

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Rev. Mark Huff

August 9, 2026
Eleven Sunday after Pentecost



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

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisa Foster, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Walk Worthy

Richard Durkee, Pianist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

When the winds rise and the waves grow wild,

The Lord is not far from us.

When fear takes hold and courage fails,

A voice calls across the water, take heart.

We come this day uncertain, we come unsteady on our feet,

But we come toward the one who calls us by name.

Come, people of God, whether your faith is strong or your feet are sinking,

We will fix our eyes on Christ and worship him together.

*HYMN

Sing Praise to God

UMH 126

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, before we open your word, still the noise within us. Quiet the winds of distraction and the waves of worry that keep us from hearing your voice. As your word is read and proclaimed, walk toward us across whatever separates us from you, and give us the courage to step out in faith. Open our ears, steady our hearts, and let your Spirit teach us what it means to trust you fully. In Christ we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1 Kings 19:9-18

RSV p. 319

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Huff

*HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

UMH 529

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mark Huff

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 14:22-33

RSV p. 15

MESSAGE

"The Fourth Watch"

Rev. Mark Huff

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Just as Christ reached out to steady Peter upon the water, God steadies us and provides for us more than we could ask. As we bring our tithes and offerings, let us give as those who trust that God will provide.

OFFERTORY

Surely the Presence

Richard Durkee, Pianist

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord, everything we have comes from your hand. Take these gifts and use them to calm storms in the lives of others, to feed the hungry, and to build up your kingdom here at St. Luke's and beyond. Amen.

*HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

UMH 452

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Mark Huff

Go now into the waters of this week, whatever they may hold. When fear rises, listen for the voice that says, take heart, it is I. Keep your eyes fixed on Christ, reach for his hand when you begin to sink, and walk in the peace of God, who goes with you always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Gigue by G. F. Handel

Richard Durkee, Pianist

**Congregation stands (as able to)*

Worship Design Summary

This week the sun goes down on that same day, and the disciples find themselves alone in a boat, fighting a storm Jesus sent them into. This sermon walks through the darkest hours of that night... the waiting, the fear, the voice on the water, and the hand that catches a sinking man. Worship should feel like night moving toward dawn. Create space for people who are in the middle of their own long night and let the service build toward the worship that breaks out in the boat.



PRAYER LIST

The Families of

Lori Awrey (Duranczyk)

Pray For

Fiona Reutzel (German exchange student traveling to USA to stay with Jennifer Vaillancourt)

Prayers for comfort, strength, and healing of knee pain for Jennifer Vaillancourt

Dave Reed

Tena Trudell

Cheryl Atkinson, Ashley & Aaron Markham

Lisa Killey

Eric Ives

William Roeder (brother of Henry Roeder)

Tom Nankerris (brother of Linda Sterling)

William Kozuch (husband of Fritz Stevenson)

Rachel Lochinski (daughter of Fritz 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 remain on the prayer list for one month. If you would like your request to stay on the list longer—or be added again—please let us know.

*You can **submit a prayer request** through our app, our website, by emailing **office@stlukesumcmi.org**, by filling out a connection card (located on the pew backs), or by placing a note in the Prayer Box at the front of the church.*

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

UwiF Prayer Walk

In this time of turmoil and anxiety, join the St. Luke's United Women in Faith for a prayer walk on Wednesday, August 12 at 6:30. We will gather in the sanctuary before participating in self-guided walk around St. Luke's campus to various stations to pray for individual, local and national prayer concerns. All ladies of St. Luke's family are welcome to attend.

Chaperones Needed for Garber High School Cheer Team

The Garber High School Cheer Team is seeking adult chaperones for the Garber "Duke" Open on Saturday, August 15th at 9:00 AM. Several members of St. Luke's Crew 206 Youth Group are part of the cheer team, and this event is a great opportunity to support them while helping Crew 206 gain positive exposure at Garber sporting events and on the school's webpage. If you're available to lend a hand, encourage our youth, and represent Crew 206 with pride, we'd love to have you join us. Please see Janie Good if you are interested.

Bush Elementary Snack Collection

Through the remainder of August and through September, the Missions work area will be collecting snack items for our young neighbors at Bush Elementary School. Individually wrapped packages of granola bars, fruit snacks, animal crackers, etc. can be left on the Mission table near the main entrance.

