

"Follow Me and I will make you Fishers of Men."



*Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 21, 2024*

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Specific Ministry Pastor - Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Deacon Don Cooley

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

Receiving the Good News

Opening Hymn

“Hail, O Source of Every Blessing”

LSB 409

Hail, O Source of ev’ry blessing, Father of our human race!
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing, In Your courts obtain a place.
Grateful now, we fall before You, In Your Church rejoice to live,
See Your glory and adore You, Thankful for the grace You give.

Once far off but now invited, We approach Your sacred throne,
In Your covenant united, Reconciled, redeemed, made one.
Now revealed to eastern sages, See the Star of Mercy shine,
Myst’ry hid in former ages, Myst’ry great of love divine.

Hail, O all-inviting Savior! Gentiles now their off’rings bring,
In Your temples seek Your favor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit, Live devoted to Your praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit, Grateful anthems ever raise.

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 62]

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

C: Amen.

L: God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress so I shall not be greatly shaken.

C: Wait in silence for God alone, O my soul, for our hope is from him.

L: Trust in him at all times, O people and pour out your hearts before him.

C: Power belongs to God, and to him belongs steadfast love.

L: Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

LSB 411, vv. 1-2

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. **Refrain**

**Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

Text: © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace

L: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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.

(share the peace with one another)

Anthem

“Jesus, Only Jesus”

C. Tomlin

+ The Service of the Word +

Old Testament Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. . . . When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:14-20

LSB 580, vv. 1

(tune 664)

**C: The Gospel shows the Father’s grace, Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died That we might thus be justified.**

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, Chapter 1.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

(after the reading)

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**C: May we in faith its message learn Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess And praise the Lord, our righteousness.**

vv. 6

Nicene Creed

LSB inside back cover

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.

Hymn of the Day

“O Christ, Who Called the Twelve”

LSB 856, vv. 1-4

O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and follow You,
Forsaking old, familiar ways For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call To risk security
And, bound in heart and will to You, Find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for ages sealed,
Whose words and works awakened faith, The ways of God revealed:
Instruct us now, we pray, By Your empow’ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who led the Twelve Among the desolate
And broke as bread of life for all Your love compassionate:
Lead us along the ways Where hope has nearly died
And help us climb the lonely hills Where love is crucified.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim The nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith Transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains Both life and ministry.

Text: © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

Sermon

“Fishers of Men”

Mark 1:17

Responding to the Good News

The Prayer of the Church

L: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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 1-586-800-2233
- Visit: <https://www.stl-eastpointe.org/2015/07/13/mission-support/>
- Go to <https://www.elexiogiving.com/app/giving/stthoms>
- Scan this Quick Response (QR) code
- Through your Pay Pal account

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).

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.” (Psalm 62.8)

How often do other words replace him and God in your life?

Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day Unawares o’ertaken;
For the foe, Well we know,
Is a harvest reaping While the saints are sleeping.

But while watching, also pray To the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day, Strength and faith increasing,
So that still Mind and will
Shall unite to serve Him And forever love Him.

Confession and Absolution

[Romans 10]

- L: The word is near you; in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith that we proclaim.
C: **If we declare with our mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved.**
L: There is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him.
C: **Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**
L: Together as His people let us call upon the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.
C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, open our ears and our hearts to your Word, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

- L: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in our witness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.
C: **Amen.**

+ 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.]

Service of the Sacrament

[Psalm 113]

- L: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets the name of the Lord is to be praised.
C: **Let the name of the Lord be praised both now and forevermore.**
L: The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory is above the heavens.
C: **He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.**
L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who**

trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Sacrament

Pre-Communion Canticle *“O Jesus, Blessed Lord to Thee”* LSB 632

O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee my heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who has so lovingly bestowed on me Your body and Your 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!

Distribution Hymn

“What Is the World to Me” LSB 730

What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord, My soul’s delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!

The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone. What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good, Content with it I’ll be:
My Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me!

What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to me!

Post-Communion Canticle

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray” LSB 623 vv. 4, 5
(tune 632)

One bread, one cup, one body, we, Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray: O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest In heaven’s high and holy feast.

