

Connecting PEOPLE to MISSION

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Stories of God @ Work

Preparation of the Heart

Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

LSB 686

Our Redeeming God Touches our Hearts

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord God.

L: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children:

C: We will talk about them when we are at home and when we are away, when we lie down and when we rise.

L: One does not live by bread alone,

C: But by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

(time for personal reflection)

L: Gracious God:

C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Give us a greater hunger for your Word, that, upheld by your Spirit, we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, as You feed us with Your Word, grant us a steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, a cheerful hope in Your mercy, and a sincere love for You and one another, that we may continually be connected to You and Your mission; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Sharing of Peace

Anthem

“A Faithful Shepherd”

J. Nageli/C. Stein

The Service of the Word

The Reading of Holy Scripture

The Word Goes Out

Ezekiel 34:11-24

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

¹⁷“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Alleluia and Verse

(all rise)

[LSB 156]

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

R: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 15.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

(Luke 15:1-10) ¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷**Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.**

⁸“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

(please record your attendance)

Please list each attendee separate and check if participating in communion.

Visitors please fill out top portion with your address etc.

After the attendance is recorded for your pew, please tear off sheet and place in folder slightly higher for ease of collection. Thank you!

Hymn of the Day

“Shepherd Me, Oh God”

Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. **Refrain**

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your Name. **Refrain**

Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. **Refrain**

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow’r to hold. **Refrain**

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. **Refrain**

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Sermon

“Joy in Heaven”

Luke 15:7

Our Response to God's Word

The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of the Church

Back Page of Worship Folder

Staff Blessing and Commissioning

The staff of our Great Start Readiness Preschool (Cross Bridge Ministries)
receives God’s blessing as they begin their task of
preparing four-year-old children for kindergarten.

Announcements

Offering

The primary way we are to obtain money is to work for it.

*“ . . . aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs,
and to work with your hands. ” (1 Thessalonians 4:11)*

Offertory

[LSB 589]

Lord, what blessings to be near You and to listen to Your voice;
Let me ever love and hear You, let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord, flee in terror at Your Word;
But to all who feel sin's burden You give words of peace and pardon.

The Service of the Sacrament

"As we receive the True Body and Blood of our Lord, our faith is fed, our spirits are encouraged, and we are moved to share God's grace with the world."

[Because of the closeness of this sharing (and the concerns expressed in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29) we ask that those who have not been taught the faith at STL speak with a pastor or elder before communing.]

Preface

- L: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
L: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life .
C: **We give You thanks that through Him, and by the power of Your Spirit, we receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB inside back cover

Words of Institution

The Canticle

[LSB 589]

Lord, Your words are waters living when my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving; on Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing and my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me that I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise, from my heart glad anthems raise,
Till Your Word goes out with fervor to all nations and forever!

Distribution - Continuous Line

A request of those who wish to commune:

*All who are baptized and believe that in Communion
we receive the true body and blood of Jesus,
under the form of bread and wine, are invited to the Lord's Table.
All others are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*Alcohol-free wine is available in the center of each individual cup tray.
Gluten-free host is available upon request from the host server.
If you have any questions, please speak with a member of our staff.*

Hymns during the Distribution

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

LSB 740

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

LSB 781

The Sending

Post-Communion Canticle

[LSB 589]

Hold us ever in Your keeping; Comfort us in pain and strife.
In our laughter and our weeping be with us throughout our life.
Give us greater love for You, and our faith and hope renew
That Your Church goes out with passion to fulfill Your earthly mission.

Dismissal

Post-Communion Collect

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

LSB 710

Postlude

*You are now entering
the (your)
Mission Field*

*“The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.
Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send YOU out into his harvest.”
(Matthew 9:37-38)*

NEXT SUNDAY

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 22, 2019

Scripture Readings: Amos 8:4-7/Luke 16:1-15

Sermon Topic: “Powerful People” - Text: Luke 16:14-15



On-line Giving - Did you forget your mission support envelope/offering? You can scan this Quick Response (QR) code, with a QR decoder on your smart phone, it will take you to our on-line giving form, where you can have your mission support offering automatically taken from your checking account, or use your credit or debit card. You can also set up recurring giving! Visit our web page for more on-line giving options.

PROJECT 2019

No one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 3:11

The goal of Project 2019 is to raise \$120,000.00 for two capital projects at STL

These projects are:

- Repair / replace the front (east) parking lot
- Repair / replace our oldest flat roofs

Three years ago, in Project 2016, we repaired the west parking lot and the flat roofs on the west side of our building. Project 2019 is phase two of the same project, now restoring and updating the east side of the wonderful building and grounds that God has entrusted to us.

All gifts donated to Project 2019 will be matched by
The Saint Thomas Lutheran Foundation.

PROJECT 2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH

The BOD has extended the Project 2019 capital campaign through September. Our primary focus is upon completing the final phase of our flat roof replacement. The STL Foundation has pledged to match all contributions. Gifts to Project 2019 (not including STL Foundation match) through September 8 total \$23,490.40.

Here We Stand Campaign “Here We Share” is one of the emphases of the Here We Stand campaign: The words of Acts 1.8b clearly state that our responsibility to share the Gospel goes well beyond our immediate community. This responsibility is, in fact, far greater than the Michigan District. People who live in every corner of the world have the same need to hear the eternal, life-giving Good News of the Gospel. It is our responsibility to help those workers who are out in the harvest field through the means in which we can; by encouraging, supporting, praying for and financially equipping them. HWS, the 500th Anniversary Celebration Campaign, will provide financial assistance to St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church in Middleburg, South Africa, along with other LCMS International Missionaries from Michigan and other mission efforts as we seek to fulfill our goal to share the Gospel throughout the world.

