

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

September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jodi Shaw, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Crusader's Hymn"

Leon Beaudin, Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who are weary of chasing what cannot last.

We come seeking the treasure that moth and rust cannot destroy.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

Every good gift we hold comes from God's generous hand.

God has entrusted us with time, with talents, and with treasure.

We come to remember that all we have belongs to God.

Whoever is faithful in little is faithful also in much.

Make us faithful, Lord, in the small things and the great.

The eye is the lamp of the body, and where our treasure is, there our hearts will be.

Fill us with Your light and draw our hearts to You.

No one can serve two masters.

Today we choose to serve the Lord our God. Let us worship!

*HYMN

The Church's One Foundation VS 1, 2, 4 +5

UMH 545

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, open our ears to hear Your Word and open our hearts to receive it.

Where our eyes have grown cloudy, give us clear sight. Where our treasure has

wandered, draw our hearts back to You. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, let these

words become Living Word for us today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 16:1-13

RSV p. 75

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Huff

*HYMN

Open My Eyes, That I May See

UMH 454

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mark Huff

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:19-24

RSV p. 5&6

MESSAGE

"Where Your Treasure Is"

Rev. Mark Huff

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Jesus reminds us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. What we give is not about paying a bill or meeting a budget. It is about placing our hearts in the hands of God. As John Wesley taught, we gain all we can, we save all we can, so that we may give all we can. Let us now offer back to God a portion of what God has first given to us.

OFFERTORY

Holy Forever

Leon Beaudin

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

*PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

Generous God, we bring these gifts as an act of trust and worship. Receive them, bless them, and multiply them for the work of Your kingdom. Receive also the gifts we cannot place in the plate: our time, our talents, and our lives. Make us faithful stewards of all You have entrusted to us, so that our treasure and our hearts may rest in You. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

O Jesus I Have Promised

UMH 396

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Mark Huff

Go now as faithful stewards of God's good gifts. Store up treasures in heaven by loving generously and serving joyfully. Keep your eyes full of light and your heart devoted to one Master. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit go with you, now and always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Almighty King

Leon Beaudin, Organist

**Congregation stands (as able to)*

A few large print versions of this worship packet are available at the Welcome Desk

Worship Design Summary

Week three of our Gain, Save, give stewardship series, the Give week, leading into Consecration Sunday. This is a stewardship sermon, but it is not a money sermon. Jesus tells the strange story of a manager called to give an account of his management, and then He tells us plainly that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. This message invites the congregation to take an honest and grace filled look at their whole lives, time, talent, and treasure, and to discover that stewardship is really about becoming little Christs, people through whom the love of Jesus flows into the world. Suggested themes for hymns and liturgy: trust, treasure, the heart, giving our whole selves to God.

PRAYER LIST

The Families of

Tom Nankeruis (brother of Linda Sterling)

Pray For

Marjorie Holsinger

Susan Hendrickson

Helen Cummings

Marie Nutting

Rachel Lochinski and new baby boy (daughter of Fritz Stevenson)

Roger Trerice

Dave Reed

William Roeder (brother of Henry Roeder)

William Kozuch (husband of Fritz Stevenson)

Tom Piotrowski (brother-in-law of Jan Deming)

Shut-ins

Ann and Frank Davis, Bob Davidson, Florence Decker,

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

All Saints Sunday – Submit Names for Remembrance

All Saints Sunday is approaching on November 1, and we welcome the names of loved ones you wish to have remembered in the service. You may email office@stlukesumcmi.org or call the church office by October 18. Please provide their full name and date of death. As a church family, we hold their stories and memories with care.

Subsplash Sunday Drop-In Training

Learn the basics, ask questions, and get hands-on practice during today's 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.

Blessing of the Animals

Join us at St. Luke's UMC for a Blessing of the Animals on Thursday, October 1st at 5 p.m. All pets, big or small, are welcome to receive a blessing as we celebrate the bond between animals and their humans. Please ensure pets are on leashes or in carriers. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lasagna & Game Night

Join us for Lasagna & Game Night on Saturday, October 3 from 5:30–9:00 PM for an evening of great food, fellowship, and fun. Please see the sign-up board to register and to indicate any food donation you'd like to bring. We are requesting donations of lasagna noodles, plain spaghetti sauce, brick cheese (sharp cheddar, colby jack, mozzarella), cottage cheese, garlic butter spread, garden salad, salad dressings (one ranch, one Italian, one French), a couple different kinds of cookies, and two liters of root beer. Thank you for helping make this event a success!

Thursday Bible Study- Reading the Bible Like a Pastor – Led by Rev. Mark Huff

Six Thursdays, October 8 – November 12, 6:30-7:30 pm in Esther's Parlor. Every Sunday you hear 2 of four scripture readings. Where do they come from, why those, and how does a pastor get from the page to the sermon? Over six weeks we will work through the coming Sunday's readings together and learn the practices Methodists have used to read scripture: Lectio divina, reading in context, letting scripture interpret scripture, praying the psalms, and the old class meeting question, How is it with your soul. No experience needed. Bring a Bible and a Pen with a willingness to sit still with a text. Please see the sign-up on the bulletin board.

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.

Central Bay District United Women in Faith – Annual Celebration

Join us on Saturday, October 10 at Weidman UMC for this year’s Annual Celebration, featuring keynote speaker Julia Paradine-Rice with her message, “*Unstoppable.*” Registration opens at 8:45 a.m., brunch at 9:30, and the program begins at 10:45. Cost is \$20 per person. Those interested in attending should contact Gloria Gonzales or Brenda Scramlin. Carpooling will be available.

