



Heart Issues
are **HARD ISSUES**
We Are One In Christ

October 11, 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 out 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

Lutheran Women in Mission

Stories of God @ Work

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening Praise

“Lord, This Day We’ve Come to Worship”

[LSB 911, vs. 1-3]

Lord, this day we’ve come to worship; Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Grace us with Your blessed presence; Blessèd Savior, be our host.

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord!
Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord!

In the pow’r of resurrection We have come to praise the Lord,
Celebrate His blessed supper, And to learn His holy Word. **Refrain**

May Your Word enrich our spirit, Give us strength to do Your will,
Show the kingdom we’ll inherit, When at last our voice is still. **Refrain**

Text: © 1995 Richard C. Dickinson

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 23]

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

C: Amen.

L: The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

C: He makes us lie down in green pastures. He restores our soul.

L: Surely his goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,

C: And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

L: Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: 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!

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-13

L: Today's Scripture reading is from Philippians 4.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰**I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.** ¹¹**Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.** ¹²**I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.** ¹³**I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**

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

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

[LSB 653, vs. 1, 3-5]
(tune 673)

In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love Throughout the whole wide earth.

So, brothers, sisters, praise His name Who died to set us free
From sin, division, hate, and shame, From spite and enmity!

Join hands, disciples of the faith, Whate'er your race may be;
Who serves my Father as His child Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west; In Him meet south and north.
All Christian souls are one in Him Throughout the whole wide earth.

Text (sts. 1, 4–5): Public domain, Text (st. 3): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co.

Sermon

"Heart Issues are Hard Issues"

"We Are One in Christ"

Philippians 4:4-13

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

The Prayer of the Church

L: Invited by His Word and encouraged by His promise of mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

(after each petition)

L: Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: All these things, Lord, we pray You to grant us according to Your mercy in Jesus Christ and to fill us with contentment, that trusting in Your gracious will for all things, our hearts may enjoy perfect rest and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is on Christ's work through his Word:

Calming all hearts that are filled with fear, shame, pride, or grief.

As we discover new ways to search the scripture together and care for our neighbor.

As the Holy Spirit develops faith in children and youth – through family devotions and other means.

For people and families to read from the Bible and pray together daily.

And we pray for the safety and wellbeing all students and educators.

And we remember those at both ends of life on this earth, the unborn and newly born, the elderly and those nearing life's end, remembering especially all pregnant mothers, those with COVID 19, and those who are in hospice care.

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Eleanor Cardamone, Jane Gurnack, Frieda Ziegler, Loletta Hogan, Adam Vincent, Patti Prill, Jim Ham, Margaret Bittner, Emily Henze (daughter-in-law of Caroline), 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), Rich (son-in-law of the Cherry's), Sue & Michael (daughter and grandson of Frieda Ziegler).

†**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.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!**

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have, and are, and will be. Equip us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. 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 22:1-14

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 22.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main

roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

[Isaiah 25:6-9]

L: On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine.

C: **He will swallow up the covering that is cast over all peoples. He will swallow up death forever.**

L: Behold, this is our God we have waited for him, that he might save us.

C: **This is the Lord; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**

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

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

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

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

[LSB 917]

Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

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 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 20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020

Scripture Readings: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 / Matthew 22:15-22

Heart Issues are Hard Issues

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Title: "Healing for Deep Afflictions"

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.

Clothing Closet Open – October 10th at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Food Pantry Open – October 17th at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lifeline Screening – November 13th

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

Holiday Food Basket Giveaway – November 21st

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (or until gone)

Remembrance Sunday – November 22, 2020 (both services)

Thanksgiving Eve – November 25, 2020

Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Help Wanted

We are currently looking to hire a part time custodian, with flexible 10 – 20 hours a week. If you are interested, please contact Linda in the church office for an application and more details at churchoffice@stl-eastpointe.org or call 586-772-3370.

Drive Thru Communion

On the third Sunday of the month St. Thomas offers an opportunity for those who are unable to attend a worship service to partake in The Lord's Supper from the safety of social distancing with one on one (family with Pastor), at 11:00 a.m. in the back/west parking lot. If you have any questions, call the church office.

Mission Offerings

At the June Voter's Assembly, it was voted to direct out Mission Offerings to missions outside of St. Thomas. Previously our Mission offerings were designated for the Genesis Center, and with Pastor VanBriggle working full time at Harbor Oaks, this ministry is on hold. For the quarter of July – September our Mission offerings were designated for Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (MCREST). We were able to donate \$660.00 to them this week due to the generosity of our members for this mission. Our next quarter, October to December, mission offerings are designated to Camp Restore – Detroit. Please prayerfully consider contributing through your Mission Offering Envelope to this mission in the next coming months.



Heritage Cross Bricks

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.

Ascension Wellness Center to Give Flu Shots to Seniors!

Ascension will be back in the building soon!

Watch for more information!

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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