

# **St. Luke's United Methodist Church**

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

**Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation**

**August 24, 2025**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**



**We are the People of the United Methodist Church**

**Our Vision~ “Share Love and Give Hope”**

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## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Lind, Liturgist

### PRELUDE

Crusaders Hymn

Mary Lewis, Pianist

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Where can we stand when God is shaking the earth?

**We will stand on the promises of God.**

Where can we find support when our foundation fail?

**We will lean on the everlasting arms of God.**

Where can we find salvation in times like these?

**We will look to Jesus and to his covenant of life.**

Let us worship the God of our salvation.

### HYMN

Jesus Calls Us

UMH 398

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**God, the Great Healer, we are beaten down by life's suffering. Make us whole, O God, and help us share your healing with the world. Free us from the demons that shackle our spirits and set us free from the chains that bind us, that we may help break the chains of others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 13:28-36

### MEMBERSHIP CEREMONY

Robert Wesley Gibelyou and Gregory Lee Sullivan

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

### HYMN

He Touched Me

UHM 367

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Psalm 2**

**MESSAGE**     The Blessed Life in the Son of God (3): Prayer

**Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

## **OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**     Sweet Hour of Prayer

**Mary Lewis, Pianist**

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

**UMH 94**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of power and might, in times of trial, you are our fortress and our refuge. In thanksgiving and praise for your wonderful gifts, we offer our tithes and offerings, that others might know the strength of your unshakable kingdom. In the name of Jesus, your Son, we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN**             He's Got the Whole World

**Projected**

## **SENDING FORTH**

**BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

God has set us free.

**God releases us from bondage.**

Christ has made us whole.

**Christ heals our wounds.**

The Spirit has strengthened us for the journey.

**God's Spirit sends us forth.**

Going with the confidence of God's anointed, the Son of God.

**Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**         At Calvary

**Mary Lewis, Pianist**

# Sermon Summary

## The Blessed Life in the Son of God (3): Prayer – Psalm 2

**Summary:** The decree of the Lord is to make David the Son of God and to give him the nations as his inheritance. This decree has been achieved in Christ, through whose prayer it has become true.

### 1. God's decree is redemptive-historical

Von Rad, the Old Testament theologian, defines God's decree to David as historical because it opens a new era of God's salvation for humankind. Through the Davidic king, God will bring salvation to all nations and establish his kingship on earth. The God of David is the same God who created human beings in the image of God and commanded them to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over" all creatures on earth" (Gen. 1:27-28). The God who called David to become his Son is the same God who called Abraham out of his homeland to make him a blessing to all humankind (Gen 12:2-3). The vision of God's kingdom for all nations has become real through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is historical and Christ-centered.

**Genesis 12:1-3** *The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

**Psalm 2:7-8** *I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."*

**Revelation 7:9-10** *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

## **2. How can David and his descendants achieve God's decree to make all the nations their inheritance? The answer is "Ask!"**

The Davidic king is by birth and by promise the Son of God. What God will do through David and his offspring is to give them all nations as an inheritance. God the Father will deliver his kingship to his Son so that his Son will rule the people living in the whole world, and his kingship will be extended to the ends of the earth. It is the confirmation of the covenant God made with David and his offspring, his house: "I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me" (2 Sam. 7:12-14).

The God of David is the same God who created human beings in the image of God and commanded them to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over" all creatures on earth" (Gen. 1:27-28). The God who called David to become his Son is the same God who called Abraham out of his homeland to make him a blessing to all humankind (Gen 12:2-3). Von Rad, the Old Testament theologian, defines God's decree to David as historical because it opens a new era of God's salvation for humankind. Through the Davidic king, God will bring salvation to all nations and establish his kingship on earth.

In Ps. 2:8, God commands David to ask of him so that God may "make the nations" his heritage and "the ends of the earth" his possession. Praying to God is the precondition to make God's decree come true. Without prayer, a Davidic king cannot fulfill God's decree, functioning to be a blessing to all nations.

## **3. How did Christ achieve God's promise to David and his offspring? The answer is prayer.**

Heb. 5:7 summarizes how Jesus took care of his ministry: "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission."

