



March 5, 2023

Saint Thomas Lutheran

23801 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, Michigan 48021 - 586-772-3370

www.stl-eastpointe.org

*Rev. Jerry Corbett - Vacancy Pastor, Deacon - Don Cooley
Specific Ministry Pastor - Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle*

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

“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”

LSB 819

Sing praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills And ev’ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty pow’r has made, In mercy He is keeping.
By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping.
Within the kingdom of His might All things are just and good and right:
To God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness And came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord, Who is by one and all adored:
To God all praise and glory!

He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother’s tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

All who confess Christ’s holy name, Give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know His pow’r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev’ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!

Opening Liturgy

(Isaiah 55)

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

C: Amen.

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone.

C: Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: God has promised to hear your heartfelt confession, and extend His all-encompassing mercy and forgiveness in His Word, Therefore, Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Lamb of God”

[LSB 550, v. 1]

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

**O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Text: © 1985 Straightway Music, admin. EMI.

Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace

L: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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

Genesis 12:1-9

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his

due. And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

(all rise)

John 3:1-17

Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!

O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 3.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

(after the reading)

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!

O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Announcements

Children's Sermon

(please record your attendance)



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

"God Loved the World So That He Gave"

LSB 571

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Sermon

"Lifted High"

John 3:14-15

*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

Voluntary

"The Lord Be Near Us"

H. Hopson

Time for reflection and prayer.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

"For what does the Scripture say? Romans 4: 3

Have you checked it out lately?



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

“The Infant Priest Was Holy Born”

[LSB 624, vv. 1-2]

The infant Priest was holy born For us unholy and forlorn;
 From fleshly temple forth came He, Anointed from eternity.

This great High Priest in human flesh Was icon of God’s righteousness.
 His hallowed touch brought sanctity; His hand removed impurity.

Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Preparation for the Sacrament

- L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting. He is the God of our salvation who gathers us and rescues us from the nations.
- C: **We give thanks to his holy name as we behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**
- L: The Lord has been our dwelling place in all generations, from everlasting to everlasting he is God.
- C: **The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness on their children’s children. Amen.**

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

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

Hymn of Preparation

"The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"

LSB 624, vv. 3-5

The holy Lamb undaunted came To God's own altar lit with flame;
While weeping angels hid their eyes, This Priest became a sacrifice.

But death would not the victor be Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place Within the veil, before God's face.

The veil is torn, our Priest we see, As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive The bread of immortality.

The Distribution of the Sacrament – Continuous Line

Hymns during Distribution

"The Lamb"

LSB 547, vv. 1-4

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price! **Refrain**

**Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

Text: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers.

"When I Behold Jesus Christ"

LSB 542

When I behold Jesus Christ, True God who died for me,
I wonder much at His love As He hung on the tree. **Refrain**

**Refrain: What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.
What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.**

For me You gave all Your love, For me You suffered pain;
I find no words, nothing can Your selflessness explain. **Refrain**

You had no sin, holy Lord, But You were tortured, tried;
On Golgotha there for all My sins You bled and died. **Refrain**

What love is this? Greater love No one has ever known.
My life with God— this I owe To You, and You alone. **Refrain**

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3): © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus; (st. 4): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House.

Post-Communion Canticle

“The Infant Priest Was Holy Born”

[LSB 624, vv. 6-7]

The body of God’s Lamb we eat, A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours His quenching blood that life restores.

With cherubim and seraphim Our voices join the endless hymn,
And “Holy, holy, holy” sing To Christ, God’s Lamb, our Priest and King.

Dismissal and Sending Prayer

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”

LSB 918

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell’s destruction, Land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

ext: Public domain

*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)*

Up Coming Worship Opportunities

Lenten Midweek – “Giving It Up” at Noon

March 8 – “Superiority”

March 15 – “Enemies” also at 7 pm

March 22 – “Our Lives”

March 29 – “Popularity” also at 7 pm

(FaceBook Live at noon and the web site)

Holy Week April 2nd – 9th

Palm Sunday – April 2nd

Journey to the Cross – April 6th - 11 am – 1 pm and 5 pm – 8 pm

Good Friday – April 7th - Noon & 7 pm

Easter Sunday – April 9th

8:30 am Easter Breakfast

10 am Festival Communion Service

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.

Patrons are needed to help defray the cost of the professional musicians that are hired to support the Kapelle and congregational singing for our beautiful Easter Sunday Festival service. If you would like to be a patron for Easter, please bring your contribution to the church office or donate electronically and notify the church office of your electronic donation. Thank you for your continued support of the Kapelle and the music ministry.

The Lutheran Northwest 5th & 6th Grade Quiz Bowl is back this Spring! The big day is Saturday, March 11, at 10AM. Form a team of 3-5 students and sign up for this fun & challenging event! A free pizza lunch is provided for competitors & parents in attendance. Registration closes on Wednesday, 3/8, so don't delay. Sign up online on the Quiz Bowl page at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events. See you there!

THANK YOU ... THANK YOU ... THANK YOU. Pastor Mark and Monica Hetzner wish to express their extreme gratitude for all who participated in pastor's retirement celebration. We were overwhelmed by the cards, well-wishes, and gifts that we received and the many people who came to the worship service and to the reception. We wish to express our apologies to those with whom we did not have the opportunity to visit. Our special thanks to the committee who organized the reception, those who helped make the worship service so special, the banquet speakers, and all who contributed to the generous congregational gift. The people of STL will be missed, though we expect that we might run into you at the grocery store or elsewhere ... and if not, certainly in eternity. May God continue to bless and keep you, guide and protect you in all the years to come.

Order Your Easter Lilies, Tulips and Hyacinths

Forms are available around the church on the tables.

\$12 each is due by March 20th.

Any questions contact Nancy Gutowsky
or the church office.

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 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 17:1-7 / Romans 5:1-8 / John 4:5-26

Sermon Topic: "Faith, Peace, Grace" - Sermon Text: Romans 5:1-2

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

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Your personal prayer guide for the week of:

March 5, 2023

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

- For the Holy Spirit to be at work enriching faith through our STL's Ministry.
- Through our Lenten Midweek gathers in our building and online.
- For children to be raised in the nurture and encouragement of the Gospel.
- For new individuals to become engaged in the STL FHL groups.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those 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 †

†**For Loved Ones Called Home:** The family Darin Henze, son of Caroline Henze, who was called home last month.

†**Praise and Thanksgiving:** For the birth of a daughter to Courtney (deRuiter) and Ron Marsh, Lenore Ruth on February 24, and granddaughter to Chris and Connie deRuiter.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Harrison Ahee, Russel Semenjuk, Connie Sommers, Diane Ustick, Steven Kruse, Sherry Kourles, Joseph Jiminey, Marsha Shelepts, Marge Bittner, Shirley Gessert, Walter Jakubiec, Ruth Greve (Ron's mother), Joe Andary (brother-in-law of Kelly), Scottie (grandson of Diane Ustick).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Betty Williams, 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).