

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

Ministers- Every Member of the Congregation

February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent



We are the People of the United Methodist Church

Our Vision~ "Share Love and Give Hope"

February 22, 2026

10:00 am

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephen Lim, Liturgist

PRELUDE It is Well with My Soul

Leon Beaudin, Piano

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

When we confess our transgressions,

Christ's grace and forgiveness encompass us.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

Open yourselves to teachings and wisdom of the Spirit.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

HYMN Sing Praise to God

UMC 126

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious and Loving God, we seek the freedom found in the grace we receive through Christ Jesus. We seek to know more fully your great love. Turn us from our temptations. Inspire us to open ourselves to the way of Christ, that as we examine our lives and live out these days, we may become examples of your abundant love for all people. May your Divine Spirit tend us as angels attend Jesus in the wilderness, and may we feel revived and sustained to follow Jesus. In his name we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 32

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

HYMN Be Still, My Soul

UMH 534

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13

MESSAGE Jesus Tempted

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY Arisio

Leon Beaudin

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We offer ourselves to you, Lord Jesus, emptying ourselves to become your vessels of love and grace and hope to all we encounter. May the gift of our lives and the gifts of our service create God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN Precious Name

UMH 536

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

And so now go—
knowing that God's steadfast love surrounds you,
knowing that Christ leads through your temptations,
knowing that the Holy Spirit tends you with care.
Go in peace.
Stay in Jesus and be courageous with him.
Amen.

POSTLUDE A Lenten Recessional

Leon Beaudin, Organist

Sermon Summary

Jesus Tempted (Luke 4:1-13)

Summary: Jesus begins his journey to the cross in the wilderness, in which he proves himself the beloved Son of God, the Savior of the world.

A. The first temptation – Make bread and save yourself

The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” (Luke 4:3)

At the end of his forty-day wilderness experience, when he was starved almost to death, the devil tested Jesus about his identity as the Son of God: “Are you really the Son of God? Prove yourself by changing stone to bread.”

“Bread is not for my pleasure but for God’s pleasure, and for the life of the world”:

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone.’” (Luke 4:4)

Jesus declined to use his power to feed himself. He used Scripture not for his self-satisfaction, but to keep himself in obedience to the Word of God. God led him to the wilderness, and, eventually, will take him to the cross. He will obey God even to the point of crucifixion. He will give himself up to the cross to bring us to the life of God. Jesus Himself is the Word of God and the Bread of Life for the world.

B. The second temptation – Take the shortcut

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdom of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So, if you worship me, it will all be yours.” (Luke 4:5-7)

Satan is “the ruler of the kingdom of the air” (Eph. 2:2). “All authority and splendor” in the world are given to him (Lk. 4:6). He promised the shortcut to Jesus to fulfill his life goal to bring all power and glory of the kingdom of the

world into subjection to him. If Jesus showed respect to the devil in a moment, he would be able to achieve his life goal as the Son of God, to redeem humanity from the power of sin and Satan, and to make the world full of justice, peace, and love.

“Worship God alone - Take the road he prepared.”

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” (Luke 4:8)

Jesus rejected the devil’s proposal to take the shortcut to achieve his goal as the Son of God. He will worship God alone. The Crucifixion is the way God prepared for him to make God’s kingdom come true. Getting into the wilderness and the road to the cross, Jesus never gave up worshiping God alone. He commands us to take the narrow and long road “that leads to life,” not the shortcut that leads to destruction” (Mt. 7:13-14).

By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. (Heb. 11:24-26)

C. The third temptation – Jump down from the top of the temple

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone’.” (Luke 4:9-11)

The third temptation of the devil is related to the most sensitive issue to Jesus as the Son of God: His weak point as the Son of God is that he had no outward sign to prove his divine Sonship, his identity as the Messiah. The devil used this weakness to test Jesus. He took Jesus to Jerusalem and let him stand on the top of the temple, and said, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. God will send his angel to protect you. It will a miraculous and mighty sign for the people to see you as the Son of God, so that everyone of them so that everyone will recognize you as the Son of God.”

