

Love is Something You Do

MATTHEW 25:31-46

**Sunday, November 12, 2023, Mission Fest
St. Mark's United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Lisa Key, Chief Development Officer and Guest Speaker

Ann Rodewald, Organist

Brenda Schultz, Flutist

"I need to worship because without it I lose a sense of wonder and gratitude and plod through life with blinders on." —John Ortberg

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship: *Heralds of Christ , who bear the King's commands*

Call to Worship: [Psalm 66]

L: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

P: sing the glory of his name;

L: give to him glorious praise!

P: Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!"

L: So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

P: All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, maker of heaven and earth, of all things seen and unseen. Fill our hearts with the wonder and glory of your majesty. You who called Abraham to follow; Moses to lead; David to conquer; and Jesus to forgive, we are eternally thankful. Let us express our gratitude in our worship today! In Christ's holy name, let the Holy Spirit come among us! *Amen.*

Hymn: #561

Christ for the World! We Sing

[Please Be Seated]

Young at Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

We talk about how little we have and do not recognize the abundance we have when we share. We allow resources and gifts to be wasted in our neighborhoods instead of valuing and preserving the smallest fragments the world so often casts aside. We rush about life attempting to do everything on our own instead of being grateful for all the ways we love and support one another. We grumble about all that is going wrong instead of approaching you with gratitude and trust that you will provide. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to live as your grateful people.

Words of Assurance:

Receive the good news: God's love never fails! The same God who led the Israelites through to the Promised Land; the same Christ who commanded his disciples to gather leftover bread and fish so nothing would be lost; the same Holy Spirit who filled the people following the ascension has not forgotten nor forsaken us. Through Christ our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! *Amen.*

Special Music:

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 25:31-40 ESV

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,

or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Message:

Emmaus Homes

Lisa Key

Offering:

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

Offertory Music:

I Will Serve Thee

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Holy Shepherd of all generations, we bring our gifts this morning with thanksgiving and praise! We present these tithes and offerings not from hearts of obligation or debt, but with the confidence and joy that through your love made incarnate in your son Jesus, you've forever removed our debt. Our joy and gratitude are hard to contain. Use our gifts and our lives to do your work of compassion, mercy, and redemption. In Christ's name, we pray. *Amen.*

People's Prayer ~ 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Hymn: #716

God Be With You

Benediction:

May the love of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, bring us wholeness, the grace of Abbah, God the Father, grant us peace, and the breath of Holy Spirit instill passion and unity within us all. give us strength for this and every day as we go forth to love and serve our Lord in all that we do, all that we are, and all we will be. *Amen*

Postlude:

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

November 13th – William Dexter
14th – Sierra Bramstedt, Angel DeBlaey, Pat Flook
15th – Annabelle Uttech
16th – Ashley Grotegut
18th – Caroline Heckmann

ANNIVERSARIES :

November 14th – Eric & Natalie Lodes

COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!

St. James UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

~Sunday School meets 9-10am at both churches~

St. Mark's UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:

St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook



Check out our Website: www.stmstjucc.org

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com



Join us after the Worship Service today for a ham & meatball dinner! Carry outs also available.

FALL STUDY GROUP – Monday, November 13th, 10am/5pm at St. Mark's.
Bring your Bible.

ST. JAMES ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL – Wednesday, November 15th, 6:30pm.

ST. MARK'S CHOIR PRACTICE – Wednesday, November 15th, 7pm.

HS YOUTH GROUP MEETING – Next week Sun., Nov. 19th, 5:30pm at St. Mark's

ST. MARK'S – SIGN UP either in on the paper in the church entryway or online for your choice of month to usher in 2024.



**St. James and St. Mark's ladies
join us for BUNCO NIGHT**

Thursday, Nov. 16th

6pm at St. James.

