompanying the hymns today.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES**

**Chelsea Arnold**

Graduated May 13th from Fort Osage High School.  
She will be going to Mizzou in the fall

**Matthew Ditzler**

Grandson of Tami Dickerson  
Graduated May 19th from Grain Valley High School  
He will be going to school to become a Firefighter/EMT through Central Jackson County Fire Department

**Keaton Franciskato**

Grandson of Larry & Sharon Franciskato  
Graduating June 1st from Liberty High School, Wentzville, MO

**Mikayla Spangler**

Graduated May 20th from Kindergarten

**Ransym Trussell**

Graduated from 5th Grade

**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!

**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.

**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.

**DISASTER RELIEF—ST. LOUIS TORNADOS**

Two churches in St. Louis sustained direct impacts and damage from the tornadoes on May 16th. The Missouri Mid-South Conference has set up a special fund just for tornado response. If you would like to donate, put a check or cash, marked Tornadoes, in the offering box.

## **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.