



*January 9, 2022*

***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*

*Stories of God @ Work*

## **RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS**

*Opening Praise*

*“Father Welcomes”*

[LSB 605]

**Refrain: Father welcomes all His children To His fam’ly through His Son.  
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.**

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.  
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. **Refrain**

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured:  
Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. **Refrain**

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him,  
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. **Refrain**

text: © 1986 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

*Entering Prayers*

[Psalm 2]

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

**C: Amen.**

L: Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights!

**C: Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.**

L: Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.

**C: Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

L: Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in his name faithful in their calling as your children and inheritors with him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth;  
Good-will from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing –  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heavenly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, the Father’s Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in power are seated at God’s right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, be worshipped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.

***The Holy Gospel***

**Luke 3:15-22**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 3.

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

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

**Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”**

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.

To Jordan’s river came our Lord, The Christ, whom heav’nly hosts adored,  
The God from God, the Light from Light, The Lord of glory, pow’r, and might.

The Savior came to be baptized The Son of God in flesh disguised  
To stand beneath the Father’s will And all His righteousness fulfill.

As Jesus in the Jordan stood And John baptized the Lamb of God,  
The Holy Spirit, heav’nly dove, Descended on Him from above.

Then from God’s throne with thund’rous sound  
Came God’s own voice with words profound:  
“This is My Son,” was His decree, “The one I love, who pleases Me.”

The Father’s word, the Spirit’s flight Anointed Christ in glorious sight  
As God’s own choice, from Adam’s fall To save the world and free us all.

Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute; This man is Christ, our substitute!  
He was baptized in Jordan’s stream, Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Text: © 1993 James P. Tiefel.

**Sermon**

*“Identity”*

**Luke 3:21-22**

**Voluntary**

*Time for reflection and prayer.*

**I am a person** specifically and lovingly created by God in his image. And, though **I am a sinner** who rebels against God and his love, **I remain God’s beloved** – the object of his eternal love. This all is possible because **I am a forgiven child of God**, adopted into his family in my baptism. This truth from God’s Word provides the base for my identity and life.

## ***RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS***

### **KINGDOM THOUGHTS**

“O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.” (Psalm 29:1-2)

*What does it mean for you to worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness?*



**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: Today, as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, we note that “when we pass through the waters” he is with us, and that he has redeemed us with his blood, that we may be his own and live with him in his kingdom – truths that we hear in today’s Old Testament reading from Isaiah 43.

**(Isaiah 43:1-7)** But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

*(see the prayer page for this week’s prayer concerns)*

L: Heavenly Father, You have fulfilled all righteousness in the Baptism of Your beloved Son. As we have received this righteousness by our Baptism into Him, make us bold in faith and fervent in love, that we may live out heavenly lives even in this world

*(after each petition)*

L: Lord in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself in the fullness of grace at the Baptism of Your dear Son. With Your voice, You directed us to the One who has borne our sins, that we may receive grace and forgiveness. Keep us, we implore You, in the true faith, and strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit as You lead us to everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Offertory

*“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

[LSB 711, vv. 1, 2]

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

## 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

[Romans 10]

- L: The word is near you; in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith that we proclaim.  
C: **If we declare with our mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved.**  
L: There is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him.  
C: **Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**  
L: Together as His children let us call upon the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.  
C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, open our ears and our hearts to your Word, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

- L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and by his blood you are made new. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, I therefore forgive you all your sins, 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 117]

- L: Praise the Lord, all nations! Celebrate him, all peoples!  
C: **For great is his steadfast love toward us.**  
L: The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

**C: Yes, his faithfulness 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**

### *The Words of Institution*

#### *The Distribution of the Sacrament*

#### *The Canticle*

#### *"Your Table I Approach"*

[LSB 628, vv. 1, 3, 5]

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

O grant, most blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

#### *Distribution Hymn*

#### *"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"*

[LSB 594]

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!  
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.  
Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled,  
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!  
Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!  
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.  
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:  
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

***The Post-Communion Canticle***

***“Thank the Lord”***

[LSB 181]

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev’ryone what He has done.  
Let ev’ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

***The Sending***

***The Dismissal***

***The Post-Communion Collect***

***The Benediction***

***The Sending Hymn***

***“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”***

[LSB 394, vv. 1, 2, 5]

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David’s stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.  
  
Manifest at Jordan’s stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana wedding guest In Thy Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in pow’r divine, Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.  
Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word—  
Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany  
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

***Prayer as you end the service***

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus came to visit us in great humility, that in the last day, when he shall come again in glory, we may rise to the life immortal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*You are now 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany***

January 16, 2022

Scripture Readings: John 2:1-11 / 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Sermon Title: "Manifest" - Text: John 2:1-11

**Up Coming Events**

**Food Pantry Open – January 15<sup>th</sup>  
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Drive Thru Communion  
January 16<sup>th</sup> – 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**Congregational Forum via Zoom  
January 18<sup>th</sup> – 7 p.m.**

**FHL Gatherings on Thursdays**

Hosted by Pastor Hetzner

Begins this week on January 13<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1 (both the same study)

Studying the book of Genesis



**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, use only these envelope #'s 2022!**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

January 9, 2022

### 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 expand in ways to search the scripture together and care for our neighbor remotely.
- As FHL small group participants invite new people to join them.

### And we pray for the safety and wellbeing of our nation and world in 2022.

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 Elsie Adams (who is 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 Christopher Dawson, son of the late Susan Dawson, who was called home suddenly on Christmas Eve.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Betty Williams, Art Wensink, 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), Francis Andary (father-in-law of Kelly), Mya (niece of Rosie Solano – GSRP teacher).

✠**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).

**Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Friday 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Please be aware that the alarm will be set when office is closed,**

**and no activity is scheduled for the building!**

**Call to arrange for time in the building!**

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Watch services on Facebook or at [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org) – videotaping in progress during service

**THE LUKE CLINIC**  
**January through March Mission Envelopes**  
**(Now in both Detroit and Flint)**

**IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS:** The mission of the Luke Clinic is to promote the health and wellbeing of the local population by providing accessible, high-quality medical care for expectant mothers and infants under 12 months of age. They are committed to providing accessible, relationship-based services that will exceed the expectations of their patients and their communities resulting in an effective great compassion and great commission ministry. It is all about saving lives ... empowering women ... building faith.

**100% of your Mission Envelope donations (either using the envelop provided in your box, through your designation electronically or with a different envelope) to STL during the months of January, February, and March will be given directly to THE LUKE CLINIC. For more information on the ministry, go to [www.thelukeclinic.org](http://www.thelukeclinic.org) or call 866-458-5352.**

**Your Invited** – to Peace Lutheran Church’s annual Valentines’ Dinner Dance on Friday, February 11 at The Gazebo (31104 Mound Rd, Warren). Dinner, open bar, door prizes and dancing included in the ticket price of \$45 per person. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Peace Lutheran for tickets (586)751-8010.

**Flower Chart** for 2022 is up in the west hallway! If you would like to have flowers on the Altar in memory of or celebration of, please sign the chart. Price is very affordable, and is listed on the chart. Money is due prior to the date.

***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*