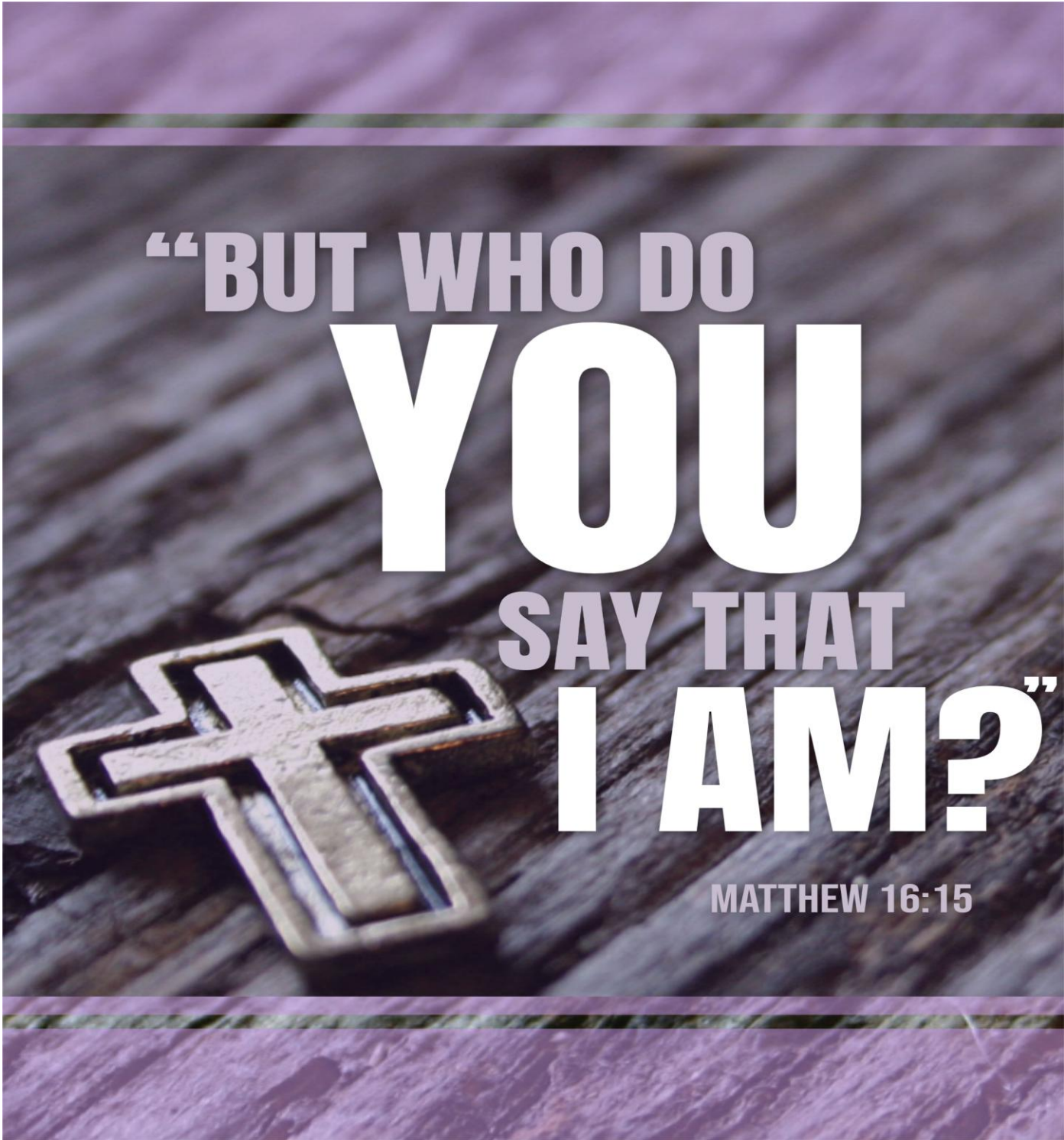




“BUT WHO DO
YOU
SAY THAT
I AM?”

