

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

October 26, 2025

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Sunday



We are the People of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision~ "Share Love and Give Hope"

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jodi Shaw, Liturgist

PRELUDE

I Exalt Thee

Leon Beaudin, Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice in the Lord and be glad.

God is our hope and our salvation.

The Lord blesses the earth with rain.

God crowns the year with bounty.

The Lord makes old men dream dreams.

God makes young girls see visions.

Rejoice in the Lord and be glad.

God is our hope and our salvation.

HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

UMH 110

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The living God, the Giver of dreams and visions, pour out your Spirit on our fellowship, for we need your presence in our lives. Show your portents in the heavens and set your signs on the earth and seas. Touch our spirits with the awe of your majesty, that we may humbly dwell within your courts in peace and harmony. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Psalms 65:1-9

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

UHM 577

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:9-14

MESSAGE

Hope for the Sinner

Rev. Dr. William P. Sanders

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Lord, I Need You

Dave Talaga, Ted Lind

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of overflowing abundance – you water the earth with live-giving rain; you clothe the meadows with glorious flowers; you deck the valleys with bountiful grain; you crown the year with your manifest blessings; you make the gateways of the evening and the morning shout for joy. With what can we come before you? How can we repay you for your grace and mercy? Receive the fruit of our labor. Receive also the gift of our humble thanks and keep our hearts safe in your Spirit. In the name of your Son, Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen

HYMN

Lord I Want to Be a Christian

UMH 402

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Fight the good fight.

Finish the race.

Keep the faith.

Love deeply and live well.

Claim the crown of righteousness,

which is given to all who love God

and who yearn for Christ's appearance.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Recessional in C

Leon Beaudin, Organist

Sermon Summary

Hope for the Sinner

What is a parable? A parable is, literally, something “cast alongside” something else. Jesus’ parables were stories that were “cast alongside” a truth in order to illustrate that truth. A common description of a parable is that it is “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.” There are 39 parables in the synoptic Gospels, the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Each of these distinct parables make up about 1/3 of the teachings of Jesus.

This parable, from our Gospel lesson this morning, Luke chapter 18, verses 9 to 14, follows a pattern of creatively contrasting opposites to make a profound spiritual point. In this morning’s parable, Jesus contrasts a righteous Pharisee with a despised tax collector. Today’s parable, which Jesus used almost 2000 years ago, continues to be an important lesson for us today.

Two Different Men

In this parable, the two prayers were offered, one by the Pharisee and one tax collector each reflecting their level of faith.

- **The Pharisee** was not aware that his actions were displeasing to God.
- His pride, self-righteousness, contempt for others, and his failure to be a religious leader, who taught one thing but lived another. His failure to exemplify God’s grace, made him ill-positioned to receive God’s blessing.
- He approached God in pride, as one who was better than most, and focused on his goodness and how he deserved God’s blessing.
- **The Tax collectors** were vilified in Jesus’ day.
- In Judea they were typically Jews who aligned themselves with the occupying Romans and collected taxes for them.

- They were not allowed to enter the temple to pray – religious leaders referred to them as unloved, unworthy, and unredeemable.

Two Different Prayers

Jesus focused on these two prayers that were prayed in the Temple.

- **The Pharisee** prayed in a way that indicated his lack of spiritual awareness.
- His standing posture indicated his pride and arrogance demonstrated that he held others with contempt.
- His prayer centered on his merit, his assessment that he was better than the tax collector, and there was a notable absence of thanking God for his blessings.
- The Pharisee's prayer did not please God.

- **The Tax Collector** prayed for God's grace and forgiveness.
- "Standing far off," he would not even lift up his eyes to heaven – but was beating his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"
- His prayer was simple but passionate – he thanked God and asked God to be merciful.
- The Tax Collector's prayer pleased God.

The Families of

Ruth Felch
Richard Redifer (father of Beth Redifer)

Pray For

Joy Sansburn
Melissa Coleman, (the sister of Tiffany Coleman,)
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.

