

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Huff

August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

We are the People of the United Methodist Church

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim McCarty, Liturgist

PRELUDE Prelude on "Crusaders Hymn"

Leon Beaudin, Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who hunger for mercy, for the table of God is wide.

Even the crumbs of grace are enough to make us whole.

God is not impressed by clean hands and careful words.

God looks upon the heart and calls us to love.

God has not rejected his people, and God will not reject you.

The gifts and the calling of God can never be taken away.

So come with your questions, your persistence, and your faith.

People: We come to worship the God whose mercy knows no borders.

Amen.

*HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH 577

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, open our hearts before you open our ears. Quiet the noise within us and around us, so that your Word may reach the deep places where we truly live. Give us the boldness of those who will not let go of your mercy, and the assurance that your calling upon us can never be revoked. Speak, Lord, for your people are listening. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

RSV p. 151-152

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Huff

*HYMN

Take My Life, and Let It Be

UMH 399

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mark Huff

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

RSV p. 15-16

MESSAGE

"Crumbs From the Table"

Rev. Mark Huff

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

INVITATION TO GIVE

God's mercy has never been rationed, and neither should our gratitude. Out of the abundance of hearts made new, let us give with joy, so that grace may reach every table and every life.

OFFERTORY

From a Distance

Mary Lewis & Melissa Hobart

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

*PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

Generous God, take these gifts and multiply them, as you have multiplied your mercy toward us. Use them to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and make this church a house of prayer for all people. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

UMH 430

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Mark Huff

Go now with hearts made clean and faith made bold. Speak words that heal, welcome those the world overlooks, and hold on to the mercy of the God whose gifts and calling are never taken back. And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit go with you, now and always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Festive Tuba March

Leon Beaudin, Organist

**Congregation stands (as able to)*

Worship Design Summary

This sermon goes inside one of the hardest stories in the Gospels and asks what is happening in the heart of Jesus. His silence toward a desperate mother, his hard words, and then his open delight when her faith shines through. The center of the sermon is not the woman's persistence but the mercy of Jesus that was waiting for her the whole time.

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 Nankeruis (brother of Linda Sterling)

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 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

A Heartfelt Thank-You to Our Rummage Sale Volunteers

To everyone who helped set up, sort, price, bake, lift, carry, organize, and cheerfully serve throughout this year's Rummage Sale—thank you. Your hard work, generous spirit, and willingness to pitch in made this huge event not only possible, but truly successful. Whether you spent hours arranging tables, greeted shoppers with a smile, or helped keep things running smoothly day after day, your efforts were a gift to our church and community. We are deeply grateful for each and every one of you.

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

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 featuring “*Surf's Up*” 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, 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 16, 2026

10am Worship Service

Mon Aug 17, 2026

7am Crew 206 Youth group

Tue Aug 18, 2026

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

7am Crew 206 Youth group

12pm Fellowship Hall Reserved – Ron Batzer

6:30pm Governance Board Meeting

Tue Aug 25, 2026

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

7am 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

Mon Sep 7, 2026

All day Labor Day

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 Prayer Walk

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-Yagiela BARE event

Sat Sep 19, 2026

All day Fellowship Hall Reserved-Yagiela BARE event

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

Sun Sep 20, 2026

10am Worship Service

Tue Sep 22, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

6pm Missions

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

Tue Sep 29, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Sep 30, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Sat Oct 3, 2026

9am U.M.M. Breakfast

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

Mondays at 7-9pm

☉ 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

Jim McCarty

Children's Church

Sheila Good (L)
Becky Scott

Ushers

Henry Roeder,
Joe Fleming,
and others

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Char McGrath

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Sue Lind

Children's Church

Joy Clark (L)
Becky Scott

Ushers

Henry Roeder,
Joe Fleming,
and others

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Becky Scott

Acolytes

(varies week to week)

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