

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.
Independence, Missouri 64050
Church Phone: 816-461-0302
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Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

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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.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SILENT MEDITATION: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." --Matthew 18:3

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"Father, We are Here"

Twila Paris

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 565 "Father, We Thank You"

RENDEZ A DIEU

Father, we thank you, for you planted your holy name with in our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal Jesus your Son to us imparts,
Lord, you have made all for your pleasure, and given us food for all our days,
giving in Christ the bread eternal; yours s the power, be yours the praise.

Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mercy, save it from evil, guard it still;
perfect it in your love, unite it, cleansed and conformed unto your will.
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides, was in the broken bread made one,
so from all lands your church be gathered into your kingdom by your Son.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Our ancestors in the faith listened for God's word.

All: We will listen for the ways God is being made known among us.

One: Saints through the ages have stood in the light of God's truth.

All: Surely, God has more light to shine upon us.

One: Come into God's presence to hear God's word for us now.

All: We seek the presence of God in our worship.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Holy God, you ask us to have the mind of Christ; a mind free of pretense and self-interest. You challenge us lay aside our agendas to go where you send us. Despite what we say, we are hesitant to do so. We fear all that obedience would demand of us. We confess our need of your forgiveness. Make us new in your grace and clothe us with your compassion. Open us to your Spirit, that we may walk in the way of Christ. 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

Ashley Pardee

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

"Pie Jesu"

Traditional Latin

SCRIPTURE SERMON

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 and Philippians 2:1-13
"The Not-so-innocent Children"

Pete Jaberg

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 526 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

CONVERSE

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "Thanks and Praise"

Arr. Elaine Rendler

***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)**

**We strive, O God, to follow the example of Christ. We let go of selfishness. We give of ourselves
and of what we have. We offer our best for the needs of others. We give to extend the message and
witness of your presence through this offering. Bless the service and ministry made possible as we
work together in unity for your glory. Amen**

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 715 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"**

DARWALL'S 148th

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of earth and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

**BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

“Just a Little Talk with Jesus”

Cleavant Derricks

The Liturgist is Paula McKinney.
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM BURNING AND FISHING DERBY

Palm Burning and Fishing Derby—October 11th at James A Reed Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit
More details will be shared closer to the date.
This is a very spiritual service with music and a devotion.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

The Neighbors in Need Offering will be taken on Sunday, October 4th.
The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. The focus this year for the offering is for neighbors who are fighting for disability housing accommodations and to stop the gun violence epidemic.
Offering envelopes are available on the back table. You can also donate online.

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.



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

For Giving options click on the QR code to the left.

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.