



himself as the
cornerstone...

Ephesians 2:2

July 18, 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

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

[LSB 917]

Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Entering Prayers

[from Psalms 145 and 23]

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

C: Amen.

L: O Lord, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

C: Therefore we will sing to the Lord with thanksgiving and praise our God with music.

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

C: He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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

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

L: Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

[LSB 901, vv. 1-2, 4]

Open now thy gates of beauty; Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessèd is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before Thee; Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou; Let it be Thy temple now!

Thou my faith increase and quicken; Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken; May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in all strife.

INSTRUCTION

God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 6:30-44

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. ³⁵And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when

they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

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

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

[LSB 909, vv. 1, 2, 3]
(tune 924)

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever And our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all Your loving-kindness, Hear Your people as they pray;
And Your fullest benediction Shed within these walls today.

Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful All the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from You, forever With the blessed to retain;
And hereafter in Your glory Evermore with You to reign.

Sermon

"The Household of God"

Ephesians 2:19-21

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

Voluntary

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.” **(Ephesians 1:7)**

Today is a great day to reflect upon God’s generosity toward us.



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 Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians

L: After discussing the incredible gifts we receive in the Gospel, Paul goes on to explain how this same Gospel draws us together as one body for worship and service. Our reading today provides some context around the words you just heard in pastor’s sermon.

(Ephesians 2:11-22) ¹¹Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹**So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,** ²⁰**built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,** ²¹**in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.** ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Offertory

“Draw Us to Thee”

[LSB 701, vv. 1, 2, 4]

Draw us to Thee, For then shall we
Walk in Thy steps forever And hasten on
Where Thou art gone To be with Thee, dear Savior.

Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly;
Let us depart with gladness That we may be
Forever free From sorrow, grief, and sadness.

Draw us to Thee That also we
Thy heav’nly bliss inherit And ever dwell
Where sin and hell No more can vex our spirit.

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: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

C: **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to us, poor sinful beings; forgive our sins, give us your Holy Spirit for the amendment of our sinful lives, and bring us to life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I 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: 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: 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

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

[LSB 178]

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might:
Heav’n and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Service of the Sacrament

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for you have had mercy on those whom you created and sent your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior.

C: **With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of his body and his blood on the cross.**

L: Grant us faithfully to eat his body and drink his blood as he bids us do in his own testament.

C: **Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom.**

L: To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

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

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

Distribution Hymn

“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread”

[LSB 625]

Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread, May I in grace possess You.
Let me with holy food be fed, In hunger I address You.
Prepare me well for You, O Lord, And, humbly by my prayer implored,
Give me Your grace and mercy.

To pastures green, Lord, safely guide, To restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide, Your wounded hand now feed me.
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak, Refuge in You alone I seek,
To share Your cup of healing.

O bread of heav’n, my soul’s delight, For full and free remission
I come with prayer before Your sight In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me That I receive You worthily,
Assured of Your full pardon.

I do not merit favor, Lord, My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart’s discord, O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me That You receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

The Post-Communion Canticle

“Thank the Lord”

[LSB 181]

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev’ryone what He has done.
Let ev’ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Sending

The Post-Communion Collect

The Benediction

The Closing Hymn

“Christ Be My Leader”

[LSB 861]

Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

*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)*

Return from Exile

“God is Faithful, part one”

The final chapters of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles tell the story of the destruction of Jerusalem and wave after wave of God’s people being hauled off into exile. It was a time of death, economic hardship, scattering, anger, despair, and many unanswered questions. Yet, after 50 years, God brought his people home. They returned from exile, rebuilt the temple, and life – though different – returned to normal.

Though not nearly as disruptive, the pandemic has had similar affects upon us and our lives, but now, after just a year and a half, God is bringing us back home to STL. Families are returning to worship, ministries are being brought back and rejuvenated, and life – though different – is returning to normal.

Please spread the word and encourage others to return from exile back to STL with you.

Attention All Choir Members Please return all your music to the office or give to Lori so she can organize for the Fall. Mark September 19th on your calendars as the day to start practice for the upcoming year. Practice will be at 8:30 on Sunday mornings. Watch for more information.

MCREST 2021 -AUGUST 8TH – 15TH Our 2021 MCREST week will once again be held in our church building and it's time to start getting ready! As usual we will be responsible for the daily needs of 30 women and children. The MCREST guests have been vaccinated. I will be visiting a church this week to learn new protocols put in place to ensure everyone safety.

We will need money for expenses like gas, bus tickets & laundry, as well as donations of prepared food. We will need volunteers for kitchen help, bag searching, laundry duty, shower and overnight supervision, set up and take down. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers over the coming weeks that we may be blessed with the volunteers, funds and donations that we will need to serve His children through this wonderful ministry.

If you have questions, please feel free to call me at 313-550-2950.

Al Knopp Memorial Service - There will be a gravesite memorial service for Al Knopp (former teacher at St. Thomas) on July 31, 2021 at 11:00am. Richmond Cemetery, Richmond, MI. Al Knopp passed away on December 6, 2020, but a memorial service was not feasible at that time due to Covid restrictions.

NEXT SUNDAY

The 9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 25, 2021

Scripture Readings: Mark 6:45-56 / Ephesians 3:14-21

Sermon Title: "Your Inner Wellbeing" - Text: Ephesians 3:14-16

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

STARTS TODAY!

To receive materials, register @ bit.ly/STL2021VBS

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

Mark Your Calendars

Faith and Fellowship Brunch (picnic)

Following the service on August 22nd

Watch for more information!

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

NO CLOTHING CLOSET IN AUGUST – MCREST IN BUILDING

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

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - July 18, 2021

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

- As God draws more and more people back to in-person worship services.
- 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 families through their participation 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 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 Freida Hilsinger who was called home on 7/9. For the family of Eleanor Cardamone who was called home on 7/12, memorial service will be held in a couple of weeks.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Betty Knox, Marg Bittner, Dan Dolan, Davis Cardamone, Loletta Hogan, Henry Bradychok, Harold Edwards (brother of Connie and Dale), Jim Rowland (brother of Jan Patty), Bill Brinkey (husband of Debra Barowicz), Dr. John Herzog.

✠**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), Linda Taggart (former member).