



First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021

Saint Thomas Lutheran

23801 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, Michigan 48021 - 586-772-3370

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, 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

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Verse 1 choir only

[LSB 334, vv. 1, 4, 6]
(tune 442)

Choir: O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.

All: Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.

All: He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations And blessèd hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering, And guide us safely home.

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 25]

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

C: **Amen.**

L: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.

C: **Let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.**

L: Indeed, none who wait for him shall be put to shame.

C: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

L: Lead us in your truth and teach us,

C: For you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all the day long.

L: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"Surely It Is God Who Saves Me"

[WOV 635]
(tune LSB 686)

Surely it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water from salvation's healing spring;
in the day of your deliverance that the Lord, his mercies sing.

Make God's deeds known to the peoples; tell out his exalted name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works God's might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,
in your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr, © 1982, 1990 Hope Publishing Co.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 21.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Announcements and Attendance Registration



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. (You do not have to sign in) Fill out the form and hit the submit button.

Hymn of the Day

“Once He Came in Blessing”

[LSB 333]

Verse 1 choir only

Choir: Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

All: Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.

All: Soon will come that hour When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

All: Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav’n we bless You.

Text (sts. 2–3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Sermon

“Sign! Sign! Everywhere a Sign”

Luke 21:25-28

Voluntary

Time for reflection and prayer.

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.
(1 Thessalonians 3:12)

*Lord Jesus, as you come to us this Advent season, show us new ways
to share your love with those you bring our way.*



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 Old Testament

L: The season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this first Sunday establishes this theme for the rest of the season. Long before the Son of God came to be our Savior, the prophet Jeremiah anticipated that “*a righteous Branch*” descended from David would come to save God’s people. I invite you to listen to his words from Jeremiah 33:14-16.

(Jeremiah 33:14-16) ¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

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: Holy God, you declared that the days were coming when You would accomplish our salvation, and in Your time You caused Your Son, the righteous Branch, to spring up. By Your grace, keep us joined as branches to Christ, that we might bear fruit until the day He returns in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Offertory

“The Advent of Our King”

[LSB 331, vv. 1, 2, 6]

The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on To set His servants free.

All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

We Profess our Faith

"The Apostles Creed"

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

Confession and Absolution

L: If the Lord our God kept a record of sins, who could stand before him?

C: But with Him there is forgiveness, therefore He is feared.

L: God has gathered us together to hear His Word, call upon Him in prayer, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. In His presence we recognize our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot save ourselves. Together as God's people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and pray:

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

L: This Advent we celebrate God coming to us in the person of Jesus Christ with this Good News: 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

[Psalm 25]

L: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.

C: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

L: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

C: Remember not the sins of my youth; according to your steadfast love remember me for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

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

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Sacrament

The Canticle

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

[LSB 379, vv. 1, 2]

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: Refrain

**Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes; Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Distribution Hymn

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

[LSB 336]

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him, Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, Shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His passion Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore Thee, High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

The Post-Communion Canticle

"Let Our Gladness Have No End"

[LSB 381, vv. 1, 4]

Let our gladness have no end, alleluia! For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!

Refrain: On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia! He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia! **Refrain**

The Sending

The Dismissal

The Post-Communion Collect

The Benediction

The Sending Hymn

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

[LSB 343]

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!

God’s people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! **Refrain**

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.



Today’s flowers were given to praise our Lord
by John Cook for his wife Theresa in celebration of her birthday.

*You are living
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

Advent Carol Service

The 2nd Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2021

Scripture Readings: Luke 3:1-9, 15-18 / Revelation 22:12-16

2022 Envelopes are available in the west hallway! Please stop by the table, print your name on the list next to the envelope # you are taking home. Information for electronic giving is also available. If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office. **Please, do not use these envelopes until 2022!**

Up-Coming Service and Events

**Advent CARoling – Noon (in the sanctuary)
and at 7 p.m.** (outside in the east/front parking lot)
December 1st, 8th, 15th**

**Caroling in our Community
December 22nd at 7:00 p.m.**

Clothing Closet open 2nd Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Holiday Food Baskets December 18th at 10 a.m.
First come first serve from the west parking lot.**

**Drive Thru Communion - 3rd Sunday of the month
11:00 a. m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
Candles/Carols/Communion**

Christmas Day Worship at 9:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship with Communion at 5 p.m.

**on FaceBook live or anytime on our web site - www.stl-eastpointe.org

Saint Thomas Giving Tree 2021

This year we will be gifting Wellspring Lutheran Foundation
and our GSRP Pre-School

Wellspring Lutheran Foundation has requested only Gift Cards be purchased for their families in need. Many of the families they serve need to choose between having their children unwrap a gift or two on Christmas morning,

or pay an electric bill, find warm bedding for the winter, buy pots and pans so they can cook a meal at home, purchase essentials, or buy bus tickets so they can get to work, and the list goes on.

Please select from the following:

**Visa, Aldi, Kroger, Meijer, Target or Walmart
Gift Cards in any monetary amount would be greatly appreciated.**

The cards can be placed in the drop box next to the Giving Tree.

NO LATER THAN Wednesday December 8th.

The cards will then be mailed to Wellspring
and be distributed from there.

Questions about this process should be directed to Dawn White at 989.262.7496 or by email at dwhite@wellspringlutheran.com.

There are 19 children from our
GSPR Pre-School whose names and gift ideas will be on the Giving Tree.
These need to be brought to the church no later than Monday, **December 13th.**

Blessings,

Vicki Corbett

313 320-0832



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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Your personal prayer guide for the week of:

November 28, 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 new individuals to become members of the STL Prayer Chain.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care Donna Mertz and Elsie Adams.



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:** Janet Semenjok, Nancy Jiminey, Pam Winkle, Roy Michelsen, Cathy Meer, Warren Cooley, Marg Bittner, Henry Bradychok, Bill Brinkey (husband of Debra Barowicz), Charlene Kuehn (former member), Nancy Murray, Crystal Morris, Brandon Habermas (former member), Pat Fischer and Linda Goldberg (friends of Debbie Kujawski), Mike Churchill (father of Catilyn), Eric Semenjok (son of Janet), Scott Baker (grandson of Diane Ustick).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Larry Cichocki, 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), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamone's), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack), Emily Henze (daughter-in-law of Caroline).

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).