

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

July 27, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



We are the People of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision~ “Share Love and Give Hope”

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Tacey, Liturgist

PRELUDE Give Thanks w/Because He Lives

Leon Beaudin, Piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who delight in God's ways,
who set their hearts and minds on the laws of God's love.

In the presence of the Holy, they are like
trees planted by the waters of life.

**They are fed by enduring streams,
with roots that reach into the depths of soul.**

They are nourished in times of drought and
bring forth fruit in seasons of famine.

Life shall spring forth as they walk each day in the Way of peace.

HYMN When Morning Gilds the Skies

UMH 185

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God, the Holy One, when the road is dusty under our feet, and we find ourselves engulfed, you share with us the water of life. You plant our spirits by the streams of your Being. You nourish our bodies and replenish our souls. You challenge our minds and guide our hearts. Lead us, again, O God, into your presence with your prayers. Be with us, as your renewing love overflows from our lives and our souls into the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 6:17-26

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

HYMN Great Is Thy Faithfulness **UHM 140**

PASTORAL PRAYER **Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

SCRIPTURE READING **Psalm 1**

MESSAGE Living in Faithfulness to God **Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY All Things Bright and Beautiful **Leon Beaudin**

DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow **UMH 94**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, you bless us beyond measures or belief. May the gifts you have poured into our lives overflow, spilling over into the world. May these gifts nourish all who have need. In the name of Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we pray. Amen.

HYMN Wonderful Words of Life **UMH 600**

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION **Rev. Seok Nam Lim**

People of God, blessed are you.
Go into the world, following the living God—
this day and all days. Amen.

POSTLUDE How Majestic **Leon Beaudin, Organist**

Sermon Summary

The Blessed Life for God's People (Psalm 1)

Summary: The blessed life is the life in faithfulness to God's covenant, in which the Word of God flourishes, and we are continuously being renewed according to the image of Christ.

1. Understanding the background of Psalm 1 - the covenant relationship between God and the people of Israel

God's faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham: God promised Abraham to make his children a great nation (Gen. 12:2). God also made a covenant with him that he would bring them out of slavery and give them the land of Canaan (Gen. 15:18). God was faithful to his covenant with Abraham. As he promised to him, God took an action to deliver his offspring from the oppression in the land of Egypt. Through his deliverance, God showed his faithfulness to the covenant he made with Abraham.

The faithfulness of the people of Israel to God's covenant is demanded: God separated Israel as his treasured possession out of other nations so that God the Lord was their king, and he bound them to obey him. The people of Israel could count on him to keep his promises, including both his promises of blessing and his threats of judgment. Their well-being was determined by what they would do with God the Lord.

2. The subject matter of Psalm 1 – the life in faithfulness to God's covenant

Psalm 1 reminded the Israelites of their covenant relationship with God and also of their history—what had happened to them when they were faithful or unfaithful to their covenant with God. This psalm reflects the subject matter of the history of Israel. The people of Israel were called into the covenant relationship with God, according to which they were commanded to live in the covenant faithfulness to God. They were called to live as a priestly nation and a holy nation (Ex. 19:6). They should live according to God's covenant with them.

3. Two kinds of God's people in Psalm 1 – Those in disobedience or in obedience to God's covenant

Those who live in unfaithfulness to the covenant relationship with God: Ps. 1:1 describes the people of God living in disobedience to God's covenant. They listened to "the advice of the wicked," which denies the knowledge of God the creator and the redeemer, and became futile in their thinking and senseless in their mind (Rom. 1:21). Then, they put the wisdom of the wicked into practice; they took the path that sinners tread

(Ps. 1:1). Finally, they sat “in the seat of scoffers” (Ps. 1:1). They deified themselves and put everything under the rule of their desire and their knowledge without God.

Those who live in faithfulness to the covenant relationship with God: Ps. 1:2 describes the life of the people of God living in the covenant faithfulness to God: “Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night” (Ps. 1:2). They accepted the Word of God given to them through Moses and the prophets as the authority to rule the whole area of their life. Further, by keeping the Law of Moses and the prophets in their lives, they showed their faithfulness to God. Their delight in the Word of God was their way of living according to the covenant relationship with God.

4. Covenant faithfulness in the core Christian doctrine by John Wesley – Original Sin, Justification by Faith, and Sanctification

Original sin as a human condition: Original sin is the fundamental problem of human beings. It is inherent in human nature. Sin is a separation from God and an alienation from the life of God and a rebellion against God’s sovereign rule. It is a breakdown of the relationship with God and “an exchange of the relationship with God for a relationship with the forces of evil in the world” (Rom. 1:25).

