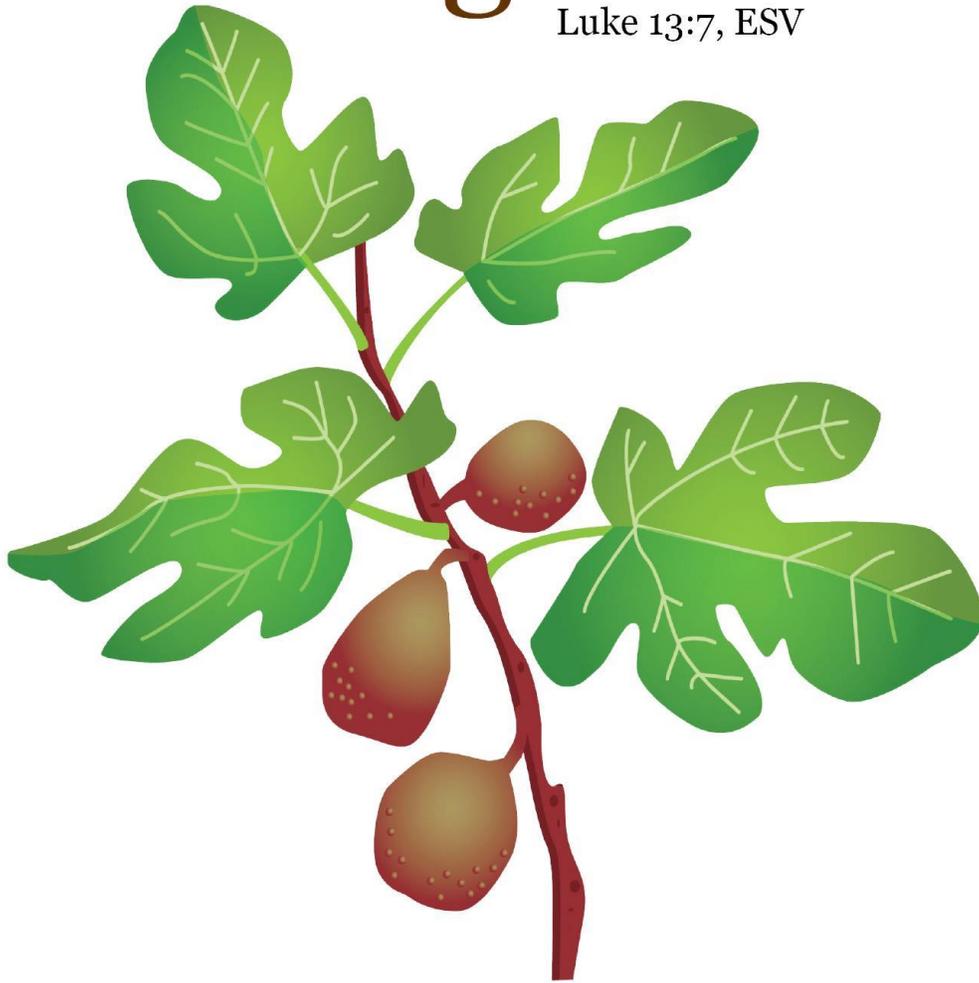


*"I have come
seeking fruit
on this fig tree..."*
Luke 13:7, ESV



March 20, 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*

Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another Educating Minds – Growing Faith – Serving People

We are glad you are here. When you come to worship at STL, you are among 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 to give you a call.

Divine Service

Stories of God @ Work

INVITATION

God draws us into his presence.

Entrance Hymn

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

[LSB 904, vv. 1, 3, 4]

Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.

Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by Your Spirit’s pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing Your praises yonder.

Entering Prayers

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

C: Amen.

L: Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: **Who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

L: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most Hight will abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

C: **The Lord is our refuge and our fortress, our God in whom we trust.**

L: Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

C: **He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear.**

L: He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

C: **Yes, the Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

L: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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 I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres, and wars to own.
All I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now, compared to this:

**Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.
You’re my all, you’re the best, You’re my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.**

Words and Music by Graham Kendrick, © Copyright: 1994 MAKE WAY MUSIC

INSTRUCTION

God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 13.

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

There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

[LSB 704]

Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Your holy face.

Remove the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only You may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face, O Light eternal, through Your grace.

Sermon

"Patience"

Luke 13:6-9

Voluntary

"What the Lord Has Done in Me"

R. Morgan

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

"Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation." (Psalm 85:7)

What does it mean to you that God's love is resolutely firm and unwavering?



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: Believers of all time, along with Jesus himself, have been confronted with temptation. We are encouraged today in our reading from 1 Corinthians that struggles with temptation are common among us all, and that God “also provides the way of escape, that we may endure it.”

(1 Corinthians 10:1-13) I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Prayer of the Church

(see the back cover for this week’s prayer concerns)

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

(after each petition)

L: Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Almighty God, You have faithfully enlivened Your people with Christ by means of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Receive our thanks for Your kindness to the saints who now rest from their labors. Sustain us by Your Means of Grace as we boldly pray in Christ’s name and as he has taught us:

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

Offertory

“Knowing You (All I Once Held Dear)”

[BOTB 138]

Oh, to know the power of your risen life, and to know you in your sufferings,
To become like you in your death, my Lord, so with you to live and never die:

**Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.
You’re my all, you’re the best, You’re my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.**

Apostles Creed

- L: Let us confess together our faith in the One True God with the words of the Apostles Creed:
- C: **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: Good Lord, deliver us from all sin, error, and evil within us and around us.
- C: **We poor sinners implore you to hear us, good Lord. Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

- L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting. He is the God of our salvation who has defeated our enemies, atoned for our sins, overcome death and the devil, and authorized me to proclaim this good news to you: Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

INVOLVEMENT

God makes his absolution shown in the world.

