



Sunday April 26, 2026

Welcome Everyone!

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47 ⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25 ¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10 [Jesus said:] ¹ "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord's Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

You are invited to come forward via the centre aisle and form a single line across from the steps leading to the altar area. Once you have communed and the pastor has spoken the communion blessing, you may place your used wine glass into the bowl on the stand near the side aisle. Then you may return to your seat via the side aisle.

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

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Blessing our neighbourhood since 1876

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"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."

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Vice-Chairperson: Marilyn Schultz
Second Vice-Chairperson: Bob Hansen
Church Secretary: Rona Devreese905-734-4746
Organist: Lily Jasinskas

Weekly Calendar:

Monday: Pastor's day off

Tuesday: Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Pastor in Port Colborne

Wednesday: Pickleball 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Rose City Quilters 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
Pastor in Welland

Thursday: Pastor in Welland

Friday: Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Pastor in Port Colborne

Saturday: Pickleball 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

We live and serve on land that for thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have walked. We live on the traditional territory of several Indigenous peoples, including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishnaabe and the Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their continuing stewardship of this land and we also honour the heritage and gifts of the Métis people.

Happy birthday to Inge who celebrates her 94th birthday today. May your life ahead be filled with glory and God's love. Sending you prayers and blessings on your very special day.

Worship leaders, ushers and counters for this week's service:

Scripture Reader Linda Borland

Prayers Marilyn Schultz

Greeter Bob Hansen

Hansen & Carole McLeod

Usher/

Counters Bob

Worship leaders, ushers and counters for next week's service:

Scripture Reader Linda Borland

Prayers Bobby Goldenberg

Usher/Greeter Norm & Carole McLeod

Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

Next Executive Church Council meeting is Thursday May 7 @ 10:00.

Next Church Council meeting is Thursday May 21 @ 10:00.

Last week's attendance 8, last year's attendance 20.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,

now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for Baptism (in guide)

Gathering Hymn..... **ELW # 779**

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Apostolic Greeting

Kyrie**HS** Page 3

Hymn of Praise “**Now the Feast**”.....

.....**HS** Page 4

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading.....Acts 2:42-47

Psalm.....23

Second Reading..... 1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel verse:**HS** Page 8

Response: “Glory to you, O Lord”

Gospel..... John 10:1-10

Response “Praise to you, O Christ”

Sermon

Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 742**

“**What a Friend We Have in Jesus**”

Nicene Creed.....**HS** page 10

Prayers of Intercession

“**Receive Our Prayer**”

Sharing the Peace

Offering Prayer

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving (sung)...**HS** page 14

Sanctus “Holy, Holy”.....**HS** page 15

Eucharistic Prayers and Acclamations

.....**HS** page 16

The Lord's Prayer.....**HS** page 18

O Lamb of God**HS** page 18

Communion Hymns....**ELW # 779 & 484**

Prayer after Communion

Song after Communion

“**Thanks be to You**” **HS** page 20

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 774**

”**What a Fellowship**”

Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.

“**Thanks be to God**”