

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

October 19, 2025

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



We are the People of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision~ “Share Love and Give Hope”

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Char McGrath, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Slane"

Leon Beaudin, Organist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Oh, how I love your will, dear Lord.

I meditate on your wisdom all day long.

Your teaching makes me wiser each day.

Your instruction helps me become my truest self.

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light that shines on my path.

HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

UMH 103

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew us in this hour of celebration. We rejoice that you make us your partners in pursuit of a just and peaceful world. With Jesus, we ask the question, "Will there be faith on earth?" Will we settle for mere beliefs, or will we yield to the deep longing for your will to be done, here and now? Teach us to hope, work, and cry out for your justice and peace to be made real. Walk with us, Jesus, until we joyfully reach that day when all God's children belong to your eternal family. In your name, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 119:97-104

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

HYMN

Thy Word Is a Lamp

UHM 601

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-11

MESSAGE The Vision of Jesus for His Church

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

Your promise is written on our hearts, dear God, and your strength is in the work of our hands. We offer you all that we have and all that we are, that your love may be made known throughout your kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN Wonderful Words of Life

UMH 600

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

God's steadfast love never ceases.
May we never fail to share this love with others.
Go in the grace of Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Spirit, now and always.
Amen.

POSTLUDE All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name **Leon Beaudin, Organist**

Sermon Summary

The Vision of Jesus for His Church

Summary: The vision of Jesus for his church is to make it the headquarters for the ministry of the kingdom of God for all nations, which will come true through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus has a vision for his church: “After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. ***He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God***” (Acts 1:3).

During his forty-day stay on earth after the resurrection, he taught his disciples the Scripture, the writings of Moses, and the Prophets according to a certain subject matter, which is the kingdom of God. After his teaching for forty days, his disciples raised a question to Jesus: “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6) The kingdom of God was a hot topic for them. It was their major concern. And it was the vision Jesus inspired them to live for.

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:6-8)

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 in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out

“salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”
(Rev. 7:9-10)

First, the Kingdom of God has come true in Christ. The reality, or truth, of the kingdom of God is revealed in Jesus. The kingdom of God is Christ-centered. “What is the kingdom of God?”

The ministry of Jesus on earth is for God’s kingdom. He was the agent of God’s kingdom. He began his ministry with this proclamation: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Mt. 4:17); “The time has come, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!” (Mark 1:15). Jesus came to us to fulfill God’s kingdom: He proclaimed that God’s kingdom had already come. Jesus cast out demons. And then he said, “But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you” (NRSV). (Luke 11:20). In his ministry, his preaching, and his miraculous works, God’s kingdom has come.

In the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, his crucifixion, and his resurrection, the promise of the coming of God’s kingdom has been fulfilled: everything in heaven and on earth is subjected to the reign of God through Christ the Lord (Phil 2:9–11). With the coming of Christ, through his life, God has revealed his power and glory, his reign in the universe, and his ruling power over death, sin, and Satan. Paul sees the plan of God to bring his kingdom on earth to be accomplished in Christ: it is God’s pleasure that all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, that is, everything in the universe, gather around the lordship of Christ, putting them under his reign (Eph. 1:10).

Second, God calls the church to be the messenger of God’s Kingdom and the witness of Christ, embodying the identity of the church as the message of the kingdom of God. “What is the church?”

What the church should do for the vision of the kingdom of God is to witness to Christ in speech and action. It is to live for the proclamation of the gospel of Christ, in obedience to his lordship, and in imitation of his life: “You

will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8b). Christ commanded his disciples to bear witness to him, his word, and his life: “You are my witnesses.” It is the way to live according to their vision of the kingdom of God. They were called to witness to the world and all the people on earth about the kingdom of God, which has come in Christ. Christ himself is identical to God’s kingdom. The thing we need for God’s kingdom on earth is to bear witness to Christ. The church is the community of the kingdom of God bearing witness to Christ in words and action. The goal of the church is to witness Christ to every person everywhere on earth. It is the way of living in the vision of God’s kingdom: And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Third, the church should depend on the Holy Spirit. The strategy for the kingdom of God is living in the power of the Holy Spirit, not in our power. “How can the church make the kingdom of God come true?”

For the vision of the kingdom of God, fulfilled in Christ Jesus, Christ commanded his disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. They should not leave Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes on them. For their commission to bear witness to Jesus, his disciples should enter Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. They needed to do two things to perform their tasks as the witnesses of Christ Jesus: to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. These two things are the strategy of Jesus for his church to live with the vision of God’s kingdom on earth.

First, Jesus commanded his disciples to go back to the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the city in which he was sentenced to crucifixion. It is inevitable for the disciples of Jesus to go through the same experiences as Jesus did, such as persecution, mockery, alienation, poverty, violence, and even death, if they go back to Jerusalem. How could the disciples of Jesus perform their mission in the

city of Jerusalem, where they were expected to go through suffering, persecution, and even murder?

