

For whenever
I am weak,
then I am
STRONG.

2 Corinthians 12:10, NRSV

July 4, 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

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made”

[LSB 903, vv. 1, 3, 4]

This is the day the Lord has made; He calls the hours His own.
Let heav’n rejoice, let earth be glad And praise surround the throne.

Hosanna to the _anointed King, To David’s holy Son!
Help us, O Lord; descend and bring Salvation from Your throne.

Blessèd is He who comes to us With messages of grace;
He, in the Lord’s name, comes to us To save our fallen race.

Entering Prayers

[from Psalm 104]

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

C: Amen.

L: I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

C: How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all.

L: When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

C: All creation looks to you to give them their food at the proper time.

L: Lord of the nations, you have truly blessed our land. We thank you this day for the privileges we enjoy as citizens of this country. For freedom to vote, freedom of speech, and freedom to worship you, we are truly grateful. We give you thanks for all those who worked and sacrificed in the past, and we pray that you would help us to live as productive members of society – obeying the laws that have been put in place for our benefit,

using our gifts to improve the welfare of others, respecting all those whom you have placed in authority over us, and willingly sacrificing ourselves for the good of others. This we pray in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"God Bless Our Native Land"

[LSB 965]

God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night. When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave, Do Thou our country save By Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies;
On Him we wait. Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye, To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

INSTRUCTION

God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 6:1-13

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, chapter 6.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴So Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." ⁵He could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— ⁹but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰And he said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Announcements

Hymn of the Day

“O Christ, Who Called the Twelve”

[LSB 856, vv. 1, 2, 4]

O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and follow You,
Forsaking old, familiar ways For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call To risk security
And, bound in heart and will to You, Find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for ages sealed,
Whose words and works awakened faith, The ways of God revealed:
Instruct us now, we pray, By Your empow’ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they’d never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim The nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith Transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains Both life and ministry.

Text: © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

Sermon

“Strength in Weakness”

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

⁹(The Lord) said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Voluntary

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“Just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

(2 Corinthians 8:7)

How does one “excel in the grace of giving?”



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.lexiogiving.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: In the previous chapters of 2 Corinthians Paul has been explaining his qualifications as an apostle, then in chapter 12 he tells the story of a major unanswered prayer in his life, and Christ’s simple reminder that God’s grace is all we really need.

(2 Corinthians 12:1-10) ¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹**But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.** ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

L: This is the word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Offertory

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

[LSB 966, vv. 1-2]

Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below, Boundless in pow’r and love.
Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,
Our hearts we raise To You, our King!

The nation You have blest May well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Your care.
For this bright day, For this fair land
Gifts of Your hand Our thanks we pay.

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 Apostles 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 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 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: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever

C: **Amen**

INVOLVEMENT

God makes his absolution shown in the world.

The Sanctus

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

[LSB 966, vv. 4-5]

Earth, hear your Maker’s voice; Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone.
Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,
And bow before The Crucified.

And when in pow’r He comes, Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng, With joy to sing
To heav’n’s high King Salvation’s song!

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, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave. The Supper is ended.
O now be extended The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring, Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: © 1964 World Library Publications.

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.

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)



Today’s Flowers were given with thanksgiving to our Lord
for the 104th birthday of Elsie Adams
and her daughter Karen Hubbard’s birthday.

NEXT SUNDAY:

The 7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 11, 2021

Scripture Readings: Mark 6:14-29 / Ephesians 1:3-14

Sermon Topic: "Chosen, Predestined" Text: Ephesians 1:3-6

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

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.

God's True Comfort Foods from STL

(ADD THESE TO YOUR CALENDAR – and tell a friend)

Mondays – Hymn Sing-Along with Tony

Wednesdays – Virtual Prayer Vigils

Thursdays – Thursday's Thirst

Tuesdays & Fridays – Video Devotions

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=st.+thomas+eastpointe

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week
July 4, 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.
- As God draws more and more people back to in-person worship services.
- As we share Christ's priceless treasures in old ways and new.

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), 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 †

✠**For Loved Ones Called Home:** For the family of Stacey Dunlap (friend of STL), who was called home this week after a 10-year battle with cancer.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Betty Knox, Marg Bittner, Dan Dolan, Davis & Eleanor Cardamone, Loletta Hogan, Henry Bradychok, Harold Edwards (brother of Connie and Dale), Jerry & Donna Eskelinen (parents of Karen Gartrell, former member), Kyra Bermeister (great-granddaughter of Caroline Henze), Michael Parkin (son-in-law of Caroline Henze), Jim Rowland (brother of Jan Patty), Bill Brinkey (husband of Debra Barowicz).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Lori Kucharek, Sieg Gannon, Elsie Adams, Chris Huber, Vada & 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 – videotaping in progress during service