



And day by day
the Lord added
to their number
those who were
being saved.

4th Sunday of Easter - April 30, 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 out ministry in the community, go to www.stl-eastpointe.org, or like us on Face Book. 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

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

LSB 525, vv. 1, 4, 5

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o’er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav’n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

Opening Liturgy

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

C: Amen.

L: He was chosen before the creation of the world.

C: In Your presence there is fullness of joy.

L: Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

C: In Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

L: We, who were created to glorify the name of our God, have muted our confession and at times have abandoned our calling. We have not given glory to God with our lips and our lives, but have acted as if we do not know Him. Let us confess our guilt and seek God's forgiveness.

(Silence for personal reflection)

L: Most Merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. 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 us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God upon 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

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace

L: Almighty God, merciful Father, since you have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, give us Your Holy Spirit that, as we hear the voice of our Shepherd, we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads. This we pray in the name of the One who laid down his life for us, Jesus Christ, 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)

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He

himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

(all rise)

John 10:1-10

C: (sung)

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

LSB 156

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 10.

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

[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

(after the reading)

L: 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.

Hymn of the Day

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"

LSB 735

Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen To give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock; Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you In His love forever;
Have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above,
For He stoops down to heal you, Uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to God,
For He stays close beside you, In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!

Text: © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

Sermon

“We Belong”

Acts 2:46

Voluntary

“A Faithful Shepherd is My Lord”

J. Nageli/C. Stein

Time for reflection and prayer.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’” **(Revelation 21:5)**

How do you feel about God’s Word being trustworthy and true?



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

Worship Folder, page 9

(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.**

Profession of Faith

"Lord of Hope, of Life, of Love"

We believe in God our Father, Maker of the universe,
Doing acts of awesome power, To sustain all heaven and earth;
He, my Maker; I, His creature, He, the Potter; we, the clay;
All we need, His hand provides us; Guards, protects us night and day.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Only Son of God Most High,
Came to earth, born of a virgin, Born to live, to love, to die;
Sinless Sacrifice to free us From captivity to sin,
Rose to life, our King triumphant; His kingdom will never end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, Giver of all faith and Life;
Through the Word, convicts and comforts, Seals us when we are baptized.
Holy Fire, Faith Igniter, Spirit of truth, of joy, of peace;
Sanctifies our frail bodies, Makes them His own dwelling place.
We believe God has one people, His forgiven, holy Church;
Eager for their resurrection, God's new heaven, and new earth.
Love unending, praises sending, To the one and only God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Lord of hope, of life, of love.

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(tune: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee", LSB 803)

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: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should give thanks to You always and everywhere, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. For You so loved the world that You gave Your only-begotten Son into the destruction of death, that all who believe in Him might not be destroyed, but have everlasting life. Renew our faith in His real presence in, with, and under the bread and wine, that we may be strengthened in faith by the forgiveness of sins. We lift our voices with all Your holy saints and angels, joining in their eternal praise:

C: Thanks be to God, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

LSB back cover

Words of Institution

Hymn of Preparation

"The Risen Christ"

vv. 1-2

O breath of God, come fill this place; revive our hearts to know Your grace;
and from our slumber make us rise that we may know the risen Christ.

O word of God, so clear and true, renew our minds to trust in You;
and give to us the bread of life that we may know the risen Christ.

The Distribution of the Sacrament – at the altar

Hymns during Distribution

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

LSB 740

I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

LSB 770

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

Post-Communion Canticle

"The Risen Christ"

vv. 3-4

O love of God, so unrestrained, refresh our souls in Jesus' name.
Let us reflect Your sacrifice that we may know the risen Christ.

May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit make us one.
In holiness let us unite that we may know the risen Christ.

In holiness let us unite that we may know the risen Christ,
that we may know the risen Christ.

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Phil Madeira
Arranged by Tom Fettke, Orchestrated by Thomas Grassi
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Sending Prayer and Benediction

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.



Today's flowers were given to honor our Risen Lord
by Larry and Karen Cichocki in celebration and thanksgiving
for their 58th wedding anniversary.



Today is Mite Box Sunday!

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

Lifeline 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://lisa.social/HC>.

**Voters Assembly – 7:00 p.m.
May 23, 2023**

Items on the agenda are election of officers and the budget for next fiscal year.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for candidates to fill part-time resource room teacher position at **Concordia** Lutheran School in **Redford** MI. Please include the paragraph below in your weekly church bulletin or newsletter, or electronic communication to your church members, and post this e-mail in a place where your church members will see it.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for a part-time resource room teacher position at **Concordia** Lutheran School in **Redford** MI. Applicants must hold a current Michigan Teaching License and have a special education certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST SPORTS CAMPS

Calling all students entering grades 5 through 9 next school year! Join us at Lutheran Northwest this summer for some fun and exciting athletic opportunities. Please contact Joe Lower at LHNW (248) 852-6677, or via e-mail at jlower@lhsa.com with any questions.

Girls Basketball: June 12-15, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Soccer: June 12-15, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Boys Basketball: June 19-22, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Football: June 19-22, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Softball: June 20-22, 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Girls Volleyball: June 26-29, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Learn more and register at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/summercamps or scan the QR code below.



***April through June Mission Envelopes
ABIGAYLE MINISTRIES***

***Next Sunday
5th Sunday of Easter – May 7, 2023***

Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60/1 Peter 2:2-10/John 14:1-14

Sermon Title: "Obstacles and Opportunities" – Text: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60

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

Your personal prayer guide for the week of:

April 30, 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 worship Gatherings.
- Keeping us faithful to him through the summer months.
- For children to be raised in the nurture and encouragement of the Gospel.
- For new individuals to become members of the STL Prayer Chain.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care, especially Jane Gurnack, Jill Hupp and Carroll Krantz



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 John Crivella, Kelly's brother who was called home last Friday, 4/21st.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Diane Ustick, Betty Williams, Marlene Cherry, Karen Hubbard, Roy Leidich, Kurt Gutowsky, Harrison Ahee, David Stolzenfeld, Helen Harper (friend of Cathy Meer), Mark Topal (son of Stan).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Beth White, Robert Laroche and Jan Adams (family of Karen Hubbard), Tiffany Crow (granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack), Kennedy Pank (great-granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond).