



FOR UNTO
**YOU IS
BORN**
THIS DAY
IN THE CITY
OF DAVID
A SAVIOR,
WHO IS CHRIST
THE LORD.

Christmas Day 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 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.

Christmas Day

Call to Worship

“Jesus is Born”

G. Henderson

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

“Joy to the World”

[LSB 387]

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

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 Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of the Day

L: Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; 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

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-6

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the

heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

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)

John 1:1-14

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, chapter one

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all

who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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 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

"Gentle Mary"

[LSB 374]

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undeified But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

Sermon

“Beautiful Feet”

Isaiah 52:7

Voluntary

“Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah”
Time for reflection and prayer.

N. Sleeth

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.” (Isaiah 52:10)

What parts of this message fill you with amazement?



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: We thank You, Lord God, for all Your people who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us faithful with them until that day when You make all things new; for You live and reign with Christ 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 born this day 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

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

Anthem

"That First Nowell"

D. Besig/N. Price

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

[LSB 388]

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**
Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

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.

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

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. **Refrain**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

Postlude

NEXT SUNDAY

The Circumcision and Presentation of Jesus

January 1, 2023

Scripture Readings: Numbers 6:22-27 / Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 2:21-32

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

Reading the Bible in a Year

Pastor Hetzner gave the best advice about maturing in Jesus and the Christian faith: next 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/>

**Join us to close out 2022 and welcome 2023
New Year's Eve Worship with Communion at Noon**

**Thursday FHL Gatherings – Wisdom Literature
9:30 am & 1 pm beginning January 12th**

Undecorate the Church – January 14th at 9 a.m.

Office will be closed December 26th & 27th, January 2nd & 3rd.

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!**

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>. Scholarships available. Contact the church office for more information.

Grief Share is designed to help you successfully travel the journey from mourning to joy. There are 13 “self-contained” sessions where you will find encouragement and help with each one. We will be beginning new sessions in the new year – watch for details.

THE GREAT SENDING PODCASTS

(<https://www.stl-eastpointe.org/the-great-sending/>)

Season 1: Christ is the heart of the great sending

Season 2: Engaging Disciples in the Great Sending

Season 3: The GREAT CHRIST Sending

Season 4: The Great Sending ESSENTIALS

Season 5: now available

Jesus said to them again, ***“Peace be with you.***

As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” (John 20.21)

God’s Heart for the World is beating through YOU ... from STL Eastpointe.

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

December 25, 2022

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is on Christ's work through his Word:

- All new believers and the newly baptized members of Christ's kingdom
- Healing all who are stymied by fear, shame, pain, or grief.
- Greater diligence in reading, marking, learning, and inwardly digesting God's Word.
- To guide us in publicly expressing our thanks to Jesus in words, deeds, and giving.

And we remember those at both ends of life on this earth, the unborn and newly born, the elderly and those nearing life's end, remembering especially all pregnant mothers, and Jane Gurnack who is in hospice care.

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†**For Loved Ones Called Home:** The family of Diane Carr, who was called home last Wednesday.

†**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 Orłowski 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 Crossfraining JC Style for youth
Staying connected through summer emails*

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week