



Heart Issues
are **HARD ISSUES**

It Just Takes One Word - No One is Left Out

October 25, 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

Reformation

Stories of God @ Work

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening Praise

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

[LSB 657]

A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He,
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; In battle we'll engage.
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 46]

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

C: Amen.

L: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

C: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives away and the mountains be moved to the sea.

L: "Be still," he says, "and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth."

C: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

L: Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"A Simple Word of Grace"

[BOTB 3]

A simple word of grace is all I need, flowing from a cross, a cross for me.

A gentle word of love is all I need, flowing from a cross, a cross for me.

Chorus: Jesus, You have given me all of Your grace so tenderly.

I lift my hands and praise Your name.

Jesus, You have given me all of Your love on Calvary.

I lift my heart into Your hands.

A simple word of hope is all I need, flowing from Your love, Your love for me.

A gentle word of peace is all I need, flowing from Your love, Your love for me. **Chorus**

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Scripture Reading

Revelation 14:6-7

L: Today's Scripture reading is from Revelation 14.

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

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.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

Sermon

“Heart Issues are Hard Issues”

“It Just Takes One Word – No One is Left Out”

Revelation 14:6-7

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

The Prayer of the Church

L: Having confidence in our justification by grace through faith and having access to the Father in Jesus’ name, let us turn our hearts in prayer on behalf of ourselves, the Church and all people according to their needs.

(after each petition)

L: Lord, in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Almighty God and Father, we pray You to grant us all good things that will benefit us in body and soul and to prevent anything harmful to us or to our salvation. Teach us to live in contentment with Your will and purpose and in the freedom You alone supply to serve You with all our heart, mind, body and soul; all these things we pray in the name of 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)

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†**For Loved Ones Called Home:** For the family of Donald Bridges, father of Wendy, who was called home last week.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Ron Hess, Ann LaFrate, Marilyn Redmond, Eleanor Cardamone, Jane Gurnack, Frieda Ziegler, Emily Henze (daughter-in-law of Caroline), 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).

†**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!**

“Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ (John 8:31-32)

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.” We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have, and are, and will be. Grant that our faithful stewardship may bear witness to the love of Christ you grow in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Offertory

“Enter, Mighty Word, the Field”

[LSB 830, vv. 5-6]

Enter, mighty Word, the field; Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few For the work there is to do!

Lord of harvest, great and kind, Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath’ring nations all See Your light and heed Your call.

Confession and Absolution

L: The Lord of hosts is with us.

C: The God of Jacob is our Fortress.

L: O God of Jacob, we poor sinners come before you, pleading for mercy. We confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, in our words, and in our deeds – by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

C: Lord, if you kept an account of our wrongdoings, who could stand. But with you there is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.

(time for personal reflection)

L: Lord God, our refuge and strength,

C: Remove our sin and renew within us your Holy Spirit. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit, that we may teach transgressors your ways, and sinners turn with us to you.

L: Be still, and know that the Lord, your God is rich in mercy. Your sins are forgiven, 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

John 8:31-36

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, chapter 8.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

We Profess our Faith

“Creedal Prayer”

(tune LSB 661)

Creating Father, by Your Word, All things have come to be,
From empty void and formless dark To all that we can see.
At eventide and morning sun, Your tapestry You weave,
And now in unity we sing, “O Father, we believe.”

Redeeming Son, here virgin born From heav’n to earth You came
To save us all from sin and death; So Jesus is Your name.
For us You suffered and You died; You rose that we might live,
And now in unity we sing, “O Jesus, we believe.”

Empow'ring Spirit, Breath of life, You gather us as one
Like rain and snow, Your Word comes down, Its purposes are done.
Your wind blows free, Your fruit is grown, Your many gifts received,
And now in unity we sing, "O Spirit, we believe."

Service of the Sacrament

[Romans 3:19-28]

- L: By the works of the law no human being will be justified, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.
C: But the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.
L: For we, and all, have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
C: However, we, and all, are justified by God's grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
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

The Canticle

"With My Burden I Begin"

[LSB 779, vv. 3 & 6]

With my burden I begin: Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt, Set my conscience free from guilt.

Show me what is mine to do; Ev'ry hour my strength renew.
Let me live a life of faith; Let me die Thy people's death.

Distribution Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation"

[LSB 644, vv. 1, 2, 4 & 5]

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev'ry grace endued.

Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

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)*

Lifeline Screening – November 13th

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

Clothing Closet Open – November 14th at 11 a.m.

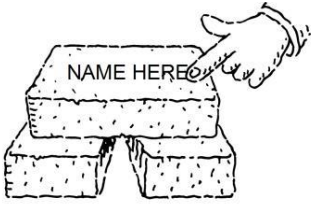
**Holiday Food Basket Giveaway – November 21st
11 a.m. (or until gone)**

Remembrance Sunday – November 22, 2020 (both services)

**Thanksgiving Eve – November 25, 2020
Noon & 7:00 p.m.**

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.



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.

Heritage Cross Bricks 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!

Watch for more information!

NEXT SUNDAY

All Saints Day - November 1, 2020

Scripture Reading: Revelation 7:1-17 / Matthew 5:1-12

Heart Issues are Hard Issues

Sermon Topic: "Reconciliation out of Tribulation"

Text: Revelation 7:1-17



HOPE'S ALL SAINTS' EVENT 2020

You are invited to join Hope Lutheran Church of Warren on **Saturday, October 31st** from 6-8 pm for an outdoors Trunk or Treat. Masks and social distancing are required. Volunteers are decorating their cars or camping flies and providing individual packages of candy. Packaged donuts, apple juice and cider cups will be available. Hope is at 32400 Hoover, south of 14 Mile Road. Any questions, please contact Alex @ (586) 291-2907.



Now enrolling at CrossBridge, St. Thomas Preschool! We offer one school day classroom of Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). GSRP is the State of Michigan funded, TUITION FREE Pre-K program for 4-year olds.

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) which is developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education is the State of Michigan's Pre-k program for 4-year olds. MISD, Macomb County's ISD is the grantee of funding from the State of Michigan for this program. Families must meet low to moderate income criteria established annually by the legislature.

Our program is an all-day preschool from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. Students receive breakfast, lunch, and a snack each day provided by the program.

We use the internationally known Creative Curriculum. An award-winning curriculum for high quality preschool. Call Michele Jones for more information or an appointment to enroll; 586-260-6576

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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