

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

July 20, 2025

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



We are the People of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision~ “Share Love and Give Hope”

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Lewis, Liturgist

PRELUDE How Great is Our God

Leon Beaudin, Piano

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come into God's presence,
like green olive trees in the house of God.
We drink deep from the waters of life,
like young saplings in the courtyard of the Lord.
We ripen in the light of God,
like the fruit of God's vineyard.
Come! Let us worship.

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

UMH 545

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Loving God, your presence in our lives is like a green olive tree—a joy to the heart and a blessing to the spirit. Your movement in our midst is like a basket of summer fruit—a delight to the eye and a pleasure to the tongue. Speak to us your words of life, that we may sit at your feet and know that we are yours. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM PSALM

Psalms 52

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

HYMN We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

UHM 569

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR TEXAS FLOOD VICTIMS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 2:18-29

MESSAGE The Church at Tyatira with Faithfulness to the
 Love of Christ but Unfaithfulness to His Doctrine II

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY Arioso

Leon Beaudin

DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, like baskets of summer fruit, you fill our lives to overflowing. May the offering we return to you this day reflect our gratitude for your many blessings. May they show our commitment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Through your goodness and the sharing of these gifts, may the world come to know the richness of your love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN Freely, Freely

UMH 389

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Though we may leave God's house,
we do not leave God's presence.
Like green olive trees in the house of God,
we plant our roots in the soil of holy love.
Heeding the joy of God's call in our lives,
we go to share God's love for all.

POSTLUDE Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

Leon Beaudin, Organist

Sermon Summary

The Church at Tyatira with Faithfulness to the Love of Christ But Unfaithfulness to His Doctrine (Revelation 2:18-29)

Summary: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, recognizes the love persistently sustaining the faith of the church at Thyatira and their failure to keep them in the doctrinal purity, so he commands them to repent with the promise of their participation in his reign and glory.

1. The message of Jesus Christ as the Son of God

2:18 *To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.*

The Son of God will come again, making his glory and power visible and tangible: **2:18** *“the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.”* He sees the truth, the reality of reality, with his eyes, so nothing can be hidden from him. He walks among his congregation and the people in the world as the king and judge. None of them will escape his judgment. *The burnished-bronze feet represent triumphant judgment of those who are unbelieving or unfaithful to the truth of Jesus.*

Christ, the Son of God, is the judge and the warrior. Nothing sinful is hidden in his eyes, and he will destroy anything sinful and put into judgment anyone who stands against God and God's kingdom.

2. The Strength of the Church at Thyatira: Love and Persistence

2:19 *I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are doing more than you did at first.*

Love in persistence: Jesus, the Son of God, sees the positive sides of the church in Thyatira. Their knowledge of the Word of God is put into practices and actions. They live according to the Word of God. Further, they live by love and faith. Their love is prior to their faith. Their faith means their faithfulness to the love of God revealed in his Son, Jesus. Faith in Christ produces love in him

and human beings. Loving God and his creatures means living in faithfulness to faith in him. So, faith does not make us judgmental but hospitable and inclusive to each other. God's people in Christ show their faith by their love for God and each other. Further, the service of Thyatiran Christians is persistent. Their service is characterized by perseverance. They are persistent in serving God and each other. They are growing up in their love, faith, and perseverance: "You are doing more than you did at first."

Romans 5:1-5 *(1) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. (3) Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; (4) perseverance, character; and character, hope. (5) And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

3. The Weakness of the Church at Thyatira: Doctrinal Failure

Rev. 2:20 *Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.*

Expositor's Bible Commentary *The church at Thyatira shows tolerance to the teachings of the woman, Jezebel, the self-designated prophetess as the minister of the words of God. She distorts the gospel of Christ and misleads the church, even the servants of Christ.*

Sexual immorality is related to idolatry: "By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols" (2:20). This sin is against God and the gospel of Christ. We cannot serve God and the idols together. "Sexual immorality and eating food sacrificed to idols" are the consequences of the tolerance of the teachings of Jezebel. All the food is good. But, in the context of the Thyatiran church, eating food sacrificed to idols is an expression of the unfaithfulness to Christ and his gospel; it is a disclosure of the fellowship with Jezebel and the idolatry led by her.

