

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

September 14, 2025

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



We are the People of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision~ “Share Love and Give Hope”

GATHERING

PRELUDE

As the Deer, My Soul Longs for You

Leon Beaudin, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy Erndt, Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In the streets and city square, Wisdom cries out.

My friends, are we listening?

**Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable to you, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.**

The heavens and the earth proclaim the glory of God.

My friends, are we listening?

**Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable to you, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.**

The word of God revives the soul and warms the heart.

My friends, are we listening?

**Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable to you, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.**

Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

Dear friends, what is our answer?

**Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable to you, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.**

Together: You are the Christ, the Son of Man, who has come and is to come.

HYMN

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

UMH 158

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**God of wisdom and truth, speak to us now. Inspire us with your word. Speak clearly
to our hearts, that we may walk in your ways and live in your love. In the name of
Christ, our Messiah, we pray. Amen.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 53

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

MEMBERSHIP CEREMONY

**"Jay" Wallace Jason Minard, III,
and Aimee Minard, Beth Sue Redifer**

HYMN Be Thou My Vision **UHM 451**

PASTORAL PRAYER **Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 10:25-37**

MESSAGE The Parable of the Good Samaritan for Mission
Rev. Seok Nam Lim

PRESENTATION FOR BLANKET SUNDAY
Mission Team/United Methodist Women In Faith

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY Morning Has Broken **Leon Beaudin**

DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow **UMH 95**

OFFERTORY PRAYER
Most gracious God, we bring these gifts, as we bring ourselves. We are nothing special in ourselves. But you seek us, you gather us together; and in your arms, our lives come together. Bless us and these gifts, that together we may be a blessing and return your glory to you, where it belongs. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN The Church's One Foundation vs 1, 2, 4 +5 **UMH 545**

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION **Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

Like a lost sheep, you are found by the Good Shepherd.
Like a lost coin, you are gathered up by God.
Be a good shepherd to those who are lonely.
Be a good home for those longing to belong.
Go into the untiring goodness of God, the unending patience of Christ,
and the infinite peace of the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

POSTLUDE O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing **Leon Beaudin, Organist**

Sermon Summary

The Parable of the Good Samaritan for Mission (Luke 10:25-37)

Rev. Bill Sanders led a 4-week Thursday Bible study, "Cotton Patch Gospel," this past August. It presents the Gospel of Christ in the geographical context of Georgia. It is a contextualization of the gospel of Christ.

The gospel of Christ originated from the land of the Jews in the first century. The Cotton Patch Gospel is a presentation or re-presentation of the gospel of Christ in the context of Georgia, America. So, as I understand, its purpose is to make us participate in the gospel of Christ here and now, in our contemporary lives. The gospel presented in a Jewish or Greek culture is transformed fitting to a culture of Georgia, America. The location of Koinonia Farm in Georgia is a place where we can experience the gospel of Christ today. "Christians at Koinonia Farm rejected violence, lived interracial fellowship, and embraced their neighbors, many of whom were Black tenant farmers," overcoming "suspicion, hostility, and harassment" and surviving despite being "boycotted and bombed" (from the Bible study material, "*A Note on The Cotton Patch Gospel*" by Clarence Jordan).

Transporting the Gospels to the twentieth century has sometimes jarring results. Bethlehem becomes Gainesville, Georgia; the manger becomes an apple box; crucifixion becomes lynching. The message of Jesus becomes personal – and disturbing.... When the Gospel moves across the centuries and comes home to us, we are invited to participate. When we recognize ourselves in the transcendent story, the Word does indeed become flesh. (from the Bible Study material, "*Introduction to The Substance of Faith*" by Dallas Lee)

The Cotton Patch Gospel explains the biblical conception of Christian mission, which is a work of translating into and presenting the Gospel of Christ to our contemporary life: It is a work of incarnation of the Word of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord, into our real-life contexts. We should not keep the Gospel of Christ just in our thoughts or imaginations but transform it into our concrete experiences. We must embody the image of Christ in our everyday lives. We must carry out the gospel of Christ in our thoughts, speeches, and actions. Our understanding of the Gospel of Christ must permeate our bodies. It is the reality of the Gospel of Christ. This is the mission of God fulfilled in the incarnation of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord:

John 1:14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

In the last class, August 2025, Rev. Sanders presented the geographical theology of the New Testament. A geographical location of Scripture manifests a theological understanding. The history of God's salvation is embodied in the human or Jewish contexts. A geographical location signifies who God is, what the gospel of Christ is, or what the gospel of Christ means. Rev. Sanders explained the significance of Samaria for the

incarnation of the gospel of Christ. The parable of the Samaritan is an embodiment of the image of Jesus Christ and his gospel.

