



*February 16, 2025*

*Saint Thomas Lutheran*

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

*[www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org)*

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

*[pastor@stl-eastpointe.org](mailto: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 want to learn more about ministry in the community, go to [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://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 Setting One*

### *Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany*

LSB page 151

**Prelude**

*“He Is Exalted”*

S. Pethel

### **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.

**Opening Hymn**

*“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”*

LSB 704

*Rise on last verse*

Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,  
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Your holy face.

Remove the pow’r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity  
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Your Word.  
Let what You will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only You may love And seek those things which are above  
Till I behold You face to face, O Light eternal, through Your grace.

### **Confession and Absolution**

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

C: **Amen.**

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

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(time for personal reflection)*

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

- C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- L: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

### ***Introit***

- L: I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your just and righteous decrees.
- C: Blessèd are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD!**
- L: Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart.
- C: You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.**
- L: Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!
- C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### ***Kyrie (responses sung)***

- 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***

### ***“Gloria in Excelsis”***

LSB 154

- L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
- C: (sung) Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:  
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.  
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### ***Salutation and Collect of the Day***

- L: The Lord be with you.
- C: (sung) And also with you.**

L: O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **(sung) Amen.**

### ***Sharing of Peace***

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

*(share the peace with one another then be seated)*

### ***Anthem***

*“Glorify”*

S. Pethel

## ***The Service of the Word***

### ***Old Testament Reading***

**Jeremiah 17:5-8**

Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

*(after the reading)*

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### ***New Testament Reading***

**1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

*(after the reading)*

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### ***The Holy Gospel***

*(all rise)*

**Luke 6:17-26**

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

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

LSB 156

L: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the 6th chapter.

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

[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. "Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

*(after the reading)*

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

### **Children's Sermon**

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

*"Jesus Sat with His Disciples"*

LSB 932

Jesus sat with His disciples On a mountainside one day;  
As the crowds of people gathered, He began to teach and say:  
"Blessèd are the poor in spirit, Heaven's kingdom they will share.  
Blessèd are the sad and mourning, Joy and comfort will be theirs.

"Blessèd are the meek and humble, All the earth to them is willed.  
Those who hunger to be holy, They are bless'd and will be filled.  
Yes, the merciful are blessèd, Mercy will to them be shown.  
And the pure in heart are blessèd, They have eyes for God alone.

"Blessèd are God's sons and daughters, Making peace where there is strife.  
Blessèd are the persecuted, Who for righteousness lose life;  
Their reward is great in heaven, In the kingdom up above—  
So be glad to share My suff'ring And rejoice to know My love."

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#### **Sermon**

*"Where are You Planted"*

**Jeremiah 17:5-8**

#### **Nicene Creed** *(Please rise)*

LSB, inside back cover

**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

### ***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: Lord God, heavenly Father, plant us as trees by the stream of Christ, our Savior. Root us securely in His Word and wisdom. Do not let us turn from You, nor put our trust in man and this flesh, which fail. Preserve us from all anxiety, and take our fears away through right fear of You. Cause us, by Your Holy Spirit, to bear much fruit and, when affliction and persecution come, to stand firm and rejoice at the great reward that is laid up for those who trust in You; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: 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.]*

### ***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: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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) Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

L: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## ***Lord's Prayer***

LSB, inside back cover

L: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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***

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

**C: (sung) Amen**

## ***Agnus Dei***

LSB 163

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## ***Distribution (Please be seated)***

*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.*

## ***Hymns during the Distribution***

### ***"The Man Is Ever Blessed"***

LSB 705

The man is ever blessed Who shuns the sinners' ways,  
Among their counsels never stands, Nor takes the scorners' place,

But makes the Law of God His study and delight  
Amid the labors of the day And watches of the night.

He like a tree shall thrive, With waters near the root;  
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live, His works are heav'nly fruit.

Not so the wicked race, They no such blessings find;  
Their hopes shall flee like empty chaff Before the driving wind.

How will they bear to stand Before the judgment seat  
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand In full assembly meet?

He knows and He approves The way the righteous go;  
But sinners and their works shall meet A dreadful overthrow.

*"Praise to You and Adoration"*

LSB 692

Praise to You and adoration, Blessèd Jesus, Son of God,  
Who, to serve Your own creation, Came to share our flesh and blood.  
Guide me that I never may From Your fold or pastures stray,  
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where Your steps are leading.

Hold me ever in Your keeping; Comfort me in pain and strife.  
In my laughter and my weeping Be with me throughout my life.  
Give me greater love for You, And my faith and hope renew  
In Your birth, Your life, and passion, In Your death and resurrection.