Christ's Judgment upon Jezebel, the False Teacher, and Her Followers

Christ as the warrior and the judge will fight against the woman Jezebel and her followers and put them into judgment: *“So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead.” (2:22-23a)*

Christ is the one who “searches the hearts and minds of people,” and repays to them according to their deeds (2:23b). His “eyes are like blazing fire” and his “feet are like burnished bronze” (2:18). He can see what is hidden in our hearts and minds and will judge us according to our deeds unless we repent of them.

The true sign of the disciples of Christ is the repentant heart, the sensitivity to sin, which is the proof that their spirits are alive, not dead in sin (2:21, I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling). Jezebel rejected repenting. The Christian teacher called “Jezebel” belongs to the church at Thyatira. She misuses the name of Jesus and his teaching to lead the church members to sexual immorality and idolatry. Jesus gave her enough opportunities to repent. But she has not repented but has consistently remained in sexual immorality and idolatry, deceiving the church members with her teachings to follow her

So, Jesus will punish her lying on a bed of immorality by throwing her to the bed of suffering and even her children. First, suffering will give her an opportunity to repent of her sexual immorality. Second, unless she repents, she will not be saved from suffering but will fall into eternal suffering. We must live in repentance and according to God's counsel. Repentance is basic to Christianity. No faith without repentance. The suffering caused by sin leads us to repentance.

4. The Healthy Church

Rev. 2:24-25 *(24) Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, I will not impose any other burden on you, (25) except to hold on to what you have until I come.*

- a. Sound Doctrine:** While some Christians in Thyatira follow Jezebel and her teaching, which is “Satan’s so-called deep secrets,” other Christians have
- b.** refused to learn that teaching, which is deceptive, and have been persistent in listening to the gospel of Christ and obeying it, growing up by “doing more than they did at first” (Rev. 2:19). They persistently hold fast to what they have in Christ, so they will keep themselves pure and acceptable to the kingdom of Christ. The gospel of Christ has the power to purify our hearts and persevere in love, faith, and service.

2:26-27 (26) *To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations* (27) *that one will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery – just as I have received authority from my Father.*

b. The Church for All Nations: Christ Jesus promises the authority over the nations for his disciples who are victorious over the false prophetess, persistently keeping his words until his second coming, the end of history. When Christ returns, they will join his rule over the nations and his judgment upon them, “dashing them to pieces like pottery.” As Christ received authority from the Father, they will receive authority from him. The church will receive “authority over the nations” when they overcome the sins of Jezebel, sexual immorality, and idolatry (2:26). Christ rules the nations with justice and holiness. His people, in obedience to his teaching, will participate in his rule.

2:28 *I will also give that one the morning star.*

c. The Church as the Light of the World

The faithful reflects the light of Jesus, the morning star, and will stay with him forever: The one who is faithful or consistent to what Jesus Christ taught will be the morning star. She or he will shine light to all with Christ. Keeping the word of God in our everyday lives will bring light to the world.

The Families of

Betty McDonald, friend & family member of Sally Cadarette
Ray Snyder, husband of Jill Snyder and brother-in-law of Sally Roby

Pray For

Deiter Reinhardt, friend of Henry Roeder
Jane Russell
Melissa Morin
Joe Fleming
Linda O'Marrow, the friend of Shirley Plessner
Jim Merrill
Melissa Coleman (sister of Tiffany Coleman)

Those suffering from the Texas floods and other areas facing disasters.

Shut-ins

Ann Davis, Bob Davidson, Florence Decker, Sandy Gillam,
Marletta Gross, Susan Hendrickson, Betty Martinek, Betty McDonald, 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.

