



SECOND SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

*December 4, 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 Advent Carol Service*



### ***Introduction to Today's Service***

Today's service is part of a long tradition of vivid Advent services whose purpose is to help us as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, and for his coming again in glory. We will listen and sing in celebration of the Father's promises, the Holy Spirit's preparations, and our Lord's Advent – all illustrations of how God is faithfully fulfilling his mission on earth – past, present, and future. Yes, every era offers a new richness through which God's continuous mercy, revealed most dramatically in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, can be seen.

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

## ***THE FATHER'S PROMISES***

### ***Opening Praise***

*"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

[LSB 384, vv. 1, 3, 5]

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

### ***Entering Prayers***

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

**C: Amen.**

L: Give glory to God, our light, and our life.

**C: O come, let us worship him.**

L: O come, let us sing to the Lord.

**C: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**

L: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

**C: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.**

L: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### ***Advent Promises and Carols***

***The Promise to Adam and Eve***

**Genesis 3:8-12, 15**

***The Promise to Abraham***

**Genesis 12:1-7**

***The Promise through Isaiah***

**Isaiah 11:1-6**

***Advent Carol***

***“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”***

**[LSB 342, vv. 1, 2, 4]**

What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild;  
The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse’s stem, A branch from David’s line,  
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God’s design.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore;  
Lead past the angel’s flaming sword Come, open heaven’s door.

Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House.

***The Father Speaks***

**2 Samuel 7:11b-14a**

***“His House and His Kingdom”***

***Voluntary***

***“Advent”***

**D. Wagner**

*Time for reflection and prayer.*

### ***Announcements and Attendance/Communion Registration***



***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.

# ***THE SPIRIT'S PREPARATION***

***Continuing Praise***

*"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 Holy Gospel***

**Luke 3:1-9, 15-18**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 3.

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."...

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Advent Carols

### *"On Jordan's Bank"*

[LSB 344, vv. 1, 2]

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

### *"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"*

[LSB 352, vv. 1, 5]

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.

## *The Spirit's Words*

Isaiah 40:1-2

### *"His Comfort and His Victory"*

## *Voluntary*

### *"Christmas Is Coming"*

J. Raney

*Time for reflection and prayer.*

# ***GOD AT WORK IN AND THROUGH US***



**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: <https://www.stl-eastpointe.org/2015/07/13/mission-support/>
- Go to <https://www.alexio giving.com/app/giving/stthoms>
- 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).

## ***Confession and Absolution***

L: Sin's debt, that fearful burden, cannot God's love erase.

**C: My guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.**

L: He comes to you procuring the peace of sin forgiven.

**C: His children thus securing eternal life in heaven.**

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

L: This Advent we celebrate God coming to us in the person of Jesus Christ with this Good News: Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### ***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: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and has taught 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**

### ***Offertory***

*"From Heaven Above"*

[LSB 358, vv. 1, 3, 4]

"From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

"This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

"He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.

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

[Psalm 66]

L: Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Sing the glory of his name.

C: **Give him glorious praise saying, "How awesome are your deeds!"**

L: All the earth worships him and sings praises to his name.

C: **Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.**

### ***Words of Institution***

### ***Distribution of the Sacrament – continuous line***

### ***The Canticle***

*"From Heaven Above"*

[LSB 358, vv. 8, 10, 12]

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.

Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,  
It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.

And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me:  
That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

## **Distribution Hymn**

### **Anthem**

*“O Jesus Grant Me Hope and Comfort”*

J. Franck

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

[LSB 357, vv. 1, 2, 5, 7]

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord’rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav’nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

## **OUR LORD’S SECOND ADVENT**

### **Canticle**

*“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”*

[LSB 355, vv. 1, 5, 6]  
(tune 344)

O Savior, rend the heavens wide; Come down, come down with mighty stride;  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down; Unbar the way to heaven’s crown.

O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
O Sun, arise; without Your light We grope in gloom and dark of night.

Sin’s dreadful doom upon us lies; Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
O come, lead us with mighty hand From exile to our promised land.

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

### **Sending Prayers**

L: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **One Last Advent Promise and Carol**

***The Promise to Return***

**Revelation 22:12-16**

***The Benediction***

**The Sending Carol**

*“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”*

[LSB 516, vv. 1, 2]

“Wake, awake, for night is flying,” The watchmen on the heights are crying;  
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!” Midnight hears the welcome voices  
And at the thrilling cry rejoices: “Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?  
The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!  
Alleluia! With bridal care  
Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all-glorious,  
The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris’n, her light is come.  
Now come, Thou Blessèd One, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,  
Hail! Hosanna! We enter all  
The wedding hall To eat the Supper at Thy call.

*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](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org) – videotaping in progress during service

**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. **Please, do not use these envelopes until 2023!**

**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.

**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).

**Giving Tree** Thank you to all who took a card from the Giving Tree for a person who needs to have Christ's love shared with them this season. **Please follow the directions on the table for each card selected. Gifts must be back to church by December 18!**

## Joy-filled Investing

Your investment in Church Extension Fund helps build facilities for the spreading of the Gospel. Your investment works for you earning competitive interest rates while serving the Lord; a double joy! For more information, contact (Congregation Representative and telephone number) or call toll-free 800-242-3944.

The information provided here is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy CEF securities. The offering of CEF securities is made solely by our Offering Circular. CEF will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The securities are subject to certain risk factors as described in our Offering Circular. CEF investments are not insured by the FDIC, SIPC, or any other governmental agency.

## **NEXT SUNDAY**

### *The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent*

December 11, 2022

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10 / Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon Topic: "The Mightier One" - Text: Matthew 3:11

## **Up-Coming Services and Events**

**Advent CARoling – Noon (in the sanctuary)  
and at 7 p.m.\*\* (outside in the east/front parking lot)  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Caroling in our Community  
December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

**Clothing Closet open December 10<sup>th</sup> – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Drive Thru Communion - 2<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – December 11<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 a. m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Pack Holiday Food Baskets December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**

**Distribute Holiday Food Baskets December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.  
First come first serve from the west parking lot.**

**Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 p.m.\*\* and 11:00 p.m.  
Candles/Carols/Communion**

**Christmas Day Worship at 9:30 a.m.**

**New Year's Eve Worship with Communion at 5 p.m.**

\*\*on FaceBook live or anytime on our web site - [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org)

## *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*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

December 4, 2022

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

- Through our Advent and Christmas worship services.
- At work in the redeemed, increasing our generosity and joy in giving.
- Families and individuals who struggle this holiday season.
- As we serve our community through our Clothing Closet and the distribution of our Holiday food baskets.

**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](mailto:mdolan421@gmail.com))**



**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:** Sherry Kourles, Ruth Nelson, 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), Tony Rizzo (neighbor of Ben Stubenrauch), Ruth Greve (Ron's mother), Cathy Orlovski (friend of Deb Kujawski), Lora Franzem (niece of Deb Kujawski), Jane Gurnack who is in hospice care.

✠**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), Angela DeMuyck (niece of Joyce Vincent).