

Christmas Eve 2025

4:00 p.m.

(Please register your attendance on the attendance insert and place in offering box or use the QR code.)

Prelude *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* J. Van Valey/S. Berry

The Greeting

L: When all was still, the almighty Word of the Lord descended from his royal throne to be born of a woman, to redeem us who were under the law, so that we might become the children of God and heirs of eternal life. Tonight we are here to retell this wonderful story and to reflect upon his incredible love.

A Time to Prepare

L: Alleluia. Alleluia. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

C: **He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.**

L: He shall be called Wonderful Counselor.

C: **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

L: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

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

(silence for meditation and self-examination)

L: Most merciful God,

C: **We do not deserve to be called your children, for we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved one another. Rather than being eager to listen to your Word and do good to our neighbor, we resist you in our selfishness and greed. We deserve your wrath and punishment, not your love.**

L: Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for your sins. Therefore, because of his love, I have this good news for you: Your sins are all forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

C: **Amen.**

The Confession of Faith

(Luther's explanation to 2nd Article)

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death, that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Prayer of the Day

L: O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood

“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.]

Pre-Communion Prayer

L: Pour out upon us the spirit of your word, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you are about to feed with one heavenly food.

C: **Amen.**

Word's of Institution

Hymn of Preparation

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379, vv. 1, 3

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: **Refrain**

**Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God
In the highest: **Refrain**

Continuous Line Distribution

*All who wish to come forward will be ushered down the center aisle
to receive the body and blood of Jesus or a blessing.*

Please carry your hymnal or folder and continue to sing as you participate.

*Alcohol-free wine is available in the center of each individual cup tray.
Gluten-free host is available upon request from the host server.*

Distribution Hymns

Anthem

“Ukrainian Folk Carol”

D. Gillespie

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368, vv. 1, 3

Instrumental

Dismissal and Prayer



Were You There on That Christmas Night?

(Lloyd Larson)

Opening – A Great Light!

Congregation joins singing: (watch director for cue)

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free:
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

Bethlehem

Never Been a Night Like This!

All Is Well

Congregation joins in singing: (watch director for cue)

All is well, all is well. Angels and men, rejoice!
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light.
Sing alle, sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth.
Christ is come; go and tell that He is in the manger.
Sing alle, sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing alleluia! All is well.

Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!

Words and music by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Michael W. Smith
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Sing We Now of Christmas

Congregation joins in singing: (watch director for cue)

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Were You There on That Christmas Night?

Congregation joins in singing: (watch director for cue)
(congregation please rise)

Did you know, did you know it was God's own Son,
the salvation of the world begun?
Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth?
Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth?

Ceremony of the Candles

Prayers

N1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made. In Him was life, and the life was the light for all people.

N2: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son of God, full of grace and truth.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Our electric candles illuminate the night.
(Using the switch on the base of your candle, please turn it on,
leaving it on through the benediction.)

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**

Hymn

"Silent Night"

LSB 363

Solo: Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

All: Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

All: Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Benediction

L: O Lord, bless us and keep us. Lord Jesus, make your face shine upon us and be gracious to us. Renew our hearts this night and fill us with your love. O Holy Spirit, give us your peace that we might celebrate – forever and with all the redeemed – the great news that Christ our Savior is come.

C: **Glory to God on high! Glory to our newborn King!**

(Please turn off your candle and lay it on your pew.)

Glory to the Newborn King!

Congregation joins in singing: (watch director for cue)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that men no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give us second birth.

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight?
Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night?

Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night,
when the world was filled with a holy light?
Were you there to behold when the wonder foretold came to earth?

Please place your offering in the white boxes at the entrances



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).



The Miracle of Christmas

**Join Us as we continue the Celebration
on Christmas Day Worship at 9:30 a.m.
with Communion**

Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another Educating Minds – Growing Faith – Serving People

We are glad you are here. When you come to worship at STL, you are among friends and family. If you are curious to learn more about ministry in the community, go to www.stl-eastpointe.org, or like us on FaceBook. To get your questions answered in a more personal way, contact the church office (586-772-3370), and ask for a pastor to give you a call.

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 (see 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).



Serving in God's House

Preacher: Rev. Dietrick Gladden

Liturgist: Deacon Don Cooley

Organist: Lori Stolzenfeld

Music: Kapelle, Handbells

Sanctuary Team: Keith Coderre

Servers: David Anno, Richard Cain, Russ Poullot, Liam Quinn

Altar Guild: Dana Haenke-Adams, Randa Haenke-Swanboro

*Weekly Worship with Communion - Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Monday at 7:30 p.m.*

Faith Hope Love Ministries throughout the week

Cross†raining for children Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

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



Thanks to the Musicians

Lori Stolzenfeld
Alicia Anno

Kapelle Director
Handbells Director

Ramon Garza
Sander Kostallori
Jon Luebke
Judith Teasdle
Irina Tikhonova
Bruce Pollatz
Danielle Ferdinande

Viola
Violin
String Base
Violin
Cello
Trumpet
Flute

Thanks to the Cast

Narrators: April Surinck, Pastor Mark Hetzner
Joseph – Brendan Quinn, Mary – Alexis Mulka
Inkeeper – Michelle Smih
Head Angel – Brook Quinn

Angles – Virginia Anno, Savannah Szymczak, Aggie Perich, Ellie Perich
Shepherds – David Anno Sr, David Anno Jr,
Brandon Mulka, Tracy Smith

Wiseman – Bill Erfourth, Keith Coderre and Pastor Dietrick Gladden
Candle Bearers – Kathey Smith, Tracy Smith, Lisa Quinn, Trish Perich
Helpers: Lisa Quinn and Alicia Anno

Thank You Patrons!

*Thank you, patrons, for your donations to the Music Ministry.
We have been blessed to have more patrons than we can mention.
Your donations are appreciated beyond measure,
and helped to provide the additional beautiful music this Christmas.
May the peace of the newborn King always be with you and yours.*

Merry Christmas!



December 24, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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

www.stl-eastpointe.org, email: churchoffice@stl-eastpointe.org

*Pastor - Rev. Dietrick Gladden – 248-719-2766 pastorgladden@stl-eastpointe.org
Specific Ministry Pastor - Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Deacon Don Cooley*