



March 27, 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

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

[LSB 915, vv. 1, 3, 4]

Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the heav’nly gates.
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father’s home.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o’er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

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 High 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: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing

obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Knowing You (All I Once Held Dear)”

[BOTB 138]

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 15:1-3, 11b-32

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 15.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: . . . “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

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

"How Deep the Father's Love"

How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure,
That He would give His only son To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss - The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen One Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life - I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ His death and resurrection,
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend Copyright © 1995 Thankyou Music (Adm. by CapitolCMGPublishing.com excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, songs@integritymusic.com)

Sermon

"Teachable Moments"

Luke 15:1-3

Voluntary

"Beneath the Cross"

S. Pethel

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

You will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted."

(Isaiah 12:4)

Have you ever noticed how "giving thanks" and "telling others" are connected?



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: As we face changes, challenges, and chronic issues on a daily basis, by virtue of our baptism there is another constant in our lives. As today's reading from 2 Corinthians reminds us, we are "Christ's new creation" and "ambassadors for Christ" through whom God is making his appeal to the world.

(2 Corinthians 5:16-21) From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and has taught 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**

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.**

Nicene Creed

L: Let us confess together our faith in the One True God with the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: **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

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.

Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

[LSB 686]

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand’ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom’d soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

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

“There Is a Redeemer”

[LSB 971]

There is a Redeemer Jesus, God’s own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Thank You, O my Father, For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit Till the work on earth is done.**

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. **Refrain**

When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
There I’ll serve my King forever In that holy place. **Refrain**

Text: © 1982 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI.

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 now entering
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)

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.

Lenten Midweek Theme

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

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

March 30 - “A Handful of Nails”

April 6 - “An Unlikely Crown”

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

Pastor Mark Hetzner cordially invites you to attend

Faith Connection Experience

Saturday, April 30 - **8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Faith Connection Experience is a six-hour group conversation on the basics of the Christian faith. Starting with the question "What does it mean to believe?" the day provides the opportunity to ask questions, listen to the thoughts of others, and re-think where we are in our walk with Jesus. Come expecting a) to experience a lively conversation, b) to ask your questions and c) to find the Spirit of God be active in you. We anticipate you will be energized and renewed. Refreshments will be served.

There is **NO** fee, though reservations are required, and you will be asked to read a brief journal article ("The Secretary, The Reporter, and The Hermit") in preparation for the workshop. A light breakfast, delightful, healthy snacks and lunch are included. Please contact Pastor Mark Hetzner (PastorMarkHetz@hotmail.com) or cell (586-854-5624).

Lifeline Screening - May 13th

Schedule your appointment at www.lifelinescreening.com

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The 5th Sunday in Lent

April 3, 2022

Scripture Readings: Luke 20:9-20 / Philippians 3:8-14

Sermon Topic: "Pressing On" - Text: Philippians 3:12b-14

GriefShare Support Group

*Help and encouragement after the death of
a spouse, child, family member or friend.*

MONDAYS @ 2:30 p.m.

Offered jointly by **Dedicated Senior Medical Center**
21811 Kelly, Eastpointe
and **Saint Thomas Lutheran**

WHAT TO EXPECT: GriefShare is a support group that meets weekly. You'll find it to be a warm, caring environment and will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your long journey through grief. There are three key parts to your GriefShare experience:

- **Video Seminar** – encouraging, information-packed videos featuring leading grief recovery experts.
- **Support Group** – small group discussion about the weekly content.
- **Workbook** – journaling and personal study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics.

GriefShare is a network of 15,000+ churches worldwide equipped to offer grief support groups. The program is nondenominational and features biblical concepts for healing from your grief. Learn more about GriefShare at www.griefshare.org. Facilitated by Mary Papenheim. If you need transportation, please call: 586-649-3388.

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 Crossftraining JC Style for youth Sunday at 10:45

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

March 27, 2022

Our Primary Prayer focus this week is upon God's Work through STL:

- As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.
- As we continually encourage one another to grow in faith, hope, and love.
- As we improve and expand our ministry to those in our remote family.
- As we actively engage and re-engage with the Gospel.

And we remember those on our cradle role, 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:** Joann Dieball, Lori Kucharek, 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), Linda Taggart (former member).

✠**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).

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