

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Huff

July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation
We are the People of the United Methodist Church

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric Ives, Liturgist

PRELUDE *The Prayer*

Leon Beaudin, Piano

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, you who have ears to hear, for the Sower still goes out to sow.

We come with hearts ready to receive.

Come, you who have grown weary in shallow places, for God is tilling new ground.

We come, trusting the harvest is not yet finished.

Come and worship the God who scatters grace without measure.

We come to worship, we come to listen, we come to grow. Let us worship God together.

***HYMN** *O Worship The King*

UMH 73

***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Lord of the harvest, before your word is read, prepare the soil of our hearts. Where we are hardened, break us open. Where we are shallow, give us depth. Where we are crowded with distraction, clear a space for you alone. Speak now, and let what falls on us today take root and bear fruit that remains. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM PSALMS

Psalm 119:105-112

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Huff

***HYMN** *Be Thou My Vision*

UMH 451

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mark Huff

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

MESSAGE

"We Get to..."

Rev. Mark Huff

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone

Leon Beaudin

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Gracious God, we offer you these gifts as seed sown in faith. Take what we bring, ordinary as it may seem, and let it fall on good ground. Use it to feed the hungry, comfort the grieving, welcome the stranger, and grow your kingdom in this place and beyond. Multiply these offerings as only you can, and multiply our hearts along with them, that we might give not out of duty but out of joy. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Leon Beaudin

***HYMN**

Wonderful Words of Life

UMH 600

SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Mark Huff

Go now as good soil, ready to receive and ready to bear fruit. Go and let God till what is hard in you, deepen what is shallow, and clear away what chokes out life. And may the harvest you bear, thirty, sixty, a hundredfold, be a blessing to everyone you meet. Go in peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Old Hundredth"

Leon Beaudin, Organist

**Congregation stands (as able to)*

SERMON SUMMARY

A joyful Sunday that helps a congregation fall back in love with being Methodist. The generous farmer becomes the picture of our founding gift... grace thrown at everyone. A thread of plain gratitude runs through it, the “we get to” turn, instead of any hard sell. The open table fits this day; Holy Communion is the high point, since nothing says Methodist welcome... like a table open to everybody.

KEY THEMES

Grace – the central theme (prevenient grace, God's generosity, acceptance).

Methodist – the focus on Methodist identity, Wesley, and Methodist traditions.

Sower – the key Scripture image from Matthew 13 (the farmer/sower scattering seed).



Prayer List

The Families of
Beth Redifer

Pray For

William Roeder (brother of Henry Roeder)
Carolyn Eichhorn (friend of Henry Roeder)
Tom Nankerris (brother of Linda Sterling)
Dave Reed (husband of Charlotte Reed)
William Kozuch (husband of Fritzi Stevenson)
Rachel Lochinski (daughter of Fritzi Stevenson)
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.

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 app website, email office@stlulkesumcmi.org, by filling out a connection card, located on the pew backs, or the Prayer box located in front of the church.

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of love.

Jesus meets us here.

We gather as the beloved community,

hungry to be fed with the gifts of the Spirit,

thirsting for the waters of life.

God is here and everyone is welcome.

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, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth. 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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today we join the family of God throughout the world at Christ's holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus 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, Jesus 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. 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.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcoming Reception

Join us in warmly welcoming our new pastor, Mark Huff and family, at a special Meet & Greet Reception immediately following today's worship service. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce yourself and extend a heartfelt welcome as he begins his ministry with us. Let's come together in fellowship and make them feel right at home!

Not One Moment Late is a women's Bible study led by Bill Sanders, inviting participants on a meaningful six-week journey to explore God's perfect timing and purpose in our lives. "Not One Moment Late" is a six-session women's Bible study by Lisa Toney. It explores the biblical story of Deborah to teach readers how to wait faithfully during seasons of delay, recognize God's divine timing, and step out in courage when He calls. Join us Thursdays at 10:00 AM on July 23 and 30 and August 6, 20, 27 and September 3 in Esther's Parlor for a welcoming time of learning, reflection, and connection with other women.

