

# **St. Luke's United Methodist Church**

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

**Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation**

**April 26, 2026**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**



**We are the People of the United Methodist Church**  
**Our Vision~ "Share Love and Give Hope"**

April 19, 2026

10:00 am

## **GATHERING**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Eric Ives, Liturgist**

**PRELUDE** Give Me Jesus with, Lord We Praise You

**Leon Beaudin, Piano**

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

Do you need a guide?

**The Lord is our shepherd.**

Do you need a path to new life?

**The Lord is our gate.**

Do you need rest?

**The Lord restores our souls.**

Come, let us worship.

**HYMN**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

**UMH 158**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**God the Lord, Gentle Savior, you call us as your own. When danger is close at hand, you gather us to yourself, that we might dwell secure. When evil surrounds us, you give us a home and a safe place to rest. When foes threaten our fellowship, you rescue us from peril. Restore our souls and lead us on the paths of righteousness, that we may walk in the ways of goodness and mercy, all the days of our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, we pray. Amen.**

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS**

**Psalm 23**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

**HYMN**

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

**UMH 128**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Philippians 3:3-14**

**MESSAGE** Living in Faithfulness to Christ the Lord

**Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

## **OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY** You Raise Me Up

**Leon Beaudin**

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

**UMH 94**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God, the Shepherd of our souls, we thank you for the love that flows through our lives. May this love flow through these gifts, that no one may be in need. Work through this offering and through our very lives, that your community of love may be established here on earth for all the sheep of your fold. In the holy name of Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN** Jesus Calls Us

**UMH 398**

## **SENDING FORTH**

## **BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

The Lord is our shepherd.

**We shall not want.**

In pastures green, we rest secure.

**By still waters, we rest secure.**

Go with the blessings of our shepherd.

**POSTLUDE** Lead On, O King Eternal

**Leon Beaudin, Organist**

# **Sermon Summary**

## **Living in Faithfulness to Christ the Lord (Philippians 3:3-14)**

Summary: Knowing Christ makes Paul live in dependence on the righteousness of Christ and in imitation of his sufferings in order to experience his resurrection life today.

### **Paul as an Example of God's Grace**

The coming of Christ is a turning point for history: History is divided into B.C. (the years before Christ) and A.D. (the year of the birth of Christ our Lord and the years after his birth). Scriptures are also divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament according to the coming of Christ: The Old Testament is the revelation of God before Christ came, and the New Testament is the revelation of God after Christ came. Christ is the turning point for the history of the world and the history of God's salvation.

Paul's experience of meeting Jesus, the risen Lord, on his journey to Damascus brought him to a turning point in his life, his conversion to Christianity: his encounter with Jesus radically changed his way of living. Jesus brought him into a very dramatic and radical transformation of his life. Paul confessed to his disciple Timothy his life before he met Christ Jesus: "I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man" (1 Tim. 1:13). He called himself "the worst sinner" (1 Tim. 1:15). But after he met Christ Jesus, he became the apostle for the Gentiles. He experienced the radical transformation of life.

However, in Paul's transformation, there is a universal or common dimension applicable to every Christian, whether they changed very radically like Paul or very slowly like other disciples of Christ. God presents us Paul as an example of God's grace for every one of us today.

### **Paul's Past: Living in Confidence in His Righteousness as a Jew**

First, Paul completely gave up his own righteousness: he abandoned his confidence in his human, ethnic, and religious conditions.

Paul describes his former life, the life before he knew Christ. He lived in confidence in his human and religious conditions as a Jew. He considers himself

much better than any other Jews: “If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more” (Phil. 3:4b). He has many reasons to be confident in the righteousness of his Jewishness and religion.

First, Paul was circumcised on the eighth day after he was born according to Jewish custom; in his bloodline, he does not only belong to the people of Israel but also to the tribe of Benjamin, the tribe in union with the southern kingdom of Judah, in other words, one of the most prominent tribes of Israel. He is recognized as “a Hebrew of Hebrews” (Phil. 3:5). He was born and brought up in Tarsus, the Greek-speaking city in Asian Minor famous for its excellent education and culture (Acts 22:2). He is also a Hebrew speaker or Aramaic speaker. When he was arrested in Jerusalem, he spoke to the crowd in Hebrew. All of them were very impressed by his Hebrew. In his ethnic background, he is a perfect and excellent Jew.

