

*I am the*  
**Good Shepherd.**

I know my own, and my  
own know me.



*April 25, 2021*

***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*

### **INVITATION**

*God draws us into his presence.*

**Entrance Hymn**

*“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**

[Psalm 23]

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

**C:** Amen.

**L:** The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

**C:** He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

**L:** He leads me in paths of righteousness for his own name’s sake.

**C:** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.

L: For he is with me; his rod and his staff, they comfort me.

**C: He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies; He anoints your head with oil. My cup overflows.**

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

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

L: God of power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; 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***

### ***"In Christ Alone"***

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.  
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Words and Music by STUART TOWNEND and KEITH GETTY

## ***INSTRUCTION***

*God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.*

### ***Today's Gospel***

L: Today's Gospel reading is from the Gospel of John, chapter 10.

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

**(John 10:11-18)** [Jesus said:] **"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is**

**a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **(sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### ***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***

*“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”*

[LSB 740]

I am Jesus’ little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev’ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?  
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

### ***Sermon***

*“Owned!”*

**John 10:11-14**

### ***Voluntary***

[Personal notes and reflections]

# INTROSPECTION

*God convicts us to action.*

## KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“Little children, let us love not in word or talk,  
but in deed and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)

*Dear Lord, help me to be more caring and concerned for all who cross my path.*



**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.elexiogiving.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).

### ***A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles***

L: Reaction to the Gospel of Jesus has been mixed as long as the church has been around. Today’s reading from Acts 4 reminds us that, even in a hostile environment, we are still called to proclaim the clear Gospel of Christ’s death and resurrection.

**(Acts 4:1-12)**<sup>1</sup>As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>They arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

L: This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ***Offertory***

*“Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul”*

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul – Worship his holy name.  
Sing like never before, oh my soul; I’ll worship Your holy name.

Music by M. Redman

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### ***Apostles Creed***

L: Let us confess together our faith in the One True God with the words of the Apostles Creed:

**C: 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**

### ***Confession and Absolution***

L: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him to grant us forgiveness in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

L: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus, has paid for your transgressions, and defeated death and all your enemies. Therefore, your sins are all forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Alleluia! Amen!**

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

L: As God’s forgiven people and at his invitation let us pray:

*(after each petition)*

L: Lord in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Hear us as we pray in Jesus’ name and as he has taught us:

**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**

# **INVOLVEMENT**

*God makes his absolution shown in the world.*

## **The Canticle**

*“This is the Feast”*

[LSB 171]

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

**All:** 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.

## **Service of the Sacrament**

**L:** Christ has risen from the dead! Alleluia!

**C:** **God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor. Alleluia!**

**L:** Alleluia. Alleluia. Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again.

**C:** **Death no longer has mastery over him. Alleluia!**

## **The Words of Institution**

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

Lord God, you taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, by your Spirit, may have a right judgement in all things and evermore rejoice in his holy counsel, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **The Distribution of the Sacrament**

### ***Distribution Hymn***

*“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”*

[LSB 710]

The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want; He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness, E’en for His own name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.

***Prayer as you go home***

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank you for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal through Jesus Christ, my Lord. 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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter***

May 2, 2021

Scripture Readings: Acts 8:26-38 / John 15:1-8

Sermon Topic: "Fruitful Vines" - Text: John 15:5

**Voter's Assembly – April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Agenda includes the Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022

**Clothing Closet open 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Food Pantry open 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Drive Thru Communion – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month  
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

## Virtual Sunday School

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

### April through June Mission Envelopes ABIGAYLE MINISTRIES

Abigayle Ministries is a Christian interdenominational non-profit organization in Southeast Michigan. The ministry assists adult pregnant women and their children by introducing them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equipping them to be self-sufficient through its residential housing program.

Their vision is to provide a two-year residential program for the single mother with child, whereby she can obtain mentoring and educational support for healthy child development and parent-child relationships while becoming self-supporting. We aspire to be a catalyst in promoting relationships based upon the love of Christ.

**100% of your Mission Envelope donations (either using the envelop provided in your box or through your designation electronically or with a different envelope) to STL during the months of April, May, and June will be given to Abigayle Ministries. For more information on the ministry, go to [Businessoffice@abigayleministries.org](mailto:Businessoffice@abigayleministries.org) or call 586-323-1411.**



Now enrolling at CrossBridge, St. Thomas Preschool! We offer the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) free for 4 year olds on Monday – Thursday. **Call Michele Jones for more information or an appointment to enroll; 586-260-6576.**



**WHERE CAN YOUR CHILDREN:** experience Christian growth while swimming, canoeing, shooting archery, riding horses, and zip-lining? **At Camp Concordia!** Camp Concordia is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Don't let your children miss the adventure, joy and wonder that a week at a Christian camp can bring. Camp nurtures faith inside of kids! The week of June 13-18 has a special rate of \$300 for Grades 3-6! To read what parents have to say, please visit the camp's website at [www.campconcordia.org](http://www.campconcordia.org) or call the camp office for more information at 616-754-3785.

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

**Friday 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

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

## Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week

April 25, 2021

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

- Through printed and online devotions, and worship gatherings, in-person and virtual.
- In those who are living outside of faith in Jesus.
- Among those who participate in THE FLOCK, and our FHL and CrossTraining ministries.
- The development and introduction of our Barnabas Ministry.

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



To connect to the **STL PRAYER CHAIN**, contact Karen Dolan ([mdolan421@gmail.com](mailto:mdolan421@gmail.com)), text "Prayer" to 1-586-800-2233, or scan this QR code, with your phone's camera, to be taken to the prayer request form.

### † In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Glenn Koeplin, Diane Ustick, Carol Ferdinande, Laura Thomas, Henry Bradychok, Janet Semenjuk, David Stolzenfeld (husband of Lori), Carole Frazho-Knupp (friend of Caroline Henze), Maxine Uniewski (friend of Larry Cichocki), Larry Toth, Pam Sherry (friend of Larry Petangelo), Wyatt Cichocki (great grandson of the Cichocki's), Richard Kelly (former member).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Vada Habermas, Lori Kucharek, Sieg Gannon, Elsie Adams, Chris Huber, Don Habermas, 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.), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamone's), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack), Emily Henze (daughter-in-law of Caroline).

## *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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Watch services on Facebook or at [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org) – videotaping in progress during service