

FIRST READING. Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

GOSPEL. Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



Sunday, December 18, 2022

“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages “all congregations to continue using masks for the time being.” For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

Advent

As we enter Advent, the Season of Hope, you will notice that greenery is placed to the Glory of God, in preparation for the coming Christmas fulfillment. Our worship order is brief and simple as we “make room” for the Christ-child.

Flowers

The flowers are placed by the Morley and Dianne Yungblut to the Glory of God as they celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. These flowers are an expression of thankfulness to God, their family and their faith family for all the ways they have loved, supported and enriched their lives.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

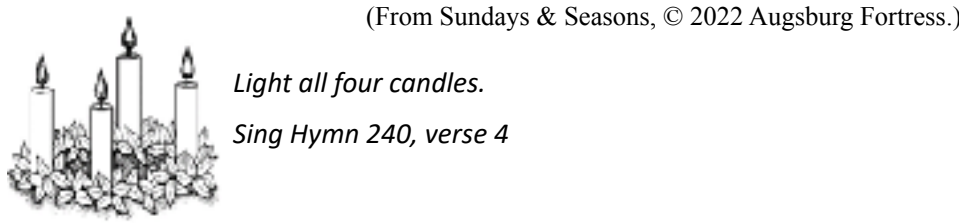


57 Griffith Street • Welland, Ontario • L3B 4G6 • 905-734-4746  
email: [stmatts@cogeco.net](mailto:stmatts@cogeco.net) • website: [stmatthewswelland.com](http://stmatthewswelland.com)  
Pastor: Reverend Bart Coleman .....Cell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025  
Home Phone .....289-820-7713  
Email .....[bartsterc@gmail.com](mailto:bartsterc@gmail.com)

Council Chairperson: Jenn Rusk  
Vice-Chairperson: Bob Hansen  
Church Secretary: Jennifer Allcorn .....905-734-4746  
Organist: Lily Jasinskas

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. Amen.



Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Tune: 277 Away in a Manger

*The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.*

**Oh, hear us, Good Shepherd;**  
**Shine forth from your throne.**

*Reader:* From your place among the cherubim, stir up your strength to help your children in need.

**Oh, hear us, Good Shepherd;**  
**Your mercy make known.**

You lead your people like a flock; show your power and save us.

**Restore us, O God;**  
**Let your countenance shine,**  
**And we shall be saved by your mercy divine.**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**Oh, hear us, Good Shepherd;**  
**Shine forth from your throne.**

You have given us sorrow to eat, a large cup of tears to drink.

**Oh, hear us, Good Shepherd;**  
**Your mercy make known.**

You have made us the scorn of our neighbors, a laughingstock among our enemies.

**Restore us, O God;**  
**Let your countenance shine,**  
**And we shall be saved by your mercy divine.**

Turn to us, Almighty God! Look down from heaven, and come and save your people.

**Oh, hear us, Good Shepherd;**  
**Shine forth from your throne.**

Preserve and protect the people you have chosen, the nation you have made so strong.

**Oh, hear us, Good Shepherd;**  
**Your mercy make known.**

We will never turn away from you. Put new life into us, and we will worship you.

**Restore us, O God;**  
**Let your countenance shine,**  
**And we shall be saved by your mercy divine.**

Dates to Remember

**Dec 24 5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Hymn Mass service at St. Matthew’s**  
**Dec 25 11:00 a.m. – Christmas Day worship with Lessons and Carols**

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

We appreciate your faithful giving throughout this past year. At the end of November our finances are in a deficit position, however we are hopeful that your continued generosity will decrease the shortfall so that we can enter 2023 financially stable. To receive a 2022 income tax receipt for income tax purposes from the church, all donations must be received, or post marked, by December 31, 2022. God bless everyone in supporting the ministry of St. Matthew’s!

**2023 Offering Envelopes** – In an effort to reduce our waste we did not order new envelopes for 2023. Please use unused envelopes from previous years if you have them. We also have many older sets available. Please ask Jennifer if you would like a full box.

All types of food donations are welcome at Open Arms Mission.  
OAM Donation focus for December: **Kraft Dinner**



The Moeller Family wishes everyone at St. Matthew’s a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We would like to thank the congregation for their support, prayers and help in our very trying time. Especially Pastor Bart, Sinikka and Dianne for phone calls and visits. I cannot say thank you enough. —Helga Moeller

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Kyrie (from Service of the Word).... Page 213  
Lighting of the Advent Wreath prayer  
Advent Candle Hymn .....240, v 4  
Gathering Song .....242 Awake! Awake, and  
Greet the New Morn

WORD

First Reading .....Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 .....Printed in bulletin  
Gospel Acclamation .....Page 216  
“Glory to you, O Lord.”  
Gospel ..... Matthew 1:18-25  
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon  
Hymn of the Day .....257 O Come, O Come,  
Emmanuel, vv 1,2, 6, 7

Prayers of Intercession  
Prayer Response .....“hear our prayer.”  
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayer  
Great Thanksgiving (spoken) .....Page 107  
Eucharistic Prayer .....Page 110  
The Lord’s Prayer .....Page 112  
Communion  
“Lamb of God...” .....Page 112  
Communion Hymns .....265, 259  
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing  
Sending Song .....260 The King Shall Come

Dismissal: Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**