



FIRST SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

*November 27, 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*

### **GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS**

**Prelude**

*“Joy to the World”*

M. L. Thompson

**Stories of God @Work – The Faithfulness of God**

**Opening Hymn**

*“The Advent of Our King”*

[LSB 331, vv. 1,2,4,6]

The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant’s form puts on To set His servants free.

As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite With Him in heav’n to reign.

All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

***We Gather before the Throne of Grace***

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

**C: Amen.**

L: If the Lord our God kept a record of sins, who could stand before him?

**C: But with Him there is forgiveness, therefore He is feared.**

L: We are gathered in His presence to hear His Word, call upon Him in prayer, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, first consider our unworthiness, and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot save ourselves. Together as God’s people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and pray:

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

L: God has heard our cry. Immanuel is come. He has defeated our enemies, atoned for our sins, and authorized me to proclaim this good news to you: Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us pray: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength,

**C: And save us from the threatening dangers of our sins.**

L: Grant us the gift of Your divine peace and pardon,

**C: And bless Your Church, here and scattered throughout the world, as we proclaim the Gospel to all nations. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***Hymn of Praise***

*"Hark the Glad Sound"*

[LSB 349, vv. 1-2]

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

***Old Testament Reading***

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***New Testament Reading***

**Romans 13:8-14**

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.**

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**C: (sung)**

[LSB 332]

**Savior of the nations come, Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!  
By Your mighty pow’r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.**

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew chapter 24.

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

[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**C: (sung)**

**Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our King,  
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.**

***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***

***“Once He Came in Blessing”***

[LSB 333]

Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;  
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us  
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.

Soon will come that hour When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

**Sermon**

*"Love Fulfills the Law"*

**Romans 13:9-10**

**Voluntary**

*"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"*

M. L. Thompson

*Time for reflection and prayer.*

[Personal notes and reflections]

## ***RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS***

### **KINGDOM THOUGHTS**

*"O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord." (Isaiah 2.5)*

*How is your life different as you walk in the light of the Lord?*



**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).

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

[worship folder, page 13]

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: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

## ***Offertory***

*"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"*

[LSB 341, vv.1, 5]

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

## ***The Apostles Creed***

**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**

## ***Preparation for the Sacrament***

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

L: Assembled with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

C: **(sung)**

[LSB 358, vv. 14, 15]

**My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**

**Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.**

***The Lord's Prayer***

LSB inside back cover

***Words of Institution***

***Distribution of the Sacrament***

***Entrance Hymn***

*"Welcome to Earth"*

[LSB 358, vv. 8, 133]

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

***Distribution: At the Altar***

***Hymns during Distribution***

*"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"*

[LSB 350]

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.  
Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!

My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

***Post-Communion Canticle***

*"Christ Jesus, Lord and Savior Come"*

[LW 23, v.5]  
(tune LSB 341)

Christ Jesus, Lord and Savior, come, I open wide my heart, your home.  
Oh, enter with your radiant grace, On my life's pattern shine your face,  
And let your Holy Spirit guide To gracious vistas rich and wide.  
Our God, we praise your name, Forevermore the same.

# SENT TO THE MISSION FIELD

*Sending Prayer*

*Benediction*

*Sending Hymn*

*“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

[LSB 343]

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory retold in sacred story: **Refrain**

**Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!**

God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! **Refrain**

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

*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)*

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

**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.

## Reading the Bible in a Year

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/>

**Financial Peace University** classes will start January 10, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$80/household, we have the materials, so you will pay St. Thomas. To register for these classes, go to <https://www.ramseysolutions.com/ramseyplus/classes/1156885>. Contact the church office for more information.