The only guide Jesus gave them, the only resource they should depend on, and the only strategy they should take is the Holy Spirit. The reason why Jesus put his disciples in the midst of his enemies in Jerusalem, who hated him, persecuted him, and put him to death on the cross is because the power of salvation, the progress of God's kingdom, comes from above, not from below, or from God alone, not from human power, so that they should not depend on themselves but on the Holy Spirit alone. The disciples will be engaged in warfare in the world, in Jerusalem, Samaria, and in the whole region of the Roman Empire. But their weapons are not manufactured by their hands or with their wisdom and power, but by the divine power of the Holy Spirit. The power that comes from the Spirit will destroy the strongholds against the gospel of Christ. "Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

Second, the Holy Spirit comes to us as the witness of Christ. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. The major role of the Spirit is to testify to Christ. The Holy Spirit is not a mysterious, unreasonable, or impersonal power. The Spirit is the Person working on and in our humanity. The Holy Spirit comes to us and enlightens our hearts to see and understand the kingdom of God that is culminated in Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. "When he, the Spirit of the truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth... He will bring glory to me by taking what is mine and making it known to you" (John 16:13, 14). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation coming upon us to enlighten us to see the hope we are called to and the immeasurable power of God working through Christ, his resurrection, the power of God's kingdom, and the abundance of God's glory in Christ, the glory of his kingdom.

The Families of

Ruth Felch
Richard Redifer (father of Beth Redifer)

Pray For

Frank and Ann Davis
Melissa Morin
Bob (the brother-in-law of Mark Dewitt)
Eugene Vandermark
Bill Sansburn
Sue Henrickson
Leslie Wisniewski
Linda Becker (a neighbor of Jan Deming)
Amber Sexton (granddaughter of Sharon VanEvery)

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.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
(Hebrews 4:16)

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

A Friendly Reminder

As we gather for worship, kindly silence your phones to help us remain fully present. Let's create a peaceful environment for listening, praying, and singing together. Thank you for your consideration.

Haunted Hallway Donations for Friday, October 31st. 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 by the Welcome Desk. For any questions, see Brenda Kemp.

The next Golden Friends event will be on November 3rd at Krzysiak's House Restaurant, 1605 Michigan Ave, 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 October 26th. For more information, please reach out to Judy or Joe Fleming.

The Petit Four Cookie Dough Sale, hosted by United Women in Faith, begins on September 28th. Each tub is \$10 and can be stored in the freezer. Orders and payments are due by October 26th, with pickup scheduled for November 9th in the Fellowship Hall. Options include Sugar, Peanut Butter, Chocolate Chip, Monster, Oatmeal, Cranberry & White Chocolate Chips, Carrot Cake. Place orders with Brenda Scramlin, Arlene Stone, Becky Scott, Beverly Walker, Jan Oswald, Nancy Tacey or Gloria Gonzales to place your order.

All Saints Sunday – Submit Names for Remembrance

All Saints Sunday will be observed on November 2nd. To honor loved ones who have passed away in the past year, you may submit their full name, date of death, and your name and relationship to the deceased by October 22nd. Submissions can be emailed to office@stlukesumcmi.org or shared by calling the church office.

Join us for the All Ages Cookie Bake on Saturday, October 25 from 10:00am to 1:00 pm—a fun, hands-on event where everyone can help bake cookies for Fellowship Time! We'll have chocolate chip cookie dough prepped and ready, so all ages can jump in and enjoy. To make this event a sweet success, we're asking for donations of white sugar, brown sugar, eggs, and stick margarine—please donate by October 20th. Sign-up is required to help us plan; the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, or you can sign up online at <https://bit.ly/cookie-bake-2025>

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. The November 15th slot still needs 3 volunteers to assist. **Nov 15** Leader – Becky Scott

Start your morning with a good book and warm conversation at our Breakfast Book Club on November 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We'll be reading *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham—a lighthearted holiday tale perfect for the season. Free copies are available on the library shelf, and a light breakfast will be served. Come enjoy fellowship and thoughtful discussion—we'd love to have you with us!

Help Us Fill Thanksgiving Bags! We're packing bags on **November 10th**, and we'd love your help in making this season brighter for families in need. You don't have to bring everything—just pick a few items from the list below and make a meaningful impact! Every donation helps share the spirit of Thanksgiving. Thank you for your generosity! Food Pantry Coordinator: Jim McCarty.

Items Needed

- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Green Beans
- Carrots
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Fruit (Peaches, Pears, Fruit Cocktail)
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Baked Beans
- Jelly
- Applesauce

Ruth Felch’s service information

Friday, October 24, 2025
Visitation 2-4 pm
Service 4 pm
Meal following in Fellowship Hall

Meetings (In Ether’s Parlor)

United Women in Faith Executive Meeting Monday, October 20 6:30 – 7:30pm	Committee Meeting for Thanksgiving Dinner Thursday, October 23 5:00 – 6:00pm
Missions Team Meeting Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 pm	Governance Board Meeting Monday, October 27 6:30 pm

Missions Team Meeting will be Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 pm

The Mission’s Team delivered the collected coats, hats, hoodies, sweats and snacks that our congregation generously donated throughout the past months. Over 150 clothing articles were distributed to 6 local charities to help those in need survive the upcoming Winter months. We would like to pass on to the St. Luke’s congregation, the heartfelt thank you from the charities receiving the bounty of your generosity. And a special hug from those that put love into every hand knitted/crocheted hat & gloves to go with the coats. God bless you all!