Dismissal

Sending Prayer

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“The People That in Darkness Sat”

LSB 412, vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath’ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.

His righteous government and pow’r Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

NEXT SUNDAY

The 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28, 2024

Scripture Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20/1Corinthians 8:1-13/ Mark 1:21-28

Lighting for Kapelle We are looking for monetary donations for a special lighting system to enhance our Good Friday Tenebrae services, Christmas Eve Service, Easter, and other festival services. The cost of this special lighting is \$300. Anyone who would like to donate to this special lighting system can donate online, in the church office or place in an envelope marked “lighting for Kapelle” in the offering plate/box. Thank you. Watch for more information during announcements.

Thank you to all patrons for your generous support at Christmas to hire the professional musicians that support the Kapelle and congregational singing. Patrons are needed for our beautiful Festival Easter service. If you would want to be a patron for Easter, you may donate online, place your donation in the offering plate or box in an enveloped marked “patron for Kapelle” or bring your donation to the church office. Thank you for your genuine support of the Kapelle and its efforts to edify the church through music in song.



You are invited to join St Stephen and Pan de Vida Lutheran Churches in SW Detroit for a hymn festival featuring a new bilingual hymnal *Santo, Santo, Santo*. This event will take place on Sunday, February 4 at 5pm at 1235 Lawndale in SW Detroit. An offering will be collected to help offset costs of purchasing these hymnals. If you are unable to attend, but would still like to donate, please contact Jacob Ferns at jferns.organ@gmail.com for more details. This hymn festival is hosted

as part of the Vespers at Trinity (Wyandotte) series, which is supported in part by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST NEWS

8TH GRADE FAMILIES: Interested in enrolling your son or daughter at Lutheran High Northwest for next year? There are some important dates and deadlines to keep on your radar this month!

- 1) We are hosting an **8TH GRADE INTRO NIGHT** on Wednesday, January 24, at 7PM. This fun evening provides an official welcome to 8th graders already registered or considering Lutheran Northwest for next year. It will also provide helpful information to parents about the LHNW curriculum and scheduling options for 9th grade. Students who have taken our High School Placement Test will receive their test scores at this time. No pre-registration is required. Dessert is included as we celebrate with the newest members of our Crusader family!
- 2) If you haven't yet applied and are ready to take that step, **NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION FOR 2024!** Our application fee is at its lowest (\$150) through the end of January, but it will increase to \$200 on February 1. The application is quick and easy and can be completed online here: www.lutherannorthwest.com/apply

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a family visit and/or student shadow day, please call our Admissions Director, Mary Gutenkunst, at 248-852-6677, or email mgutenkunst@lhsa.com. We're happy to be a resource for your family as you prayerfully consider your high school options for next year!

5TH & 6TH GRADE FAMILIES: The Lutheran Northwest 5th & 6th Grade Quiz Bowl is back! The big day is Wednesday, February 7, at 6PM. Form a team of 3-5 students and sign up for this fun & challenging event! Registration closes on Sunday, February 4, so don't delay. Sign up online on the Quiz Bowl page at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events. See you there!

Greifshare being offered at Bethel Lutheran Church, in St. Clair Shores. Two groups will start on Tuesday, January 30. Each group is a 13-week course that will meet every Tuesday, one from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm and the second from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Please register by calling Bethel at 586-778-0021.

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 other years envelopes!**

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).

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

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week
January 21, 2024

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

- Calming all hearts that are filled with fear, shame, pride, or grief.
- As we discover new ways to search the scripture together and care for our neighbor.
- As the Holy Spirit develops faith in children and youth – through family devotions and other means.
- For people and families to read from the Bible and pray together daily.
- For the call committee at Historic Trinity, that they will be led to follow your will, and that the voters will accept their recommendation for our partnership pastor.

And we pray for the safety and wellbeing of all students and educators.

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.



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:** Marge Bittner, Brenda Finger, Harrison Ahee, John Belvedere (son-in-law of Caroline Henze), Scott Baker (grandson of Diane Ustick), Betty Nelson (sister of Caroline Henze).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Mary Burke- Gianino, 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).

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

Monday at 7:30 p.m. (pending)

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

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week