

Divine Service

Stories of God @ Work

Call to Worship *“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”* LSB 395, vs. 1, 2, 5, 6

Opening Liturgy

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

C: **Amen.**

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

C: **Give us the power of your Holy Spirit, that with your Word active in us, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow in boldness and confidence through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Gracious God,

C: **Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Word and Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, blessing all with the love of Jesus; in his name we pray. Amen.**

L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in your witness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”* [LSB 411, v. 1]

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace

L: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives, and through us into the lives of many others; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

(share the peace with one another)

Scripture Reading

(Ephesians 3:1-12) ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

C: **(rise to sing)** **Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word
Grace to imitate Thee now and be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee at Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.**

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 2.

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

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

(please record your attendance)

Please list each attendee separate and check if participating in communion.

Visitors please fill out top portion with your address etc.

After the attendance is recorded for your pew, please tear off sheet and place in folder slightly higher for ease of collection. Thank you!

Hymn of the Day

"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

LSB 839

Sermon

"The Trouble with a Savior"

Matthew 2:1-4

Nicene Creed

LSB inside back cover

Prayer of the Church

back page

Announcements

Offering

**God expects Christians to pay their taxes,
since the government is ordained and authorized by God.**

*" . . . render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's,
and to God the things that are God's. " (Matthew 22:21)*

Offertory

"I Want to See the Brightness of God"

[LSB 411, vs. 2-3]

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

**Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

Preparation for the Sacrament

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

L: Therefore with angels and archangels and with the whole company heaven we laud
and magnify God's glorious name, evermore praising him and singing:

C: (sung) **In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.**

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer

LSB back cover

Words of Institution

The Distribution of the Sacrament – Continuous Line

"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.]

A request of those who wish to commune:

*All who are baptized and believe that in Communion
we receive the true body and blood of Jesus,
under the form of bread and wine, are invited to the Lord's Table.*

All others are invited to come forward for a blessing.

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 have any questions, please speak with a member of our staff.

Entrance Hymn

“Create in Me a New Heart, Lord”

[tune: LSB 358]

Create in me a new heart, Lord, that gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire, and with new life my soul inspire.

Renew me, O eternal Light, and let my heart and life be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace that issues from Your holy face.

Hymns during Distribution

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

LSB 397

“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

LSB 400

Post-Communion Canticle

“O Jesus, Blessed Lord to Thee”

[tune: LSB 358]

*O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee my heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who has so lovingly bestowed on me Your body and Your blood.*

*Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!*

Dismissal and Sending Prayer

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

[WOV 652]

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like elates on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text by Ruth Duck. Music by William H. Walter, Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

You are now entering

the (your)

Mission Field

“The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.

Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send YOU out into his harvest.”

(Matthew 9:37-38)

NEXT SUNDAY

The Baptism of our Lord

January 12, 2020

Scripture Readings: Romans 6:3-11 / Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon Topic: “Stepping Forward with Power”

Text: Matthew 3:16-17

2020 Envelopes are available in the west hallway! Please stop by the table, print your name on the list next to the envelope # you are taking home. Information for electronic giving is also available. If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office.



On-line Giving - Did you forget your mission support envelope/offering? You can scan this Quick Response (QR) code, with a QR decoder on your smart phone, it will take 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. You can also set up recurring giving! Visit our web page for more on-line giving options.

How About Another Blessing from God? The only thing it will cost you is time . . . one hour a week! There are 168 hours in a week, so really, one hour (less than 1%) isn't that much to give, is it? In Luke 11, Jesus says, **"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it."** Did you see the promise in this verse? If we spend time in God's Word, **we will be blessed.** Wow! Who doesn't need a blessing from God every day? Everything we have is His and He is willing to share all of those blessings with us . . . The leadership of STL, charged with your spiritual welfare, hopes everyone will be involved in a Faith Hope Love (FHL) Group in 2020. Experience more blessings from God by spending time studying His Word with a small group of Christians. Visit one or more of the 11 FHL Groups here at St. Thomas and you'll be sure to find one that suits your personality and needs. As Luke 11 reminds us, you will be blessed by participating in an FHL Group. Please contact any of our FHL Leaders (find them at stl-eastpointe.org) with questions. We pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to "Another Blessing" in an FHL Group here at St. Thomas!

Portal of Prayer – Large and small print

Now available around the building (no longer in mailboxes)

Pick up a copy for a friend when you pick up your copy!

Ministry Survey Update – On Sunday, January 12, 2020, during our FHL Open House, we will also be having our members update their Ministry Survey which is found on the STL website. To save time, we are encouraging all members to update their Ministry Survey before this date. The Ministry Survey is located on the STL website (stl-eastpointe.org) under the pull down "RESOURCES" and then under the pulldown "MEET STL." Please note that this update is for all of the members here at STL . . . even those of you who have completed the survey in the past. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated!