Second, regarding his religion, Paul is a Pharisee: His knowledge of the law is professional and excellent: “Under Gamaliel,” a doctor of the law whose influence dominated the Jewish Sanhedrin, he “was thoroughly trained in the law” according to the Jewish tradition. Further, Paul’s way of living was very faithful to the law: his legalistic way of living is perfect, making him faultless and righteous (Phil. 3:5). He was so confident of his legalistic way of living that none of the Jews could find any fault about his practice of the law (Acts 23:3, 9). Further, his religious enthusiasm or his full commitment to his Judaism made him stand against the Christian church and persecuted Christians, who rejected Judaism or legalism but accepted Christ as the way of God’s salvation by faith.

“Anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse. You must not desecrate the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance” (Deut. 21:23).

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree” (Gal. 3:13).

Before he met Christ Jesus, the risen Lord, Paul thought himself better than any other Jew. He was convinced of his superiority over his fellow Jews in Jewishness and religion: “If anyone else thinks he has reason to put confidence in the flesh, I have more” (Phil. 3:4). He was very progressive in his religion. He rejoiced in his superiority over any other Jew. He was a role model for his Jewish people.

## **Christ as a Turning Point of Paul's Life**

Now, Paul thinks all these things, which make him superior to any other Jew, are a loss because of Christ (Phil 3:7). His ethnic and religious values become meaningless to him now because of his experiential knowledge of Christ. Christ himself has brought him into a new view of seeing the world, changing his life as his servant: "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:1). His excellence in his ethnicity and religion was found to be nothing, or merely a loss, compared to Christ and his grace.

After he met Jesus, Paul had a new perspective on seeing his Jewish heritage and his righteousness as the law-keeper. Paul considers not only his national and religious benefits as "a Hebrew of Hebrews" but also everything belonging to him and the world as a loss because all these things cannot be compared to knowing Christ. He calls Christ Jesus "my Lord"—"Christ Jesus my Lord" (Phil. 3:8). His acceptance of Christ as his Lord changed him in understanding everything in his life and the world. Nothing can be compared to his relationship with Christ and his commitment to him, which is great, surpassing all of them (Phil. 3:8).

## **Gaining Christ as the Purpose of Living**

Paul's personal encounter with Jesus changed his life orientation. His life goal is to "gain Christ and to be found in him" because he has realized that, compared to Jesus, all things are rubbish to him (Phil. 3:8-9). How can Paul gain Christ? First, gaining Christ means not pursuing his righteousness coming from his legalistic living or his keeping of the law, but the righteousness of Christ gained through faith in him, "the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith" (Phil. 3:9). Jesus was born in the family of Joseph and was circumcised on the eighth day according to the Law of Moses (Lk. 2:21). He became a human being and was circumcised according to the Jewish law of purification and died on the cross. His incarnation, circumcision, and crucifixion are for us, for the removal of our sins. Jesus is our righteousness. It is Jesus' achievement.

Because of the righteousness of Christ, we can gain access to God: we can worship Him and pray to Him and experience His presence with us. "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the richness of God's grace" (Eph. 1:7).

Paul wants to grow up in his faith in Christ, his righteousness given to him by God's grace. Before he knew Christ Jesus, he lived by his own righteousness based on his Jewish tradition, privileges, and religious enthusiasm. But his personal experience of knowing Christ led him to deny his own righteousness and live by putting his trust in the righteousness of Christ. This is his faith: He depends on the righteousness of Christ, not on his righteousness anymore, and builds up his life on the foundation of the righteousness of Christ. The goal of his life is to represent the righteousness of Christ in his everyday life: The subject matter of his life is Christ alone.

