

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

September 28, 2025

Sixteenth 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

On Eagle's Wings

Leon Beaudin, Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God is our refuge and our fortress.

In God, we place our trust.

When we are weary,

God lifts us up on wings like eagles.

Come before the Lord with joy and longing.

God is our hope and our salvation.

HYMN

O Worship the King VS 1, 2, 4 + 5

UMH 73

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God, the Generous Spirit with omnipresent and omnipotent power, you call us to share our riches with the poor and disadvantaged, lest we follow self-interest to our ruin and destruction. Teach us to bestow your blessings on those in need, lest we be trapped by selfish desire. Set our hearts on the riches of good works, rather than the allure of earthly treasures. Help us take hold of the life that really is in Christ Jesus, who gave up his life for the salvation of all, in whose name we always pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

CELEBRATION FOR THE THIRD GRADE STUDENTS & YOUTH GROUP INTRO

HYMN

My Jesus, I love Thee

UHM 172

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:32-45

MESSAGE Discipleship as the Servanthood

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY Holy Forever

Leon Beaudin, Piano

DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, you protect us from harm and shelter us in your loving arms.
Just as you deliver us from evil, may these offerings lead others to find the
hope of your salvation. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN Are Ye Able

UMH 530

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION *(Ref. Luke 1:51-53)*

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Be faithful in a little,

that God may entrust us to be faithful in much.

Be faithful in much,

that God may entrust us with the true riches that come from his kingdom.

Be faithful to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God,

that God may empower us with his mercy and justice to be his witness.

Go as the disciples of Christ, our Lord, so you will always rejoice in him through the
Spirit of holiness and righteousness.

Yes, we will.

Go in peace and grace.

Amen.

POSTLUDE Sortie in F Major

Leon Beaudin, Organist

Sermon Summary

Discipleship as the Servanthood (Mark 10:32-45)

Summary: Jesus, who is on the way to Jerusalem to give his life as a ransom for many, presents himself as the exemplar of discipleship as the service to all.

Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and resurrection

Jesus made the resolution to go up to Jerusalem and led his disciples, or followers, on the way (Lk. 9:51— “Jesus *resolutely* set out for Jerusalem”). Mark 10:32 describes his disciples “on the way up to Jerusalem” according to his resolution. “They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way” (Mk. 10:32a). The Twelve were amazed at Jesus’ resolution to go to Jerusalem with them: they were excited to see the kingdom of God come in glory and power on his arrival at Jerusalem. In this circumstance, Jesus called his twelve disciples out, separating them from all other people who followed him, and told them about what would happen to him when he entered Jerusalem.

According to Mark, it is the third time for Jesus to tell his twelve disciples about what will happen to him in Jerusalem: “Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him” (Mk. 10:32b). Jesus predicted about his passion (Mk. 10:33-34): He will be betrayed and handed over “to the chief priests and teachers of the law.” And these religious leaders will prosecute him and sentence him to death and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles, the Romans who governed the people of Israel. The Gentiles “will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him.” But three days after he is killed, he will rise from the dead.

James and John in the desire to control and dominate

Even after Jesus taught his passion in Jerusalem, James and John, the sons of Zebedee and two of the Twelve, came to Jesus and asked him to let them take the most powerful and important positions in the kingdom of God. They believed the kingdom of God would come in its glory and power when Jesus entered Jerusalem. They followed Jesus by giving up everything they had: “We have left everything to follow you!” (Mk. 10:28). On the basis of their fidelity to

Jesus, they were asking him to do whatever they wanted him to do: “‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘we want you to do for us whatever we ask’” (Mk. 10:35).

So, Jesus asked James and John, “What do you want me to do for you?” (Mk. 10:36). They disclosed their hidden intention in following Jesus: “They replied, ‘Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory’” (Mk. 10:37). They followed Jesus not only for his sake but also for their benefits, their success, prosperity, and power. They expected Jesus to manifest his glory and power as the Messiah on his arrival at Jerusalem.

So, they requested him to place them in the highest and the most powerful position in his kingdom. Their request was very audacious, aggressive, and ambitious. They did not take into consideration his suffering at all but only his glory. Their concern in following Jesus was about their own glory and power, not about the glory of Jesus. They needed Jesus in glory so that they might be placed in glory. Their intention to follow Jesus was oriented to their selfish desire to obtain power and honor. They desired to be placed in the positions of control and dominion in the kingdom of God.

Who will be honored in God’s kingdom? Discipleship is servanthood

Jesus criticized his disciples, James and John, for their ignorance and misunderstanding: He said, “You don’t know what you are asking” (Mk. 10:38). They had the ears to hear but could not hear the voice of Jesus, who taught them his suffering and death, because of their selfish desire. And Jesus asked them, “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” (Mk. 10:38). They answered him. “We can” (Mk. 10:39). Jesus replied to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with” (Mk. 10:39).

