

*... for my
eyes have
seen your
salvation,...*

Luke 2:30, NRSV



January 1, 2023

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.

Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Words of Welcome

Invocation

(Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1, 14)

- L: In the name of God the Father...
- C: **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**
- L: In the name of God the Son...
- L: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- L: In the name of God the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.**

Confession

(1 John 1:8, John 1:9-11)

- L: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C: **The true Light that gives light to every person was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.**
- L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,
- (Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)*
- L: Most merciful God,
- C: **We confess that we are not the creatures You intended us to be. We have fled from Your light and truth. Although we sing about joy to the world because our Lord has come, we still desire to be our own lords and masters. We deserve Your punishment; for Jesus' sake, show us mercy, so that we may walk in the light of Your love. Amen**

Absolution

(John 1:12, 16-17)

- L: To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen**

The Magnificat

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

[LSB 380]

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" **Refrain**

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! **Refrain**

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. **Refrain**

Kyrie

- L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

"Gloria"

[WOV 640]

First together, second and third as a round

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Traditional, Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1979, 1988 Les Presses de Taize, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of the Day

- L: Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

+ WORD +

Old Testament Lesson

Numbers 6:22-27

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson

Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Procession

"From Heaven Above"

[LSB 358, vs. 8, 13]

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.

Holy Gospel

(The Word becomes Flesh)

Luke 2:21-32

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter two

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

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,

according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Procession

"From Heaven Above"

[LSB 358, vs. 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.

Confession of Faith

(Luther's explanation to 2nd Article)

L: With the entire church throughout the ages, we confess our faith in the child of the manger:

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death, that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Children's Lesson

Hymn of the Day

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

[LSB 393]

Choir only: Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Sermon

"Born Under the Law"

Luke 2:22-24

Voluntary

Time for reflection and prayer.

[Personal notes and reflections]

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

"My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared
in the presence of all peoples." (Luke 2:30-31)

What are some ways you see what God has prepared for you and all?



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).

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: Gracious Father, in Your steadfast love You have put off the day of Jesus' return until the perfect time, when the number of Your elect is complete. Keep Your people watchful, vigilant, and awake with Your gift of faith until that day; 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 Hymn

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

[LSB 367, vs. 1, 5]

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Ev-er-more your voices raising To th'eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Preface

L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
L: Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus Hymn

"*Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*"

[LSB 379, vs. 1, 2]

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
 Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold him Born the king of angels;

Refrain: Oh, come let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
 Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
 Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
 Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Prayer

L: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us and all humanity. In the Word made flesh You have brought peace to earth, for which we offer glory to You in the highest heaven. Whoever believes in the Savior shall not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer, Savior, and Lord as He comes to us in His body and blood.

C: Amen

Lord's Prayer

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

Words of Institution

The Distribution of the Sacrament – continuous line

Sanctus Hymn

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

[LSB 379, vs. 3 & 4]

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest:

Refrain: Oh, come let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! ***Refrain***

Distribution Hymn

"Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"

[375, vv. 1, 2, 4, 6]

Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.

Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.

From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us, We, the captives, now are free.

Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.

Thanksgiving Hymn

"Let All Together"

[LSB 389, vv. 1, 7]

Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Dismissal

Prayer

L: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with the body and blood of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. We beg You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through this sacrament that we will grow in our trust of You and in our compassion for all nations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity, The icon of His grace.

He came to that which was His own, But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone, And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry But born of God in love.
Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel, To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name For all eternity!

Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House.

Postlude

*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)

There will be a **Special Voters' Assembly** immediately after worship on Sunday, January 8, 2023. The primary issue will be to consider the recommendation of the Board of Elders and the Board of Directors to issue a temporary call, effective February 20, to Rev. Jerry Corbett to serve as vacancy pastor, with a renewable contract for 90 days. This position would end either upon the installation of a new Senior Pastor or upon two-week notice from either STL or Pastor Corbett.

2023 Envelopes are available in the west hallway! Please stop by the table, print your name on the list next to the envelope # you are taking home. Information for electronic giving is printed in the worship folders. If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office.

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.



A CELEBRATION FOR
PASTOR MARK HETZNER'S
RETIREMENT

You are warmly invited to join us
Sunday, February 19th, 2023

Service at 9:30 in the morning
at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Eastpointe
Luncheon to follow at 12:00 noon
at Barrister Gardens Banquet Center, SCS



*Join in the Retirement Celebration for Pastor Hetzner on
February 19th*

Begin the day with the service at 9:30 am, followed by a luncheon at noon at Barrister Gardens Banquet Center.

Luncheon Tickets are \$35 per person.

Reservations will be accepted until January 23rd, 2023, space is limited.

Donations are being accepted for a retirement gift too. Reserve and Donate online bit.ly/celebratehetzner or use this QR code. You can also reserve in person by coming to the church office – checks made payable to St. Thomas Lutheran Church.

Office will be closed on January 2nd & 3rd.

Crafted by Truth

A Plan to read through the entire Bible in One year
(10 minutes a day ... 6 days each week)

Download the plan at

[Bible Reading Initiative - Michigan District, LCMS](#)

Or contact the church office and we will email it to you

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The Epiphany of our Lord

January 8, 2023

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 / Ephesians 3:4-12 / Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Topic: "The Mystery of the Gospel" - Text: Ephesians 3:6

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

January 1, 2023

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 people on the call list.
- 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), 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:** Steven Kruse, Sherry Kourles, Ruth Nelson, Joseph Jiminey, Marsha Shelepts, Lori Kucharek, Russ Semenjuk, Janet Edwards, Marge Bittner, Shirley Gessert, Walter Jakubiec, Debra Barowicz, Kim Dunaway, Ruth Greve (Ron's mother), Cathy Orlowski and Michele Mitchell (friends of Deb Kujawski), Lora Franzem (niece of Deb Kujawski), Joe Andary (brother-in-law of Kelly), Any Grunow (sister of Debbie Churchill) and all those with COVID.

†**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).

*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