Second, for Paul, gaining Christ is to know him in "the power of his resurrection" through "the fellowship in his sufferings," so that he may "become like him in his death" and experience "the resurrection from the dead" here and now (Phil. 3:10-11). Experiencing the power of the resurrection of Christ is the present thing as well as the future thing.

The disciples of Jesus were cowards and betrayers: When Jesus was arrested, all of them ran away from him. But after his resurrection, they were changed. They had no fear to testify to the people, even to the people of power, of the gospel of Christ. Their experience of the resurrection of Christ made them willing to follow Jesus, the crucified Lord. They also learned that their fellowship in the sufferings of Jesus, becoming like him in his death, led them to participate in the resurrection life. They witnessed his crucifixion, which led to his resurrection: Without the crucifixion, there is no resurrection. "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

In this present life, we can experience his resurrection life by participating in his sufferings today. To have "the fellowship in his sufferings" is to "become like him in his death" (Phil. 3:10). Paul was in prison for the sake of the gospel of Christ. He participated in his sufferings. In this situation, he rejoices in Christ: "Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you" (Phil. 3:1). The safeguard of life is in the fellowship in the sufferings of Christ Jesus and in rejoicing in him, the power of his resurrection. Without imitating Jesus, the crucified Lord, we cannot experience the power of his resurrection, "the resurrection from the dead" (Phil. 3:10).

# PRAYER LIST

## The Families of

Deena Schubach (the aunt of Ashley Markham)  
Rebecca (the mother of the daughter-in-law of Forrest and Patricia Robison)

## Pray For

Bob Davidson

Ann Davis

Charol Thorton (friend of Jackie Schmidt)

Roger Terice

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 Terice.

*In gratitude for God's sustaining grace and for all we have received, we pray even amid suffering. We lift before God all who suffer in our world—those affected by war, disaster, violence, poverty, grief, and mental health challenges. We pray for those carrying heavy burdens, asking for healing, hope, and peace. We seek unity within our nation. We hold the St. Luke's family in prayer, especially those who are ill or grieving. With thankful hearts, we give thanks for the ministry of Rev. Seok Nam Lim, who will be deeply missed, and we pray God's blessing on Rev. Mark Huff as he begins his ministry among us.*

**Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.**

*(Romans 12:15)*

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

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Governance Board Meeting | April 27 | 6:30 pm**

## **Banners**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Karla Morgan for the beautiful new banners she created for our church. Recently displayed, they have enhanced our service with beauty and spiritual meaning and will continue to bring inspiration to our congregation. Thank you for sharing your wonderful talents with us.

## **Pastor's Schedule**

Pastor Lim will be away on vacation from Friday, May 8, through Thursday, May 21, 2026. He will also participate in the 2026 Michigan Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church in Traverse City from May 28 to May 31, 2026.

Guest Coverage: May 10 – Henry Roeder | May 17 – Brian Scramlin | May 31 – Rev. Bill Sanders

## **Mother's Day Cinnamon Roll Sale — Pre-Order Now!**

Celebrate Mother's Day with freshly baked cinnamon rolls prepared by Crew 206 Youth Group. Cinnamon rolls are offered at \$6 per half-dozen or \$12 per dozen. Please note that all orders must be both preordered and prepaid no later than May 3. Preparation will take place on May 9, 2026, with participation open to youth group members and community volunteers. Orders may be collected in the Fellowship Hall on Mother's Day. To place your order, see Janie Good.

## **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: May 16, June 20. See the sign-up board or register online at <https://www.stlukesumcni.org/calendar>. For more information see our Missions coordinators: Kathy Erndt and Becky Scott.

## Golden Friends

Today is the last day to sign up for the next Golden Friends outing on May 4th at Auburn Hotel and Tavern, 101 W Midland Rd, Auburn, starting at 12:00 pm. The registration sheet is available on the "Sign-Up" bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please reach out to Judy or Joe Fleming.