MATTHEW 16:15

August 23, 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.

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Divine Service Five*

LSB page 213

Prelude

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”

S. Smith

“I’m In The Lord’s Army”

Gospel Action Songs

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

“O Holy Spirit, Enter In”

LSB 913

Rise on last verse

O Holy Spirit, enter in, And in our hearts Your work begin,
Your dwelling place now make us. Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
Around and in us brightly shine, To joy and gladness wake us,
That we may be Truly living, To You giving Prayer unceasing,
And in love be still increasing.

Give to Your Word impressive pow’r, That in our hearts from this good hour
As fire it may be glowing, That in true Christian unity We faithful witnesses may be,
Your glory ever showing. Hear us, cheer us By Your teaching;
Let our preaching And our labor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neighbor.

O mighty Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife,
In us be strongly burning That we be faithful unto death,
And live in love and holy faith, From You true wisdom learning.
Your grace and peace On us shower; By Your power Christ confessing,
Let us see our Savior’s blessing.

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

138; antiphon; v. 8a

L: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

C: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

L: On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.

C: All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of Your mouth,

L: and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

C: For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

L: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.

C: The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Kyrie

LSB 227

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

Gloria in Excelsis

“All Glory Be to God Alone”

LSB 948 vv. 1, 5

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.

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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray; Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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)

Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 11:33-12:8

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his

teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

(all rise)

Matthew 16:13-20

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

(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!

(Please be seated)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

LSB 576

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name. **Refrain**

**ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.**

- 2 When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. **Refrain**
- 3 His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. **Refrain**
- 4 When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! **Refrain**

Text: Public domain

Sermon

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: Be merciful to us, O Lord, and hear our prayers. Grant to us the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that we may be led into all truth and be steadfast in the confession of Christ; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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

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

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

LSB 783

- 1 Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Public domain

"The Church's One Foundation"

LSB 644

- 1 The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

Text: Public domain

(Please rise)

Post-Communion Hymns

LSB 618, 619 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**
- 5 My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessèd, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission

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 Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.
Christ, the royal master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle See His banners go! **Refrain**
- ref Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.**
- 2 Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading Where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity. **Refrain**
- 3 Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus Constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never 'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot fail. **Refrain**
- 4 Onward, then, ye faithful, Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices In the triumph song:
Glory, laud, and honor Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages Men and angels sing. **Refrain**

Text: Public domain

Please place your offering in the boxes at the entrances!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH – August 23, 2026

In your prayers this week please remember:

- Grant us increasing knowledge of You through Your Word, and help us to trust in Your grace and favor.
- Grant each of us the strength to confess Christ boldly before the world.
- Protect mothers with child, and equip fathers to lead and raise their households in Your fear and love.
- Bless and guide our president, Congress, governor and all civil leaders, that they may faithfully pursue peace and unity in the realm.
- 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 †

✠**For Loved Ones Called Home:** John Cherry (Husband of Marlene Cherry) was called home August 20th.

✠**God’s Healing Hand on:** Janice Engel, Nancy Wargo, Doug Klawender (son of Shirley), Emily Henze (Caroline’s daughter-in-law), Carol Hawkins (cousin of Jan Patty), Jennifer Patterson (friend of Jan Patty), 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) Nicole Lechner (Daughter of Hope Nawrocki, niece of Ann Schnepfer and John Hupp), Chris Sprinkle (Cousin of Matt & Angela Koch), Pastor Rick VanBriggle.

✠**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), Marge Bittner, Steve Kruse, Beatrice Paden (Pastor Gladden’s aunt), Palliative care: Dolly Houth, Estella Robbins (Mother of Roberta Gibson)

Upcoming Events:



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

Family Night – August 27th from 6 pm – 8 pm

(meal is served at 6 pm)

Join with the community to share a meal & fun!

