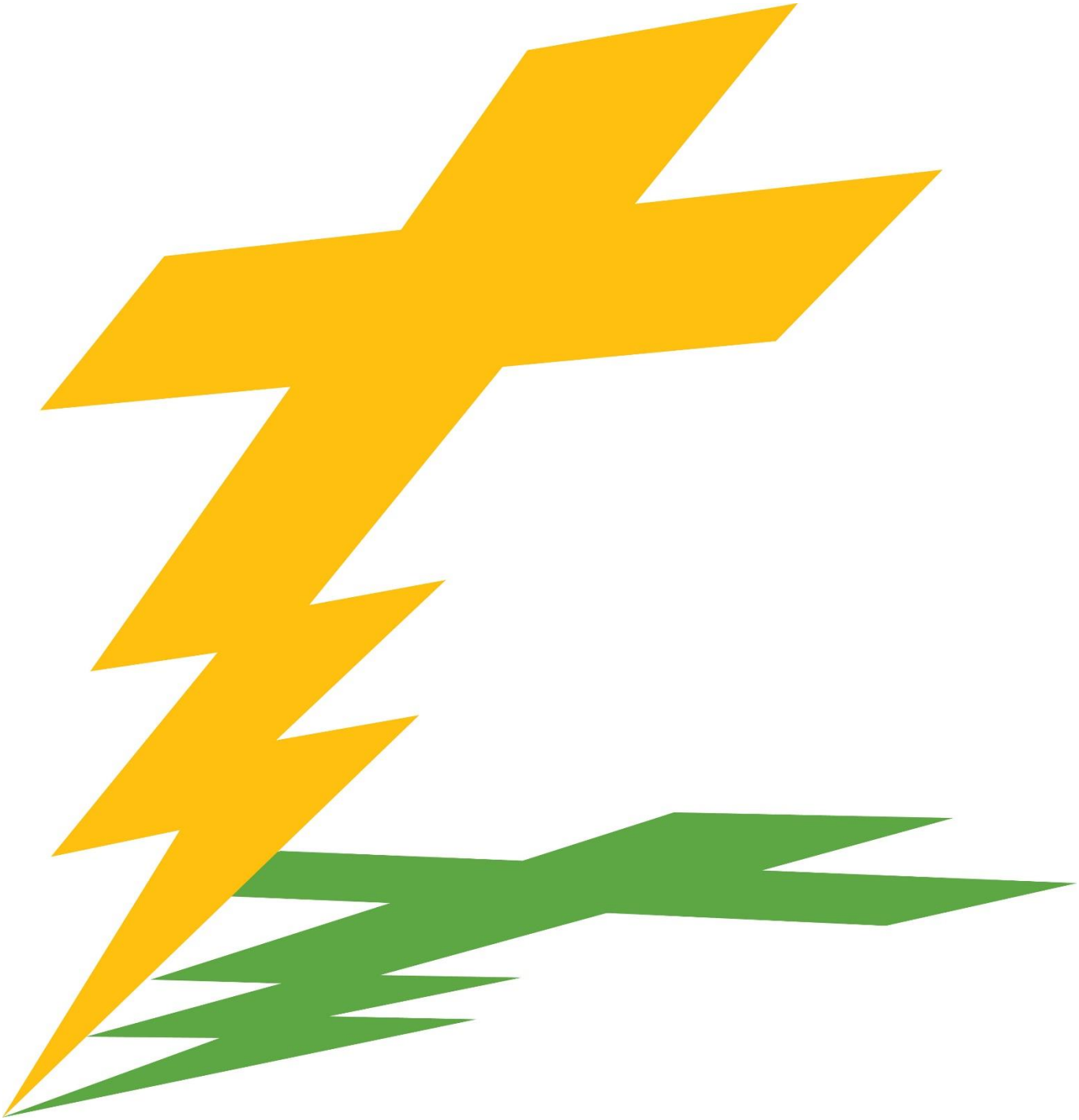

January 22, 2023

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.

Divine Service

Stories of God at Work *– the faithfulness of God*

Call To Worship *"Lord, We Lift Your Name on High"* [BOB 151]

Lord, we lift your name on high; Lord, we love to sing your praises.
We're so glad you're in our lives; We're so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross our debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, we lift your name on high.

Opening Liturgy *(Isaiah 55)*

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.
L: Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.
C: Let us return to the Lord, so he may have compassion on us, to our God, for he will freely forgive.
L: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways," declares the Lord.
C: As heaven is higher than earth, so his ways are higher than our ways, and his thoughts than our thoughts.
L: His Word that comes from his mouth will not return to him empty, but it will accomplish what he purposes, and will prosper in what he sends it to do.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Most Merciful God,
C: We confess that we are an unwilling audience to your Word, and that we cannot change ourselves. Because of this we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive, restore, renew, and strengthen us, that through the power of your Word in us, we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name and in loving service to all. Amen.
L: You will indeed go out with joy and be peacefully guided; the mountains will break into singing before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands, for Jesus, the Word made flesh, was given to die for you, and by his blood you are made new. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: New life is ours for the Word is alive in us. Halleluiah. Amen.

Hymn of Praise *"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"* LSB 839

O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice And in Your fold with us rejoice.

Fill with the radiance of Your grace The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed In You find peace and heav'nly rest.

Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand'rers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace

L: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

(We share the peace with one another)

Old Testament Reading **Isaiah 9:1-4**

[1] There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. [2] The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. [4]For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading **1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

[10]I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. [11]For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. [12]What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." [13]Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? [14]I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, [15]so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. [16](I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) [17]For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be

emptied of its power. [18]For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

R: This is the word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel *(all rise)* **Matthew 4:12-23**

C: (sung) **Shine, Jesus shine fill this land with the Father's glory.** [BOB 204]
Blaze, Spirit blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 4.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[12]When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. [13]And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, [14]so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: [15]"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles [16]the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." [17]From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

[18]While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. [19]And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." [20]Immediately they left their nets and followed him. [21]And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. [22]Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. [23]And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

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 *"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"* LSB 856, vv. 1-4

O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and follow You,
Forsaking old, familiar ways For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call To risk security
And, bound in heart and will to You, Find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for ages sealed,
Whose words and works awakened faith, The ways of God revealed:
Instruct us now, we pray, By Your empow'ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who led the Twelve Among the desolate
And broke as bread of life for all Your love compassionate:
Lead us along the ways Where hope has nearly died
And help us climb the lonely hills Where love is crucified.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim The nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith Transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains Both life and ministry.

Text: © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

Sermon *"The Power of God"* **1 Corinthians 1:18**

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Voluntary *"Come Christians Join to Sing"* C. Baterman

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

"The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Why is the "word of the cross" folly to the world?

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).

The Prayer of the Church

(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

L: … who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Offertory *"Thy Strong Word"* [LSB 578, v. 1]

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

The Apostles Creed LSB inside back cover

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: 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: To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer LSB back cover

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

Distribution of the Sacrament

Entrance Hymn *"Thy Strong Word"* [LSB 578, v. 3]

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Hymns during Distribution

"There Is a Balm in Gilead" LSB 749

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead To make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead To heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit Revives my soul again. **Refrain**

If you cannot preach like Peter, If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus And say He died for all. **Refrain**

Don't ever feel discouraged, For Jesus is your friend;
And if you lack for knowledge, He'll ne'er refuse to lend. **Refrain**

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"" LSB 849

Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

Post-Communion Canticle *"Thy Strong Word"* [LSB 578, v. 6]

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.

Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

Sending Prayer and Benediction

Sending Hymn *"The Lord Is My Light"* LSB 723

**Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation, The Lord is the stronghold of my life.
Since the Lord is my life, my strength, and my all, Whom then shall I fear?**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord: To dwell in His house forever,
To gaze on the beauty of the Lord All the days of my life. **Refrain**

Do not hide Your face, O Lord; Ev'ry day I will seek Your face.
Though my father and mother may forsake me, The Lord will receive me. **Refrain**

Teach me, Lord, and keep me on Your paths; Guide me, Lord, along a level way.
I will gaze on the goodness of the Lord In the land of all the living. **Refrain**

Text (sts. ref–3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. ref-s–3s): © 1982 Alberto Taulé, admin. OCP Publications.

Today's Flowers are given to praise and honor our Savior
in memory of Angela Demuynck
and June Akers
from Ron and Deliah Greve.

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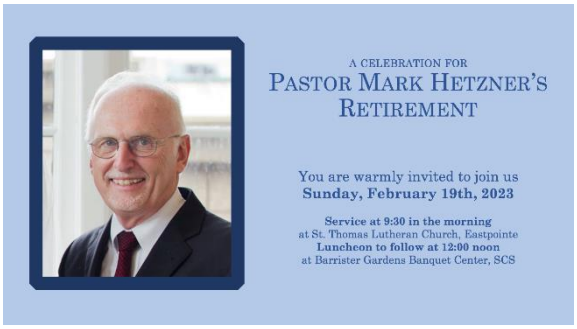
Watch services on Facebook or at www.stl-eastpointe.org **– videotaping in progress during service**

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)



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.

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. Please do not use any prior years envelopes. If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office.

Financial Peace University started on January 10, 2023, at 7:00 pm. It's not too late to join. 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 prior to registering for an activation code, or to get more information.

Flower Chart for 2023 is up in the west hallway! If you would like to have flowers on the Altar in memory of or celebration of, please sign the chart. Price is very affordable and is listed on the chart. Money is due prior to the date.

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/

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

January through March Mission Envelopes
THE LUKE CLINIC
(now in both Detroit and Flint)

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).

NEXT SUNDAY

The 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2022

Scripture Readings: Micah 6:1-8 / 1 Corinthians 1:20-31 / Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon Topic: "What is Good" - Micah 6:8

Weekly Worship with Communion - Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Drive Thru Communion – Second Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

"The Flock" for children and Crosstraining JC Style for youth

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Your personal prayer guide for the week of:

January 22, 2023

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is upon Christ's people on earth:

- For the Holy Spirit to be drawing people to our worship Gatherings – in person and online.
- Bringing more people into the regular habit of reading and discussing God's Word.
- For children to be raised in the nurture and encouragement of the Gospel.
- For us all to grow in generosity, faith, and sacrificial giving.
- For those in the process of becoming a part of the STL Mission Team.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care Jane Gurnack and Kim Dunaway.

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:** Karen Cichocki, Steven Kruse, Sherry Kourles, Ruth Nelson, Joseph Jiminey, Marsha Shelepts, Lori Kucharek, Marge Bittner, Shirley Gessert, Walter Jakubiec, Ruth Greve (Ron's mother), Joe Andary (brother-in-law of Kelly), Amy Grunow (sister of Debbie Churchill), Richard Burkholder, Elowyn Pollard (cousin of Shannon Dawda), 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).