



*"Then you will know
the truth
and the truth
will set you free."*

October 30, 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

Prelude

“Joyfully Sing”

M. Patterson

Stories of God @ Work – God is Faithful

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening Praise

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

[LSB 656]

All: A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need That hath us now o’ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

Choir: With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord, And there’s none other God;
He holds the field forever.

All: Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpower us.
This world’s prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He’s judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

All: The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He’s by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict’ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 46]

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

C: Amen.

L: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

C: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives away and the mountains be moved to the depths of the sea.

L: "Be still," he says, "and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth."

C: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

L: Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Hymn of Praise

"A Simple Word of Grace"

[BOTB 3]

A simple word of grace is all I need, flowing from a cross, a cross for me.

A gentle word of love is all I need, flowing from a cross, a cross for me.

Chorus: Jesus, You have given me all of Your grace so tenderly.

I lift my hands and praise Your name.

Jesus, You have given me all of Your love on Calvary.

I lift my heart into Your hands.

A simple word of hope is all I need, flowing from Your love, Your love for me.

A gentle word of peace is all I need, flowing from Your love, Your love for me. **Chorus**

By Brad and Donna Hoefs, ©Copyright 1996 Brad and Donna Hoefs, Wings of Grace, Inc.

The Holy Gospel

John 8:31-36

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, chapter 8.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

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

“The Lord, My God, Be Praised”

[LSB794, vv. 1-3]

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father’s own dear Son, Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith The highest heav’nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart And gives my spirit pow’r,
Help, comfort, and support In sorrow’s gloomy hour.

Sermon

“Freedom”

John 8:31-32

Voluntary

“By His Grace”

S. Fry

Time for reflection and prayer

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

How does the freedom of Christ make you to be a better person?



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 Romans 3

L: Since we do not have the time this morning to read Paul’s entire letter to the church in Rome, we will simply read his introductory statement of how we become righteous through faith from Romans 3.

(Romans 3:19-28) Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

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: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that You have brought us by Your Word out of the darkness of error and into the light of Your grace. Mercifully help us to walk in that light. Guard us from error and false doctrine, and grant that we would not become ungrateful and despise Your Word, but receive it with all our heart, conduct our lives according to it and put our trust in Your grace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Creating Father, by Your Word, All things have come to be,
From empty void and formless dark To all that we can see.
At eventide and morning sun, Your tapestry You weave,
And now in unity we sing, “O Father, we believe.”
Redeeming Son, here virgin born From heav’n to earth You came
To save us all from sin and death; So Jesus is Your name.
For us You suffered and You died; You rose that we might live,
And now in unity we sing, “O Jesus, we believe.”

Empow’ring Spirit, Breath of life, You gather us as one
Like rain and snow, Your Word comes down, Its purposes are done.
Your wind blows free, Your fruit is grown, Your many gifts received,
And now in unity we sing, “O Spirit, we believe.”

Confession and Absolution

L: The Lord of hosts is with us.

C: The God of Jacob is our Fortress.

L: O God of Jacob, we poor sinners come before you, pleading for mercy. We confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, in our words, and in our deeds – by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

C: Lord, if you kept an account of our wrongdoings, who could stand. But with you there is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.

(time for personal reflection)

L: Lord God, our refuge and strength,

C: Remove our sin and renew within us your Holy Spirit. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit, that we may teach transgressors your ways, and sinners turn with us to you.

L: Be still, and know that the Lord, your God is rich in mercy. Your sins are forgiven, 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

[Romans 3:19-28]

L: The righteousness of God has been given, apart from the law, through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

C: For we have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by God’s grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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

The Canticle

“Your Table I Approach”

[LSB 628, vv. 1, 3, 6]

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

Private Prayer before Communing

O Lord, our God, in the name of whose only-begotten Son we have been called to be Christians and have been blest with Baptism for the remission of sins, make me, I pray, ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins and to give thanks with a grateful heart to you, O Father, to your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

Anthem

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”

B. Ingram

“Amazing Grace”

[LSB 744]

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

Text (sts. 1s–4s): © 1991 Editorial Concordia.

Post-Communion Canticle

“Sent Forth with God’s Blessing”

[LSB 643]

Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave. The Supper is ended.
O now be extended The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring, Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: © 1964 World Library Publications.

The Sending

Dismissal

Post-Communion Collect

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“By Faith”

By faith we see the hand of God in the light of creation’s grand design;
in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth, with the pow’r of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God’s own hand, a place where peace and justice reign. **Chorus**

Chorus: We will stand as children of the Promise.

We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul’s reward.