## Upcoming

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

<p><b>Mon Apr 27, 2026</b> 6:30pm Governance Board Meeting 7:30pm Youth Group</p> <p><b>Tue Apr 28, 2026</b> 10:30am Needleworkers 5:30pm Girl Scouts</p> <p><b>Wed Apr 29, 2026</b> 10:30am Wednesday Weavers</p> <p><b>Thu Apr 30, 2026</b> 5:00pm VBS Planning Meeting</p> <p><b>Sat May 2, 2026</b> 9am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krysiak's</p> <p><b>Sun May 3, 2026</b> 10am United Methodist Student Day</p> <p><b>Mon May 4, 2026</b> 12pm Golden Friends @ Auburn Hotel 7:30pm Crew 206 Youth group</p> <p><b>Tue May 5, 2026</b> All Day Fellowship Hall reserved for Special Election 10:30 Needleworkers</p> <p><b>Wed May 6, 2026</b> 7:15-4:30 UWif Bus Trip to UM Community House in Grand Rapids</p> <p><b>Thu May 7, 2026</b> 6:30pm. Thursday Bible Study – Psalms 7pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting</p> <p><b>May 8-May 21, 2026</b> Pastor on Vacation</p> <p><b>Sat May 9, 2026</b> 10-12 Kitchen/Fellowship Hall reserved Cinnamon Rolls preparation</p>	<p><b>Sun May 10, 2026</b> 10am Worship Service – Henry Roeder Mother's Day, Cinnamon Roll Sale pickup</p> <p><b>Mon May 11, 2026</b> 7:30pm Crew 206 Youth Group</p> <p><b>Tue May 12, 2026</b> 10:30am Needleworkers 5:30pm Girl Scouts</p> <p><b>Wed May 13, 2026</b> 10:30am Wednesday Weavers 6:30pm Needleworkers</p> <p><b>Thu May 14, 2026</b> 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p><b>Fri May 15-17, 2026</b> UWif Michigan Conference in Indianapolis</p> <p><b>Sat May 16, 2026</b> 9am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krysiak's 10:30am Missions Salvation Army Soup Kitchen</p> <p><b>Sun May 17, 2026</b> 10am Worship Service – Brian Scramlin</p> <p><b>Mon May 18, 2026</b> 6:30pm Governance Board Meeting 7:30pm Crew 206 Youth Group</p> <p><b>Tue May 19, 2026</b> 10:30am Needleworkers 6pm Missions Meeting</p> <p><b>Wed May 20, 2026</b> 10:30am Wednesday Weavers</p> <p><b>Thu May 21, 2026</b> 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>
---	--

# Volunteers

## Serving This Sunday

### **Liturgist**

Eric Ives

### **Children's Church**

Dan Morgan (L)

Linda Manyen

### **Ushers**

Hope Bertelsen, Kathy Erndt

Lisa Foster, Sandy Mercer

### **Counters**

Eric Yagiela

Brenda Kemp

## Serving Next Sunday

### **Liturgist**

Brenda Scramlin

### **Children's Church**

Becky Scott (L)

Linda Manyen

### **Ushers**

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming

and others

### **Counters**

Eric Yagiela

Char McGrath

### **Communion**

Brenda Scramlin, Andy Kemp

Joye Kramer, Karla Morgan

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

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

### **Acolytes**

*(varies week to week)*

### **Newsletter for April 23, 2026**

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2026-apr-23>

Connor Yagiela, Lauren Yagiela,

Jazzlyn Jones, Kyliana Green

### ✿ Altar Flowers ✿

Correction for last week -- The Altar Flowers were presented by Misty and Jason Hatton

*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.*

### ☉ FELLOWSHIP TIME SIGN-UP ☉

*Fellowship Time following worship provides a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to connect and engage with one another. Those interested may sign up on the bulletin board located across from the Fellowship Hall. Your participation is sincerely appreciated. For new volunteers, guidelines, procedures, and helpful suggestions are posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen for your reference.*

# 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>

# Staff

## Pastor

Rev. Seok Nam Lim  
[seoknamlim1@hotmail.com](mailto:seoknamlim1@hotmail.com)  
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

---

## Get our App

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



## Online Giving

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