Justification by God’s grace: As God promised in the law and the prophets, God sent Jesus Christ to us and made him as God’s righteousness so that “all who believe” in him, no matter who they are, “are now justified by his grace, receiving as a gift “the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:21-24). God’s righteousness is inherited toward them. We are made righteous by “the grace of God and the free gift of the one man, Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:15).

Sanctification as faithfulness to God’s grace: Now we are called to live according to God’s grace and in obedience to the gospel of Christ, manifesting our new life in Christ through our holiness. Justification by faith leads to sanctification in the whole area of life. We are demanded to live in the covenant faithfulness to God, “being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator,” Christ (Col. 3:10).

5. Conclusion

What is the blessed life? What is prosperity in our life? It is our faithfulness to God’s grace in Christ. It is not the life in which our worldly desire becomes prosperous, but the life in which God’s grace in Christ becomes fruitful. God shows his faithfulness to his people through Christ and calls them to live in faithfulness to his grace. We never stop growing up to the full measurement of the knowledge of Christ and his image. What is to be flourished in our life is not our ambitious desire but the Word of God, not us but Christ alone.

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

Bob Pierce, Sr.
Betty Martinek
Jane Russell
Melissa Morin
Joe Fleming
Jim Merrill
Linda O'Marrow, the friend of Shirley Plessner
Melissa Coleman (sister of Tiffany Coleman)

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@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

Governance Board Meeting: Monday, July 28th | 6:30 pm | Esther's Parlor

Just a reminder for anyone who is the last to leave the church: please make sure all doors are locked, windows are closed, and equipment—like fans and lights—is turned off. We've had a few recent instances where the building was left unsecured.

Join us for a potluck following the worship service today 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!

Setup for the Rummage Sale will take place Sunday through Wednesday, August 10–13. The sale runs from Thursday, August 14, to Saturday, August 16. We welcome donations of baked goods such as cookies, brownies, and homemade bread. Volunteers are needed for setup on Sunday (following worship) and Monday through Wednesday starting at 9 AM, as well as during the sale days. Please drop off rummage items in Room 1. *Note: We cannot accept mattresses, box springs, tube TVs, computers, or exercise equipment.*

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

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.

Through the month of August, the Missions work area will be collecting snack items for our young neighbors at Bush Elementary School. Individually wrapped packages of granola bars, fruit snacks, animal crackers, etc. can be left on the Mission table near the main entrance. Many thanks.

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.

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.

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.

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

Exciting News!

First, a quick update: Six members of your Church Family, the A/V Task Group, have been working behind the scenes to improve both our sanctuary and online audio/visual experience. We've addressed long-standing concerns from the congregation, Governance Board, and musical groups. After consulting with Simoni Systems, technicians visited the church to evaluate and adjust our equipment.

While some improvements were made, our current A/V system—now 15 to 30 years old—is outdated and challenging for volunteers to use. Simoni has recommended upgrades to our projection, camera, and sound systems. Given the system's age, we're starting with the **sound system**, with new components and staff training estimated at **\$16,000**.

Now for the exciting part!

An **anonymous donor has pledged to match up to \$7,500** in congregation donations made by **mid-October**! That means we only need to raise **\$8,500 over the next 10 weeks** to move forward.

Fundraising kickoff begins today, Sunday, July 27.

St. Luke's is growing—and it's thanks to your continued support and involvement. Let's make this "SOUND" investment together!

Dan Morgan & Henry Roeder, Fundraising Co-Chairs
Leon Beaudin, Master of Sound

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

6:30 pm Missions Meeting in Esther's Parlor

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

Sat Sep 6, 2025

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

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Tue Sep 9, 2025

9:30 am Trustees and others – church maintenance

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Sep 10, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

6:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

Thu Sep 11, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

Nancy Tacey

Children's Church

Becky Scott and Linda Manyen

Ushers

Sandy Mercer, Brenda Kemp,
Joye Kramer, and alternate

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Becky Scott

Children's Church

Ann Talaga and Sheila Good

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming,
and alternates

Communion Servers

Jodi Shaw, Sue Lind
Ted Lind, Brenda Kemp

Acolytes

(varies week to week)

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

Altar Flowers

**Today's altar flowers are presented
to celebrate Ken & Cheri Jezerski's 46th wedding anniversary.**

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 24, 2025 Newsletter

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2025-07-24>

Staff

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Leon Beaudin

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AV Coordinator

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