

October 4, 2020

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

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 about 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/staff member to give you a call.

Divine Service

Stories of God @ Work

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening Praise

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

[LSB 912]

Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love Our hopes we place
Of present grace And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest
To endless rest Are called away.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song,
Both loud and long, That glorious name.

Entering Prayers

[Isaiah 5:1-7]

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

C: Amen.

L: The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah.

C: **We are the pleasant planting of the Lord God almighty.**

L: Now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, the Lord asks us:

C: **What more was there he can do for his vineyard that he has not done it?**

L: Why, then, when he looks for justice, does he find bloodshed:

C: Why, when he looks for righteousness in us, does he behold outcry?

L: Our Lord Jesus, you have endured the doubts and foolish questions of very generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over you, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge you as Lord.

C: In your name we pray. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"Speak O Lord"

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word;
take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the Light of Christ may be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;
test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truth unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your Church is built, and the earth is filled with Your glory!

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Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

L: Today's Scripture reading is from Philippians 3.

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

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

"Fight the Good Fight"

[LSB 664]

Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

Sermon

"Heart Issues are Hard Issues"

"Bringing the Fruit of His Steadfast Love"

Philippians 3:4b-14

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: Hear us, O Lord, and give answer to the prayers of Your people prayed in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom with the Father and the Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, forevermore.
- C: **Amen.**

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is on Christ's people on earth:

Granting us a bold, clear, and loving witness to the world.

Giving us hearts that selflessly reach out to care for all neighbors.

For children to be raised in the nurture and encouragement of the Gospel.

For everyone in our 'virtual congregation'.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care.

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

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†Praise and Thanksgiving: For Keith and Leisa Altenburg at the birth of their grandson, Brooks Thomas to daughter Kristin and Sean Carrigan on 9/25.

†God's Healing Hand on: Loletta Hogan, Adam Vincent, Patti Prill, Jim Ham, Margaret Bittner, Emily Henze (daughter-in-law of Caroline), 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), Evert Flokstra (cousin of Vera LaFrate).

†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).

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.elexigiving.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!**

"Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ." (Philippians 3:8)

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded by the psalmist that yours is "the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. This we pray with grateful hearts in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offertory

"You Are My All in All"

[BOB 243]

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the Treasure that I seek. You are my All in All.
Seeking You as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my All in All!

Chorus: Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
rising again, I bless Your name. You are my All in All.
When I fall down, You pick me up;
When I am dry, You fill my cup. You are my All in All! **Chorus**

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65 Music Square West, Nashville, TN 37203

Confession and Absolution

- L: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God.
C: For from him and through him and to him are all things.
L: Lord, if you kept an account of our wrongdoings, who could stand?
C: But with you there is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.

(time for personal reflection)

- L: Out of the depths we call to you, Lord!
C: O Lord, hear our voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of our plea for mercy. Both we and our families have sinned; we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness. Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we as one people may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.
L: Blessed be the Lord, our God, from everlasting to everlasting. He has remembered his covenant, and sent Jesus to pay for our sins, and the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by his authority, I 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

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

- L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 21.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to

those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’ ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

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

[Psalm 80:7-19]

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

C: **You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.**

L: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven and see; have regard for us, your vine.

C: **Give us life, and we will call upon your name!**

L: Lord of hosts, 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

Private Prayer before Communing

O Lord, our God, in the name of whose only-begotten Son we have been called to be Christians and have been blest with Baptism for the remission of sins, make me, I pray, ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins and to give thanks with a grateful heart to you, O Father, to your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

The Canticle

[LSB 606]

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.

I bring my guilt to Jesus to wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

Distribution Hymn

"What God Ordains Is Always Good"

[LSB 760, vs. 1 -3 & 6]

What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.
As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed In ev'ry need
Knows well how He will shield me; To Him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good: He never will deceive me;
He leads me in His righteous way, And never will He leave me.
I take content What He has sent;
His hand that sends me sadness Will turn my tears to gladness.

What God ordains is always good: His loving thought attends me;
No poison can be in the cup That my physician sends me.
My God is true; Each morning new
I trust His grace unending, My life to Him commanding.

What God ordains is always good: This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, For with His arm
He shall embrace and shield me; So to my God I yield me.

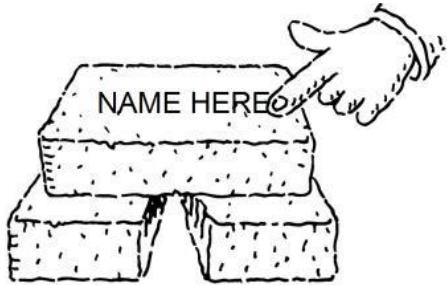
Prayer as you go home

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light, and live as your united people, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, now and forever. Amen.

***You are now 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)



Have you noticed the Saint Thomas Lutheran Heritage Cross in the sidewalk at the northwest church entrance? The Commemorative Brick program will enable you to be a permanent part of this cross. Bricks may be engraved with names, special dates, special occasions, events, sayings, or any message you wish. It will then become a part of Saint Thomas history. This is a great way to remember a loved one or honor that special person in your life.

You may choose to purchase one 4" by 8" brick for \$50.00 or a set of three bricks for \$125.00. This includes up to three lines of up to 14 characters per brick, including spaces. You also may purchase a replica of your brick for display at your home or office. Replica bricks are

priced at \$30.00 each. Please contact the church office, or visit www.stl-eastpointe.org for an order form.

Lifeline Screening – November 13th

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

Remembrance Sunday – November 22, 2020

Thanksgiving Eve – November 25, 2020

Noon & 7:00 p.m.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2020

Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday

Scripture Readings: Philippians 4:4-13 / Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon Topic: **Heart Issues are Hard Issues - "We Are One in Christ"**

Text: Philippians 4:4-13

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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