



Blessed
ARE THE
meek

FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.

February 13, 2022

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

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

[LSB 901, vv. 1, 2, 5]

Open now thy gates of beauty; Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before Thee; Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a heav’n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou; Let it be Thy temple now!

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 119]

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

C: Amen.

L: Let us praise the Lord with upright hearts as we learn of his just and righteous decrees.

C: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

L: Yes, blessed are those who hold to his promises.

C: We will seek him with our whole heart.

L: O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

All glory be to God alone, Forevermore the highest one,
Who did our sinful race befriend And grace and peace to us extend.
Among us may His gracious will All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

Lord God, our King on heaven’s throne, Our Father, the Almighty One.
O Lord, the sole-begotten One, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son,
True God from all eternity, O Lamb of God, to You we flee.

You only are the Holy One And over all are Lord alone.
O Jesus Christ, we glorify You and the Spirit, Lord Most High;
With Him You evermore shall be One in the Father’s majesty.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 6.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

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

“Blest Are They”

[LSB 982, vv. 1-2, 4-5]

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; They shall be consoled. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessèd are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.**

Blest are they, the lowly ones; They shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; They shall have their fill. **Refrain**

Blest are you who suffer hate, All because of Me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; Shine for all to see. **Refrain**

Text: © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Arrangement D. Hass

Sermon

“Blessed”

Luke 6:20b-21

Voluntary

“Everywhere I Go”

N. Sleeth

Time for reflection and prayer.

[Personal notes and reflections]

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord.”
(Jeremiah 17:7)

How will you demonstrate your trust in the Lord this week?



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 New Testament

L: 1 Corinthians 15 is known as the “great resurrection chapter” as it describes how the resurrection of Christ on the third day is foundational to the Christian faith. Today’s reading from this chapter goes so far as to say that if Christ is not raised “we are of all people most to be pitied.”

(1 Corinthians 15:12-20) Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

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, Your kingdom has been made manifest in the preaching and miracles of Jesus Christ. Gather together Your people from every Gentile nation and from Judea’s remnant, that many may know Jesus, who is true Wisdom come in our flesh.

L: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We entrust all these petitions to Your care, loving Father, confident in Your great mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is worshiped together with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Offertory

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

[LSB 192]

Create in me a clean heart. O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

We Profess our Faith

“Nicene Creed”

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Confession and Absolution

[Romans 10]

L: O God, be not far from us.

C: O my God, make haste to help me.

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. O most merciful God,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I 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/Luke 6]

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. Yes, his faithfulness endures forever.

C: Let us rejoice and leap for joy, for behold, our reward is great in heaven.

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

"What is This Bread?"

[LSB 629, vv. 1, 2, 4]

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release. O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing! O taste and see—the Lord is King.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal. O taste and see—the Lord is real.

Distribution Hymn

"Jesus Sat with His Disciples"

[LSB 932]

Jesus sat with His disciples On a mountainside one day;
As the crowds of people gathered, He began to teach and say:
"Blessèd are the poor in spirit, Heaven's kingdom they will share.
Blessèd are the sad and mourning, Joy and comfort will be theirs.

"Blessèd are the meek and humble, All the earth to them is willed.
Those who hunger to be holy, They are bless'd and will be filled.
Yes, the merciful are blessèd, Mercy will to them be shown.
And the pure in heart are blessèd, They have eyes for God alone.

"Blessèd are God's sons and daughters, Making peace where there is strife.
Blessèd are the persecuted, Who for righteousness lose life;
Their reward is great in heaven, In the kingdom up above—
So be glad to share My suff'ring And rejoice to know My love."

Text: © 1997 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House.

The Nunc Dimittis

"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"

[LSB 211]

O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

The Sending

The Dismissal

The Post-Communion Collect

The Benediction

The Sending Hymn

"If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death"

[LSB 486]
(tune 678/661)

If Christ had not been raised from death Our faith would be in vain,
Our preaching but a waste of breath, Our sin and guilt remain.
But now the Lord is ris'n indeed; He rules in earth and heav'n:
His Gospel meets a world of need In Christ we are forgiv'n.

If Christ still lay within the tomb Then death would be the end,
And we should face our final doom With neither guide nor friend.
But now the Savior is raised up, So when a Christian dies
We mourn, yet look to God in hope In Christ the saints arise!

If Christ had not been truly raised His Church would live a lie;
His name should nevermore be praised, His words deserve to die.
But now our great Redeemer lives; Through Him we are restored;
His Word endures, His Church revives In Christ, our risen Lord.

Text: © 1985 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co.

Prayer Sending Us into the Mission Field

Lord God, bless your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as you have promised, your Word may achieve the purpose for which you send it, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Today's Altar Flowers were given in thanksgiving to our Lord by
Ken & Kim Dunaway in celebration of their
36th wedding anniversary – Valentines Forever!

