

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

September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brenda Scramlin, Liturgist

PRELUDE

The Love of God

Richard Durkee, Pianist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this morning as a people who have been given much.

Every good gift we have comes from the hand of God.

In seasons of plenty, it is easy to forget the One who provides.

Lord, keep us mindful that it is You who gives us the power to get wealth.

Whatever we do, whatever work our hands find,

We offer it to the Lord, and not to men.

For we serve the Lord Christ,

And it is from Him that we receive our reward.

Come, let us worship the God who remembers us, even when we forget.

We come with grateful hearts, ready to worship the Lord our God.

*HYMN

From All That Dwells Below the Skies

UMH 101

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, before we open Your Word, open our hearts. Quiet the noise of our own striving long enough that we might hear Your voice. Remind us again that every good thing we have is a gift from You, and that even our labor is holy when it is offered to You. Speak to us now, not as hearers only, but as Your people ready to be changed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 8:11–18

RSV p. 163

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Huff

*HYMN

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

UMH 66

PASTORAL PRAYER THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mark Huff

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:23-24

RSV p. 189

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

INVITATION TO GIVE

Everything we have, our time, our talent, our resources, comes from the hand of God. Deuteronomy reminds us not to forget the Lord who gives us the power to gain and calls us to work heartily as unto the Lord. As an act of worship and gratitude, let us now bring our tithes and offerings before our creator.

OFFERTORY

The Church in the Wildwood

Richard Durkee, Pianist

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

*PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

Lord, we bring these gifts back to You, knowing they were Yours before they were ever ours. Use them for Your kingdom, bless the hands that gave, and multiply what is offered for Your glory. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Richard Durkee, Pianist

*HYMN

How Great Thou Art

UMH 77

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Mark Huff

Go now, remembering the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the strength. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as serving the Lord. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Amen!

Richard Durkee, Pianist

**Congregation stands (as able to)*

Worship Design Summary

Week one of our Gain, Save, Give stewardship series. This sermon reframes our work, our abilities, and our earning as gifts of grace and as holy ground, inviting the congregation to see the workweek as the first place we live as little Christs. Suggested themes for hymns and liturgy: God the giver, vocation, work as worship, gratitude.

PRAYER LIST

Pray For

Marie Nutting

Rachel Lochinski and new baby boy (daughter of Fritz 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 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, 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.*

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of love.

Jesus meets us here.

We gather as the beloved community,

**hungry to be fed with the gifts of the Spirit,
thirsting for the waters of life.**

God is here and everyone is welcome.

The GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today we join the family of God throughout the world at Christ's holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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 Ether'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.

Celebrate Rev. Warren Pettis on His 90th Birthday

We invite you to help shower Rev. Warren Pettis with happy birthday wishes as he celebrates his 90th birthday on September 29. Rev. Pettis faithfully served St. Luke's as pastor from 1980–1987, and his ministry continues to be remembered with deep gratitude. You're encouraged to send cards, notes, and blessings to brighten his milestone birthday, and if possible, please have your message arrive by September 26 so we can gather everything together for his celebration—this timing is requested by Warren's family to help make his birthday extra special. For your convenience, birthday cards are available on the shelf at the end of the Mission Table area. Cards and notes may be sent to Rev. Warren Pettis, 6635 Shiloh Way, Lansing, MI 48917, or emailed to *warren.90th@gmail.com*. Let's fill his special day with joy and remind him how warmly he is held in our hearts.

Quilt Squares for Rev. Pettis' 90th Birthday

A special birthday quilt is being created for Rev. Warren Pettis, and anyone who would like to contribute a quilt square is invited to contact Bev Stange or Joye Kramer by next Sunday. This project has a quick turnaround, as Joye will need time to assemble the quilt by the week of the 20th, and your timely participation will help make this handmade gift a meaningful part of Warren's 90th birthday celebration.

Upcoming

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

Sun Sep 6, 2026

10am Worship Service

Mon Sep 7, 2026

All day Labor Day

Tue Sep 8, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

5pm Sanctuary Reserved [UWiF]

Wed Sep 9, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

6:30pm Needleworkers meet-up

5pm Sanctuary Reserved [UWiF]

6:30pm UWif Prayer Walk

Thu Sep 10, 2026

6pm Girl Scout Leader's Meeting (Room 1)

