

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation
September 7, 2025
Thirteen Sunday after Pentecost



We are the People of the United Methodist Church
Our Vision~ “Share Love and Give Hope”

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eileen Casciano, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Slane"

Leon Beaudin, Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Did you hear the whisper of God calling us to worship?

God, help us listen as you call.

Did you sense the beautiful people God is creating us to become?

God, help us to see your image within.

Are you ready to listen, learn, and grow?

God, open our hearts and minds to your loving and challenging guidance.

HYMN

Immortal, Invisible

UMH 103

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God the Creator and the Redeemer, you have crafted us in your image and created us for greatness, as we share your love, justice, and compassion. Help us to live into this creation. Strengthen us, as we seek to answer your call. When we go astray, guide us back to your ways. When we fall apart, put us back together again. When we shrink in fear, lift our heads, that we may see your love and grace welcoming us home in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 18:1-8

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

HYMN

Take My Life and Let it Be

UHM 399

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 3

MESSAGE David's Prayer in God's Grace (2)

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY Behold the Lamb, Communion Hymn

Leon Beaudin

DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, you have blessed us beyond measure; you have entrusted us as partners to care for your world. Bless these gifts and our very lives. Transform everything we are in this life into offerings that bring your love to the world. In the holy name of Christ Jesus, our Lord, we pray. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Leon Beaudin, Organist

HYMN Standing on the Promises

UMH 374

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

May the Spirit's power give you courage.
May Christ's love give us compassion.
And may God's image shine through us,
as we carry a cross of light and love for all to see.
Amen.

POSTLUDE Rejoice! the Lord is King

Leon Beaudin, Organist

Sermon Summary

David's Prayer in God's Grace (2) – Psalm 3

Summary: Facing many enemies surrounding him, the knowledge of God, from whom deliverance comes, sustains David in security and peace, waiting for his salvation, and makes him pray for the blessing on Israel.

(1) David's prayer is according to his knowledge of God, who sustains him and fights for him, and from whom deliverance comes; the knowledge of God brings him into the optimism of life and the prayer to him.

a. In confrontation with his enemies, who have set themselves against him on every side, David keeps himself in the optimistic vision of life, which comes from his faith in God, who sustains him (Ps. 3:6). His assurance of God the Lord and his deliverance keeps him in peace and security.

b. David is very active in his prayer, asking the Lord to fight for him. It is God the Lord, not David, who will fight against his enemies suppressing him on all sides (Ps. 3:7). God is the warrior who fights for his people, whose deliverance comes from him alone (Ps. 3:8). The knowledge of God makes David calm down in the turmoil of his life.

c. When he was engaged in the mission work in Asia, Paul got through the affliction, which made him completely crushed in his mind, like he had received the sentence of death. This tribulation made him rely on God alone (2 Cor. 1:8-9). Through this experience he arrived at the understanding that it is God who sustains his ministry and who will rescue him from the death sentence in the kingdom of God to come (2 Cor. 1:10).

Application 1: Our security of life is in God alone. In God, we can find rest from our life journey wavering in confusion, disappointment, powerlessness, and even hopelessness. Our deliverance comes from God alone, who sustains us.

(2) David's prayer is ultimately for God's salvation of his people and his blessing on them; he is faithful to God's anointing of him to be the deliverer of Israel, asking him for the blessing on them, despite their cooperation with the rebellion against his enemies.

a. What David is ultimately praying for is not God's blessing on him but on Israel. He concludes Psalm 3 with his prayer for God's blessing on the people of Israel (Ps. 3:8). For David, the people of Israel were the companions of the rebel, Absalom. They made a co-operation with him to bring disaster upon David (2 Sam. 15:12-14, 16). It was the people of Israel who opened the door for Absalom to attack David (1 Sam. 15:14). However, David is praying to God to keep Israel in his deliverance and blessing. By this prayer, he proves himself the anointed of God, who is called to show God's deliverance for Israel.

b. David represents Jesus the shepherd for us today. Jesus introduces himself as the good shepherd because he lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:15). By putting himself on the cross, Jesus prevented his people, who ran away from him and left him alone, from falling into the hands of evil, death, and Satan. He proved himself to be the good shepherd for the sheep. "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

Application 2: Jesus is the great shepherd for all of us, who are called to live a life of a good shepherd in imitation of him. Every one of us, whether we are pastors or lay people, is called to imitate him and to live a life of shepherding to each other. We should be a blessing to each other. Each of us is called to live as a good shepherd, not a hired one. All our actions and speeches should be a blessing to the body of Christ and its growth.

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF INVITATION

God the Lord, our Source of unity and strength, in our longing for wholeness, we reach out to your Son, whose touch heals our brokenness; in our yearning for community, we take hold of the promises of Christ, whose life and love bind us together as one. From lives of separation and distrust, knit us into one family, where all are welcomed and honored. As we share the bread of life and drink the cup of salvation, forge us anew as one people of faith.

Amen.

The GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today we join the family of God throughout the world at Christ's holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Families of

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

Pray For

Ruth Felch

Melissa Morin

Melissa Coleman (the sister of Tiffany Coleman)

Faith Johnson

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)

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@stlukesumcmi.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.

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 September 28th. For more information, please reach out to Judy or Joe Fleming.

St. Luke's is seeking a dedicated and thoughtful individual to serve as Finance Committee Chairperson. This vital role supports the stewardship of our church's resources, promotes transparency, and contributes to strategic decisions as part of our Governance Board. Whether you bring professional experience in finance or simply a willingness to learn and serve faithfully, we welcome your interest. Training and support will be provided. If you feel called to help guide St. Luke's financial ministry, please reach out to Karla Morgan.

Children's Sunday School

Our fall semester kicks off 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 Yagiela

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!

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

United Women in Faith

United Methodist Community House Bus Trip Postponed until Spring 2026.

Watch for details in early 2026.

We will move forward with fellowship and tours in our own city.

Kicking off at the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region for a presentation and tour.

Wed Sept 10, 2025 @ 10:20am

Location: 1606 S Euclid Ave., Bay City

The CAN Council serves as a voice and an advocate for children throughout Arenac, Bay, Huron and Saginaw Counties. Together they will build a future where the innocence of childhood is preserved, where families are strengthened and where every child knows they are loved, valued, and worthy of protection.

12:30 pm Lunch at G's Pizzeria downtown Bay City. *Don't forget your lunch money!*

2:00 pm Tour the Bay County Historical Museum

Everyone welcome! If you'd like to attend contact Gloria Gonzales, Becky Scott or Brenda Scramlin.

Tue Sep 9, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Sep 10, 2025

10:20 am UWIF - CAN Council presentation and tour

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) @ St. Luke's

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 @ The Turkey Roost

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

Thu Oct 16, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Oct 18, 2025

UWiF Mi Conference Annual Training & Celebration, Clio UMC

9:00 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

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

Eileen Casciano

Children's Church

Sheila Good

Becky Scott

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others

Communion Servers

Eileen Casciano, Kathy Erndt
Joye Kramer, Nancy Tacey

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Kathy Erndt

Children's Church

Becky Scott

Joy Clark

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others

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 4, 2025 Newsletter

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2025-09-4>

Staff

Pastor

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office@stlukesumcmi.org

Organist

Leon Beaudin

Accountant

Donna Gross
accountant@stlukesumcmi.org

AV Coordinator

Andrew Felch
avtech@stlukesumcmi.org

Christian Education Coordinator

Janie Good
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