**Post-Communion Canticle** (Please rise)

**Thank the Lord**

LSB 164

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Post-Communion Collect**

**Benediction**

**Sending Greeting**

L: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sending Hymn**

*"Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing"*

LSB 737, vv. 1, 2, 6, 7

Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;  
For God, the source of ev'rything, Your portion shall remain.

He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,  
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great reward.

His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes.  
All that His counsels may ordain A blessèd ending makes.

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust His guiding love;  
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in heav'n above.





**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](http://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 East hallway – by the church office!**

**New Directories are located on tables around the church!**

**January through March Mission Envelopes**

**THE LUKE CLINIC**

(now in both Detroit and Flint)

**NEXT SUNDAY**

***The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany***

February 23, 2025

Scripture Readings: *Genesis 45:3-15 / 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42 / Luke 6: 27-38*

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Here is the report of our General Fund stewardship for the first 7 months of the current fiscal year. Your prayers and support are very important to the health of St. Thomas, so thank you for all you do.

	January 2025		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>	32,351.75	34,125.00	221,941.15	241,175.00
<b>Expense</b>	<u>39,590.60</u>	<u>35,768.25</u>	<u>246,071.76</u>	<u>235,776.30</u>
<b>Net</b>	(7,238.85)	(1,643.26)	(24,130.61)	7,398.70

The Restricted Fund Balance is \$50,902.93.

**Mortgage Balance - \$1,577,411.96, Restricted Loan - \$19,263.27**

**January's Counted Attendance – 417**

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

**Fundraiser for H.I.S. II**  
**Hungry Howies's Fundraiser Card for \$10.00**  
**Get over \$45 in Savings!** Available in the church office.

**Patrons** are needed to defray the cost of the professional musicians hired for our Easter Festival Service. If you would like to be a patron, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Patron for Easter" and place it in the offering box; or bring it to the church office or donate electronically. Thanks for your continued support of the music at St. Thomas.

**Outreach & Discipling: Jesus' Style**

A workshop for laity, pastors, and all  
With Greg Finke (Dwelling 1.14) as facilitator

**Saturday, March 29, 2025**

**9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

(with time afterwards for additional conversations)

LFH Hall (16140 Aurora Ave, Eastpointe, Mi, 48021)

LUNCH INCLUDED

Greg Finke has personally used this model effectively and trained many congregations nationally. The components of the training will include strategic praying or the mission, using the Word of God as a guide, learning how to be a good neighbor, discovering our God story, and telling our God story. The day will provide an opportunity for congregations to encourage and support one another and a template to meet throughout the year for fellow up and feedback.

**TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THIS FREE WORKSHOP:**

Contact the church office or email Pastor Mark Hetzner at [hetzmarkrev@gmail.com](mailto:hetzmarkrev@gmail.com)

(and ask your pastor about the leaders banquet the night before at 6:30 p.m.)



**I-Can Tutoring**  
**Free tutoring for grades K – 8**  
**Monday – Thursday**  
**From 3 pm – 6 pm**  
**at St. Thomas Lutheran Church**  
**Room 210 (enter through door #2)**  
Includes: Reading, Math, Spelling, Writing,  
Prayer, Games & Activities

Contact Mrs. Becky Gladden  
for more information at (248) 821-4967

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Your personal prayer guide for the week of:*

**February 16, 2024**

### **Our Primary Prayer focus for this week:**

- Your people may always hold fast to the Word.
- Preserve us from the ways of the wicked, and prosper us in Your paths.
- Remember those in need of honest labor and daily bread.
- Preserve us in Christ Jesus with hope beyond this life.
- For all who need Your healing and comfort.

**And we remember** all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care.



To connect to the **STL PRAYER CHAIN**, contact Karen Dolan ([mdolan421@gmail.com](mailto: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 †**

†**For Loved Ones Called Home:** The family of Samuel Kostenko who was called home on Thursday. The family of Sylvia Wallace, friend and member of Mt. Calvary.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Linda Bucholtz, Janet Semenjok, Davis Cardamone, William Erfourth, Debra Closurdo, Larry Cichocki, Roy Leidich, Mel Ferdinande, Beverly (friend of Connie Sommers), Allison Bottke (friend of Bucholtz's), Michele Jones (preschool director), Betty MacArthur (former member), Brad Tenn (friend of Brenda Zito), Thomas Patch (Sandra's husband), Karen Nieman (cousin of Sandra Patch), Terra Slatten (wife of Chris, organ repair man), Ed Vanic (former member), Kennedy Pank (great-granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Vicar Brad Thomas.

†**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, Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Sally Burk (sister of Lois Revard), Tamara Sommer (Connie's daughter-in-law).

## *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).