

A graphic on a white background. On the left, a yellow diamond-shaped sign with a white border contains the text "THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE..." in brown, serif, all-caps font. To the right of the sign is a large, dense pile of small, round, yellow mustard seeds, with many more seeds scattered across the white background.

"THE  
KINGDOM  
OF  
HEAVEN  
IS LIKE..."

*July 26, 2026*

***Saint Thomas Lutheran***

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

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

*Pastor - Rev. Dietrick Gladden – 248-719-2766 [pastorgladden@stl-eastpointe.org](mailto: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](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.

## *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

### *Divine Service Five*

LSB page 213

**Prelude**

*“Shout to the Lord”*

D. Zschech

### **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**

*“God Himself Is Present”*  
*(Rise on last verse)*

LSB 907

- 1 God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him And with awe appear before Him.  
God is in His temple; All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.  
He alone On His throne Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!
- 2 God Himself is present: Hear the harps resounding; See the hosts the throne surrounding.  
“Holy, holy, holy!” Hear the hymn ascending, Songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow Your ear To us here: Hear, O Christ, the praises That Your Church now raises.
- 3 Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit, Trusting only in Your merit.  
Like the holy angels, Worshiping before You, May I ceaselessly adore You.  
Let Your will Ever still Rule Your Church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

Text: Public domain

### **Confession and Absolution**

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

C: **Amen.**

L: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

L: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*(time for personal reflection)*

L: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

L: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit

**C: Amen**

## ***Psalm***

LSB 125

L: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,

**C: which cannot be moved, but abides forever.**

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his people,**

L: from this time forth and forevermore.

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,

**C: lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.**

**Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,**

L: and to those who are upright in their hearts!

But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers!

**C: Peace be upon Israel! Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

L: And to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning

**C: Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## ***Kyrie***

LSB 227

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

## ***Gloria in Excelsis***

*“All Glory Be to God Alone”*

LSB 948

1 All glory be to God alone, Forevermore the highest one,  
Who did our sinful race befriend And grace and peace to us extend.  
Among us may His gracious will All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

2 We praise You, God; Your name we bless And worship You in humbleness;  
From day to day we glorify The everlasting God on high.  
Of Your great glory do we sing, And to Your throne our thanks we bring.

3 Lord God, our King on heaven’s throne, Our Father, the Almighty One.  
O Lord, the sole-begotten One, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son,  
True God from all eternity, O Lamb of God, to You we flee.

- 4 You take the whole world's sin away; Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.  
You take the whole world's sin away; O Lord, receive our prayer this day.  
From God's right hand Your mercy send, To all the world Your grace extend.
- 5 You only are the Holy One And over all are Lord alone.  
O Jesus Christ, we glorify You and the Spirit, Lord Most High;  
With Him You evermore shall be One in the Father's majesty.

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

L: The Lord be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.  
C: **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***

*"Grace Alone"*

S. W. Brown/J. Nelson

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

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

**Deuteronomy 7:6–9**

"You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations."

*(after the reading)*

R: This is the word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

### ***Epistle Reading***

**Romans 8:28–39**

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more

than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*(after the reading)*

R: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ***The Holy Gospel***

*(all rise)*

**Matthew 13:44–52**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

*(after the reading)*

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## ***Creed***

***“We All Believe in One True God”***

LSB 953

- 1 We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Ever-present help in need, Praised by all the heav’nly host;  
All He made His love enfolds, All creation He upholds.
- 2 We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary’s son,  
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won;  
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.
- 3 We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds,  
Who sustains and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.  
Blessèd, holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!

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## ***Children’s Sermon***

- 1 I love Your kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode,  
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.
- 2 Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,  
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.
- 3 I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev'ry land,  
Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.
- 4 For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend;  
For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.
- 5 Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n  
The brightest glories earth can yield And brighter bliss of heav'n.

Text: Public domain

**Sermon***"The Kingdom of Heaven"***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: These and whatsoever other things You would have us ask of You, O God, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

***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** *(Please rise)*

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them unto 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 our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks

for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. 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:

### ***Words Of Our Lord***

#### ***Pax Domini***

LSB 197

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

**C: (sung) Amen**

#### ***Agnus Dei***

LSB 198

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

#### ***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***

#### ***"In Thee Is Gladness"***

LSB 818

- 1 In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest; Who trusts Thee surely,  
Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia! Our hearts are pining,  
To see Thy shining, Dying or living To Thee are cleaving; Naught can us sever: Alleluia!
- 2 Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.  
He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;  
All heav'n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia! We shout for gladness,  
Triumph o'er sadness, Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him,  
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

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*"All Depends on Our Possessing"  
(Please rise)*

LSB 732 vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

- 1 All depends on our possessing God's abundant grace and blessing,  
Though all earthly wealth depart. They who trust with faith unshaken,  
By their God are not forsaken And will keep a dauntless heart.
- 2 He who to this day has fed me And to many joys has led me,  
Is and ever shall be mine. He who ever gently schools me,  
He who daily guides and rules me Will remain my help divine.
- 5 Well He knows what best to grant me; All the longing hopes that haunt me,  
Joy and sorrow, have their day. I shall doubt His wisdom never;  
As God wills, so be it ever; I commit to Him my way.
- 6 If my days on earth He lengthen, God my weary soul will strengthen;  
All my trust in Him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding,  
Like a stream away is gliding; Safe I anchor in His grace.

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

*"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"*

LSB 618 vv. 5

- 5 What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. Refrain

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*"Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"*

LSB 619 vv. 5

- 5 My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.  
With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally.

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***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.**

***Benedicamus and Benediction***

L: Bless we the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: The Lord bless...give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you;  
You are My own. In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing— You are My own.
- 2 Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you,  
What I can cure. Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.  
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
- 3 Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me; Grow in love and love by serving,  
Joyful and free. Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.
- 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace; I the Lord will smile upon you  
And give you peace: I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

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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](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).

*Next Sunday*  
***Tenth Sunday after Pentecost***

Isaiah 55:1-5 / Romans 9:1-5 / Matthew 14:13-21

## Upcoming Events:



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

### **Family Night – July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 pm – 8 pm**

(meal is served at 6 pm)

Join with the community to share a meal & fun!

### **Clothing Closet – August 8<sup>th</sup> from 11 am – 1 pm**

Your help is needed! Contact Kathy Smith for more information

### **Food Pantry August 15<sup>th</sup> 11am – 12pm**

Your help is needed!

### **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!**

Cereal, Shelf Stable Juice, Peaches, Pears, Pineapple (Can),  
Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Salt, Pepper, Crackers, Snacks, Chunky Soups,  
Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Bar Soap, Feminine Hygiene Products

*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 is Mite Box Sunday!**

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

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH – July 26, 2026

**In your prayers this week please remember:**

- Grant that we may abide in Christ and His word of truth, remaining steadfast and immovable until the end.
- Grant us faithfulness in these callings, that we may see them as gifts through which we serve You and our neighbors.
- Grant wisdom to all who make, administer and judge our laws, that they may seek what is best for all in accordance with Your will.
- Grant that all who commune today might receive the Sacrament faithfully and depart refreshed, knowing that they are Your forgiven people.
- 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](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 †

✠**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, Debbie Closurdo, Tom Habrowski (Sue Wensink’s brother).

✠**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.