Till the race is finished and the work is done, we’ll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day when the longed-for Messiah would appear,
with the pow’r to break the chains of sin and death and rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the Church was called to go in the pow’r of the spirit to the lost,
to deliver captives and to preach Good News in ev’ry corner of the earth. **Chorus**

By faith this mountain shall be moved and the pow’r of the Gospel shall prevail,
for we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon His Name. **Chorus 2x’s**

We’ll walk by faith and not by sight.

Works and Music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townsend, ©2009 Thankyou Music (PRS)



Today's flowers are given in thanksgiving
to our Risen Lord
for the birthdays of Evelyn and Elise
by their parents Tom and Shannon Dawda.

*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)*

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



Today is Mite Box Sunday

Looking for volunteers to participate in the Christmas Eve 4:00 service. This years' service will focus on the symbols of Christmas. There will be a brief organizational meeting on November 6 that will detail the program. Any questions, please see Lori.

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.

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Thomas Lutheran Church on **11/11/2022**. Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word "circle" to 797979, or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle. We have received 3 complimentary screenings – if you are interested in receiving one, please contact Linda in the church office. These will be on a first come first serve basis.

Reading the Bible in a Year

Last week Pastor Hetzner gave the best advice about maturing in Jesus and the Christian faith: this year, read through the entire Bible. When you are done, repeat the same (at least) once every year for the rest of your earthly life. No other single activity will enhance your effectiveness as a follower of Jesus more than this. And it will take you just 20-30 minutes of daily reading or listening.

Here is a link to the reading plan - a PDF file: <http://www.faithabilene.org/resources/Reformation-Reading-Plan-Printable.pdf>

And another link to an article promoting the Reformation Reading Plan from the Michigan District, LCMS: <https://michigandistrict.org/healthy-workers/reformation-reading-plan/>

You can also use You Version Bible app and they have a Bible in a Year plan that guides you through. <https://my.bible.com/>

Pastor Nomination for the Call List

Members who would like to submit a Pastor's name to be nominated for consideration to the call list have until November 6th to fill out the nomination form. The forms are available in the church office.

Lutheran Northwest Thespian Troupe #4216 will proudly present Charles Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL at the high school on Friday, 11/4, at 7PM, Saturday, 11/5, at 7PM (a live stream option is also available for this performance) and Sunday, 11/6, at 2PM. Please join us for this classic Christmas tale! Tickets are \$10 at the door or online in advance (with a separate ticketing fee) via the event page at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events. We look forward to seeing you there!

Up Coming Events:

November 12 – Clothing Closet open 11 am – 1 pm

November 18 – Holiday food basket packing

November 19 – Holiday food basket distribution 9 am

November 20 – Remembrance Sunday – worship 9:30 am

Rejoicing in God's grace and receiving his comfort in our grief
as we remember baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, and the departed

November 20 - Faith & Fellowship Brunch, following the 9:30 worship service in the gym.

November 23 – Thanksgiving Eve Worship – 12 pm & 7 pm

November 30, December 7 & 14 – Avent CAROLing – 12 pm (inside) & 7 pm (front parking lot)

December 21 – Caroling in the neighborhood – 6 pm

December 24 – Christmas Eve worship – 4 pm & 11 pm

December 25 – Christmas worship – 9:30 am

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS GRIEFSHARE EVENT

November 13 | Clinton Township

Many who have experienced grief aren't looking forward to the holidays this year. While some are decorating, celebrating and enjoying the company of their family and friends, grief can leave others depressed, lonely, and hopeless. On Sunday, November 13, from 12:30-3 p.m. in the Church Lounge, Trinity, Clinton Twp. hosts *Surviving the Holidays*, a one-day event sponsored by GriefShare to help the grieving cope during the holiday season. To register, <https://www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/42583>.

NEXT SUNDAY

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

November 6, 2022

Scripture Readings: Luke 20:27-40 / 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17

Sermon Topic: "I Am" Gives Life to the Living and the Dead - Text: Luke 20:37-38

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 Cross†raining JC Style for youth

Staying connected through summer emails

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

October 30, 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.
- Families and individuals struggling with our changing economic times.
- In the ministry of **Camp Restore Detroit** in rebuilding neighborhoods.

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 of John Parker (Mike Dolan's brother-in-law) passed away Sunday 10/15.

✝ **God's Healing Hand on:** Shirley Gessert, Walter Jakubiec, Debra Barowicz, Kim Dunaway, Lloyd White, Mary Evans, Shelby Jones, Marquis (friends of the Hogans), Angela DeMuynck (niece of Joyce Vincent), Spressa Sabo (Marlene & John Cherry's neighbor and friend), Cheryl Frontiera (daughter of Joann Dieball), Bill & Sue (brother and sister-in-law of Roblynn Smith).

✝ **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), 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).

✝ **Those in Hospice care:** Jane Gurnack