

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

January 11, 2025

Baptism of the Lord



We are the People of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision~ “Share Love and Give Hope”

January 11, 2026

10:00 am

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Augustine, Liturgist

PRELUDE

People Need the Lord *with* Times of Refreshing

Leon Beaudin, Piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the river of life.

Listen for the words of love.

Come to the waters of grace

Receive the gift of acceptance.

Come to the river of love,

for all are welcome here.

HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH 577

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God the Life, you are calling us to come before you. So, we are here in answer to your call in our life. You created the heavens and the earth and placed us here for life and hope. We know your dream for a world that is righteous and just, a world you promise will come to pass. Breathe your Spirit upon us again and again, and bring to life our passion for your bold vision. Make us lights to those who sit in darkness! In the name of Jesus, who descended into the waters of baptism to show us the way to righteousness, and of the Soaring Spirit, who alights upon those who arise from these life-giving waters. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 29

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

HYMN

Grace Greater than Our Sin

UMH 365

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 4:8-16

MESSAGE God's Sabbath in Christ

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY Morning Has Broken

Leon Beaudin

DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of Bold Visions for our World, you love all peoples and nations, seeking a word where everyone flourishes in just and righteous lives. Use us and our gifts for the newness you declare possible. Make this newness spring forth in and through us. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Leon Beaudin

HYMN

My Hope Is Built

UMH 368

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

As we have been filled, go now to fill the world.

Fill the world with love. Fill the world with hope. Fill the world with Christ.

For as we nourish others, God transforms the world through us.

May God, the Creator and the Redeemer, be with you now and forever, filling you with his Word and Spirit.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Old Hundredth"

Leon Beaudin, Organist

Sermon Summary

God's Sabbath in Christ (Hebrews 4:8-16)

Summary: Today, God calls us to participate in his Sabbath-rest through his Word and his grace in Christ, the high priest.

1. God's purpose of redemption – God's Sabbath-rest

God calls us to the Sabbath-rest. Happiness is God's purpose in calling the people of Israel out of slavery. God intended not just to set them free from their slavery but to give them happiness and rest.

Hebrew 4:8, 11 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day...so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

The destination of the people of Israel, who came out of slavery, is not the wilderness on the other side of Egypt across the Red Sea, but the land filled with honey and milk. This is the land of God's Sabbath-rest. Joshua led the Israelites into the land of Canaan. In this land, they were to participate in God's Sabbath-rest. The Bible characterizes this new land as filled with material abundance, a land abundant with honey and milk. But the people of Israel could not enjoy God's Sabbath-rest in the land filled with honey and milk, the land of abundance and prosperity. Why? Because of their disobedience to God (Heb. 4:11), God intended to do excellent things for the people of Israel: He led them into the land of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua to give them God's Sabbath (rest). But they have become the example of people who could not participate in God's rest, "the example of disobedience" (Heb. 4:11).

God called us out of the world into Christ. God has the same purpose for us as he had for the people of Israel when he called them out of slavery into

the land filled with honey and milk. We can enter the rest of God, resting from our own labor, as God rested from his work of creation.

The Sabbath-rest God promises in Hebrew 4 is what we can enjoy in this world, here and now.

Hebrew 4:11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

This rest is not given to us without any cost. God demands us to “make every effort to enter that rest” (Heb. 4:11).

The question is, “How can we enter God’s rest in this world, here and now?”

2. We can enter God’s Sabbath-rest through the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

It is the Word of God, not anything else in this world, that gives us rest in this wilderness-like world. The way of entering God’s rest today is to listen to the Word of God, through which we can have a rest. God reveals God’s power and nature through the Word of God, which is “living and active,” not a dead letter, because God is the living God (Heb. 4:12).

The Word of God functions like a surgical knife: It is “sharper than any double-edged sword,” so that it “penetrates even to dividing soul and

spirit, joints and marrow" (Heb. 4:12). "It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). The Word of God uncovers the truth of our life to the eyes of God and teaches us that there is nothing within us to justify ourselves and make us acceptable to God. It destroys our self-righteousness, teaching us that there is nothing to distinguish ourselves as better than others.

Our rest and happiness through the Word of God is not for our self-satisfaction but for the satisfaction of God. It is not for self-glorification but for glorifying God.