Christ achieved God's promise to David through his prayer. Christ fulfilled his role as the Son of God through prayers. In his earthly life, his prayer always preceded his ministry. When he "was praying" after being baptized, "the

heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit came upon him from heaven, and the voice of God, 'You are my Son, the Beloved,' came from heaven" (Luke 3:21-22). Before he chose twelve of his disciples, "he spent the night in prayer to God" (Luke 9:12). When he was praying on the mountain, his appearance changed, and his hidden glory as the Son of God was revealed (Luke 9:28-29). His disciples were very impressed by his prayer life and asked him how to pray, so he taught them the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-5). When he entered the temple, he "drove out those who were selling there," saying, "My house shall be a house of prayer" (Luke 19:45). He prepared himself for "the time of trial," that is, crucifixion, by prayer in Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-40). Even on the cross, he prayed to God to forgive those who put him on the cross and mocked him (Luke 23:34). Jesus took his ministry as the Son of God by prayer. Heb. 5:7 summarizes how he took care of his ministry: "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission." Our prayer is an expression of our submission to God. In our prayer, God will show his power of salvation. God will work through our prayers. God will let his kingdom come upon us when we pray. God knows our weakness and fragility. But when we pray, the Holy Spirit will empower us to overcome our weakness and the vanity of this world.

Jesus is the Son of God. He is the exact reflection of God's image and power. However, he fulfilled his ministry as the Son of God through his prayer.

#### **4. We must live a life of prayer.**

In Christ, we are adopted to be the children of God and his possession. We are the adopted children of God. In Christ, God's steadfast love will never fail. We will never lose hope for "receiving mercy and finding grace" from God; what we need to do is that, whenever we need God's forgiveness and help, God's providence, we must get access "to the throne of grace with boldness" (Heb. 4:16).

Our prayer is our submission to God. In our prayer, God will show his power of salvation. God will work through our prayers. God will let his kingdom come upon us when we pray. God knows our weakness and fragility. But when we pray, the Holy Spirit will empower us to overcome our weakness and the vanity of this world.

The subject matter of the Lord's Prayer is "Thy Kingdom Come." God will work through our prayers and let his kingdom come upon the earth. God knows our weakness and fragility. But when we pray, the Holy Spirit will empower us to overcome our weakness and our desire for the vanity of this world. We see the creation groaning under the pressure of sin and injustice; "the creation was subjected to futility," waiting "with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" to be "set free from its bondage to decay" (Rom. 8:18-21). We are still "groaning inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies" (Rom. 8:23). What can we do for the creation today? We can pray with patience (Rom. 8:24). The Holy Spirit within us is the Spirit of prayer; he intercedes for us according to God's will (Rom. 8:27). Through our prayer, we will see God's love, justice, and glory made real to the world.

# 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: Robert Wesley Gilbelyou has been a friend of the family of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, and Gregory Lee Sullivan and his family have been baptized at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Today they are joining St. Luke's United Methodist Church as new members.

- **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?

**Robert Wesley Gilbelyou and Gregory Lee Sullivan: We 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?

**Robert Wesley Gilbelyou and Gregory Lee Sullivan: We 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, ad your service, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

**Robert Wesley Gilbelyou and Gregory Lee Sullivan: We 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.**

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, Robert Wesley Gilbelyou and Gregory Lee Sullivan, 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.*

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## **He's Got the whole World**

**He's got the whole world in His hands (3 times)**

**He's got the whole world in His hands.**

**He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands (3 times)**

**He's got the whole world in His hands.**

**He's got the little bitty baby in His hand (3 times)**

**He's got the whole world in His hands**

**He's got everybody here in His hands (3 times)**

**He's got the whole world in His hands**

**He's got the whole world in His hands (3 times)**

**He's got the whole world in His hands.**

# The Families of

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

## Pray For

Margaret Morrison

Joe Fleming

Sue Lind

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

David (the grandson of Joan R. Gray)

Barb Meyer

Leslie Wisniewski

Nancy (the stepsister of Kathy Dewitt)

Ann Davis

Betty Martinek

## 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.

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

*(John 14:27)*

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@stlukesumcni.org](mailto:office@stlukesumcni.org), by filling out a connection card, located on the pew backs, or the Prayer box located in front of the church.

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Governance Board Meeting**

Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm  
in Esther's Parlor

**With heartfelt gratitude**, we thank John and Sandy Augustine, Dave Reed, Ron Batzer, Henry Roeder, and Karen Preston for their generous help in hauling away the rummage sale leftovers this past Monday. A special shout-out to Brenda Kemp for her thoughtful planning and organization that brought it all together. We're truly grateful for each and every person who lent a hand in this tremendous effort. Thanks to your support, approximately \$3,065 was added to the coffers! God bless each of you for your generous hearts and willing hands.

**The next Golden Friends event will be on TUESDAY September 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Silver Palace**, 1500 Woodside, 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 August 24th. For more information, please reach out to Judy or Joe Fleming.

