

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Easter 2026



I AM THE

*Resurrection*

AND THE

*Life*

JOHN 11:25

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## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** Thine Is the Glory **Leon Beaudin, Organist**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** **Eileen Casciano, Liturgist**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We don't know where to find Jesus.

**The days have been dark. The news has been sad.**

We don't know what to do with our grief.

**The cross has claimed his life. The tomb has shrouded our hope.**

We don't know where to turn for comfort.

**Who has stolen him from us? Why are we alone at the tomb?**

We don't know where to look for answers.

**Tears and sorrow blind us in our grief. We don't know where to find Jesus.**

**HYMN** Christ the Lord Is Risen Today VS 1, 2, 3 + 4 **UMH 302**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**God of mystery and might, on a dawn shrouded in grief and pain, you surprise us with the light of your wonderous love. We come to the tomb expecting death but find life instead. Take us back to that moment, when fear was healed by hope and death was banished by life. In the holy awe of Easter morning, may we sing out our joy, for Christ, our Lord, has risen today! Amen.**

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**A READING FROM PSALM** **Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** **Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

**HYMN** He Lives **UMH 310**

**PASTORAL PRAYER** **Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians. 3:1-4

**MESSAGE** Life in Union with Christ the Risen Lord

**Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

## OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

**OFFERTORY** How Great Thou Art

**Leon Beaudin**

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

**UMH 94**

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

**With gratitude and joy, O God, we bring these gifts for your use, even as we offer our very lives into your loving service. May our financial assistance and the ministries of this church bring new life to a hurting world in need of resurrection. May our gifts touch the lost and lonely with the assurance that in your arms, life never ends and love never dies. In the name of Christ Jesus, the risen Lord, we pray. Amen.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

#### COMMUNION MUSIC

**Leon Beaudin**

**HYMN** Up from the Grave he Arose

**UMH 322**

## SENDING FORTH

### BENEDICTION

**Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

From darkness and death, we find light and life.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

From doubt and despair, we find faith and hope.

**Christ is with us now! Shout for joy!**

From dead ends and overgrown paths, we find new beginnings and clear vistas.

**Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!**

**POSTLUDE** Rejoice, the Lord Is King

**Leon Beaudin, Organist**

# **Sermon Summary**

## **Life in Union with Christ the Risen Lord (Col. 3:1-4)**

**Summary** – Our union with Christ, the foundation of our Christian life, demands that we live in conformity to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, so that we may take a pilgrimage to the day when the glory of Christ will be revealed.

### **(1) Church Founded upon God's Salvation History in Christ**

Paul commands the Colossian Christians to “look for the things that are above where Christ is sitting at God’s right hand” (Col. 3:1). But, before he makes this command, he presents the story of Christ, especially his resurrection: “You were raised with Christ” (Col. 3:1). Based on the resurrection of Christ, Paul commands the Colossian Christians to look for the things above. His command is the same one as Jesus’ command, “Seek first and foremost the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Mt. 6:33). After this command, Paul provides another command to the Colossian Christians: “Think about the things above and not things on earth” (Col. 3:2). Paul focuses on our minds, their renewal, and their transformation. This command to set our minds on the things above is based on the crucifixion of Christ: “You died with Christ, and your life is safely and securely located with Christ in God, his heavenly place, so that your minds should not fall in love with the desire of the world.” If our minds are seduced and captivated by the sensual and worldly pleasures, we will not look for the things above, the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Paul’s commands to the Colossian Christians are founded upon the redemptive history of God, which has come true in Christ: “[God] rescued us from the control of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. He set us free through the Son and forgave our sins” (Col. 1:13), so that we must look for God’s kingdom and we don’t have to fall in love with the world. Our Christian life begins with Christ, his crucifixion, and his resurrection. The starting point of our Christian life story is the life history of Christ.

