

November 1, 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

Stories of God @ Work

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening Praise

“Ye Servants of God”

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol: His kingdom is glorious, He rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save, And still He is nigh, His presence we have;
The great congregation His triumph shall sing, Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

“Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!” Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right All glory and pow’r, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above, And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

Text: Charles Wesley, Music: William Croft

Entering Prayers

[1 John 3:1-3]

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

C: Amen.

L: Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared.

C: But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him and see him as he is.

L: Because of the love the Father has given to us we can truly be called children of God.

C: And everyone who hopes in Christ purifies himself as Christ is pure.

L: Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy family and Church: Grant us grace to follow Christ in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the unimaginable joys you have prepared for those

who love you; 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

"To God on High be Glory"

[LSB 204]

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.
For You alone are holy' You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" Our glad reply.

Scripture Reading

Revelation 7:1-17

L: Today's Scripture reading is from Revelation 7.

¹After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. ²Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³saying, **"Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."** ⁴**And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe** of the sons of Israel: ⁵12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, ⁶12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, ⁷12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, ⁸12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

⁹After this I looked, and behold, **a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,** ¹⁰**and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"** ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, **"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

“Splendor and Honor”

[LSB 950]

Splendor and honor, majesty and power
Are Yours, O Lord God, fount of ev’ry blessing,
For by Your bidding was the whole creation Called into being.

Praised be the true Lamb, slain for our redemption,
By whose self-off’ring we are made God’s people:
A priestly kingdom, from all tongues and nations, Called to God’s service.

To the Almighty, throned in heav’nly splendor,
And to the Savior, Christ our Lamb and Shepherd,
Be adoration, praise, and glory given, Now and forever.

Text: © 1990 Hope Publishing Co.

Sermon

Heart Issues are Hard Issues

“Reconciliation out of Tribulation”

Revelation 7:1-17

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

The Prayer of the Church

L: Standing with the great multitude of saints before the throne of God and the Lamb, let us join in prayer, praise and thanksgiving to the God of our salvation as he continues to work on the issues of our hard hearts.

(after each petition)

L: Lord, in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Mighty and eternal God, bring us to that day when every tear shall be wiped from our eyes and all Your people are united as one in love and service. Until the dawn of that eternal day, keep us Yours in faith through our Good Shepherd and Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Our Primary Prayer focus is the life transforming power of Christ's Word, and especially:

Through the sermon series "Heart Issues are Hard Issues".

In those who are living outside of faith in Jesus.

Among those who participate in our FHL and CrossTraining ministries.

Through our lives of mission and witness.

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

And we remember the unborn and newly born, the elderly and those nearing life's end, remembering all grieving families, those who are in hospice care.

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†**Praise and Thanksgiving:** For the confirmation of Ashlee Cooley today.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Tim & Cheryl Phaneuf, Kurt & Nancy Gutowsky, Grace Metzner, 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), Doug Bogen (nephew of Mary Lee McKay), Bob Meyer (former member), Jeanette Galina (friend of Mary Lee McKay).

†**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!**

“Therefore, they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

(Revelation 7:15-17)

Lord, you have made us stewards. You gave us life in birth and new life in Holy Baptism. Lord, you have made us stewards. Direct us to use the gifts you give to your glory and the benefit of your people – so that more and more may come to know you as we do. Bless your stewards, Lord, so that we may be a blessing to others. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Offertory

[LSB 192]

Create in me a clean heart. O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

L: These are they who have come out of the great tribulation.

C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb.

L: God has chosen to give us birth through the word of truth,

C: That we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created – his saved servants.

(time for personal reflection)

L: Make haste to deliver me, O God:

C: Make haste, O Lord, to help me, for I am hurting on the inside, and have failed in helping others around me. In you, Lord Jesus, do I take my refuge. In your mercy take away my sin and rescue me from all evil. You are my help and my deliverer. O Lord, do not delay.

L: God has come in the person of Jesus to rescue you. He died for your sins and was raised for your justification. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus, and by His authority, I announce the full forgiveness of 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 5:1-12

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 5.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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 149]

L: Sing to the Lord a new song, sing his praise in the assembly of the godly!

C: **Let the Church be glad in her Maker; let the children of God rejoice in their King!**

L: Let us praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

C: **For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with 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

We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you have revealed yourself to us as our merciful Redeemer. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

The Canticle

"This is the Feast"

[LSB 171]

Cantor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen

This is the feast of victory for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

Distribution Hymn

"Jesus Sat with His Disciples"

[LSB 932]

Jesus sat with His disciples On a mountainside one day;
As the crowds of people gathered, He began to teach and say:
"Blessèd are the poor in spirit, Heaven's kingdom they will share.
Blessèd are the sad and mourning, Joy and comfort will be theirs.

"Blessèd are the meek and humble, All the earth to them is willed.
Those who hunger to be holy, They are bless'd and will be filled.
Yes, the merciful are blessèd, Mercy will to them be shown.
And the pure in heart are blessèd, They have eyes for God alone.

"Blessèd are God's sons and daughters, Making peace where there is strife.
Blessèd are the persecuted, Who for righteousness lose life;
Their reward is great in heaven, In the kingdom up above—
So be glad to share My suff'ring And rejoice to know My love."

Text: © 1997 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House.

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 aide 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)

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 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

Scripture Readings: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 / Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon Topic: "A Wedding Story" - Text: Matthew 25:1-13

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. to 1 p.m.

**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.**

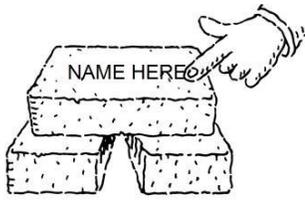
Decorate the Church – November 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

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.



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. 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. Call Michele Jones for more information or an appointment to enroll; 586-260-6576



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.



LUTHERAN NORTHWEST

The Drama Department of Lutheran Northwest presents *ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN*. Using monologues, dialogues, and multiple voice narration, *Kindergarten* takes a funny, insightful, heartwarming look at what is profound in everyday life. These **live streamed** performances will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 6-7, at 7PM and Sunday, November 8, at 2PM. To view any of the performances, please purchase a live stream pass for \$12.50 through Book Tix at <http://lhsn.booktix.com/>. For additional information, please visit our website at www.luthnorthwest.com/news.

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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