Food Pantry Moves Today!

Following the service today the food pantry is moving from room 104 to room 108 (east hallway) and they could use all the hands to help move the shelves and food to the new room!

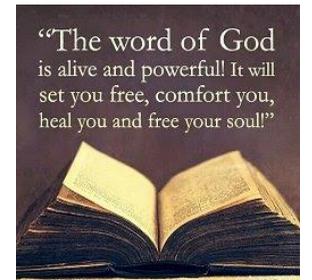
No experience necessary!

No Age limits!

Plenty of work for all willing workers!

Meet at room 104 for instructions @ 10:45 a.m.

New T – 1 K We have free New Testaments, free reading guides, and more. Our intent is to do more than just give away free Bibles, we wish to actually help people to read and understand the books we distribute. We currently have given out over 700 bibles, with most of them registered NT readers. We encourage you to a) keep inviting people to read with us, and b) encouraging people to invite others. If you are interested, or would like more information, you can either, get information in the back of the church or contact the office.



Did you pick up your copy of December's People to People?

Includes January's calendar, upcoming events and much more.

See what STL has coming up in January by picking one up.

Available on all welcome tables.



Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another Educating Minds – Growing Faith – Serving People

We are glad you are here. When you come to worship at STL, you are among friends and family. If you are curious to learn more out ministry in the community, go to www.stl-eastpointe.org, or like us on Face Book. To get your questions answered in a more personal way, contact the church office (586-772-3370) and ask for a pastor to give you a call (or just check the box in the Record of Fellowship folder).

Our Confession of Faith

As members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LC-MS), we subscribe to the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian) and the Christian faith as confessed in the Book of Concord. This includes believing that:

- Jesus Christ is both true God and true man who died for our sins and rose again to save us.
- His body/blood are truly present in communion under the form of bread/wine (page 326).
- Communion is, among other things, an expression of doctrinal unity.
- Infant baptism is a Means of Grace through which God delivers one from sin and gives eternal salvation to all who believe (page 325 in Lutheran Service Book).

Serving in God's House

Preacher: Deacon Don Cooley **Liturgist:** Rev. Mark W. Hetzner
Organist: Lori Stolzenfeld **Music:** Kapelle
Sanctuary Team: Scott Berkseth **Reader:** Julie & Dwight Conger
Servers: Mark Matheson, Dwight Conger, Jafer Perez, Art Wensink
Greeters: Janice Engel, Betty Williams
Altar Guild: Linda & Heather Bucholtz

*Weekly Worship with Communion - Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Third Sunday of the month at Noon
Monday at 7:30 p.m.*

*Faith Hope Love Ministries throughout the week
Cross/raining for children Sunday at 10:45 a.m.*

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Watch services on Facebook – videotaping in progress during service

Upcoming Events:



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

**Un-decorate the church
January 11th @ 9 a.m.**

Welcome "2020" Open House - January 12th

FPU - beginning January 15th

(Financial Peace University)

Go to <https://www.fpu.com/1107890> to register.

For more information call the church office.

Community Saturday - January 18th

Many hands are needed to welcome our community and provide food and clothing to them.

Contact the Kruse's about the Food Pantry
And Marilyn Redmond to help with the clothing closet.

Voters Assembly - January 28th

Blood Drive - February 2nd

Make your appointment by going to www.redcrossblood.org
and look for St. Thomas' blood drive.

Save the Date:

S.A.S.S. - February 15th

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - January 5, 2020

L: Your light has dawned upon us, and we are drawn to Your light as a people of faith who trust Your mercy to answer the prayers of Your people with grace sufficient for all our needs.

(after each petition)

L: Lord, in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Holy Lord, mighty God, You have shown to us the face of Your mercy in Your Son, through whom those of all nations may find unity and life. Hear the prayers of Your people, and grant all that is needful to us and to those for whom we have prayed, that trusting in Your mercy our hearts may find perfect peace and rest in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Our Primary Prayer focus for this month is on the mission of Christ's Church:

- Christ's work here, in and through STL – especially through our FHL ministry and Financial Peace University.
- The faith development of children/youth – through family devotions and our CrossTraining ministries.
- The global mission of The Lutheran Hour.
- Mission work at home and abroad.