3. We can enter God's Sabbath-rest, approaching the throne of grace in Christ, the great high priest.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The Word of God testifies to Christ, a special blessing from him. The subject matter of the whole Scripture is Christ. It teaches us Christ the great high priest, who bears the iniquities of all of us, being wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our failures.

Because of our inability to stand in the presence of God's judgment seat, we should "hold firmly to the faith we profess," our faith in Christ Jesus, "a great high priest who has gone through the heavens" into the land of rest, God's sabbath (Heb. 4:14).

Christ the high priest has a sympathetic heart to us in weakness and corruption because, like every one of us, Christ, as a human being, "has been tempted in every way," but unlike any of us, he did not fall in temptation, but was perfect "without sin" (Heb. 4:15).

Christ was united with us in our human nature and passed through every temptation as we do. But he was without any sort of sin. The first Adam, even though he was created in perfection, committed sins, and failed to go into God's sabbath rest, and was driven out of God's sanctuary, the land of Eden. The second Adam, Christ Jesus, fully participated in human nature but did not fail to obey God, the Word of God, and became the great high priest for all human beings. If anyone holds firmly to the faith in Christ, especially his atonement as the great high priest, she or he will receive God's sabbath-rest. We are encouraged to get access to "the throne of grace with confidence" (Heb. 4:16).

God's sabbath-rest is in God's grace and mercy revealed in Christ, the great high priest. Our rest is under the shadow of the cross of Christ.

"Nobody knows the trouble I see/ nobody knows but Jesus/
Sometimes I'm up/ sometimes I'm down/ Oh, yes, Lord/ Sometimes
I'm almost to the ground." (UMH 520)

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of love.

Jesus meets us here.

We gather as the beloved community,

**hungry to be fed with the gifts of the Spirit,
thirsting for the waters of life.**

God is here and everyone is welcome.

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

Ho-Ok Lim (mother of Pastor Seok Nam Lim)

Jerry Willett

Melissa Morin

Wesley (grandson of Jan Deming)

Dave Deming (husband of Jan Deming)

Eric Ives

Collins Noel Holsinger (great granddaughter of Marjorie Holsinger)

Ann and Frank Davis

Pam Travers (the friend of Sally Roby)

Tom Piotrowski (brother-in-law of Jan Deming)

Shut-ins

Ann and Frank Davis, Bob Davidson, Florence Decker, Sandy Gillam, Marletta Gross, Susan Hendrickson, Betty Martinek, Barb Meyer, Melissa Morin, Phyllis Finn, Ruth Matherne, Lorane Peglow, 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

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

(3 John 1:2)

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

Help Take Down Christmas Decorations — Today, January 11

We'll be taking down the Christmas decorations after Fellowship Hour today. Many hands make light work, and your help would be greatly appreciated. If you're able to stay for a little while, please join us as we transition our space into the new season. We'll also be serving pizza during Fellowship Hour, so enjoy a some before we get started.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who worked behind the scenes — setting up the sanctuary greens, assembling the trees, and preparing the outdoor nativity, and then returning to take it all down again. And thank you as well for the poinsettia donations for our shut-in members, and to Joy Clark for delivering them.

Upper Room Publication, Large Print edition

The Upper Room support team has been notified about the missing January–February Large Print edition. They informed us that USPS delivery issues may be causing the delay. If we have not received our copies by January 9, we should contact them again.

In the meantime, for anyone who has difficulty reading the regular print edition, there is a daily reading plan available on our Subsplash app. While the text can't be enlarged, you can listen to the readings.

To access it:

- Tap the “**Bible**” icon on the bottom menu of the app
- Select “**Plan**”
- Choose the date you want
- Then tap the **Play** icon  near the bottom of the screen to listen

Did you know you can **listen** to the worship service without watching the video? It's a great option when you're driving, preparing a meal, or simply prefer audio.

Missions Meeting

Missions Meeting – January 20 at 6:00 PM

Join us on January 20th at 6 PM in Esther's Parlor for our next Missions Meeting! Everyone is welcome—come and be part of the fun as we brainstorm and discuss upcoming projects for 2026. Whether you're a longtime participant or brand new, we'd love to have you there!

Blankets for the Dream Center

St. Luke's Mission Team is collecting new or gently used blankets for the Dream Center in Bay City. These blankets will be distributed to individuals experiencing homelessness or those in need within our community. Donations will be accepted through March 1, 2026.

