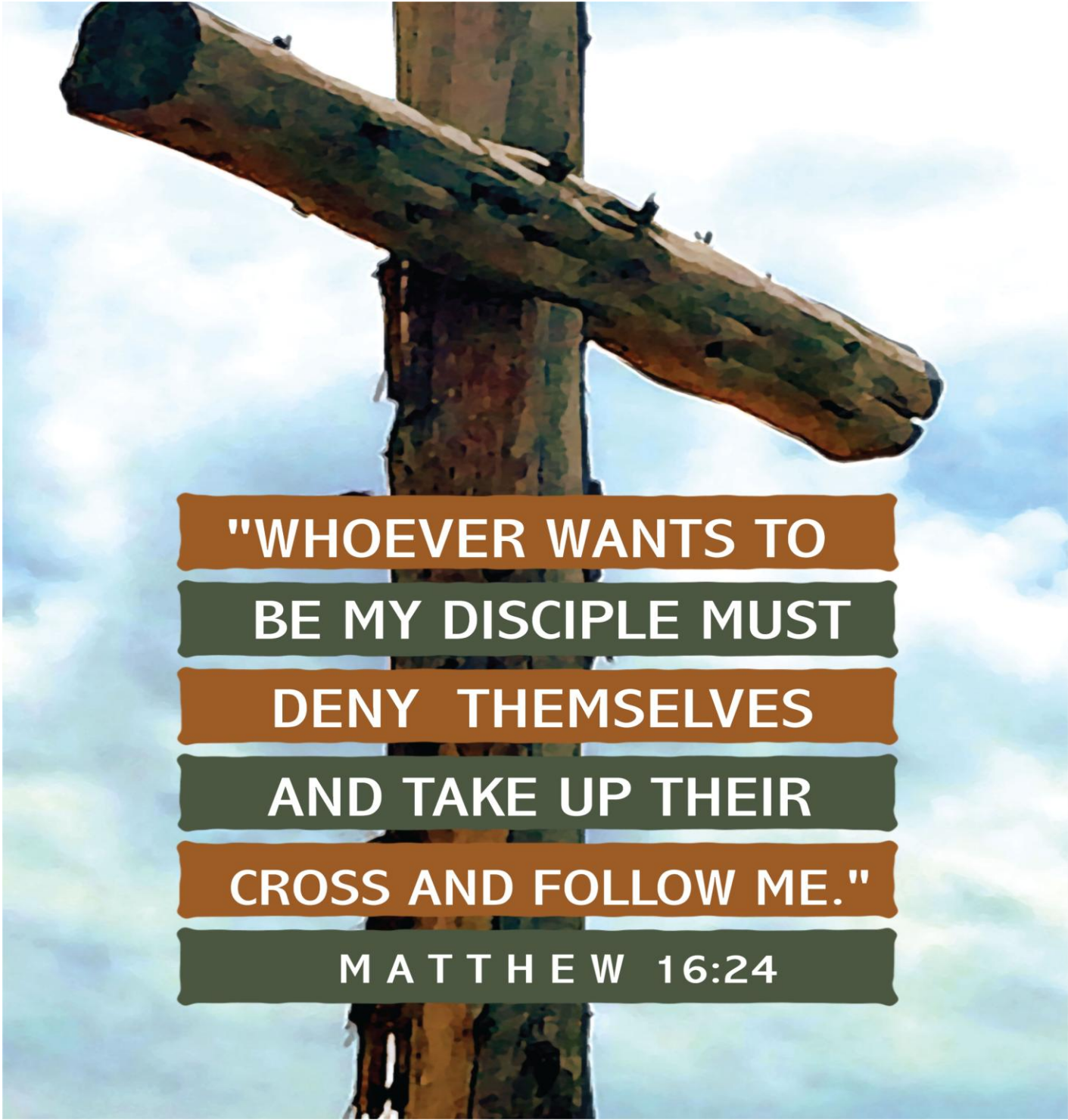


A large, rustic wooden cross is the central focus, set against a background of a bright blue sky with soft, white clouds. The cross is made of thick, weathered logs. Overlaid on the center of the cross are seven horizontal bars of alternating colors (brown and dark green) containing white text.

"WHOEVER WANTS TO
BE MY DISCIPLE MUST
DENY THEMSELVES
AND TAKE UP THEIR
CROSS AND FOLLOW ME."

MATTHEW 16:24

August 30, 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.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service Five

LSB page 213

Prelude

Announcements and Attendance/Communion Registration

(either use the form on the last page, and put in white boxes at entrances, or the QR code)

Opening Hymn

“With the Lord Begin Your Task”
Rise on last verse

LSB 869

- 1 With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it. For His aid and counsel ask;
Jesus will perfect it. Ev’ry morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.
- 2 Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration. On the Lord cast ev’ry care;
He is your salvation. Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter’s might, With His presence cheer you.
- 3 With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you; In His promises confide,
And no ill can harm you. All your trust and hope repose In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.
- 4 If your task be thus begun With the Savior’s blessing, Safely then your course will run,
Toward the promise pressing. Good will follow ev’rywhere While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share In the mansions yonder.
- 5 Thus, Lord Jesus, ev’ry task Be to You commended; May Your will be done, I ask,
Until life is ended. Jesus, in Your name begun Be the day’s endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done To Your praise forever.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission

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

26; antiphon: v.8

L: Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

C: Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

L: For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.