A \$5 participation fee is optional

Please join us and RSVP to

Jackie Mueller or Tammy

Serketich or email

tserketich@yahoo.com



Mark Your Calendar:

Thanksgiving Eve Service with Communion,
Wednesday, November 22nd, 7pm, at St. James



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our joint SMJ Youth, as well as St. Mark's Sunday School, are collecting items for girls & boys ages 5-9. This month we're collecting toys. Monetary gifts are also accepted.

Ideas: Ball Toy cars Yo-Yo *Etch A Sketch®
*Slinky® Interactive toy Kaleidoscope
Building blocks Other small toys and figures
Small board games Small doll
Plastic dinosaurs, animals, and action figures
*smaller versions of these items

ST. MARK'S COOKIE EXCHANGE

If you would like to participate in a cookie exchange, sign up on the sheet in the church entry. Package your cookies in groups of 6 in bags, boxes, or plates. Signups are due by Saturday, December 9. I will let you know by Sunday, December 10 how many half-dozens to bring. Have your cookies at St. Mark's by 9:00 am on Sunday, December 17. After the church service, you will have a beautiful assortment of cookies to take home. A maximum of 12 people may participate. *If you would like to bring extras for Pastor to take along on his home visits, that would be welcomed as well.



-Contact Lori Roelse with questions.

2024 Mission Trip Elliott County, Kentucky

Our Trip will be: July 14-19, 2024

All are welcome!

We held our first mission trip meeting but there is still time for you to join!

To reserve your spot, please contact Anna Marie Bramstedt with your \$50 (non-refundable) deposit. I have 35 spots held until November 20th (first come, first serve). After that spots are no longer guaranteed, they are dependent then on Next Step Missionaries availability.

Any further questions, please contact

Anna Marie Bramstedt @ 920.698.7656 or jaab93000@tds.net

GPS

Grow – deeper in our faith and relationship with God.

Pray – pray daily for family, neighbors, and others.

Study – read the Bible, pray over what we read, ask questions.

30 years ago, I lived in Florida. And on January 26, 1986 I and the nation observed a tragedy that stunned the world. The space shuttle Challenger exploded only 73 seconds into its flight from the Kennedy Space Center. All seven astronauts aboard were killed including New Hampshire teacher Christa McAuliffe. She had been selected to fly in NASA's "Teacher in Space" program.

"The whole country and the whole world were in shock when that happened, because that was the first time the United States had actually lost a space vehicle with crew on board," said former NASA astronaut Leroy Chiao, who flew three space shuttle missions during his career (in 1994, 1996 and 2000).

The suddenness of this loss affected people throughout the nation. It was a reminder of the fragility and fleetness of our lives. In one brief moment all the work, effort and expense of these men and women throughout their lives were gone.

In a nutshell, life as we know it will one day come to an end. All history will come to a climatic finale when Jesus returns. No one, except the Father, knows when that will be. Not even Jesus Christ Son of God. That conclusion could be sooner than we think, or it may be millennia away. Ultimately, we need to be prepared. Here is a life expression by which we can live:

Live as though Jesus is coming back today;

Plan as though he is not coming back for a hundred years.

Prayer: Lord and Savior, bless us with understanding, compassion and zeal to live our lives with you at the heart of all we do, all we are and all we will be. *Amen.*

NOTES:

Our Guest Speaker, Lisa Key has served as the Chief Development Officer at Emmaus Homes for nearly 15 years. Lisa has spent her entire professional career working in the non-profit community in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Lisa is a life-long member of the United Church of Christ. Lisa and her husband Randy, live in Warren County MO and are parents to 4 grown(ish) children, 2 grandchildren and one very spoiled labradoodle.



Emmaus Homes:

Their Mission: *Compelled by faith in Jesus Christ,* we enrich the lives of individuals of all beliefs, with cognitive or developmental disabilities, by fostering independence, inclusion, and self-advocacy.

HELPING PEOPLE

WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LIVE LIKE **YOU & ME**

For more than 125 years, Emmaus - a faith-based organization, has provided quality services, caring for the whole person their whole life.