



*"I have set before you
LIFE and DEATH
CHOOSE LIFE so that
you and your descendants may live."*

Deuteronomy 30:19, NRSV

September 4, 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 FaceBook. 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

INVITATION

God draws us into his presence.

Entrance Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

[LSB 686, vv. 1, 3, 4]

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.

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.

Entering Prayers

[from Psalm 104]

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

C: Amen.

L: I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

C: How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all.

L: When He sends His Spirit, they are created, and He renews the face of the earth.

C: All creation looks to you to give them their food at the proper time.

L: Lord of the nations, you have truly blessed our land. We thank you this day for the privileges we enjoy as citizens of this country. For freedom to vote, freedom of speech, and freedom to worship you, we are truly grateful. We give you thanks for all those who worked and sacrificed in the past, and we pray that you would help us to live as productive members of society – obeying the laws that have been put in place for our benefit, using our

gifts to improve the welfare of others, respecting all those whom you have placed in authority over us, and willingly sacrificing ourselves for the good of others. This we pray in Jesus' name.

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!

INSTRUCTION

God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 14:25-35

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 14.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

“Thine Forever, God of Love”

[LSB 687]

Thine forever, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be Here and in eternity!

Thine forever! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heav’nly friend, O defend us to the end!

Thine forever, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earthly strife.
Thou, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.

Thine forever! Shepherd, keep These Thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath Thy care, Let us all Thy goodness share.

Thine forever! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiv’n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav’n.

Sermon

“CHOOSE LIFE”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Voluntary

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying His voice and holding fast to Him, for He is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.” **(Deuteronomy 30.19b-20)**

How do our challenges today compare with those of God’s people of old?



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: stl-eastpointe.org and click on “Mission Support”
- 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 book of Deuteronomy

L: The book of Deuteronomy (Second giving of the Law) records the great speech Moses gives just before his death. He addresses the generation of Israelites who grew up in the wilderness just as they are preparing to enter the land of Canaan. Today’s reading from chapter 30 includes words of great encouragement for God’s people of all generations.

(Deuteronomy 30:15-20) “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Prayer of the Church

L: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Preserve us, O Lord, from all temptation and grant us faith, that we may rest all our prayers and the desires of our hearts in Your merciful arms, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

Offertory

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

[LSB 966, vv. 1, 2]

Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above
 And rules the world below, Boundless in pow’r and love.
 Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,
 Our hearts we raise To You, our King!

The nation You have blest May well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Your care.
For this bright day, For this fair land
Gifts of Your hand Our thanks we pay.

Confession and Absolution

L: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of His glory.

C: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

L: From the rising of the sun to the setting of the same, we cry aloud with joyful voice and say:

C: **Glory be to you, O God, the Savior of all, forever and ever. Amen.**

(time for personal reflection)

L: Lord Jesus Christ, hear us as we pray:

C: **We confess that we have run away from you, and have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves. We have refused to bear the troubles of others and have turned from our neighbors. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. Lord Jesus, in your mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; in Your name we pray. Amen.**

L: Christ Jesus did, indeed, die for your offences, and was raised for your justification. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

We Confess our Faith

“The Apostles Creed”

L: Let us then join in confessing our faith in the God who forgives us and gives us eternal life:

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**

INVOLVEMENT

God makes his absolution shown in the world.

The Sanctus

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

[LSB 966, vv. 4-5]

Earth, hear your Maker’s voice; Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone.
Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore, And bow before The Crucified.

And when in pow’r He comes, Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng, With joy to sing To heav’n’s high King Salvation’s song!

Service of the Sacrament

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

C: We give thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

L: Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of his cross,

C: And receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in his body and blood.

L: Hear us as we pray in his 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.

The Words of Institution

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymn

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

[LSB 699]

(tune 444)

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon My breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.

Post-Communion Canticle

"Holy Is Our God"

[BOTB 89, chorus]

Holy is our God, whose name we praise forever.
Holy is the Son, who reigns in majesty!
Come, Spirit, come and fill our hearts with wisdom, that we may long worship you alone.

Text and Music by Brad and Donna Hoefs. ©Copyright 1998 Wings of Grace, Inc.

The Sending

Dismissal

Post-Communion Collect

Benediction

Sending Hymn

"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

[LSB 697]

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, And Christ shall give you light;
So learn His love, its length and breadth, Its fullness, depth, and height.

To us on earth He came to bring From sin and fear release,
To give the Spirit's unity, The very bond of peace.

Then walk in love as Christ has loved, Who died that He might save;
With kind and gentle hearts forgive As God in Christ forgave.

For us Christ lived, for us He died, And conquered in the strife;
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, And Christ shall give you life.

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Today's altar flowers were given to glorify our risen Lord
by Margaret Bittner in memory of her loved ones.

