



*August 1, 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*

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

## **INVITATION**

*God draws us into his presence.*

**Opening Hymn**

*“Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”*

[LSB 844, vv. 1, 2, 4]

Lord of all nations, grant me grace To love all people, ev’ry race;  
And in each person may I see My kindred, loved, redeemed by Thee.

Break down the wall that would divide Thy children, Lord, on ev’ry side.  
My neighbor’s good let me pursue; Let Christian love bind warm and true.

Give me Thy courage, Lord, to speak Whenever strong oppress the weak.  
Should I myself the victim be, Help me forgive, rememb’ring Thee.

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

**Entering Prayers**

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

**C:** Amen.

**L:** God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things,

**C:** **We may abound in every good work at all times.**

**L:** All the nations God has made shall come and worship before him and glorify his name.

**C:** **For the Lord is great and does wondrous things – He alone is God.**

**L:** Teach us your way, O Lord, that we may walk in your truth.

**C:** **And our hearts may be united in loving you.**

L: We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, with our whole heart and we glorify your name forever. Give your strength to your servants that we never take for granted what you give us and do for us day by day. Empower us to be your stewards who walk by grace; 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***

### ***“Holy Spirit – Living Breath of God”***

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, Breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord To renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; Give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for Your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within; May Your joy be seen in all I do  
Love enough to cover ev’ry sin In each thought and deed and attitude,  
Kindness to the greatest and the least, Gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my striving into works of grace. Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth, Giving life to all that God has made,  
Show Your power once again on earth; Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise. Lead us on the road of sacrifice  
That in unity the face of Christ Will be clear for all the world to see.

Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend Copyright © 2005 Thankyou Music (Adm. by CapitolCMGPublishing.com excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, songs@integritymusic.com)

## ***INSTRUCTION***

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

### ***The Holy Gospel***

**John 1:1-18**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, chapter 1.

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to

become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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**

*"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"*

[LSB 819, vv. 1, 4, 5]

Sing praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,  
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.  
With healing balm our souls He fills And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:  
To God all praise and glory!

He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation;  
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.  
As with a mother's tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!

All who confess Christ's holy name, Give God the praise and glory.  
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.  
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:  
To God all praise and glory!

### **Sermon**

*"God is Able"*

**2 Corinthians 9:7-8**

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that you have all sufficiency in all things at all times.*

### **Voluntary**

*You are invited to bring your tithes forward as you commune and place them in the offering plate on the railing.*

[Personal notes and reflections]

# INTROSPECTION

*God convicts us to action.*

## KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”  
(Ephesians 3.20)

*Ever think that God might like you to be more creative in your prayers?*



**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).

### ***The Story of Abraham Sacrificing His Only Son, Isaac***

L: When Isaac – the child of the promise God had given to Abraham and Sarah – was perhaps around 13 years old, the Lord God presented an extreme sounding challenge to Abraham. The story is found in Genesis 22.

**(Genesis 22:1-14)** <sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup>He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” <sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup>And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

<sup>9</sup>When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached

out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup>He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup>And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

L: This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ***Offertory***

*"Take My Life and Let It Be"*

[LSB 783, vv. 1, 2, 4]

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

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

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness**

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

*(time for personal reflection)*

L: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. 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: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen**

## **INVOLVEMENT**

*God makes his absolution shown in the world.*

### *The Sanctus*

*"Holy Is Our God"*

[BOTB 89]

**Refrain: Holy is our God, whose name we praise forever.**

**Holy is the Son, who reigns in majesty!**

**Come, Spirit, come and fill our hearts with wisdom,  
that we may long to worship you alone.**

Oh, Spirit, come and unite us in one communion with our Lord.  
Free us from the chains that bind us, for the Comforter has come. **Refrain**

Text and Music by Brad and Donna Hoefs.  
© Copyright 1998 Wings of Grace, Inc. All Rights Reserved.  
Used by Permission. \*Text by Reginald Heber/Music by John B. Dykes.

### *Service of the Sacrament*

[Psalm 42]

L: As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

C: **My soul thirsts for God, the living God.**

L: These things I remember as I pour out my soul to him.

C: **How in days of old we came to him with glad shouts and songs of praise.**

L: Our hope is in Jesus, for we shall again praise him.

C: **He is our rock and our salvation – our God who loves us 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.**

### *The Words of Institution*

***Private Prayer before Communing***

O Jesus, our great high priest, be present with us as you were present with your disciples and make yourself known to us in the breaking of bread. Amen.

***The Distribution of the Sacrament***

***Distribution Hymn***

***“Your Table I Approach”***

[LSB 628]

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

***The Post-Communion Canticle***

***“Holy Is Our God”***

[BOTB 89]

Holy is our God, whose name we praise forever.  
Holy is the Son, who reigns in majesty!  
Come, Spirit, come and fill our hearts with wisdom,  
that we may long to worship you alone.

