

*Gracious  
is the LORD,  
and righteous;  
our God is  
merciful.*



*September 5, 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.*

**Entrance Hymn**

*“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”*

[LSB 793, vv. 1-3]

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; To His feet your tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor To His people in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide and swift to bless:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hand He gently bears us, Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.

**Entering Prayers**

[from Psalm 104]

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

**C:** Amen.

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

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

**L:** When He send His Spirit, they are created, and He renews the face of the earth.

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

L: Lord of the nations, you have truly blessed our land. We thank you this day for the privileges we enjoy as citizens of this country. For freedom to vote, freedom of speech, and freedom to worship you, we are truly grateful. We give you thanks for all those who worked and sacrificed in the past, and we pray that you would help us to live as productive members of society – obeying the laws that have been put in place for our benefit, using our gifts to improve the welfare of others, respecting all those whom you have placed in authority over us, and willingly sacrificing ourselves for the good of others. This we pray in Jesus’ name.

C: Amen.

***Hymn of Praise***

***“God Bless Our Native Land”***

[LSB 965]

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

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

## ***INSTRUCTION***

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

***The Holy Gospel***

**Mark 7:24-37**

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

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

From there [Jesus] arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. Immediately a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” He said to her, “For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. Taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## **Announcements**

## **Hymn of the Day**

*“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”*

[LSB 849]

Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris’ners, Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev’ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert’s burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

## **Sermon**

*“God’s Judgment and God’s Mercy”*

**James 2:8-10,13**

*If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. . . . For judgement is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs our judgment.*

## **Voluntary**

[Personal notes and reflections]

# INTROSPECTION

*God convicts us to action.*

## KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.” (Psalm 146:2)

*How do you praise God while at work?*



**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 the letter of James***

L: The letter of James explains the importance of fruits of faith. As one might ask what good a tree with no leaves or fruit is, James asks if faith without fruit is really saving faith. Or, using his words from today’s reading, “Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” Yet, as explained in today’s sermon, ‘Mercy trumps over judgement’.

**(James 2:1-10, 14-17)** My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. . . .

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in

peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

L: This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ***Offertory***

*“Before You, Lord, We Bow”*

[LSB 966, vv. 1-2]

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

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

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

L: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of His glory.

**C: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

L: From the rising of the sun to the setting of the same, we cry aloud with joyful voice and say:

**C: Glory be to you, O God, the Savior of all, forever and ever. Amen.**

*(time for personal reflection)*

L: Lord Jesus Christ, hear us as we pray:

**C: We confess that we have run away from you, and have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves. We have refused to bear the troubles of others and have turned from our neighbors. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. Lord Jesus, in your mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; in Your name we pray. Amen.**

L: Christ Jesus did, indeed, die for your offences, and was raised for your justification. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### ***We Confess our Faith***

*“The Apostles Creed”*

L: Let us then join in confessing our faith in the God who forgives us and gives us eternal life:

**C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into**

heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

### ***The Prayer of the Church***

L: As God's forgiven people and at his invitation let us pray:

*(after each petition)*

L: Lord in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

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

C: **Amen**

## ***INVOLVEMENT***

*God makes his absolution shown in the world.*

### ***The Sanctus***

*"Before You, Lord, We Bow"*

[LSB 966, vv. 4-5]

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

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

### ***Service of the Sacrament***

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

C: **We give thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.**

L: Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of his cross,

C: **And receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in his body and blood.**

L: Hear us as we pray in his name and as he has taught us:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### ***The Words of Institution***

### ***Private Prayer before Communing***

Dear Savior, I come to your table at your gracious invitation to eat and drink your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in your eyes to receive this holy sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of your holy name; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### ***The Distribution of the Sacrament***

#### ***Distribution Hymn***

*“There Is a Balm in Gilead”*

[LSB 749]

**Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead To make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead To heal the sin-sick soul.**

Sometimes I feel discouraged And think my work’s in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit Revives my soul again. **Refrain**

If you cannot preach like Peter, If you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus And say He died for all. **Refrain**

Don’t ever feel discouraged, For Jesus is your friend;  
And if you lack for knowledge, He’ll ne’er refuse to lend. **Refrain**

#### ***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 worship you alone.

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### ***The Sending***

#### ***The Dismissal***

#### ***The Post-Communion Collect***

#### ***The Benediction***

#### ***The Sending Hymn***

*“Son of God, Eternal Savior”*

[LSB 842]

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,  
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead:  
Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.  
Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.  
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;  
We but stewards of Your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.  
By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,  
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race:  
By Your praying, by Your willing That Your people should be one,  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.

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

*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)*

### **Return from Exile**

*“Your Labor is Not in Vain”*

This weekend, as our nation celebrates all those whose labor is difficult and demanding, we also celebrate how God is at Work through our Kingdom work together at STL. It all starts with Word and Sacrament – his mysterious means through which he makes us to be his new creation – chasing away our fears and frustrations and replacing them with faith, hope, and love. And his promise is clear: *“He who has begun this good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Philippians 1.6)

Through these same means he molds us into his agents for changing the world. We serve the needy, share the Gospel, and encourage others to join our journey. There are times when we become discouraged, and other times when we are frustrated or weary – though the most common sensations are peace and joy. And all our labor is stamped by Jesus with these words: *“My beloved brothers and sister, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord our labor is not in vain.”* (1 Corinthians 15.58)

Have you invited the people for whom you are praying to become involved in a faith growing, mind renewing, life transforming ministry of STL?

**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.

**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.

**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.**

**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 - September 5, 2021

### In your prayers this week please remember:

- Those who labor, those who are seeking work, and employers looking for workers.
- For a safe and profitable school year for students and school staffs.
- Those who feel isolated or alone, along with those who suffer with depression.
- Those who travel this weekend.

**And we remember those who protect and nurture life on this earth**, this week remembering global healthcare needs and political situations.



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 †

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Helen Ham, 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), Harold Edwards (brother of Connie and Dale).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Brenda Finder, Joanne Awe, 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).

## *The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

September 12, 2021

Scripture Readings: James 3:3-10 / Mark 9:14-29

Sermon Topic: "Taming the Tongue" - Text: James 3:8-10

## *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).