Clothing Closet September 12th 11am – 12pm

Your help is needed!

Food Pantry September 19th 11am – 12pm

Your help is needed!

Confirmation Classes begin September 19th

RSVP

For more information, please call the office.

STL FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED

Thank you for supporting our community!

Box: Cereal, Crackers, Mashed Potatoes, Scalloped Potatoes, Pancake Mix

Can: Gravy, Peaches, Pears, Pineapple, Meal Soups, Spaghetti/Pasta Sauce

Plastic Bottle: Maple Syrup, Shelf-Stable Juice (Apple, Cranberry, Grape),
Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing

Non-Food Items: Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Bar Soap, Feminine Hygiene Products

*All items must be shelf-stable non-perishable and at least 6 months before expiration date.
We cannot distribute dented cans, opened or damaged packaging, vitamins, OTC medications.*

Your generosity makes a real difference.

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

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

\$125 Per Household Bonus Grant for Your Congregation

In Celebration of our 125th anniversary, CEF is launching the Ministry Partner Bonus Grant. Here's how it works: when an individual investor (that's you or others that attend your church or school!) opens a new CEF note of \$1,000 or more with a term of at least 24 months, your church earns a \$125 Bonus Grant. One grant per household.

This is a meaningful way for your congregation members to put their savings to work for the Kingdom- and to see that faithfulness come back as a direct blessing to your ministry. Every new note opened is a step toward a stronger church.

How to participate:

- 1.** Share this opportunity with your fellow congregation members and take advantage of it yourselves by opening another note.
- 2.** Invite them to open a new CEF note of \$1,000 or more at a 24-month minimum term.
- 3.** Your church receives a \$125 Bonus Grant-automatically. (Limit one per household.)

Visit churchextensionfund.com to learn more about our investment note offerings and to get started today.

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.

Grandma's Tea & Fellowship Join the Council of Lutheran Women for an afternoon of warmth, connection, and sweet treats on **Sunday, September 13, 3:00–5:00 PM** at Guardian Lutheran Church (24544 Cherry Hill Rd, Dearborn). Enjoy finger sandwiches, scones, and tea (or coffee) alongside a brief announcement celebrating our seminary scholarship recipients. All proceeds directly support the Scholarship Fund.

- **Bring a Teacup & Story:** Bring a special teacup or mug to share its story with your table. Loaner cups will be available if you don't have one, and hats are welcome!
- **Tickets:** \$5 per person. Register by **September 9** at zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/grandmas-tea (please note any dietary restrictions when signing up).
- **Questions:** Call Marilyn at 313-434-8727.

Join The Kapelle Choir!

The Kapelle kicks off its new season on **Sunday, September 13 at 8:30 AM** in the music room. Rehearsals are held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, singing for major festival services throughout the year. New members are always welcome—the only requirements are being able to carry a tune and a faithful heart! Questions? See Lori.

Become a Kapelle Music Patron

Help us bring professional musicians to our Christmas Eve and Easter services to elevate our worship and support congregational singing. To become a patron, place your donation in an envelope marked "*Patron for Kapelle*" in the offering box, drop it off at the church office, or donate online (specify "*Patron for Kapelle*"). Thank you for supporting our music ministry!

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

	July 2026		Fiscal Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	24,549.99	26,000.00	24,549.99	26,000.00
Expense	<u>35,105.36</u>	<u>32,294.18</u>	<u>35,105.3602</u>	<u>32,294.18</u>
Net	(10,555.37)	(6,694.17)	(10,555.37)*	(6,694.17)

*actual loss is (\$18,516.37), foundation grant received in Jan to cover one year of mortgage payments.

The foundation has paid \$47,766.00 (6 months) of mortgage.

The Restricted Fund Balance is \$7,370.27.

Mortgage Balance - \$1,540,037.29, Restricted Loan - \$33,435.27

Attendance for July 392



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).