St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation December 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent



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

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brenda Scramlin, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Leon Beaudin, Organist

* ADVENT READING AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Fritzi Stevenson and Jazzlyn Jones

SECOND ADVENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of Understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

*LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE

L: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

P: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

L: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

P: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, Christ has invited us here!

We gather to praise God, who brings justice and righteousness to all.

We gather to give thanks to God for hope and peace.

Blessed be the Lord, who has done marvelous things.

Let us praise God together!

HYMN Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of hope and peace, as we worship you this day, may we catch a glimpse of your peace; may we open ourselves to receive your grace; may we welcome one another, as you have welcomed us; may we prepare hearts and our lives, for Christ to be born in us once again. And when our worship is done, may we be renewed in body and spirit, prepared to bring your righteousness and justice to the world. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 72:1-7

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

HYMN Let There Be Peace on Earth. Sing 2x's

UHM 431

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:67-79

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY Gesu Bambino Dave Talaga

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Abundant God, your blessings and righteousness are bountiful in our lives. May these gifts bear good fruit as they go forth, that peace may come, that creation may be healed, and that those who cry for justice may be heard. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION COMMUNION MUSIC

Leon Beaudin, Organist

HYMN Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates UMH 213

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION Rev. Seok Nam Lim

May the God of love fill you with joy and peace.

May the peace of Christ be with you, now and forevermore.

And may the Holy Spirit fill your days with hope.

Amen.

POSTLUDE tbd Leon Beaudin, Organist

Sermon Summary

The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:67-79)

(Summary) Zechariah, being filled with the Holy Spirit, praised God for his visitation to his people through Christ, who came to us in humility, so that, today, we are called to celebrate the coming of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and in humility.

The birth of the baby John removes the disgrace of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Zechariah and Elizabeth, his wife, had been without children. Being childless was a shame in the ancient Jewish society: It was supposed to be God's curse. Now Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and the humiliation and curse on the family of Zechariah were taken away.

"The Lord has done this for me," she [Elizabeth] said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." (Lk 1:25)

Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. (Lk 1:58)

The birth of a baby, John, brings great joy to his family. Zechariah, his father, who has been mute, opens his mouth and praises God, being filled with joy:

Immediately his mouth was opened, and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. (Lk 1:64)

The joy of Zechariah is characterized by three things: (1) the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Christ, (2) the coming of Christ as the accomplishment of God's salvation, and (3) John the Baptist as the forerunner of Christ.

(1) The joy of Zechariah begins with the Holy Spirit, not with his natural desire.

His father Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied. (Lk 1:67)

The Holy Spirit comes upon Zechariah and enables him to prophesy and praise God and his work through him. His joy is given by the Holy Spirit. His heart is illuminated and inspired by the Holy Spirit, and his mouth begins praising God and prophesying his work.

In the Gospel of Luke, the joy of all God's people comes from the Holy Spirit.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed. (Lk 1:41-42)

Moved by the Spirit, he [Simeon] went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus...Simeon took him in his arms and praised God. (Lk 2:27-28)

The coming of the Holy Spirit is prior to the coming of Christ. Being filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognizes Mary as the woman who is going to give birth to the child Christ. In the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, Simeon recognizes their child Jesus as Christ the Messiah and takes him into his arms and praises God for the coming of his salvation.

The wisdom of God revealed with the coming of Christ is understood through the Spirit, who "searches everything, even the depths of God" (1 Cor. 2:10).

Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us? (Lk 24:32).

How can we know that the baby Jesus in the manger is the Son of God and the most miserable human being in history, who is Jesus on the cross, is "a mighty savior for us" (Lk 1:69)? The coming of Christ and his death on the cross are the revelation of God's wisdom that is secret and hidden to the world and in history (1 Cor 2:7). This wisdom is understood through the Spirit, who "searches everything, even the depths of God" (1 Cor 2:10).

Christmas experience begins with the presence of the Holy Spirit, the illumination of our heart by the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit prepares our heart for the coming of Christ.

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us." (1 Cor 2:12)

No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 10:3)

(2) The subject matter of the song of Zechariah is the coming of Christ, God's visitation to his people through Christ, which brings Zechariah joy.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come [visited (ἐπεσκέψατο)] and has redeemed his people. (Lk 1:68).

The song of Zechariah is not purposed to celebrate the birth of the son of Zechariah, John, but the coming of God's salvation through Christ who will come after John.

God's visitation to us through Christ has been done in humility.

And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Lk 2:7)

[Christ] did not regard equality with God...but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness...he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on the cross. (Phil. 2:6-8)

How did God visit us through Christ? He came to us as "the child lying in the manger" (Lk 2:16). His coming was done in humility and powerlessness. Because of his humble figure, many will oppose him, and even his mother Mary will experience her own soul pierced with a sharp knife (Lk 2:34). Jesus, her son, will get through the crucifixion. His life will be in humility and humiliation. But, as Zechariah describes in his song, he is the one who will rescue his people, the children of Abraham, from the hands of God's enemies (Lk 1:74)

The subject matter of Christmas is the accomplishment of God's salvation for his people with the coming of Christ.