1pm Beth Redifer – Memorial Garden Internment

Sun Sep 13, 2026

10am Worship Service – Save All You Can

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

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

3:30pm UWif - Helen Nickless Clinic Meal

Fri Sep 18, 2026

All day [Fellowship Hall] for Yagiela BARE event

Sat Sep 19, 2026

All day [Fellowship Hall] for Yagiela BARE event

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

Sun Sep 20, 2026

10am Worship Service – Pledge Sunday

11am Subsplash tutorial - drop in during Fellowship Time

Mon Sep 21, 2026

7pm Crew 206 Youth group

Wed Sep 23, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

6:30pm Needleworkers meet-up

Sun Sep 27, 2026

10am Worship Service - Consecration Sunday

11am Consecration celebration following 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

Sat Oct 3, 2026

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

Sun Oct 4, 2026

All day 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

Wed Oct 7, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Oct 8, 2026

6pm Girl Scout Leader's Meeting (Room 1)

Sat Oct 10, 2026

All day UWif Central Bay District Annual Celebration

Sun Oct 11, 2026

10am Worship Service

11:30am Potluck following Worship service

Wed Nov 11, 2026

All day Veterans Day

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

11am SS Volunteer meeting

4:30pm UWif Gathering

6:30pm Needleworkers meet-up

Thu Nov 12, 2026

6pm Girl Scout Leader's Meeting (Room 1)

Stewardship Campaign 2026

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

Gain All You Can

John Wesley's first rule, **Gain All You Can**, is often misunderstood. It isn't a call to chase wealth or success for their own sake. Instead, it is an invitation to recognize that our work—whatever form it takes—is a sacred trust from God. Wesley taught that gaining is not about accumulating more, but about honoring God through honest labor and faithful use of the gifts we have been given.

Scripture echoes this wisdom in *Ecclesiastes 5:18–20*, reminding us that there is joy and holiness in the work God places before us:

“It is good and fitting... to find satisfaction in all the toil with which one toils under the sun... for this is their lot.” (Ecclesiastes 5:18–20)

Paul reinforces this calling in *1 Thessalonians 4:11–12*, urging believers to live quietly, work faithfully, and carry themselves in ways that earn the respect of others. Our daily work becomes part of our witness—an outward sign of inward faithfulness.

1. Gain through honest, faithful work

Wesley taught that Christians should gain only through honest labor, never through exploitation, dishonesty, or harm. Your work—whether paid, unpaid, caregiving, volunteering, or creative—becomes an expression of discipleship when it is done with integrity and purpose.

2. Gain by using the gifts God has given you

Every person has skills, talents, and experiences that God can use. When you use your abilities faithfully, you participate in God's ongoing work in the world. This is why Wesley saw “gaining” as a spiritual practice: it honors the gifts God has placed within you.

3. Gain without losing yourself

Wesley warned against gaining in ways that damage your health, relationships, or spiritual life. We are called to work diligently, but not destructively. Healthy rhythms of rest, Sabbath, and balance are part of faithful gaining.

4. Gain for the sake of generosity

The purpose of gaining is not accumulation—it is **preparation for giving**. When we gain wisely and ethically, we create the foundation for generosity that blesses our families, our neighbors, and our church.

A Reflection for the Congregation

As we begin this campaign, we invite you to consider:

- How has God equipped you to contribute to the Love of God, and neighbor?
- What gifts, skills, or passions do you use every day?
- How might your work—whatever it looks like—become an act of worship?

Your daily life is ministry. Your work is part of your witness. And your faithfulness in gaining lays the groundwork for the generosity that sustains our church's mission.

On the table across from the Missions area you'll find stewardship envelopes. Many are already addressed to members whose contact information we have on file. If you don't see one with your name, there are also unlabeled envelopes available for anyone to take.

Each envelope includes:

- a Time & Talent survey,
- a Stewardship/Giving card, and
- a return envelope for your completed forms.

Please return these by Pledge Sunday, September 20 as part of our Wesley stewardship emphasis this month. Together we're reflecting on John Wesley's call to *gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can* — a pattern of faithful living that shapes how we serve, how we steward our resources, and how we participate in God's work with generosity and joy.

If your envelope is still on the table, please pick it up by next Sunday to help us save on postage, as any unclaimed envelopes will be mailed. Thank you for being part of this shared ministry.

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.

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
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AV Coordinator
Andrew Felch
avtech@stlukesumcmi.org

Christian Education Coordinator
Janie Good
christianed@stlukesumcmi.org

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist
Brenda Scramlin

Children's Church
Sheila Good (L)
Becky Scott

Ushers
Henry Roeder,
Joe Fleming and
others

Counters
Eric Yagiela
Char McGrath

Communion
Brenda Scramlin
Brian Scramlin
Lisa Foster
Ron Batzer

Next Sunday

Liturgist
Kathy Erndt

Children's Church
Becky Scott (L)
tbd

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

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Online Giving

