



"The kingdom of God
is as if someone would
scatter seed on the
ground ...
and the seed would
sprout and grow,
he does not know how."

June 13, 2021

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

INVITATION

God draws us into his presence.

Entrance Hymn

“O Worship the King”

[LSB 804, vv. 1-3]

O worship the King, all-glorious above.
O gratefully sing His pow’r and His love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy pow’r hath founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Entering Prayers

[from Psalm 92]

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

C: Amen.

L: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

C: They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

L: They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green.

C: We will declare that the LORD is upright to our dying day.

L: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to the name of the Most High.

C: He is our rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

L: O God, the strength of those who hope in you: Be present and hear our prayers; and, because in the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, so that in keeping your commandments we may please you in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Earth and All Stars”

[LSB 817, vv. 3-4]

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre!
Loud humming cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Refrain: He has done marvelous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!

Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Limestone and beams!
Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Text: © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House.

INSTRUCTION

God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, chapter 4.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

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 us a comment or an emoji.

Hymn of the Day

"Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

[LSB 704]

Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Your holy face.

Remove the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only You may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face, O Light eternal, through Your grace.

Sermon

"The Growing Seed"

Mark 4:26-29

Voluntary

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

Jesus said, "Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother
and sister and mother." (**Mark 3:35**)

Dear Lord Jesus, give me both the will and desire to follow your ways.



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 1-586-800-2223
- 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 2nd Corinthians

L: Today, as we continue to read through 2 Corinthians, we are reminded that as long as we are at home in these earthly bodies we are away from the Lord.

(2 Corinthians 5:1-10) ¹We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Offertory

"Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old"

[LSB 846, vv. 1 & 3]

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
Was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed over ills and death,
O'er darkness and the grave.
To You they came, the blind, the mute,
The palsied and the lame,
The lepers in their misery,
The sick with fevered frame.

O be our great deliv'rer still,
The Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
With Your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see
Give wisdom's healing pow'r
That whole and sick and weak and strong
May praise You evermore.

Confession and Absolution

L: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of His glory.

C: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

L: From the rising of the sun to the setting of the same, we cry aloud with joyful voice and say:

C: **Glory be to you, O God, the Savior of all, forever and ever. Amen.**

(time for personal reflection)

L: Lord Jesus Christ, hear us as we pray:

C: **We confess that we have run away from you and have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves. We have refused to bear the troubles of others and have turned from our neighbors. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. Lord Jesus, in your mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; in Your name we pray. Amen.**

P: Christ Jesus did, indeed, die for your offences, and was raised for your justification. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

We Confess our Faith

“The Nicene Creed”

P: Let us then join in confessing our faith in the God who forgives us and gives us eternal life:

C: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen**

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: Holy Father, You have reversed the curse of sin and brought life again to dry, dusty souls through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

INVOLVEMENT

God makes his absolution shown in the world.

The Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

[LSB 208]

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Service of the Sacrament

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

C: We give thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

L: Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of his cross,

C: And receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in his body and blood.

L: Hear us as we pray in his 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.

The Words of Institution

Private Prayer before Communing

Dear Savior, I come to your table at your gracious invitation to eat and drink your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in your eyes to receive this holy sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of your holy name; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymn

“For the Fruits of His Creation”

[LSB 894]

For the fruits of His creation, Thanks be to God.
For His gifts to ev'ry nation, Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

Text: © 1970 Hope Publishing Co.

Prayer as you go home

Dear Lord Jesus, I thank and praise you that you have again refreshed me with the gift of your holy body and blood in this comforting sacrament. Bless my participation that I may depart from your presence with peace and joy in the knowledge that I am reconciled to God. I ask this in your name. Amen.

Copyright Permission CCLI License #1438022 - Created with Lutheran Service Builder

© 2018 Concordia Publishing House. LSB Hymn License #110002509

Watch services on Facebook or at www.stl-eastpointe.org – videotaping in progress during service

*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)

VIRTUAL VBS 2021

Theme: “i wonder ...”

(exploring the wonders of God’s creation and how God makes all of us unique)

ONE NEW LESSON EACH SUNDAY FOR 5 WEEKS

Starting on Sunday, July 18

To receive materials, register now through July 18

@ bit.ly/STL2021VBS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT TONY
586-350-8396 / missionmgr@stl-eastpointe.org

NEXT SUNDAY

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 20, 2021

Scripture Readings: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 / Mark 4:35-41

Sermon Title: "Does Jesus Care? – part one" - Text: Mark 4:38-40

Clothing Closet open 2nd Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Food Pantry open 3rd Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Drive Thru Communion – 3rd Sunday of the month

11:00 a. m. – 12:00 p.m.

ABIGAYLE MINISTRIES

April through June Mission Envelopes

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 or call 586-323-1411.

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).

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

June 13, 2021

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

- In all mothers and families, enriching relationships, and blessing interactions
- Healing all who are stymied by fear, shame, pain, 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 prepares families to participate in this summer's Virtual Vacation Bible School.

And we pray for the safety and wellbeing of our nation and world as more and more people get vaccinated.

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, and **Names** (who are in hospice care).



To connect to the **STL PRAYER CHAIN**, contact Karen Dolan (mdolan421@gmail.com), text "Prayer" to 1-586-800-2223, 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:** Dan Dolan, Davis & Eleanor Cardamone, Loletta Hogan, Henry Bradychok, Wyatt Cichocki (great grandson of the Cichocki's), Richard Keller (former member), Linda Taggart (former member), Harold Edwards (brother of Connie and Dale).

†**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).