C: I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

L: I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

C: I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD,

L: proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

C: O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

L: Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

C: in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

L: But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

C: My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.

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.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross

for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, 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)

Anthem

Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

(all rise)

Matthew 16:21-28

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

(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

"Come, Follow Me," The Savior Spake"

LSB 688

- 1 "Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take My example for your guide.
- 2 "I am the light, I light the way, A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below.
- 3 "My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing;
And gracious words My lips express, With meekness overflowing.
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.
- 4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your soul's salvation,
Your heart from ev'ry guile to free, From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heav'nly goal."

- 5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

"What It Really Means to Follow Jesus"

Matthew 16:21-28

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: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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

“Christ Be My Leader”

LSB 861

- 1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.
- 3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission

“Love in Christ Is Strong and Living”

LSB 706

- 1 Love in Christ is strong and living, Binding faithful hearts in one;
Love in Christ is true and giving. May His will in us be done.
- 2 Love is patient and forbearing, Clothed in Christ’s humility,
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, Reaching out in charity.
- 3 Love in Christ abides forever, Fainting not when ills attend;
Love, forgiving and forgiven, Shall endure until life’s end.

Text: © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission

(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 blessed, 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.

Sending Hymn

"Jesus, Lead Thou On"

LSB 718

- 1 Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless. Guide us by Thy hand To our fatherland.
- 2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us; For through many a woe To our home we go.
- 3 When we seek relief From a long-felt grief, When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring. Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
- 4 Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us, Till we safely stand In our fatherland.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH – August 30, 2026

In your prayers this week please remember:

- As our enemies rise against us, we place all things in Your hands, knowing justice will be done and that You, O Lord, will redeem us from the grasp of the ruthless.
- Strengthen our pastors and missionaries for the tasks to which You have called them, and care for their families.
- Look with favor on the households of this congregation, and grant that all may live in love that issues from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith.
- Grant us endurance to bear our crosses as Christ bore His for us.
- 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, Davis Cardamone was called home August 24th.

✠**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), 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), Maryann Setter (niece of Caroline Henze)

✠**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), Pastor Rick VanBriggle. Palliative care: Dolly Houth, Estella Robbins (Mother of Roberta Gibson).



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).

Next Sunday **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Pursuing the One (Focus: The Lost Sheep)

In Matthew 18:1-20, Jesus redefines true greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven by calling His followers to adopt the humble, trusting nature of a child while delivering a stern warning against causing believers to stumble. Emphasizing the immense value of every individual, He shares the Parable of the Lost Sheep to illustrate God's relentless effort to seek out and restore even a single straying believer. Jesus then outlines a compassionate, step-by-step process for resolving personal conflict within the church-moving from private reconciliation to wider community involvement-and reassures His disciples that whenever two or three gather in His name, His presence and authority are fully with them.

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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)

Family Night – September 3rd 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.

September 28th - H.I.S. II – 7:00 pm in conference room 1

All women are invited to the Bible Study – “Driven, Heroes of the Faith”

followed by a short meeting and assembling backpacks.

(Normal date for this is the last Monday of the month.)

Lutheran World Relief School Kits will be collected by H.I.S. II (Hearts in Study and Hands in Service) women’s group. Please see the flyer for items and directions, located on the table in the west entrance or from Marilyn Redmond. Do not purchase the backpack, only items to be included in the backpack.

All Women Invited to H.I.S. II (Hearts in Study and Hands in Service Women’s group) H.I.S II is beginning another season in His grace and we look forward to seeing everyone at our Bible Study/meeting on Sept 28th in Conference Room #1, 7:00 pm. We usually meet at 7pm on the last Monday of the month. We have another great bible study series planned – “Driven, Heroes of the Faith - Proclaiming Heroes of the Faith”. Come join us for fun and fellowship and a pleasant chance to grow in HIS Word!

STL FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED

Thank you for supporting our community!

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

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

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

Non-Food Items: Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, 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.

\$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.

I-Can Tutoring

Free tutoring for grades K – 8

Room 210 (enter through door #2)

August 31, 2026 – June 16, 2027

Monday – Thursday, from 3 – 6 PM

Includes: Reading, Math, Spelling, Writing, Prayer

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

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.

The Kapelle will begin the 2026-2027 choir season on Sunday, September 9 at 8:30am in the music room. The choir rehearses on the second and fourth Sunday of each month and sings for major festival services and a few in between. We're always welcoming new members. The only requirement is to be able to sing on key and be faithful! Singing His praises is a glorious way to service the Lord and edify His church through music in song. If you have any questions, please see Lori. Looking forward to seeing you on September 13. O Come, let us sing unto the Lord!

Patrons are needed to help defray the cost of the professional musicians we hire for our Christmas Eve and Easter services. These musicians enhance the special services and help support the Kapelle and congregational singing. If you would like to be a patron, please place your donation in an envelope marked Patron for Kapelle and place it in the offering box in the back of the church, bring it to the church office or donate online, specifying Patron for Kapelle. Thank you so much for your genuine support of the Kapelle and its mission of edifying the church through music in song.