

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

August 31, 2025

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



We are the People of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision~ “Share Love and Give Hope”

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Augustine, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Leon Beaudin, Pianist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sing in exaltation, people of God.

The Lord fills us with good things.

Shout for joy, children of the Holy One.

God feeds us with finest wheat.

God satisfies us with the sweetest honey.

The Lord sustains us with living water.

HYMN

For All the Saints VS 1, 2, 4 +6

UMH 771

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God, the Merciful One, help us show hospitality to strangers, for many have entertained angels unaware while doing so. Move us to treat one another as we would have others treat us, lest we find ourselves tortured or imprisoned with no one to come to our aid. May we always seek to do good and share from our abundance, for these things are pleasing in your sight. In the holy name of your Son, Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 13:28-36

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth VS 1, 2, 4, 5 +6

UHM 92

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 3

MESSAGE David's Prayer in God's Grace (1)

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Leon Beaudin

DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

OFFERTORY PRAYER

You free us, O God, from self-interest and folly. You bring us into a land of choicest wheat and sweetest honey. As we return a portion of these gifts to you, may we extend the banquet of your love to all—especially the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and all who suffer. May our offering bring healing and light to a world filled with anguish and despair. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN God of the Ages

UMH 698

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Let mutual love continue,
that peace may abound.

Let mutual love flourish,
that God may be found.

Let mutual love grow,
that no one may feel forsaken.

Let mutual love abide,
that the hand of friendship may bless our world.

POSTLUDE Recessional in C

Leon Beaudin, Organist

Sermon Summary

David's Prayer in God's Grace (1): Psalm 3

Summary: In confrontation with his enemies surrounding him, David keeps himself in peace because of his knowledge of God, who sustains him and from whom deliverance comes.

A. Lament over the Enemies (vv. 1-2): The psalmist looks over the multitude of enemies.

David in sorrow and helplessness: David is in sorrow, disaster and helplessness because of his disobedience to the word of God, his unfaithfulness to God the Father. That's the reason why Psalm 3 begins with lamenting to God, "O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me" (Ps. 3:1).

God's absence: Where is the God of David, who made him the Son of God (Ps. 2:7)? Where is the glory of God? How can the people see God's steadfast love to David? What is more tragic to David is that no one recognize God's presence with him. His opponents mock him, saying to him, "There is no help for you in God" (Ps. 3:2). They conspire and stand against David the Son of God and kick him out of his throne at Jerusalem. God does not help David at all, leaving him unprotected by him. David experiences God's absence. God keeps silent to David his Son in distress and without hope of salvation.

David in exile: In this Psalm there are two kinds of people: David and his opponents. David is surrounded by his opponents, facing their rebellion. Their rebellion is so successful to make David's kingdom upside down. Now David is running away from them. Because of the threat of his opponents, David gives up his throne and is moving far away from God's holy hill, Jerusalem, looking for a safe place to keep himself alive (Ps. 3:4). David is in such distress. He is called to protect his people from the danger of the nations and to be an example of God's wisdom and justice to them. But now, he is defeated by his enemies and falls into the place of a loser.

Israel in exile as a reflection of David's failure: This psalm is used for the worship service of Israel in exile. They were driven away from their own land and exiled to a foreign land because of their disobedience to God. They acted

corruptly; they made idols for them and did what is evil in the sight of God the Lord, and provoked him to anger, so that they perished and their enemies kicked them out of their land, forcing them to move in a foreign land (Deut. 4:25-27). David in distress and lament reflects Israel lamenting in exile.

B. Prayer to God (vv. 3-4): His eyes of faith are focused on the Lord

David approaching God, depending his grace: However, David believes that God the Lord is “a shield around” him and gives “glory on” him and “lifts up” his head (Ps. 3:3). He has hope against hope. Even though he is surrounded by his opponents, and there is no way to be rescued from them, he believes that God is his shield protecting him from the enemies surrounding, suppressing, and threatening him to death. He also believes that the glory God gave him is not moved away but still with him. Despite his sin and his distress caused by it, David never gives up his faith in God, who is his shield and his glory. He is on the runaway out of Jerusalem. But he is praying to God with his eyes upon the holy hill of God, Jerusalem. He committed adultery and murder, so that he is in disaster. But he never loses the hope of God’s salvation and help.

David’s knowledge of God – (1) Yahweh (God in covenant relationship with David – Objective and Historical) (2) My “LORD” (God in personal relationship with David: “My Savior” – Subjective and Experiential or Existential) How can David believe that God is his shield, so God’s glory will not move away from him and, further, God will listen to him and rescue him from his disaster? How can he keep his hope in God?

