



September 12, 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

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening Praise

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

[LSB 545]

Word of God, come down on earth, Living rain from heav’n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav’n to die, Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring, Speak to us, Your love outpouring.

Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be; Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken, Heal the world, by sin now broken.

Word that speaks God’s tender love, One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above, God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: © 1969 OCP Publications

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 31]

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

C: Amen.

L: Be strong and take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.

C: We will trust in the Lord. We will say, “He is our God.”

L: Our times are in the hand of the Lord our God.

C: Lord, make your face shine on us, your servants, and save us in your steadfast love.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Thy Word”

[CH 184]

**Chorus: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

When I feel afraid, and think I’ve lost my way, Still you’re there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. **Chorus**

I will not forget your love for me, and yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side; I will love you to the end. **Chorus**

The Holy Gospel

Mark 9:14-29

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, chapter 9.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When (Jesus, Peter, James and John) came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw (Jesus), were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” He answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” So they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” He said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

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

"O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"

[LSB 554, vv. 1-4]

O Jesus, King most wonderful! O Conqueror renowned!
O Source of peace ineffable, In whom all joys are found:

When once You visit darkened hearts, Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs, Then kindles love divine.

O Jesus, light of all below, The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know, All that we can desire:

May ev'ry heart confess Your name, Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame To seek You more and more!

Sermon

"Taming the Tongue"

James 3:8-10

No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

Voluntary

*Those with offerings are encouraged to bring them forward
when coming forward for communion.*

[Personal notes and reflections]

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

*"The Lord has given me the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary." (Isaiah 50:4)*

How will you share with others what you have received today?



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 written by James

L: Today as we continue to read from the letter of James, we will hear additional warnings regarding how we speak and what words we use.

(James 3:3-10) If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

L: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

The Prayer of the Church

L: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:
(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen

Offertory

“Knowing You”

[BOB 138]

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres and wars to own.
All I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now compared to this.

**Chorus: Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.
You’re my all, you’re the best, you’re my joy, my righteousness, and I love you Lord.**

Now my heart’s desire is to know you more, to be found in you, and known as yours.
To possess by faith what I could not earn, all surpassing gift of righteousness. **Chorus**

Words and Music by Graham Kendrick, © Copyright: 1994 MAKE WAY MUSIC

We Confess our Faith

“The Nicene Creed”

P: Let us join in confessing our faith in our gracious and eternal Triune God:

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

Confession and Absolution

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

L: One does not live by bread alone,

C: But by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

(time for personal reflection)

L: Gracious God:

C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Give us a greater hunger for your Word, that, upheld by your Spirit, we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

SENT TO THE MISSION FIELD

Service of the Sacrament

L: As God's forgiven people, let us pray the prayer our Lord himself 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

The Distribution of the Sacrament

The Agnus Dei

[LSB 210]

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Private Prayer before Communing

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

Distribution Hymns

"Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

[LSB 620, vv. 1-3,6]

Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace. He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation: "Come and taste the blessed feast."

Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament, Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me, Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given, Hung upon the cursed tree.

Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error, Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: © David W. Rogner

O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

The Sending

The Dismissal

The Post-Communion Collect

The Benediction

The Sending Hymn

"Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

[LSB 917, vv. 1, 2, 4]

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

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

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

*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)*



Today's flowers were given with thanksgiving
to our Loving Lord and Savior
by Kurt & Nancy Gutowsky as they
celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary.

Return from Exile

"On Your Mark ... Get Set ..."

The time is now. The opportunity is here. The blessings God offers as we gather together as his people are innumerable. And here is his encouragement for each of us: *"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."* (Hebrews 10.24-25)

For children, THE FLOCK is meeting both at church (Sundays at 10:45 a.m.) and online. For youth we have CROSSTRAINING Sunday mornings in Room 202. For adults we have FHL groups meeting on Sundays at church, and throughout the week in various locations. And next Sunday PBJ resumes for the very young.

If you are not involved in any of these, now is the time. If you are, who are you encouraging to come with you? Like we said, "On your Mark ... Get Set ... Go (and make disciples of all nations).

FHL, JC and "The Flock"

Greetings in Christ Jesus! Welcome back from exile! We are starting our FHL (faith hope love) ministry back up starting this weekend. Right now, in our world we need to gather with each other around God's Word and be refreshed and strengthened by His presence in that Word. I pray that you will join us in a group this fall, currently we have two groups that will be meeting on Sunday after service. Elizabeth Kruse will be hosting a women's only group in room 204 and I will be hosting my Exploring the Gospel lesson in conference room 1. Our youth ministries will also be starting up with JC Style and the Flock. We also have groups that meet during the week, if you are interested in more information, please contact the church office. P.S we are looking for facilitators to host more groups, so if you are interested in that please contact me at dkchome@hotmail.com.

Blessings

Deacon Don

NEXT SUNDAY

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

Scripture Readings: James 3:13 – 4:10 / Mark 9:30-37

Sermon Topic: "THE Difference Maker" - Text: Mark 9:31-32

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

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.

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 envelope 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 or call 586-415-5101.

St. Peter's Eastpointe 175th Celebration

You are invited to attend St. Peter's Eastpointe's 175th anniversary service celebration on Sunday, September 26th at 10:30 am. Following the anniversary service, there will be a banquet at the Lutheran Fraternities of America (behind St. Peter's). The banquet is \$12.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children (12 and under). The banquet is by reservation only and reservations must be made by September 19th. For any questions or to make banquet reservations please call St. Peter's main office (586) 777-6300.

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week
September 12, 2021

Our Primary Prayer focus is the life transforming power of Christ's Word, and especially:

- As more and more individuals gather in FHL groups, CrossTraining for Youth, THE FLOCK, and PB+J.
- At work in the redeemed, increasing our generosity and joy in giving.
- As God draws new people into our in-person and virtual worship services.
- As we share Christ's priceless treasures in old ways and new.

And we remember the unborn and newly born, the elderly and those nearing life's end, remembering all grieving families, and those who are in hospice care.



To connect to the **STL PRAYER CHAIN**, contact Karen Dolan (mdolan421@gmail.com), text "Prayer" to 1-586-800-2223, or scan this QR code, with your phone's camera, to be taken to the prayer request form.

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†God's Healing Hand on: Larry Pietangelo, Helen Ham, Janice Engel, Janet Semenzuk, 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).

Our Confession of Faith

As members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LC-MS), we subscribe to the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian) and the Christian faith as confessed in the Book of Concord. This includes believing that:

- Jesus Christ is both true God and true man who died for our sins and rose again to save us.
- His body/blood are truly present in communion under the form of bread/wine (page 326).
- Communion is, among other things, an expression of doctrinal unity.
- Infant baptism is a Means of Grace through which God delivers one from sin and gives eternal salvation to all who believe (page 325 in Lutheran Service Book).

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Watch services on Facebook or at www.stl-eastpointe.org – videotaping in progress during service.