



December 3, 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*

Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Hymn of Invitation

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

LSB 353, vv. 1 & 4

Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate’er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comforts us in failing years.

Prayer of the Day

L: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength,

C: And save us from the threatening dangers of our sins.

L: Grant us the gift of Your divine peace and pardon,

C: And bless Your Church, here and scattered throughout the world, as we proclaim the Gospel and call all nations to faith.

ALL: (sung)

LSB 389, vv. 1 & 6

Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

Proclamation of the Good News

L: God has heard our cry. Immanuel is come. He has defeated our enemies, atoned for our sins, and authorized me to proclaim this good news to you: Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

(we share the peace with one another)

Anthem

“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”

M. Praetorius

The Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

(all rise)

Mark 11:1-10

C: (sung) **Savior of the nations come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.**

LSB 332, v. 1

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 11.

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

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were

shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

(after the reading)

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

C: (sung) **Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our King,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.**

LSB 332, v. 8

The Nicene Creed

LSB inside rear cover

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

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

LSB 348

The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun That lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death Despite the rage of foes.

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see His face.

The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings!

Sermon

“Unity”

1 Corinthians 1:9-10

Our Response to God's Word

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.” (Isaiah 2.5)

How is your life different as you walk in the light of the Lord?

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

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

LSB 350, vv. 1, 2, 4

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.



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: <https://www.stl-eastpointe.org/2015/07/13/mission-support/>
- Go to <https://www.elixiogiving.com/app/giving/stthoms>
- 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 Service of the Sacrament

“As we receive the True Body and Blood of our Lord, our faith is fed, our spirits are encouraged, and we are moved to share God's grace with the world.”

[Because of the closeness of this sharing (and the concerns expressed in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29) we ask that those who have not been taught the faith at STL speak with a pastor or elder before communing.]

Preparation for the Sacrament

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

L: Assembled with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

C: (sung)

LSB 357, vv. 1, 5

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

The Lord's Prayer

LSB back cover

Words of Institution

L: This Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Distribution of the Sacrament - Continuous Line

Entrance Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB 341, vv. 1, 2

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

Hymns during Distribution

“What Is This Bread”

LSB 629

What is this bread? Christ’s body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release. O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing! O taste and see—the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die
Under the rod? My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me? O taste and see—the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal. O taste and see—the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive
His very body and His blood. O taste and see—the Lord is good.

ext: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue.

Post-Communion Canticle

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB 341, vv. 5

Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Dismissal

Sending Prayer

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Prerpare the Royal Highway”

LSB 343

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story: **Refrain**

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!

God’s people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! **Refrain**

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

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

Patrons are needed to help defray the cost of the professional musicians we hire to accompany the Kapelle and enhance our Christmas Eve service. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "Patron for Kapelle" and place it in the offering plate, offering box, bring it to the church office or give electronically. Thank you for your support of the music ministry.

2024 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. If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office. **Please, do not use these envelopes until 2024!**

Up Coming Worship and Events

December 6 & 13 & 20 at Advent Noon only

December 9 – Clothing Closet open from 11 am – 1 pm

December 10 – Lessons and Carols Worship at 9:30 am

December 22 - Holiday food basket packing 5:30 pm

Help is needed!

December 23 - Holiday food basket distribution starting at 10 am

Help is needed starting at 9 am!

December 24 - Advent Four at 9:30 am

December 24 - Christmas Eve Celebration at 4 pm

December 25 - Christmas Day at 9:30 am

December 31 – 1st Sunday after Christmas with portions of NYE service (no evening service)

Giving Tree Remember to stop by the Giving Tree in the west entrance and select a card for a person who needs you to share Christ's love this season. The cards are for our Great Start Readiness Program Preschool – 18 children and 25 children from Evergreen Lutheran Church & School in Detroit. **Please follow the directions on the table for each card selected. Gifts must be back at the church by December 17!**

It's Lutheran Witness time! This is the time to order or renew subscriptions of the *Lutheran Witness* (LW), the official periodical of the LCMS. It is published 11 times a year and provides laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, fosters personal growth in faith, and helps interpret the contemporary world from the Lutheran Christian perspective. The subscription year is March 2024 through February 2025. Yearly subscriptions are \$19.00/year each if orders are placed through the St. Thomas church office (if not the cost is \$24.99). Orders and money need to be in the office by December 10 (checks made payable to St. Thomas).

October through December Mission Envelopes
CAMP RESTORE - DETROIT
(Housed in Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church)

DID YOU KNOW? The area surrounding Camp Restore Detroit (9th Precinct of Detroit) is only 20% populated. This means many houses, lots, and even entire blocks are abandoned. Camp Restore works to restore hope in the community through hosting groups of all ages and sizes, housing and feeding them, and partnering with community leaders and community organizations in activities of environmental cleanup, construction, and human care.

100% of your Mission Envelope donations (either using the envelop provided in your box or through your designation electronically or with a different envelope) to STL during the months of October, November, and December will be given directly to CAMP RESTORE DETROIT. For more information on the ministry, go to www.camprestore.org or call 313-527-3366.

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:

December 3, 2023

Our Primary Prayer focus this week is upon God's Work through STL:

- As we reflect upon what God has done through STL over the years.
- As we pray for the pastoral call committee and process.
- As we look to how he is shaping STL for a dynamic future.
- As we invite and welcome new people into our fellowship.

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



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 †

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Brenda Finger, Ben Stubenrauch, Harrison Ahee, Beth White (niece of Jan Adams), Wilhelm Wolf (cousin of Vera LaFrate), Joe Habrowski (Sue Wensink's cousin), Thomas Patch (Sandra's husband), Jane Hinkins (friend of Alicia Anno).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Joanne Awe, Robert Laroche (family of Jan Adams), Jan Adams, 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), Adriana Sullivan (friend of Sue Wensink).

NEXT SUNDAY

Lesson and Carols

December 10, 2023

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11 / 2 Peter 3:8/14/ Mark 1:1-8

Weekly Worship with Communion - Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Monday at 7:30 p.m.

"The Flock" for children and Cross†raining JC Style for youth

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week