

Saint Thomas Lutheran

Eastpointe, Michigan

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

We are here to serve our community. As you worship with us online, the Lord Jesus is at work, uniting us as friends and family. If you are curious to learn more out ministry in the community, go to www.st-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/staff member to give you a call.

Divine Service

July 12, 2020

Stories of God @ Work

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening Praise

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

[LSB 686, vs. 1, 3 & 4]

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom’d soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

Entering Prayers

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

C: **Amen.**

L: Hear my voice when I call, O Lord.

C: **Be merciful to me and answer me.**

L: Do not hide your face from me or turn away from your servant in anger.

C: You have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me now, O God my Savior.

L: Almighty and Everlasting God, through your Son you have assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit, that we may daily increase in this faith and hold fast the hope that we shall not die, but fall asleep and on the last day be raised to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Christ the Eternal Lord”

[LSB 829, vs. 1-2]

Christ the eternal Lord, Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured On all who name Your name;
With thankfulness and praise We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days And make Your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word To ev’ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard Set forth on Scripture’s page;
Transform our thought and mind, Enlighten all who read,
That all may honor Christ today And follow Him as Lord.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 19-23

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 13.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³He told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Announcements

Children's Sermon and Attendance Registration

Please let us know you are watching by sending us a comment or an emoji.

Hymn of the Day

"Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"

[LSB 577]

Almighty God, Your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow'r may know.

Sermon

"Don't Be Afraid"

Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

The Prayer of the Church

L: Almighty God, hear the prayers of Your people, grant to us all things needful and beneficial, and keep from us all things harmful.

(after each petition)

L: Lord, in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: In Him, with Him and through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, both now and forevermore.

C: **Amen.**

In your prayers this week please remember:

Those who feel isolated and alone, along with those who suffer with depression.

Our individual and joint efforts of sharing God's peace and hope with all.

Our virtual VBS which starts on Sunday, July 19.

And we remember those who protect and nurture life on this earth, this week remembering all military families, emergency responders, and hospital, nursing home and hospice care workers.

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

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Mary Bohde, Jim Ham, Larry Cichocki, Lois Revard, Ronald Hess, Margaret Bittner, Theresa Cook, Brenda Finger, Brenda Hillsinger Fader (daughter of Frieda), Kimberly Ross (mother of Dayna).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Sieg Gannon, Elsie Adams, Chris Huber, John Lemke (friend of Monica Hetzner), Beth White, Robert Laroche and Jan Adams (family of Elsie Adams), Tiffany Crow (granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Denise Godfrey (sister of Deborah Kujawski), Kathy Johnson (friend of Vicki Leberg), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Luella Riske (granddaughter of Jim, Thrivent Rep.), Scott Spencer (friend of Cardamone's), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamone's), Paul Odendahl (brother-in-law of Eleanor Cardamone), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack).

Voluntary



On-line Giving – Don't wish to mail in 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 (stl-eastpointe.org) under Mission Support, for more on-line giving options.

**Christian stewardship is an expression of the fruit of the
Christian life by the power of the Holy Spirit within us.**

*“But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge,
in all earnestness, and in our love for you—
see that you excel in this act of grace also.” (2 Cor. 8:7)*

Private Prayer before Communing

Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation I come to your table to eat and drink your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of your holy name; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Offertory

[LSB 722, v 2]

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Confession and Absolution

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C: **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

L: We confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

(time for personal reflection)

L: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and pay for all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENT TO THE MISSION FIELD

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:13-17

¹³If you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

We Profess our Faith

“The Nicene Creed”

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Service of the Sacrament

L: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

C: His greatness no one can fathom.

L: I will meditate on his wonderful works,

C: And I will proclaim his great deeds.

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: 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 forever and ever. Amen

The Words of Institution

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Lamb of God

[LSB 210]

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymn

“Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go”

[LSB 854, vs. 1, 4 & 5]
(tune 831)

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue,
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know In all I think or speak or do.

Give me to bear Thine easy yoke, And ev’ry moment watch and pray,
And still to things eternal look, And hasten to Thy glorious day.

For Thee delightfully employ Whate’er Thy bounteous grace has giv’n,
And run my course with even joy, And closely walk with Thee to heav’n.

Prayer as you go home

Lord God, bless your word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, your Word may achieve the purpose for which you send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*You are living in
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 7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2020

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8 / Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon Topic: “Good Seeds” - Text: Matthew 13:37-38a

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 (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).

Notice to Members and Friends: Southbound Kelly Road, north of Hauss Ave. to Norton Ave. which includes St. Thomas, will be closed (weather dependent) until mid-August. For access to properties from northbound Kelly Road – All driveway approaches along southbound Kelly Road will be removed and replaced with new concrete as part of the project. Once concrete has been poured for new driveway approaches, the new concrete must cure for 7-10 days to achieve required strength prior to opening to traffic. However, temporary access will be provided to all properties along the west side of Kelly Road for the entire duration of the project by installing temporary gravel access driveways from northbound Kelly Road across the center median. Please keep this in mind when you come to St. Thomas. You can also park on the side streets or Stephens and walk over, if you desire.

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30 am – 3 pm, Friday 9:30 am – 1 pm

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor

Specific Ministry Pastor - Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Deacon Don Cooley

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