Without the historical foundation of the resurrection of Christ, our Christian faith is meaningless, and without his story of resurrection, our personal life story and the church history are nothing but worthless and in vain; “If Christ has not been

raised, then your faith is of no use and without hope” (1 Cor. 15:17). The resurrection of Christ is a historical event of God’s salvation, which is foundational to the life of all the churches. Without his resurrection, our gathering on Easter Sunday is meaningless and useless.

## **(2) Union with Christ, His Crucifixion and Resurrection**

What is more, Paul teaches us of union with Christ, his crucifixion and resurrection: “You died” with Christ and were raised with him so that “your life is hidden with Christ in God,” and your status is transferred with Christ, who ascended “at the right hand of God” (Col. 3:1-3). When Christ was raised up from the dead, we were raised up with Christ. We were united with the resurrection of Christ. When Christ was crucified, our sinful passions and desires also were put to death with him on the cross: “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and its desires” (Gal. 5:24). Our person in sinfulness was put to death on the cross with Christ. When Christ died on the cross, we died with him. When he was buried, we were “buried together with him” (Rom. 6:4). We were baptized into his death (Rom. 6:3).

We belong to Christ, who is seated at the right hand of God after being raised from the dead. Our position is on the side of Christ. Our life is hidden and secured with Christ in God, and no one will be able to take it away and destroy it. This is what Christ achieved through his resurrection; “He died to sin once for all with his death, but he lives for God with his life. In the same way, you also should consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11). It is our union with Christ. This is God’s gift; “it does not depend on a person’s desire or effort. It depends entirely on God, who shows mercy” (Rom. 9:16).

### **(3) Discipleship as Living in Union with Christ**

Based on our union with Christ, Paul commands us, “Look for things above” and “Set your minds on things that are above” (Colossians 3:1-2). All aspects of our lives should correspond to our being in Christ. Discipleship is to live worthy of our union with Christ (Col. 1:9-10). Because of the resurrection of Christ, we were raised with him, who is at the right hand of God. Therefore, we must live as the people of God’s kingdom, making our lives imitate the image of Christ. Because of Christ’s achievement through the crucifixion, we do not have to live in subjection to our sinful desires but according to the holiness and justice of God. Paul commands the Colossian Christians to “set [their minds] on things above, not on earthly things” (Col. 3:2). God called us into union with Christ so that we may not live in slavery to the power of sin, the sinful desire within us, but in subjection to the life of Christ (Rom. 6:14).

### **(4) Life in Pilgrimage to the Day when the Glory of Christ Is Revealed**

Our union with Christ will lead us to participation in his glory in the future: “When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:4). Christ will come again, and we will join his glory, the kingdom festival, which will be opened with his coming. We will rejoice in him and his glory. The rest of our life is a pilgrimage to the city of God to come in the glory of Christ. However, the day when we will appear with Christ in glory is also the Day of Judgment, not only to those who do not believe in Christ but also to those who believe in Christ. The mind looking for things in heaven is the one in the power of the Holy Spirit, and its fruit is to be “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Gal. 5:22-23). We must be productive in this fruit. We must manifest our union with Christ through our love for God and our neighbors.

# THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,  
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so,

with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me."

And so,  
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.  
Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **BREAKING THE BREAD**

Because there is one loaf,  
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

## **GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# 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.

*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)**

*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.*

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@stlukesumcmi.org](mailto:office@stlukesumcmi.org), by filling out a  
connection card, located on the pew backs, or the Prayer box located in front of the church.

# **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Fellowship Time**

There will be no fellowship time following the Easter service, as many will be heading out for the day. Whether you are with family, friends, or on your own, we wish you a meaningful and blessed Easter. Open slots are available in the upcoming weeks; please see the signup sheet on the bulletin board.

## **United Women in Faith will be gathering on Wednesday, April 8 at 6:30 in Esther's Parlor.**

The program will be a presentation about the Gardens of Hope campaign. This is a Michigan Conference initiative that aims to transform communities in Haiti through sustainable agriculture, education, and healthcare initiatives. Jesus said if you give them a fish they will eat for a day. Teach them to fish and they will never be hungry. Support of this cause will provide vital resources that empower local farmers, educate children, and enhance healthcare access. Together, we can build a brighter future for Haitian families, fostering resilience and sustainable growth. Please mark your calendar to plan to attend this informative meeting.

