

# *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.stl-eastpointe.org](http://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/staff member to give you a call.

## *Divine Service*

*September 13, 2020*

*Stories of God @ Work*

## **RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS**

**Opening Praise**

*“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”*

[LSB 816]

From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator’s praise arise; Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung Through ev’ry land by ev’ry tongue.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends Thy Word. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Δ All praise to God the Father be, All praise, eternal Son, to Thee. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forevermore:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Entering Prayers**

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

**C: Amen.**

L: Lord, hear our prayer and in your faithfulness listen to our plea.

**C: In your righteousness answer us, for no one alive is righteous in your sight.**

L: Answer us quickly, Lord, for our spirit fails.

**C: Let us experience your faithful love in the morning as you teach us to do your will.**

L: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**CHORUS: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

When I feel afraid, and think I've lost my way, Still you're there right beside me.  
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. **CHORUS**

I will not forget your love for me, and yet my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side; I will love you to the end. **CHORUS**

Text: Amy Grant THY WORD, Tune: Michael W. Smith  
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***The Holy Gospel***

**Matthew 18:21-35**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 18.

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

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup>"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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.*

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us From the accursèd load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains  
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;  
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.  
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;  
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;  
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.  
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;  
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.

**Sermon**

*"Forgiveness"*

**Matthew 18:21-22**

*Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."*

## ***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: Almighty and everlasting God, whether we live or die, we belong to You, and we pray You to comfort us with this promise, that we may join the company of the saints on the day You have appointed and enter into the heavenly places to worship at Your throne on high; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

C: **Amen.**

***Voluntary***



**Supporting the STL Mission** – There are many ways to give your support (tithe) to the mission of STL (besides checks or cash) including:

- Text “GIVE” to 1-586-800-2233
- Visit: <https://www.stl-eastpointe.org/2015/07/13/mission-support/>
- Scan this Quick Response (QR) code
- Go to <https://www.elexiogiving.com/app/giving/stthoms>

These will connect 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 (STL is charged extra fees for debit and credit card transactions). **You can even set up recurring giving with many of these options!**

**“So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12)**

*Lord God, you alone are the source of every gift, of the vast array of our universe, and of the mystery of each human life. We praise you and we thank you for your great power and your tender, faithful love. Everything we are and everything we have is your gift, and after having created us, you have given us into the keeping of your Son, Jesus Christ. Fill our minds with Christ’s truth and our hearts with his love, that in his Spirit we may be bonded together into a community of faith – a caring people. In the name of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent and our material gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus. Amen.*

**Offertory**

[BOB 89]

Holy is our God, whose name we praise forever.  
 Glory to the Son, who reigns in majesty!  
 Come, Spirit, come and fill our hearts with wisdom,  
 That we may long to worship You alone.

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**Confession and Absolution**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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.**

# **SENT TO THE MISSION FIELD**

## **Scripture Reading**

**Genesis 50:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**L:** Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace in our hearts and lives, empowering us to both receive, and freely give, forgiveness in 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.

**C:** Amen.

## **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:** As a father has compassion on his children,

**C:** **So the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.**

**L:** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him.

**C:** **As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us..**

**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***

### ***The Canticle***

[BOB 89]

**Chorus: Holy is our God, whose name we praise forever.  
Glory to the Son, who reigns in majesty!  
Come, Spirit, come and fill our hearts with wisdom,  
That we may long to worship You alone.**

Oh Spirit, come and unite us In one communion with our Lord.  
Free us from the chains that bind us, For the Comforter has come. **Chorus**

### ***Private Prayer before Communing***

O Jesus, our great high priest, be present with us as you were present with your disciples and make yourself know to us in the breaking of bread. Amen.

### ***Distribution Hymn***

*“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*

[LSB 845]

Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ’s love By love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.

Forgive we now each other’s faults As we our faults confess,  
And let us love each other well In Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease;  
Be God’s the glory that we seek; Be ours His holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son;  
As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.

For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior’s name;  
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.

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### ***Prayer as you go home***

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. 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'S READINGS**

***The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost***

September 20, 2020

Scripture Readings: Philippians 1:20-30 / Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon Topic: "Everything to Live For" - Text: Philippians 1:22-24

**Portals of Prayers for Oct – Dec are now in the church  
If you would like a copy mailed to you, please notify the office**

**Voter's Assembly – September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**7 pm – in the church**

**Elections will be held for Board of Directors**

**Blood Drive – September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**1 pm to 7 pm – in the gym**

**Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment**

**Lifeline Screening – November 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word "circle" to 797979.**

**How does Virtual Sunday School sound to you?**

*With our lives so busy, how do we find the time to have our children learn about Jesus? STL is offering a 3-tiered "Virtual Sunday School" that you can turn to any time or anywhere each week. Our "THE FLOCK (little lambs following Jesus)" blends the invaluable experience of children learning about Jesus with the convenience of locally produced interactive videos. Find information on THE FLOCK at [www.STL-eastpointe.org](http://www.STL-eastpointe.org).*

**Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 5 pm, Friday 9:30 am – 3 pm**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - September 13, 2020

### **Our Primary Prayer focus this week is upon God's Work in our nation:**

- Through MCREST and our on-going support of this ministry.
- Healing all ethnic, racial, and economic strife.
- Guiding us into more healthy habits and caring actions.
- Empowering us, his people, to live and share the Gospel on a daily basis.

**And we remember those** on our cradle role, those who struggle in the pandemic, and those who are in hospice care.

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

### **† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †**

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Jim Ham, Margaret Bittner, Rick Patterson (former member), Cathleen Keller, (daughter of Rich and Mary Keller), Mim Wargo (father of Debbie Churchill), Robert DeGregory (friend of Yionne Cantu), Emily Henze (daughter-in-law of Caroline). Doug Bogen (nephew of Mary Lee McKay), Logan Nawrocki (son of Nicole), Matthew Nelson (great-nephew of Caroline Henze, Doug Bogen (nephew of Mary Lee McKay), Don Habermas (husband of Vada).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Lori Kucharek, 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), 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).

## *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).

## *Saint Thomas Lutheran*

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

*[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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**Watch services on FaceBook – videotaping in progress during service**