



ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REV. SEOK NAM LIM

BLESSED IS THE
ONE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF
THE LORD

PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2026

10:00 am

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jodi Shaw, Liturgist

PRELUDE In Christ Alone *with* At the Cross **Fletcher Wernholm, Organist**
Leon Beaudin, Pianist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Give thanks to God, who is truly good.

Hosanna in the highest.

Praise Christ, whose love abounds with grace.

Hosanna in the highest.

Welcome the Spirit with songs of praise.

Hosanna in the highest.

HYMN All Glory, Laud, and Honor

UMH 280

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God the Redeemer, we give thanks to you for manifesting your faithful love through Christ of both celebration and sorrow. Be with us in our time of worship today and in the week ahead. Help us embrace the fulness of your story, both the triumph and the tragedy. Strengthen us to proclaim blessing and hope, no matter the circumstances, that we may be children of your promise, both now and forevermore. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

"NOISY" OFFERING & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

MEMBERSHIP CEREMONY

HYMN Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

UMH 277

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:31-35

MESSAGE **Following Jesus on the way to Jerusalem**

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY **Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone**

Fletcher Wernholm, Organist

Leon Beaudin, Pianist

DOXOLOGY **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

UMH 94

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**We give you thanks, Christ Jesus, for your goodness and your grace.
Blessing the gifts and lives we offer to you, that they may bring goodness
and grace to your world. In gratitude and joy in you, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN **Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

UMH 278

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

**With songs in our heart,
we move toward the cross.
May God bless us
with strength for the journey ahead.
Go with God,
knowing Christ is on the journey with us.**

POSTLUDE **Victory in Jesus**

Fletcher Wernholm, Organist

Leon Beaudin, Pianist

Sermon Summary

Following Jesus on the way to Jerusalem (Luke 13:31-35)

Summary: Jesus resolutely made his way to Jerusalem even though he knew the people of Jerusalem would reject him.

Jesus on the Way to Jerusalem

When Jesus “made his way to Jerusalem,” “traveling throughout towns and villages” in the land of Judah (Lk. 13:22), some Pharisees came to him and gave him a warning: “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you” (Lk. 13:31). They were the messengers of Herod the king in the territory of Galilee. They delivered to Jesus the intention of Herod to kill him. Their warning was intended to make him withdraw from his ministry or to remove him from the public stage of Israel rather than to protect him from the hands of Herod, who intended to kill him. Pharisees opposed Jesus, whose ministry was highly popular among the people of Israel. They were attempting to threaten Jesus with death, whose ministry was thriving all over the land of Judah. In fact, the Pharisees were a group of people affiliated with or in union with the religious leaders who planned to kill Jesus when he went to Jerusalem: “The chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest and kill him [Jesus]” (Mark 14:1). The Pharisees united with Herod so that they might threaten Jesus to stop his ministry and make him leave away from them.

Jesus’ Resurrection Fulfilling the Coming of God’s Kingdom: His Crucifixion Prior to His Resurrection

Facing the threat of Herod, Jesus was not subordinated to the Pharisees’ advice. He did not make any compromise with their warning. In his reply to their warning, moreover, he showed no fear of Herod. Rather, Jesus called him “fox”; “Go tell that fox” (Luke 13:32). “Fox” means “shrewd person” and “destroyer.” Herod used his power to destroy the people of God and his kingdom according to his egoistic and sinful desire. He destroyed John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus, to consolidate his own power and kingdom. What is worse, he was trying to destroy Jesus himself, in whom God’s kingdom will be fully manifested. The term “fox” implies a political significance. Jesus was not afraid of calling Herod “fox,” “the evil destroyer,” in public. Jesus had the clear conscience to recognize the evil or injustice in the political realm. He did not compromise with social and political evils. Rather, he announced Herod the king to be a “fox,” which means an unjust king.

However, the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed is more than a political thing. Jesus replied to the Pharisee for attempting to stop his ministry and his journey to Jerusalem by threatening him by the name of Herod the king: “I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal” (Luke 13:32).

Jesus knew what would happen to him in Jerusalem: “Surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!” (Luke 13:33). Before his resurrection, his crucifixion should come. His death in Jerusalem is a continuation of his presence with the weak, the sick, the oppressed, and the poor: It is his union with humanity to set them free from the power of sin, evil, and death. Jesus knew that without his death on the cross, his resurrection life could not be real. He should suffer and die on the cross in Jerusalem in order that he may arrive at his goal, his resurrection: “In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day – for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!” (Luke 13:33).

