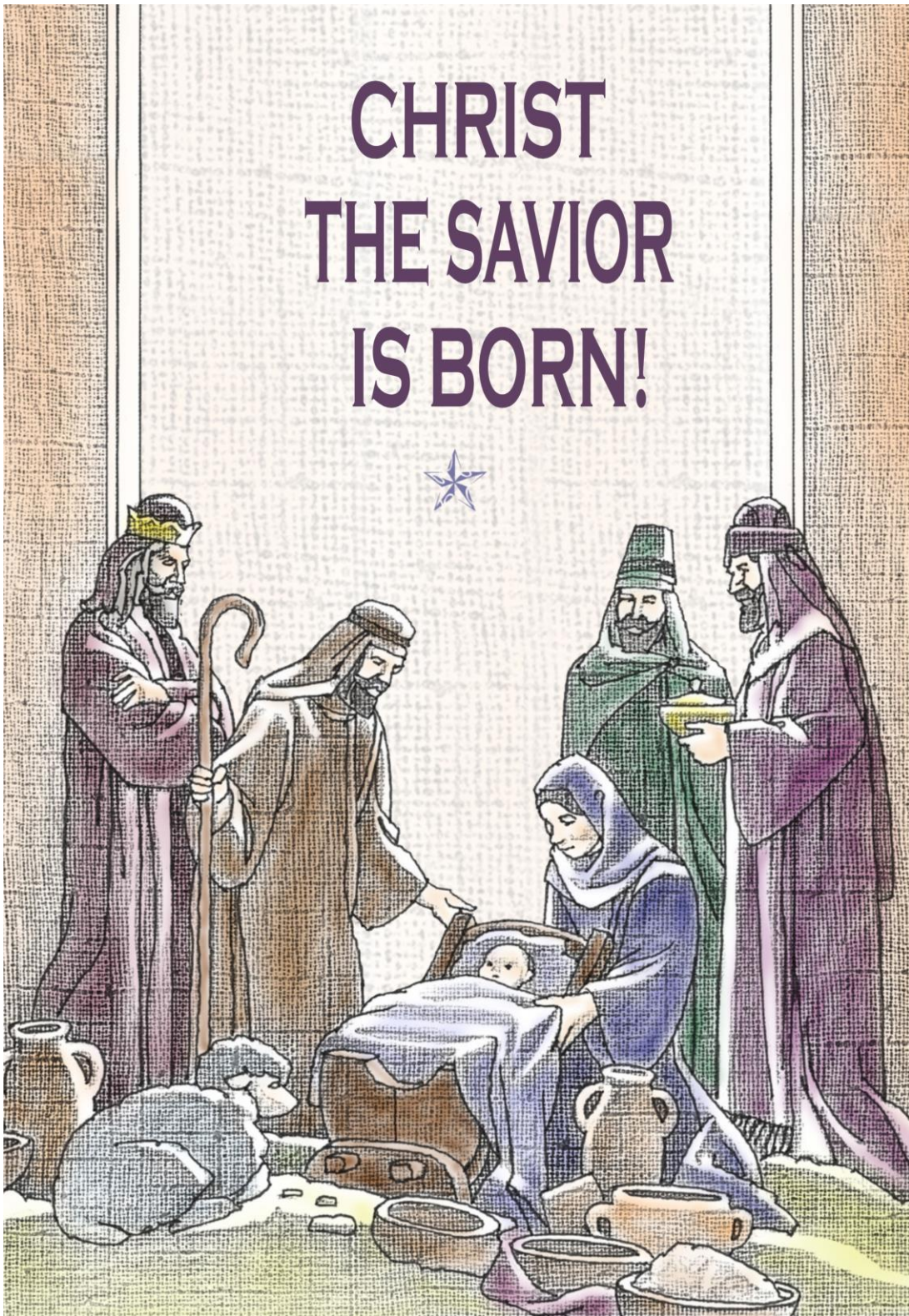


# CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!



*December 25, 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 out ministry in the community, go to [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://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.

## *Christmas Day*

### **Call to Worship**

*“Jesus is Born”*

G. Henderson

### **Invocation**

(Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1, 14)

L: In the name of the Father...

**C: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

L: and of the Son...

**C: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

L: and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.**

### **Confession**

(1 John 1:8, John 1:9-11)

L: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: The true Light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.**

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)*

L: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are not the creatures You intended us to be. We have fled from Your light and truth. Although we sing about joy to the world because our Lord has come, we still desire to be our own lords and masters. We deserve Your punishment; for Jesus' sake, show us mercy, so that we may walk in the light of Your love. Amen**

### **Absolution**

(John 1:12, 16-17)

L: To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

**Kyrie**

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise**

*“Angels we have Heard on High”*

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**Sharing of the Peace**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*(share these greetings with one another)*

**Anthem**

*"That First Nowell"*

D. Besig

## + *The Service of the Word* +

### **Old Testament Lesson**

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*(after the reading)*

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Lesson**

**Hebrews 1:1-6**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

*(after the reading)*

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel** *(all rise)*

*(The Child of the Promise is Born)*

**John 1:1-14**

### **Gospel Procession**

*"From Heaven Above"*

LSB 358, vv. 8 & 13

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, chapter one.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*(after the reading)*

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### ***Gospel Procession***

*"From Heaven Above"*

LSB 358, vv. 14 & 15

My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

### ***Children's Lesson***

### ***Hymn of the Day***

*"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

LSB 393

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

### ***Sermon***

*"Mornings Eternal Light"*

**John 1:9**

### ***Nicene Creed***

LSB inside back cover

## ***+ God at Work in and Through Us+***

### ***Prayer of the Church***

*(after each petition)*

L: We ask in the name of the newborn King

C: **Let all God's angels worship Him!**

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



**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.elexiogiving.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).

### **Offertory Hymn**

### *"Let All Together Praise Our God"*

LSB 389, vv. 1, 2

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 leaves His heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.

Text (st. 1): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Text (st. 2): Public domain

## **+ Service of Holy Communion+**

*"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.]*

### **Preface**

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: Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**C: (sung)**

### *"Let All Together Praise Our God"*

LSB 389, vv. 6, 7

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

Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

## **Prayer**

L: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us and all humanity. In the Word made flesh You have brought peace to earth, for which we offer glory to You in the highest heaven. Whoever believes in the Savior born this day shall not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer, Savior, and Lord as He comes to us in His body and blood.

C: **Amen**

## **Lord's Prayer**

LSB inside back cover

## **Words of Institution**

### **Entrance Hymn**

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

LSB 379, vv. 1, 2

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: **Refrain**

**Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes; Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

## **Distribution of the Sacrament**

*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.*

## **Distribution Hymns**

*"Away in a Manger"*

LSB 365

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

*“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”*

LSB 374

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

***Dismal***

***Thanksgiving Hymn***

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

LSB 379, vv. 3, 4

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest: **Refrain**

**Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n! Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

***Prayer***

L: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with the body and blood of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. We beg You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through this sacrament that we will grow in our trust of You and in our compassion for all nations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

***Benediction***

***Hymn***

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

LSB 380

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the\_angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” **Refrain**

**Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the\_incarinate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! **Refrain**



Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. **Refrain**

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

## *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).

*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*