

**Show by
your good life
that your works
are done with
gentleness
born of wisdom.**



August 15, 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.

Opening Hymn

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

[LSB 845, vv. 1-3, 6]

Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love By love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.

Forgive we now each other’s faults As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well In Christian holiness.

For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior’s name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.

Text: © 1960 World Library Publications.

Entering Prayers

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

C: Amen.

L: The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world, and those who dwell in it.

C: **We worship you and bow down before you, O Lord, our Maker! For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture.**

L: You withhold no good thing from us. You richly provide us with everything to enjoy.

C: Help us to acknowledge your gifts and to give you thanks for your goodness to us through our words and actions.

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

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

L: Dear Father, we acknowledge your gifts and give you thanks for your goodness to us. Lord Jesus, let us not find our security in material wealth, but in you. Teach us, as stewards who walk by grace, to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous in our giving, and ready to share as your Spirit helps us to be faithful stewards who walk by grace.

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

Matthew 26:6-13

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 26.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she

has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

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

“Oh, That I had a Thousand Voices”

[LSB 811, vv. 1, 2, 4]

Oh, that I had a thousand voices To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be, What great things God has done for me.

O all you pow’rs that He implanted, Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted! Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise With heartfelt joy our Maker’s praise.

All creatures that have breath and motion, That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
Come, share with me my heart’s devotion, Help me to sing God’s praises high.
My utmost pow’rs can never quite Declare the wonders of His might.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.

Sermon

“Abounding in Every Good Work”

2 Corinthians 9:8

*God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency
in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

Voluntary

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5.15)

How will you demonstrate this in your life this week?



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 2 Corinthians

L: In the verses following today’s sermon text, Paul completes his thoughts on cheerful and sacrificial giving by God’s people.

(2 Corinthians 9:8-12) God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

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, 4, 6]

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

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

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: Within the fold of Your tender care, O Father, we entrust these petitions to You, that You might hear us, teach us Your Word, and feed us with the bread of life, even 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

“Amazing Grace”

[LSB 744]

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

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

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

[LSB 919, vv. 1, 2, 4, 6]

Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.

Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through Your Word.

Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.

*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 13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 22, 2021

Scripture Readings: Mark7:1-13 / Ephesians 5:21-33

Sermon Topic: "The Starting Point" - Text: Mark 7:5-8

Return from Exile
"Stewards Walking by Grace, part three"

As God's people returned from exile in Babylon, they recalled how God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt centuries before. At that time, after receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, one of the first things God's people did was build the tabernacle. As Moses assembled skilled craftsmen to build it, he asked everyone to give what they could for it to be made. The gifts came in such abundance that soon Moses had to give this command: *"Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution of the sanctuary."* (Exodus 36.6)

We are thankful that our facility remains as a very special "home base" from which our good works may abound for the growth of God's kingdom. And, yes, the work is "abound." There is much work that can be done in God's kingdom at this time. There are many opportunities for God to be at Work through you. It starts with your financial support, and then continues with many other *"good works, which God has prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Eph. 2.10)

As God's grace abounds in you, we pray that he grants you the joy of giving abundantly of your time, talents, and treasures as he unites us in faith and mission ... and as we celebrate together at our first "Faith and Fellowship" gathering next Sunday.

Faith and Fellowship Picnic
Sunday, August 22 – Next week!

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.

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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.

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

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

Your personal prayer guide for the week of:

August 15, 2021

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is on Christ's people on earth:

- For the Holy Spirit to be at work enriching faith through our Barnabas Ministry.
- Giving us hearts that are growing in the joy of giving generously to the mission of STL.
- For children to be raised in the nurture and encouragement of the Gospel.
- For many to join us at next Sunday's Faith and Fellowship celebration.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care especially Anthony "Mokey" Campana, uncle of Sandy Lysse.



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 †

✠ **Praise and Thanksgiving:** For the marriage of Anthony Berkseth to Jenaya Mack on August 6th.

✠ **God's Healing Hand on:** Vera LaFrate, Walter Jakubiec, Betty Knox, Marg Bittner, Dan Dolan, Davis Cardamone, Loletta Hogan, Henry Bradychok, 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).

