



"The kingdom of God
is as if someone would
scatter seed on the
ground ...
and the seed would
sprout and grow,
he does not know how."
Mark 4:26-27, NRSV

June 16, 2024

Saint Thomas Lutheran Church

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

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Vacancy Pastor - Rev. Keith Lemley - 586-651-1040

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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.

*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Divine Service*

INVITATION

God draws us into his presence.

Entrance Hymn

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

LSB 892, vv. 1, 3, 4

Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest home.

For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His harvest home,
From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away,
Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store In His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide:
Come with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

Entering Prayers

[from Psalm 1]

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

C: **Amen.**

L: Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

C: **but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

L: He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

C: **The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

L: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”

LSB 940, vv. 1, 5

Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heav’n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one, Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee While we own the mystery.

Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace

L: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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

INSTRUCTION

God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

(all rise)

Mark 4:26-34

C: **(sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 4.

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

[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

(after the reading)

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

We Profess our Faith

"Apostles Creed"

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Announcements and Attendance/Communion 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.

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

LSB 720

We walk by faith and not by sight, No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke, But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice And cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near And seek where You are found.

For You, O resurrected Lord, Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, Beneath the bread and wine.

Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are, With full and endless sight.

Sermon

"Sowers, Don't Worry"

Mark 4:26-34

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

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: Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood is named, we give You thanks for earthly fathers. Give them confidence in their station and zeal for their task to care for their families faithfully. Make them examples to their children of godly life and love of Your Word. Bless their work of bringing up children in the fear and instruction of the Lord, and give them the comfort of Your absolution over all their shortcomings. Gather us together with all our fathers to Your eternal household; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Offertory

"Create In Me"

LSB 956

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

L: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of hosts, who is here to heal and save us.

C: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

L: From the rising of the sun to the setting of the same, we cry aloud with joyful voice and say:

C: Glory be to you, O God, the Savior of all, forever and ever. Amen.

(time for personal reflection)

L: Lord Jesus Christ, hear us as we pray:

C: We confess that we have run away from you and have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves. We have refused to bear the troubles of others and have turned from our neighbors. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. Lord Jesus, in your mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; in Your name we pray. Amen.

P: Christ Jesus did, indeed, die for your offences, and was raised for your justification. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INVOLVEMENT

God makes his absolution shown in the world.

"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.]

The Sanctus

"Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord of Hosts"

BOTB 92

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of His glory, The whole earth is full of His glory,
The whole earth is full of His glory; Holy is the Lord.

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Service of the Sacrament

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

C: We give thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

L: Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of his cross,

C: And receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in his body and blood.

L: Hear us as we pray in his name and as he has taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

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

Pre-Communion Canticle

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

LSB 623, vv. 1, 2
(tune LSB 632)

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine Enrich us with Your grace divine.

Give us, who share this wondrous food, Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv’n, The certain joys of heirs of heav’n.

Distribution of the Sacrament - Altar

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 Hymn

“Preach You the Word”

LSB 586, vv. 1, 2, 4, 6
(tune 883)

Preach you the Word and plant it home To men who like or like it not,
The Word that shall endure and stand When flow’rs and men shall be forgot.

We know how hard, O Lord, the task Your servant bade us undertake:
To preach Your Word and never ask What prideful profit it may make.

Though some be snatched and some be scorched And some be choked and matted flat,
The sower sows; his heart cries out, “Oh, what of that, and what of that?”

Preach you the Word and plant it home And never faint; the Harvest Lord
Who gave the sower seed to sow Will watch and tend His planted Word.

Text: © 1971 The Franzmann Family.

“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

LSB 577

Almighty God, Your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav’n descend And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev’ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world’s deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow’r may know.

Post-Communion Canticle

“O Jesus, Blessed Lord”

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!

Sending Prayer and Benediction

Sending Hymn

“For the Fruits of His Creation”

LSB 894

For the fruits of His creation, Thanks be to God.
For His gifts to ev’ry nation, Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth’s safekeeping, Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

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Sending Greeting

L: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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



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:

1. Text “GIVE” to 1-586-800-2223
2. Visit: <https://www.stl-eastpointe.org/2015/07/13/mission-support/>
3. Go to <https://www.elexiogiving.com/app/giving/stthoms>
4. Through your Pay Pal account
5. 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).

NEXT SUNDAY:

The 5th Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

Scripture Readings: Job 38:1-11 / 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 / Mark 4:35-41

Life Line Screening is coming to St. Thomas on July 26th.
To make an appointment and to receive the special discount,
(pick up a flyer on the tables around the building)
Please call 1-800-640-6307 or visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HC](https://llsa.social/hc)

Deacon Don has launched his website Godsword4u.org. You will find a Tuesday devotion, sermons, and merchandise on the site. With the ultimate goal of taking any profit from the purchases will go towards purchasing time on the local electronic billboards to post scripture. For any questions contact Deacon Don

Looking for Summer Camp opportunities for your middle-schoolers? Lutheran Northwest is offering boys & girls athletic camps for grades 5-9 starting in mid-June! Learn more and register at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/summercamps.

Lutheran High School Northwest is seeking to fill the following teaching positions for the 24-25 school year:

- Theology
- Science (Chemistry and Life Sciences)

Interested applicants should email Principal Matt Tschudy at mtschudy@lhsa.com or call the school office at 248-852-6677.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) is having their 19th Annual Golf Outing on Monday, September 16th, 2024 and you're invited! Play a round of golf and raise funds for children who have learning needs in Christian schools here in SW Michigan and across the country. Golf, cart, breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included in your ticket price. There will be plenty of fun games to play as we fundraise for these kids. Register your team today or sponsor the event. Together we can help these children grow in learning and love of God. www.luthsped.org/2024-lsem-golf-outing

April through June Mission Envelopes
ABIGAYLE MINISTRIES

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

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week
June 16, 2024

In your prayers this week please remember:

- All fathers, grandfathers, and Godfathers.
- The childless and parents who have buried a child.
- Families that are torn apart by strife or conflict.
- Those who feel isolated or alone, along with those who suffer with depression.
- Households missing a positive, godly male presence.

And we remember the unborn and newly born, the elderly and those nearing life's end, remembering all grieving families, 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:** Nancy Jiminey, Helen Ham, Walter Jakubiec, Janet Semenjuk, Scott Baker (grandson of Diane Ustick), Tamara Sommer (Connie's daughter-in-law), Nancy Wargo (mother of Debbie Churchill), Denny Wentworth (cousin of Jan Patty), Sally Burk (sister of Lois Revard), Tim Schnepfer (cousin of John Hupp and Ann).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Joanne Awe, Brenda Finger, Harrison Ahee, Andrew Brejnak, 19, (grandson of Gerry & Nola Klonowski, son of their daughter, Lisa), 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).

✠**Prayer for Guidance:** with the calling of our new pastor. Guide our call committee and the process of choosing the pastor You will bless to be at STL.