What is Reformation Sunday? This day is observed on October 31, or the last Sunday of October to remind us that on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther issued his Ninety-five Theses in Wittenberg and began the Protestant Reformation. From *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 1992.

Share Your Pantry Recipes!

The Food Pantry team is collecting simple, tasty recipes to share with families who receive food from our pantry. If you have a favorite dish that uses common pantry ingredients—think canned goods, pasta, rice, or shelf-stable staples—we'd love for you to write it down and drop it in the basket on the Missions Table. Your recipe could be just the inspiration someone needs to turn groceries into a comforting meal!

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 table by the Welcome Desk. For any questions, see Brenda Kemp.

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.

The next Golden Friends event is on November 3rd at Krzysiak's House Restaurant, 1605 Michigan Ave, Bay City, starting at 12:00 pm. Register on the

“Sign-Up” board outside Fellowship Hall before the today’s deadline. For details, contact Judy or Joe Fleming.

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!

Puzzle Contest #3, Friday, November 28th, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

The event will consist of 5 teams, each with 4 participants. Drinks and light snacks will be available. Puzzles for the contest are 300 pieces, generously provided by Becky Scott. If you would like more information, please reach out directly to Becky. Sign-up is on the bulletin board. Deadline to register is November 23rd.

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

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

We're confirming your availability for the next liturgist and communion server rotation. If you'd rather not participate, contact Fritzi Stevenson at stevensonfritzi@gmail.com to update the list. Please send any changes to your contact info so we can stay connected. Respond by the end of October. Thanks for your dedication! If you'd like to join, reach out to Fritzi.

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! This is still being developed, and more uses will be coming.



To get started, scan the QR code or visit:

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

Once you have installed the app, please remember to

create your account. *To create a Subsplash account, open the app, 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.*

Live Streaming is now available starting this Sunday

- On the App
- Website <https://www.stlukesumcmi.org/watch>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stlukesumcmi>
- Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/@stlukesumcmi/streams>

Governance Board Meeting in Esther's Parlor

Monday, October 27 6:30 pm

Mon Oct 27, 2025

5:30pm Girl Scout Caregiver Info Night
 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. Patrick's Day Parade
 6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews
 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting (in Room 1)

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

5:30pm Girl Scout Caregiver Info Night
 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

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

5:30pm Girl Scout Caregiver Info Night
 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-Becky Scott

Sun Nov 16, 2025

Advent Puzzle Fun during Fellowship

Mon Nov 17, 2025

5:30 pm Girl Scout Caregiver Info Night
 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 Potluck

Sun Nov 23, 2025

Advent Puzzle Fun during Fellowship

Mon Nov 24, 2025

5:30pm Girl Scout Caregiver Info Night
 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

Fri Nov 28, 2025

6:00 pm Puzzle Contest #3

Sat Nov 29, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sun Nov 30, 2025

Advent Puzzle Fun during Fellowship

11:00 am Hanging of the Greens

Mon Dec 1, 2025

5:30pm Girl Scout Caregiver Info Night
 12:00 pm Golden Friends
 7:00 pm Youth Group

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

Jodi Shaw

Children's Church

Ann Talaga (L)

Karla Morgan

Ushers

Sandy Mercer, Joye Kramer

Charlotte McGrath, Fritz Stevenson

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Sue Lind

Children's Church

Sheila Good (L)

Brenda Toyzan

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming

and others TBD

Communion

Sue Lind, Ted Lind

Gloria Gonzales, Henry Roeder

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.

Acolytes

(varies week to week)

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

To Sign up for our E-newsletter

<https://stlukesumcmi.org#newsletter-subscribe>

Newsletter for October 23, 2025

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2025-10-23>

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

Website

<https://www.stlukesumcmi.org>

Facebook

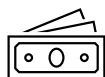
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Online Giving

<https://www.stlukesumcmi.org/give>

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Seok Nam Lim
seoknamlim1@hotmail.com
Mobile: 347-885-1948

Office Manager

Sheila Good
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

