

# *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](http://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 19, 2020*

*Stories of God @ Work*

## **RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS**

**Opening Praise**

*“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”*

[LSB 826, vs. 1 & 4]

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me”?

Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”  
While the multitudes are dying And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth, “Here am I, send me, send me!”

**Entering Prayers**

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

**C:** Amen.

**L:** O Lord, hear my prayer. Listen to my cry for mercy.

**C:** **In your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.**

**L:** For your name’s sake, O Lord, preserve my life.

**C:** **In your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.**

**L:** Lord God, heavenly Father, you have bound us together in one body through your Holy Spirit. Help us to serve one another willingly and forgive one another from our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

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 redeeming Son, Who shares our human birth,  
And by His death salvation won for ev’ry child of earth;  
Inspire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love abroad,  
That all may honor Christ today And follow Him as Lord.

***The Holy Gospel***

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup>but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup>And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . .

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

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**

*“In Holy Conversation”*

[LSB 772]  
(tune 443)

In holy conversation We speak to God in prayer,  
And at His invitation Our deepest thoughts we share.  
We come, His will obeying, As children bringing needs;  
And to support our praying, His Spirit intercedes.

These holy conversations Begin in child-like ways;  
We bring our supplications And words of thanks and praise.  
With care our Father listens To ev’ry thought expressed,  
Then answers our petitions In ways He knows are best.

As holy conversation, In silence or by word,  
In ev’ry situation Through Jesus, we are heard.  
So let us pray securely, Expressing hopes and fears  
With confidence that surely Our Father ever hears.

**Sermon**

*“Good Seeds”*

**Matthew 13:37-38a**

*“The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.  
The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom.*

## ***RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS***

***The Prayer of the Church***

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*(after each petition)*

L: Lord, in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: O Lord, hear us on behalf of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that what we pray for, we may work toward, under the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, that at the Day of Judgment we may join the saints and enter into Your gift of eternal light and life forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Our Primary Prayer focus is Christ’s peace being received by all, and especially:**

God’s faithful people who, with patience and compassion, serve others.

Those who are most vulnerable to either health, social or spiritual distress.

All who serve by putting themselves in harms way, along with those who provide for them.

**To connect to the STL PRAYER CHAIN, contact Karen Dolan ([mdolan421@gmail.com](mailto:mdolan421@gmail.com))**

**And we remember the unborn and newly born, the elderly and those nearing life's end, remembering all grieving families, and those who are in hospice care.**

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

✠**Praise and Thanksgiving:** For the birth of a grandson to Kelly & Pete Andary. Abel, son of Joe and Rachel, was born July 14<sup>th</sup>.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Mary Bohde, Jim Ham, Larry Cichocki, Lois Revard, Ronald Hess, Margaret Bittner, 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](http://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. 3]

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home,  
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

## ***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***

Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. <sup>8</sup>Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

## ***We Profess our Faith***

*"The Apostles Creed"*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## ***Service of the Sacrament***

L: I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done.

**C: I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

L: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

**C: Let your good Spirit lead me. For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!**

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*

#### *“Great is Thy Faithfulness”*

[LSB 809]

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

### *Prayer as you go home*

Almighty God, you gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon himself. Grant that we, your adopted children by grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
July 26, 2020

Scripture Readings: Deuteronomy 7:6-8 / Matthew 13:44-52

Sermon Topic: “Priceless Treasure” - Text: Deuteronomy 7:9

*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*

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*[www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org)*

*Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor*

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

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