

# Starting Point



*August 22, 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.*

### **Opening Hymn**

*“Alleluia! Let Praises Ring”*

[LSB 822, vv. 1-3]

Alleluia! Let praises ring! To God the Father let us bring  
Our songs of adoration. To Him through everlasting days  
Be worship, honor, pow’r, and praise, Whose hand sustains creation.  
Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy; Spread the story  
Of our God, the Lord of glory.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Lamb of God we sing,  
In whom we are elected. He bought His Church with His own blood,  
He cleansed her in that blessed flood, And as His bride selected.  
Holy, holy Is our union And communion. His befriending  
Gives us joy and peace unending.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Holy Ghost we sing  
For our regeneration. The saving faith in us He wrought  
And us unto the Bridegroom brought, Made us His chosen nation.  
Glory! Glory! Joy eternal, Bliss supernal; There is manna  
And an endless, glad hosanna.

### **Entering Prayers**

[from Psalm 26]

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

**C: Amen.**

L: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

**C: Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in integrity and have trusted in you without wavering.**

L: Prove us, O Lord, and try us; test our hearts and our minds.

**C: We wash our hands in Christ's innocence with thanksgiving and tell all of your wondrous deeds.**

L: Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.

**C: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers us out of them all.**

L: Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error that your faithful people may confess you to be the only true God and rejoice in your good gifts of life and salvation; 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.

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## ***INSTRUCTION***

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

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

**Mark 7:1-13**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, chapter 7.

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

When the Pharisees gathered to [Jesus], with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come

from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) **And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ““This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”**

And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban’ (that is, given to God)—then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

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**

*“Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”*

[LSB 589]

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, Let Your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.  
Death’s dread pow’r, its inward strife, Wars against Your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love’s strong fervor That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You And to listen to Your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear You, Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at Your Word;  
But to all who feel sin’s burden You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving; On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light Through death’s cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e’er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

## **Sermon**

*“The Starting Point”*

**Mark 7:5-8**

## Voluntary

[Personal notes and reflections]

# INTROSPECTION

*God convicts us to action.*

## KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 29.19)

*Our God pays particular attention to those often ignored by society.*



**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: As the Gospel reconciles our broken relationship with the eternal God it also transforms our relationships with humanity and all of creation. Today’s reading focuses primarily on that relationship between husband and wife.

**(Ephesians 5:21-33)** Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ***Offertory***

*"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*

[LSB 192]

Create in me a clean heart. O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

### ***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 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: 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**

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### ***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***

*“Oh, Blest the House”*

[LSB 862]

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!  
A home that is not wholly His How sad and poor and dark it is!

Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in hope and love abound;  
They trust their God and serve Him still And do in all His holy will!

Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children's foremost need  
And weary not of care or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!

Oh, blest that house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell,  
And in their children's lives is shown How richly God can bless His own.

Then here will I and mine today A solemn promise make and say:  
Though all the world forsake His Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

#### ***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***

*“Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go”*

[LSB 854]  
(tune 441)

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue,  
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know In all I think or speak or do.

The task Thy wisdom has assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;  
In all my works Thy presence find, And prove Thy good and perfect will.  
Thee may I set at my right hand, Whose eyes my inmost substance see,  
And labor on at Thy command, And offer all my works to Thee.

Give me to bear Thine easy yoke, And ev'ry moment watch and pray,  
And still to things eternal look, And hasten to Thy glorious day.

For Thee delightfully employ Whate'er Thy bounteous grace has giv'n,  
And run my course with even joy, And closely walk with Thee to heav'n.



Today's flowers were given with thanksgiving to our God  
for their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
by Tom & Sandy Patch

*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 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost***

August 29, 2021

Scripture Readings: Mark 7:14-23 / Ephesians 6:10-20

Sermon Topic: "The Flow" – Text: Mark 7:20-23

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

## **Return from Exile**

*“Celebrating God’s Goodness”*

When the first temple in Jerusalem was dedicated, we are told that *“Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, and said, ‘O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart.’”* (1 Kings 8.22-23) Neither the temple nor the celebration was quite the same as Ezra dedicated the post-exilic temple (compare 1 Kings 8.63 with Ezra 6.17). However, in both gatherings, God’s people celebrated that his mercy endures forever ... and that his good work was not yet done.

Our gathering today celebrates the same abundant, on-going gracious and merciful work of our God in Christ Jesus. Though we, our lives, and our world are different, we know that his grace – which has brought us this far by faith – will continue to lead us home. What a great and faithful God we have!

Now is the time to be talking to your friends, family, and neighbors about what God could be doing in their lives this fall.

### **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.**

**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.**

# **Faith and Fellowship Gatherings**

*Saint Thomas Lutheran*

*“Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another”*

**TODAY is 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.

**WE’RE GOING TO A**



**BALL GAME!**

**SEPTEMBER 10 – DETROIT TIGERS BASEBALL GAME** – Join in the fun with other members and friends on September 10 when the Detroit Tigers play Tampa Bay Rays at 7:10 pm. Tickets will be between \$25 and \$30. If you’re interested or need more information, please contact Tony Berkseth at (586) 350-8396, or [missionmgr@stl-eastpointe.org](mailto:missionmgr@stl-eastpointe.org). Tony will need a head count by September 3<sup>rd</sup>!

## ***Additional Fellowship Gatherings***

*“In the planning stages”*

*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.

## **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)

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

August 22, 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 THE FLOCK and CrossTraining – JC Style.

**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 (who is in hospice care).



To connect to the **STL PRAYER CHAIN**, contact Karen Dolan ([mdolan421@gmail.com](mailto:mdolan421@gmail.com)), text "Prayer" to 1-586-800-2223, 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 Anthony "Mokey" Campana, uncle of Sandy Lysse, who was called home this past week.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Janice Engel, Janet Semenjuk, Roy Leidich, Vera LaFrate, Walter Jakubiec, Betty Knox, Marg Bittner, Dan Dolan, Davis Cardamone, Loletta Hogan, Henry Bradychok, Bill Brinkey (husband of Debra Barowicz), Dr. John Herzog, Jim Osterman (cousin of Sue Wensink).

†**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).

## *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).

# *Faith and Fellowship Picnic*

# **TODAY**

TODAY, will be our first of what will then be quarterly “Faith and Fellowship” gatherings. Dressed in casual clothing for the outdoor (weather permitting) activities afterwards.

Immediately after worship today, 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 COME TODAY AND BE A PART OF THIS FUN AND SPECIAL DAY.**