100% of your gift placed in today’s special envelope will go directly to this campaign.

New T – 1 K We have free New Testaments, free reading guides, and more. Our intent is to do more than just give away free Bibles, we wish to actually help people to read and understand the books we distribute. We currently have given out over 550 bibles, with most of them registered NT readers. We encourage you to a) keep inviting people to read with us, and b) encouraging people to invite others. If you are interested, or would like more information, you can either, get information in the back of the church or contact the office.

Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another Educating Minds – Growing Faith – Serving People

We are glad you are here. When you come to worship at STL, you are among friends and family. If you are curious to learn more out ministry in the community, go to www.stl-eastpointe.org, or like us on Face Book. To get your questions answered in a more personal way, contact the church office (586-772-3370) and ask for a pastor to give you a call (or just check the box in the Record of Fellowship folder).

Our Confession of Faith

As members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LC-MS), we subscribe to the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian) and the Christian faith as confessed in the Book of Concord. This includes believing that:

- Jesus Christ is both true God and true man who died for our sins and rose again to save us.
- His body/blood are truly present in communion under the form of bread/wine (see page 326).
- Communion is, among other things, an expression of doctrinal unity.
- Infant baptism is a Means of Grace through which God delivers one from sin and gives eternal salvation to all who believe (page 325 in Lutheran Service Book).

Serving in God's House

Preacher: Rev. Mark W. Hetzner

Liturgist: Mike Dolan

Organist: Lori Stolzenfeld

Music: Kapelle

Sanctuary Team: Jeff Lindeman

Readers: Diane Carr, Steve Northcott

Servers: Tim Hubmeier, Tim Phaneuf, Tim Kruse

Greeters: Roy & Irene Leidich, Christopher deRuiter

Altar Guild: Marilyn Edwards & Cheryl Phaneuf

Weekly Worship with Communion - Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of the month at Noon

Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Faith Hope Love Ministries throughout the week

Cross training for children Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

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Watch services on Facebook – videotaping in progress during service

Upcoming Events:



(visit the web page or see the STL publication for more information)



FPU @ STL

Financial Peace University (a 9-week course)

Beginning Wednesday, September 18th from 7 - 9

What if you were following a plan for your money that you KNEW worked? With the Dave Ramsey's class Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money, get out of debt, and create a plan for your future. Go to <https://www.fpu.com/1094744> to register.

GRIEF SHARE – Wednesday Evenings beginning September 18th

Designed to help you successfully travel the journey from morning to joy.

S+L Room 101 @ 7:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Pastor Rick VanBriggle

Food Pantry and Clothing Closet Open NEXT Saturday (9/21)

Can you lend a hand to help our community?

The Kruse family and the clothing closet ladies

would appreciate help starting at 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Faith Connection - September 28th from 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Faith Connection is a six-hour dialogue on the basics of the Christian faith. Starting with the question "What does it mean to believe?" it is an opportunity to ask questions, listen to the thoughts of others, and re-think where we are in our walk with God. Come expecting a) to experience a lively conversation, b) to ask your questions and c) to find the Spirit of God be active in you. We anticipate you will be energized and renewed. Refreshments will be served. There is NO fee, though reservations are required, and you will be asked to read a brief journal article ("The Secretary, The Reporter, and The Hermit") in preparation for the workshop. Delightful, healthy snacks and lunch are included. Please contact Pastor Mark Hetzner (PastorMarkHetz@Hotmail.com) or cell (586-854-5624).

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Your personal prayer guide for the week of: September 15, 2019

L: As the people of God in Christ Jesus, we come to our Heavenly Father in prayer.

(after each petition)

L Lord, in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: O Lord, all things are Yours, and You have promised to well supply us with all that we need. Give us courage and faith, that we may pray with confidence, certain that You will give us all that is good and beneficial to our salvation and preserve us from all things harmful, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Our Primary Prayer Focus this week is upon our unity in mission:

- With our Great Start Readiness Program Preschool (GSRP) and its staff
- As Cross†raining our Children in Christ (Sunday School) begins its fall program
- As more people experience the blessings of our FHL Ministry.
- Through our electronic media ministries, such as Tuesday's Texts, Thursday's Thirst, Face Book broadcasts and Pastor Rick's podcasts.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care, especially Kathy Lopicollo (extended member).

To connect to the STL PRAYER CHAIN, contact Karen Dolan (mdolan421@gmail.com)

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†**For Loved Ones Called Home:** The family of Eulane, sister of Lee Burbidge, who was called home last week.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Autumn Patty, Diane Ustick, Brenda Finger, Shirley McKernan, Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamone's), Richard Toole (brother-in-law of Becky Northcott), Elsie Gray (mother of Beverly Gray-Booth), Judi Todt (mother of Vicki Berkseth), Don Berkseth (father of Scott), Richard (brother-in-law of Roblyn Smith), James & Briggette (friends of the Cooks).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Sieg Gannon, Chris Huber, John Lemke (friend of Monica Hetzner), Beth White, Bob LaRoche and Jan Adams (family of Elsie Adams), Alyssa Delano (granddaughter of Theresa Delano), Tiffany Crow (granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Denise Godfrey (sister of Deborah Kujawski), Sydney Parkin (great-granddaughter of Caroline Henze), Kathy Johnson (friend of Vicki Leberg), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Shirley Grassa (aunt of Deborah Kujawski), Mark Loechle (son of Pat).



*There is joy in heaven
when one sinner repents.*

September 15, 2019

Saint Thomas Lutheran

23801 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, Michigan 48021 - 586-772-3370

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Specific Ministry Pastor

Deacon Don Cooley