The other disciples realized that James and John had requested Jesus to let them sit at his right and left in his kingdom. They were so angry with them: “When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John” (Mk. 10:41). There was jealousy and competition between the twelve disciples, all of whom had the desire to be placed in the first positions in the kingdom of God and the ambition for the power of control and dominion. It is paganism to desire to exercise authority over people: “Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the

Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you''' (Mk. 10:42-43).

Therefore, Jesus taught his disciples again about who will be the greatest or the first in the kingdom of God: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all" (Mk. 10:43-44). This is the discipleship demanded for everyone who follows Jesus. Discipleship is servanthood—Jesus himself will reveal his identity as the Son of God through his servanthood, the highest point of which is his crucifixion: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk. 10:45).

Jesus himself became the slave for all by giving himself up to the crucifixion, and God lifted him up to the highest position in his kingdom: "He humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him that which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:8-11).

The disciples of Jesus will participate in God's saving grace through the blood of Christ and be baptized with the Spirit of Christ. Their identity as the disciples of Christ will be manifested through their servanthood: Jesus will "give his life as a ransom for many" and prove himself as the Son of God (Mk. 10:45). Likewise, when his disciples give up themselves to serve people in order to redeem them from their troubles, they will proclaim their belongingness to Jesus, their Lord.

Pray For

Richard Redifer (father of Beth Redifer)

Bob (the brother-in-law of Mark Dewitt)

Eugene Vandermark

Bill Sansburn

Sue Henrickson

Leslie Wisniewski

Ruth Felch

Linda Becker (a neighbor of Jan Deming)

Carol Niederquell (sister of Ron Batzer)

Amber Sexton (granddaughter of Sharon VanEvery)

Melissa Morin

Melissa Coleman (the sister of Tiffany Coleman)

Faith Johnson

Bob Gibelyou

Kerri Meeks

Janet Zerby

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

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@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

Words cannot be found for the amount of love and thanksgiving I have in my heart for you, my Church family. The cards, dinners, shared stories & visits are priceless. Your prayers are truly felt. ***Share love, give hope. Ruth and family.***

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.

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 today, 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 today, September 25. Contact Gloria Gonzales to register.

World Communion Sunday – October 5, 2025

Next Sunday we'll join United Methodists and Christians around the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday—a day that reminds us we're part of something much bigger than ourselves. As we gather at the Lord's Table, we'll remember that Christ's love crosses every border, language, and tradition. All are welcome. Come ready to share in the bread, the cup, and the unity we have in Christ.

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!

Youth Group Launch – Starting October 13 @ 7 PM

Know a teen who's looking for connection, purpose, or a place to belong? Invite them to our new Youth Group, kicking off Monday, October 13 at 7 PM and meeting weekly on Mondays. We'll gather in Esther's parlor when available, or shift locations as needed—so stay tuned for updates. Each week includes Bible study, verse memorization, and meaningful conversations in a welcoming, faith-filled space. No church background needed—just come with an open heart and a willingness to grow. Coordinator: Janie Good

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.

Oct 18 Leader - Bev Walker Nov 15 Leader – TBD

Central Bay District Charge Conference (Zone 4 Arenac-Bay-Saginaw)

Today - Sunday, September 28 @ 6:00 pm at St. Luke's UMC

Bay City: Grace West Auburn Pinconning Standish: Beacon of Light/Arenac Co. Christ	Essexville: St. Luke's Freeland Saginaw: 1st Frankenmuth Caro/Saginaw New Church
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Sep 28 – Oct 26, 2025

[UWiF] Cookie Dough Sale

Sun Sep 28, 20256:00 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, 20256:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting**Sat Oct 4, 2025**Central Bay District Annual Meeting,
Alma UMC9:00 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, 202510:30 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

7:00 pm Youth Group

Tue Oct 14, 202510:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up
5:30 pm Girl Scouts – Big Class Room**Wed Oct 15, 2025**

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Oct 16, 20256:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting**Sat Oct 18, 2025**UWiF Mi Conference Annual Training
& Celebration, Clio UMC9:00 am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's
9:30–1:30 Salvation Army Soup Kitchen
Volunteers L-Bev Walker

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Mon Oct 20, 20256:30 pm UWiF Executive Meeting
7:00 pm Youth Group**Tue Oct 21, 2025**

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Oct 22, 202510:30 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 25, 2025**

10:00 am All ages Cookie Bake.

Mon Oct 27, 20257:00 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, 20256:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting**Sat Oct 31, 2025**

6-8pm Halloween Haunted Hallway

Sat Nov 1, 20259:00 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
Time**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

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

John Augustine

Children's Church

Ann Talaga

Becky Scott

Ushers

Sandy Mercer, Kathleen Erndt

Janie Good, TBD

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Mary Lewis

Children's Church

Becky Scott

Linda Manyen

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.

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 18, 2025 Newsletter

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2025-09-25>

Staff

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Andrew Felch
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Christian Education Coordinator

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