

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

September 21, 2025

Fifeenth Sunday after Pentecost



We are the People of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision~ “Share Love and Give Hope”

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brenda Scramlin, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Times of Refreshing *with*, It is no Secret

Leon Beaudin, Piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Search for the Lord each day.

God waits where we least expect it.

Search for the balm in Gilead.

God brings healers in our need.

Cry out to the Lord in times of distress.

God comes speedily to meet us.

Come! Worship the One who hears our pleas.

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

UMH 64

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God, the Healer, be our balm of Gilead, for we ache to be made whole. Come to us in times of trial and heal our sin-sick souls. Amid those who prey on your little ones, help us live faithfully as children of light. May we be found faithfully in a little, that you may entrust us with much. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 79:1-9

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

CELEBRATION FOR THE THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

HYMN

God Hath Spoken by the Prophets

UHM 108

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 6:14-29

MESSAGE

John the Baptist as a Role Model of Christian Discipleship

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

The Gift of Love

Leon Beaudin

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

You call us to witness to your riches, O God, that your realm may be blessed for the benefit of all who are waiting for your mercy, love, and justice on earth. We offer you these gifts in gratitude. May they bring your healing power to those who need your reigning power in mercy and justice. May we be found in faithfulness to your Son, Jesus Christ, so we may see your kingdom come among us here and now. In his name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Lead On, O King Eternal

UMH 580

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

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

Sing the Glad Song

Leon Beaudin, Organist

Sermon Summary

John the Baptist as a Role Model of Christian Discipleship (Mark 6:14-29)

Summary: John the Baptist paved the way for Jesus and his kingdom by testifying to God's justice even to the point of being executed by Herod Antipas, who abused his power for his own desire and glory.

Herod Antipas

Herod the king, who was Herod Antipas, in the region of Galilee learned about what the disciples of Jesus were doing. The ministry of the disciples was full of power in their speech and action: "They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them" (Mark 6:12-23).

Some believed that Jesus was John the Baptist who had been raised from the dead: "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him" (John 6:14). They believed that the power of John was with Jesus, so that Jesus did miraculous works (Mark 6:14). What they believed is that John had been reincarnated into Jesus. Reincarnation is not the biblical belief but the belief of the pagan people who did not believe the resurrection of the body. Herod the king also thought that the John he had executed was reincarnated into Jesus: "But when Herod heard these rumors, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised to life" (Mark 6:16).

It is Herod himself who arrested John and put him in prison because John spoke against him: This is John's testimony against Herod – "It is against the law of God for you to marry your brother's wife" (Mark 6:17-18). John stood against Herod, the evil king, without fear when he violated God's law. Herod married Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, even when his brother Philip was alive. Every king or authority is the representative of God's rule and justice. Herod rejected God's reign. He deified himself like God. John the Baptist was the messenger of God's kingdom. His testimony against Herod about his injustice was a way of paving the road for Jesus to come as the king of Israel and the Messiah who would baptize people with the Spirit of holiness. For John the Baptist, living in the power of the Holy Spirit cannot be separated from living in holiness and justice.

Herod in Trouble at His Mind

Herod had respect for John the Baptist. When John the Baptist criticized his marriage, which was against God's righteousness and holiness, he ordered the arrest of John and put him in prison. But he did not execute him. Herodias, his wife, had hatred towards John. She was so frustrated with his testimony against her marriage. She desired to see him killed. But Herod did not want to kill him. John's testimony against his abuse of power and injustice woke up his conscience. His criticism was the voice of God calling him to repentance and correct his way of living according to God's justice. Herod recognized God's voice through John the Baptist. It is the reason why he respected John "as a righteous and holy man" (Mark 6:20). When Herodias attempted to kill John, Herod protected him. His conscience was not completely paralyzed or dead. What is more, Herod loved listening to John even though his speech to him brought him into confusion and chaos because it accused him of his wrongdoings: "When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him" (Mark 6:20).