Golden Friends

The next Golden Friends event will be held on August 3rd at The Silver Palace Bar & Grill, 1500 Woodside, Essexville, beginning at 12:00 PM. The sign-up sheet is posted on the "Sign-Up" bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall, with a deadline of July 26th. For additional information, please contact Judy or Joe Fleming.

Crew 206 Youth Group Clothing Drive

Our youth group is collecting new or gently used clothing to support individuals and families in need. Your donations can make a real difference in our community! Please drop off items in the collection bins located across from the Welcome Desk through July 19th. Thank you for helping us share warmth, dignity, and care with others.

Got Milk? Jugs? We Need Them!

We are collecting gallon milk jugs for Vacation Bible School! Please rinse them out thoroughly, make sure they are clean, and leave the caps on before bringing them in. Thank you for helping us prepare!

Memorial Garden Care – Volunteers Welcome

All are welcome to help weed and trim the Memorial Garden to keep it looking beautiful. Please bring your own garden tools. When: Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (weather permitting)

Dates:

- July 22
- August 5 & 19
- September 2 & 16

Missions meeting

Due to VBS, the July Mission meeting will be postponed until August 18.

UWiF Executive Meeting

The United Women in Faith will be holding their Executive meeting, Monday, July 13th at 6:30 PM in the Cafe' at the church. Officers are expected to attend; all are welcome. We will be discussing our calendar for the remaining six months of 2026. Come and join the conversation.

Rummage Sale | August 13-15 | 9 AM – 4 PM

Items for the annual church rummage sale can be brought to the church in Room 1 starting **July 1st**; please note we cannot accept computers, mattresses, box springs, tube TVs, or exercise equipment. Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board, and we encourage everyone to consider helping, even if only for a couple of hours, as this is a large event and all assistance is appreciated.

- **Set-up** will take place on **Sunday, August 9** immediately following fellowship. Volunteers will arrange tables and move all items out of Room #1; no sorting or pricing will be done that day.
- **Sorting and pricing** will occur **Monday, August 10 through Wednesday, August 12** from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- The **sale will run Thursday, August 13 through Saturday, August 15**, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Volunteer sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board, and many helping hands are needed.

There will also be a bake sale, so donations of baked goods are needed. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Kemp at 989-326-2314. Thank you!

Breakfast Book Club at Esther's Parlor

Join us for a delightful morning of conversation, community, and breakfast at Esther's Parlor on Saturday, August 29, from 10 AM–12 PM as we discuss *Griselda Takes Flight* by Joyce Magnin, a lighthearted and engaging novel set in the quirky town of Bright's Pond, where an unexpected airplane landing sparks adventure, mystery, and new beginnings for Griselda and her neighbors. Whether you've finished the book or are just starting, all are welcome to enjoy good food, great company, and meaningful discussion—bring a friend! Pick up a free copy from the library shelf and please sign up on the bulletin board, online, or through the app by August 23; a light breakfast will be provided.

Vacation Bible School

VBS Dates: Monday-Wednesday | July 20, 21, 22 | 5-7:30 pm

VBS Setup: Saturday | July 18 | 10 am
Sunday | July 19 | Following Worship Service

VBS Planning Meeting

Monday, July 13 | 6 PM | Final rehearsal for all 3 sessions

VBS Missions: We are collecting donated plastic grocery bags for making mats for the homeless through July 13th.



VBS Props, Decorations, Supply Donations Needed:

All prop donations will be on loan and can be picked up after VBS is completed.

Unless stated "do not return to me".

