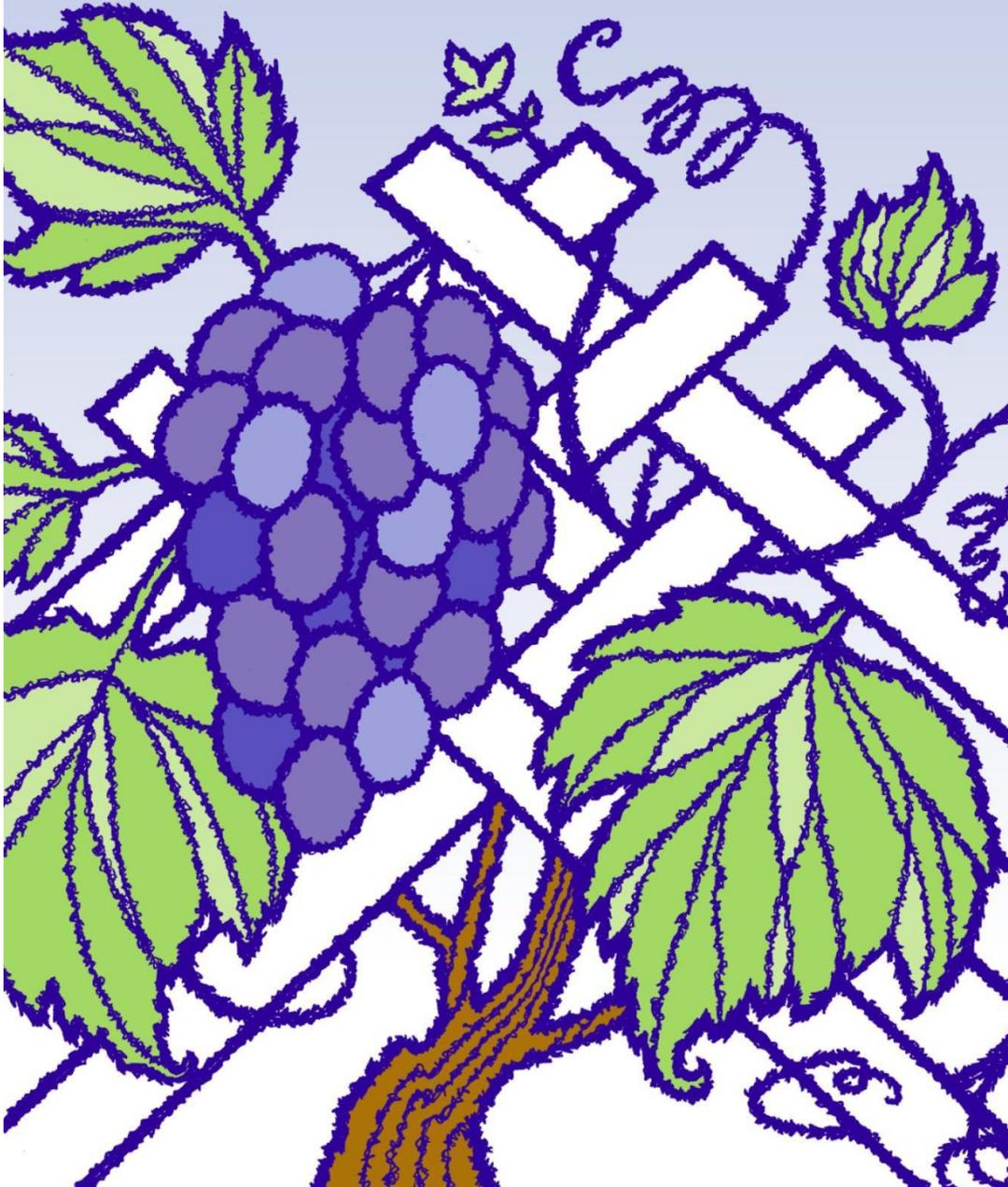


SEE, I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU TODAY
LIFE AND PROSPERITY...

DEUTERONOMY 30:15, NRSV



February 12, 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.st-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.

Words and music by Rick Founds.
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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.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father’s own dear Son, Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith The highest heav’nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart And gives my spirit pow’r,
Help, comfort, and support In sorrow’s gloomy hour.

Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace

L: O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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.**

(share the peace with one another)

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything,

but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

(all rise)

Matthew 5:21-26, 33-37

C: (sung)

**Shine, Jesus shine fill this land with the Father's glory.
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.**

[BOB 204]

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 5.

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

[Jesus said:] "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil."

(after the reading)

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.

"Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us, Lord, to pray;
But You alone can grant us grace To live the words we say.

How can Your pardon reach and bless The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let Old bitterness depart?

In blazing light Your cross reveals The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, How great our debt to You!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls And bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

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Sermon

"The Way of Life"

Deuteronomy 30:15-18a

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.

Voluntary

"God With Us"

Mercy Me

Time for reflection and prayer.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

**"We are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building."
(1 Corinthians 3:9)**

What alteration is God working in you this day?



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: Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Recognition of New Members

Fred / Shirley Clein

Marlene Laginess

Geri Lieckfelt

David Wenskay

John Holtrop

Joe / Nicole Lechner

Hank / Mary Papenheim

Jim Wolfe

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 – continuous line

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

“O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts’ Desire”

LSB 553, vv. 1 - 5

O Christ, our hope, our hearts’ desire, Creation’s mighty Lord,
Redeemer of the fallen world, By holy love outpoured:

How vast Your mercy to accept The burden of our sin
And bow Your head in cruel death To make us clean within.

But now the bonds of death are burst, The ransom has been paid;
You now ascend the Father’s throne In robes of light arrayed.

O let Your mighty love prevail To purge us of our pride
That we may stand before Your throne By mercy purified.

Christ Jesus, be our present joy, Our future great reward;
Our only glory, may it be To glory in the Lord!

“Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”

LSB 865

Lord, help us ever to retain The Catechism’s doctrine plain
As Luther taught the Word of truth In simple style to tender youth.

Help us Your holy Law to learn, To mourn our sin and from it turn
In faith to You and to Your Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One.

Hear us, dear Father, when we pray For needed help from day to day
That as Your children we may live, Whom You baptized and so received.

Lord, when we fall or go astray, Absolve and lift us up, we pray;
And through the Sacrament increase Our faith till we depart in peace.

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!

The Dismissal and Prayer

The Installation of Vacancy Pastor – Rev. Gerald Corbett

The Benediction

The Sending Hymn

"On What Has Now Been Sown"

LSB 921

On what has now been sown Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise, And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive, And to Thy Word a blessing give.

O grant that each of us, Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Special Voters Assembly – TODAY, following the 9:30 worship service, to issue a call to the pastor to fill Pastor Hetzner's position.

*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)*

GriefShare – GriefShare is a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close. Griefshare is a nondenominational group and features biblical teaching on grief and recovery topics. Please join us March 7th at 1 pm in Conference Room 1 for the beginning of our new session. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

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.

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. **This is the last day they will be available in the west hallway.** If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office.

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

NEXT SUNDAY

The Transfiguration of our Lord

February 19, 2023

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 24:12-18 / 2 Peter 1:16-21 / Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon Topic: "The Prophetic Word"

Text: 2 Peter 1:19-21

January through March Mission Envelopes
THE LUKE CLINIC

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 – 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

February 12, 2023

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

- Through our regular reading of God's Word in our homes.
- At work in the redeemed, increasing our generosity and joy in giving.
- As we invite and welcome new people into our FHL groups and THE FLOCK
- As we serve our community through our Clothing Closet and Food Pantry.

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), 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 †

†**For Loved Ones Called Home:** The family Grace Metzner, who was called home on January 30th. The Toney family at the death of Damon's mother last week.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Diane Ustick, Karen Cichocki, Steven Kruse, Sherry Kourles, 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), Tony Rizzo (neighbor of Ben Stubenrauch), and all those with COVID. 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).