John the Baptist Executed

Eventually, the time for John the Baptist to be killed came. It was the birthday of Herod. On that day, he "gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the lead men of Galilee" (Mark 6:21). At this banquet was the daughter of Herodias. She danced. Her dancing was so sensual and pleasurable to everyone at the banquet. It made Herod and all his guests so enjoyable. Being so impressed by her dancing, Herod said to the daughter of Herodias, "Ask me anything you want, and I'll give it to you" (Mark 6:22). And he made an oath to her, "Whatever you ask I will give you up to half my kingdom" (Mark 6:22-23). Herod made this oath in front of the important political leaders of his kingdom. So, the daughter of Herodias left the banquet place and asked her mother Herodias, "What shall I ask for?" and Herodias replied to her, "The head of John the Baptist" (Mark 6:24). Immediately she went back to the banquet in a hurry and made her request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter" (Mark 6:25). The request of Herodias' daughter brought Herod to such grief. But he could not express it in front of the political leaders at the banquet. Because of the promise he made as a king in front of them, "he did not want to refuse her" (Mark 6:26). So, reluctantly, he

ordered his executioner to behead John in prison and bring his head on a plate to him (Mark 6:27). The executioner went to John's prison, cut off his head, and brought back it on a platter, and gave it to Herod, and Herod gave it to the daughter of Herodias in the banquet place, and that daughter delivered it to her mother (Mark 6:27-28).

John the Baptist a Role Model of the Discipleship

John was the greatest prophet in the history of Israel. This is what Jesus said about John: "I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist" (Mt. 11:11). He was the one God called to prepare the way of Jesus the Messiah to come. But his life ended in humiliation, pain, sorrow, and misery. He was executed in prison, his head cut off because of the request of a young girl, the daughter of Herodias. But he was so faithful to his ministry to pave the way for the Lord. He testified to God's justice and worked for the kingdom of God even to the point of his death in prison. He disappeared into misery from history, but God's kingdom moved forward through him. That is the way of paving the paths for the sake of Christ. This is what John the Baptist said: "He must become greater; I must become less [He must increase, but I must decrease]" (John 3:30).

This is the lesson for Jesus' disciples. They enjoyed their success in ministry. They performed their power to heal the sick and drive out demons, and people loved them and gathered around them. But they should remember God's kingdom moving forward through John the Baptist, whose life ended in humiliation and death in prison. Jesus' ministry for God's kingdom was moving forward to the point of being crucified. He commanded his disciples and anyone who was willing to follow him to live in imitation of him: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it" (Mark 8:34-35).

The Families of

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

Pray For

Leslie Wisniewski

Linda Becker (a neighbor of Jan Deming)

Carol Niederquell (sister of Ron Batzer)

Amber Sexton (granddaughter of Sharon VanEvery)

Ruth Felch

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)

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.

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

Welcome! Please sign the attendance pad on the inside aisle of your pew, pass it down your row, for others to sign. 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.

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 September 25. Contact Gloria Gonzales to register.

St. Luke's is looking to fill two positions on our Governance Board: Trustee and Finance Chairperson. These important roles help guide the stewardship of our church's resources and play a key part in shaping strategic decisions. If you have a heart to serve and a willingness to learn, we invite you to consider joining. Training and support will be provided. If you feel called to help, please contact Henry Roeder and Karla Morgan.

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). **It's not too late to sign up for this study.** See the sign up on the bulletin board for details and to register.

Textbook: *Hebrews: Race to Glory* by James Reapsome. (InterVarsity Press, LifeGuide Bible Studies, 13 Lessons)

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

Governance Board Meeting

Monday, September 22, 2025 @ 6:30 pm in Esther's parlor.

Central Bay District Charge Conference (Zone 4)

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

Zone 4. Arenac-Bay-Saginaw

Bay City: Grace East & West

Auburn

Pinconning

Standish: Beacon of Light/Arenac Co. Christ

Essexville: St. Luke's

Freeland

Saginaw: 1st

Frankenmuth

Caro/Saginaw New Church

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, 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, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Oct 4, 2025Central Bay District Annual Meeting,
Alma UMC

9:00 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, 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, 2025UWiF 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

Mon Oct 20, 2025

6:30 pm UWiF Executive Meeting

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

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

7:00 pm Governance Board Meeting

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

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Oct 31, 2025

6–8pm Halloween 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
Time

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

Brenda Scramlin

Children's Church

Becky Scott
Linda Manyen

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Brian Scramlin

Children's Church

Ann Talaga
Becky Scott

Ushers

Sandy Mercer, Kathleen Erndt
Janie Good, 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-2025-09-18>

Staff

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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