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 19
- September 2 & 16

Rummage Sale • August 13–15 • 9 AM–4 PM

Set-up for our annual Rummage Sale begins immediately following fellowship time today and will continue on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Many hands are needed, and every bit of help truly makes a difference.

- **Set-up takes place today, Sunday, August 9, right after fellowship.** Volunteers will arrange tables and move all items out of Rooms 1 and 7; no sorting or pricing will be done at this time.
- **Sorting and pricing** will occur Monday, August 10 through Wednesday, August 12 from **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**
- The sale runs Thursday, August 13 through Saturday, August 15, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

A bake sale will also be held during the event, and donations of baked goods are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Kemp at 989-326-2314.

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.

Golden Friends

There will be no Golden Friends gathering in September, since the first Monday is Labor Day. We hope you enjoy a relaxing holiday weekend. We're looking forward to a wonderful fall get-together on Monday, October 5th. The location will be announced soon, and once everything is set, Judy and Joe Fleming will post a sign-up sheet so you can join in.

Crew 206 Youth Group Outdoor Movie Night

Come hang out with the Crew 206 Youth Group for a fun outdoor movie night on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM. We'll have fresh popcorn, a great movie, and plenty of space to relax under the evening sky. Bring your own lawn chair and favorite beverage to stay comfy. If it rains, we'll move inside to the Fellowship Hall so the night can still go on. Everyone is welcome — come enjoy the show! Please sign-up on the bulletin board or online at <https://subspla.sh/cf22nnw>.

RaiseRight Gift Card Fundraiser

RaiseRight is a gift card program that has supported St. Luke's since 2010, earning a percentage back for the church with every card purchased. Orders are placed and paid for through Becky Scott, with cards usually ready the following Sunday. To keep this fundraiser profitable, we need enough orders each cycle to ensure postage costs are covered by the earnings. Whether you're buying for loved ones, special occasions, or everyday needs, every order helps St. Luke's benefit from this program and continue raising extra funds.

Meijer Simply Give

The Meijer Simply Give Fall Campaign runs now through September 26, supporting local food pantries in our community. On Saturday, August 15 and Saturday, September 12, Meijer will double match every Simply Give card purchased—turning your \$10 donation into \$30 to help fight local hunger.

Our Bay City stores are partnering with:

- **Wilder Road Meijer → Safe Harbor Food Pantry**
- **Pine Road Meijer → Bay County Emergency Food Pantry Network**

Your generosity makes a real difference for neighbors facing food insecurity. Thank you for giving so others may receive.

Upcoming

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

Sun Aug 9, 2026

All day Fellowship Hall reserved – Rummage Sale setup
10am Worship Service – Worship Team Report- Lisa Foster

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

Thu Aug 13, 2026

9am Rummage Sale
6pm Girl Scout Leader's Meeting in Room 1

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

Mon Aug 31, 2026

7pm Crew 206 Youth group

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

Tue Sep 8, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Sep 9, 2026

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

Thu Sep 10, 2026

6pm Girl Scout Leader's Meeting in Room 1

Sun Sep 13, 2026

10am Worship Service

Mon Sep 14, 2026

7pm Outdoor Movie Night

Tue Sep 15, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Sep 16, 2026

10am Memorial Garden Weed and Trim
10:30am Wednesday Weavers
3:30pm UWif – Helen Nickless Clinic Meal

Fri Sep 18, 2026

All day Fellowship Hall reserved for Yagiela BARE event

Sat Sep 19, 2026

All day Fellowship Hall reserved for Yagiela BARE event
9am U.M.M. breakfast @ Krzysiak's

Sun Sep 20, 2026

10am Worship Service

Mon Sep 21, 2026

7pm Crew 206 Youth group

Tue Sep 22, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up
6pm Missions Meeting

Wed Sep 23, 2026

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

Sun Sep 27, 2026

10am Worship Service

Mon Sep 28, 2026

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

Tue Sep 29, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

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 (switches to Mondays, 7pm on Aug 31st)

☉ 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.

Get our App



Online Giving



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

Lisa Foster

Children's Church

Brenda Toyzan (L)
Becky Scott

Ushers

Henry Roeder,
Joe Fleming,
and others

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Brenda Kemp

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Jim McCarty

Children's Church

Sheila Good (L)
Becky Scott

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,
Ethan Lanava, Weston Wieland