Christmas is not about Santa. It's about Savior. It's not about jingle bells. It's about Jesus. He is the reason for the season. (Rick Warren).

We celebrate the Christmas season because it is the season to remember God's visitation to us through Christ. His coming is the coming of God's salvation as he promised through the prophets. It is the event of God's salvation history. Today, Jesus visits us in the form of humble people (Mt. 25:31-46).

(3) The joy of Zechariah is on the identity or assignment of John the Baptist as the forerunner of Christ:

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him. (Lk 1:76)

What makes John the Baptist great is his self-knowledge as a witness to Christ the Lord.

He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. (John 1:8)

"I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him...He must become greater; I must become less." (John 3:28, 30)

We are not the light to the world. We are the bearers of the light of the world, Christ, in us. Like John, we need to decrease so that Jesus may increase among us and through us.

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

Ron J. View, (the brother of Carol O'Neil and Janet Zerby)

Darlene Carper (the sister of Lois Soltysiak)

Charles Carper, (brother-in-law of Lois Soltysiak)

Pray For

Janice Oswald
Vickie (the church neighbor)
Zach Kramer (grandson of Joye & Gene Kramer)
Jim Merrill
Dave (the grandson of Joan Gray)
Betty Martinek
Leslie Wisniewski
Sue Lind
Ruth Matherne
Melissa Morin
Cricket Horton
Ho-Ok Lim (the pastor's mother)
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.

Please lift in prayer all who are suffering—from the devastation of war, the effects of climate change, violence, hatred, poverty, and grief. Remember especially those facing mental health challenges, whose struggles may be hidden but are deeply real. Pray for unity in our nation and for the freedom we find in Christ to guide and strengthen us. Hold close our church family members who are enduring illness, loss, or hardship. And ask God's blessing on the ministry of St. Luke's UMC, that we may continue to serve with compassion, courage, and grace.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

(John 14:27)

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

Caring Tree: Share the Gift of Kindness

The Caring Tree is now on display in the foyer, offering our congregation an opportunity to bring joy to those in need this holiday season. If you would like to participate, please take a tag from the tree. Each tag represents an individual who would be blessed by your generosity. Gifts should be placed in a gift bag and left unwrapped to ensure they can be distributed appropriately. Once you have prepared your gift, please return both the gift and the original tag to the Caring Tree by December 14th. Thank you for supporting our Caring Tree ministry and helping to brighten the holidays for others in our community.

Children's Christmas Pageant | December 14, 2025 | 6:30 PM

Experience the joy of the season as the children and Crew 206 Youth group retell Christ's birth with scripture, music, and warm performances. From angels to shepherds, every scene captures the wonder and hope of Christmas. Join us in faith and celebration as the story of the manger unfolds through our young ones. After the pageant, enjoy cookies and drinks with us.

Salvation Army Volunteer Opportunities

Soup Kitchen

Support is needed at Matthew25 Cafe' on Saturdays, from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM at 410 10th St, Bay City. Volunteer tasks include food preparation, cooking, serving meals, and clean up. A sign-up form is available on the bulletin board. Three volunteers are needed for each of the following dates: December 13, January 17, and February 21.

Bell Ringers

Thank you to everyone that has signed up for the Salvation Army bell-ringing event on Dec. 5. The spots available filled up fast, but if you are also interested, please just add your name to a time slot that you are available. The more the merrier! You can also sign up for alternative dates and time through the Salvation army itself on https://www.registertoring.com/ Thank you for your willingness to serve others!

Christmas Gift Sorters

The Salvation Army needs volunteers to help sort Christmas gifts. This will be done Monday Dec. 8 through Tuesday, Dec. 16. 10am-2pm daily. If you're interested, please call Andrea at the Salvation Army (989) 778-8014.

Thursday Bible Study: "Knowing Who We Are – The Wesleyan Way of Grace" Join John and Sandy Augustine for a meaningful seven-week Bible study based on Rev. Dr. Lacey Warner's book, Knowing Who We Are – The Wesleyan Way of Grace. This study is designed to help participants explore and deepen their understanding of grace within the Wesleyan tradition.

Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in Esther's Parlor. A signup sheet for this study will be posted on the bulletin board. All are welcome to participate and grow together in faith and understanding.

