

St. Luke's United Church of Christ

Worship Service and Order of Confirmation

Jackson James Jaberg



Jackson's Confirmation Verse

"These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the
house of God, with glad shouts and
songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival."

Psalm 42:4 (NRSV)

MacKenzie Irene McKinney



MacKenzie's Confirmation Verse

"For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the
house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness."

Psalm 84:10 (NRSV)

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.
Independence, Missouri 64050
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www.stlukesuccindep.org

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

Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
Pastor's Phone: 816-379-5726
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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.

JULY 27, 2025

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

SILENT MEDITATION: *Confirmation is the renewal of the baptismal covenant. The confirmands, having been instructed in the Christian faith, publicly confess their faith in their Savior, Jesus Christ, promise obedience to God until death, and are received by the church into active membership.*

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Arr. Fred Bock

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 580 "Lead On, O King Eternal"

LANCASHIRE

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal, we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 27)**

One: The LORD is my light and my salvation.

All: The LORD is a fortress, protecting my life.

One: I have asked one thing from the LORD, it's all I seek—

All: To live in the LORD's house all the days of my life.

One: Let us seek the LORD's beauty.

All: We will rejoice in the presence of the LORD.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Alert us now, eternal God, to your presence among us as we worship. Forgive us for how our lives don't always measure up to the promises we make. Open our minds to understand your instruction. Open our hearts to receive new strength to keep your instruction. Open our lives to new joy. 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

"Near to the Heart of God"

Arr. Cleland B. McAfee

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:41-52

CHARGE TO THE CONFIRMANDS

"Saphaph!"

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

Invitation

Jodie Puhr

Questions of the Confirmands

Pastor Paul Emily

Affirmation of Faith (Unison) "The Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ"

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling
the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Prayer of the Confirmands

Prayer of the Congregation

All: Almighty God, who in baptism received these servants into the church, forgave
their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit.
Grant love for others, joy in serving you peace in disagreement, patience in suffering,
kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation,
gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them
for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Act of Confirmation

Prayer of Confirmation

Congregation: Amen

Address

Question About Participation

Welcome

Jodie Puhr

Congregation: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

***CONFIRMATION HYMN No. 396 "O Jesus, I have Promised"**

ANGEL'S STORY

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend.

I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.

O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

Presentations

Confirmation Banner

To Confirmands

Appreciation of Support

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Arr. Lani Smith

***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)**

Gracious and loving God, you have dealt wondrously with us. We have gathered in your presence to praise you and to join in efforts to share our faith with one another and with the world. By your Spirit, bless the offerings we bring, that our ministry may make your presence known here and in ever-widening circles. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 558 "We Are the Church"**

PORT JERVIS

Refrain: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together

The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place, the church is a people. (Refrain)

We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,
all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places. (Refrain)

Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning,
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding, always it's learning. (Refrain)

And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying: (Refrain)

At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit and told the Good News
through the world to all who would hear it. (Refrain)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HVAC FUND

We are gathered today, and will continue to gather, in the fellowship hall for in person worship until the weather is cooler or the HVAC system in the sanctuary has been replaced...whichever comes first!
We are grateful to have this space which provides a comfortable and intimate worship experience.

There is an HVAC Fund established for the replacement of the HVAC system. Support for that fund is being accepted to soften the hit when contracts have been secured to replace the existing system. You may donate in person by marking your donation HVAC and placing in the offering box or by donating online or via the app.

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.

CHECK IN, SHARE AND COMMENT ON FACEBOOK



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 Moments with Minnie or a kid makes you laugh, comment and tell what it was.

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.

LETTERS TO THE CONFIRMANDS

When I think about Confirmation, I think about questions. Not the ones that I ask the Confirmands but the ones they ask. There is no way to prepare for what they may ask next. I knew I was in trouble with this year's Confirmation Class long before the class actually began.

In my first week as Pastor at St. Luke's, Mackenzie asked me a question. She wanted to know if God made unicorns. That was my first clue of what would await me when she came to Confirmation Class. Since then, it has been a joy to watch her grow up and move on to other questions.

Jackson has not been at St. Luke's as long as Mackenzie, but he has certainly grown up a lot in the time he has been with us. And yes, I knew he came with his questions ready. A lot of them!

This year, Jodie served as the mentor for the Confirmation class. It was her first class in that particular role but she was well prepared, having had even more time and experience than the Confirmands to come up with questions of her own. She demonstrated to Mackenzie and Jackson that asking questions was essential for all ages.

Confirmation is not so much about how many questions the Confirmands can answer about the class material but the questions they ask. If that is the case, then this Confirmation class has been a success! Hopefully the Confirmands have found the exploration of their questions as informative as I have found them to be entertaining.

Blessings, Pastor Paul

At the beginning of the Sunday School year, I was asked if I would be the mentor for this year's confirmation class. My first thought was – "No way! There is no replacing Marita, since she had been the mentor since my confirmation class". But even though there is no replacing Marita, I would have missed out if I had said no. So, I naively went into the class thinking that since I had taught the youth Sunday School for a few years, that I knew what to expect. But these confirmands threw a few surprises in the class. Whether it was about learning the shortest bible verse, multiple wives, or what pilgrims have to do with the United Church of Christ, their curiosity was infectious. I had the privilege to be able to ask questions that I wouldn't have had the knowledge or experience to ask when I was a confirmand. The confirmands and I were lucky enough to get our bibles and book from Pastor Paul. We had many interesting and "very serious" lessons learning about the bible, the greater church, and our congregation. Bless you, Pastor Paul!

Mackenzie and Jackson, I hope this class has piqued your interest in the church and your faith journey as this is only the beginning.

Jodie Puhr

CONFIRMATION BANNER

This is the design, created by Lisa Jaberg, of the Confirmation Banner.
It depicts the east entry doors.
It will be presented on Rally Sunday, September 7, 2025.



Jackson James Jaberg

My name is Jackson Jaberg, my parents are Peter and Lisa, I have four siblings which are Ally, Mason, Lilly and Hazel. My school this fall will be Truman High School and I will be in the 9th grade. In my free time, I play video games and do my work on Fandom wikis. In other words, I edit them. I also enjoy being outside and spending time in my basement with my cats. One question I would ask God is, why were we created? Was he lonely? You may be surprised to know that I am creating my own video game, which will take a few years, but I promise..... It will be worth the wait.



MacKenzie Irene McKinney

My name is MacKenzie McKinney. My parents are John & Paula McKinney. I have one sister, Gabby. I am 14 years old and will be a freshman at Lone Jack High School in the fall. I love to hang out with my friends, go on family vacations, and play volleyball. My goal is to play on the varsity volleyball team at my school. If I were the pastor at St. Luke's for a day I would give food to homeless people. I wish God would tell me what my future will look like. If I could go to lunch with anyone it would be with all of my friends.