“I trust God, so that I do not need to test him.”

“Do not put the Lord your God to the test” (Luke 4:12).

In the wilderness, Jesus faced starvation, loneliness, and powerlessness. But he was not skeptical of God’s presence with him. He never doubted his love, so that he declined to put God to the test.

The last temptation – “Jump off the cross.”

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ God, the Chosen One.” (Luke 23:36)

When Jesus was on the cross, Satan tested Jesus through the mouths of the people around him, “Jump off the cross and save yourself. And then we will know that you are the Son of God.”

“I am dying, but I trust you, the Lord!”

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he said this, he breathed his last. (Luke 23:46)

Until “he breathed his last” on the cross, hearing the people ridicule him, he never gave up putting his trust in God. Therefore, Jesus becomes our representative, our Savior, and Lord. He is our defender and our vindicator. “God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood” (Rom. 3:25). Christ died on the cross when we were sinners, so that God presented his unconditional, unchanging and eternal love to us (Rom. 5:8). In Christ, we trust God, being convinced that there is nothing on earth and in heaven to make us separated from his love.

The Families of

Crissa Redifer (the stepmother of Beth Redifer
Scott Stevenson (the friend of Nancy Tacey)
Melissa Morin

Pray For

Gordon Casciano (the grandson of Phil and Eileen Casciano)
Donna Merrill
Ann Davis
Barb Meyer
Bob Davidson
Sandy Augustine
Gene Vandemark

Anne DeShaw (the daughter of John and Gloria Barringer)
William Kozuch (husband of Fritzi Stevenson)
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@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

Make Some Noise for Heifer International!

Beginning today and continuing through Easter, St. Luke's Mission Team is inviting the congregation to support Heifer International's mission to end hunger and poverty. Throughout Lent, members are encouraged to bring spare change for this special offering. Children will collect your coins from the congregation and return them to the altar. For quieter gifts, please use a pew envelope and write "Heifer International" on it. Together, let's collect enough change to purchase barnyard animals and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Golden Friends

The next Golden Friends event will be on March 2nd at the Turkey Roost Restaurant, 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 the deadline of today, **February 22nd**. For more information, please reach out to Judy or Joe Fleming.

Taco Bar and Game Night

Join us for a fun-filled Taco Bar & Game Night on Friday, February 27, 2026, from 5:30–9:00 PM! Build your own tacos with all your favorite toppings, then settle in for an evening of games, laughter, and great company. Enjoy classic favorites like Euchre, Cribbage, Sorry!, Aggravation, Dominoes, and many more. Please be sure to see the sign-up board to register and indicate what food item you'd like to bring to help make the taco bar a success. Whether you're in it to win or just here to have fun, there's something for everyone. Come hungry and ready to play!

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.

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 Psalms study, led by Jodi Shaw, will meet on Thursdays at 6:30 pm throughout March, April, and May. Using Max Lucado's Life Lessons from Psalms: A Praise Book for God's People, participants will explore central themes such as worship, trust, lament, and joy, and reflect on how these ancient texts speak to life today. The study is open to all, whether new to Bible study or seasoned participants. Registration is available 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.

Crew 206 Music & Crafts

On March 7th from 1:30 to 4 pm, at Carriage House Nursing and Rehab (2394 Midland Rd, Bay City), the Jolly Hammers will join Crew 206 for an afternoon of enjoyable music. Crew 206 will also offer a craft activity.

Easter Food Baskets

We are assembling 30 Easter food baskets for distribution on March 18th and 19th. We are still in need of the following items: scalloped potatoes, canned fruit, baked beans, carrots, chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, jello, cake mix, and tub frosting. Please remember that monetary donations for the Food Pantry may be placed in the designated baskets at the front of the sanctuary on Communion Sundays.

Spring Bazaar – Volunteers Needed!

Join us for our Spring Bazaar on March 21, 2026, from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM.

There's more information to come but right now we're looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen with set-up and clean-up.