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
(Isaiah 41:10)*

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@stlulkesumcmi.org, by filling out a connection card, located on the pew backs, or the Prayer box located in front of the church.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for a potluck following the worship service on July 27 as we celebrate our newly remodeled Christian Education office and the resurfaced parking lot! Bring a dish to share and enjoy a time with great food and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

Puzzle Contest #2, Friday, August 8th, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

6 teams – 4 people per team. Join in the fun-laughter. Drinks and a light snack supplied. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. See Becky Scott for more information.

Help us fill Back-to-School Baskets! Supply pickups are set for August 14th & 15th. No need to grab everything—just choose a few items from the list and make a difference! So there's enough time to get the baskets packed, please have your donations turned in no later than August 10th.

Nonperishable Pantry Staples

- Canned fruits
- Canned vegetables
- Canned chicken
- Canned tuna fish
- Baked beans
- Hamburger Helper
- Ramen noodles
- Spaghetti noodles
- Spaghetti sauce

Shelf & Fridge Favorites

- Peanut butter & jelly
- Bread (buy close to pickup date)
- Freezer pops
- Cereal
- Package cookies

Easy Meals & Sides

- Suddenly Salad
- Mac & Cheese

The next Golden Friends event will be on August 4th at the Cracker Barrel, 2854 Wilder Rd, Bay City, 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 July 27th. For more information, please reach out to Judy or Joe Fleming.

Did you know that St Luke's Mission Team has a group called "Missions from Home"? These members work throughout the year creating items for those in need-from baby hats to sleeping mats! They have just sent out 80 items to local charities/ hospitals and the Midwest Distribution Center. They do this several times a year! Check out the Mission's bulletin board to see some of them at work and to learn more about them and other Mission Team projects. We're always happy to have more teammates join us!

Rev. Dr. William Sanders will lead a 4-week Thursday Bible study, "Cotton Patch Gospel: The Greatest Story Ever Re-Told," in August 2025, on August 7, 14, 21, and 28 @ 6:30 pm. Cotton Patch Gospel is a musical by Tom Key and Russell Treyz with music and lyrics written by Harry Chapin and produced by Philip M. Getter just after Chapin's death in 1981. It ran off-Broadway at the Lamb's Theatre for 193 performances beginning on October 21, 1981. Based on the book *The Cotton Patch Version of Matthew and John* by Clarence Jordan, the story retells the life of Jesus as if it were in modern-day, rural Georgia. See the sign-up board to register.

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 - there is a limit of five additional volunteers, as per the Salvation Army guidelines.

Dates are:

Coordinator TBD Aug 16

Volunteers Needed!

We need Sunday School teachers for July 27 and August 17. If you're able to help, please reach out to Janie Good or contact the church office.

This is a reminder to anyone who is the last to leave the church: please double-check that all doors are locked, windows are closed, and all equipment, such as fans or lights, is turned off before leaving.

Community Prayer Journey

The United Women in Faith invite all congregation members and friends of St. Luke’s UMC to pause and pray for his/her community. Using your daily routines—walks, commutes, and errands—as opportunities to pray by letting God be your eyes, your heart, and your words. Pray where you are. Pray for who is there. Each of you may complete it individually as you wish within your own community, wherever that may be. Can you imagine the impact of intentional prayer for the entire month of July? Community Prayer Journey Guides will be available on the Mission Table for the entire month of July. Pick up an extra one and invite a friend to join in the journey.

United Methodist Community House Mitchell Motor Coach Bus Trip – Grand Rapids MI. Hosted by the United Methodist Women in Faith.