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

*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)

Attention Singers!!!! Kapelle rehearsal will begin on Sunday, September 18, at 8:30 am in the music room. The season will follow the same rehearsal schedule and singing schedule as last season: Rehearsals are the first, third and fifth (when a fifth Sunday) of the month. Occasionally, the choir will sing on a fourth Sunday, if a major church holiday or Festival Service falls on a fourth Sunday. Also, the Ladies and men from the group will sing a few times throughout the season. Since the rehearsal schedule has been curtailed, a majority of the music is part dominant prerecorded and sent to your email, so members individually rehearse prior to group rehearsals. In addition, there are no rehearsals during the month of January; however, I will ask for a volunteer group to sing on Epiphany Sunday, January 8. Pentecost falls on Memorial Day Weekend, May 28, next year, so a volunteer ensemble will also be asked to sing on that day. Hoping to see all Kapelle members eager to return to singing together again, along with some new members to join this great group! Any questions, please contact Lori. "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Psalm 104:33

Patrons are needed to help defray the cost of the professional musicians hired for Christmas Eve. If you would like to be a patron for Christmas Eve, please place your contribution in an envelope marked "patron" or "Kapelle" in the offering plate/box or bring your gift to the church office. If you choose to give online, please specify "kapelle" when giving. Thank you for supporting the choir and their efforts in edifying the church through worship in song.

Flu Shots will be offered here on October 2, 2022, following the church service from 11 - 12! Make your plans to get your shot! See the poster in the west entrance for the information on getting your appointment. Go to <https://alanas.vna.org> Clinic ID: 1302 | Passcode: ALANAS2022. Talk to Sue Wensink if you have any questions.

M.C.R.E.S.T. (Macomb Country Rotating Emergency Shelter Team) Our week for helping/hosting the women and children in the MCREST program is September 25 – October 1. During this week, we provide them with 3 meals a day, bus tickets, gas gift cards, and personal items. We will prepare the meals here at STL and then serve the dinner meal at the MCREST facility in Mt. Clemens. Many hands and funds are needed to accomplish this ministry. Sign-up sheets are in the west entrance to donate your time or talents. Monetary donations are needed, please mark your envelopes "STL MCREST".

School Kits – HIS II is participating in the Lutheran World Relief program that provides much needed school supplies for children. Can you help provide the following for one backpack? Backpacks will be provided by HIS II. Please drop off in the west entrance. Contact Heather Miller if you have any questions.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH SCHOOL KIT

- **FOUR** 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose-leaf paper
- **ONE** 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- **ONE** pencil sharpener
- **ONE** pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- **FIVE** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- **FIVE** black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- **ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- **ONE** 2 ½" eraser

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE - Lutheran Benefits Group in Sterling Heights is seeking a full-time customer service representative (CSR) to work with clients and prospects. Provide excellent customer care to churches, schools and employees while assisting in the growth of the agency. Self-motivated with strong administrative and organizational skills. Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, Adobe, general technology and learn third party software. Job descriptions on the bulletin boards.

If interested, please contact Keith Mueller at 586-739-5700 or keith@luthben.com.

July through September Mission Envelopes M.C.R.E.S.T. (Macomb Country Rotating Emergency Shelter Team)

100% of your Mission Envelope donations (either using the envelope provided in your box or through your designation electronically or with a different envelope) to STL will be given **directly to M.C.R.E.S.T., not the STL MCREST**. For more information on the ministry, go to mcrest.org or call 586-415-5101.

NEXT SUNDAY:

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 11, 2022

Scripture Readings: Luke 15.1-10 / 1 Timothy 1.12-17

Sermon Topic: "This Man - Jesus" - Text: Luke 15:1-2

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 11:30 a.m.

"The Flock" for children and Crossftraining JC Style for youth

Staying connected through summer emails

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Your personal prayer guide for the week of:

September 4, 2022

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is upon Christ's people on earth:

- For the Holy Spirit to be at work enriching faith through our worship Gatherings in those in our sanctuary as well as those joining us online.
- Brining more people into the regular habit or reading and discussing God's Word.
- For children to be raised in the nurture and encouragement of the Gospel.
- For new individuals to become members of the STL Prayer Chain.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those 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:** Lori Kucharek, Marge Bittner, Ed Redmond, Betty Williams, Chris Huber, Mike Parkin (son-in-law of Caroline Henze), Christine Coffee (mother of Beverly Gray-Booth), David Dieball (Diane Carr's brother), Rick Semenjuk (brother of Russ), Elowin Pollard (cousin of Shannon Dawda), Renee Schulte (cousin of Caroline henze), Matthew Stier (brother of Sandra Patch), Jeff Miller (brother of Diane Blocki), Melissa Murray, Roberta Shosh, Linda Pare' (niece of Janice Engel), John Wentworth (cousin of Jan Patty), Lillyona Bain (granddaughter of Jan Patty), Barb Szymanski (former member).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Vada Habermas, 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 Davis Cardamone), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack), Kennedy Pank (great-granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond).