

*...for my  
eyes have  
seen your  
salvation,...*

*Luke 2:30, NRSV*



*December 27, 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. 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](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*

*Stories of God @ Work*

### ***RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS***

***Call to Worship***

*“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*

[LSB 384, vs. 1-3,5]

Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessèd, When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore.

***Entrance Prayers***

(Genesis 1; John 1; Isaiah 61)

L: In the name of God the Father...

**C: Who created the heavens and the earth,**

L: and of God the Son...

**L: Who is the Word become flesh, coming from the Father, full of grace and truth,**

L: and of God the Holy Spirit ...

**C: Who, at the time of creation, was hovering over the waters.**

L: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God.

**C: For he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.**

L: As the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden caused what is sown in it to sprout up,

**C: So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all nations.**

L: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us, and in the incarnation of Your Son, yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### ***Hymn of Praise***

*“From Heaven Above to Earth”*

[LSB 358, vs. 8 & 13]

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

### ***Holy Gospel***

**Luke 2:22-38**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter two.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ... <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>He came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”... “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Announcements**

## **Children's Sermon and Attendance Registration**

*Please let us know you are watching by sending a comment or an emoji.*

### **Hymn of the Day**

*"Welcome to Our World"*

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking; how we need to hear from God.  
You've been promised, we've been waiting, welcome holy Child, welcome holy Child

Hope that You don't mind our manger, how I wish we could have known.  
But long-awaited Holy Stranger, make Yourself at home, please make Yourself at home

Bring Your peace into our violence, bid our hungry souls be filled  
Word now breaking heaven's silence, welcome to our world, welcome to our world.

Fragile finger sent to heal us, tender brow prepared for thorn,  
Tiny heart whose blood will save us, unto us is born, unto us is born

So wrap our injured flesh around You, breathe our air and walk our sod  
Rob our sin and make us holy, perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God

Welcome to our world.

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### **Sermon**

*"Promises Made – Promises Kept: Simeon"*

**Luke 2:23-32**

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

(see the back cover for this week's prayer concerns)

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

L: Let us pray for the whole Church 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: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**Our Primary Prayer focus this week is upon God's Work in our nation:**  
Through Camp Restore Detroit and our on-going support of this ministry.  
For the true Spirit of Christmas to live and grow in the hearts of all people.  
Guiding us into more healthy habits and caring actions.  
Empowering us, his people, to live and share the Gospel on a daily basis.

**And we remember those** on our cradle role, those who struggle in the pandemic, and those who are in hospice care.

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

**† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †**

†**For Loved Ones Called Home:** The family of Vicki Mascarin, who was called home last Friday.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Loletta Hogan, JoAnn Awe, Carol Ferdinande, Henry & Laurie Bradychok, Grace Metzner, Veronica Morris, Ron Hess, Jane Gurnack, Betty Nelson (sister of Caroline Henze), Brad Golm (friend of Caroline Henze), Ashley O'Connor, Randy Scharrer (cousin of Monica Hetzner), Mark Topel (son of Stan & Mae), Patrick Morann and family (friends of Sue Wensink), Raymond and Marvelin Gadowski (cousins of Marilyn Edwards), Stephanie Smith (sister-in-law of Chris Corderre), Wyatt Cichocki (great-grandson of Larry & Karen).

†**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), Doug Bogen (nephew of Mary Lee McKay), Emily Henze (daughter-in-law of Caroline).

**Voluntary**



**EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE STL MISSION** There is a variety of ways to give your support to the mission of STL. For many the easiest is to simply mail in a check or drop your offering off at the church. If you prefer electronic giving, STL offers multiple options:

- Text "GIVE" to 1-586-800-2233
- Visit: <https://www.stl-eastpointe.org/2015/07/13/mission-support/>
- Go to <https://www.elxiogiving.com/app/giving/stthoms>
- Through your Pay Pal account
- Scan this Quick Response (QR) code

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!** IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, OR DESIRE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (586-772-3370).

**“The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.” (Psalm 111:7)**

*O God, our loving Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, you are the giver of every good gift. As we praise you for your greatest gift given to the world at Christmas, we pray you would empower us to give generously of what you have entrusted us so that your kingdom may be spread throughout the world. This we ask in the name of that greatest gift, Jesus. Amen.*

**Offertory**

*“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

[LSB 367, vs. 1 & 5]

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation’s story; Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Ev-er-more your voices raising To th’eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

**Confession and Absolution**

(1 John 1:8, John 1:9-17)

L: Let us confess our sins and admit that, by nature, God’s light is not in us.

**C: The true Light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.**

L: We pause to reflect upon our natural rejection of God and His Light.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)*

L: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are not the creatures You intended us to be. We have fled from Your light and truth. Although we sing about joy to the world because our Lord has come, we still desire to be our own lords and our own masters. We deserve Your rejection; for Jesus' sake, show us mercy, so that we may walk in the light of Your Truth and love.**

L: From the fullness of His grace we all receive one blessing after another. And the greatest of these is this: 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***

**Scripture Reading**

**Galatians 4:4-7**

L: Today’s New Testament reading is from Galatian 4.

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L: This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ***We Confess our Faith***

## ***"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

## ***The Service of the Sacrament***

[Psalm 111]

L: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart in the company of the upright.

C: **Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.**

L: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

C: **The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his ways are trustworthy.**

L: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

C: **Holy and awesome is his name! His praise endures forever!**

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**

## ***Words of Institution***

### ***Private Prayer before Communing***

God of love through your Son you have shown us what true love is. By the guidance of your Word and Spirit, deliver us from impenitence and teach us the truth that we might confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and love one another as you have loved us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## ***The Distribution of the Sacrament***

### ***Sanctus Hymn***

***"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"***

[LSB 379, vs. 3 & 4]

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest:

***Refrain: Oh, come let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! ***Refrain***

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

***Prayer as you go home***

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with the body and blood of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. We beg You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through this sacrament that we will grow in our trust of You and in our compassion for all nations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***You are now entering***

*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)*

**New Year’s Eve Worship**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Undecorate the church – January 9<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m. until finished**

**Clothing Closet Open – January 9<sup>th</sup>**

**11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Everyone is invited to “shop” the clothing in the gym lobby after service!

## Virtual Sunday School

Find information on THE FLOCK at [www.STL-eastpointe.org](http://www.STL-eastpointe.org).

## Mission Support 2021



This year you will be assigned the same envelope # for offering envelopes as you had in 2020. Your box of envelopes is in your mail slot/box. If you do not have a mail slot/box, you will find them in the west entrance of the church. (If you would like a mail slot/box, please contact the church office.) If you are unable to get to church to get your envelopes, you can still send in your contribution and it will be credited to your giving #. If you did not have envelopes in 2020 and would like some for 2021, please visit the table in the west entry way and sign up following the directions on the table.

Remember you can always donate electronically – go to [www.stl-eastpointe.com](http://www.stl-eastpointe.com) for more information and options. (or see today's worship bulletin) If you have any questions, contact Linda, in the church office.



Now enrolling at CrossBridge, St. Thomas Preschool! **Call Michele Jones for more information or an appointment to enroll; 586-260-6576.**

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

## *The Epiphany of our Lord*

January 3, 2021

Scripture Readings: Ephesians 3:1-12 / Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Topic: *"Promises Made – Promises Kept: The Wise Men"*

Text: Matthew 2:1-6

**Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Friday 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Office will be closed from December 25<sup>th</sup> – January 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Please be aware that the alarm will be set when office is closed,  
and no activity is scheduled for the building!**

**Call to arrange for time in the building!**

## *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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