



Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 19, 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

“Holy Child within the Manger”

[WOV 638]

Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;
come as friend to every stranger, come as hope for ev’ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

Once again we tell the story – how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev’ry land and race.

Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
So we see in ev’ry stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

Text and music by Marty Haugen, b. 1950, © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 80]

- L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**
L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
C: **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**
L: Stir up your might and come to save us!
C: **Restore us, O God. Let your face shine on us that we may be saved.**

L: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; 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 deliv’rance 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 1:39-49

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 1.

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

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

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. Fill out the form and hit the submit button.

Children’s Sermon and Attendance Registration

Please let us know you are watching by sending us a comment or an emoji.

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through His own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav’n above;
and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God’s right hand on high;
there his children gather ‘round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, Music: Henry J. Gauntlett

Sermon

“He Is Our Peace”

Micah 5:4-5a

*He shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.*

Voluntary

Time for reflection and prayer.

[Personal notes and reflections]

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name (Luke 1:49)

What are some great things he has done for you lately?



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 Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the nativity of our Lord. With Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Spirit of God. As the Lord dealt graciously with her, so also, He manifests Himself to us in mercy and gentleness. He comes forth not from the great capital city of Rome or Jerusalem, but from lowly little Bethlehem, as foretold in Micah 2.

(Micah 5:2-5a) But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

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: O Lord, mighty God, You have done great things for us, most of all delivering us from death to life through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Mercifully hear our prayers and answer them according to Your will for the sake of Your Son, who 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, 5, 6]

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

Before the dawning day Let sin’s dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

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

L: There is none holy like the Lord;

C: **There is none besides you, Lord. There is no rock like our God.**

L: My soul magnifies the Lord,

C: **And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

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 Distribution of the Sacrament

The Canticle

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

[LSB 379, vv. 2, 3]

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

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

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest: **Refrain**

Distribution Hymn

"Away in a Manger"

[WOV 644]

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing; the baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my side till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: USA, 19th cent. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919
Arr. © 1960 Oxford University Press

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

**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

"Gloria"

[WOV 640]

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Traditional, Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1979, 1988 Les Presses de Taize, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

*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 1st Sunday of Christmas
December 26, 2021

Scripture Readings: Luke 2:22-33 / Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-16

Sermon Topic: "Moving Forward in Peace" - Text: Luke 2:29-32

Voices of Christmas, A Christmas Eve Drama

Plan on attending the 4PM Christmas Eve service, as the Kapelle, children of the Flock, Junior Confirmation, and their parents, present "Voices of Christmas", a Christmas Eve Drama that proclaims the Christmas story through song, narration, drama and dance. You will hear from the prophet Isaiah, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Wisemen, even the Inn Keeper's wife, what they were experiencing, and how each of them played such significant roles in sharing Christ's birth to the world. "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

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

Stop Santa

Dennis the Menace, the old comic strip, shows Dennis hurrying into the living room holding a large box as his mom turns around, her mouth agape, as Dennis says, "Mom, we'd better call Santa Claus to forget about the train set I asked for. I just found this one in Dad's closet on the top shelf."

Do you remember searching the house for those most wanted Christmas gifts? Did you ever find one? Did you carefully try peeling back the wrapping paper to confirm what you thought was in the box? The anticipation of the gift was too much to handle. Be honest, were you a child or has it happened more recently?

Everyone loves getting Christmas gifts. The anticipation grows with each passing day. Finally, the big day arrives and you get to open the much-expected gift. The overwhelming joy was obvious as you played with that new possession. But the newness often wears off as the days and weeks pass. It too often sets on the shelf, collecting dust.

Psalm 16:11 reminds us of what is really important. "You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand". But this is the gift that never grows old. That living relationship with Jesus is renewed daily as we spend time in prayer or in His words. Instead of gathering dust, it refreshes us continually.

You have the chance to make an eternal difference this season. All the time and effort, braving the crowded stores or if you dare, searching on the internet to save some steps, may still result in long lasting disappointment.

As you spend time trying to find the perfect gift for family and friends this Christmas Season, don't stop with a gift that may soon be set aside collecting dust. Find ways to share the perfect joy of the season, the birth of the Savior. It's the gift that keeps on giving day after day into eternity.

We invite you to join with Church Extension Fund to share the
strive to Build the Kingdom.



reason for the season as we

Bill Burmeister

Church Extension Fund – Michigan District
800-242-3944 t bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org

October through December Mission Envelopes CAMP RESTORE - DETROIT (Housed in Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church)

DID YOU KNOW? The area surrounding Camp Restore Detroit (9th Precinct of Detroit) is only 20% populated. This means many houses, lots, and even entire blocks are abandoned. Camp Restore works to restore hope in the community through hosting groups of all ages and sizes, housing and feeding them, and partnering with community leaders and community organizations in activities of environmental cleanup, construction, and human care.

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 October, November, and December will be given directly to CAMP RESTORE DETROIT. For more information on the ministry, go to www.camprestore.org or call 313-527-3366.



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 printed in the worship folders. If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office. **Please, do not use these envelopes until 2022!**

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

Drive Thru Communion - TODAY - 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

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).

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 Crossfraining JC Style for youth Sunday at 10:45

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

December 19, 2021

In your prayers this week please remember:

- The poor, the homeless, the hungry, and all who struggle.
- Hospital workers and all who service in health care ministries.
- Those who feel isolated or alone, along with those who suffer with depression.
- The ministry of Camp Restore Detroit.

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), 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 Gary Bierlein, cousin of Monica Hetzner, who was called home on Wednesday.

✠ **God’s Healing Hand on:** Art Wensink, Glenn Koeplin, Steve Kruse, Barbara & William Eubanks, Janet Semenjuk, 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), Eric Semenjuk (son of Janet), Scott Baker (grandson of Diane Ustick), and Elsie Adams who is in hospice care.

✠ **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).