ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Independence, Missouri 64050
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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 Celebration Hymnal.

NOVEMBER 8, 2026 **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

SILENT MEDITATION: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." --Matthew 6:33

GATHERING MUSIC
GREETING
PRELUDE "Heavenly Love" V. B. (VEP) Ellis

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 424 "The Servant Song" THE SERVANT SONG

Brother, sister, let me serve you, Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; We're together on this road.
We are here to help each other Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you In the night-time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow Till we've seen this journey thro'.

When we sing to God in heaven, We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you, Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my servant too.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Let us seek to encounter the presence of God in our worship.
All: Our hope is in God's grace beyond all judgment.
One: We welcome the light God promises us.
All: Our trust is in God's love rather than our own merits.
One: We are invited to enter into the joyous presence of God.
All: Let our worship lead us into the joy of faithful service to our God.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Ever-present God, we long to stand in your presence. We know being with you will bring us great joy. We confess that we are so focused on preparing to meet you that we have failed to recognize when you might be among us. Forgive us, and let us place our trust fully in your mercy and grace that invite us to enter into the fullness of your 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 "Per la Gloria d'adorarvi" Giovanni Bononcini

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:1-13

SERMON "It's Not About the Oil!"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 429 "They'll Know We Are Christians" ST. BRENDAN'S

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one int he Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. (Refrain)

We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. (Refrain)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. (Refrain).

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "A Waltz in Jazz" Walter Noona and David Carr Glover

***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)**

Welcoming and loving God, we set our hope in you. We seek to serve you through our offerings and our efforts to encourage and equip one another for the ministry to which you have called us. Open our eyes to the many opportunities we have to enter into your joy by letting our light shine on others who stand in the darkness. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 437 “Send the Light” McCABE

There’s a call comes ringing o’er the restless wave,
“Send the light! Send the light!”
There are souls to rescue; there are souls to save.
Send the light! Send the light!

Refrain: Send the light, the blessed gospel light;
Let it shine from shore to shore!
Send the light, the blessed gospel light;
Let it shine forevermore!

We have heard the Macedonian call today,
“Send the light! Send the light!”
And a golden off’ring at the cross we lay;
Send the light! Send the light! [Refrain]

Let us pray that grace may everywhere abound;
Send the light! Send the light!
And a Christ-like spirit everywhere be found;
Send the light! Send the light! [Refrain]

Let us not grow weary in the work of love;
Send the light! Send the light!
Let us gather jewels for a crown above;
Send the light! Send the light! [Refrain]

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE “Testify” Dottie Peoples

The Liturgist is Jeff Ruoff.
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

There will be a Reception of Members, during worship, on November 22nd.
If you are worshiping with St. Luke's, in person or virtually,
and would like to become a member, please contact Pastor Paul.

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Men’s Fellowship will meet on Monday, November 9th, 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 Dan O’Neill.

SACRED MUSIC SUNDAY

NOTE: THE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED.
We will now have Sacred Music Sunday as worship on November 15th.
You won’t want to miss this very special service of music.

CALENDARS

Pastor Paul does a weekly quote from his sermons. These quotes have been made into a wall calendar for 2027 and are now available to be purchased for $17 each. They are nice, sturdy calendars with plenty of room to write on. There is a sample calendar in the church office. Orders are due by November 22nd.
For more information contact Marita Ray.

ADVENT MOVIE

On November 22nd, after worship, we will have a freewill offering dinner followed by the Advent Movie.
The movie's theme is usually used during the Advent Season.
If you can't attend and would like a link to the movie, please contact the church office.

HOLIDAY HELPERS

We are again participating in the Independence School District's Holiday Helper Campaign.
We will collect money from November 8th through Sunday, December 6th.
The donations will go to families in need that aren't helped by other programs.
A family from our congregation will be matching all our gifts up to $500.
Look for a Holiday Helper can in the sanctuary.

CHECK IN, SHARE AND COMMENT ON FACEBOOK

If you are worshiping 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.