

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



We are the People of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision~ "Share Love and Give Hope"

February 1, 2026

10:00 am

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Char McGrath, Liturgist

PRELUDE

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Leon Beaudin, Organist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Who does the will of the Lord?

**Those who bring Justice, loving kindness,
and walk humbly with their God.**

To whom does the kingdom of heaven belong?

Those who are lowly and poor in spirit.

Who shall inherit the earth?

**Those who are meek and walk blamelessly
before the Lord.**

Who will be filled with good things?

Those hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Who shall see God?

Those who are pure in heart.

Who shall be called children of God?

Those bring peace to our world.

Truly, these are blessed by the Lord, our God!

HYMN

Christ for the World We Sing

UMC 568

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The hills hear your voice, O Lord. The mountain quake before you. As we call on your name, help us walk in the ways of righteousness and speak in tones of peace. As we seek to be blameless and do what is right, may our hearts be free from guile and deceit, that we be known as peace makers, the blessed children of God. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 15

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

HYMN

Jesus, United by Thy Grace VS 1, 2, 3, 4 + 6

UMH 561

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-8

MESSAGE

The Sermon on the Mount: The Ethics of God's Kingdom

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Leon Beaudin

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Living God, the source of justice and mercy, work through this offering to bring your gifts to the world: righteousness and peace, love and kindness, hope and joy. May our gifts truly express our gratitude for your many blessings for our church and for your children everywhere. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Leon Beaudin, Piano

HYMN

The Church's One Foundation VS 1, 2, 4 + 6

UMH 545

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

.Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Seek justice and discover God's blessings.

We will walk humbly with our God.

Practice kindness and touch Christ's presence.

We will live in Christ's Way of peace.

Show mercy and abide in the Holy Spirit.

We will leave footprints of light and compassion with every step we take.

POSTLUDE

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Leon Beaudin, Organist

Sermon Summary

The Sermon on the Mount: The Ethics of God's Kingdom (Matthew 5:1-8)

Summary: The Sermon on the Mount is a teaching about God's Kingdom, which has come true with the coming of Jesus Christ; its message is for all human beings, and its purpose is to lead them to discipleship.

A. The message of the Sermon on the Mount: a life of the kingdom of God – the ethics of the kingdom of God

When Jesus proclaimed the Sermon on the Mount, John the Baptist was imprisoned, and Jesus' popularity was moving toward its highest point. After the imprisonment of John the Baptist, Jesus, "our Lord had now 'gone about all Galilee'" (Matt. 4:23) and done the ministry of God's kingdom, preaching and teaching the Word of God in the synagogues and healing the sick among the people. The kingdom of God has been fulfilled with the coming of Jesus.

With him, the new age had dawned, and the rule of God had broken into history. 'Repent,' he cried, 'for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' (Mt. 4:17) Indeed, 'He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom.' (Mt. 4:23). (John Stott).

In his teaching and performing miracles, Jesus already initiated the coming reign of God among people and called them to participate in it. His public ministry was moving toward the kingdom of God, which is essential to the understanding of the Sermon on the Mount.

All people from all the regions of Judea were crowded around him, so he went up to the mountainside to have all of them around him. The Sermon on the Mount was given to them: It is the ethics of the kingdom of God, or the life of the people who belong to the kingdom of God. It provides us "the inmost frame" "related to God, to one another, to every creature which God hath made" (John Wesley).

The life of the kingdom of God is fulfilled "under the gracious governance of God." The Sermon on the Mount is "the ethical foundation" of the life of the kingdom of God, "a life lived in full enjoyment of and accountability to God"; "Jesus is calling his people to a new life in a new era that is completely different from ordinary life in the fallen world. It is a redeemed world. Its name is the kingdom of God" (Thomas C. Oden).

B. Jesus as the foundation of the sermon on the mount: Jesus proclaimed the Word of God, which was embodied into his body and soul.

Who is the author of the Sermon on the Mount? Jesus. It is an incarnation of the gospel of the kingdom of God into Jesus and his life. Jesus is the foundation of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus himself as the foundation of the kingdom of God and its ethical life: Jesus, his person, and his grace, are the absolute criterion for the life of God's kingdom, not any other human being, even his disciples or John Baptist who give up all their possessions or even their lives for the kingdom of God. Jesus is the divine authority for the kingdom life and its exemplar. Jesus reveals his glory and authority through his sermon on the mountain.