*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 7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 20, 2022

Scripture Readings: Luke 6:27-38 / 1 Corinthians 15:21-28

Sermon Title: "Be Merciful" - Text: Luke 6:27, 28, 36

Tenebrae Good Friday Drama "There will be an organizational meeting for the Tenebrae Good Friday Drama immediately after church on Sunday, February 27. The meeting will be brief but will lay out the rehearsal schedule for the presentation. If you are interested in being part of this moving drama, please see Lori. Be on the lookout for an invitation from Lori as well!!! There are NO speaking parts. Please consider getting involved in this "fun" and "moving" event."

Patrons are needed - Easter Sunday is going to be a huge event this year, especially, since we haven't had a big festival service since 2019. We will be bringing back the professional chamber orchestra for this special Festival Easter Service. Patrons are needed to help defray the cost of these musicians. Please mark your donation "choir". You can also bring your donation to the church office as well. Thanking you in advance for your continued support of the Kapelle and the music ministry of St. Thomas. *"Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from our heart to the Lord."* Ephesians 5:19

Woman of the Year nominee for St. Thomas Lutheran, Eastpointe is Nancy Gutowsky. Nancy has been very active over the many years as a member of St. Thomas. She volunteered as a parent in the school, worked for many years on the Annual Women's Retreat, she is a member of the women's HIS II. She has worked quietly behind the scenes in the Altar Guild, taking care of ordering flowers especially for the holidays, she is a crucial part of the Clothing Closet and is always willing to step forward when something needs to be done.

Lutheran Women of the Year event luncheon will be Tuesday March 15, 2022, at 11:00, at Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center, 14500 12 Mile Rd., Warren MI 48088. The speaker is Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberties. If you'd like to attend, please contact Judy Michelsen at 586-295-7111 or 586-445-7717. Tickets are \$32.00 and can be paid to Judy. The Deadline to purchase tickets is March 1st.

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 2 weeks prior to the date.

THE LUKE CLINIC

January through March Mission Envelopes

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 or call 866-458-5352.

Faith Hope Love Gatherings

*Please join one to experience spiritual growth, personal encouragement
and a supportive community*

Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Women only - S†L Room 204

Facilitator Host: Elizabeth Kruse (cell: 313-801-4387)
"Living Beyond Yourself" By Beth Moore

Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Multi-generational – S†L Room 101

Facilitator Host: Don Cooley (cell: 586-291-7538)
Sunday Gospel Talks

4th Monday of the month: H.I.S. II

Women only at 7:00 p.m. in the S†L - Fireside Lounge

Bible Study, friendship and service

Wednesday: 6:30 a.m. Men only – S†L - Fireside Lounge

Facilitator Host: Mike Dolan (cell: 586-899-5895)
"The Book of Romans"

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Multi-generational – S†L Room 101

Facilitator Host: Mark Hetzner (cell: 586-854-5634)
"The Book of Genesis"

Thursday: 1:00 p.m. Multi-generational – S†L Room 101

Facilitator Host: Mark Hetzner (cell: 586-854-5634)
"The Book of Genesis"

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. Men only – S†L - Fireside Lounge

Facilitator Host: Steve Northcott (cell: 586-871-3175)
"The Book of Proverbs"

Upcoming Events:



(visit the web page or see the STL publications for more information)

S.A.S.S. (Soup and Sandwich Saturday)

February 19, 2022 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Many hands are needed!

Sign up in the west entrance to share your
time, talents and donations

Faith and Fellowship Brunch

February 20, 2022 - 11:00 a.m.

Meet in the gym following the 9:30 a.m. worship service

Drive Thru Communion - February 20th

11:00 a. m. - 12:00 p.m. - southeast entrance

Clothing Closet open March 12th

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Food Pantry open March 19th

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Blood Drive

March 20th - 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Schedule your appointment online at www.redcrossblood.org

Lifeline Screening - May 13th

Schedule your appointment at www.lifelinescreening.com

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

February 13, 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.
- To expand the ways we 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 those who are in hospice care.



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:** The family of Dave Wisnieski, husband of former member Sandy, who was called home this week.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** James & Helen Ham, Betty Williams, Steve Kruse, William Eubanks, Janet Semenjuk, Warren Cooley, Marg Bittner, Henry Bradychok, Bill Brinkey (husband of Debra Barowicz), Mary Carlini (friend of Geri Liechfelt), Scott Baker (Diane Ustick's grandson), Teresa Rizzo (neighbor of Ben Stubenrauch), Linda Taggart (former member), Lisa Riviera (former member), Betty MacArthur (former member).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Larry Cichocki, Brenda Finger, Joanne Awe, Lori Kucharek, Sieg Gannon, Chris Huber, Crystal Morris, John Lemke (friend of Monica Hetzner), Beth White, Robert Laroche and Jan Adams (family of Karen Hubbard), 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).

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

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).