Missions Meeting

The Mission meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 pm. Everyone interested in seeing what our church’s mission outreach is doing is more than welcome!!

Fall Bazaar – Volunteers Needed!

Our Fall Bazaar will be **on November 14, 2026, from 11:00 AM–4:00 PM.**
We’re looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen with set-up and clean-up.
Set-up: November 13, 3:00-7:00 PM
Clean-up: November 14, 4:00–6:00 PM
If you can help, please see the sign-up board. Thank 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.

Adult Sunday School – Interest survey

We’re exploring whether there’s enough interest to consider an Adult Sunday School option this fall. If this is something you might participate in, the potential meeting time would be 9:00–9:45 am. Please stop by the bulletin board and add your name to the sign-up sheet. Your response will help us understand the level of interest as we plan future opportunities.

Sewing for Missions – Interest Survey

Are you a sewer or would you like to learn? St Luke’s Missions has been offered several sewing machines to use, if there’s interest. The interest survey is posted on the bulletin board or you can contact Sue Lind , Becky Scott or Kathy Erndt.

Upcoming

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

Sun Sep 20, 2026

10am Worship Service – Pledge Sunday
11am Subsplash tutorial – drop in during Fellowship

Mon Sep 21, 2026

7pm Crew 206 Youth group

Tue Sep 22, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up

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
5:30pm Game Night

Sun Oct 4, 2026

All day Special Sunday – World Communion Sunday
10am Worship Service

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)
6:30pm Thursday Bible Study – Reading the Bible Like a Pastor

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

Mon Oct 12, 2026

All day Onboarding in Esther's Parlor (details coming soon)
6:30pm UWif Executive Meeting
7pm Crew 206 Youth group

Tue Oct 13, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up
4pm Girl Scout Troop (Large classroom)
6pm Finance Task Group Meeting

Wed Oct 14, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers
6:30pm Needleworkers meet-up
6:30pm UWif Tour/Field Trip

Thu Oct 15, 2026

6:30pm Thursday Bible Study

Fri Oct 16, 2026

All day UWif Michigan Conference Annual Celebration in Southfield
All day Girl Scout recruiting event

Sat Oct 17, 2026

All day UWif Michigan Conference Annual Celebration in Southfield
9am U.M.M. breakfast @ Krzysiak's

Sun Oct 18, 2026

10am Worship Service

Stewardship Campaign 2026

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

Give All You Can — Expanded Teaching

John Wesley's third rule, **Give All You Can**, is the heart of Christian stewardship. It is not about giving until you are empty—it is about giving from a place shaped by love, gratitude, and trust in God's provision.

Paul captures this spirit in *2 Corinthians 9:6–11*, teaching that those who sow generously will reap generously, and that God enriches us so we can be generous on every occasion. Our giving becomes thanksgiving to God and blessing to others.

This generosity is deeply connected to *Romans 12:1*, where Paul urges believers to offer their whole lives as a “living sacrifice”—a spiritual act of worship. Wesley understood giving as part of that offering: a practical, joyful way of presenting ourselves to God.

1. Give with joy, not pressure

Wesley believed that giving should never be forced or guilt driven. True Christian generosity flows from joy—joy in God's blessings, joy in serving others, and joy in being part of Christ's work in the world.

2. Give in ways that reflect Christ's love

Giving is a spiritual practice. When we give, we imitate Christ's compassion, His self-giving, His care for the vulnerable. Wesley taught that giving is one of the clearest ways Christians demonstrate the love of God to others.

3. Give according to your ability and your calling

Wesley never asked people to give beyond what was wise. Instead, he encouraged believers to give in proportion to their means, their circumstances, and their sense of God's leading. Generosity looks different for each person, but every gift—large or small—matters deeply.

4. Give because your gifts make ministry possible

Giving is not abstract. It is practical. Your generosity supports worship, outreach, children's ministry, pastoral care, missions, and the daily work of the church. Wesley saw giving as the natural outcome of faithful gaining and wise saving: the moment when stewardship becomes action.

A Reflection for the Congregation

As we reach this final part of Wesley's rule, consider:

- How has God blessed you in ways that empower you to bless others?
- What ministries at St. Luke's have touched your life or your family?
- How might your giving this year reflect gratitude, hope, and faith?

Giving is an act of worship. It is how we join together to strengthen our church, care for our neighbors, and participate in God's mission.

Pledge Sunday — Your Forms Are Due Today

Today is Pledge Sunday, and it's time to turn in the stewardship materials you picked up earlier. Please place your completed Time & Talent survey and Stewardship/Giving card **in the tray on the Welcome Desk**.

If you didn't bring your forms with you today, you can still return them this week — just drop them off in the office or place them in the secure mailbox by the Northeast door.

As we conclude our September stewardship emphasis, 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.

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

Next Sunday, we'll celebrate **Consecration Sunday** with a special **Celebration Meal immediately following the service**. All are welcome as we gather around the table to give thanks for God's faithfulness and for the commitments our congregation is making for the year ahead.

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
Jodi Shaw

Children's Church
Brenda Toyzan (L)
Becky Scott

Ushers
Henry Roeder,
Joe Fleming and
others

Counters
Eric Yagiela
Brenda Kemp

Next Sunday

Liturgist
Anne Connell

Children's Church
Becky Scott (L)
Karla Morgan

Ushers
Kathy Erndt
Janie Good
Brenda Kemp
Sandy Mercer

Counters
Eric Yagiela
Char McGrath

Acolytes
(varies week to week)

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