Skis	Ski jackets	Snowmobile
Sleds	Ski goggles	Inner tubes or snow tubes
Toboggans	Scarves	Electric Campfire
Ice skates	Artificial snow	Hiking/walking sticks Styrofoam balls in various sizes to make snowballs
Ice hockey sticks	Polyfil	Cardboard boxes in various shapes and sizes
Artificial pine trees	White snow blankets	Plastic tablecloths
Winter hats	Snowshoes	(primarily white) to create the illusion of snow other colors mostly pastel
Winter gloves	Boots	

VBS Food Donations:

Hot dogs	Ketchup
Hot dog buns	Mustard
Mac & Cheese (Gordon's or Jack's)	Onion
Chicken Nuggets (Jack's)	Sweet & Dill Relish
Tator tots (Jacks)	Watermelon
Cheese Pizza (Hot & Ready)	Halos (Clementines) / Oranges
Pepperoni & Cheese (Hot & Ready)	Apples for slicing
Bottled water	Veggie Tray (celery, carrots, grape tomatoes, broccoli, green pepper)
Country Time Lemonade	Veggie Dip

Please label items with "VBS" and your name.

Frozen items may be placed in the big freezer in the main kitchen.

Upcoming

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

Monday, July 13, 2026

6:30 PM UWIF Executive Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

10:00 AM Crew 206 Youth Group

10:30 AM Needleworkers Meet-up

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

All Day UWIF - Helen Nickless Clinic Meal

10:30 AM Wednesday Weavers

Thursday, July 16, 2026

All Day UWIF Central Bay District - Mission U

Friday, July 17, 2026

All Day UWIF Central Bay District - Mission U

Saturday, July 18, 2026

All Day UWIF Central Bay District - Mission U

9:00 AM U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's

10:00 AM VBS Setup

Sunday, July 19, 2026

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM VBS Setup

Monday, July 20, 2026

5-7:30 PM VBS

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

10:00 AM Crew 206 Youth Group

10:30 AM Needleworkers Meet-up

5-7:30 PM VBS

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

10:00 AM Memorial Garden Weed and Trim

10:30 AM Wednesday Weavers

5-7:30 PM VBS

6:30 PM Needleworkers Meet-up

Thursday, July 23, 2026

10:00 AM Women's Bible Study

Saturday, July 25, 2026

12:00 PM Reserved for Private Bridal Shower

Sunday, July 26, 2026

10:00 AM Worship Service

10:00 AM State of the Church – UWIF – Becky Scott

Monday, July 27, 2026

6:30 PM Governance Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

10:00 AM Crew 206 Youth Group

10:30 AM Needleworkers Meet-up

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

10:30 AM Wednesday Weavers

Thursday, July 30, 2026

10:00 AM Women's Bible Study

Saturday, August 1, 2026

9:00 AM U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's

12:00 PM Fellowship Hall Reserved for Celebration of Life for Lori Awrey (Duranczyk)

Sunday, August 2, 2026

10:00 AM Worship Service

Monday, August 3, 2026

12:00 PM Golden Friends @ Silver Palace

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

All Day **State Primary Election** in Fellowship Hall

10:00 AM Crew 206 Youth Group

10:30 AM Needleworkers Meet-up

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

10:00 AM Memorial Garden Weed and Trim

10:30 AM Wednesday Weavers

Thursday, August 6, 2026

10:00 AM Women's Bible Study

Sunday, August 9, 2026

10:00 AM Worship Service

10:00 AM State of the Church – Worship – Lisa Foster

11:00 AM Rummage Sale Setup

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

Eric Ives

Children's Church

Becky Scott (L)
tbd

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Becky Scott

Communion

Fritzi Stevenson, Joye Kramer
Kathy Erndt, Sheila Good

To Sign up for our E-newsletter

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

Newsletter for July 9, 2026

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2026-jul-9>

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Lisa Killey

Children's Church

Karla Morgan (L)
Sheila Good

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Brenda Kemp

Acolytes

(varies week to week)

Connor Yagiela, Lauren Yagiela,
Jazzlyn Jones, Kyliana Green

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.*

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

Website

<https://www.stlukesumcmi.org>

Facebook

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

YouTube

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

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Mark Huff
pastormark@stlukesumcmi.org

Office Manager

Sheila Good
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Organist

Leon Beaudin

Accountant

Donna Gross
accountant@stlukesumcmi.org

AV Coordinator

Andrew Felch
avtech@stlukesumcmi.org

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>