Soup and Game night

January 30th, 5:30-9:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for a fun evening of fellowship, enjoy a bowl of soup and then **PLAY GAMES**.

Aggravation, Chinese Checkers, Euchre, Cribbage, Checkers, Sorry. Decks of cards will be available. Sign-up on the bulletin board or register online and in the app.

Golden Friends

The next Golden Friends event will be on **Monday, February 2nd at G's Pizzeria**, 1005 Saginaw St., Bay City, starting at 12:00 pm. Register on the app or use the sign-up form on the bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall, with a deadline of January 25th. For more information, please reach out to Judy or Joe Fleming.

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

Breakfast Book Club

Join us for a light breakfast and discuss our book choice, "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson, a historical fiction novel set in 1930s Appalachia. Good talks, laughs and fellowship. **February 28th from 10:00 - Noon** in Esther's Parlor. Free copies are available on the library shelf. Sign-up on the bulletin board, online, or in the app.

Upcoming

Mon Jan 12, 2026 6:30 pm UWIF Executive Meeting 7pm Youth group	Sun Jan 25, 2026 10am Worship Service	Sun Feb 8, 2026 10am Worship Service
Tue Jan 13, 2026 10:30am [Needleworkers]	Mon Jan 26, 2026 6:30pm Governance Board 7pm Youth group	Mon Feb 9, 2026 7pm Youth group
Wed Jan 14, 2026 10:30am Wednesday Weavers 6:30pm [Needleworkers]	Tue Jan 27, 2026 10:30am [Needleworkers]	Tue Feb 10, 2026 10:30am Needleworkers
Thu Jan 15, 2026 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	Wed Jan 28, 2026 10:30am Wednesday Weavers 6:30pm [Needleworkers]	Wed Feb 11, 2026 10:30am Wednesday Weavers 4:30pm UWIF Meeting 6:30pm Needlesworkers
Sat Jan 17, 2026 9am U.M.M. breakfast @ Krzysiak's 9:30am Missions Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Volunteers	Thu Jan 29, 2026 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	Thu Feb 12, 2026 6pm Girl Scout Leader's Meeting in Room 1 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting
Sun Jan 18, 2026 10am Worship Service Human Relations Day	Sun Feb 1, 2026 10am Worship Service	Sat Feb 14, 2026 All day Valentine's Day
Mon Jan 19, 2026 7pm Youth Group	Mon Feb 2, 2026 12pm Golden Friends @ G's Pizzeria 7pm Youth group	Sun Feb 15, 2026 10am Worship Service
Tue Jan 20, 2026 10:30am [Needleworkers] 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 50560 6:00pm Missions Meeting	Tue Feb 3, 2026 All day Special Primary Election 10:30am [Needleworkers] 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 50560	Mon Feb 16, 2026 All day Presidents' Day 7pm Youth group in Youth
Wed Jan 21, 2026 10:30am - 11:30am Wednesday Weavers	Wed Feb 4, 2026 10:30am Wednesday	Tue Feb 17, 2026 10:30am [Needleworkers] 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 50560
Thu Jan 22, 2026 6:30pm - 7:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	Thu Feb 5, 2026 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	Wed Feb 18, 2026 10:30am Wednesday Weavers
	Sat Feb 7, 2026 9am U.M.M. breakfast @ Krzysiak's	Thu Feb 19, 2026 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous

We've refreshed the bulletin board! **All volunteer schedules** are now combined into one easy-to-read document. Some sections are still being updated as details come in, so stay tuned. **Want to sign up for Altar Flowers or Fellowship Time?** Feel free to add your name by hand. Interested in helping in other areas? Just let the office know—we'd love to have you involved! We're especially looking for Sunday School teacher volunteers. Adjustments can be made anytime during the year—just share who, what, and when. Thank you for helping make our ministries thrive!

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist

John Augustine

Children's Church

Becky Scott

Brenda Toyzan

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others TBD

Counters

Brenda Kemp

Becky Scott

Communion

Eileen Casciano, Sandy Mercer
Sheila Good, Sandy Augustine

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist

Anne Connell

Children's Church

Sheila Good

Karla Morgan

Ushers

Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others TBD

Counters

Brenda Kemp

Eric Yagiela

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
Newsletter for January 8, 2026**

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

<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2026-jan-8>

Stay Connected

Staff

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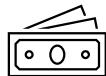
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Online Giving

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

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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

