



*October 31, 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, Deacon Don Cooley*

*Specific Ministry Pastors - Rev. Richard VanBriggle, Rev. Jerry Corbett*

# *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*

*Prelude*

*“The Church is One Foundation”*

S. Wesley

*Stories of God @ Work*

## **RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS**

*Opening Praise*

*“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

[LSB 656]

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is,  
Of Sabaoth Lord, And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.  
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,  
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,  
Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won; The Kingdom ours remaineth.

## ***Entering Prayers***

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

**C: Amen.**

L: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**C: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives away and the mountains be moved to the depths of the sea.**

L: "Be still," he says, "and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth."

**C: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

L: Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## ***Hymn of Praise***

*"A Simple Word of Grace"*

[BOTB 3]

A simple word of grace is all I need, flowing from a cross, a cross for me.

A gentle word of love is all I need, flowing from a cross, a cross for me.

**Chorus: Jesus, You have given me all of Your grace so tenderly.**

**I lift my hands and praise Your name.**

**Jesus, You have given me all of Your love on Calvary.**

**I lift my heart into Your hands.**

A simple word of hope is all I need, flowing from Your love, Your love for me.

A gentle word of peace is all I need, flowing from Your love, Your love for me. **Chorus**

By Brad and Donna Hoefs, ©Copyright 1996 Brad and Donna Hoefs, Wings of Grace, Inc.

## ***The Holy Gospel***

**John 8:31-36**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, chapter 8.

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

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

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.*



***We would like to know you attended service today!***

To record your attendance, you can scan this QR code with your phone’s camera, it will take you to the web page/form for attendance. Fill out the form and hit the submit button.

***Hymn of the Day***

***“The Church’s One Foundation”***

[LSB 644, vv. 1, 2, 5]

The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation By water and the Word.  
From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from ev’ry nation, Yet one o’er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses With ev’ry grace endued.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.  
O blessèd heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace  
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

***Sermon***

***“God Removes the Clutter”***

**Romans 3:23-26**

*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

***Voluntary***

*Time for reflection and prayer*

***RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS***

**KINGDOM THOUGHTS**

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

*In what ways has the Truth set you free?*



**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 Revelation of John***

L: While there are many scary and unsettling interpretations of the last book of the New Testament, its message of the eternal Gospel is meant to assure us that as we are faithful unto death God gives us the crown of life.

**(Revelation 14:6-7)** <sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. <sup>7</sup>And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

L: This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

L: Let us pray:

*(after each petition)*

L: Lord in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that You have brought us by Your Word out of the darkness of error and into the light of Your grace. Mercifully help us to walk in that light. Guard us from error and false doctrine, and grant that we do not become ungrateful and despise Your Word, but receive it with all our heart, conduct our lives according to it, and put our trust in Your grace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### ***Offertory***

*"Creedal Prayer"*

(tune LSB 661)

Creating Father, by Your Word, All things have come to be,  
From empty void and formless dark To all that we can see.  
At eventide and morning sun, Your tapestry You weave,  
And now in unity we sing, "O Father, we believe."

Redeeming Son, here virgin born From heav'n to earth You came  
To save us all from sin and death; So Jesus is Your name.  
For us You suffered and You died; You rose that we might live,  
And now in unity we sing, "O Jesus, we believe."

Empow'ring Spirit, Breath of life, You gather us as one  
Like rain and snow, Your Word comes down, Its purposes are done.  
Your wind blows free, Your fruit is grown, Your many gifts received,  
And now in unity we sing, "O Spirit, we believe."

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

L: The Lord of hosts is with us.

**C: The God of Jacob is our Fortress.**

L: O God of Jacob, we poor sinners come before you, pleading for mercy. We confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, in our words, and in our deeds – by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

**C: Lord, if you kept an account of our wrongdoings, who could stand. But with you there is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.**

*(time for personal reflection)*

L: Lord God, our refuge and strength,

**C: Remove our sin and renew within us your Holy Spirit. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit, that we may teach transgressors your ways, and sinners turn with us to you.**

L: Be still, and know that the Lord, your God is rich in mercy. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## ***SENT TO THE MISSION FIELD***

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

[Romans 3:19-28]

L: By the works of the law no human being will be justified, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

**C: But the righteousness of God has been given, apart from the law, through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.**

L: For we, and all, have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

**C: However, we, and all, are justified by God's grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**

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***

#### ***The Canticle***

*"With My Burden I Begin"*

[LSB 779, vv. 3 & 6]

With my burden I begin: Lord, remove this load of sin;  
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt, Set my conscience free from guilt.

Show me what is mine to do; Ev'ry hour my strength renew.  
Let me live a life of faith; Let me die Thy people's death.

### ***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.

Text (sts. 1s–4s): © 1991 Editorial Concordia. Text (sts. 1–5): Public domain

### ***The Post-Communion Canticle***

#### *"Sent Forth with God's Blessing"*

[LSB 643]

Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave. The Supper is ended.  
O now be extended The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing,  
In love ever caring, Embracing His children of each tribe and race.  
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living  
With praise and thanksgiving Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: © 1964 World Library Publications.