The Missions Team is collecting used blankets and towels for the Humane Society. Donations can be dropped off on the table near the Welcome Desk—thank you for supporting our furry friends!

Liturgists and Communion Server Volunteers

As we prepare the upcoming rotation for liturgists and communion servers, we’d like to confirm your availability to serve. If you’d prefer to step back for now, no problem—just contact Fritz Stevenson at stevensonfritzi@gmail.com so she can update the list and begin planning the 2026 schedule. If any of your contact information (phone, email, etc.) has recently changed, please share those updates so we can stay in touch. Kindly respond by the end of October. Thank you for your continued service and dedication! And if you’d like to join this meaningful service group, Fritz would love to hear from you as well.

Who Are Our Veterans and College Students?

Members have been asking—who in our church family has served in the military or is currently attending college? If you or a loved one fits either category, please share their name and address (if possible) on the sheet located on the bulletin board, place a note in the Administrative Assistant's mail slot, or contact the church office.

St. Luke's Is Now on Subsplash!

We're excited to launch our new digital hub through Subsplash—bringing sermons, events, giving, and updates all into one easy-to-use app and website. Stay connected anytime, anywhere! To get started, scan the QR code

or visit: <https://bit.ly/stlukesumcni-app>

This is still being developed, and more uses will be coming. Live Streaming will be available on the app soon.



Once you have the app, **please remember to create your account.**

To create a Subsplash account, open the, tap the profile icon, and select "Log in or sign up". You can then choose to sign up using your email, Apple, or Google account, or by entering your name, email, and password. After creating your account, check your email to verify and confirm it.

Mon Oct 20, 2025

6:30 pm UWif Executive Meeting

7:00 pm Youth Group

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

5:00 pm Planning Meeting – Thanksgiving Dinner

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Oct 25, 2025

10:00 am All ages Cookie Bake.

Mon Oct 27, 2025

6:30 pm Governance Board Meeting

7:00 pm Youth Group

Tue Oct 28, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

5:30 pm Girl Scouts – Big Class Room

Wed Oct 29, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Oct 30, 2025

5:00 pm Planning Meeting – St. Patty's Day Parade

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Fri Oct 31, 2025

6-8pm Halloween Haunted Hallway

Sat Nov 1, 2025

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

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sun Nov 2, 2025

Daylight Savings Time ends

All Saints Sunday

Advent Puzzle Fun during Fellowship

Mon Nov 3, 2025

12:00 pm Golden Friends

7:00 pm Youth Group

Tue Nov 4, 2025

All Day Church reserved – General Election

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Nov 5, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Nov 6, 2025

5:00 pm Planning Meeting – Parent's Day Out/VBS

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Fri Nov 7, 2025

6:00 pm Puzzle night (tentative)

Sat Nov 8, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Cookie Dough Pickup

Sun Nov 9, 2025

Advent Puzzle Fun during Fellowship

Mon Nov 10, 2025

7:00 pm Youth Group

Tue Nov 11, 2025

All day Veterans Day

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

5:30 pm Girl Scouts – Big Class Room

Wed Nov 12, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

6:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

Thu Nov 13, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Nov 15, 2025

10:00 am Breakfast Book Club

9:30–1:30 Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

Volunteers L-TBD

Sun Nov 16, 2025

Advent Puzzle Fun during Fellowship

Mon Nov 17, 2025

6:30 pm UWif Executive Meeting

7:00 pm Youth Group

Tue Nov 18, 2025

10:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Nov 19, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Nov 20, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Nov 22, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

5:00 pm Thanksgiving Dinner

Sun Nov 23, 2025

Advent Puzzle Fun during Fellowship

Mon Nov 24, 2025

7:00 pm Youth Group

Tue Nov 25, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

5:30 pm Girl Scouts – Big Class Room

Wed Nov 26, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

6:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

Thu Nov 27, 2025

All Day Thanksgiving

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist
Char McGrath

Children's Church
Becky Scott
Joy Clark

Ushers
Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others TBD

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist
Jodi Shaw

Children's Church
Ann Talaga (L)
Karla Morgan

Ushers
Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others TBD

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.

To Sign up for our E-newsletter
<https://stlukesumcmi.org#newsletter-subscribe>

Newsletter for October 16, 2025
<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2025-10-16>

Stay Connected

Address

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Phone

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

Office Hours

Tue & Wed 9-3, Thu 9-12

Email

office@stlukesumcmi.org

Website

<https://www.stlukesumcmi.org>

Online Giving

<https://stlukesumcmi.org>
Click on "Give" in top menu bar

App

<https://bit.ly/stlukesumcmi-app>



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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