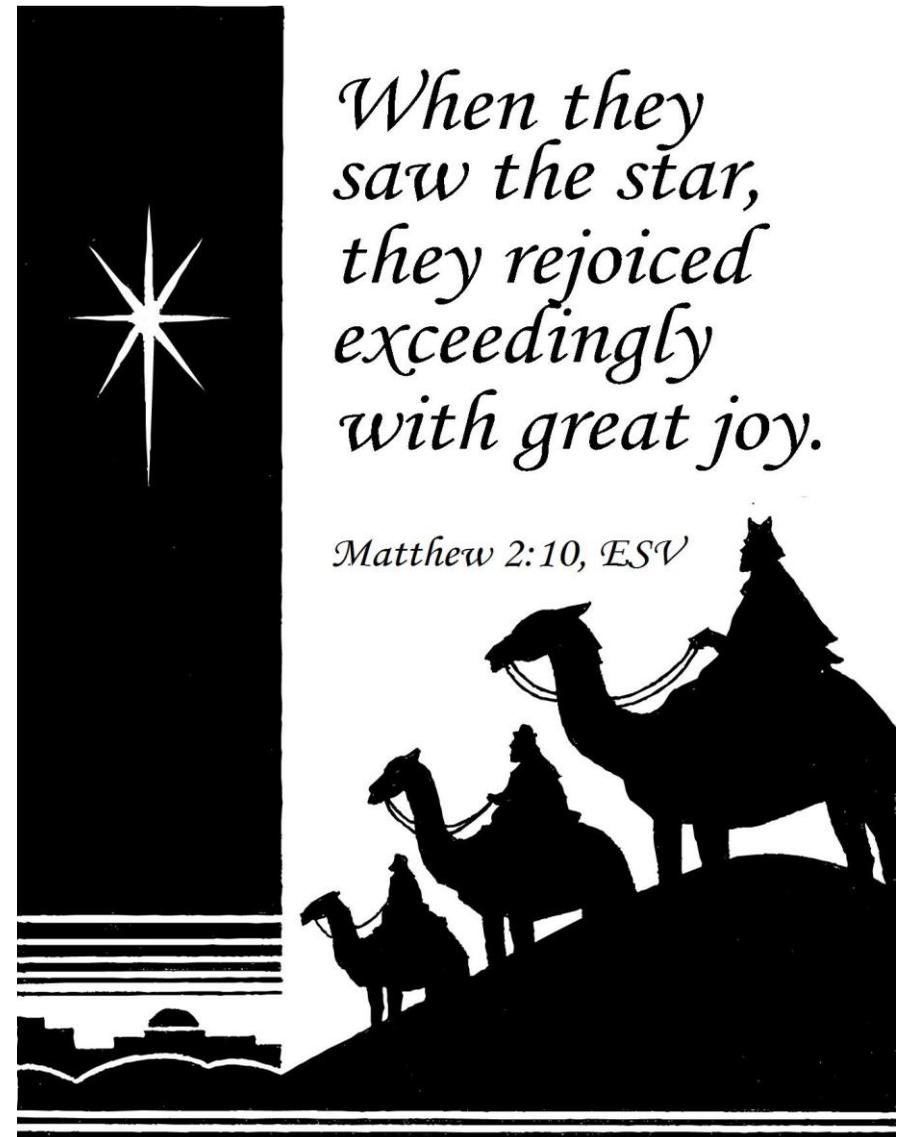
And we pray for all the people Jesus will draw into our building this month.

And we remember those at both ends of life on this earth, the unborn and newly born, and the elderly and those nearing life's end, remembering especially all pregnant mothers, and those who are in hospice care.

† **In Our Thoughts and Prayers** †

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Marsha Shelepets, Adam Vincent, Elise Dawada (daughter of Tom & Shannon) , Elsie Adams, Sherry Kourlos, Renee Thelen, Carol Ferdinande, Alan Borowiak, Diane Ustick, Brenda Finger, Alice Schmidt (mother of Lori Stolzenfeld), Scott Spencer (friend of Cardamones), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamones), John Belvedere (son-in-law of Caroline Henze), Anthony Giacalone (son of friend of Deb Kujawski), Kari Inglesoll (niece of Diane Carr), Paul Odendahl (brother-in-law of Eleanor Cardamone), Rose Collins (cousin of Deb Kujawski), Rose Collins (cousin of Deb Kujawski), Roseanne (friend of Karen Hubbard), Al Knopp (former teacher).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Sieg Gannon, Chris Huber, Cristal Morris (former preschool aide), John Lemke (friend of Monica Hetzner), Beth White, Bob LaRoche and Jan Adams (family of Elsie Adams), Alyssa Delano (granddaughter of Theresa Delano), Tiffany Crow (granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Denise Godfrey (sister of Deborah Kujawski), Kathy Johnson (friend of Vicki Leberg), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Shirley Grassa (aunt of Deborah Kujawski), Luella Riske (granddaughter of Jim, Thrivent Rep.).



*When they
saw the star,
they rejoiced
exceedingly
with great joy.*

Matthew 2:10, ESV

January 5, 2019

Saint Thomas Lutheran

23801 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, Michigan 48021 - 586-772-3370

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Specific Ministry Pastor

Deacon Don Cooley