

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Huff

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

We are the People of the United Methodist Church

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Lind, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Goodness of God

Leon Beaudin, Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In a place crowded with carved gods and empty claims, Jesus stopped and asked a question that still echoes today.

Who do you say that He is?

The world offers safe answers. A teacher. A prophet. A good man from history.

But we confess with Peter, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Flesh and blood did not reveal this to us. Grace went ahead of us and opened our eyes.

What we could not earn, God freely gave.

And on this confession Christ builds His church, a body with many members, alive with His Spirit, and not even the gates of death can stand against it.

So we gather as living stones and living sacrifices. Let us worship the living God.

*HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

UMH 64

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of the living Word, You have never been content to stay silent like the idols of stone. Speak to us now. As the scriptures are read and proclaimed, move ahead of our understanding the way You moved ahead of Peter's, and reveal what our own reasoning could never reach. Take Your question off the page and place it in our hearts, and give us the honesty to answer You. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 12:1-8

RSV p. 152

*HYMN

Lord Speak to Me

UMH 463

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Huff

PILLOWCASE PRESENTATION

Joye Kramer & Recipients

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mark Huff

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-20

RSV p. 17

MESSAGE

"The Rock and the Body"

Rev. Mark Huff

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

INVITATION TO GIVE

Paul writes that in view of God's mercy, we present our whole selves as a living sacrifice, and that is our true worship. What we place in the plate this morning is part of that larger offering, a tangible way of saying that everything we have already belongs to the living God. Let us give with glad and surrendered hearts.

OFFERTORY

Morning Has Broken

Leon Beaudin, Organist

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

*PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

Generous God, everything we bring today began as Your gift to us. Receive these offerings as part of our living sacrifice and use them to build up Your church and bless this community. And as we release these gifts, keep releasing us from the grip of this age, so that our whole lives become an act of worship. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

UMH 420

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Mark Huff

Go now with your answer to the question of Jesus, not the crowd's answer, but your own. Go as a living sacrifice, surrendered again this week to the God who gave you faith as a gift. Go as one part of one body, faithful with what you have been given and trusting the gifts of those beside you. And may the living God, who is building a church the gates of Hades cannot hold back, build you up in grace until Christ's love fills all of who you are. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Festive Tuba March

Leon Beaudin, Organist

**Congregation stands (as able to)*

Worship Design Summary

This sermon moves from who Jesus is to what do we do because of who He is... from the question "Who do you say I am?" to the life that flows out of the answer... Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi becomes the foundation stone... Romans 12 becomes the blueprint for what gets built on it. Worship elements should lean into themes of calling, gifting, and belonging. Consider a Call to Worship built around Matthew 16:15, "But who do you say that I am?" addressed directly to the gathered church.

PRAYER LIST

Pray For

Roger Trerice

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

Ed Markham

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, 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

Governance Board Meeting | Monday, August 24 | 6:30 pm

Christian Education Meeting — VBS & Sunday School Volunteers

All VBS and Sunday School volunteers are invited to a Christian Education Meeting on **Monday, August 31, from 7–9 pm** in Esther's Parlor. We'll celebrate the joy and energy of VBS, review ministry goals, and begin shaping plans for the upcoming Sunday School season. If you plan to attend, please see the sign-up board to register. Your presence and ideas help our children grow in faith, and we're grateful for all you do.

Rummage Sale Update — Over \$4,350 Raised!

Thanks to our hardworking volunteers and our wonderful shoppers, this year's Rummage Sale has already brought in more than \$4,350. Every dollar supports the ministries and mission of St. Luke's, and we're grateful for the generosity that makes it possible.

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.

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 today, August 23; a light breakfast will be provided.

Memorial Garden Care – Last Call to Join the Fun!

This is it, friends — the garden is calling and the clock is ticking. Don't miss your chance to be part of our end-of-summer spruce-up! Grab your trusty garden tools and jump in for a couple hours of fresh air, fellowship, and feel-good beautifying before this opportunity slips away.

Wednesdays, **September 2 & 16 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM** (weather permitting)

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>.

Come Join Us at the Second Annual BARE Carnival!

Come join us at the second annual BARE Carnival for a fantastic day filled with carnival games, concession food, bake sale treats, bounce houses, a dunk tank, and more — and Pastor Huff has even mentioned taking a turn in the dunk tank. The carnival runs on September 19, 2026, from 11 AM to 3 PM, with the new Zebra Fun Run Obstacle Course kicking off at 10 AM. All proceeds support Biliary Atresia Research and Education. Please contact Marsha or Eric Yagiela with any questions and see the signup sheets on the bulletin board if you'd like to volunteer.

Subsplash Sunday Drop-In Training

Learn the basics, ask questions, and get hands-on practice—right during fellowship time. Swing by Ether's Parlor on Sundays, September 20 & 27 for a relaxed, come-as-you-are training session on using Subsplash. Sheila Good and Janie Good will be available to help you feel confident using the app. Feel free to stop in any time between 11 and noon.

Golden Friends

The next Golden Friends event will be on Monday, October 5th at the Turkey Roost Restaurant, 2273 S Huron Rd., Kawkawlin, starting at 12:00 pm. The registration sheet is available on the “Sign-Up” bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall, with a deadline of September 27th. For more information, please reach out to Judy or Joe Fleming.

Upcoming

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

Sun Aug 23, 2026

10am Worship Service - Dedication of the Pillowcases

Mon Aug 24, 2026

12pm [Fellow Hall Reserved] – Ron Batzer
6:30pm Governance Board Meeting
7pm Crew 206 Youth group

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

7pm Crew 206 Youth group
7pm Christian Ed SS Planning & VBS Review

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 (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
4pm Girl Scout Troop (Large classroom)

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
4pm Girl Scout Troop (Large classroom)

Wed Sep 30, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Oct 1, 2026

5pm Blessing of the Animals (tentative)

Sat Oct 3, 2026

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

Sun Oct 4, 2026

All day Worship Service-World Communion Sunday

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 ✿

Today's altar flowers are lovingly provided by Ted and Sue Lind in celebration of their 46th wedding anniversary.

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

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AV Coordinator

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Christian Education Coordinator

Janie Good
christianed@stlukesumcmi.org

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist
Sue Lind

Children's Church

Joy Clark (L)
Becky Scott

Ushers

Henry Roeder,
Joe Fleming,
and others

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Becky Scott

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist
John Augustine

Children's Church

Becky Scott (L)
Dan Morgan

Ushers

Gloria Barriger
Char McGrath
Sandy Mercer
Fritzi Stevenson

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Brenda Kemp

Acolytes

(varies week to week)

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