UMCH is all about community. Since 1902, they have been meeting the needs of and offering opportunities to children, youth, adults, seniors, and families. Located in the heart of Grand Rapids, they are committed to serving a diverse population and continue to adapt programming to best serve those who need most. EVERYONE WELCOME! Sign up with Gloria Gonzales, Becky Scott or Brenda Scramlin. Checks may be made out to United Women in Faith. For more information see the UWIF Bulletin board across from the church library.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DATE: Wed. Sept 10, 2025• TIME: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm• Park & Ride from Meijer Wilder Road• Sign-up deadline August 10, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$40 per person (<i>payment due at sign up</i>) includes ride, driver tip & lunch at UMCH• Limited seating
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Lost and Found: An external hard drive containing sewing files was found, possibly left at the Pillowcase project assembly event. Please contact the church office for assistance in identifying the owner.

Tue Jul 22, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Jul 23, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Jul 24, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study – Anti-Racism

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Jul 26, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sun Jul 27, 2025

11:30 Potluck following Worship Service

Mon Jul 28, 2025

6:30 pm Governance Board Meeting

Tue Jul 29, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Jul 30, 2025

10:00 am Memorial Garden weeding/watering

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Jul 31, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study – Anti-Racism

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Aug 2, 2025

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

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Mon Aug 4, 2025

12:00 pm Golden Friends

Tue Aug 5, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Aug 6, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weaver

Thu Aug 7, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study – Cotton Patch

Gospel

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Fri Aug 8, 2025

6:00 pm Puzzle Contest

Sat Aug 9, 2025

11:00 am Needleworkers Outdoors

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sun Aug 10-Sat Aug 16, 2025

Annual Rummage Set-up & Sale

Actual sale is 14th – 16th

Tue Aug 12, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Aug 13, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

6:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

Thu, Aug 14, 2025

8a – 4p Rummage Sale

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study – Cotton Patch Gospel

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Fri Aug 15, 2025

8a – 4p Rummage Sale

Sat Aug 16, 2025

8a – 4p Rummage Sale

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

9:30a–1:30p Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

Volunteers L-TBD

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Mon Aug 18, 2025

6:30 pm UWIF Executive Meeting

Tue Aug 19, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Aug 20, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Aug 21, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study – Cotton Patch Gospel

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Aug 23, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

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

9:30 am Trustees and others – church maintenance

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Sep 3, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Sep 4, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

Mary Lewis

Counters

Brenda Kemp and Eric Yagiela

Children's Church

Ann Talaga and Becky Scott

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming,
and others

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Nancy Tacey

Counters

Brenda Kemp and Becky Scott

Children's Church

Ushers

Sandy Mercer, Wanda Horton
Brenda Kemp, Joye Kramer

Acolytes

(varies week to week)

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

Altar Flowers

Luke 12:27

**"Consider how the wildflowers grow. They do not labor or spin thread.
Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these."**

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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>

July 17, 2025 Newsletter

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2025-July-17>

Staff

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Adult Sunday School

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

Children's Church:

Following Children's Message
in Classroom 3

PRAY for TEXAS

As families and communities mourn loss of life and property from catastrophic flooding in Central Texas, UMCOR has issued a solidarity grant to the Rio Texas Annual Conference.

This grant will provide immediate relief to those impacted, through Early Response Team deployment assistance, debris removal, distribution of relief supplies and more.

Please continue to pray for all those impacted by this devastating disaster.



Photo: Rev. Amanda Banda, Rio Texas Conference

**Support relief and recovery efforts
by donating to UMCOR.**

Special UMCOR Collection for Texas Flood Relief

We're collecting a special offering to support UMCOR's disaster response for the recent Texas floods. 100% of your donation goes directly to relief efforts—helping families with emergency aid, cleanup, and recovery. If you wish to contribute an offering, you may place your cash or check made out to St. Luke's UMC, specifying "UMCOR Texas Flood" in the memo line. Insert it into the Special Offering Envelope provided, and the ushers will collect it with other offerings. Online giving is also available at St. Luke's online offering portal or bit.ly/umcorusrdr. Let's come together in prayer and generosity to support those in need.