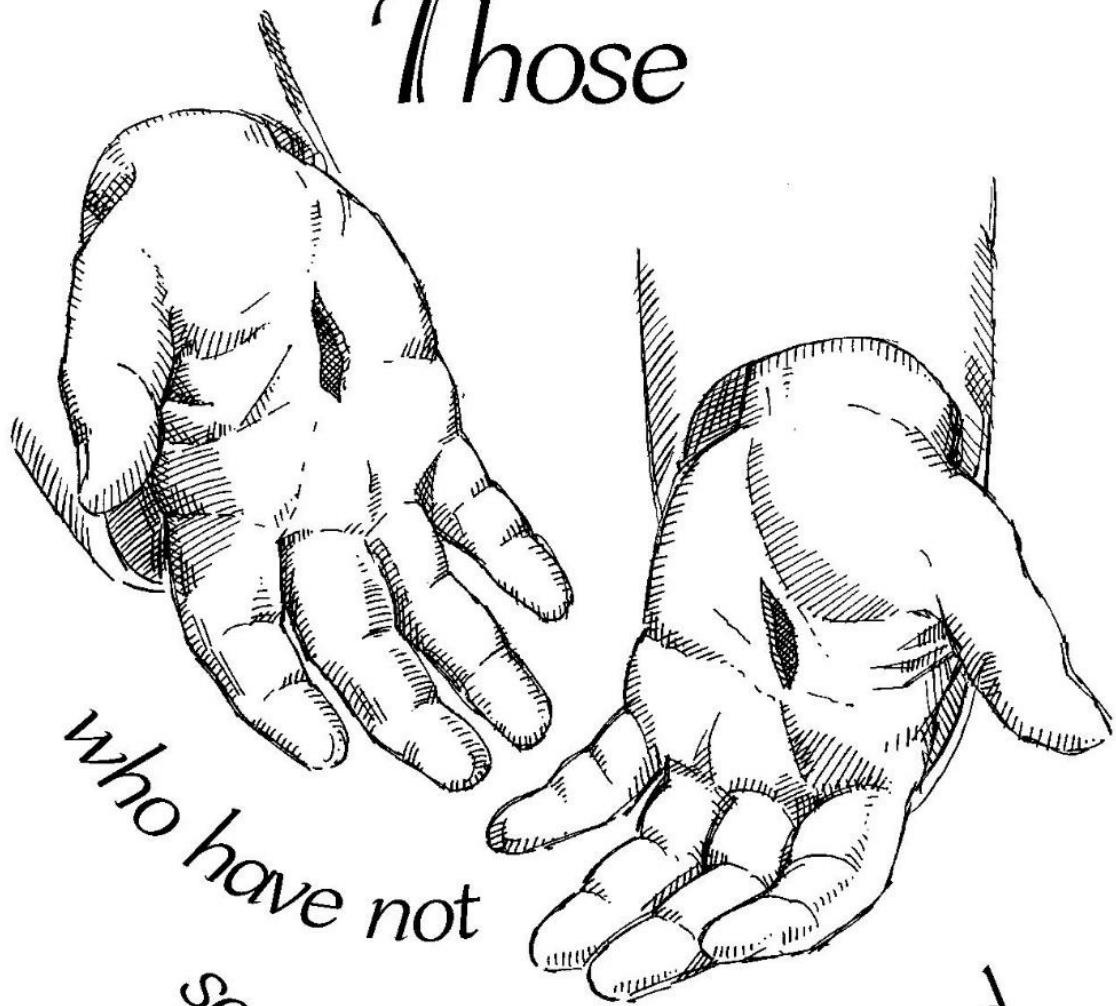


Blessed
are
Those



who have not
seen and yet have believed.

John 20:29

April 24, 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 A. VanBriggle, Rev. Jerry Corbett

*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 about 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

Call to Worship

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"

[LSB 475]

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;
Let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: © 1958, renewed 1986 Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd., admin. Hope Publishing Co.

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 148]

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

C: Amen.

L: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

C: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

L: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded, and they were created.

C: He established them forever and ever, they shall not pass away.

L: Young men and maidens together, old men and women, and children, too, praise the Lord.

C: Let us praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted, his majesty is above heaven and earth.

L: Christ has risen from the dead and God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor.

C: He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.

L: Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe.
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Words and Music by STUART TOWNEND and KEITH GETTY

The Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, chapter 20.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Announcements and Attendance Registration

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

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

[LSB 720]

We walk by faith and not by sight, No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke, But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice And cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near And seek where You are found.

For You, O resurrected Lord, Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, Beneath the bread and wine.

Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are, With full and endless sight.

Sermon

"The Purpose"

John 20:30-31

Voluntary

"There is a Redeemer"

M. Green

[Personal notes and reflections]

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’” (**John 20:21**)

To whom is Jesus sending you to share with them his peace?



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 Revelation of John

L: Decades after the first Easter, our Lord Jesus, in a vision, revealed to St. John what would take place in the cosmos in the new age that began with our Lord’s first coming and will end when he returns. Here is how John’s account of the vision begins:

(Revelation 1:4-18) John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

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: Let us pray.

(after petition)

L: Lord in your mercy

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord, preserve us from false teaching; bring us to repentance for every place where love has faltered; grant us and our children bold and steadfast hearts to remain faithful to you, suffering all rather than to fall away; and unite us with all Christians in a true confession of Jesus Christ, in whom the world has redemption: the forgiveness of sins. To You alone be all glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

We Profess our Faith:

"We Believe"

In this time of desperation when all we know is doubt and fear,
there is only one foundation: We believe, we believe.

In this broken generation, when all is dark, You help us see.
There is only one salvation: We believe, we believe.

***Chorus: We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion, We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back again. We believe.***

So Let our faith be more than anthems, greater than the songs we sing,
in our weakness and temptations we believe, we believe. ***Chorus All***

***Chorus: We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion, We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back again.***

Let the lost be found, let the dead be raised;
In the here and now let love invade. Let the church live love!
Our God, will see, "We believe! We Believe!"
And the gates of hell will not prevail, for the pow'r of God has torn the veil.
Now we know Your love will never fail. We believe! We believe!

**We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion, We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back,
coming back again, coming back again.
We believe, We believe!**

Words and Music by Travis Ryan, Matthew Hooper and Richie Fike, Arranged by Heather Sorenson
This arrangement © 2015 Abundant Life Ministries UK (PRS), Travis Ryan Music (ASCAP)
Integrity Worship Music (ASCAP) and Integrity's Praise! Music (BMI)
Admin. At CAPITOLCMGPUBLISHING.com

Confession and Absolution

- L: Having heard God's Word, we recognize that we all too often place too much confidence in our own abilities, and not enough confidence in God's calling on our lives. Left alone, we cannot possibly walk in our callings. But we are never alone, and God is our strength in the midst of our weakness.
- C: **Strengthen us, Lord, and grant us your forgiveness. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our many sins, those known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts, gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may know the fullness of your love and be at peace with all people. Grant that the Holy Spirit guide and direct us into new opportunities for growth in Christian learning and strengthened faith.**

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

- L: By grace, you are known and loved by the God who made you, by the God who saved you, by the God who calls you now to serve his world faithfully. Through the suffering, death, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, he has redeemed you, and by the power of his Holy Spirit, he gives us all we need to serve him in our vocations. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by his authority, 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

- L: Christ has risen from the dead! Alleluia!
- C: **God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor. Alleluia!**
- L: Alleluia. Alleluia. Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again.
- C: **Death no longer has mastery over him or us. Alleluia!**
- L: Empowered by our Risen Christ we are bold 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

Pre-Communion Canticle

“The Risen Christ”

[vv. 1 – 2]

O breath of God, come fill this place; revive our hearts to know Your grace;
and from our slumber make us rise that we may know the risen Christ.

O word of God, so clear and true, renew our minds to trust in You;
and give to us the bread of life that we may know the risen Christ.

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Phil Madeira
Arranged by Tom Fettke, Orchestrated by Thomas Grassi
© 2010 THANKYOU MUSIC (PRS) and MAIL TRAIN MUSIC (ASCAP) (Adm. By FUN ATTIC MUSIC)

Private Prayer before Communing

Dear Savior, we come to your table at your gracious invitation to eat and drink your holy body and blood. Let us find favor in your eyes to receive this holy sacrament in faith for the salvation of our souls and to the glory of your holy name; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymn

“This Joyful Eastertide”

[LSB 482]

This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow: **Refrain**

**Refrain: Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen; But now has Christ arisen!**

Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: **Refrain**

My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: **Refrain**

Post-Communion Canticle

“The Risen Christ”

[vv. 3-4]

O love of God, so unrestrained, refresh our souls in Jesus' name.
Let us reflect Your sacrifice that we may know the risen Christ.

May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit make us one.
In holiness let us unite that we may know the risen Christ.

Dismissal

Sending Prayer and Benediction

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness, The passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!

All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!



Today's Altar Flowers were given to honor and glorify our risen Lord
by Larry and Karen Cichocki in celebration of
their wedding anniversary.

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)*

VBS - Saint Thomas and Christ the King are having a combined Vacation Bible School this summer (June 20-24)! At VBS we'll learn about Jesus, our Savior, through five Bible stories, meet new friends, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, eat snacks, and more! It's going to be fun, but it would be more fun with you there. Can you join us? Registration is \$25 per child. VBS is for children Pre3 - 2nd grade. We will be using the Christ the King campus, 20338 Mack Ave, Grosse Pointe Woods.

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).

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.

Lifeline Screening - May 13th

Schedule your appointment at www.lifelinescreening.com

Did you know 80% of strokes are preventable according to the American Heart Association? Life Line Screening provides valuable health screenings to detect the risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease.

Life Line Screening will be at St.Thomas Lutheran Church on Friday, May 13, 2022 and are offering a special price for our members. Learn more and schedule your appointment by calling **1-888-653-4441**, **texting the word circle to 797979** or visit Life Line Screening's website at <https://llsa.social/HS>

There is no time like the present to take action!

NEXT SUNDAY

The 3rd Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022

Scripture Readings: John 21:1-14 / Revelation 5:7-14

Sermon Title: "Jesus Calling" - Text: John 21:5-7a

April through June Mission Envelopes

ABIGAYLE MINISTRIES

Abigayle Ministries is a Christian interdenominational non-profit organization in Southeast Michigan. The ministry assists adult pregnant women and their children by introducing them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equipping them to be self-sufficient through its residential housing program.

Their vision is to provide a two-year residential program for the single mother with child, whereby she can obtain mentoring and educational support for healthy child development and parent-child relationships while becoming self-supporting. We aspire to be a catalyst in promoting relationships based upon the love of Christ.

100% of your Mission Envelope donations (either using the envelop provided in your box or through your designation electronically or with a different envelope) to STL during the months of April, May, and June will be given to Abigayle Ministries. For more information on the ministry, go to Businessoffice@abigayleministries.org or call 586-323-1411.

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).

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

April 24, 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, and for those participating in this Saturday's Faith Connection Live Mini-Retreat.

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:** John Cherry, JoAnn Dieball, Lori Kucharek, Chris Huber, Janet Semenjuk, Lisa Riviera (former member), Linda Taggart (former member), Rev. John Rumsey (father-in-law of Rev. Dietrick Gladden at Charity).

†**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).

*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 Crosstraining JC Style for youth Sunday at 10:45

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week