## **Sunday School Kick-Off – September 7!**

We're launching a new season of Sunday School on Sunday, September 7, and everyone's invited!

- Adults will meet at 9:00 AM before worship for a time of learning and discussion.
- Children will begin their class in Room 3 following the Children's Message during worship.

Whether you're diving deeper into Scripture or exploring Bible stories for the first time, this is a great opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship. Let's start the season with open hearts and curious minds—see you there!

**Thursday Bible Study – Hebrews** Dates: September 11 – December 18, 2025 (13 weeks). Sign up on the bulletin board. Textbook: *Hebrews: Race to Glory* by James Reapsome. (InterVarsity Press, LifeGuide Bible Studies, 13 Lessons)

- September 11, 18, 25 & October 2 – Led by Henry Roeder, Lay Servant
- October 9, 16, 23 & 30 – Led by Brian Scramlin, Lay Servant
- November 6, 13, 20 & December 4 – Led by Dave Talaga, Lay Servant
- December 11 – Led by Pastor Seok Nam Lim

## Missions

### **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.

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

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### **Weaving Hope with Plarn**

Turn everyday plastic bags into *plarn*—plastic yarn used to weave durable, water-resistant sleeping mats for people facing homelessness. These mats provide comfort and dignity while keeping thousands of bags out of landfills.

Join the Wednesday Weavers every week at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. No experience needed—just willing hands and a compassionate heart. You can also help by donating clean, flattened bags (free of rips and tears) in the basket on the Missions table. To date, our Mission Needleworkers have completed **17 mats**, repurposing around 12,000 bags. Make a difference—one strand at a time.

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**Through the month of August**, 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. Many thanks.

**Carnival** September 13<sup>th</sup> 11 am – 3 pm at St. Luke's  
Fundraiser for BARE -Biliary Atresia Research & Education

**Blessing of the Animals**, Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm

**Mon Aug 25, 2025**

6:30 pm Governance Board Meeting

**Tue Aug 26, 2025**

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

**Wed Aug 27, 2025**

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

6:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

**Thu Aug 28, 2025**

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study – Cotton Patch Gospel

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

**Sat Aug 30, 2025**

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

**Mon Sep 1, 2025**

All day Labor Day

**Tue Sep 2, 2025**

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

5:30 pm Girl Scouts – Big Class Room

**Wed Sep 3, 2025**

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

**Thu Sep 4, 2025**

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

**Sat Sep 6, 2025**

9:00 am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

**Tue Sep 9, 2025**

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

**Wed Sep 10, 2025**

7:30 am UWif Bus Trip to UM Community House, Grand Rapids

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

6:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

**Thu Sep 11, 2025**

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

**Sat Sep 13, 2025**

All day Church reserved / Carnival to benefit BARE charity

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

**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

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

9:30–1:30 Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

Volunteers L-Kathy Erndt

**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)

**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

**Fri Oct 3, 2025**

5:00 pm Blessing of the Animals

**Sat Oct 4, 2025**

Central Bay District Annual Meeting, Alma UMC

9:00 am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

**Sun Oct 5, 2025**

World Communion Sunday

**Mon Oct 6, 2025**

12:00 pm Golden Friends

**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

# Volunteers

## Serving This Sunday

**Liturgist**  
Sue Lind

**Children's Church**  
Becky Scott and Linda Manyen

**Ushers**  
Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming,  
and alternates

## Serving Next Sunday

**Liturgist**  
John Augustine

**Children's Church**  
Becky Scott and Linda Manyen

**Ushers**  
Sandy Mercer, Charlotte McGrath,  
Fritzi Stevenson, Gloria Barriger

**Acolytes**  
*(varies week to week)*

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

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## Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are presented to celebrate the 45th wedding anniversary of Ted and Sue Lind.

*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](mailto: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>

### **August 21, 2025 Newsletter**

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2025-08-21>

# Staff

## **Pastor**

Rev. Seok Nam Lim  
[seoknamlim1@hotmail.com](mailto:seoknamlim1@hotmail.com)  
Mobile: 347-885-1948

## **Office Manager**

Sheila Good  
[office@stlukesumcmi.org](mailto:office@stlukesumcmi.org)

## **Organist**

Leon Beaudin

## **Accountant**

Donna Gross  
[accountant@stlukesumcmi.org](mailto:accountant@stlukesumcmi.org)

## **AV Coordinator**

Andrew Felch  
[avtech@stlukesumcmi.org](mailto:avtech@stlukesumcmi.org)

## **Christian Education Coordinator**

Janie Good  
[christianed@stlukesumcmi.org](mailto: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