



The Parable of the Sower

July 12, 2026

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Pastor - Rev. Dietrick Gladden – 248-719-2766 pastorgladden@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, 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.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost *Matins*

LSB page 219 – All responses will be sung

Prelude

“Morning Has Broken”

E. Farjeon, T. Fettke

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

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

LSB 686

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.
- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

Text: Public domain

Opening

LSB 219

L: O Lord, open my lips,

C: **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

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. Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.**

Venite

L: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: **O come, let us worship Him.**

C: **O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving,
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.**

**For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
the strength of the hills is His also.**

**The sea is His, for He made it,
and His hand formed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.**

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

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.

L: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: **O come, let us worship Him.**

Sharing of the 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

"Day by Day"

C. Berg, O. Ahnfelt

Service of the Word

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit

of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

(after the reading)

R: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Verse (all rise)

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Gospel Responsory

L: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

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

C: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 13th chapter

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

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

“Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

(after the reading)

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

Nicene Creed

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”

LSB 691

- 1 Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing, May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

- 2 Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.
- 3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.
- 4 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.

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Sermon

"With Him"

Romans 8:16-17

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: Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Kyrie

LSB 227

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

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

Distribution

*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

“Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing”

LSB 584

- 1 Faith and truth and life bestowing, Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing, Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, Your Word receiving, Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving, Shallow earth or stony ground.
- 2 May the Spirit’s pow’r unceasing Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing, Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story, Savior, may Your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold Your glory Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

LSB 577

- 1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav’n descend And righteous fruits abound.
- 2 Let not the sly satanic foe This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev’ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
- 3 Let not the world’s deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.
- 4 So when the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow’r may know.

Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Collect

L: Let us pray.

C: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Collect of Grace

L: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benedicamus

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Benediction

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"For the Fruits of His Creation"

LSB 894

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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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Please place your offering in the boxes at the entrances!



**Today's Flowers are given to praise and honor our Lord
for blessings received.**



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).

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

Upcoming Events:



(visit the web page or see the STL publications for more information)

Fundraiser for MCREST July 15th at Red Robin

Family Night – July 16rd from 6 pm – 8 pm

(meal is served at 6 pm)

Join with the community to share a meal & fun!

Food Closet July 18th 11am – 12pm

Your help is needed!

Family Night – July 23rd from 6 pm – 8 pm

(meal is served at 6 pm)

Join with the community to share a meal & fun!

I-Can Tutoring

Free tutoring for grades K – 8

Room 210 (enter through door #2)

Session 2 is July 13 – August 27th

Monday – Thursday, from 9 am – 12 pm

Includes: Reading, Math, Spelling, Writing, Prayer, Games & Activities

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

STL FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED

Thank you for supporting our community!

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Crackers, Snacks, Feminine Hygiene Products

Shelf Stable Juice, Body Wash, Peaches, Pears, Pineapple (Can)

Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise Salt and Pepper

All items must be nonperishable and at least 6 months before expiration date.

We cannot distribute dented cans, opened or damaged packaging, vitamins, OTC medications and items beyond the Expiration Date, "Use By", "Sell By" or "Best By" dates.

Your generosity makes a real difference.

Thank you for your understanding and continuing to support our neighbors in need.

Next Sunday

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8 / Romans 8:18-27 / Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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).

World for Life Uganda July and August Mission Envelopes

World for Life (WFL) is a newly registered Christian non-profit organization in the US with 501-C-3 status, expanding from its successful roots in Uganda, Africa since 2018. WFL collaborates with existing organizations, communities, and individuals world-wide to support children and their families to achieve their fullest potential in social, cultural, spiritual, and economic well-being.

Their vision is to provide a loving, caring, and secure environment where all children's basic needs and rights for survival, development, protection, and participation are met. WFL's foundation is based on the Christian values, the forefront being Love and Compassion. It is not about us, but the impact we make in people's lives we serve.

100% of your Mission Envelope donations (either using the envelope provided in your box or through your designation electronically or with a different envelope) to STL during the months of July & August will be given to World for Life Uganda. For more information on the mission, go to www.worldforlifeuganda.org or call (201) 423-0535.

In your prayers this week please remember:

- Make our hearts good soil for Your Word, that by such faith we may bring forth in our lives the good works to which You have called us.
- Bless parents with faithfulness as they plant Your Word into their children, that they may grow steadfast among the cares and troubles of this world.
- Give our leaders the desire for peace and stability and the ability to govern wisely.
- Bless pastors and missionaries as they proclaim Your truth.
- The ministry of **World for Life Uganda**.

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:** Janice Engel, Melvin Ferdinande, Steve Kruse, John Cherry, Marge Bittner, Nancy Wargo, Doug Klawender (son of Shirley), Dorothy Rumsey (Becky Gladden's mother), Emily Henze (Caroline’s daughter-in-law), Beatrice Paden (Pastor Gladden’s aunt), Carol Hawkins (cousin of Jan Patty), Jennifer Patterson (friend of Jan Patty), Floro (Delia Greve’s nephew), Regina (aunt of Jan Patty) Marlene Debrosse and Donna Karas and Kathy Bommarito and Matt Kaye (Debbie Kujawski’s relatives and friends), Davis Cardamone.

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Harrison Ahee, Kennedy Pank (great-granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Andrew Brejnak, 19, (grandson of Gerry & Nola Klonowski, son of their daughter, Lisa), Robert Laroche (family of Jan Adams), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Sally Burk (sister of Lois Revard), Tamara Sommer (Connie’s daughter-in-law). Palliative care: Dolly Houth.