

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

August 30, 2026
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Augustine, Liturgist

PRELUDE

In Christ Alone

Fletcher Wernholm, Organist
Leon Beaudin, Pianist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Lord, we come to lay down what we carry, and to take up what you offer.

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

We come to lose ourselves in you, that we might truly be found.

What will it profit us to gain the whole world, and forfeit our very souls?

Nothing we hold compares to the life you give.

Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

We offer ourselves, body and spirit, as an act of worship.

Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.

Renew us, O God, and shape us again into your image.

Come, let us worship the Lord who calls us to the cross and leads us into life.

We worship you, God of grace and transformation. Amen.

*HYMN

And Can it Be VS 1, 3, 4 + 5

UMH 363

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, before we can carry your cross, we must first hear your voice. Open our ears to your Word this day. Strip away the noise of this world that competes for our attention and speak to us the truth we most need to hear. Where we have grown comfortable, unsettle us. Where we have grown afraid, strengthen us. Where we have forgotten who we are, remind us that we are made in your image, and that image is not erased by our brokenness but restored by your grace. Let this scripture take root in us, not merely as words heard but as a life reshaped. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 12:1-8
RSV p. 152

*HYMN

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed VS 1, 2, 3,+ 5

UMH 359

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Huff

**PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Mark Huff

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:21-28

RSV p. 17

MESSAGE

"Real Life Through Death"

Rev. Mark Huff

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

INVITATION TO GIVE

Invitation to Give: Paul reminds us that we each have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. As we have received, so let us give, not grudgingly, but as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Let us now present our tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY *Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone*

**Fletcher Wernholm, Organist
Leon Beaudin, Pianist**

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 95

***PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING**

Gracious God, we offer you these gifts as a small reflection of the greater gift we owe you, our very lives. Take what we bring and take us with it. Use these offerings to build your kingdom here at St. Luke's and beyond, that others might know your transforming grace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN** *I Love to Tell the Story*

UMH 156

SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Mark Huff

Go now, not to save your life, but to lose it in love. Go, carry your cross with courage and your gifts with humility. And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit remain with you, this day and always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

*Postlude Gospel Style
Arr by Wernholm & Beaudin*

**Fletcher Wernholm, Organist
Leon Beaudin, Pianist**

**Congregation stands (as able to)*

Worship Design Summary

Peter has just confessed that Jesus is the Messiah, and now Jesus begins to show him what kind of Messiah he came to be... a King who wins by dying. This sermon walks through why Peter objected, why Jesus' hard correction is actually an invitation, and how losing our lives for Christ's sake is the only way to find real life. Themes to plan around: the cross, discipleship, surrender, God's upside-down Kingdom, and sanctifying grace.

PRAYER LIST

Pray For

Rachel Lochinski and new baby boy (daughter of Fritzi Stevenson)
Roger Trerice
Fiona Reutzel (German exchange student staying 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
William Roeder (brother of Henry Roeder)
Tom Nankeruis (brother of Linda Sterling)
William Kozuch (husband 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

Giving thanks for answered prayers!

Fritzi Stevenson joyfully shares that her daughter, Rachel Lochinski, welcomed a beautiful, healthy baby boy on August 20. Their family is doing well, and they are deeply grateful for all the prayers offered throughout Rachel's pregnancy. Thank you, church family, for surrounding them with such faithful love and support.

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.

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.

Prayer Walk | September 9 | 6:30 pm

Join us for a peaceful, slow-paced Prayer Walk hosted by UWIF. Along the path, you'll pause at several prayer stops for short scripture reflections and gentle fellowship. It's a simple, meaningful way to breathe, connect, and center yourself in God's presence. All are welcome to participate. Held at St. Luke's UMC.

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>.

Subsplash Sunday Drop-In Training

Learn the basics, ask questions, and get hands-on practice during fellowship time. Join us in Esther's Parlor on Sunday, September 20 for a relaxed, come-as-you-are session focused on using Subsplash with confidence. Sheila Good and Janie Good will be available to guide you. Feel free to stop in anytime between 11:00 and noon. More sessions will be offered in the future, so you'll have additional chances to learn.

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.

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 30, 2026

10am Worship Service

Mon Aug 31, 2026

7pm Christian Education Meeting/Youth
Group VBS & Sunday School Volunteers

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
11am Subsplash tutorial – drop in during Fellowship

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 Feast of St Francis of Assisi
10am Worship Service - World Communion

Mon Oct 5, 2026

12pm Golden Friends
7pm Crew 206 Youth group

Tue Oct 6, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

Stewardship Campaign 2026

Gain All You Can • Save All You Can • Give All You Can

Next Sunday, St. Luke's begins a four-week journey shaped by John Wesley's timeless rule for Christian living: **gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can**. Throughout September, we will explore how this simple rhythm can deepen our discipleship, strengthen our ministries, and guide our generosity as a church family.

Each Sunday will focus on one part of Wesley's teaching, leading us toward **Pledge Sunday on September 20** and **Consecration Sunday on September 27**, when we will celebrate our commitments together with a church-wide meal following worship.

We invite you to pray for this season of reflection and renewal as we prepare to grow in faith, wisdom, and joyful generosity.

Sunday, September 6 — Gain All You Can

John Wesley taught that gaining is not about chasing more, but about working with integrity and using the gifts God has entrusted to us. This week, we reflect on how our daily work — at home, in the community, and in our careers — becomes ministry when offered faithfully.

Sunday, September 13 — Save All You Can

Saving is not about hoarding; it is about living wisely, avoiding waste, and making choices that honor God's provision. Thoughtful stewardship creates room for generosity and strengthens our ability to support the ministries of St. Luke's.

Sunday, September 20 — Give All You Can (Pledge Sunday)

Giving is the joyful culmination of Wesley's rule. When we give freely, we join in God's work — caring for our neighbors, nurturing children, and sustaining the mission of our church. **Pledges will be due today**. Please prayerfully consider your commitment for the coming year.

Sunday, September 27 — Consecration Sunday

On this special Sunday, we gather our commitments and celebrate the generosity of our church family. Following worship, everyone is invited to stay for a **church-wide meal** — a time of fellowship, gratitude, and joy as we continue growing in Christ's love together.

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

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

John Augustine

Children's Church

Becky Scott (L)
Dan Morgan

Ushers

Gloria Barriger
Char McGrath
Sandy Mercer
Fritzi Stevenson

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Brenda Kemp

Next Sunday

Liturgist

Brenda Scramlin

Children's Church

Sheila Good (L)
tbd

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

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Online Giving