***The Sending***

***The Post-Communion Collect***

***The Benediction***

***The Sending Hymn***

***“On What Has Now Been Sown”***

[LSB 921]

On what has now been sown Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;  
The pow’r is Thine alone To make it sprout and grow.  
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise, And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;  
Accept what is Thine own And pardon what is ours.  
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive, And to Thy Word a blessing give.

O grant that each of us, Now met before Thee here,  
May meet together thus When Thou and Thine appear  
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

*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)*

**NEXT SUNDAY:**

*The 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

August 8, 2021

Scripture Readings: Ephesians 4.17-5:2 / John 6:35-51

Sermon Topic: "~~Baptism—Then and Now~~" - Text: ~~Romans 6.3-4~~

**Return from Exile**

*"Stewards Walking by Grace, part one"*

As God's people returned from exile we are told, *"Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, and a great assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him out of Israel, weeping bitterly."* (Ezra 10.1) On that day God's grace abounded to his people and renewal of their lives began. It was God @ Work in his amazing grace that made the difference.

As we return from exile, we can see how God's grace continues to abound in us and in our day. *"By grace we have been saved through faith. And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God."* (Ephesians 2.8) As this grace abounds in us through Word and Sacrament, we are united to walk together in faith and mission.

Please encourage others to join us on August 22 for our "Faith and Fellowship" celebration.

## Memorial Celebration

Everyone is invited to a memorial celebration in honor of Tim and Cheryl Phaneuf on Saturday, August 21, from noon until 4:00 p.m. at Stony Creek Metro Park (Gladview North). If you plan to attend, or for more information, text or call Jenny at 586-804-0200.

**MCREST 2021 - AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup>** 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.

## ***Faith and Fellowship Gatherings***

*Saint Thomas Lutheran*

*"Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another"*

**Sunday, August 22, will be our first "Faith and Fellowship" gathering.** We then will continue them quarterly throughout the year. On each of these Sundays two things will occur. First, during our God @ Work time, we will update you on what is happening in STL's Barnabas Ministry, and then, after worship, we will gather for food, fellowship, and information on STL's "growing faith" ministries. The second "Faith and Fellowship" gathering will be on Remembrance Sunday – November 21.

## ***Faith and Fellowship Picnic***

*Sunday, August 22*

On **Sunday, August 22**, we will return to having just one Sunday morning service (dropping 8:00 a.m.) so that we can all be together again. It will also be our first of what will then be quarterly "Faith and Fellowship" gatherings. Please dress in casual clothing for the outdoor (weather permitting) activities afterwards.

Immediately after worship we will gather – at the south end of our facility – for a **"Faith and Fellowship" Picnic-Brunch**. It will start with brunch (catered by Andary's) ... will include games (for all ages) and information on STL's ministries returning and growing this fall ... and will conclude with frozen custard (from Wally's) with a variety of toppings.

Please make plans today to be a part of this fun and special day.

## ***Additional Fellowship Gatherings***

*"in the planning stages"*

*September 10 – Tiger ball game ... October – Ballroom Dancing*

*November – Euchre Night ... December - Caroling*

**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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**July through September Mission Envelopes**  
**M.C.R.E.S.T.**  
**(Macomb Country Rotating Emergency Shelter Team)**

**DID YOU KNOW?** 43% of homeless population in Michigan are families with children. In 2018-2019 there were 1,441 homeless children in Macomb County. 500-600 homeless people are taken in and offered a fresh start by MCREST each year. As you make your missions contribution, please also say a prayer that the MCREST facility for women and children will be able to open this calendar year.

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 July, August, and September will be given directly to M.C.R.E.S.T. For more information on the ministry, go to [mcrest.org](http://mcrest.org) or call 586-415-5101.

**Clothing Closet open 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
**NO CLOTHING CLOSET IN AUGUST – MCREST IN BUILDING**

**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.**

**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](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=st.+thomas+eastpointe)**

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](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org) – videotaping in progress during service

# 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

**STARTED JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> – NOT TO LATE TO JOIN!**

To join and receive materials, register @ [bit.ly/STL2021VBS](https://bit.ly/STL2021VBS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT TONY  
586-350-8396 / [missionmgr@stl-eastpointe.org](mailto:missionmgr@stl-eastpointe.org)

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

August 1, 2021

**In your prayers this week please remember:**

- For the financial support of the STL mission to increase.
- The health and safety of our nation during these summer months.
- Those who feel isolated or alone, along with those who suffer with depression.
- Those who have wandered away from God’s Word and the fellowship of his Church on earth.

**And we remember those who protect and nurture life on this earth**, this week remembering those receiving the vaccine, along with all military families, emergency responders, and hospital, nursing home and hospice care workers.



To connect to the **STL PRAYER CHAIN**, contact Karen Dolan ([mdolan421@gmail.com](mailto: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:** The family of Jim and Beth (nee Hess) Kiers at the death of Jim’s mother, Mary Cecelia Kiers. Beth is the daughter of Ron Hess. Comfort and peace for the family of William Nycholas, former member, who was called home on July 16.

✠**God’s Healing Hand on:** Rick Vanbriggles, Alicia Kersy, 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 Brinke (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).