At the time of Jesus, in the first century, Samaria was a place for those who were worse than pagans. The Jews considered pagans as animals, who belonged to a lower level of humanity, and Samaritans as worse than animals, who belonged to the lowest level of humanity. The Jewish understanding of Samaritans reflected their racial or geographical prejudice. When Jesus criticized the Jews about their ignorance of God and revelation through him, they responded to him:

John 8:46-48 (Jesus said) Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God." The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"

For the Jews, being "Samaritan" is identical with being "demon-possessed." They considered Samaritans the worst human race. However, in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus presented a Samaritan as a role model of the one who shows God's love for all: He is the one who loves his neighbor as he loves himself, perhaps more than himself. The Wisdom of God was incarnated in Jesus, who lived like a Samaritan and was treated even worse than a Samaritan. The Jews crucified Jesus. They placed him in the worst place for human beings. They lynched Jesus, treating him worse than a Samaritan. However, God radically or dramatically reversed their lynching to his loving care for all nations, including Samaritans:

Galatians 3:13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

The lynching tree becomes the incarnation of God's wisdom, power, and unfailing love for the salvation of all nations. A Samaritan identified himself with a person who was victimized and exploited by thieves on the streets. The people of religion, nationalism, or supremacy, like priests, law teachers, and Pharisees, avoided the innocent victim, but a Samaritan joined him and saved him. This Samaritan is an incarnation of Jesus, his identity as the Son of God for all. This is an illustration of God's mission. The task given to us today is to present the parable of a Good Samaritan through our life stories. When we do this mission work, we will let the world see Christ Jesus dwelling among us.

THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

- **INTRODUCTION TO THE COVENANT**

Pastor: The church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time, for the conduct of worship and the due administration of God's Word and Sacraments, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world. All, of every age and station, stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies.

- **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW MEMBERSHIP**

Pastor: I present "Jay" Wallace Jason Minard, III, and Aimee Minard, and Beth Sue Redifer for membership of The United Methodist Church.

- **RECONFIRMATION OF FAITH AND RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastor: Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

"Jay" Wallace Jason and Aimee Minard, and Beth Sue Redifer: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to keep God's holy will and commandments and walk in the same all the days of your life as a *faithful member* of Christ's holy Church?

"Jay" Wallace Jason and Aimee Minard, and Beth Sue Redifer: I do.

Pastor: As a member of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

"Jay" Wallace Jason and Aimee Minard, and Beth Sue Redifer: I do.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father of Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

Holy Communion

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Do you believe in the holy catholic church?

All: I believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

- **RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION**

Let those who are members of the body of Christ, the holy catholic church, and other congregations of The United Methodist Church, and who now desire to enter the fellowship of this congregation, present themselves to be welcome.

- **COMMENDATION AND WELCOME**

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend the new members, to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm our hope in Christ, and perfect her and you together in love.

People: We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy Church and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

- **PASTOR'S BLESSING TO THE NEW MEMBER**

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called all of us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that you may live in grace and peace.

All: Amen.

Church leaders may join with the pastor in acts of welcome and peace.

The Families of

Pat Ferranti (sister of Carol O'Neil and Janet Zerby)

Pray For

Carol Niederquell (sister of Ron Batzer)

Amber Sexton (granddaughter of Sharon VanEvery)

Ruth Felch

Melissa Morin

Melissa Coleman (the sister of Tiffany Coleman)

Faith Johnson

Bob Gibelyou

Kerri Meeks

Janet Zerby

Margaret Morrison

Joe Fleming

Sue Lind

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

David (the grandson of Joan R. Gray)

Shut-ins

Ann Davis, Bob Davidson, Florence Decker, Sandy Gillam,
Marletta Gross, Susan Hendrickson, Betty Martinek, Barb Meyer, Melissa Morin,
Phyllis Finn, Ruth Matherne, Jane Russell, Jacky Sansburn, and Roger Trerice.

Lift up in prayer all who are enduring the pain of war, the impacts of climate change, violence, hatred, poverty, and loss. Pray for unity and the freedom we find in Christ to strengthen our nation. Remember our church family, especially those facing loss, illness, weakness, and hardship. And seek blessings for the ministry of St. Luke's UMC.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:6-7)

Requests will be kept on the list for 1 month. If you would like your prayer request to remain on the list or be re-added, please let us know. SUBMIT YOUR PRAYER REQUEST through our website, email office@stlukesumcmi.org, by filling out a connection card, located on the pew backs, or the Prayer box located in front of the church.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! Please sign the attendance pad on the inside aisle of your pew, pass it down your row, for others to sign. Your signature helps us keep our records up to date and stay connected as a church family.

The next Golden Friends event will be on Monday, October 6th at the Turkey Roost, 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 28th. For more information, please reach out to Judy or Joe Fleming.

