

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

October 4, 2026
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Char McGrath, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Is He Worthy?

Leon Beaudin, Piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord planted a vineyard with loving hands, built a wall around it, and dug a winepress in the ground.

We are that vineyard, planted by grace and tended to with care.

God has given us good soil, sweet rain, and every gift we need to bear fruit.

Yet we have kept the harvest for ourselves.

God has sent messenger after messenger to call us home.

And in love, God sent the Son, the stone the builders rejected.

That rejected stone has become the cornerstone of our faith.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Come, let us gather at the table and in the vineyard of God's grace.

People: Let us worship the Lord who plants, restores, and makes us fruitful.

*HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing VS 1, 2, 3, 4 + 5

UMH 57

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, you speak through your Word as a gardener speaks to good soil. Open our ears to hear the voice of your Son, even when his words unsettle us. Break open the places in our hearts where we have claimed your vineyard as our own, and plant in us a desire to return the harvest to you. By your Holy Spirit, let this Word take root and bear fruit in our lives. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 5:1-7

RSV p.602-603

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Huff

*HYMN

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

UMH 175

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mark Huff

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:33-46

RSV p. 22

MESSAGE

"The Vineyard Was Never Ours"

Rev. Mark Huff

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

INVITATION TO GIVE

Everything we have is a gift from the Owner of the vineyard. The resources in our hands were entrusted to us so that the harvest might bless the world. As we bring our offerings today, we give out of gratitude, not obligation, returning to God a portion of the fruit God has grown in us.

OFFERTORY

Behold the Lamb Communion Hymn

Leon Beaudin

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

*PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

Generous God, you have given us more than we could earn. Receive these gifts as fruit from the vineyard you planted. Use them to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and share the good news of Jesus Christ. May our lives, like these offerings, be given back to you. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Leon Beaudin

*HYMN

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

UMH 569

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Mark Huff

Go now as faithful tenants of God's vineyard. Tend to what has been entrusted to you with care. Build your lives on Christ, the cornerstone, and bear fruit that blesses your neighbors. And may the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit go with you this day and every day. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Lancashire"

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

God builds and provides the vineyard before we arrive, then trusts it to us as tenants. Prevenient grace in the planting, the patience of the Owner who keeps sending, the rejected Son who becomes the cornerstone, and the fruit God is looking for in us. Warm and searching. Songs on grace, belonging, surrender.

PRAYER LIST

The Families of

William John "Butch" Reed (Brother-in-law of Fritz Stevenson and Uncle of Jazzy Jones)
Elizabeth "Betty" M. Doriean (Mother-in-law of Fritz Stevenson and Great Grandmother of Jazzy Jones)
Tom Nankerus (brother of Linda Sterling)

Pray For

Paul Gates (brother of Lois Soltysiak)
Eric Ives
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.*

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

World Communion Sunday

INVITATION

God the Lord, our Source of unity and strength, in our longing for wholeness, we reach out to your Son, whose touch heals our brokenness; in our yearning for community, we take hold of the promises of Christ, whose life and love bind us together as one. From lives of separation and distrust, knit us into one family, where all are welcomed and honored. As we share the bread of life and drink the cup of salvation, forge us anew as one people of faith. Amen.

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,

Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image

and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,

your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,

made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through the prophets.

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.
Your Spirit anointed him

to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
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.
When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he 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, he 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.**

THE 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, 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.



“Come, let us worship
the One who welcomes,
the One who remembers,
the One who feeds the
whole world with hope.”

*—From the World Communion Sunday Call to Worship
by Rev. Nathan Arledge*

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Today we celebrate **World Communion Sunday**, a day that highlights the importance of education and leadership development across our global United Methodist connection; your gifts help equip young adults to make a meaningful impact for Christ by offering both financial support and spiritual encouragement, and as we gather around Christ's table we remember our shared faith and unity; if you feel led to give, you may place cash or a check made out to **St. Luke's UMC** with “**WC Sunday**” in the memo line into the **Special Offering Envelope** for the ushers to collect along with the regular offering, or you may give online through [St. Luke's online giving portal](#) or at **UMC.org/SSGive**—thank you for supporting this important ministry.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You

What a blessing friends and family are. I want to thank all of you for the beautiful cards and messages on my birthday! I was overwhelmed and will never forget all the cards and cake to help me celebrate. Hugs to all of you.
Bev Walker

Crew 206 Youth Outing

Youth ages 13–17 (parents welcome!) are invited to join us on Monday, October 5th from 5:00–6:45 PM at Johnson's Pumpkin Farm, 4715 N Portsmouth Rd, Saginaw, MI. We'll meet at the concession stand when you arrive. Questions? Contact Janie Good.

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 invite you to share the names of loved ones who have passed this year and whom you would like remembered in worship. Please email office@stlukesumcmi.org or call the church office by October 18. Include their full name and date of death. As a church family, we hold their stories and memories with care.

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 Shores 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.

United Women in Faith Meeting

The United Women in Faith will meet on **Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 PM** in **Esther's Parlor**. Together, we'll explore efforts to break the school-to-prison pipeline and discuss meaningful ways we can support the Bay County Juvenile Facility. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this important and informative conversation.

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!

Upcoming

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

Sun Oct 4, 2026

All day Special Sunday – World Communion Sunday

Mon Oct 5, 2026

12pm Golden Friends

5pm Crew 206 Youth outing to Johnson's Pumpkin Farm

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 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 in Esther's Parlor

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 [Fellowship Hall] 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

Thu Oct 24, 2026

[Fellowship Hall] reserved [Baby Shower]

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

Thu Oct 29, 2026

6:30pm Thursday Bible Study

Sat Oct 31, 2026

6pm Haunted Hallway

Sun Nov 1, 2026

10am Worship Service – All Saints Sunday (no communion)

2:30pm Charge Conference for Zone 6

Mon Nov 2, 2026

12pm Golden Friends

7pm Crew 206 Youth group

Tue Nov 3, 2026

All day [Fellowship Hall] Reserved for General Election

10:30am 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

Charlotte McGrath

Children's Church

Karla Morgan (L)
Sheila Good (Assist)

Ushers

Henry Roeder,
Joe Fleming,
and others

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Becky Scott

Communion

Charlotte McGrath
Henry Roeder
Jodi Shaw
Kathy Erndt

Next Sunday

Liturgist

Fritzi Stevenson

Children's Church

TBD (L)
TBD (Assist)

Ushers

Henry Roeder,
Joe Fleming,
and others

Counters

Eric Yagiela
Brenda Kemp

Acolytes

(varies week to week)

Delanya Charbonneau, Kyliana Green,
Johnathan Huff, Lukas Huff, Jazzlyn Jones,
Ethan Lanava, Norma Tennant, Weston Wieland,
Connor Yagiela, Lauren Yagiela,

Get our App



Online Giving

