

**THE
STONE
THAT THE
BUILDERS
REJECTED
HAS BECOME
THE
CORNERSTONE.**

MATTHEW 21:42

October 4, 2025

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.

Divine Service Setting Four

LSB page 203

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

*“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”
(Rise on last verse)*

LSB 827

- 1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, “Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting— Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me”?
- 2 Some take up His task in morning, To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday, Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting, Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty That God’s Word so richly yields.
- 3 For as rain and snow from heaven Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower, Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise, Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to Him returning, Bearing fruit with great increase.
- 4 Harken to the Lord whose coming Marks the time when grace shall end,
When with His angelic reapers He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest; Soon the time for work shall cease.
Then the souls His grace has garnered Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

Text (sts. 2–4): © 2001 Stephen P. Starke, admin. 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: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

L: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

L: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess

before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

L: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Psalm

80:7-19; antiphon v.7

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

C: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

L: You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

C: The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.

L: It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

C: Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

L: The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

C: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,

L: the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.

C: They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!

L: But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

C: Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!

L: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Kyrie

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

Gloria in Excelsis

1 To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth; Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him.

Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation;
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)

The Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³[Jesus said:] "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

(after the reading)

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

(LSB Inside back cover)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

LSB 611 vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die. As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own. He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Matthew 21:33-46

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: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament

"As we receive the True Body and Blood of our Lord, our faith is fed, our spirits are encouraged, and we are moved to share God's grace with the world."

[Because of the closeness of this sharing (and the concerns expressed in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29) we ask that those who have not been taught the faith at STL speak with a pastor or elder before communing.]

Preface (Please rise)

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to 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, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin

and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**C: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord.
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: Blessed are 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.

In Your righteous judgement You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruit of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

C: Amen

Lord's Prayer

LSB, inside back cover

L: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

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

C: Amen

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Distribution of the Sacrament (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

"Fight the Good Fight"

LSB 664

- 1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

- 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
- 3 Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.
- 4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

Text: Public domain

"What God Ordains Is Always Good"

LSB 760 vv. 1, 2, 4, 6

- 1 What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.
As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly. My God indeed In ev'ry need
Knows well how He will shield me; To Him, then, I will yield me.
- 2 What God ordains is always good: He never will deceive me;
He leads me in His righteous way, And never will He leave me.
I take content What He has sent; His hand that sends me sadness
Will turn my tears to gladness.
- 4 What God ordains is always good: He is my friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm Though many storms may gather.
Now I may know Both joy and woe; Someday I shall see clearly
That He has loved me dearly.
- 6 What God ordains is always good: This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, For with His arm He shall embrace and shield me; So to my God I yield me.

Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect

Benedicamus and Benediction

L: Let us bless the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**
L: The Lord bless you ...
C: **Amen**

- 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.
- 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 place your offering in the boxes at the entrances!



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

Upcoming Events:



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

Family Night – October 1st from 6 pm – 8 pm

Join with the community to share a meal & fun!

Clothing Closet - September 30th 11am – 1pm

Your help is needed!

Love My City – October 10th 8 – 11am

Our community is not just the place we live; it's where we make connections and build lasting relationships with our neighbors. St. Thomas partners with local organizations across our community to make a real impact and share the love of Jesus with everyone we meet.

S.A.S.S. – October 17th

(Soup and Sandwich Saturday)

Your time and talents are needed!

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

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 September & October will be given to Camp Restore.

\$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



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).

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Your personal prayer guide for the week of:
October 4, 2026

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is upon Christ's people on earth:

- Help parents to be faithful examples for their children, and grant that orphans may know the joy of a home to call their own.
- Take away the fear of all who suffer in this world.
- Bring us at last with all the saints to dwell in Your everlasting presence.
- Lift Your churches united voice through Your Spirit, that she in turn would freely praise Your lavish grace and proclaim Your salvation beyond her walls.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care especially: Dolly Houth, Estella Robbins (Mother of Roberta Gibson).



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:** Debbie Closurdo was called home September 30th. Linda Conger was called home September 11th, Douglas Klawender was called home September 23rd.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Janice Engel, Nancy Wargo, 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), Tom Habrowski (Sue Wensink's brother) Nicole Lechner (Daughter of Hope Nawrocki), Maryann Setter (niece of Caroline Henze), Uli Korell, Wilhelm Wolf (Cousins of Vera Lafrate), Michael Parkin (son-in-law of Caroline Henze), Sherry Kourles.

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Pastor Rick VanBriggle, Marge Bittner, Steve Kruse, 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), Beatrice Paden (Pastor Gladden's aunt).