

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Huff

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

We are the People of the United Methodist Church

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fritzi Stevenson, Liturgist

PRELUDE

You Are My Hiding Place

Leon Beaudin, Piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, small in the hand but wide in the branches.

Plant your word in us, Lord, and let it grow.

The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, hidden in the dough,
working unseen until all of it rises.

Work in us, unseen, until we are made new.

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,
worth more than everything we own.

We come seeking what is worth everything we have.

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who found one pearl,
and sold all he had to hold it.

Let us hold you, Lord, above all else.

And in all things, God works for the good of those who love him,
and nothing in all creation can separate us from that love.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Come, people of God. What is small, God makes large.

What is hidden, God brings to light.

We gather to worship the One who makes the kingdom grow.

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, you have hidden your kingdom in small things: a seed, a pinch of yeast, a coin lost and found. Open our eyes to see what is easy to miss. Open our ears to hear your word beneath the noise. Give us the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of the Sower, that we might recognize your kingdom growing among us, and count it worth everything. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 8:26-39

RSV p.148 & 149

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Huff

*HYMN

My Hope Is Built

UMH 368

PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mark Huff

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
RSV p. 13 & 14

MESSAGE

"What is your price for Everything?"

Rev. Mark Huff

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

How Deep the Father's Love

Leon Beaudin

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Lord, you gave everything so that we might have life. The kingdom you offer is worth more than any treasure we could name, yet you ask so little of us in return: a seed of faith, a portion of what you have already given. As we bring these gifts, plant them in your field. Let them grow into something far greater than we could grow alone. May they become bread for the hungry, shelter for the weary, and good news for those still searching for the treasure hidden among us. We offer them, and ourselves, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN**

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

UMH 540

SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Mark Huff

Go now, planted like a seed in the field of the world. May the kingdom grow quietly within you. May you have the courage to sell what does not last for what does. And may the God who hides treasure in unexpected places walk with you until you find it again, and again, and again. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Sortie in F Major

Leon Beaudin, Organist

**Congregation stands (as able to)*

Worship Design Summary

Jesus keeps teaching in parables this week, small stories that describe something enormous, the kingdom of heaven. A seed that becomes a shelter. Yeast that works through dough unseen. A treasure and a pearl that are worth selling everything for. A net that gathers all kinds until the sorting comes. Together they ask a simple question. What is the kingdom of God worth to you and are you willing to let it grow quietly before it grows large.

PRAYER LIST

The Families of

Beth Redifer

Pray For

Lisa Killey

Eric Ives

Vicky for an oncology appointment (prayer box request)

William Roeder (brother of Henry Roeder)

Carolyn Eichhorn (friend of Henry Roeder)

Tom Nankeruis (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.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Appreciation Service for Our VBS Volunteers

We invite you to join us as we celebrate and give thanks for our incredible Vacation Bible School volunteers. Their creativity, patience, and joyful service helped make this year's VBS a meaningful, faith-filled experience for our children. During worship, we'll offer a special moment of recognition and prayer, thanking God for the gifts each volunteer shared so generously. Your presence helps us honor the hands and hearts that make this ministry possible.

Don't forget to pick up the items you loaned to the VBS event.

Any loaned items that are not picked up after today will be donated to the rummage sale.

Help us fill Back-to-School Baskets!

Basket pickups are set for August 15th. No need to grab everything—just choose a few items from the list and make a difference! So there's enough time to get the baskets packed, please have your donations turned in no later than August 12th. Bagging will be done beginning August 13th.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canned spaghetti• Canned ravioli• Tomato soup• Chicken noodle soup• Canned chili• Canned fruits• Ramen noodles | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boxed Mac n' cheese• Individual apple sauce and pudding• Peanut butter• Jelly• Single serve salty snacks• Single serve sweet snacks |
|--|--|

Women's Bible Study

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.

Grocery Bags for Mats are still needed

Our Mission Needleworkers are still collecting clean, undamaged plastic grocery bags to create sleeping mats for people facing homelessness. Each mat offers comfort, dignity, and protection—and keeps hundreds of bags out of landfills. Bags may be flattened and placed in the basket on the Missions table. Join us in giving plastic a second life, one strand at a time.