Central Bay District United Women in Faith Annual Celebration on Saturday, October 4 at Alma UMC. Keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. April Gutierrez. She is co-pastor of Chapel Hill Church in Portage. Her topic will be "Carrying Our Faith Forward". Registration begins at 8:45 and car pooling will be available. Registration deadline is September 25. Contact Gloria Gonzales to register.

St. Luke's is looking to fill two positions on our Governance Board: Trustee and Finance Chairperson. These important roles help guide the stewardship of our church's resources and play a key part in shaping strategic decisions. If you have a heart to serve and a willingness to learn, we invite you to consider joining. Training and support will be provided. If you feel called to help, please contact Henry Roeder and Karla Morgan.

Join us at St. Luke's UMC for a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 4th 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!

Thursday Bible Study – Hebrews Dates: September 11 – December 18, 2025 (13 weeks). **It's not too late to sign up for this study.** See the sign up on the bulletin board for details and to register. Textbook: *Hebrews: Race to Glory* by James Reapsome. (InterVarsity Press, LifeGuide Bible Studies, 13 Lessons)

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Volunteer Sign Up

Volunteer at the Matthew25 Cafe to prep, cook, serve and clean up for soup kitchen guests, Saturdays, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Location: 410 10th St, Bay City. There is a sign-up form on the bulletin board. Each date has a designated church contact - we need 3 volunteers for each date to assist.

Sept 20 Leader - Kathy Erndt Oct 18 Leader - Bev Walker Nov 15 Leader - TBD

Sun Sep 14, 2025

10:00 am Worship Service / UWIF and
Missions Sunday

Tue Sep 16, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up
5:30 pm Girl Scouts – Big Class Room

Wed Sep 17, 2025

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

Thu Sep 18, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Sep 20, 2025

9:00 am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's
9:30–1:30 Salvation Army Soup Kitchen
Volunteers L-Kathy Erndt
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sun Sep 21, 2025

3rd Grade Bibles

Mon Sep 22, 2025

6:30 pm Governance Board Meeting

Tue Sep 23, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Sep 24, 2025

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

Thu Sep 25, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Sep 27, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sep 28 – Oct 26, 2025

[UWiF] Cookie Dough Sale

Sun Sep 28, 2025

6:00 pm Central Bay District Charge
Conference (Zone 4)

Mon Sep 29 – Oct 2

[Pastor] 2025 Annual Conference of
the Korean Association of the UMC

Tue Sep 30, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up
5:30 pm Girl Scouts – Big Class Room

Wed Oct 1, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Oct 2, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Oct 4, 2025

Central Bay District Annual Meeting,
Alma UMC

9:00 am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's
5:00 pm Blessing of the Animals
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sun Oct 5, 2025

World Communion Sunday

Mon Oct 6, 2025

12:00 pm Golden Friends @ The Turkey Roost

Tue Oct 7, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Oct 8, 2025

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

Thu Oct 9, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Oct 11, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Mon Oct 13, 2025

Columbus Day

Tue Oct 14, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up
5:30 pm Girl Scouts – Big Class Room

Wed Oct 15, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Oct 16, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Oct 18, 2025

UWiF Mi Conference Annual Training
& Celebration, Clio UMC

9:00 am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's
9:30–1:30 Salvation Army Soup Kitchen
Volunteers L-Bev Walke

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Mon Oct 20, 2025

6:30 pm UWiF Executive Meeting

Tue Oct 21, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Oct 22, 2025

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

Thu Oct 23, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Oct 24, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist
Kathy Erndt

Children's Church
Henry Roeder
Joy Clark

Ushers
United Women in Faith

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist
Brenda Scramlin

Children's Church
Becky Scott
Linda Manyen

Ushers
Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others

Acolytes
(varies week to week)

**Connor Yagiela, Lauren Yagiela, Jazzlyn
Jones,
Kyliana Green, Ethan Lanava**

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are presented by the Missions / Needleworkers.

The signup form for arranging altar flowers to adorn the sanctuary during Sunday's Worship service is available on the bulletin board designated for sign-ups.

Stay Connected

Address

206 Scheurmann St
Essexville MI 48732

Phone

Church: 989-893-8031
Parsonage: 989-894-2453

Office Hours

Tue & Wed 9-3, Thu 9-12

Email

office@stlukesumcmi.org

Online

<https://www.stlukesumcmi.org>

Online Giving

<https://stlukesumcmi.org>

Click on "Give" in top menu bar

To Sign up for our E-newsletter

<https://stlukesumcmi.org/newsletter-subscribe>

September 11, 2025 Newsletter

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2025-09-11>

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Seok Nam Lim
seoknamlim1@hotmail.com
Mobile: 347-885-1948

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

Adult Sunday School

Fall, Winter, Spring
9:00 am in Esther's Parlor

Children's Church:

Following Children's Message
in Classroom 3