



*September 11, 2022*

***Saint Thomas Lutheran***

*23801 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, Michigan 48021 - 586-772-3370*

*[www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://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](http://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*

## **RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS**

### **Opening Praise**

*“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

[LSB 802]

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest to both great and small  
In all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree  
And wither and perish but naught changes Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light that hides Thee.

### **Entering Prayers**

(from Psalm 119:169-176)

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

**C:** Amen.

**L:** Let my cry come before you, O Lord; Give me understanding according to your word!

**C:** Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word.

**L:** My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your ways.

**C:** My tongue will sing your word, for all your commandments are right.

**L:** When I go astray like a lost sheep, O Lord, seek for me, your servant.

**C:** That I may not forget your word and live in your promises.

L: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### ***Hymn of Praise***

*“Thy Word”*

[CH 184]

**CHORUS: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

When I feel afraid, and think I’ve lost my way, Still you’re there right beside me.  
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. **CHORUS**

I will not forget your love for me, and yet my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side; I will love you to the end. **CHORUS**

### ***The Holy Gospel***

**Luke 15:1-10**

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: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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**

*“O Christ, Our True and Only Light”*

[LSB 839]

O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Your voice And in Your fold with us rejoice.

O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev’ry conscience sore oppressed In You find peace and heav’nly rest.

Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand’rers to Your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond’ring thanks adore  
And endless praise to You be giv’n By all Your Church in earth and heav’n.

**Sermon**

*“This Man – Jesus”*

**Luke 15:1-2**

**Voluntary**

*Those with offerings are encouraged to bring them forward  
when coming forward for communion.*

[Personal notes and reflections]

## **RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS**

### **KINGDOM THOUGHTS**

“I thank Him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord,  
because he judged me faithful and appointed me to His service.” (1 Timothy 1:12)

*How will you serve others from what you have received today?*



**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](http://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 letter written by Paul to Timothy***

L: Our second scripture reading is from a letter of Saint Paul written to Timothy, providing his young pastor friend advise on life and ministry. Today's reading is 1 Timothy 1:12-17

**(1 Timothy 1:12-17)** I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ***The Prayer of the Church***

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: O Lord, all things are Yours, and You have promised to well supply us with all that we need. Give us courage and faith, that we may give a confident "amen" to these prayers, certain that You will give us all that is good and beneficial to our salvation and preserve us from all things harmful, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom, with whom and in whom be all honor and glory, both now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## ***Offertory***

*"Knowing You"*

[BOB 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.

**Chorus: 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.**

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. **Chorus**

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

## ***We Confess our Faith***

*"The Apostles Creed"*

L: Let us join in confessing our faith in our gracious and eternal Triune God:

**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: Holy Spirit, grant us each a true conviction leading to a true repentance.

C: **Indeed, it is our desire to serve you, O God, but we continue to fall short of your righteousness in our thoughts, our intentions, our actions, and our utterances. We have responded at times without grace. We have chosen sometimes that which is unprofitable, and which leads neither to our own flourishing nor to the proclamation of your glory. Forgive us, O King, for treasons both known and unknown. Forgive us for the harms we have done, and for the good we might have done, but failed to do; forgive us also for the constant condition of our hearts, for the self-serving impulses, inclinations, and desires which keep us every moment in need of a Savior.**

*(time for personal reflection)*

L: How graciously he receives our repentance!

C: **God be merciful to me, sinner that I am!**

L: Children of God, hear these words of favor: He has eternally forgiven all your sin. They will never be held against you. You are free to love and to serve him in joyful assurance, knowing his grace will always be more than sufficient to your own failings.

C: **Amen.**

## ***SENT TO THE MISSION FIELD***

### ***Service of the Sacrament***

L: As God's forgiven people, let us pray the prayer our Lord himself 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***

#### ***Distribution of the Sacrament***

#### ***The Agnus Dei***

[LSB 210]

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

**Distribution Hymns**

*“Shepherd of Tender Youth”*

[LSB 864, vv. 1, 3, 4]

Shepherd of tender youth, Guiding in love and truth  
Through devious ways; Christ, our triumphant king,  
We come Your name to sing And here our children bring To join Your praise.

You are the great High Priest; You have prepared the feast  
Of holy love; And in our mortal pain  
None calls on You in vain; Our plea do not disdain; Help from above.

O ever be our guide, Our shepherd, and our pride,  
Our staff and song. Jesus, O Christ of God,  
By Your enduring Word Lead us where You have trod; Make our faith strong.

