

We have

*peace* with  
*God*  
through our  
*Lord*  
Jesus Christ.



*March 12, 2023*

***Saint Thomas Lutheran***

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

[www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://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](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*

### **Call To Worship**

*“Come unto Me, Ye Weary”*

LSB 684

*“Come unto Me, ye weary, And I will give you rest.”  
O blessèd voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed!  
It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace, and peace,  
Of joy that hath no ending, Of love that cannot cease.*

*“Come unto Me, ye wand’ers, And I will give you light.”  
O loving voice of Jesus, Which comes to cheer the night!  
Our hearts were filled with sadness, And we had lost our way;  
But Thou hast brought us gladness And songs at break of day.*

*“Come unto Me, ye fainting, And I will give you life.”  
O cheering voice of Jesus, Which comes to aid our strife!  
The foe is stern and eager, The fight is fierce and long;  
But Thou hast made us mighty And stronger than the strong.*

*“And whosoever cometh, I will not cast him out.”  
O patient love of Jesus, Which drives away our doubt,  
Which, though we be unworthy Of love so great and free,  
Invites us very sinners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!*

### **Opening Liturgy**

*(Isaiah 55)*

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

**C:** **Amen.**

**L:** If the Lord our God kept a record of sins, who could stand before him?

**C:** **But with Him there is forgiveness, therefore He is feared.**

**L:** Good Lord, deliver us from all sin, error, and evil within us and around us.

**C:** **We poor sinners implore you to hear us, good Lord. Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

**P:** Blessed be the Lord, our God, from everlasting to everlasting. He has remembered His covenant, and sent Jesus to pay for our sins, and the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

There is a Redeemer Jesus, God’s own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.  
**Thank You, O my Father, For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit Till the work on earth is done.**

Text: © 1982 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI.

***Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace***

L: Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *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***

**Exodus 17:1-17**

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

*(after the reading)*

R: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***New Testament Reading***

**Romans 5:1-8**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*(after the reading)*

R: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names;  
 Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain.  
**Thank You, O my Father, For giving us Your Son,  
 And leaving Your Spirit Till the work on earth is done.**

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 4.

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

[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

(after the reading)

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

When I stand in glory, I will see His face;  
 There I'll serve my King forever In that holy place.  
**Thank You, O my Father, For giving us Your Son,  
 And leaving Your Spirit Till the work on earth is done.**

### 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.

We sing the praise of Him who died, Of Him who died upon the cross.  
The sinner's hope let all deride; For this we count the world but loss.

Inscribed upon the cross we see In shining letters, "God is love."  
He bears our sins upon the tree; He brings us mercy from above.

The cross! It takes our guilt away; It holds the fainting spirit up;  
It cheers with hope the gloomy day And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.

It makes the coward spirit brave And nerves the feeble arm for fight;  
It takes the terror from the grave And gilds the bed of death with light;

The balm of life, the cure of woe, The measure and the pledge of love,  
The sinner's refuge here below, The angels' theme in heav'n above.

To Christ, who won for sinners grace By bitter grief and anguish sore,  
Be praise from all the ransomed race Forever and forevermore.

**Sermon**

*"Faith, Peace, Grace"*

**Romans 5:1-2**

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

**Voluntary**

*Time for reflection and prayer.*

**KINGDOM THOUGHTS**

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

**(John 11:25-26)**

*Do you believe this?*



**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](http://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 Apostles Creed***

LSB inside back cover

## ***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***

LSB back cover

## ***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***

**Hymns during Distribution**

*“O Christ, You Walked the Road”*

LSB 424, vv. 1, 3, 5

O Christ, You walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go.  
You faced with us temptation’s pow’r And fought our ancient foe.

No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.  
Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.  
O Christ, You walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go.  
Stay with us through temptation’s hour To fight our ancient foe.

Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc.

*“My Song Is Love Unknown”*

LSB 430, vv. 1-5

My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I That for my sake  
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed,  
Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.  
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath,  
And for His death They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these  
Themselves displease And ’gainst Him rise.

They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He To suff’ring goes  
That He His foes From thence might free.

**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.

**Sending Prayer and Benediction**

**Sending Hymn**

*“My Song Is Love Unknown”*

LSB 430, vv. 6, 7

In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav’n was His home  
But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise  
I all my days Could gladly spend!



Today’s flowers were given to honor and praise our Lord  
in memory of Grace Metzner and Darin Henze given by Deliah Greeve.

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Watch services on Facebook or at [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org) – videotaping in progress during service

**NEXT SUNDAY**

***The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent***

March 19, 2023

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 42:14-21 / Ephesians 5:8-14 / John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

Sermon Topic: “Light of the World” - Sermon Text: John 9:3-5

*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)*

**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.

### **Up Coming Worship Opportunities**

**Lenten Midweek** – “Giving It Up” at Noon

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 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Palm Sunday** – April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Journey to the Cross** – April 6<sup>th</sup> - 11 am – 1 pm and 5 pm – 8 pm

**Good Friday** – April 7<sup>th</sup> - Noon & 7 pm

**Easter Sunday** – April 9<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am Easter Breakfast

10 am Festival Communion Service

**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 20<sup>th</sup>.

Any questions contact Nancy Gutowsky  
or the church office.

**Life Line Screening**, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Saint Thomas Lutheran Church on Friday, May 19, 2023. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>.

## *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 March 12, 2023

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

- Bringing joy and peace into our hearts through the Good News of Jesus.
- Healing all who are stymied by fear, shame, pain, or grief.
- Expanding the ways we search the scripture together and care for our neighbor.
- As FHL small group participants invite new people to join them.

**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 those who are in hospice care, especially Jane Gurnack.



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 †

†**Praise and Thanksgiving:** For the birth of a son, Nolan, to Ryan and Ashley O'Connor on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Kurt Gutowsky, 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), David Stolzenfeld, Helen Harper (friend of Cathy Meer), Warren Cooley (Don's father).

†**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).