

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

September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anne Connell, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Give Me Jesus

Leon Beaudin, Piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to the gate called Beautiful, carrying what we have and longing for what we need.

We come looking for God, and God has already been looking for us.

Some of us said yes and never went. Some of us said no and later turned around.

Here, all of us may change our minds and walk into the vineyard.

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.

We rise to leap and praise God together!

*HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

UMH 139

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, you speak with an authority that comes from heaven and not from us.

Quiet the arguments in our minds and the questions we ask only to protect ourselves.

By your Holy Spirit, open our ears to hear your Word, and open our hearts to turn toward you when we hear it. Let what we say with our lips become what we do with our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 21:23-32

RSV p. 22

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Huff

*HYMN

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

UMH 400

PASTORAL PRAYER THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mark Huff

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 3:1-19

RSV p. 114

MESSAGE

"Still Time to Change Your Mind"

Rev. Mark Huff

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Peter looked at the man by the gate and said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you." Every one of us has something to give. Our gifts of money, time, and talent become the hands that lift others to their feet. Let us offer what we have to God with joyful hearts.

OFFERTORY *I Want to Be a Christian* **Leon Beaudin**

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* **UMH 94**

*PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

Generous God, we bring these gifts not only as words of thanks but as steps of obedience. Take what we offer and multiply it for your healing work in this place and in the world. May these gifts open gates, lift up the weary, and proclaim the power of your name. Receive our lives along with our offerings, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* **UMH 140**

SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION** **Rev. Mark Huff**

Go now as people who have changed your minds and turned toward God. Walk into the vineyard where Christ is already working. Offer what you have in the name of Jesus, and watch God lift people to their feet. May the God who calls you, the Christ who heals you, and the Spirit who refreshes you go with you today and always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Festive March* **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

It is Holy Week in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and cleared the Temple, and now the chief priests and elders demand to know where his authority comes from. Jesus answers with a question about John the Baptist that exposes their hearts, then tells the parable of two sons... one who said no but went, and one who said yes but stayed home. This sermon holds up the grace of a God who keeps inviting, the honesty of a repentance that shows up in action, and the tragedy of religious people who saw the truth and would not change their minds. Themes to plan around: repentance, obedience that follows grace, God's patient invitation, working in the vineyard.

PRAYER LIST

The Families of

Tom Nankeruis (brother of Linda Sterling)

Pray For

Janet Zerby

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

Consecration Sunday

Today we consecrate our commitments—lifting them to God with thanksgiving and hope. In the spirit of *Romans 12:1–2*, we offer ourselves and our gifts as a “living sacrifice,” holy and pleasing to God. This moment is more than the completion of a campaign; it is an act of worship. We present our commitments not conformed to the patterns of the world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds, trusting that God will use what we offer for the good of the church and the blessing of our community.

We celebrate the generosity of our church family and the shared mission that unites us in Christ’s love. Each pledge, each prayer, each act of service reflects a heart turned toward God and a desire to participate in God’s work among us.

Following worship, everyone is invited to stay for a church-wide meal. This time of fellowship is our way of giving thanks for the journey we’ve taken together and the ministry we will continue to build in the years ahead.

A Word of Gratitude

Thank you for the ways you have prayed, reflected, and participated throughout this season. Thank you for gaining with integrity, saving with wisdom, and giving with joy. Your faithfulness strengthens St. Luke’s and helps us continue transforming lives in Christ’s name.

Governance Board Meeting Monday, September 28, 2026 6:30pm Esther’s Parlor

Pastor Appreciation Potluck – October 11

We’ve been blessed to have our pastor with us for just a few months, and we’d love to celebrate this new season together with a Pastor Appreciation Potluck on Sunday, October 11 right after worship. It’s a simple, joyful way to say “we’re glad you’re here” and enjoy some good food and fellowship. If you’d like to bring a dish, please sign up on the dish sign-up board. Whether you bring something homemade, store-bought, or just bring yourself, we’d love to have you at the table.

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.

Blessing of the Animals

Join us at St. Luke’s UMC for a Blessing of the Animals this 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.

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!!

Haunted Hallway | Saturday, October 31st | from 6-8 PM.

We are accepting donations of candy for the event. If you'd prefer not to donate candy, monetary donations can be given to Brenda Kemp for cider and popcorn. Please place candy donations on the main table. For any questions, see Brenda Kemp.

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.

Upcoming

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

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

Sat Oct 10, 2026

All day UWIF Central Bay District Annual Celebration

Sun Oct 11, 2026

10am Worship Service
11:30am Pastor Appreciation Potluck following Worship

Mon Oct 12, 2026

All day Onboarding in Esther's Parlor
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
All day Girl Scout recruiting event

Sat Oct 17, 2026

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

Sun Oct 18, 2026

10am Worship Service

Mon Oct 19, 2026

7pm Crew 206 Youth group

Tue Oct 20, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up
6:30pm Missions Meeting

Wed Oct 21, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Oct 22, 2026

6:30pm Thursday Bible Study

Sun Oct 25, 2026

10am Worship Service

Mon Oct 26, 2026

6:30pm Governance Board Meeting
7pm Crew 206 Youth group

Tue Oct 27, 2026

10:30am Needleworkers Meet-up
4pm Girl Scout Troop (Large classroom)

Wed Oct 28, 2026

10:30am Wednesday Weavers
6:30pm Needleworkers meet-up

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
Anne Connell
Children's Church
Becky Scott (L)
Lisa Foster

Ushers
Kathy Erndt
Janie Good
Brenda Kemp
Sandy Mercer

Counters
Eric Yagiela
Char McGrath

Next Sunday

Liturgist
Charlotte McGrath
Children's Church
Karla Morgan (L)
Sheila Good

Ushers
Henry Roeder,
Joe Fleming,
and others

Counters
Eric Yagiela
Becky Scott

Communion
Charlotte McGrath
Henry Roeder
Jodi Shaw
Kathy Erndt

Acolytes
(varies week to week)

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

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