The Canticle

“Knowing You (All I Once Held Dear)”

[BOTB 138]

Now my heart’s desire is to know you more, to be found in you and known as yours,
To possess by faith what I could not earn all surpassing gift of righteousness:
Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.
You’re my all, you’re the best, You’re my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.

Service of the Sacrament

[Exodus 15:2, 11, 18]

- L: The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.
- C: **This is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.**
- L: Who is like the Lord, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?
- C: **The Lord will reign forever and ever. Amen.**
- L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting. He is the God of our salvation who gathers us and rescues us from the nations. We give thanks to his holy name as we behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

C: (sung)

“Behold the Lamb”

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us, and we remember
the promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.**

Words and Music by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend and Kristyn Lennox Getty
Arranged by Douglas Nolan (BMI) © 2014 THANKYOU MUSIC (PRS)

Words of Institution

Hymn of Preparation

“Behold The Lamb”

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you; eat and remember
the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life; paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.
The blood that cleanses ev’ry stain of sin, shed for you, drink and remember
He drained death’s cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

Private Prayer before Communing

Lord God, you taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, by your Spirit, may have a right judgement in all things and evermore rejoice in his holy counsel; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

[LSB 809]

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

Post-Communion Canticle

“Behold the Lamb”

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond, and to remember
our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim: “Christ will come again!”
And we’ll join in the feast of heav’n around the table of the King.

Around the table of the King.

Dismissal

Sending Prayer and Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”

[LSB 918]

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell’s destruction, Land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Prayer as you go home

Holy Spirit, Curator of the holy church and Sanctifier of our lives, use us, earthen vessels that we are, as servants of Christ in the church and in the family of humanity; for we would follow the example of Christ who was Servant of us all, that the Father may be glorified by our devotion and by all to whom we minister; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with you and the Father are one God with dominion over us 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)

Blood Drive - TODAY – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ALERT – Right now the American Red Cross is facing a national blood shortage – it is the worst shortage in over a decade, posing a concerning risk to patient care. Can you help with this shortage at our blood drive? Even if you didn't schedule an appointment ahead of time, please come down to the gym and talk to them and see if you can be a much-needed donor.

Good Friday Tenebrae - The Kapelle and Drama team from St. Thomas will present a very special and poignant Tenebrae Service on Friday evening, April 15th at 7 p.m. From the light of Palm Sunday into the shadows of Gethsemane, the Upper Room, Pilate's Court and ultimately the cross, this service symbolically displays the imagery of light and darkness of Holy Week through powerful texts, expressive music and mild drama. Holy Communion will conclude this service of light and darkness. Plan now to attend this very moving Tenebrae worship experience.

Easter Sunday - Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!!! Easter Sunday is April 17 and we're planning on pulling out all the stops for this very special Sunday. The festivities begin with the 8:00 am Sunrise service followed by an Easter breakfast. There will be a coloring table for the children at the breakfast, plus a craft project in the Sunday School room and an Easter Egg Hunt! At 10:00 the celebration continues with the glorious festival service, replete with the power of God's word, His sacrament, choirs, chamber orchestra, children's balloon processional, and a special children's Easter message. Invite your entire family, your friends, and neighbors as we celebrate Christ's victory over death!!!! Christ is Risen!!! He Is Risen Indeed!!!!!!

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

Easter Plant Orders – Today is the last day to order! Would you like to help beautify our altar area with Lilies, Tulips or Hyacinths? You will find order blanks on tables around the church. All plants are \$10.00. Orders are due to Nancy Gutowsky by March 20th. You will then be able to take them home and plant them after the Easter services. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Lenten Midweek Theme

Noon & 7 p.m. (also on Face Book Live)

We will gather in the sanctuary for reflections, prayers, and singing.

March 23 - "The Cross"

March 30 - "A Handful of Nails"

April 6 - "An Unlikely Crown"

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday - April 10th

9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 14th

Journey to the Cross

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(or experience it virtually without communion on our web page)

Good Friday Communion Worship

Noon and 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 17th

8 a.m. - Sunrise Service (park in the back)

8:45 a.m. - Easter Breakfast

10 a.m. - Festival Communion service

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.

Upcoming Events:



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

Lenten Midweek Services

March 23rd, 30th and April 6th

Noon & 7 p.m. (also on Face Book Live)

Blood Drive

TODAY - 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Schedule your appointment online at www.redcrossblood.org

Clothing Closet open April 9th

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Holiday Food Baskets Give Away - April 16th

9 a.m. until gone

Drive Thru Communion - April 17th

12:00 a. m. - 12:30 p.m. - southeast entrance

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

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

March 20, 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.
- Expanding 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 †

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Caroline Henze, Cindy Mossner, Russel Semenjuk, Chris Huber, Betty Williams, Janet Semenjuk, Lisa Riviera (former member), Betty MacArthur (former member), Dominic Zeppa (friend of the Cichocki's), Alycia Baker and John Ustick (Diane Ustick's children).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** 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).

NEXT SUNDAY

The 4th Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

Scripture Readings: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 / 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sermon Text: Luke 15:1-3 - Title: "Teachable Moments"

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