

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



May 21, 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.

Confirmation Sunday

Prelude

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

j. Van Valey/S. Berry

Processional Hymn

“Lift High the Cross”

LSB 837, vv. 1 – 3, 6

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod, Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

Led on their way by this triumphant sign, The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. **Refrain**

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. **Refrain**

So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

Text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

Invocation and Litany

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

C: **Amen.**

L: We were buried with Christ by baptism into death.

C: **In order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**

L: We must confess, however, that this we have been unwilling and unable to do.

(Silence for meditation and self-examination)

L: Most merciful God:

C: **We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. 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 announce the grace of God to 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.**

The Introit

“Gloria in Excelsis”

LSB 154

L: (spoken) Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C: (sung) **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

[A litany of confirmation verses from yesterday and today.]

- L: I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. *(Romans 1:16)*
- C: **"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."** *(Jeremiah 29:11)*
- L: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. *(Psalm 23:1)*
- C: **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.** *(John 3:16)*
- L: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." *(John 8:12)*
- C: **For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.** *(2 Timothy 1:6)*
- L: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives.
- C: **"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."** *(John 14:27)*
- L: Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." *(John 14:6)*
- C: **He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."** *(Ephesians 6:10-11)*
- L: Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. *(Philippians 4:6-7)*
- C: **Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.** *(Psalm 46:10)*

Hymn

"Christ Be My Leader"

LSB 861

Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

Prayer of the Day

L: God, our Father, your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. Bless, guide and govern the youth of your Church by your Holy Spirit that they may continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of your Word. Empower us all to develop and use our talents for the welfare of our neighbor and the growth of your kingdom. Keep us united with you on earth as you lead us toward eternity with you. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer and Friend.

C: **Amen.**

Testimony Time

Our Confirmands speak of their faith in a very personal way.

Anthem

"They That Wait Upon the Lord"

M. Larkin

+ WORD +

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:12-26

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and "'Let another take his office.' So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

(after the reading)

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 17:1-11

Gospel Verse

C: (sung)

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

LSB 156

R: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, chapter 17.

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

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

(after the reading)

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

Hymn

“First Song of Isaiah”

J. N. White

The congregation please join the choir singing this refrain after each verse is sung:



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the



Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Sermon

“Glorious Inheritance”

Ephesians 1:18-21

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Prayers

L: Heavenly Father, through the gift of Baptism You have made us Your own people, to declare the wonderful deeds of our Savior. Let us not shrink from giving bold witness to Your name, that others may come to know the saving light of Christ.

C: In the name of Jesus, keep us ever mindful of our Baptism.

L: Jesus Christ, burning Light to all nations, illuminate our hearts and minds with Your Word that we may understand Your good intentions for our lives. For our own wayward thoughts and sinful schemes, forgive us. By the blood of the Lamb, and by the wounds of the cross, renew us.

C: In your name Lord Jesus, keep us ever mindful of our Baptism.

L: Spirit of the Living God, in Baptism You have given the gift of faith to us. Increase our faith, that it may be a strong fortress in the face of earthly trials and temptations.

C: In the name of Jesus, keep us ever mindful of our Baptism.

(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer

L: Now, with confidence that You will grant us all things needful and all things beneficial to us and to all for whom we have prayed, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

Announcements and Attendance Registration



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.

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).

Offertory

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725, vv. 1, 2

Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

+ RITE OF CONFIRMATION +

Commendation of Parents and Sponsors

(Parents and sponsors of confirmands present are asked to stand)

P: The Church commends you for your faithfulness in the Christian training of these young men and women. Since their Baptism, you have prayed for them, brought them to God’s house for worship, and have insured that they were taught the essentials of the Christian faith, your prayers and encouragement remain important to them. Will you continue in fervent prayer for them, and, as it is appropriate, support them in their Christian faith and life?

Parents and sponsors: Yes, with the help of God and each other.

(Parents and sponsors may be seated)

The Rite of Confirmation

LSB 272

Prayer for the Confirmands

L: O Holy Spirit, you have enlightened the minds of these confirmands with knowledge of the Gospel.

C: **Continue to enlighten them so that they may grow in their understanding of Your Word.**

L: O Holy Spirit, you have strengthened the faith of these confirmands day by day.

C: **Continue to strengthen them so that they may be able to resist Satan's evil ways.**

L: O Holy Spirit, you have gathered these confirmands together in this place.

C: **Continue to encourage these confirmands to gather together with us in this house to worship and to praise.**

L: O Holy Spirit, you have called them to walk with Jesus throughout their lives.

