

November 15, 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.

Divine Service Setting Four

LSB page 203

Prelude *"The Potter's Hand"* D. Zschech / L. Larson

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 *"O Worship the King"* LSB 804

(Rise on last verse)

1 O worship the King, all-glorious above. O gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace, Whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space; His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

3 This earth, with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, Thy pow'r hath founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree, And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4 Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air,
it shines in the light, It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Text: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

L: 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

90:1–12; antiphon: v. 17

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
C: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
L: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"
C: For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.
L: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:
C: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
L: For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.
C: You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
L: For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
C: The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.
L: Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?
C: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

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. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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 *"I Thank You, Lord"* J. Martin

The Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading **Zephaniah 1:7–16**

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a
sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the
officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. 9 On that day I will
punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with
violence and fraud. 10 "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a
wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. 11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12 At that time I will search
Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their
hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' 13 Their goods shall be plundered, and their
houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant
vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." 14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and
hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. 15 A
day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of
darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading **1 Thessalonians 5:1–11**

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything
written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief
in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction
will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But
you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children
of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep,
as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those
who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on
the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not
destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so
that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another
and build one another up, just as you are doing.

(*after the reading)*

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel *(all rise)* **Matthew 25:14–30**

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 25th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

14[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted
to them his property. 15To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each
according to his ability. Then he went away. 16He who had received the five talents went at once
and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17So also he who had the two talents
made two talents more. 18But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground
and hid his master's money. 19Now after a long time the master of those servants came and
settled accounts with them. 20And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing
five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents
more.' 21His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful
over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22And he also who had
the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have
made two talents more.' 23His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You
have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24He
also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard
man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25so I was
afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26But his
master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not
sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? 27Then you ought to have invested my money
with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28So
take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29For to everyone who has
will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what
he has will be taken away. 30And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that
place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

(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 *"Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"* LSB 663

1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day Unawares o'ertaken; For the foe, Well we know,
Is a harvest reaping While the saints are sleeping.

2 Watch against the devil's snares Lest asleep he find you;
For indeed no pains he spares To deceive and blind you. Satan's prey Oft are they
Who secure are sleeping And no watch are keeping.

3 Watch! Let not the wicked world With its lies defeat you
Lest with bold deceptions hurled It betray and cheat you. Watch and see
Lest there be Faithless friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.

4 Watch against yourself, my soul, Lest with grace you trifle;
Let not self your thoughts control Nor God's mercy stifle.
Pride and sin Lurk within, All your hopes to shatter; Heed not when they flatter.

5 But while watching, also pray To the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day, Strength and faith increasing, So that still Mind and will
Shall unite to serve Him And forever love Him.

Text: Public domain

Sermon *"Entrusted Until He Returns"* **Matthew 25:14–30**

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: 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

"We Give Thee But Thine Own" LSB 781

1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.

4 To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless Is angels' work below.

5 The captive to release, To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace, It is a Christ-like thing.

6 And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

Text: Public domain

"What Is the World to Me" LSB 730

1 What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!

2 The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone. What is the world to me!

3 The world seeks after wealth And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good, Content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me!

4 What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to 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

Sending Hymn *"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go"* LSB 854 (tune 831)

1 Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue,
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know In all I think or speak or do.

2 The task Thy wisdom has assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;
In all my works Thy presence find, And prove Thy good and perfect will.

3 Thee may I set at my right hand, Whose eyes my inmost substance see,
And labor on at Thy command, And offer all my works to Thee.

4 Give me to bear Thine easy yoke, And ev'ry moment watch and pray,
And still to things eternal look, And hasten to Thy glorious day.

5 For Thee delightfully employ Whate'er Thy bounteous grace has giv'n,
And run my course with even joy, And closely walk with Thee to heav'n.

Text: Public domain

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.

MCREST

November and December 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 November and December will be given to MCREST.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Your personal prayer guide for the week of:

November 15, 2026

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

- Bless our homes, especially parents as they teach their children Your ways, that Your people may walk as those armored in faith, love and salvation.
- Grant that all who receive this gift today may receive it in faith, trusting that it is given for the forgiveness of their sins and life everlasting.
- Give us our portion with the saints in light, and bring us all to the day of resurrection joy.

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:** Marianne Setter (niece of Caroline Henze) was called home October 24th.

✞**God's Healing Hand on:** Delia Greve, Clyde Armstrong, Cathy Meer, 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), Uli Korell, Wilhelm Wolf (Cousins of Vera Lafrate), Michael Parkin (son-in-law of Caroline Henze), John Ustick, Alycia & Scott Baker (relatives of Diane Ustick), Penelope Perich & Frankie.

✞**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).

Upcoming Events:







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

Thanksgiving Holiday Baskets – November 21 – 10AM – 11AM

Contact the office for more information

Advent Aglow – December 5 - 6PM

Ladies dinner to start our advent season.
Our speaker is Joy Rima Hudson from POBLO.

Clothing Closet – December 12 – 11AM – 1PM

Your help is needed! Contact Kathy Smith for more information

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET DONATIONS
This year St. Thomas will provide Thanksgiving Food Baskets to 100 families in need in our community.

Monetary donations for turkeys are appreciated.
Donations are needed by Tuesday, November 17.
Food Baskets will be distributed on Saturday, November 21.

At this time, we need the following food items for the baskets:

Family Size Box of Instant Mashed Potatoes
Box of Stove Top Stuffing Mix,
Canned Turkey Gravy, Cranberry Sauce,
Ranch or Italian Salad Dressing

At this time, we ***do not*** need: Bags of Dried Beans or Rice, Cans of Beans and Vegetables

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

$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.

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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"Entrusted Until He Returns"

Zephaniah 1:7–16 · 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 · Matthew 25:14–30

The servant who buried his talent did so because he believed his master was harsh. His failure came from a false picture of God. Zephaniah's "day of wrath" is real, but Paul says, "God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." Freed from fear, we put the Master's gifts to work: the Gospel, our time, and our neighbors. Here in Eastpointe, that can mean connecting people to Jesus and one another. The goal is to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Couch Questions

1. The third servant thought his master was harsh. What wrong pictures of God are you tempted to believe?

2. How does knowing that "God has not destined us for wrath" free you to take risks for His kingdom?

Car Questions

3. What did the servant who was afraid do with his master's money?

4. God gives each of us gifts. What is something God gave you that you can share?

5. How can you be a helper for Jesus at home or school this week?