



*September 20, 2020*

*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. VanBriggles, Deacon Don Cooley*

# *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 20, 2020*

### *Stories of God @ Work*

## **RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS**

### **Opening Praise**

*“With the Lord Begin Your Task”*

[LSB 869 vs. 1, 2 & 5]

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.  
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.  
Ev’ry morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,  
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.

Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.  
On the Lord cast ev’ry care; He is your salvation.  
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,  
Save you from the tempter’s might, With His presence cheer you.

Thus, Lord Jesus, ev’ry task Be to You commended;  
May Your will be done, I ask, Until life is ended.  
Jesus, in Your name begun Be the day’s endeavor;  
Grant that it may well be done To Your praise forever.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House

### **Entering Prayers**

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

**C:** Amen.

L: The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?

**C: The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?**

L: Lord, hear my voice when I call; be gracious to me and answer me.

**C: God of my salvation, you have been my helper – do not abandon me now.**

L: Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### *Hymn of Praise*

*“Thy Word”*

[CH 184]

**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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### *Scripture Reading*

**Philippians 1:12-30**

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

<sup>15</sup>Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. <sup>16</sup>The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup>The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. <sup>18</sup>**What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.**

Yes, and I will rejoice, <sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.** <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

<sup>27</sup>**Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind contending as one person for the faith of the gospel,** <sup>28</sup>and not frightened in anything by your

opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>**For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,** <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace in our hearts and lives, creating, confirming, and strengthening 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.

## ***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***

*"Praise and Thanksgiving"*

[LSB 789]

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer For all things living, Created good:  
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You That with our neighbor We may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, We would work with You, Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

Father, providing Food for Your children, By Your wise guiding Teach us to share  
One with another, So that, rejoicing With us, all others May know Your care.

Text: © 1987 Oxford University Press.

### ***Sermon***

*"Heart Issues are Hard Issues"*

*"All That Matters"*

**Philippians 1:12-30**

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

## ***The Prayer of the Church***

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord and offer to Him the petitions and supplications of a people confident of His promise to hear and answer us with mercy.

*(after each petition)*

L: Let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Hear the prayers of Your people, O Lord, and grant to us all things good and wholesome and keep from us all things harmful. Give us contentment, that trusting in Your mercy we may delight in Your saving will where the last are made first by Your generosity and grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**In your prayers this week please remember:**

Our schools – public and private – and all connected to the education of our children and youth.  
Those who feel isolated or alone, along with those who suffer with depression.  
Our individual and joint efforts of sharing God’s peace and hope with all.  
All who are planning and leading our ministries of getting God’s Word into many people.

**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](mailto:mdolan421@gmail.com))**

**† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †**

†**God’s Healing Hand on:** Eleanor Cardamone, Loletta Hogan, Adam Vincent, Patti Prill, 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), Scott Jones (husband of Michele, our GSRP director).

†**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).

†**Thanksgiving:** To all who sent cards to JoAnn Awe and Brenda Finger when Sandra (Awe) Bayse was called home, they appreciated them.

***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!**

**“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.”**

**(Philippians 1:27)**

*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.

Text and Music by Brad and Donna Hoefs, ©Copyright 1998 Wings of Grace, Inc

### **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**

### **The Good News**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

- L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 20.  
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup>And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

### ***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: How can we repay the Lord for all the good he has done for us?

C: **We will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

L: We will fulfill our vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

C: **And call on the name of the Lord.**

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***

**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 known to us in the breaking of bread. Amen.

***Distribution Hymn***

***“Seek Ye First”***

[LSB 712]

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.  
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!  
  
Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!  
  
Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev'ry word  
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

Text: © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. EMI.

***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)*



Today's Altar Flowers were given in Thanksgiving to God for the 25 years of marriage to Art and Sue Wensink.

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

September 27, 2020

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:1-18 / Matthew 21:23-27

Sermon: ***Heart Issues are Hard Issues*** - "Whom Shall I Love and Whom Shall I Fear?"

Text: Philippians 2:1-18

**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 Officers and Boards**

**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**

## *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).

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