



December 1, 2024

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Senior Pastor - Rev. Dietrick Gladden – 248-719-2766

pastor@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 Lessons and Carols



TODAY'S SERVICE

Adapted from the Advent Carol Service used at St. Paul's Cathedral in England, today's service is part of a long tradition of vivid Advent services whose purpose is to help us as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, and for his coming again in glory. Much of the service is drawn from ancient sources. Some of the images have been used from the beginnings of Israel, through the period of the New Testament, through the Middle Ages to the present day. Every age has found in them a new richness through which God's continuous mercy, revealed most dramatically in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, can be seen.

Our scripture readings focus upon the promises God made through his prophet Isaiah. Isaiah's ministry began around 740 BC and continued for nearly 60 years. It is generally thought that he spent most of his time in Jerusalem. In both his lifetime and, most importantly, in his revelations, Isaiah saw some of the best (beautiful Gospel) and the worst (sin and rebellion) of things for the people of God.

At various times and from assorted locations a voice will be heard, symbolizing how the prophets appeared as God's instruments throughout the Old Testament. God's Word will be read from one location to express symbolically the consistency of God throughout our pilgrimage on earth, in forgiving our sins and providing His strength. The candlelight in the procession is a reminder that God is with us always, even to the end of the age. As the service concludes, we, who are gathered around his throne of grace, are sent into our darkened world (Isaiah 62:1-3) with the burning torch of the Gospel.

The Gathering

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prelude

"The First Nowell"

S Berry/ J. Van Valey

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.

Call to Worship *(please rise)*

L: Hear, oh people, the promises of your God:

C: We will listen and rejoice as he speaks to us through his prophet.

L: The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (7:14)

C: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. (9:2)

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

C: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (9:6)

L: A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench. (42:3)

C: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

L: He has covered us with the robe of righteousness. For as the earth sprouts forth with new life in the spring,

C: So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. (61:10-11)

Song of Preparation

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

LSB 357

1 Cantor / 2 ALL / 3 Women / 4 Men / 5 ALL

1 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!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree, Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save, And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. **Refrain**

5 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**

Text: Public domain

The Bidding

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

C: Amen.

L: Stir us up, O Lord, in your way of peace. Give light to us and all who live in the darkness of sin and in the shadow of death, and kindle in us the fire of your love.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

The Responsory

(sung)

LSB 230

Cantor: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is our Righteousness

Cantor: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is our Righteousness

Cantor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is our Righteousness

(congregation please be seated)

Entrance Hymn

“On Jordan’s Bank”

LSB 344

1 Cantor / 2 ALL / 4 ALL

- 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.

Text: Public domain

The Word of the Lord

The Advent Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’ And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’— when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

John 4:19-26

The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

Anthem

“Noel Carol for Advent”

P. Liebergen

The Advent Priest

Leviticus 21:1a, 17-23

And the LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: No one shall make himself unclean for the dead among his people,

“Speak to Aaron, saying, None of your offspring throughout their generations who has a blemish may approach to offer the bread of his God. For no one who has a blemish shall draw near, a man blind or lame, or one who has a mutilated face or a limb too long, or a man who has an injured foot or an injured hand, or a hunchback or a dwarf or a man with a defect in his sight or an itching disease or scabs or crushed testicles. No man of the offspring of Aaron the priest who has a blemish shall come near to offer the LORD’s food offerings; since he has a blemish, he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God. He may eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy and of the holy things, but he shall not go through the veil or approach the altar, because he has a blemish, that he may not profane my sanctuaries, for I am the LORD who sanctifies them.”

Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Anthem

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

M. L. Thompson

The Bidding (please rise)

L: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!

C: See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation.

L: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son that at his second coming we may worship him in purity.

C: Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn

“The King Shall Come”

LSB 348

1 ALL/ 2 Choir / 3-5 ALL

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

2 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.

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

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

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

Text: Public domain

(congregation please be seated)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east. They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them. And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.

Hymn

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

LSB 332

1 Cantor / 2 Women / 4 Men / 6 Choir / 8 ALL (rise)▲

- 1 Savior of the nations, come, Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.
- 6 For You are the Father’s Son Who in flesh the vict’ry won.
By Your mighty pow’r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.
- ▲ 8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain

Text (sts. 4, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 6): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002509

(congregation please be seated)

As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Anthem

“Emmanuel”

N. Price/D. Besig

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Hymn

“Of the Fathers Love Begotten”

LSB 384

1 Cantor / 3 ALL / 5 ALL (rise)▲

- 1 Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.
- ▲5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Public domain

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Apostles' Creed

L: God has made us His people through our baptism into Christ. Believing in Him we confess our faith:

C: **I believe in God ...**

(congregation please be seated)

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: God our Father, You have loved and chosen us according to Your mercy and called us through the living voice of Your Word. Grant to us the Spirit of Your grace, that what You have begun in us may be brought to completion when Christ appears in His glory on the Last Day; for You live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

L: If the Lord our God kept a record of sins, who could stand before him?

