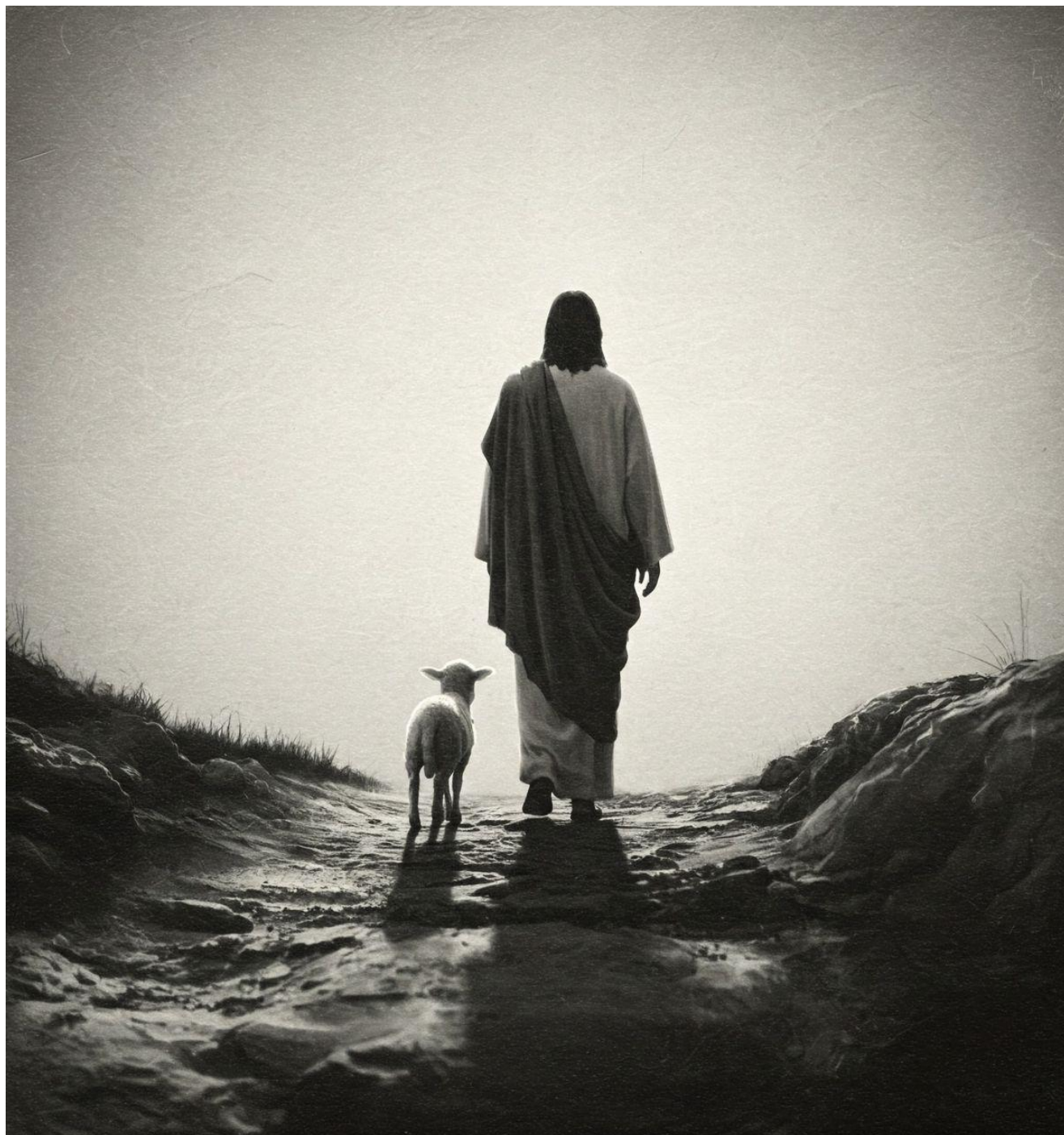




September 6, 2026

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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Divine Service Five

LSB page 213

Prelude

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

"Father Welcomes"
Rise on last verse

LSB 605

**ref Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.**

- 1 Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. **Refrain**
- 2 In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured:
Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. **Refrain**
- 3 Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him,
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. **Refrain**

Text: © 1986 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission

- Bells of Honor & Remembrance -

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

32:1-7; antiphon: v.1

L: Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

L: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

L: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

C: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

L: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

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. O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them;

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

Ezekiel 33:7-9

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:1-10

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

(all rise)

Matthew 18:1-20

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save the lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

(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

- 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

Sermon**Matthew 18:1-20*****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: Do not let us give way to wrath or revenge, and so incur Your wrath, but let us always find in You a gracious Father; 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

"God Bless Our Native Land"

LSB 965

God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand Through storm and night.

When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,

Do Thou our country save By Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies; On Him we wait.

Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,

To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

Text: Public domain

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

LSB 966

Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above And rules the world below,
Boundless in pow’r and love. Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,
Our hearts we raise To You, our King!

The nation You have blest May well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Your care.
For this bright day, For this fair land— Gifts of Your hand— Our thanks we pay.

May ev’ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green, Shine in Your Word’s pure light,
And its rich fruits be seen! May ev’ry tongue Be tuned to praise
And join to raise A grateful song.

Earth, hear your Maker’s voice; Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone. Cast down your pride,
Your sin deplore, And bow before The Crucified.

And when in pow’r He comes, Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng, With joy to sing To heav’n’s high King Salvation’s song!

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 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Father's throne We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.
- 4 When here our pathways part, We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet again.
- 5 From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.

Text: Public domain

Please place your offering in the boxes at the entrances!



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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH – September 6, 2026

In your prayers this week please remember:

- Give Your people wisdom and strength by Your Spirit, that they may be steadfast and immovable in Your truth.
- Govern our lawmakers and rulers, that they may bear the sword as Your servants and according to Your command.
- Reassure us of Your love, which is like that of the shepherd who seeks and saves the one lost sheep.
- Let us humbly trust that Your forgiveness is poured out for us in this Sacrament.
- The ministry of **Camp Restore**.

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, Chris Sprinkle (Cousin of Matt & Angela Koch).

✠**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), 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)

Upcoming Events:



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

Family Night – September 10th from 6 pm – 8 pm

(meal is served at 6 pm)

Join with the community to share a meal & fun!

Clothing Closet - September 13th 1 – 3pm

+

September 30th 11am – 1pm

Your help is needed!

Food Pantry - September 19th 11am – 12pm

Your help is needed!

MCREST 2026 - September 20th - 27th. We are still in need of monetary donations. The sign-up sheets are in the west entrance, stop by and sign up and grab a Thrivent shirt or 2!

If you have any questions contact Kelly Crivella 313.550.2950 or kelly.crivella@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of this very special ministry.

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.

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: Mashed Potatoes, Scalloped Potatoes

Can: Gravy, Meal Soups, Spaghetti/Pasta Sauce

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

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.

CAMP RESTORE - Detroit

September and October Mission Envelopes

DID YOU KNOW? The area surrounding Camp Restore Detroit (9th Precinct of Detroit) is only 20% populated. This means many houses, lots, and even entire blocks are abandoned. Camp Restore works to restore hope in the community through hosting groups of all ages and sizes, housing and feeding them, and partnering with community leaders and community organizations in activities of environmental cleanup, construction, and human care. **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.**

Crossbridge Preschool

Growing in faith, learning, and friendship! Crossbridge Preschool welcomes children who are **4 years old before December 1**. Contact us to learn more about enrollment!



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