Abound In Every Good Work



“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

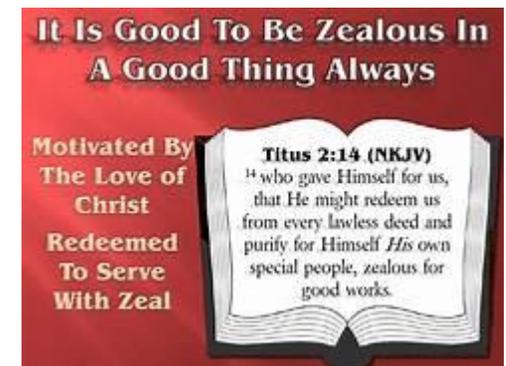
Week three of:
*Stewards Walking
By Grace*

Good Works Defined

Good works are deeds done in service to others prompted by love through faith. The importance of good works is viewed differently by various church denominations. Some churches view good works as an essential part of justification. They believe that they have to earn God’s favor and their salvation. As Lutherans, we believe that the message is very clear that we are not saved by good works. The Apostle Paul tells us, “*For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight...*” (Romans 3:20). Isaiah is a little more graphic, “*all our [good works] are like a polluted garment*” (Isaiah 64:6). Works cannot earn salvation because it is a gift of God. If eternal life were achieved by works, we would take pride in our successes or despair in our failures, and God’s gift of grace would be unnecessary.

When we think of good works, perhaps our minds go to when we have given generously of our financial resources, provided care for those in need, loved and helped our neighbors, or assisted the oppressed. These expressions of faith along with other good works are likely what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote, “*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them*” (Ephesians 2:10). God has

shaped us into His people who seek to honor and follow our Lord by loving and serving our neighbors. Our good works are evidence of changed hearts. Because of our relationship with Jesus, we seek opportunities to express our love and gratitude for Who He is and what He has done for us. We do good works without any prodding, because we are eager to be of help to others. When God works in and through us, we engage in a lifestyle of good works. The good works are done unconsciously by God’s grace for God’s purposes.



Good Works Please God

Paul tells us that we are “*created in Christ Jesus for good works.*” God delights in seeing us reflect His nature in the lives that we lead. Jesus said, “*Let your light shine before others, so that may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven*” (Matthew 5:16). Our good works are meant to lead others to glorify God.

When the Holy Spirit dwells in us, we are prompted to do things that give God glory. Our desire to please God grows as our understanding of Him and our faith in Him grow. The desire to please God results in good works.

Abiding in Jesus, We Bear Fruit (Good Works)

Jesus used the analogy of fruit to speak about spiritual growth and good works. Jesus calls us to live lives of abundant fruitfulness (good works). The key to bearing fruit is found in the 15th chapter of John's Gospel where Jesus tells us that He is the Vine and we the branches. As the Vine provides nourishment to its branches, Jesus fills, sustains, and empowers us. It is the connection we have with Jesus, the Vine, that makes our fruit possible. Jesus said, *"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit..."* (verse 5). By God's grace, we understand that, through our own power, we are unable to bear fruit. Because it is Jesus Who enables us to be fruitful, we can bear fruit, more fruit, and much fruit in our lives, thus bringing glory to our Heavenly Father (verse 8).

God's Word refers to the connection between the vine and branches and our connection with Jesus as "abiding." Through His holy Word and Sacraments, Jesus abides in us, stays in

us, and makes Himself at home with us. Through His holy Word and Sacraments, we remain attached to Him and receive life and power from Him. His life-giving Word abides in us, making us fruitful like healthy branches on a good vine. If our connection with Jesus is severed, it is because we have caused the separation. Jesus will *"never leave [us] nor forsake [us]"* (Hebrews 13:5).



The fruit that we bear is not only made possible by our abiding in Jesus, it indicates that we have been and are in union and communion with Jesus. Our fruit is Jesus working in and through us. Our fruit is seen as we share the Gospel with others and introduce neighbors, friends, and co-workers to Jesus. Through faith we understand that our efforts to advance the Gospel are both a responsibility and privilege. The more we "abide" in Jesus, the more we will share our time, talents, and money with God by serving and witnessing and giving to others. Each and every day we are given opportunities to bear fruit. Through faith, by God's grace, we can be ready and willing to bear fruit,

bringing glory to God through our faithful and fruitful lives.

The Joy in Doing Good Works

God blesses us with different gifts that we can use in our service to others. In 1 Peter 4:10 we read, *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."* God works through us in serving others. His gifts are not personal possessions but are meant to be used according to God's will. We are not saved by our good works, but we are saved to do good works. May we all experience the joy that comes from using our God-given gifts in service to others.

Stewardship Advisors
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
248-644-6150
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