



**"If they
do not listen
to Moses and
the prophets,**

**neither will
they be convinced
even if someone rises
from the dead."**

September 25, 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

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening Praise

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

[LSB 905]

Come, Thou almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing;
Help us to praise; Father all-glorious,
O'er all victorious, Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword;
Our prayer attend. Come and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success, And let Thy righteousness On us descend.

Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour! Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in ev'ry heart, And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be
Hence evermore! Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see, And to eternity Love and adore.

Entering Prayers

(from Psalm 146)

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

C: Amen.

L: Praise the Lord, O my soul! Let us praise the Lord as long as we live.

C: I will sing praised to my God while I have my being.

L: Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

C: When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

L: The Lord watches over all sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless.

C: The Lord will reign forever, our God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord.

L: O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“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 16:19-31

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 16.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— for I have five brothers— so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' **But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'** And he said, '**No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'** He said to him, '**If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'**"

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.

Lord, whose love through humble service Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy's perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose Ev'ry gift that You impart.

Still Your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, Till Your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness, Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, Your abundant life to share.

Text: © Oxford University Press

Sermon

"Convincing Evidence"

Luke 16:29-31

Voluntary

"Trust and Obey"

J.Sammis/D. Towner

*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

"Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry." (Psalm 146.5-7)

Do you view yourself to be more among the blessed or the needy?



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 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 6:6-19

(1 Timothy 6:6-19) Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

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: Answer all doubt and fear, O Lord, with confidence in Your Means of Grace that we may be kept in holiness and guarded from temptation and despair until the day when You bring all things to their perfect fulfillment and we are delivered to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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**

We Confess our Faith

"The Apostles Creed"

P: 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 (at the altar)

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.

Private Prayer before Communing

O Jesus, our great high priest, be present with us as you were present with your disciples and make yourself known to us in the breaking of bread. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

“Fight the Good Fight”

[LSB 664]

Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God’s good grace; Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

The Nunc Dimittis

[LSB 211]

O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav’nly peace,
For I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be,
God’s triune name resounding through all eternity.

The Sending

Dismissal

Post-Communion Collect

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

[LSB 923]

Almighty Father, bless the Word Which through Your grace we now have heard.

Oh, may the precious seed take root, Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

We praise You for the means of grace As homeward now our steps we trace.

Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here May all at last in heav'n appear.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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)

Brief Liturgical dance meeting immediately after service today.

Please meet up by piano in church.

NEXT SUNDAY:

The 17TH Sunday after Pentecost

October 2, 2022

Scripture Readings: Luke 17:1-10 / 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Sermon Topic: "R + R" - Text: Luke 17:1-4

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.

The **Lutheran High Northwest** woodwind ensemble, under the direction of Brian Pollatz (former student of St. Thomas Lutheran School and son of the late Pastor Pollatz) will be enhancing our worship service on October 9.

Please welcome these young musicians and servants of Christ as they share God's gift of music! To God be the Glory.

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.

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 **STARTS TODAY** -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. Monetary donations are needed, please mark your envelopes "STL MCREST". If your interested in helping serve the evening meal, please contact Kelly Crivella.

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.

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

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.

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

FHL, JC and "The Flock"

Greetings in Christ Jesus! Welcome back! We have started our FHL (faith hope love) ministry back up. Right now, in our world we need to gather with each other around God's Word and be refreshed and strengthened by His presence in that Word. I pray that you will join us in a group this fall, currently we have two groups that will be meeting on Sunday after service. Elizabeth Kruse will be hosting a women's only group in room 207 (west hallway) and I will be hosting my Exploring the Gospel lesson in conference room 1. Our youth ministries will also be starting up with JC Style, room 202, and the Flock. We also have groups that meet during the week, if you are interested in more information, please contact the church office. We are looking for facilitators to host more groups, so if you are interested in that please contact me at dkchome@hotmail.com.

Blessings, Deacon Don

Interested in a Weekday FHL Gathering?

Pastor Mark Hetzner hosts two FHL gatherings on Thursday - mornings at 9:30 am and in the afternoons at 1:00 pm. First gathering was on September 22nd, but you're welcome to join in, and the study will be starting in the Psalms. Please join him for this gathering, if not every Thursday, come when you can to either one, both are the same study.

Men have 2 FHL gatherings every week – one on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 am, and one on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am, both in the Fireside Lounge. Men, please join in one that is convenient for you.

HIS II – Hearts In Study and Hands In Service begins its Fall Study tomorrow evening, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. This year we will be using the Bible Study titled "Women Like Us" (wisdom for today's issues) by Ruth Haley Barton. This FHL gathering is for Woman only, studying God's word, and planning their upcoming Service events.

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).

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

September 25, 2022

Our Primary Prayer focus is the life transforming power of Christ's Word, and especially:

- Through our FHL groups, THE FLOCK for children, and CrossTraining for youth.
- At work in the redeemed, increasing our generosity and joy in giving.
- In those who are new to STL.
- In the ministry of **M.C.R.E.S.T.** as we host the women and children this week.

And we remember those who protect and nurture life on this earth, this week remembering global healthcare needs and political situations.



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 Jan Hetzner, sister-in-law of Pastor and Monica, who was called home on Wednesday.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Kim Dunaway, Jane Gurnack, Lori Kucharek, Marge Bittner, Ed Redmond, Chris Huber, Rick Semenjuk (brother of Russ), Elowin Pollard (cousin of Shannon Dawda), John Wentworth (cousin of Jan Patty), Lillyona Bain (granddaughter of Jan Patty), Barb Szymanski (former member), Alicia Baker (daughter of Diane Ustick), Robert Binge (friend of Russ Semenjuk), Jason Mowen (son of Kelly Crivella).

✠**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), Linda Taggart (former member).

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 CrossTraining JC Style for youth
Staying connected through summer emails*

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week