

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

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.

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

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SILENT MEDITATION: "If you are really wise, you'll think this over—it's time you appreciated GOD's deep love." Psalm 107:43 (The Message)

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"The Harvest of Justice"

David Haas

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 73 "O Worship the King" (vs 1,2,4,5)

LYONS

O worship the King, all glorious above, O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 107)**

One: Give thanks to God, for God is good!

All: God's faithful love lasts forever!

One: God is eager to put loving arms around us.

All: God is waiting to satisfy the hunger and thirst of our souls.

One: Pay attention to the things God has done.

All: We will tell the world how God's faithful love has set us free.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Your love, O God, is faithful and lasts forever. You have delivered us from dangers and provided for us in times of need. Your grace comes to us even when our distress is of our own making. By your faithful love, we have been cared for, and our souls have been set free. Forgive us when we fail to remember that, or offer you our thanks for your great love. Let our praise declare the depths of your love. 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

"Shine on Us"

Michael W. and Deborah Smith

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:14-21

SERMON

"Sometimes You Need a Little Help From Your Friends"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 384 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

BEECHER

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Arr. Lorie Line

***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)**

Receive our offerings, Loving God, as an expression of our thankfulness. May these offerings and the ministry they make possible, provide care that sets others free from places of suffering. May the light of your love shine through all our efforts to share the presence of your comfort. Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Affirmation and Renewal of Faith (United Church of Canada Statement of Faith)

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus,
The Word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

To celebrate God's presence,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus,
Crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Sacrament

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

God of all, we rejoice in your presence among us, uniting us in one hope, rooted together in the depths of your great love. Through Christ and in the joy of this table we have renewed our souls. May our hearts rejoice in you, our hope and our strength. Amen

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 549 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

ST. PETER

Where charity and love prevail, there God is every found,
brought here together by Christ's love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.

Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

"When the Morning Comes"

Mary McDonald

The Liturgist today is Marita Ray.
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HVAC FUND

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.

RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday School began this morning with another fun filled year of Sunday School "Into the Depths of Love". A "tailgating" themed meal follows Worship today. All are welcome.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship will meet on Monday, September 8th, 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.

PALM BURNING AND FISHING DERBY

Palm Burning and Fishing Derby—September 29th at James A Reed Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit

The fishing Derby begins at 4:00 PM. This is for ages up to 16 years old ONLY.

If you are over 16 and are helping a child fish, you must have a license.

5:30 PM is a picnic supper and fellowship.

6:00 PM Palm Burning Service.

This is a very spiritual service with music and a devotion.

After the service the palms are burned. These ashes are then prepared and used for the Ash Wednesday Service on February 18. All are welcome and you are encouraged to bring friends and family

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.