- Set-up: March 20, 5:00–8:00 PM
- Clean-up: March 21, 3:00–6:00 PM

If you can help, please see the sign-up board. Thank you!

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.

The Lenten Banner is designed as a unique countdown marker for Lent. Every Sunday, as well as Good Friday, an additional patch will be placed on it, marking the approach toward Easter's celebration. Throughout the six weeks of Lent, the banner presents symbols encouraging reflection on Christ's suffering as we anticipate the joy of Easter.

1. The first symbol represents the sacrament of Communion and the beginning of Lent and Christ's sacrifice of body and blood.
2. A rooster to remind us of Peter's denial of his relationship with Christ and our occasional unfaithfulness.
3. The gavel of the Jewish leaders, denouncing Christ and sending Him to the Romans to be killed.
4. The dice, used by the Roman soldiers to gamble for Christ's clothes. While he was suffering and dying on the cross above them.
5. The crown of thorns, cruelly pounded onto Christ's head, causing extreme pain. The thorns are a representation of the pain that our sins caused our Savior.
6. The palms of Palm Sunday. To start off the sorrow and suffering of Holy Week, we stop to celebrate Christ's joyous entry into Jerusalem.
7. The cup, to represent the Last Supper and the gift of Holy Communion that Christ told us to "DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME".
8. The spikes, pounded into the hands of Christ to hold him on the cross. The cross where he suffered and died for us and our salvation.

<p>Upcoming</p> <p>Mon Feb 23, 2026 6:30pm Governance Board Meeting 7pm Crew 206 Youth group</p> <p>Tue Feb 24, 2026 10:30am Needleworkers</p> <p>Wed Feb 25, 2026 10:30am Wednesday Weavers 6:30pm Needleworkers</p> <p>Thu Feb 26, 2026 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study 7pm Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>Fri Feb 27, 2026 5:30pm Taco Bar and Game night</p> <p>Sat Feb 28, 2026 10am Breakfast Book Club</p> <p>Sun Mar 1, 2026 10am Worship Service UWiF Soupy Sales</p> <p>Mon Mar 2, 2026 12pm Golden Friends @ The Turkey Roost 7pm Crew 206 Youth group</p> <p>Tue Mar 3, 2026 10:30am Needleworkers 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 50560</p>	<p>Wed Mar 4, 2026 10:30am Wednesday Weavers</p> <p>Thu Mar 5, 2026 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study: "Psalms" 7pm Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>Sat Mar 7, 2026 All day Central Bay District UWIF Spiritual Enrichment Brunch 9am U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's 1:30-4 Crew 206 Music & Crafts @ Carriage House</p> <p>Sun Mar 8, 2026 2am Daylight Savings Time starts 10 am Worship Service</p> <p>Mon Mar 9, 2026 7pm Crew 206 Youth Group</p> <p>Tue Mar 10, 2026 10:30am Needleworkers</p> <p>Wed Mar 11, 2026 4:30pm UWIF Meeting / Tour Field Trip 10:30am Wednesday Weavers 6:30pm Needleworkers</p> <p>Thu Mar 12, 2026 6pm Girl Scout Leaders meeting 6:30pm Thursday Bible Study: "Psalms" 7pm Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>Online calendar: https://www.stlukesumcmi.org/calendar</p>
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Volunteers

Serving This Sunday

Liturgist
Stephen Lim

Children's Church
Sheila Good
Dan Morgan

Ushers
Gloria Barriger, Joye Kramer
Char McGrath, Sandy Mercer

Counters
Eric Yagiela
Becky Scott



Serving Next Sunday

Liturgist
Karla Morgan

Children's Church
Sheila Good
Becky Scott

Ushers
Henry Roeder, Joe Fleming
and others

Counters
Eric Yagiela
Char McGrath

Acolytes
(varies week to week)

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

Altar Flowers

*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 February 19, 2026

<https://stlukesumcni.org#newsletter-subscribe>
<https://bit.ly/newsletter-2026-feb-19>

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

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Organist

Leon Beaudin

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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

Youth Group

Mondays at 7:00 pm

Get our App

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



Online Giving

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