Jesus’ crucifixion is one of the highest moments of his life as the life-giver: It is his action to fully show his love to the people of Israel, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. In their eyes, the cross of Christ is a sign of God’s condemnation or absence, not God’s power and presence. What will happen to Jesus in Jerusalem will be a stumbling block to the Pharisees and the Jews, who will unite with Herod the king,

Pilate the Roman governor, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law to persecute and kill Jesus. Jesus will prove his identity as the Christ of God through his crucifixion and resurrection. On the third day, after he dies on the cross, he will fully reveal the power of God's kingdom through his resurrection. His suffering and crucifixion should come before his resurrection.

Consequently, those who reject Jesus the crucified Lord will not enter the kingdom of God: Jerusalem, which rejects Jesus, will be made desolate. It will no longer be God's dwelling place. When Christ comes back, those who reject him will not enter his kingdom: "Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'" (Luke 13:35).

Following Jesus

This is what Jesus taught his disciples before he began his journey to Jerusalem. They were so excited by Jesus and his ministry with power and glory. His speech and action were so mighty. His disciples believed in him as the Messiah. Peter confessed to Jesus, "[You are] the Christ of God" when he asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" (Luke 9:20). And then Jesus taught them what the Christ of God will do: "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life" (Luke 9:22).

What is discipleship? What is the life of God's kingdom today? It is to participate in the kingdom ministry of Christ, who suffered many things and died on the cross to give life to the world: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of his Father and of the holy angels. I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they will see the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:23-27).

THE MEMBERSHIP CEREMONY

- **INTRODUCTION TO THE COVENANT**

Pastor: The church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time, for the conduct of worship and the due administration of God's Word and Sacraments, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world. All, of every age and station, stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies.

- **ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER**

Pastor: Forrest and Patricia Robison have transferred their memberships to St. Luke's United Methodist Church from Grace United Methodist Church.

- **THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER TO LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastor: As the members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

Forrest and Patricia Robison: We will.

- **RECONFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The pastor announces to Forrest and Patricia Robison

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

Forrest and Patricia Robison: I believe in God, the Father of Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Forrest and Patricia Robison: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Forrest and Patricia Robison: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Do you believe in the holy catholic church?

Forrest and Patricia Robison: I believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

- **RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION**

Let those who are members of the body of Christ, the holy catholic church, and other congregations of The United Methodist Church, and who now desire to enter the fellowship of this congregation, present themselves to be welcome.

- **COMMENDATION AND WELCOME**

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend Forrest and Patricia J. Robison to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm our hope in Christ, and perfect them and you together in love.

Congregation: We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy Church, and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

- **PASTOR'S BLESSING**

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called all of us to eternal glory in Christ, establish all of you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that you may live in grace and peace.

All: Amen.

Church leaders may join with the pastor in acts of welcome and peace.

The Families of

Rebecca, the mother of the daughter-in-law of Forrest and Patricia Robison
Gordon Casciano (the grandson of Phil and Eileen Casciano)
Crissa Redifer (the stepmother of Beth Redifer)

Pray For

Ann Davis
Joye Kramer
Bev Walker
Sandy Augustine
Charol Thorton (the friend of Jackie Schmidt)
Roger Trerice
Melissa Coleman, the sister of Tiffany Coleman
Jean Killey
Tiffany Coleman
Charlie Parks (the son-in-law of Sharon VanEvery)
Lois Soltysiak
Beth (the daughter of Bob Davidson)
William Kozuch (husband of Fritzi Stevenson)
Rachel Lochinski (daughter of Fritzi Stevenson)
Ho-Ok Lim (mother of Pastor Seok Nam Lim)
Tom Piotrowski (brother-in-law of Jan Deming)

Shut-ins

Ann and Frank Davis, Bob Davidson, Florence Decker, Sandy Gillam,
Marletta Gross, Susan Hendrickson, Jean Killey, Betty Martinek, Barb Meyer,
Phyllis Finn, Ruth Matherne, Lorane Peglow, Jane Russell, Jacky Sansburn, and Roger Trerice.

Please keep in prayer all who are suffering in our world—those living amid war, natural disasters, violence, hatred, poverty, and deep grief. Remember especially individuals facing mental health challenges, whose burdens may be unseen but are profoundly felt. Pray for unity within our nation and that the freedom we have in Christ will guide, steady, and strengthen us. Hold close the members of our St. Luke's family who are walking through illness, loss, or hardship. And ask God to bless the ministry of St. Luke's UMC, that we may serve with compassion, courage, and grace.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

(Psalm 23:4)

Requests will be kept on the list for 1 month. If you would like your prayer request to remain on the list or be re-added, please let us know. SUBMIT YOUR PRAYER REQUEST through our website, email office@stlulkesumcni.org, by filling out a connection card, located on the pew backs, or the Prayer box located in front of the church.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Security Meeting Today

There will be a brief security meeting with the Sunday School Teachers and the Security Team immediately following the worship service in Esther's Parlor.

Spring Bazaar & Drawing Winners

Congratulations to all the winners from this year's Spring Bazaar! We appreciate our donors and shoppers for their generosity, which supports our ministries. Thank you to everyone who contributed items or helped out—you made the bazaar a success. Your support strengthens our church community, and this year's profits will go toward funding our upcoming Vacation Bible School. Stay tuned for the Fall Bazaar in October!

Prize Winners:

Cheesecake – Kathy Erndt

Towel – Joy Sansburn

Turquoise Necklace – Laura Meyers

Girl Scout Cookies (Tagalongs & Samoas) – Gene Kramer

2 Coffees – Dan Morgan

Scarf – Laura Meyers

Black Necklace – Joye Kramer

Bed Doll – Joyce Simpson

Knitted Hat – Marsha Yagiela

Easter Egg Hunt – Thank You!

Our Easter Egg Hunt yesterday was a wonderful success, and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to everyone who donated candy, filled eggs at home, volunteered on the day of the event, or supported us in any way. Your generosity and teamwork made this joyful tradition possible for our children, and we are so grateful for the love you poured into it.

Make Some Noise for Heifer International!

We continue to invite the congregation to support Heifer International's mission to end hunger and poverty through Easter. Throughout Lent, everyone is encouraged to bring spare change for this special offering. Our children will gather your coins from the congregation and return them to the altar. For quieter gifts, please use a pew envelope and write "**Heifer International**" on it. Together, let's collect enough change to provide barnyard animals and make a meaningful difference in the lives of families around the world

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen needs the following donations:

- Chicken or Beef Broth
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal or Oatmeal
- Coffee, Tea, or Drink Mixes
- Salad Dressing
- BBQ Sauce

Please place your donations on the Missions Table by the Welcome Desk. Donations will be accepted through April 5.

Missions Opportunity

Sign up to help at Matthew25 Cafe' on Saturdays, 10:30 am–1:00 pm (410 10th St, Bay City). Tasks include prep, cooking, serving, and clean up. We need 3 volunteers for each of the following dates: April 18, May 16, June 20. See the sign-up board or register online at <https://www.stlukesumcmi.org/calendar>. For more information see our Missions coordinators: Kathy Erndt and Becky Scott.

Golden Friends

The next Golden Friends outing is coming up on April 6 at the Ponderosa Steakhouse, 2861 Wilder Rd., beginning at 12:00 pm. We'd love to have you join us. The registration sheet is posted on the Sign-Up

bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall, **and today is the final day to sign up.** If you have any questions, Judy and Joe Fleming would be happy to help.

Spaghetti & Game Night | April 10 | 5:30–9:00 PM

Join us for a fun evening of spaghetti and games! PLEASE sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to plan for and what you would like to donate for the meal.

Donations needed:

- 6–8 jars of Ragu spaghetti sauce (plain)
- Garlic bread or toast
- Parmesan cheese
- Desserts
- Punch ingredients

Bus Trip to UM Community House

Join our Church Family & Friends for a bus trip to the United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids on May 6, 2026, for a day of touring, fellowship, and light volunteer work. We will depart from Meijer on Wilder Road in Bay City at 7:30 am and return at 4:30 pm. The cost is \$50 per person (includes ride, driver tip, and lunch) and is due at sign-up. You may give your payment to Gloria Gonzales, Becky Scott, or Brenda Scramlin—or mail checks payable to United Women in Faith to St. Luke's UMC, 206 Scheurmann St., Essexville, MI 48732. Please sign up by March 31, 2026.

Breakfast Book Club

Join us for a delightful morning of conversation, community, and breakfast at Esther's Parlor on Friday, April 18, from 9–11 AM. Our featured book is "Heaven Has Blue Carpet" by Sharon Niedzinski, a heartfelt and thought-provoking read that invites reflection, faith, and meaningful discussion. Whether you've finished the book or are just beginning, all are welcome to come enjoy good food, great company, and rich conversation. Bring a friend and start your day inspired! Pick up a free copy from the library shelf, and remember to sign up on the bulletin board, online, or through the app by April 12th. A light breakfast will be provided.

VBS Planning Meeting | April 30 | 5:00-6:00pm | Team Leaders and Volunteers | All are invited

The Lenten Banner is designed as a unique countdown marker for Lent. Every Sunday, as well as Good Friday, an additional patch will be placed on it, marking the approach toward Easter's celebration. Throughout the six weeks of Lent, the banner presents symbols encouraging reflection on Christ's suffering as we anticipate the joy of Easter.

1. The first symbol represents the sacrament of Communion and the beginning of Lent and Christ's sacrifice of body and blood.
2. A rooster to remind us of Peter's denial of his relationship with Christ and our occasional unfaithfulness.
3. The gavel of the Jewish leaders, denouncing Christ and sending Him to the Romans to be killed.
4. The dice, used by the Roman soldiers to gamble for Christ's clothes. While he was suffering and dying on the cross above them.
5. The crown of thorns, cruelly pounded onto Christ's head, causing extreme pain. The thorns are a representation of the pain that our sins caused our Savior.
6. The palms of Palm Sunday. To start off the sorrow and suffering of Holy Week, we stop to celebrate Christ's joyous entry into Jerusalem.
7. The cup, to represent the Last Supper and the gift of Holy Communion that Christ told us to "DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME".
8. The spikes, pounded into the hands of Christ, to hold him on the cross. The cross where he suffered and died for us and our salvation.



Upcoming

Sun Mar 29, 2026

11am Security meeting with SS Teachers & SecurityTeam

Tue Mar 31, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers
5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 50560

Wed Apr 1, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Apr 2, 2026

7pm Maundy Thursday Service

Fri Apr 3, 2026

7pm Good Friday service

Sat Apr 4, 2026

9am U.M.M Breakfast @ Krzysiak's

Sun Apr 5, 2026

10am Easter Sunday Service

Mon Apr 6, 2026

12pm Golden Friends at Ponderosa
Steakhouse
7:30pm Crew 206 Youth group

Tue Apr 7, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers

Wed Apr 8, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers
6:30pm Needleworkers
6:30pm UWif Meeting Gardens of Hope

Thu Apr 9, 2026

6pm Girl Scout Leader's Meeting in Room 1
6:30pm Thursday Bible Study: "Psalms"
7pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Fri Apr 10, 2026

5:30pm Spaghetti & Game Night

Sun Apr 12, 2026

10am Worship Service

Mon Apr 13, 2026

6pm UWif Executive Meeting
7:30pm Crew 206 Youth group

Online calendar: <https://www.stlukesumcmi.org/calendar>

Tue Apr 14, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up
5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 50560

Wed Apr 15, 2025

UWiF - Helen Nickless Clinic Meal
10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Apr 16, 2026

6:30pm Thursday Bible Study: "Psalms"
7pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Apr 18, 2026

9am Breakfast Book Club
9am U.M.M. breakfast @ Krzysiak's
10:30am Missions Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

Sun Apr 19, 2026

Special Sunday - Native American Ministries Sunday

Mon Apr 20, 2026

7:30 Crew 206 Youth Group

Tue Apr 21, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers

Wed Apr 22, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Apr 23, 2026

6:30 Thursday Bible Study: "Psalms"

Fri Apr 24 to Sat Apr 25

UWiF Central Bay District Spiritual Life
Retreat

Mon Apr 27, 2026

6:30pm Governance Board Meeting
7:30pm Crew 206 Youth Group

Tue Apr 28, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers
5:30am Youth Group

Wed Apr 29, 2026

10:30 Wednesday Weavers

Thu Apr 30, 2026

5pm VBS Planning Meeting

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

Jodi Shaw

Children's Church

Sheila Good (L)

Becky Scott

Ushers

Hope Bertelsen, Brenda Kemp
Sandy Mercer, Fritzi Stevenson

Counters

Eric Yagiela

Becky Scott

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Eileen Casciano

Children's Church

(L)

Joy Clark

Ushers

Henry Roeder
Joe Fleming, and others

Counters

Eric Yagiela

Brenda Kemp

Communion

Fritzi Stevenson, Henry Roeder
Gloria Gonzales, Charlotte McGrath

Acolytes

(varies week to week)

Connor Yagiela, Lauren Yagiela,
Jazzlyn Jones, Kyliana Green,
Myles Sullivan

To Sign up for our E-newsletter

<https://stlukesumcmi.org#newsletter-subscribe>

Newsletter for March 26, 2026

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2026-mar-26>

✿ Altar Flowers ✿

If you'd like to offer altar flowers in honor or celebration of someone or something meaningful, please add your name to the sign-up board for an upcoming Sunday.

February Financials	Amount
General Fund	\$12,362.00
Income/Contributions	
General Fund Expenses	\$18,298.00
Shortfall	-\$ 5,936.00

Stay Connected



Address

206 Scheurmann St
Essexville MI 48732



Phone

Church: 989-893-8031
Parsonage: 989-894-2453



Office Hours

Tue & Wed 9-3, Thu 9-12



Email

office@stlukesumcmi.org

Website

<https://www.stlukesumcmi.org>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesumcmi>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@stlukesumcmi>

Staff

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Christian Education Coordinator

Janie Good
christianed@stlukesumcmi.org

Adult Sunday School

Fall, Winter, Spring
9:00 am in Esther's Parlor

Children's Church:

Following Children's Message
in Classroom 3

Youth Group

Mondays at 7:00 pm

Get our App

<https://bit.ly/stlukesumcmi-app>



Online Giving

<https://www.stlukesumcmi.org/give>