### NEXT SUNDAY

## *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent*

### *Advent Carol Service*

December 4, 2022

### Up Coming Events/Worship Opportunities:

November 30, December 7 & 14 – Advent CAR-oing – 12 pm (inside) & 7 pm (front parking lot)

December 16 – Packing food baskets – 5:30 pm

December 17 – Distribution of food baskets – 10 am

December 21 – Christmas Caroling – 6 pm

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

December 25 – Christmas worship – 9:30 am

December 31 – New Year's Eve worship – 5 pm

**Giving Tree** Remember to stop by the Giving Tree in the west entrance and select a card for a person who needs you to share Christ's love this season. The cards are for our Great Start Readiness Program Preschool – 18 children, Veterans Returning Home and the Orchards Rehabilitation Center, formerly Advantage Living center (on Kelly). **Please follow the directions on the table for each card selected. Gifts must be back to church by December 18!**

**It's *Lutheran Witness* time!** This is the time to order or renew subscriptions of the *Lutheran Witness* (LW), the official periodical of the LCMS. It is published 11 times a year and provides laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, fosters personal growth in faith, and helps interpret the contemporary world from the Lutheran Christian perspective. The subscription year is March 2023 through February 2024. Yearly subscriptions are \$12.00/year each if orders are placed through the St. Thomas church office (if not the cost is \$19.99). Orders and money need to be in the office by December 11 (checks made payable to St. Thomas).

## *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 CrossTraining JC Style for youth*

*Staying connected through summer emails*

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

## Unbridled Joy

What is there about grandchildren that brings such unbridled joy when they come to visit? My young granddaughter is full of so much energy, spunk, and definitive ideas, it is amazing to watch. I love spending time with her.

She may want to read a book, watch a specific show, or ask you to play, “house” with her. If you dare to let your attention wander, she will walk up to you, grab your cheeks in her hands, look deeply into your eyes and say, “I want you to play with me.” And she doesn’t mean casually. She wants you fully engaged.

Even if you have other things you hope to accomplish, she wants to spend time with me. It’s that passion that I relish. I look forward to that time with her.

And isn’t that the same thing that our Heavenly Father wants? He desires to spend time with us. Not a passing, quick prayer, or an obligatory visit to church on Sunday morning. But as Philippians 4:4 says: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” The dictionary definition of rejoice is to feel or show great joy or delight. Does that match our actions, our emotions?

How can I be so excited to spend time with my granddaughter and at the same time not as passionate to be in prayer or Bible study, spending time with my Heavenly Father, who longs for my attention?

Psalm 44:8 says: “In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever.”

We are quick to pull out our cell phones or picture albums to brag on our grandkids, but how often do we extol the miracles we experience, the love God shows us and the best gift ever, eternal life? We don’t earn it, but He still loves and forgives us. As it says in the well-known poem, Footprints; “my precious child, I love you and will never leave you. During your trials and suffering, when you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.” How often do we joyfully shout that from the rooftops?

We invite you to partner with CEF to Build the Kingdom. Let’s share that unbridled joy, together, with the world.

Bill Burmeister  
Church Extension Fund – Michigan District  
800-242-3944 ♦ bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org



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## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

November 27, 2022

### Our Primary Prayer focus this week is upon God's Work through STL:

- As we reflect upon what God has done through STL over the years.
- As we pray for the pastoral call committee and process.
- As we look to how he is shaping STL for a dynamic future.
- As we invite and welcome new people into our fellowship.

And we remember those on our cradle role, and those who are in hospice care - especially Jane Gurnack.



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 †

†Praise and Thanksgiving: For the birth of a daughter, Carmela Mikala to Loredana Gianino.

†God's Healing Hand on: Joseph Jiminey, Marsha Shelepts, Lori Kucharek, Russ Semenjuk, Janet Edwards, Marge Bittner, Shirley Gessert, Walter Jakubiec, Debra Barowicz, Kim Dunaway, Carmela Mikala (daughter of Loredana Gianino), Lloyd White, Mary Evans, Shelby Jones, Marquis (friends of the Hogans), Angela DeMuyneck (niece of Joyce Vincent), Cheryl Frontiera (daughter of Joann Dieball), Bill & Sue (brother and sister-in-law of Roblynn Smith), Tony Rizzo (neighbor of Ben Stubenrauch), Ruth Greve (Ron's mother).

†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).