



May 29, 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 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

The Ascension of our Lord

The Scripture Reading

Acts 1:3-11

After Jesus' death, he presented himself alive to his disciples in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. As they met and ate meals together, he told them that they were on no account to leave Jerusalem but "must wait for what the Father promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon." When they were together for the last time they asked, "Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?" He told them, "You don't get to know the time. Timing is the Father's business. What you'll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world." These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, "You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left."

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Prayer and Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Call to Worship

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

[LSB 493, vv. 1, 4, 6]

A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

"You see Him now, ascending high Up to the portals of the sky."

Alleluia, alleluia!

"Hereafter Jesus you shall see Returning in great majesty."

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to You let earth accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 133]

- L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.
L: Clap your hands all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
C: For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared a great king over all the earth.
L: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
C: It is like precious oil on the head, running down on the beard.
L: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
C: For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, even life forevermore
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: O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"God Bless Our Native Land"

[LSB 965]

God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night. When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave, Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies;
On Him we wait. Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye, To Thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!

The Holy Gospel

John 17:20-26

- L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, chapter 17.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

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

"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"

[LSB 492]

On Christ's ascension I now build The hope of my ascension;
This hope alone has always stilled All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there as well I know His members are to dwell
When Christ will come and call them.

Since Christ returned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart will rest in Him alone, No other rest remaining;
For where my treasure went before, There all my thoughts will ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.

O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling Your ascension,
That I may serve You faithfully In thanks for my redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.

Sermon

"One"

John 17:20-24

Voluntary

[Personal notes and reflections]

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’
And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires
take the water of life without price.” **(Revelation 22:7)**

How does this verse make you feel? Why?



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. Today’s conclusion reminds us that Jesus can return any day.

(Revelation 22:12-20) “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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.

L: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

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 now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C: Amen.

Offertory

“Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul”

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul – Worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, oh my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

Music by M. Redman
©Copyright 2011 SHOUT! Publishing (ASCAP), Sixsteps Music (ASCAP),
SAID AND DONE MUSIC (SACAP) and THANKYOU MUSIC (PRS)

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: 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

“This is the Feast”

[LSB 171]

Cantor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

All: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymn

“Draw Us to Thee”

[LSB 701]

Draw us to Thee, For then shall we
Walk in Thy steps forever And hasten on
Where Thou art gone To be with Thee, dear Savior.

Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly;
Let us depart with gladness That we may be
Forever free From sorrow, grief, and sadness.

Draw us to Thee; O grant that we
May walk the road to heaven! Direct our way
Lest we should stray And from Thy paths be driven.

Draw us to Thee That also we
Thy heav’nly bliss inherit And ever dwell
Where sin and hell No more can vex our spirit.

Draw us to Thee Unceasingly,
Into Thy kingdom take us; Let us fore'er
Thy glory share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

Post-Communion Canticle

"Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul"

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul – Worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, oh my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger, Your Name is great and Your heart's kind.
For all your goodness I will keep on singing, Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul – Worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, oh my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

Dismissal

Sending Prayer and Benediction

Sending Hymn

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

[LSB 525, vv. 1, 4, 5]

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

Prayer as you go home

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you we may glorify your holy name and finally by your mercy obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*You are now living in
the (your)
Mission Field*

*"The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.
Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send YOU out into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)*



Today's Alter Flowers were given to honor
and glorify our Risen Lord
by H.I.S. II in memory of all who served and gave their lives for
our God and Country.

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST SPORTS CAMPS

Calling all students entering grades 5 through 9 next school year. Join us at Lutheran Northwest this summer for fun and exciting athletic opportunities. Complete your registration ASAP to reserve your spot. Please contact Joe Lower at LHNW (248) 852-6677, or via e-mail jlower@lhsa.com if you have any questions

Girls Basketball: June 13-16; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Soccer: June 13-16; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Softball: June 15; 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm & June 17; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Boys Basketball: June 27-30; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Football: June 27-30; 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Girls Volleyball: July 11-14; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

*For more information, and to register,
go to lutherannorthwest.com/summercamps or scan the QR code below*



NEXT SUNDAY

The Day of Pentecost

June 5, 2022

Scripture Readings: John 14:23-31 / Genesis 11:1-9

Sermon Title: "The Peace of Christ" - Text: John 14:27

Lutheran Benefits Group in Sterling Heights is seeking an account service representative to work closely with church and school clients to help them with their health care needs. Ultimately, the duties of an ASR are to give excellent customer support and to help in the growth of the agency. If interested, please contact Keith Mueller at 586.739.5700 or keith@luthben.com.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for a full-time resource room teacher position at Lutheran High School North in Macomb, MI. Applicants must hold a current Michigan Teaching License and have a special education certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.

Summer Office Hours: STL will have reduced office hours from June 20 through August 14. The Church Office will be open 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday. The office will be **closed Fridays**, starting May 27, and continuing through August 15. This will allow staff to get their vacation time in or to work throughout the building without being concerned about answering the phone or opening the door. Remember the alarm is ON when no activity is planned in the building. Contact Linda prior to coming up to the church to have alarm disarmed.

Soup and Sandwich Saturday: Our Spring S.A.S.S. will be Saturday, June 18. Signup sheets for donations and volunteers are available in the church narthex, or you can call the church office for more information. The menu will feature summer barbeque items like hot dogs and hamburgers. THIS IS ONE OF OUR PRIMARY COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS, so please spread the word and encourage participation.

RUMMAGE SALE: Peace Lutheran Church - Warren

11701 E. 12 Mile, Warren, MI 48093

Saturday, June 11th. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with Early Bird at 8 a.m. for \$1

\$2 Bag Sale 1 - 3 p.m. Great Deals!

TUESDAY, MAY 24 WAS OUR VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

The meeting, had four primary business items on the agenda:

Election of Officers – Ballot was approved

Approval the 2022-2023 Operating Budget

2022-2023 Theme: The MISSION OF GOD through STL – past, present, and future

Introduction of the Pastoral Transition Plan

Proposed Budget: The General Operating Fund for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 was presented and approved included: a) balanced income/expense projection of \$472,440.0, which is an increase of about 3.8% over the current budget; b) an increase in the salary base from \$26,750.00 to \$27,550.00; c) continuing our commitment of \$3,000.00 per year to the District; d) No funding from the STL Foundation – though we do anticipate looking to the Foundation for capital improvements; e) continued mission envelope offerings to MCREST (July – September), Camp Restore Detroit (October – December), St. Luke Project (January – March), and Abigayle Ministries (April – June).

Pastor Hetzner's Retirement: On Sunday, April 24, Pastor Hetzner announced to the congregation that he will be retiring in February 2023. He and the Board of Elders have been working on the details with Dr. Rob Kasper from the District Office and the plan was presented at the Voters' Assembly.

If you were unable to attend and would like additional information, there are agenda packets on the table outside the church office.

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.

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 www.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).

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

May 29, 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 **Names** (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 Joe Posby, husband of the late Becky Doyle, who was called to his heavenly home this past week.

✠ **God's Healing Hand on:** Ed Redmond, Betty Williams, Beverly Schnepfer, John Cherry, JoAnn Dieball, Lori Kucharek, Chris Huber, Janet Semenjuk, Lisa Riviera (former member), Linda Taggart (former member), Tressa Rizzo (neighbor of Ben Stubenrauch), Michael Landuyt (nephew of Ben Stubenrauch), Kaleigh (granddaughter of Glenna Wotherspoon), Ed Vanick (former member), Tina Croke (sister of Debbie Churchill).

✠ **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