



January 5, 2025

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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www.stl-eastpointe.org

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

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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 want to learn more about ministry in the community, go to www.stl-eastpointe.org, or like us on FaceBook. To get your questions answered more personally, contact the church office (586-772-3370) and ask for a pastor to call you.

Divine Service

Prelude

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.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Opening Hymn ***“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”*** [LSB 395, vv. 1, 4, 6]

O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's race, King David's son,
Our Lord and master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious,
Rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!

Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation.

Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving
Life forever, Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!
We are yearning For the day of Your returning!

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.

Opening Liturgy

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

C: Amen.

- L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
- C: Give us the power of your Holy Spirit, that with your Word active in us, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow in boldness and confidence through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

- L: Gracious God,
- C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Word and Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, blessing all with the love of Jesus; in his name we pray. Amen.**
- L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in your witness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.
- C: Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

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

[LSB 411, v. 1]

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.
 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.

Text: © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace

- L: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, 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

“We Three Kings”

A. Page/J Shafferman

The Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

C: (rise to sing)

LSB 411 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.

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 2.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"

[LSB 399]

The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

The eastern sages saw from far And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod And by their gifts confessed their God.

Within the Jordan's sacred flood The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known, Might cleanse His people from their own.

And oh, what miracle divine, When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.

For this Thy glad epiphany All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

Sermon

"Fellow Heirs"

Ephesians 3:6

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: May Your light shine on us and bring forth the fruits of repentance in our daily lives. Give us confidence in Your Word, that we would embrace Your holy will without fear. Hear and answer us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lords Prayer

Sending Prayer

Benediction

Sending Greeting

L: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

[WOV 652]

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit’s call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God’s pow’r will make us strong.

Text by Ruth Duck. Music by William H. Walter
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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:

- 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).



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!**

January 11 – Un-decorate the church at 9am

Help is needed!

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 Crossftraining JC Style for youth
Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH **January 5, 2024**

Our Primary Prayer focus is the life transforming power of Christ's Word, and especially:

- Through our regular reading of God's Word in our homes.
- At work in the redeemed, increasing our generosity and joy in giving.
- As we invite and welcome new people into our FHL groups and THE FLOCK
- As we serve our community through our Clothing Closet and Food Pantry.

And we remember those who protect and nurture life on this earth, this week remembering global healthcare needs and political situations.



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:** JoAnn Dieball, Janice Engel, John Cherry, Russ Semenjuk, Larry Cichocki, Roy Leidich, Robert Miller (Heather's father), Julie Tyner (friend of Caroline Henze), Doug Klawender (son of Shirley), Emily Henze (daughter-in-law of Caroline), Beverly (friend of Connie Sommers), Allison Bottke (friend of Bucholtz's).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Debbie Closurdo, 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).