**The Nunc Dimittis**

[LSB 211]

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

**The Sending**

**Dismissal**

**Post-Communion Collect**

**Benediction**

**Sending Hymn**

*“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”*

[LSB 740]

I am Jesus’ little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev’ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?  
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

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Watch services on Facebook or at [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org) – videotaping in progress during service

*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)*

**Attention Singers!!!!** Kapelle rehearsal will begin **NEXT** 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.

**St. Thomas is going to be starting Liturgical Dance.** Liturgical Dance is simply a Christian form of prayer, spiritual joy and worship through bodily movement. Liturgical Dance originates back in biblical times, with many examples stated in the Old Testament. Liturgical Dance is a form of worship, NOT entertainment. Liturgical Dance represents purity and modesty, with specific movements that have biblical meaning, i.e., strength, faith, surrender, respect, joy, celebration. St. Thomas has been using a form of Liturgical Dance with the Good Friday Tenebrae and Christmas Eve services. It would be nice to expand Liturgical Dance by using this beautiful form of worship within other church services. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this new ministry, please contact Lori or Alicia Anno. Lyrical, ballet and Jazz dance experience is helpful but not necessary. Faith, grace, joy and being able to move is all that's required. "Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp." Psalm 149:3.

**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**".

**Flu Shots** will be offered here on October 2, 2022, following the church service from 11 - 12! Make you 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.

**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](mailto:keith@luthben.com).

It's not too late to register for the **24th Annual Lutheran Northwest Crusader Golf Outing!** Support Lutheran Northwest and enjoy a great day of golf and fellowship on Saturday, September 17, at Westwynd Golf Club (4161 N. Adams Road in Oakland Township). Cost is \$130/golfer and includes 18 holes of scramble golf with a cart; Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Putting contests; breakfast at registration; hot dogs & chips on the course; 2 free beverages; and a full dinner! Dinner-only tickets are \$40. For additional details and registration link, please visit our website at [www.lutherannorthwest.com/events](http://www.lutherannorthwest.com/events).

**Lutheran Northwest is hosting an Open House on Wednesday, September 21!** Prospective families with students at all grade levels are invited to learn more about us during this informative evening. Guided tours will cover the full range of the high school experience at Lutheran Northwest: Acclaimed academics, awesome athletics, amazing fine arts, active student life & leadership and, above all, a caring, Christ-centered family. Meet our administrative team, members of our faculty, and current students! Tours begin every 10 minutes from 6:30-7:30. (Plan an hour for the entire experience.) Visit our website at [www.lutherannorthwest.com/events](http://www.lutherannorthwest.com/events) to pre-register. Questions? Call our Admissions Office at 248-852-6677.

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

**DID YOU KNOW?** 43% of homeless population in Michigan are families with children. In 2018-2019 there were 1,441 homeless children in Macomb County. 500-600 homeless people are taken in and offered a fresh start by MCREST each year. As you make your missions contribution, please also say a prayer of thanksgiving – the MCREST facility for women and children is now open, and through a major donation from Trinity Lutheran Church (Mt. Clemens) an adjacent building has been purchased for a men's facility.

**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 July, August, and September will be given directly to M.C.R.E.S.T. For more information on the ministry, go to [mcrest.org](http://mcrest.org) or call 586-415-5101.**

**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

**Handbells** – Are you interested in helping with the praise music during worship at St. Thomas? Handbells will be starting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:15 p.m., and you're invited to join them! They meet in the back of the worship center. You do not need any experience to join, training is provided. They are in need of at least one more ringer – is that you?

**NEXT SUNDAY**

***The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost***

September 18, 2022

Scripture Readings: Luke 16:1-15 / 1 Timothy 2:1-10

Sermon Title: "I'm so Confused" Text: Luke 16:8-9

***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

September 11, 2022

### Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is on Christ's work through his Word:

- In all who still from the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.
- 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.
- Bringing repentance and active faith to the people of our nation.

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 Jan Hetzner, sister-in-law of Pastor and Monica (who is in hospice care).



To connect to the STL PRAYER CHAIN, contact Karen Dolan ([mdolan421@gmail.com](mailto: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, Chris Huber, Rick Semenjuck (brother of Russ), Elowin Pollard (cousin of Shannon Dawda), Linda Pare' (niece of Janice Engel), John Wentworth (cousin of Jan Patty), Lillyona Bain (granddaughter of Jan Patty), Barb Szymanski (former member), Alicia Baker (daughter of Diane Ustick).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Betty Williams, 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).

*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 Crossfraining JC Style for youth  
Staying connected through summer emails*

*Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week*