## **VBS Volunteer Signup**

Vacation Bible School is coming July 20–22, from 5:00–7:30 PM, and we are looking for volunteers to help make it a meaningful and fun experience for our kids. From leading groups to helping with activities and support roles, there are many ways to serve. Whether you're able to help one evening or multiple, your time and heart make a difference. Sign-up on the bulletin board to be part of our VBS team! See Janie Good if you need further details.

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

## **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.

## **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

## **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.

## Office Update

I will be away from the office on medical leave beginning April 2 for an estimated 6–8 weeks. During this time, I will continue working from home, with church office calls forwarded to my cell phone during regular work hours. Because I will not be in the building, please do not leave announcements or event information on my desk or in my mail slot. Anyone who needs information about how to submit materials may contact me directly. You may call the church office or email [office@stlukesumcmi.org](mailto:office@stlukesumcmi.org). You can also text me on my mobile phone at 989-891-9815. Thank you for your understanding and for your prayers.

— Sheila Good, Office Manager

## Upcoming

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

### 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  
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

### 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

### 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

# Easter Altar Flowers

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Joyce Bradley, Jan Oswald,  
Sue and Jim McCarty,  
and Dave Maillette

In memory of parents, Marian and  
Solomon Bradley, and sister/wife, Judy  
Maillette

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Phil and Eileen Casciano

In memory of Gordon

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Janie Good

In memory of parents

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Sheila Good

In memory of David Good,  
parents and siblings

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Ted and Sue Lind

In memory of Arvid and Carolyn Charles  
and Earl Lind

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In memory of Wilfred and Nellie Morin,  
Virginia LaRose

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Bruce and Mary McShane

In honor of our soldiers

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Char McGrath

In memory of grandson, Liam & Connor

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Sally Roby

In memory of family and friends

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Fritzi Stevenson

In memory of George and Pat Stevenson

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In memory of Ike and Joan Kozvel

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Gene and Nellie Vandermark

In honor of us

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*Those who ordered flowers may take them home after today's service.*

*Thank you for helping beautify our Easter worship.*

# Volunteers

## Serving This Sunday

### **Liturgist**

Eileen Casciano

### **Children's Church**

TBD (L)

Joy Clark

### **Ushers**

Henry Roeder

Joe Fleming, and others

### **Counters**

Eric Yagiela

Brenda Kemp

### **Communion**

Fritzi Stevenson, Henry Roeder

Gloria Gonzales, Charlotte McGrath

### **To Sign up for our E-newsletter**

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

### **Newsletter for April 2, 2026**

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2026-apr-2>

## Serving Next Sunday

### **Liturgist**

Sue Lind

### **Children's Church**

Becky Scott

Linda Manyen

### **Ushers**

Henry Roeder

Joe Fleming, and others

### **Counters**

Eric Yagiela

Char McGrath

### **Acolytes**

*(varies week to week)*

Connor Yagiela, Lauren Yagiela,

Jazzlyn Jones, Kyliana Green,

Myles Sullivan

### ✿ 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.*

# 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](mailto:office@stlukesumcmi.org)

## Website

<https://www.stlukesumcmi.org>

## Facebook

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

## YouTube

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

## Get our App

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



# Staff

## Pastor

Rev. Seok Nam Lim  
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Mobile: 347-885-1948

## Office Manager

Sheila Good  
[office@stlukesumcmi.org](mailto:office@stlukesumcmi.org)

## Organist

Leon Beaudin

## Accountant

Donna Gross  
[accountant@stlukesumcmi.org](mailto:accountant@stlukesumcmi.org)

## AV Coordinator

Andrew Felch  
[avtech@stlukesumcmi.org](mailto:avtech@stlukesumcmi.org)

## Christian Education Coordinator

Janie Good  
[christianed@stlukesumcmi.org](mailto: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

## Online Giving

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