Session Schedule:

- January 15: Introduction
- January 22: Finding Grace
- January 29: Saving Small Groups
- February 5: Local and Connectional
- February 12: Tenacious Mission
- February 19: Texts That Shape Us
- February 26: Growing Grace



Scan for the online Registration Form or see the sign-up board



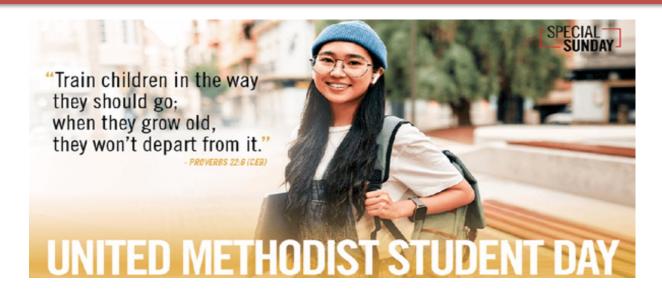






United Women in Faith Annual Christmas Celebration

On Saturday, December 13, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., we invite you to join us at St. Luke's UMC (206 Scheurmann St., Essexville) for a joyful morning of carols, stories, and fellowship. Music will be led by Dave Talaga, and a delicious brunch will be lovingly provided by the United Women in Faith. It will be a wonderful time to gather, celebrate, and share in the spirit of the season.



United Methodist Student Day

Today, we invite you to support students through scholarships, prayers, and encouragement. Your gifts help develop future leaders in faith and service. To contribute, use the Special Offering Envelope for cash or checks (payable to St. Luke's UMC, memo: "Student Day Sunday"), or donate online via St. Luke's portal, the Subsplash app, or UMC.org/SSGive. Thank you for your support. (Note: Student Day will be observed in May starting next year.)



Bishop's Advent Offering

This Advent season, we invite you to support the Gardens of Hope campaign through the Bishop's Advent Offering. This campaign supports three important Michigan Conference Engage partners: Grace Children's Hospital, HAPI — Haitian Assets for Peace International, and Jeremie Rising. Half of all donations also empower local leaders through a new partner, Grassroots Community Voices Foundation (MUSO). Your gifts will nurture a "healthy field" for lasting change in Haiti.

How you can give

- Place cash gifts in the offering plate. For checks, please make payable to your local church with "Gardens of Hope #3066" in the memo line.
- Give securely online using the PayPal QR Code below.
 Note: PayPal gifts cannot be credited to your local church.

This holy season, please join us in planting seeds of hope in Haiti! By supporting this cause, you provide vital resources that empower local farmers, educate children, and enhance healthcare access in a sustainable way.



Together, we can build a brighter future for Haitian families, fostering resilience and sustainable growth. Blessed Advent!

David A Boul

Bishop David Alan Bard Michigan Conference



PayPal QR Code

Mon Dec 8, 2025

7:00 pm Youth Group

Tue Dec 9, 2025

10:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

5:30 pm Girl Scouts – Big Class Room

Wed Dec 10, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

6:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

Thu Dec 11, 2025

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study for Hebrews

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Sat Dec 13,2025

9:30-1:30 Salvation Army Soup Kitchen L-TBD

9 am-1 pm Fellowship Hall reserved

10:00 am UWiF Christmas Celebration

Sun Dec 14, 2025

6:30 pm Christmas Pageant

Mon Dec 15, 2025

5:30 pm Governance Board Meeting

6-8pm Christmas Open House at the

Parsonage

7:00 pm Youth Group

Tue Dec 16, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

5:30 pm Girl Scouts – Big Class Room

Wed Dec 17, 2025

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

Thu Dec 18, 2025

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Fri Dec 19, 2025

6pm-8pm Christmas Luminary Walk

Essexville Community Church Event

Sat Dec 20, 2025

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

Mon Dec 22, 2025

6:30 pm Governance Board Meeting

7:00 pm Youth Group

Tue Dec 23, 2025

10:30 pm Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Dec 24, 2025

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Thu Dec 25, 2025

All day Christmas Day

Fri Dec 27 - January 8

All day Pastor on Vacation

Sun Dec 28, 2025

10:00 am Worship Service led by Dave Talaga

Mon Dec 29, 2025

7:00 pm Youth Group

Tue Dec 30, 2025

10:30 am Needleworkers Meet-up

Wed Dec 31, 2025

All day New Years Eve

10:30 am Wednesday Weavers

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. *Isaiah* 11:1–2

Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm



Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

Brenda Scramlin

Children's Church

Sheila Good (L) Joy Clark

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming and others TBD

Communion Servers

Brenda Scramlin, Brian Scramlin Brenda Kemp, Andy Kemp

Counters

Brenda Kemp Erik Yagiela

Altar Flowers

Today's flowers are presented by Gene and Nellie Vandermark in celebration of their 70th 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.

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Brian Scramlin

Children's Church

Ann Talaga (L) Karla Morgan

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming and others TBD

Counters

Brenda Kemp Char McGrath

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 December 4, 2025

https://bit.ly/newsletter-2025-12-4

Stay Connected

Address 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

https://www.facebook.com/stlukesumcmi

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Get our App

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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



https://www.stlukesumcmi.org/give