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:

- August 5 & 19
- September 2 & 16

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

We are now accepting items for the annual church rummage sale beginning July 1. Donations may be brought to Room 1. Please remember that we cannot accept computers, mattresses, box springs, tube TVs, or exercise equipment. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board, and we invite everyone to consider lending a hand—even for just a couple of hours. This is a large event, and every bit of help truly makes a difference.

- **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!

Upcoming

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

Sun Jul 26, 2026

10am State of the Church - UWIF - Becky Scott
10am Worship Service

Mon Jul 27, 2026

6:30pm Governance Board Meeting

Tue Jul 28, 2026

10am Crew 206 Youth group
10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Jul 29, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Jul 30, 2026

10am Women's Bible Study

Sat Aug 1, 2026

9am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's
12pm [Reserved] Fellowship Hall – Duranczyk
– celebration of life for Lori Awrey (Duranczyk)

Sun Aug 2, 2026

10am Worship Service

Mon Aug 3, 2026

12pm Golden Friends @ Silver Palace

Tue Aug 4, 2026

All day [Fellowship Hall] Reserved for State Primary Election
10am Crew 206 Youth group
10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Aug 5, 2026

10am Memorial Garden Weed and Trim
10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Aug 6, 2026

10am Women's Bible Study

Sun Aug 9, 2026

All day Fellowship Hall reserved – Rummage Sale setup
10am State of the Church – Worship – Lisa Foster

10am Worship Service – Richard Durkee, Pianist

Mon Aug 10, 2026

All day Fellowship Hall reserved – Rummage Sale setup

Tue Aug 11, 2026

All day Fellowship Hall reserved – Rummage Sale setup
10am Crew 206 Youth group
10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Aug 12, 2026

All day Fellowship Hall reserved – Rummage Sale setup
10:30am Wednesday Weavers
6:30pm Needleworkers meet-up
6:30pm UWIF Prayer Walk

Fri Aug 14, 2026

9am Rummage Sale

Sat Aug 15, 2026

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

Sun Aug 16, 2026

10am Worship Service

Tue Aug 18, 2026

10am Crew 206 Youth group
10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up
6pm Missions Meeting

Wed Aug 19, 2026

10am Memorial Garden Weed and Trim
10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Aug 20, 2026

10am Women's Bible Study

Sun Aug 23, 2026

10am Dedication of the Pillowcases
10am Worship Service

Mon Aug 24, 2026

6:30pm Governance Board Meeting

Tue Aug 25, 2026

10am Crew 206 Youth group
10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Aug 26, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers
6:30pm Needleworkers meet-up

Thu Aug 27, 2026

10am Women's Bible Study

Sat Aug 29, 2026

8am Breakfast Book Club

Sun Aug 30, 2026

10am Worship Service

Tue Sep 1, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Sep 2, 2026

10am Memorial Garden Weed and Trim
10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Sep 3, 2026

10am Women's Bible Study

Sat Sep 5, 2026

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

Sun Sep 6, 2026

10am Worship Service

Stay Connected

St. Luke's UMC
206 Scheurmann St
Essexville MI 48732

Church Phone: 989-893-8031
Parsonage Phone: 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>

Newsletter

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

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

Tuesdays at 10 am

☉ Fellowship Time ☉

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.

✿ 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.

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Mark Huff
pastormark@stlukesumcmi.org

Office Manager

Sheila Good
office@stlukesumcmi.org

Organist

Leon Beaudin

Accountant

Donna Gross
accountant@stlukesumcmi.org

AV Coordinator

Andrew Felch
avtech@stlukesumcmi.org

Christian Education Coordinator

Janie Good
christianed@stlukesumcmi.org

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

Fritzi Stevenson

Children's Church

Dan Morgan (L)
Becky Scott

Ushers

Brenda Kemp, Joye Kramer
Sandy Mercer, TBD

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Char McGrath

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Mary Lewis

Children's Church

Sheila Good (L)
tbd

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Becky Scott

Communion

Mary Lewis
Sue Lind
Ted Lind
Sandy Mercer

Acolytes

(varies week to week)

Connor Yagiela, Lauren Yagiela,
Jazzlyn Jones, Kyliana Green, Weston Wieland