### ***The Sending***

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

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

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

Faith alone in Christ our Savior Brings eternal life and peace.  
Faith alone, and not our labor, Justifies and grants release  
From the sins that we’ve committed, For, by faith alone, we know  
Christ’s own righteousness acquitted All His faithful here below.

Only Scripture tells the story Of salvation from on high.  
Scripture shows God’s grace and glory; How God saved and justified  
Humankind, in all its sadness, Helping all to find their way  
To the One who bought forgiveness On the cross, their debts to pay.

Grace alone is gifted to us Through no merit we might claim;  
God has showered mercy on us Like an ever-cleansing rain.  
In baptismal Word and water We are held in God’s embrace;  
Filled with faith, each son and daughter, Has received unending grace.

Through Christ Jesus’ merit only Can we stand before His throne.  
He has called us by His Spirit To believe and make this known:  
Christ redeemed each race and nation By His death upon the tree  
And His glor’ous resurrection. Christ is ris’n! He’s ris’n indeed!

To God only give all glory, Honor, thanks, eternal praise!  
To the Father, Son and Spirit Shouts of joy and triumph raise.  
As it was in the beginning, Is now, and shall ever be,  
As we sing our hallelujahs To the Holy Trinity! Amen.

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**NEXT SUNDAY**

***The 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost***

November 7, 2021 – LWML Sunday

Scripture Readings: Mark 12:38-44 / 1 Kings 17:8-16

Sermon Title: “Go, But First ...” - Text: 1 Kings 17:13-14

*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)*



**Flu Vaccination Clinic – November 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 11:30 a.m.**

ALL attendees must complete an online consent form: REGISTRATION SITE: <https://flu.vna.org> Clinic ID: 1261 | Passcode: L56RzHS Children under 17 must have consent form completed/signed by parent/guardian. QR codes are on the posters in the hallways, that will take you right to the site and form. Participants will be serviced first come, first served. Pre-registration ensures adequate vaccine supply. Face masks are required of all participants.

**Practice Stewardship When You Invest**



*"Stewardship" is a familiar word when talking about giving. But it's also appropriate to use when talking about how we save and invest for future needs. Church Extension Fund offers a great way to manage some of your funds through investments that not only produces interest income for your needs, but also helps build new churches and schools. Just call 800-242-3944 for more information.*

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<b>Fellow Workers on God's Team</b>	
<b>THE IMPORTANCE AND PURPOSE OF MINISTRY.</b>	

**INSTEAD OF USING HIS ANGELS,  
GOD CHOSE TO USE US AS HIS FELLOW WORKERS IN MINISTRY.**

Ephesians 2:10 tells us, “We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” The theme for this week is “The Importance and Purpose of Ministry.” Ministry is seen as all that we do out of love for others in Christ’s name. We are created in God’s image, so we have been given the capacity to love. Filled with God’s love, we love and serve others. In our church and personal ministries, we want the best for others, so we work to help them physically and spiritually. As God’s fellow workers on His team, we are guided by Him and equipped to do the works He has prepared for us to do. Each of us has a purpose to fulfill, so we are an important part of God’s plan. May God find each of us available and eager to be in ministry.

You're invited! **The Choirs of Lutheran Northwest will present their first annual CABARET NIGHT CONCERT & FUNDRAISER at 7PM on Saturday, 11/6!** The evening will include popular music, light refreshments, and games with prizes, so don't miss your opportunity to be part of the fun! Tickets **MUST** be purchased online in advance by Friday, 10/29. Visit our website at [www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events](http://www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events) and click on the Cabaret Night event for more details and a link to buy your tickets.

**Clothing Closet open 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Holiday Food Baskets November 20<sup>th</sup> & December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.  
First come first serve from the west parking lot.**

**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)

### ***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 - October 31, 2021

**Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is on Christ's work through his Word:**

- Bringing joy and peace into our hearts through the Good News of Jesus.
- 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 Donna Mertz and Elsie Adams, who are 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 Rev. Dr. John Herzog who went to be with the Lord on 10/26. A Memorial service will be at Historic Trinity on Saturday, November 6 at 11am.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Warren Cooley, Larry Cichocki, Sandy Patch, Larry Pietangelo, Helen Ham, Janet Semenzuk, Roy Leidich, Walter Jakubiec, Marg Bittner, Davis Cardamone, Loletta Hogan, Henry Bradychok, Bill Brinkey (husband of Debra Barowicz), Dr. John Herzog, Harold Edwards (brother of Connie and Dale), Matthew Cichocki (grandson of Larry & Karen).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Brenda Finger, Joanne Awe, Lori Kucharek, Sieg Gannon, 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).

*Weekly Worship with Communion - Sunday at 9:30 a.m.*

*Monday at 7:30 p.m.*

*Drive Thru Communion - Third Sunday of the month at 11 a.m.*

*"The Flock" for children and CrossTraining JC Style for youth Sunday at 10:45*

*Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week*

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