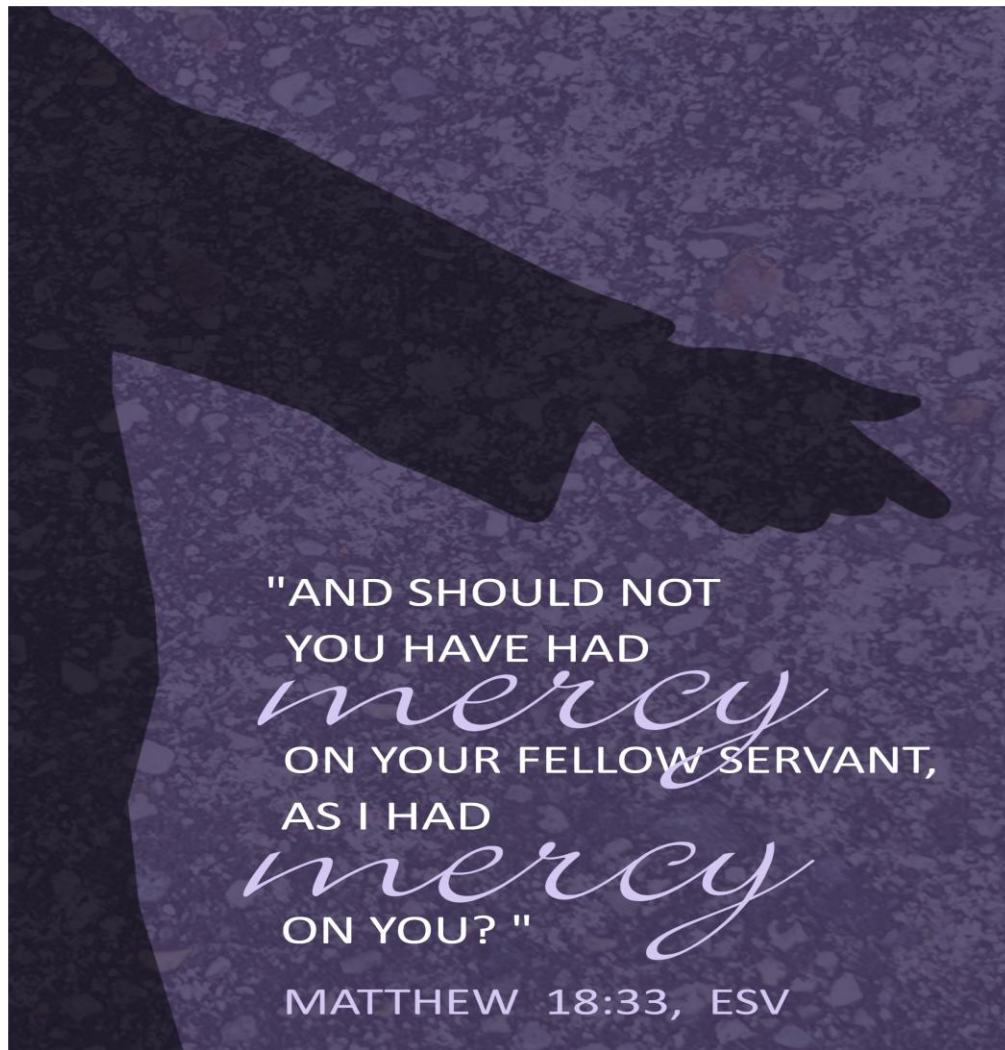




September 13, 2026

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.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Divine Service Five

LSB page 213

Prelude

Opening Hymn

“10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)”

M. Redman

Rise on last verse

Chorus: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes. **Chorus**

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **Chorus**

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years, and then forevermore! **Chorus x2**

Worship Your holy name,
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name,
Worship Your holy name,
Worship Your holy name.

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

103:1-12; antiphon: v.13

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

C: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

L: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

C: who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

L: who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

C: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

L: He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

C: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

L: He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

C: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

L: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

C: as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

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. O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through 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

"Sanctuary"

S. Pethel

Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the

judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

(all rise)

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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

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

(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!

Children's Sermon *(Please be seated)*

Hymn of the Day

"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

LSB 606

- 1 I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursèd load.

I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains,
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

- 2 I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.
- 3 I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Matthew 18:21-35

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: Merciful Master, You are always ready to forgive, though we deserve only punishment. Press the proclamation of this eager love deeply into our hearts, that we, too, may sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us; for You live and reign with the Father 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

"Peace Go With You"

D. Nolan

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

LSB 845

- 1 Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.
- 3 Forgive we now each other's faults As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well In Christian holiness.
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek; Be ours His holy peace.
- 5 Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.
- 6 For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.

Post-Communion Hymns

(Please rise)

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

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

LSB 685

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
- 4 Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission

Please place your offering in the boxes at the entrances!



Today's Flowers are given to praise and honor John Cherry.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH – September 13, 2026

In your prayers this week please remember:

- Soften our hearts toward one another, that we would share in the forgiveness You deliver to us today.
- Lead all enemies of Your Church to true repentance, that they may know the truth of Your Word, confess Christ as the only way of salvation, and finally have a share in the eternal life that He has prepared for all who trust in Him.
- Build our homes upon that same mercy, that in them brother and sister, husband and wife, parent and child may live together in peace and give witness to the glory of God's gracious ways.
- 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), 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), Uli Korell, Wilhelm Wolf (Cousins of Vera Lafrate)

✠**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 17th from 6 pm – 8 pm

(meal is served at 6 pm)

Join with the community to share a meal & fun!

Clothing Closet – TODAY! 1 – 3pm

+

September 30th 11am – 1pm

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.

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.

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: Au Gratin Potatoes, Scalloped Potatoes

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

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.

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.

\$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.

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).