

*... for my
eyes have
seen your
salvation,...*

Luke 2:30, NRSV



December 26, 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

Prelude

“Jesus is Born”

G. Henderson

Stories of God @ Work

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Call to Worship

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

[LSB 367, vv. 1, 3, 5]

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

Entrance Prayers

(Genesis 1; John 1; Isaiah 61)

L: In the name of God the Father...

C: **Who created the heavens and the earth,**

L: and of God the Son...

L: **Who is the Word become flesh, coming from the Father, full of grace and truth,**

L: and of God the Holy Spirit ...

C: **Who, at the time of creation, was hovering over the waters.**

L: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God.

C: For he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

L: As the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,

C: So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all nations.

L: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us, and in the incarnation of Your Son, yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“From Heaven Above to Earth”

[LSB 358, vv. 8, 13]

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-33

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 2.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ... Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. He came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, **“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”** And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

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.

Hymn of the Day

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

[LSB 374]

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

Sermon

"Moving Forward in Peace"

Luke 2:29-32

Voluntary

"That First Nowell"

N. Price/D. Besig

Time for reflection and prayer.

[Personal notes and reflections]

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!" (Psalm 111.10)

Lord Jesus,



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: Jesus, to whom the Old Testament points as the world's redeemer, placed himself fully under God's law and, as the holy lamb of God, kept it perfectly. Today's reading introduces one of those laws, the consecration of the firstborn through circumcision, which in the New Testament is replaced by Holy Baptism.

(Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15) The LORD said to Moses, "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine." Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . .

"When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'"

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: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Offertory

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

[LSB 367, vs. 1 & 5]

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Ev-er-more your voices raising To th'eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

We Confess our Faith

"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

(1 John 1:8, John 1:9-17)

L: Let us confess our sins and admit that, by nature, God's light is not in us.

C: **The true Light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.**

L: We pause to reflect upon our natural rejection of God and His Light.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

L: Most merciful God,

C: **We confess that we are not the creatures You intended us to be. We have fled from Your light and truth. Although we sing about joy to the world because our Lord has come, we still desire to be our own lords and our own masters. We deserve Your rejection; for Jesus' sake, show us mercy, so that we may walk in the light of Your Truth and love.**

L: From the fullness of His grace we all receive one blessing after another. And the greatest of these is this: 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

The Service of the Sacrament

[Psalm 111]

L: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart in the company of the upright.

C: **Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.**

L: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

C: **The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his ways are trustworthy.**

L: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

C: **Holy and awesome is his name! His praise endures forever!**

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

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Sanctus Hymn

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

[LSB 379, vs. 3 & 4]

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

**Refrain: Oh, come let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Distribution Hymn

Anthem

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

J. Van Valey/S. Berry

"The First Nowell"

S. Berry/J. Van Valey

"In His Temple Now Behold Him"

[LSB 519]
(tune 795)

In His temple now behold Him, See the long-expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold Him, God has now fulfilled His word.
Now to praise Him, His redeemèd Shall break forth with one accord.

In the arms of her who bore Him, Virgin pure, behold Him lie
While His aged saints adore Him Ere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia, alleluia! Lo, the incarnate God Most High!

Jesus, by Your presentation, When they blessed You, weak and poor,
Make us see Your great salvation, Seal us with Your promise sure;
And present us in Your glory To Your Father, cleansed and pure.

The Post-Communion Canticle

"Joy to the World"

[LSB 387, vv. 1, 4]

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

The Sending

The Dismissal

The Post-Communion Collect

The Benediction

The Sending Hymn

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

[LSB 389, vv. 1, 2, 4-6]

Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne, Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child’s love! No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

He is the key and He the door To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

*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)*

Copyright Permission CCLI License #1438022 - Created with Lutheran Service Builder

© 2018 Concordia Publishing House. LSB Hymn License #110002509

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

Up Coming Events

New Year's Eve Worship - 5:00 p.m.

**Undecorate the church – January 8th
9:00 a.m. until finished**

**Clothing Closet Open – January 8th
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Food Pantry Open – January 15th
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Drive Thru Communion
January 16th – 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**Congregational Forum via Zoom
January 18th – 7 p.m.**

NEXT SUNDAY

The Epiphany of our Lord

January 2, 2022

Scripture Readings: Matthew 2:1-2 / Isaiah 60.1-6

Sermon Topic: “God is in Control” - Text: Matthew 2:1, 2a,7,12

Office will be closed from December 27th – January 3rd

**Please be aware that the alarm will be set when office is closed,
and no activity is scheduled for the building!**



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!**

**Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week
December 26, 2021**

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

- As our FHL groups, CrossTraining for Youth, THE FLOCK, and PB+J return in 2022.
- At work in the redeemed, increasing our generosity and joy in giving.
- In those who are new to STL
- As we share Christ's priceless treasures in old ways and new.



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.

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

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Art Wensink, Glenn Koepplin, Steve Kruse, William Eubanks, Janet Semenjuck, Nancy Jiminey, Pam Winkle, Warren Cooley, Marg Bittner, Henry Bradychok, Bill Brinkey (husband of Debra Barowicz), Crystal Morris, Brandon Habermas (former member), Eric Semenjuck (son of Janet), Scott Baker (grandson of Diane Ustick), Brandi Valley (friend of Karen Strugs), Ashley Gladden (daughter of Pastor Gladden).

✠**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).

**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.

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 Cross/raining JC Style for youth Sunday at 10:45

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week