

February 12, 2023

(A)

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

FIRST READING. Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

SECOND READING. 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, ‘I belong to Paul’, and another, ‘I belong to Apollos’, are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

GOSPEL. Matthew 5:21-37

‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

‘Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.” But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.



Sixth Sunday After The Epiphany

Sunday February 12, 2023

“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.

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 • website: stmatthewswelland.com
Pastor: Reverend Bart ColemanCell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025
Home Phone289-820-7713
Emailbartsterc@gmail.com

Council Chairperson: Jenn Rusk
Vice-Chairperson: Dianne Yungblut
Church Secretary: Jennifer Allcorn905-734-4746
Organist: Lily Jasinskaskas

Psalm 119:1-8 - Tune: 302 *As with Gladness Men of Old* (Dix)
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.

**Blest are those--most happy they--
Who the law of God obey.**

Leader: Happy are those whose lives are faultless, who obey the law of the Lord with all their heart, walking in the ways of the Lord.

**Lord, you gave your laws that we
Might obey them faithfully.**

If I pay attention to all your commandments, then I will not be disappointed. As I learn your righteous rulings, I will praise you with a pure heart.

**Stand beside me, that I may
All your goodly laws obey.**

Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Dates to Remember

Today	Installation of Church Council and Officers
Feb 22	2:00 PM – Ash Wednesday service at First Lutheran 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday service at St. Matthew’s
Mar 1	6:30 PM – Midweek Lent via ZOOM each Wednesday in March. Email Pastor Bart for an invitation: bartsterc@gmail.com

Türkiye and Syria earthquake response

CLWR is joining leading Canadian aid agencies – through the Humanitarian Coalition – in appealing for funds to rush emergency assistance to people affected by the devastating earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. Donations can be made directly on the CLWR website (www.clwr.org), or by designating CLWR – Earthquake on your offering envelope.

St. Matthew’s 2023 Church Council

God has blessed St. Matthew’s with the following people, who have been elected by us, in positions of leadership. May we show them our support as we share in the mutual ministry of St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church. Thank you, **Linda Borland, Bob Hansen and Norm McLeod** for your years of service on Church Council.

- Jennifer Rusk – Chair
- Dianne Yungblut – Vice Chair
- Bill Bender
- Melanie Funk Laskaris – (also Treasurer)
- Ruth Kiers
- Frances McKenzie
- Inge Poetzing
- Marilyn Schultz
- Sylvia Tollar

We also appreciate our **2023 Endowment Fund Committee**

- Roger Kleinsmith – Chair
- Aaron Kleinsmith – Treasurer
- Linda Borland
- Sinikka Speck

Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to St. Matthew’s

Thank YOU!

It takes the efforts of many people to make our Roast Beef Dinner a great success: Organizers, decorators, set-up/cleaning crew, cooks, servers, prize donors and attendees . . . We thank all of you!

Thanks be to God.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting 2 – Page 119

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for BaptismPage 119

Gathering Song ..446 I’m Going on a Journey

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First ReadingDeuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8.....printed in bulletin

Second Reading1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Gospel Acclamation.....Page 124

“Glory to you, O Lord.”

GospelMatthew 5:21-37

“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon

Hymn of the Day806 O God,

My Faithful God

Installation of Church Council

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer Response“receive our prayer.”

Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving.....Page 129

Holy, Holy, HolyPage 130

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord’s PrayerPage 134

Communion

“Lamb of God...”Page 135

Communion Hymns496, 772

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Song544 Praise the Lord,

Rise Up Rejoicing

Dismissal: Go in peace.

Follow in the way of Jesus.