C: **But with Him there is forgiveness, therefore He is feared.**

L: We are gathered in His presence to hear His Word, call upon Him in prayer, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot save ourselves. Together as God's people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and pray:

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your 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.**

Preface (please rise)

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: We thank You for the life we have today, and for the new world to come, all given freely to us through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

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

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.]

Words of Institution

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei

[tune: LSB 357]

O Come, O Come Thou Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sins of the world
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

(congregation please be seated)

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.*

Anthem

"O Jesus Grant Me Hope and Comfort"

J. Franck/C. Stein

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

LSB 336

- 1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for ev’ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.
- 2 Ev’ry eye shall now behold Him Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him, Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, Shall their true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of His passion Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee, High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow’r and glory, Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

Text: Public domain

The Blessing and Benediction

Sending Greeting

L: Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB 343

- 1 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!

- 2 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**
- 3 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**
- 4 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. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002509

Copyright Permission CCLI License #1438022 - Created with Lutheran Service Builder
© 2018 Concordia Publishing House. LSB Hymn License #110002509
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:

- 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).

Up Coming Worship and Events

December 4, 11 & 18 Advent Midweek Worship at 7 pm

December 14 – Clothing Closet open 11 am – 1 pm

December 14 – Advent Aglow – 6 p.m.

December 15 – Gifts do back in the church

December 20 - Holiday food basket packing 5:30 pm

Help is needed!

December 21 - Holiday food basket distribution starting at 10 am

Help is needed starting at 9 am!

December 24 - Christmas Eve Celebration at 4 pm

December 25 - Christmas Day at 10 am

December 31 –NYE service at 7 pm

(for more information on any of these events, please call the church office)

Does the church have all your current information?

Current address? Home Phone # active? Cell phone #? E-mail address?

Please fill out a "Change of Address" form (found on tables) or use the attendance form on last page and update your information with the church office. We will be using this information to communicate and share information with the congregation.

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.

Godsword4u.org - 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.

Advent by Candlelight - Friday, December 6, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the St. Peter's Lutheran School Gym. All Ladies are welcome to host or cohost a table of 8 friends or come as an individual guest. Please reserve your space by calling Tina Johnson at 944-7213 or Patty O'Hara at 879-3340.

MCREST is in need of some help with providing transportation money for their guests. Not every week is sponsored by a church, and the need to provide, approximately \$25.00 per guest per week, for transportation is not being met. (about \$1,000.00 a week) Can you help with this in addition to your weekly giving? If so, please put “MCREST – TRANSPORTATION” on one of the envelopes by the offering boxes, and the church office will forward it to MCREST. Thank You!

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 2025 through February 2026. Yearly subscriptions are \$21.20/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 8 (checks made payable to St. Thomas).

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 – 20 children and 30 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 15!**

Advent Aglow – December 14th, at 6 pm, in the gym. A time for the women of St. Thomas and their friends to gather, worship and celebrate the upcoming birth of our Lord, before the busyness of the season takes over. All women are welcome either to host a table or just attend. Reservations are needed. Please see Kelly Crivella in the west entrance, following the service, to sign up for hosting or attending, or call her at 313-550-2950.

Advent Devotionals Pick up your copy of “Come, Let Us Adore Him” advent devotional from LHM. They are available in baskets by each of the entrances and on tables throughout the building.

2025 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 2025!**

October through December Mission Envelopes

CAMP RESTORE - DETROIT

(Housed in Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church)

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 1, 2024

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is upon Christ's people on earth:

- Receive our thanks that You continue to preserve Your Word among us.
- Guard us from temptations that would harm our faith and cause us to fear Your coming.
- Grant us repentant hearts and increase our love for one another.
- Watch over the authorities of our land.
- Give us penitent hearts that worthily welcome His coming and rejoice in His gifts.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care especially Carol Vietzke, member at Mt. Calvary.



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:** Debbie Closurdo, Jan Patty, Fred Bauss, Russ Semenjuk, Larry Cichocki, Janet Edwards, Roy Leidich, Tim Schnepfer (nephew of John Hupp and Ann), Steven Eubanks (Barbara's son), Robert Miller (Heather's father), Tim Setter (nephew of Caroline Henze), John Belvedere (son-in-law of Caroline Henze), Julie Tyner (friend of Caroline Henze), Doug Klawender (son of Shirley).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Janet Semenjuk, 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, Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Kennedy Pank (great-granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Sally Burk (sister of Lois Revard), Tamara Sommer (Connie's daughter-in-law).

NEXT SUNDAY

2nd Sunday in Advent

"God's Love at Christmas"

December 8, 2024

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 23:5-8