C: **Continue to send them out as your kind and compassionate messengers.**

L: O Holy Spirit, you have led these confirmands forward in their faith.

C: **Continue to lead them on until the day when they will shine like stars in the kingdom of light. Amen.**

Hymn of Blessing

"Shepherd of Tender Youth"

LSB 864, vv. 1, 4

Shepherd of tender youth, Guiding in love and truth
Through devious ways; Christ, our triumphant king,
We come Your name to sing And here our children bring
To join Your praise.

O ever be our guide, Our shepherd, and our pride,
Our staff and song. Jesus, O Christ of God,
By Your enduring Word Lead us where You have trod;
Make our faith strong.

Our 2023 Confirmation Class

Brooke Ann Quinn

Parents: William & Lisa Quinn

Birthday: July 3, 2010

Baptized: February 27, 2011

Grandparents Roy & Judy Michelsen and
Bill & Helene Quinn

Godparents: Dan & Christine Quinn



*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will
experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace
will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus". Philippians 4:6-7*

Victor Charles Meredith

Parents: Charles & Lisa Meredith

Birthday: December 30, 2009

Baptized: January 30, 2010

Grandparents: Charles & Myroslawa Meredith and
Victor & Suzanne Minetola

Godparents: Michelle Amato and Dwayne Baxd



“Be Still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalms 46:10

+ SACRAMENT +

Preface

L: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

C: **In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross opened his arms to all.**

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit, that in the mystery of this Sacrament we may know the unity in faith and in mission we share with all your people

C: **In the body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen**

Lord’s Prayer

LSB inside back cover

Words of Institution

Hymn of Preparation

LSB 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Continuous Line Distribution

All who wish to come forward will be ushered down the center aisle to receive the body and blood of Jesus or a blessing.

Please carry your worship folder and continue to sing as you participate.

Alcohol-free wine is available in the center of each individual cup tray.

Gluten-free host is available upon request from the host server.

If you are coming for a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest

Hymns during the Distribution

Handbells

“Simple Gifts”

J. Van Valey/S. Berry

"O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee"

LSB 632

O Jesus, blessèd Lord, to Thee My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed On me Thy body and Thy blood.

Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Public domain

"O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near"

LSB 599
(tune 883)

O gracious Lord, with love draw near To these, Your children gathered here;
The Spirit's gift in them renew: The gift of faith that clings to You.

Sustain the work You have begun In these united to Your Son,
For in that pure baptismal flood They have been cleansed by Jesus' blood.

Deliver them from ev'ry wile, From all that would their hearts beguile,
From worldly ways and Satan's lies, That they may not Your Word despise.

Lord, keep them firm in their intent To You, Your Word and Sacrament.
O make them bold, their faith to share And make them strong, each cross to bear.

O Father, grant that by Your grace They may Your will each day embrace;
With fruits of faith their lives now bless, Till they at death Your name confess.

Then robed in white before Your throne, Your holy saints, by You foreknown—
Predestined, called, and justified, Shall, crowned in light, be glorified.

Text: © 2003 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House.

Post Communion Canticle

LSB 164

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Dismissal

Post Communion Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

LSB 922

Go my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story, Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you, here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace.
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.
Go, My children, I will keep you and give you peace.

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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)*

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

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

*Next Sunday
Pentecost – May 28, 2023*

Numbers 11:24-30/Acts 2:1-21/John 7:37-39

Sermon Title: "Living Water" – text: John 7:38

**April through June Mission Envelopes
ABIGAYLE MINISTRIES**

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.



Would you like to be a part of the audio/visual team? Team members would be responsible for Facebook recordings, sound system, slide presentation, and more. No experience necessary - training will be provided. Contact Tony Berkseth 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).

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week
May 21, 2023

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

- As our FHL groups, CrossTraining for Youth, THE FLOCK, and PB+J discuss the Gospel.
- At work in the redeemed, increasing our generosity and joy in giving.
- In those who are new to STL.
- Through our planning and preparation for Vacation Bible School.



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.

And we give thanks to our loving Triune God for His faithfulness and joy for our Junior Confirmands Victor and Brooke.

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†**For Loved Ones Called Home:** The family of JoAnn Woodward, who was called home last Sunday. The family of Coy Daniels (former member) who was called home this past week.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Art Wensink, Marge Bittner, Janet Semenjuk, Diane Ustick, Betty Williams, Karen Hubbard, Harrison Ahee.

†**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).

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