Jesus as the law-giver: the divine lordship of Christ Jesus as the speaker of the sermon on mount Jesus spoke to his disciples and the crowd on the foundation of his divine authority as "the Lord of heaven and earth, the Creator of all," "the Lord our Governor," "the great Lawgiver," "the eternal Wisdom of the Father," "the God of love," "the great Prophet of the Lord," whom God sent to enlighten human beings in darkness, and through whom God speaks to them and brings them to his justice, love, and mercy (John Wesley). Through the sermon on the mount, Jesus reveals his divine nature and authority he had "before

the world began” (John Wesley). This sermon reflects “the character of the Speaker,” in whom God declares his “full and perfect will,” his “whole counsel,” so that all the words spoken are “true and right,” and everlasting for all areas of human and earthly life (John Wesley).

The revelation of the image of Christ, his divinity incarnated into humanity: the proclamation of the lordship of Christ as the incarnation of the Word of God (the message of the Sermon on the Mount) for all (the audience of the sermon): the message of the sermon on the mount as the whole fabric for all generations of people. The Sermon on the Mount is the proclamation of the lordship of Christ over all creation, and the instruction of a new life of the kingdom of God which has come true to us through him. It is the teaching of “the way to heaven,” “the true way to life everlasting; the royal way which leads to the kingdom; and the only true way” (John Wesley).

The community of the kingdom of God honors Christ alone, not our faithfulness to our duty, gifts, or possessions. None of us is acceptable to God except through Christ and his righteousness.

C. The purpose of the Sermon on the Mount: Discipleship

The audience are all humankind, and the subject matter is the discipleship for all, how to live salvation today, not just for the disciples of Christ but for all human beings: The audience of the Sermon on the Mount are not limited to a particular group of people, such as the apostles or the disciples of Christ, “the Christians of the apostolic age, or the Ministers of Christ,” or even “all the multitudes who went up with [Christ] into the mountain,” but extended “the whole race of humankind” for “all generations to come, even to the end of the world,” who “should hear” the sermon spoken by Christ the Lord on the mount, which teaches them “the way of salvation” in this life and in the life to come (John Wesley).

“The disciples and people, they belong together” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer). The disciples have come from among the people. The task of the disciples is to lead the people, “the lost sheep of the house of Israel, to the elect of God, the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ (Dietrich Bonhoeffer). The difference between the disciples and the people is their response to the voice of Christ, the Good Shepherd: The disciples hear it and follow him, but the peoples reject it. But the disciples will consistently testify to the voice of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, for the people. Jesus is the Good Shepherd for all, the disciples and the people.

Now they are living in want and privation, the poorest of the poor, the sorest afflicted, and the hungriest of the hungry. They have only him, and with him they have nothing, literally nothing in the world, but everything with and through God.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

D. Building up the community of God’s kingdom: Countercultural

God’s grace makes us establish his kingdom today in obedience to His Word and will. The Sermon on the Mount is a teaching about the kingdom of God, focusing on the ethical life by the Word of God against the world, which attempts to destroy God’s kingdom, by threatening Jesus’ kingdom ministry. Teaching on the mount leads to a new community of counterculture: God calls us to be the community of his kingdom on a hill, so all people will gather into this community as the shelter of their lives.

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

Melissa Morin

Pray For

William Kozuch (husband of Fritzi Stevenson)
Rachel Lochinski (the daughter of Fritzi Stevenson)
LaShawn Madrid (the daughter of Joan Gray)
David Madrid (the grandson of Joan Gray)
Lisa Coleman (the mother of Tiffany Coleman)
Ho-Ok Lim (mother of Pastor Seok Nam Lim)
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, 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 compassion, courage, and grace.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God..
(Philippians 4:6-7)

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@stlulkesumcni.org, by filling out a connection card, located on the pew backs, or the Prayer box located in front of the church.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance Request

We kindly ask that you complete the red attendance pad and pass it along your row. This process enables us to maintain accurate records and better serve our church community. Thank you for your cooperation.

Voting Reminder

St. Luke's will be used as a polling place on Tuesday, February 3rd. Thank you for your flexibility as we host our community

Learn to Crochet Class

Join us **every Wednesday from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM** in the Missions Room. Taught by Sue Lind, this class is perfect for beginners or anyone looking to improve their crochet skills. Supplies will be available, or feel free to bring your own if you have them.

AED Training

The St. Luke's Security Team has scheduled an AED Training Session on **February 4th at 11:00 AM**. This training will teach participants how to use an Automated External Defibrillator to respond effectively during a sudden cardiac arrest. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn this important life-saving skill. For questions, please contact Phil Casciano at (810) 247-0294.

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 1st**.

Thursday Bible Study

A 12-week study of the Psalms, facilitated by Jodi Shaw, will be held during **March, April, and May**. Participants will engage with the curriculum Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from Psalms: A Praise Book for God's People*, examining key themes such as worship, trust, lament, and joy, and considering the relevance of these texts in contemporary life. All individuals are invited to participate, regardless of experience with Bible study. To register, please sign up on the bulletin board or through the app.

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.

UWiF Spiritual Enrichment Brunch

Join the Central Bay District United Women in Faith for a Spiritual Enrichment Brunch on **Saturday, March 7** at Auburn UMC. Registration starts at 9:00 am, brunch at 9:30 am, and the program begins at 10:30 am. Taylor Bailey, a native Liberian, will be the keynote speaker. Participation costs \$20, and you need to register by February 24. To sign up, please contact Gloria Gonzales.

Easter Egg Hunt

Join us on **Saturday, March 28th** for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! The hunt will begin promptly at 10:00 AM, so be sure to arrive early. Kids rush to find eggs quickly, so arriving ahead of time will help you pick a good spot and enjoy the festive community atmosphere. Remember to bring a basket for the children to collect their eggs and a camera to capture all the excitement. After the hunt, stay for fun activities and refreshments for everyone to enjoy. If you would like to help, please sign up on the volunteer sheet posted on the bulletin board.

Upcoming

<p>Mon Feb 2, 2026 12pm Golden Friends @ G's Pizzeria 7pm CREW 206 Youth group</p> <p>Tue Feb 3, 2026 All day [Fellowship Hall] Reserved for Special Primary Election 10:30am Needleworkers 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 50560</p> <p>Wed Feb 4, 2026 10:30am Wednesday Weavers 11:00am AED Training 6:30pm Learn to Crochet Class</p> <p>Thu Feb 5, 2026 5pm Spring Bazaar planning Meeting 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>Sat Feb 7, 2026 9am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's 1-5pm Melissa Morin celebration of life.</p>	<p>Sun Feb 8, 2026 10am Worship Service</p> <p>Mon Feb 9, 2026 7pm CREW 206 Youth group</p> <p>Tue Feb 10, 2026 10:30am Needleworkers</p> <p>Wed Feb 11, 2026 10:30am Wednesday Weavers 4:30pm UWiF Meeting 6:30pm Learn to Crochet Class 6:30pm Needleworkers</p> <p>Thu Feb 12, 2026 6pm Girl Scout Leader's Meeting 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>Sun Feb 15, 2026 10am Worship Service</p> <p>Mon Feb 16, 2026 All day Presidents' Day 7pm CREW 206 Youth group</p>	<p>Tue Feb 17, 2026 10:30am Needleworkers 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 50560</p> <p>Wed Feb 18, 2026 10:30am Wednesday Weavers 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service</p> <p>Thu Feb 19, 2026 5pm VBS Planning meeting 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>Sat Feb 21 9am U.M.M. breakfast @ Krzysiak's 9:30am – 1:30pm Missions Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Volunteers</p> <p>Mon Feb 23 6:30pm Governance Board Meeting 7pm Crew 206 Youth group</p> <p>Tue Feb 24 10:30am Needleworkers</p>
---	--	--

Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist
Char McGrath

Children's Church
Dan Morgan
Joy Clark

Ushers
Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming,
and others TBD

Counters
Eric Yagiela
Becky Scott

Communion
Char McGrath, Joye Kramer
Brenda Kemp, Andy Kemp

Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist
Eric Ives

Children's Church
Need volunteers

Ushers
Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming,
and others TBD

Counters
Brenda Kemp
Eric Yagiela

Acolytes
(varies week to week)

Connor Yagiela, Lauren Yagiela,
Jazzlyn Jones, Kyliana Green,
Myles Sullivan, Ethan Lanava

✿ Altar Flowers ✿

**Today's altar flowers are presented by Jason and Misty Hatton
in honor of their Grandmothers**

*If you'd like to offer altar flowers in honor or celebration of someone or something meaningful,
please add your name to the sign-up board for an upcoming Sunday.*

**To Sign up for our E-newsletter
Newsletter for January 29, 2026**

<https://stlukesumcml.org#newsletter-subscribe>
<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2026-jan-29>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesumcmi>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@stlukesumcmi>

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

Get our App

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



Online Giving

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