First, David’s assurance of God’s glory with him and his hope of God’s salvation comes from his knowledge of God. There is difference between his understanding of God and the opponents’ understanding of God. For God is “the LORD,” which means “Yahweh.” David also calls “the Lord (Yahweh)” “my God”; “Rise up, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God!” (Ps. 3:7). His knowledge of God is based on his understanding and belief on the special relation between him and God the Yahweh.

For him God is his Father. He is convinced of God’s adoption of him to be his Son. However, for his enemies God is just God, which is nothing but the expression of the general conception of God, in other words, the general noun. There is nothing special or personal in their understanding of God. The name of God for the enemies of David is what everyone else calls. However, for David, God is the Lord (Yahweh), who is in personal and special relationship with him. God is his Father. He calls the Lord “my God,” in other words, “my Father.” On

this foundation, his knowledge of God the Lord as “my God,” he cries out to him for help, not being shaken by the hostile and disastrous things on him but convinced that he is protected by God his shield.

Our Prayer: This is the foundation of our prayer to God. Like David we call God “Abba, Father” today. We “did not receive a spirit of slavery but have received a spirit of adoption,” the Holy Spirit, without whom no one can confess Christ the Lord and the Savior, so that without fear but with boldness we cry, “Abba! Father,” asking him for help (Rom. 8:15).

What is prayer? It is the denial of our self-dependence and self-centeredness. It is an acknowledgment of our position as God’s creatures and God as our Creator and Lord. The essence of sin is not our falling down from conventional standards but hostility to God the Lord, getting rid of the Lord God and placing ourselves in his place. “Sin is defiance, arrogance, the desire to be equal with God...the assertion of human independence over against God” (Emil Brunner). Prayer is the proof that we realize that everything about us is dependent on God the Lord.

The Families of

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

Pray For

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)

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.

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@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

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

Acolyte Training – September 4 at 5 PM. All current and prospective acolytes are invited to a training session on Wednesday, September 4, at 5:00 PM. We'll review roles, practice together, and prepare for the upcoming season of service. If you, your child, or someone you bring serves as an acolyte, please make every effort to attend—your presence helps us shine together in worship!

Children's Sunday School – Fall Semester Begins Sept 7

Our fall semester kicks off on Sunday, September 7, and we're gearing up for a joyful season of learning and growing in faith. But here's the thing—we need volunteers to make it happen, and right now our sign-up sheet is looking mighty lonely! If you're willing to lend a hand with Children's Sunday School, we'd be so grateful. Whether you're a seasoned teacher or just love working with kids, there's a place for you. Please check the bulletin board to sign-up! Let's make this fall unforgettable for our youngest members.

Carnival Volunteers – T-Shirt Info

If you're volunteering for the on September 13th Carnival and would like a custom t-shirt made by Brenda Kemp, the cost is just \$5.00. Please let Brenda know as soon as possible so she has enough time to fit it into her schedule. Let's show up in style and spirit!

Carnival September 13th 11am – 3 pm at St. Luke's

Fundraiser for BARE -Biliary Atresia Research & Education

Carnival coordinator: Marsha Yegiela

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

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!

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

Needleworkers Mission Group

The Needleworkers meet for fellowship and crafting each Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM and every other Wednesday at 6:30 PM in Room 5. This group welcomes knitters, stitchers, and sewing enthusiasts of all skill levels to create handmade items that support missions, offer comfort, and share God's love through every stitch. Come as you are—no experience needed, just a heart for service and creativity.

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.

Happy Labor Day! As we celebrate the gift of work and the blessing of rest, may this Labor Day be a time of renewal and gratitude. Whether you're serving, creating, teaching, or caring—your work matters. May God bless the hands and hearts that build up His kingdom, and may this day bring joy, peace, and well-earned rest. Have a restful Labor Day and look forward to the coming fall

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 Outing

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

6:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

Thu Sep 11, 2025

5:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

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)

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

5:00 pm Blessing of the Animals

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

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

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

John Augustine

Children's Church

Becky Scott and Linda Manyen

Ushers

Sandy Mercer, Charlotte McGrath,
Fritzi Stevenson, Gloria Barriger

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Eileen Casciano

Children's Church

Sheila Good

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others

Communion Servers

Sandy Mercer, Charlotte McGrath,
Fritzi Stevenson, Gloria Barriger

Acolytes

(varies week to week)

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

Altar Flowers

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>

August 28, 2025 Newsletter

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2025-08-28>

Staff

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Janie Good
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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